



**CLLr Jilly Jordan**

**Soulbury Parish Council Meeting Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024**

## **Buckinghamshire Council Opposes New 'Family Farm Tax'**

At its full Council meeting on Wednesday evening, Buckinghamshire Council voiced strong opposition to the recently introduced 'Family Farm Tax' by the government, citing significant concerns over its potential impact on family farms and rural communities.

Buckinghamshire contains many farming communities and numerous family farms. They face the devastating impact from this new 'Tax.' At a time when farmers in Buckinghamshire are struggling with soaring costs and energy prices, this sudden and unexpected tax rise will damage the future of their farms and negatively impact on wider local communities and environmental sustainability.

Farmers in Buckinghamshire are already grappling with reduced subsidies, adverse trading relations, and rising costs. We believe that the new tax will exacerbate these issues, making it even harder for farmers to sustain their operations.”

In response to the tax, the council plans to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to express their dismay and request a reversal of the policy.

Buckinghamshire Council remains committed to supporting our farming communities and championing our rural economy. The future of family farms is at stake and with it the enormous work our farmers do to protect and enhance our natural environment. The beauty of Buckinghamshire, the reason so many of us choose to make it our home, is at risk. Once these farm landscapes are split up and sold off we will never get them back, and Bucks will be forever scarred by this mindless, pointless vandalism. We call upon all Buckinghamshire MPs to proactively oppose the Government's 'Family Farmers' Tax and support their constituents, all of whom will bear the burden of this policy.

## Park for free this Christmas

To make your Christmas shopping experience more convenient and affordable this year, Buckinghamshire Council is offering free parking in selected council-owned car parks on certain dates in the run up to the festive season.

The free council run car parking days are:

- **South Bucks (all council-owned car parks):** Saturday 14 and Saturday 21 December
- **Aylesbury (all council-owned car parks):** Every Thursday in December from 3:30pm
- **Aylesbury (Walton Street Car Park only):** Every Sunday in December up to Christmas

Other select free parking is available across the county on days in the run up to Christmas. These arrangements have been made at a local level in partnership with town and parish councils:

- **Amersham** - Old Town, Sycamore Road, Chiltern Avenue and multi storey - Friday 6 December and all Saturdays leading up to Christmas
- **Beaconsfield** - Warwick Road, Altons & Penncroft – 14 and 21 December
- **Buckingham** - Cornwalls Meadow & Westerns Avenue - 14 December
- **Chalfont St Giles** - Blizzards Yard – All Saturdays leading up to Christmas
- **Chalfont St Peter** - Church Lane – Friday 6 December, all Saturdays leading up to Christmas
- **Chesham** - Saturday 7, 14, 21 and 28 December, plus Christmas Eve at Albany Place and Watermeadow
- **Great Missenden** - Link Road & Buryfield – All Saturdays leading up to Christmas
- **High Wycombe** - Saturday 7 December and Friday 13 December at all council car parks with the exception of Handy Cross and Kingsmead (Desborough Square | Desborough Street Duke Street | Railway Place | Totteridge Road Wycombe Swan | George Street Wycombe Council Offices Front and Rear Easton Street | Richardson Street)
- **Little Chalfont** - Snells Wood - 7, 14, 15, 21 and 22 December
- **Marlow** – Institute Road, Dean Street, Riley Road, Marlow Central, Liston Road, Pound Lane, West Street – 7, 14 and 21 December
- **Prestwood High Street** - All Saturdays leading up to Christmas
- **Princes Risborough** - The Mount & Horns Lane – Saturday 30 November, Saturday 14 and 21 December
- **Wendover Library** – Friday 13 December 6pm to 8pm
- **Wooburn and Bourne End** - Wakeman Road -Friday 6 and Saturday 7 December

To find the most up to date information on free parking this festive season visit:  
[www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/free-xmas-parking](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/free-xmas-parking)

## **On a mission; tree planting season gets underway again in Buckinghamshire**

National Tree Week begins on Saturday (23 Nov) making it the ideal time to mark the tree planting season. Buckinghamshire Council will be kicking off with over 4,000 trees being planted near Winslow and Great Horwood; this new woodland will be named Roddimore Wood.

Weather permitting, the 4,625 new trees will be planted before Christmas. Species include native Black Poplar, Oak, Eared Willow, and Blackthorn which is particularly beneficial to brown hairstreak butterfly larvae.

Tree planting is one of the ways in which the council is working towards its goal of reducing its carbon emissions by 75% by 2030, on the way to achieving net-zero no later than 2050, as part of the [Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy](#).

Other new woodlands we will be creating this planting season include Isle of Wight Wood in Gerrards Cross, Innisfree Wood in Great Missenden, Huntsmoor Park Wood in Iver and Lower Munt's Wood in Saunderton. We are also planning to plant another of our 'Tiny Forests' in Desborough.

Local schools and communities are getting involved by volunteering to help with our tree planting mission including planting the Desborough Tiny Forest with pupils from Millbrook Combined School.

Billet Field Wood, the council's first woodland that was planted in early 2022 near Black Park Country Park, has just been 'validated' under the UK Carbon Code. This means the amount of carbon being offset by the new trees has been put into 'units' to offset against the council's own carbon emissions on the road to net zero.

For more information about tree planting in Buckinghamshire, visit - [Tree planting schemes | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

## Buckinghamshire Council launches All-Age Carers Strategy Consultation

Buckinghamshire Council has been working with unpaid carers and professionals to understand about their caring experiences and what matters most to carers. This feedback has been used to help shape Buckinghamshire's new 'All-Age Carers Strategy'.

The new strategy sets out how the council can continue to develop and deliver meaningful support to unpaid carers, to enable carers to maintain a positive quality of life alongside their caring role.

The council has been working closely with a range of carers across all age groups to develop the priorities identified in the strategy and ensure their views are reflected. This has included the strategy forward being written by a young adult carer.

They now want to hear from unpaid carers, professionals and residents to ensure the identified priorities are the right ones and understand if there is anything else they should be focusing on in the strategy. Your views will help them understand how they can further improve their [offer to carers](#) and ensure carers have the support they need to carry out a caring role. Whether you are a young carer, an adult carer, or an elderly carer, your input is crucial in shaping the future of carer support services in Buckinghamshire.

Key partners including Carers Bucks, Healthwatch Bucks, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Buckinghamshire Health Trust, NHS Primary Care Network, FACT Bucks parent carer forum, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Berkshire West Integrated Care Board as well as wider council colleagues have contributed to the strategy development, adopting a whole-system approach..

The consultation, including the printable survey and address for posting it, is available via: [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/all-age-carers-strategy](https://buckinghamshire.gov.uk/all-age-carers-strategy)

The consultation is live and will close at 11:59pm on 15 December 2024.

**After the consultation period, all feedback will be carefully reviewed and integrated into the final Buckinghamshire Council All-Age Carers Strategy. Once adopted, the strategy will include an action plan to implement and drive forward improvements for carers.**

## Council launches extra support to help adults stay independent for longer

Buckinghamshire Council is launching a range of new online resources designed to help adults who need some extra support to maintain their independence for as long as possible.

The council supports more than 5,000 adults at any one time, with varying degrees of extra help, including providing care packages to those who need it. Our overarching aim is to provide the right care to allow people to maintain their independence for as long as possible, and for our residents to feel that they are managing and directing their own care needs.

The improved website content makes it easier for people to get online information and advice about their adult social care needs. We have also listened to and worked with carers to introduce new online support for them too.

The new-look [Care Advice Bucks website](#) includes content that outlines how a resident goes through the care assessment process, how individuals can arrange and pay for their care and guidance on what home support and equipment is available, as well as some helpful health and wellbeing advice.

Alongside this, the council has also improved the online resources available to carers in Buckinghamshire too, joining up for the first time with '[Mobilise](#)', providers of specialist online support for people who are caring for others including family, friends or neighbours who could not manage without this unpaid support because of a disability, illness or vulnerability. 'Mobilise' offers Buckinghamshire carers free access to online information and resources, support sessions, one to one support from a dedicated carers coach and access to a network of other carers to provide invaluable support and a listening ear.

We are also offering free fact sheets that have been co-designed with residents, and an online care directory that helps our residents to find professional health and care services, equipment and resources, such as:

- home care services
- housing and residential equipment
- living aids

## Welcoming Spaces in Bucks: Stay warm, stay connected, stay supported

As the winter months approach, Buckinghamshire Council is announcing its Welcoming Spaces offer – warm, free, safe, and supportive environments available to all residents. These spaces are designed to provide a safe space where individuals can stay warm, save on heating costs, and access a range of beneficial services.

### Welcoming Spaces offer:

- **Warmth and comfort:** Escape the cold and enjoy a cosy atmosphere.
- **Cost savings:** Reduce your heating bills by spending time in a heated space.
- **Health and wellbeing:** Look after your physical and mental health with a supportive environment.
- **Support and advice:** Access valuable support and advice on a variety of topics.
- **Connectivity:** Free Wi-Fi to stay connected with loved ones and access online resources.

This is the third winter since we launched Welcoming Spaces in response to the cost of living crisis. Sadly, cost of living pressures are still having an impact on residents and if you are worried about putting your heating on at home, please remember you can come to one of our Welcoming Spaces. Not only can you relax in comfort, but anyone also seeking a bit of company can meet with others and staff are on hand with information and advice on a range of topics.

The initiative worked so well last year that we are keen to ensure that everyone knows that Welcoming Spaces are open again this year. Please spread the word. Tell your friends, neighbours and family that Welcoming Spaces are here to help people stay warm, connected, and healthy throughout the winter months.

Welcoming Spaces are now available at Buckinghamshire Council's main libraries and community libraries, as well as at some local churches and halls.

An online directory provides a [map and full list of local Welcoming Spaces](#) including their location and facilities.

You can also find out more, by visiting: [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/welcoming-spaces](http://buckinghamshire.gov.uk/welcoming-spaces) or calling **0300 131 6000** (Monday to Thursday 9am to 5:30pm, Friday 9am to 5pm.)

If you are struggling to heat your home or know someone else who is, contact the council's Helping Hand team: [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/helping-hand](http://buckinghamshire.gov.uk/helping-hand) or call **01296 531151**.

## Council reminds garden waste subscribers of upcoming service suspension

Buckinghamshire Council is reminding subscribers to its garden waste service that collections will soon be suspended for a 6-week period. This is an annual suspension that comes in during the winter when garden waste is at a minimal.

The last possible collection date for garden waste is Friday 13 December (normal collection days apply) and collections will resume from week commencing Monday 27 January.

Residents who need to dispose of garden waste during the suspension period can still do so at any of our 10 Household Recycling Centres free of charge. All sites are open 9am to 4pm.

To find out which days your local Household Recycling Centre is open and further details of what can and cannot be taken to a centre, visit: [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling)

Garden waste collected from homes across Buckinghamshire or taken to Household Recycling Centres is processed locally into high-quality compost. Residents can buy [Community Compost](#) at all of our Household Recycling Centres. All the proceeds from the sales of the Community Compost are set aside for good causes with an annual funding award expected in April 2025.

For more information on changes to recycling and waste services over the Christmas period, please visit: [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/changes-to-recycling-and-waste-services-christmas](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/changes-to-recycling-and-waste-services-christmas)





# Planning Town & Parish Council Representatives'

## Liaison Surgeries (January to March 2025)

The dates have now been announced for the latest Planning Town & Parish Council

Representatives' Liaison Surgeries:

- **Monday 6 January** 10-11:15am – North Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Monday 6 January** 11:30-12:45pm – West Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Tuesday 7 January** 10-11:15am – East Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Tuesday 7 January** 12-1:15pm – Central Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Wednesday 8 January** 10-11:15am – South Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Monday 20 January** 10-11:15am – North Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Monday 20 January** 11:30-12:45pm – West Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Tuesday 21 January** 10-11:15am – East Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Tuesday 21 January** 12-1:15pm – Central Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Wednesday 22 January** 10-11:15am – South Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Monday 3 February** 10-11:15am – North Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Monday 3 February** 11:30-12:45pm – West Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Tuesday 4 February** 10-11:15am – East Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Tuesday 4 February** 12-1:15pm – Central Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Wednesday 5 February** 10-11:15am – South Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Monday 17 February** 10-11:15am – North Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Monday 17 February** 11:30-12:45pm – West Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Tuesday 18 February** 10-11:15am – East Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Tuesday 18 February** 12-1:15pm – Central Planning Area Surgery Appointments
  - **Wednesday 19 February** 10-11:15am – South Planning Area Surgery Appointments
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- **Monday 3 March** 10-11:15am – North Planning Area Surgery Appointments
- **Monday 3 March** 11:30-12:45pm – West Planning Area Surgery Appointments
- **Tuesday 4 March** 10-11:15am – East Planning Area Surgery Appointments
- **Tuesday 4 March** 12-1:15pm – Central Planning Area Surgery Appointments
- **Wednesday 5 March** 10-11:15am – South Planning Area Surgery Appointments
- **Monday 17 March** 10-11:15am – North Planning Area Surgery Appointments
- **Monday 17 March** 11:30-12:45pm – West Planning Area Surgery Appointments
- **Tuesday 18 March** 10-11:15am – East Planning Area Surgery Appointments
- **Tuesday 18 March** 12-1:15pm – Central Planning Area Surgery Appointments
- **Wednesday 19 March** 10-11:15am – South Planning Area Surgery Appointment

If you would like to take part in one of the surgery appointments, then please confirm your nominated representative and their email address. This representative could be any of the following: Chairman, Clerk, or Planning Chairman.

Town & Parish Councils in the first instance would take any points of discussion/issues to the nominated representative of their individual Town or Parish council.

Your nominated representative only can request a 20-minute appointment by emailing [memberliaison@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:memberliaison@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

You will receive a Request Booking form by automatic reply that you will need to complete and return to the above email address. The completed form is required at least two working days prior to the requested surgery date.

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Surgery meetings are held via MS Teams. An invitation and link to the online meeting will be sent to your representative prior to the meeting.

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## **Town and Parish Council customer service VIP line**

You can make contact with us via the following email address:

[parishsupport@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:parishsupport@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

And you can access Buckinghamshire Highways information [here](#).

There is also a dedicated Town and Parish Council customer service VIP phonenumber where you can reach a member of our customer team on 0300 303 5640, 9am to 5:30pm Monday to Thursday, and 9am to 5pm on Friday.

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