



**Cllr Jilly Jordan**

**Soulbury Parish Council Meeting Monday 15th April**

## **Please Park considerately on the school run**

As schools return after the Easter holidays, parents and carers dropping children off by car are being given a timely reminder to *#Beconsiderate* about how and where they park or stop, to help keep everyone safe.

Buckinghamshire Council is relaunching its *#Beconsiderate* campaign which seeks to remind those who hop in the car to do the school run, to think about the safety of pedestrians and other road users when they stop to drop their children off.

Many children are taken to and from school by car every day. Sometimes in the rush to get there on time, it can be tempting to pull onto the kerb or part way onto a driveway, stop on zig zag lines or even pull into a bus stop. While it may seem like a harmless thing to do, vehicles blocking pavements and footpaths, even if just for a short time, often means pedestrians, which can include young children, those with limited mobility and older people, are forced to go into the road to get past, which can be extremely dangerous. Similarly, part blocking a private driveway or lowered kerb can prevent larger vehicles including emergency ambulances and fire engines from getting through and parking in or near a bus stop can lead to unnecessary traffic queues. It is also important not to block the visibility for school crossing patrollers when they are assisting families on their way to school safely.

Steven Broadbent, Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet Member for Transport said: "We know that the majority of drivers do consider pedestrians and other road users when they park, but we want to say to all motorists - Have you thought about the impact to others when you pull up onto the kerb? You could be forcing a wheelchair user, a parent with a buggy or anyone walking on the pavement to have to step into the road because you are blocking their pathway. We know most people don't deliberately try to cause issues, but inconsiderate parking can be dangerous for everyone, so we are asking people to think carefully about where they stop and to try and avoid blocking access for all other road users and pedestrians.

Buckinghamshire Council's School's Sustainable Transport Team works with schools to encourage using other methods of transport to get to and from school, including walking, cycling or wheeling. Not only does save money on fuel, it avoids the stress of parking, keeps children active and is better for the environment. If parents must drive, parking away from the school and walking rest of the way can also ease congestion that often takes place directly outside the school.

For more information on School Travel Plans and Parking visit the council [website](#).

## Funding secured for active travel scheme in Buckingham

Buckinghamshire Council is making tracks to upgrade a former railway line corridor to provide an improved walking, wheeling and cycling cross-town link in Buckingham. This follows the council being successful in securing significant funding from Active Travel England.

Known locally as the Railway Walk, the new off-road path will provide a pleasant respite from the hustle and bustle of the town centre streets, while also providing a key north-south route across Buckingham. It has been a long-standing local aspiration, included in the [2017 Buckingham Transport Strategy](#).

Working with Buckingham Town Council, the University of Buckingham and local stakeholders, the project will involve upgrading a mile of existing footpath on a disused railway line in the town. The upgrades will include:

- New wayfinding signage
- Introduction of solar studs
- Path surfacing improvements and path widening
- Accessibility enhancements, including improvements to ramps and resting points
- New dedicated crossing points on the Tingewick Road and A421 at the northern and southern extents of the path, to support onward travel

“Once completed, the Railway Walk will form a key part of the walking, wheeling and cycling network envisaged for Buckingham as part of the town’s Transport Strategy. It will link to the existing active travel route along the A413, providing access to the new railway station in Winslow.

“The Railway Walk will also form part of the Buckinghamshire Greenway – the vision for a continuous north-south active travel route running the length of the county. Future branches to the north and west will provide routes to Silverstone and Brackley respectively, with the route running southwards towards Steeple Claydon.”

The Railway Walk scheme will cost a total of £1.7m, of which £1.43m is funded by Active Travel England, with the remaining funding coming from Section 106 developer contributions from a local development site.

The Railway Walk sits on a disused railway line that ran between Verney Junction on the (soon to be reopened) Varsity Line and Banbury on the Chiltern Main Line. The Buckingham – Banbury section of the line was closed in 1961, with Buckingham station and the remainder of the branch closing permanently in 1966 under the Beeching Axe.

Since its closure, a section of the railway running through the heart of Buckingham has become a treasured walking route and community asset. A path now runs along the former line from the A421, between the London Road and Osier Way roundabouts to the Tingewick Road.

[Active Travel England](#) (ATE) is a government executive agency working to promote walking, wheeling and cycling. One of its functions is to oversee the Active Travel Fund. The council was successful in receiving funding from ATE for the Railway Walk project through the latest round of the Active Travel Fund.

## Council agrees funding for the South East Aylesbury Link Road

Following a Cabinet funding decision yesterday, Buckinghamshire Council has taken another step forward in the construction of the South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR), with this key infrastructure project due to open to traffic in 2026.

SEALR will see the construction of 1.1 miles of dual carriageway including three new roundabout junctions. SEALR is an essential part of the Orbital Link Road which, when completed, will provide a route around Aylesbury, easing congestion through the town centre. The new link road will join the A413 Wendover Road with the Stoke Mandeville Relief Road, which is being constructed by HS2 Ltd.

The council is coordinating the SEALR scheme with the project being delivered in phases. Construction works on Wendover Road and Lower Road have already started to deliver two new roundabouts. Work will then continue to link Lower Road with the new Stoke Mandeville Relief Road and the future South West Aylesbury Link Road.

Later in the year, the council plans to start the work connecting Wendover Road and Lower Road, which will include the construction of a new bridge over the railway line.

Martin Tett, Leader of Buckinghamshire Council, said:

“Buckinghamshire urgently needs the right infrastructure in place, so it’s great news that we’ve been able to approve the delivery of the South East Aylesbury Link Road.

“The scheme is the lynch pin of the Aylesbury Orbital Link Road strategy, which will reduce the number of vehicles travelling through the town centre. It is also a crucial project that will accommodate traffic growth in the future.

“Despite price inflation for all major infrastructure projects, we now have firm contractor costs for the SEALR project. Our Cabinet decision bridges the funding gap for this complex project without any cost to the taxpayer, thanks to the allocation of external funding. We continue to remain committed to working with third parties to deliver the Eastern Link Road (South), the Southern Link Road, and the South West Aylesbury Link Road.”

For more information on SEALR and to sign up to regular e-bulletins, visit: [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/sealr](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/sealr)

## Learn how to be a Better Biker

Buckinghamshire Council is encouraging bikers of all ages and experience to enhance their riding skills with the help of a specialist course.

The Be a Better Biker (BaBB) workshops are run as part of the council's Travel Safe Bucks road safety initiative, in partnership with Thames Vale Advanced Motorcyclists, Bucks Advanced Riders & Drivers, Milton Keynes Advanced Motorists, Oxford Advanced Motorcyclists and local fire and rescue services. The aim is to reduce the number of bikers killed or injured on the roads and equip motorcyclists with additional skills to keep safe.

Costing just £20 per person, the workshops cover a range of advanced techniques including:

- Manoeuvring
- Overtaking
- Cornering techniques
- An on-road assessment with a qualified observer
- A review of the on-road session.

Courses are taking place across the Thames Valley region and locally at:

- Saturday 6 April – Winslow Fire Station
- Saturday 20 April – Chesham Fire Station
- Saturday 18 May – Princes Risborough Fire Station

Steven Broadbent, Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet Member for Transport said: "Whether you are a relatively new biker, returning to motorcycling after a break or a rider who has years of experience, our Be a Better Workshops are suited to all. We want everyone to be safe on our roads and these courses are a fantastic way to boost your confidence and skills."

Now in their 15<sup>th</sup> year of running, the courses have helped hundreds of bikers in Buckinghamshire to improve their skills on the road.

Steven added: "The courses are very popular so be sure to book your place quickly to avoid missing out."

Anyone wishing to take part must hold a full and valid motorbike licence and have access to their own vehicle to use during the course.

For more information, or to book your place, visit: [Book a motorcycle course | Buckinghamshire Council](#)



# Be a Better Biker is back...

Want to improve your riding skills?  
Out of practice after the winter?  
Riding skills a bit rusty?  
Coming back to biking?

Whatever your reason, book your place  
on a 'Be a Better Biker' course:

- Ride out with a Qualified Observer
- Get immediate feedback on your riding skills
- Get up to date with the latest thinking



Courses are available between April and July in:  
Buckinghamshire | Oxfordshire | Milton Keynes | Berkshire

For more information go to Buckinghamshire Council webpage  
and search for 'Motorcycling'

Book a motorcycle course | Buckinghamshire Council

Email: [roadsafety@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:roadsafety@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)



