

Cllr Jilly Jordan update Oct 2022

Access All Areas, an event for people with learning difficulties and autism

We are pleased to announce that the Access All Areas event is back for 2022!

In Buckinghamshire there are over 2,400 people with learning difficulties and over 5,000 people with autism, many of whom aren't accessing activities or services that can support and encourage healthy lifestyles and wellbeing. This event aims to showcase the fantastic range of services that are available which help support people with special needs and autism to live a fulfilled and healthy life.

Access All Areas this year will be held in two locations. The first event takes place at The Gateway in Aylesbury on 21 October between 10am and 4pm and the second event takes place in High Wycombe at the Highcrest Academy on 27 October, from 10am to 4pm.

Run in partnership with the Buckinghamshire Integrated Care Board, Access All Areas is hosting free events aimed at young people (14+) and adults with a learning disability and/or autism. Carers, family members, friends and care workers are also encouraged to attend.

Both events will feature information stands and interactive learning activities from charities and services who work to support and promote equality for people with learning disabilities and autism. This includes health services explaining what to expect from your annual health check, sporting activities open to everyone and advice on how to get your voice heard to make changes within public services.

NHS services will be at the events to promote health checks and checks you can do at home. These checks can pick up early signs of a problem and can even prevent problems arising in the first place, helping people with learning disabilities stay as healthy as possible.

There will be designated quiet areas for anyone needing some time-out and quiet hours between 10am to 11am and 3pm to 4pm.

"People with a learning disability have worse physical and mental health than people without a learning disability. Our challenge is to close this gap and to reduce the numbers of people who die prematurely from preventable causes.

"Access All Areas will showcase the fantastic range of services that is available for people with learning disabilities in Buckinghamshire that can support living and staying well."

Dr Sian Roberts encourages anyone with a learning disability to have an annual health check to screen for any developing health problems and then be supported to live a healthy lifestyle.

You can book free tickets and view further information at:
<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/access-all-areas/>



Friday 21 October, 10.00 - 16.00
The Gateway, Aylesbury HP19 8FF
Thursday 27 October, 10.00 - 16.00
Highcrest Academy, High Wycombe HP13 7NQ

Get your veg on with Grow It, Cook It, Eat It

Are you worried about higher grocery bills and the rise in cost of living? Do you find yourself struggling to know what to do with the fresh produce you buy?

Buckinghamshire Council supported 'Grow It, Cook It, Eat It' initiative helps residents in times of hardship to put nutritious and fresh food on their table. As the number of food parcels distributed to households in Buckinghamshire reached 13,718 in the first six months of 2022, many residents are looking for help to find affordable and healthy solutions and alternatives. Grow It, Cook It, Eat It is a community-led project that focuses on growing healthy produce, meanwhile educating local residents about maintaining and harvesting crops to allow people to grow their own food.

There is no cost or membership to visit one of the growing sites, and very little to no commitment – anyone can visit when they have spare time. What doesn't get taken home from the allotments is donated back to the community.

If you're a grower and sometimes find yourself with excess fruit and vegetables you can also give back to those in your community who need it via the [Grow to Give project](#), where surplus produce from local allotments and gardens goes towards helping the community via local food banks to help households who may need extra support to access healthy and nutritious foods.

The Grow to Give project has been running in Aylesbury and High Wycombe since 2020, linked to local food banks and was recently launched in Amersham with residents waiting at the door of the council building at 10am to collect fresh produce. Check the Grow to Give website to find your nearest donation allotment site and free access to recipes and cooking videos.

The Grow it Cook it Eat it initiative also provides free cooking sessions delivered by our fully trained Volunteer Cooking Tutors who will link in with their local Grow It, Cook It, Eat It community growing site. Each site has its own dedicated Expert Gardener who is on-hand to offer help and guidance about how to get started with growing your own food.



Update on move to new single system for revenues and benefits

In August, Buckinghamshire Council began the process of moving to a new and improved single system for managing council tax, business rates and benefits – merging the former district council systems into one.

The Chiltern and South Bucks systems were taken offline as planned on 15 August and the council has now converted the South Bucks and Chiltern council tax, business rates and housing benefit data and moved it to its new format.

The next step began on the 22 September, when the Aylesbury and Wycombe system (that was merged last November) is taken offline and all the data merged into one system which will be live on 27 October. One single system will then be available to all of Buckinghamshire residents and businesses.

John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources, said:

“While this temporary system closure may cause some inconvenience, the vast majority of residents and businesses in Buckinghamshire will not be impacted. Payments and Direct Debits will continue as normal.

“Support and help will remain available for anyone experiencing significant financial hardship and all requests will be dealt with as a matter of urgency. In addition, our online forms will remain live, and our Customer Support team can still be contacted.”

Anyone needing assistance should go to the following webpages:

- [Council Tax](#)
- [Housing and benefits](#)

Alternatively, they can call **0300 131 6000** for help.

New planning guidance for the Vale of Aylesbury unveiled

Buckinghamshire Council today launched a consultation on three important planning guidance documents that, once adopted, will inform planning and development decisions in the former Aylesbury Vale district area.

These documents, known as supplementary planning documents (SPDs), provide detailed advice and guidance on policies in the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan which was adopted by the council in September 2021.

The consultation will be open until 2 November 2022. Individuals and organisations are invited to give their views on the following documents:

Aylesbury Garden Town – South Aylesbury Masterplan

This masterplan document is intended to guide landowners, developers, the public and the local planning authority in respect of environmental, social, economic and design objectives for the planning and development of the South Aylesbury area of the Aylesbury Garden Town, situated within Stoke Mandeville civil parish.

Affordable Housing SPD

This document provides further planning guidance on how affordable housing policy should be applied to proposals for residential development within the Aylesbury Vale local plan area.

Design SPD

The aim of the design supplementary planning document is to ensure that new development across Aylesbury Vale is of the highest quality, is in context with its location, and is inclusive and sustainable. The document sets out clear principles and objectives that aim to inspire developers and designers and assist landowners, developers, applicants and planners in the process of delivering high quality and well-designed development.

To find out more about the supplementary planning documents and to take part in the consultation, go to: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/spd

Household recycling centres switch to winter hours

Buckinghamshire Council's nine household recycling centres switch to winter opening hours on **Saturday 1 October**. The new opening hours will be **9am to 4pm**.

The household recycling centres will be operating the same days as normal, as only the opening hours are changing, due to the reduced number of visits to the centres after 4pm.

Gareth Williams, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, said:

"Once again as the evenings get darker and our sites get quieter, we are switching to our usual winter hours. From 1 October, we will be open from 9am to 4pm, continuing to offer a comprehensive service for residents. You don't need to book a slot to visit the centres, but I recommend that you check our [live webcams](#) before setting off to see if the site is busy before you travel."

The household recycling centre are open on the following days:

- Amersham, Aston Clinton, Beaconsfield, Buckingham, High Wycombe and Langley – open every day.
- Aylesbury (Rabans Lane), Burnham and Chesham – open five days a week, closing on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

When visiting a site, please [check the webcams online](#) to see how busy the site is and for the quieter times to visit. You should also always bring proof of address as only residents who pay council tax to Buckinghamshire Council can use the sites (Slough Borough Council residents are able to use Langley and Burnham sites only.) Please come back another time if the site is busier than usual, as long queues can cause traffic and block access to homes and businesses.

Further information, including what waste the centres do and don't accept, can be found on Buckinghamshire Council's [Household recycling centres webpage](#).

Welcoming Spaces give a warm reception to all

Buckinghamshire Council's latest measure to offer 'a helping hand' to support local residents with the cost of living crisis this winter, is the introduction of Buckinghamshire's Welcoming Spaces.

The council is pledging to develop a network of Welcoming Spaces offering a variety of facilities around the county, with local partner organisations, where residents can come into safe and inclusive spaces, free of charge, to stay warm and enjoy a little company.

The scheme is kick-starting with the launch of Buckinghamshire's libraries and community libraries as the first of the Welcoming Spaces venues. Visitors will be welcome for as long as they wish during opening hours and can make use of facilities including free wifi and computer access. Library staff will also be on hand to offer information and support to visitors struggling with the effects of the cost of living crisis.

Council Leader, Martin Tett, explained: "We know that many people are really worried about making ends meet this winter. Even with the recent cap on energy bills, the cost of heating our homes and keeping warm is just too much for some. We don't want anyone to suffer in silence so that is why we are opening up our libraries and community libraries as warm and welcoming places for anyone who needs a place to go during the daytime to keep warm and safe."

More information on the Welcoming Spaces scheme can be found on the council [website](#).

The council is also keen to support other organisations in local communities to open up as Welcoming Spaces. Work is currently taking place with partners and local communities to develop this plan. More information will be available soon for interested community groups and organisations with suitable venues to find out more.

The Welcoming Spaces initiative forms part of the wider work of the council, focusing on the cost of living crisis. For more information on what support is available visit our [website](#).

Become a Food Champion and help your local community

Buckinghamshire Council is reaching out to residents to offer a Helping Hand to support those struggling the most with the cost of living crisis. The council is

relaunching their Food Champion scheme in partnership with Street Associations and local foodbanks, where residents are invited to set up a food collection service for tinned and dry food in their own road or street.

To help increase collections, Food Champions are encouraged to coordinate monthly food drops within their street or even their place of work and deliver these directly to the foodbanks. Once delivered, the vital provisions will help make up food parcels for vulnerable local individuals and families which will be distributed by the foodbanks direct.

Chiltern Foodbank, Aylesbury Vineyard Storehouse and Burnham Care & Share are all currently participating in the Food Champions scheme, and the council are also working with [One Can Trust](#) to promote their own [Street Heroes](#) programme to encourage residents from the High Wycombe, Marlow and South Buckinghamshire areas to get involved – to help increase donations up and down the county.

Jo Belshaw, One Can Trust, commented:

"The [One Can Trust Street Hero initiative](#) was borne during the first lockdown and provided a staggering 90% of all donated food at the time. The community enthusiasm and kindness was incredible and so hugely appreciated by the many vulnerable families in our local community who we were supporting at the time. To this day, our Street Heroes are a vital source of food and as demand is set to increase further still, we very much welcome the opportunity to work with new Street Heroes."

To find out more about the Food Champions scheme – or to set up a scheme in your street – please visit: buckinghamshire.gov.uk/food-champions

Residents struggling to afford food can locate and contact their local foodbank by going to: buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living

