**Cllr Jilly Jordan & Cllr Caroline Cornell**

**Newton Longville Parish Council Meeting, Monday 16th Nov 2026**

# Join the Bucks Tree Mission this winter and help shape a greener future

Residents can play a direct role in creating greener, healthier communities by joining tree planting events across Buckinghamshire this winter.
The events are part of the Bucks Tree Mission, Buckinghamshire Council's programme to plant 543,000 trees - one for every resident in the county. Established in 2021, the programme supports the council's work to tackle climate change, improve air quality and help Buckinghamshire's communities thrive.
Creating greener, more resilient communities is important to Buckinghamshire residents. By planting more trees, the council is helping to improve local neighbourhoods, support nature and shape places where people and communities can thrive.
Trees can help clean the air, provide shade during warmer weather and slow the flow of rainwater. They also create homes and food for wildlife and provide green spaces where people can spend time outdoors. By volunteering, residents can take practical action in their local area and help create benefits that will last for years to come.
Volunteer planting events will take place at:

- Iver Village: Wednesday 25 November and Saturday 28 November 2026
- Meadowcroft Open Space, Aylesbury: Friday 4 December, Saturday 5 December and Monday 7 December 2026
- Saunderton: Thursday 10 December 2026

These volunteer tree planting events are part of wider woodland establishment taking place this winter being delivered by the Bucks Tree Mission., This includes new areas of Forestry Commission-funded woodland at Saunderton and large scale roll out of a new pilot tree pack scheme offered to residents across the county.
Councillor Ade Osibogun, Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Waste, said:
"Our winter planting events are a great opportunity to get outdoors, meet other people and make a lasting difference to your local area.
"Every tree planted takes us another step towards our Bucks Tree Mission target. These trees will help improve air quality, slow surface water run-off, provide homes for wildlife and create greener, healthier places for residents to enjoy.
"You don't need any previous experience to take part. Whether you can give a couple of hours or stay for the day, your help will be greatly appreciated. I encourage residents to sign up and join us in planting a greener future for Buckinghamshire."

Places should be booked in advance. Residents can find full event details and register through the Bucks Tree Mission webpage.

If you can't make it to these locations, our delivery partners at Chiltern Rangers and Groundwork South are also offering tree planting events;

- https://chilternrangers.co.uk/become-a-chiltern-rangers-volunteer/
- https://www.groundwork.org.uk/south/

# Illegal vapes and tobacco seized in crackdown to keep Buckinghamshire safe

During a three-day enforcement operation, Buckinghamshire Council has helped remove thousands of pounds of illegal vapes and tobacco products across the county as part of its ongoing work to crack down on businesses selling illegal goods, protect residents from potentially harmful products and support law-abiding local businesses.

Working alongside partners including Thames Valley Police, Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards, HMRC, Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service and licensing officers, the council recently took part in a coordinated operation targeting suspected criminal activity linked to some high street businesses.

Operation Machinize, the ongoing NCA (National Crime Agency) coordinated project to tackle money laundering and criminal use of cash-intensive high street businesses, saw officers seizing illegal vapes, cigarettes and tobacco products, helping to prevent potentially unsafe goods from reaching residents and young people.

Thames Valley Police confirmed one arrest was made, while further investigations are being carried out by the police, HMRC and Trading Standards.

The operation supports the council’s aim of creating safer and healthier communities, protecting residents from potentially dangerous products, and supporting legitimate businesses that play an important role in thriving town centres and high streets.

Buckinghamshire Council's Trading Standards team will continue to work with partner agencies to identify and tackle illegal activity, helping to keep residents safe and maintain fair trading across the county.

Residents who suspect a business is selling illegal goods can report it through the Citizens Advice Consumer Service by calling 0808 223 1133 or via the Citizens Advice website.

# SEND improvements will help children get support earlier and closer to home

Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Buckinghamshire are set to benefit from earlier support, stronger local services and better help for families, following Government approval of Buckinghamshire Council's SEND improvement plans.

The council's three-year Local SEND Reform Plan is focused on making it easier for children and young people to get the support they need, when they need it, to help them thrive at school, at home and in their local communities.

The plan has been developed with local schools, early years providers, health partners and parent carers. It sets out how support will become easier to access, with more help available at an earlier stage and a stronger focus on helping children attend their local school wherever possible.

The improvements will include:

- Making schools and early years settings more inclusive and better equipped to support children with SEND.
- Providing more support for children and families while they wait for assessments or diagnoses.
- Improving the experience of families who need help from SEND services.
- Strengthening specialist support for children with more complex needs.

The Department for Education has approved Buckinghamshire Council’s plan, describing it as *"a clear and coherent vision centred on inclusion, earlier intervention and improved outcomes."*Improving SEND services is one of our highest priorities. I do not want parents to feel they have to fight for the support their child needs.

While this plan marks important progress, there is more to do. The council’s focus is on making sure children get the right support earlier and closer to home, helping them achieve their potential and live healthy, independent lives. Implementation is already beginning, with schools, partners and services working together. Families and schools can expect to see more changes introduced over the next two to three years as the programme is delivered.

- Buckinghamshire Council's SEND Improvement Plan has been approved by the Department for Education.
- Following approval, the council becomes eligible for a Government High Needs Stability Grant worth around £38.5 million. This will cover 90% of the historic high needs deficits on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) accrued during the 2025/26 financial year.
- The Government is currently reviewing Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficits and local authority financial arrangements nationally. Buckinghamshire's grant funding follows approval of its locally developed improvement plan and reflects the progress being made to strengthen SEND services for Buckinghamshire children and families.

# Help S.C.R.A.P Fly-tipping in Buckinghamshire

Residents are being urged to take a few simple checks before paying someone to take away their rubbish. The advice is simple - following the S.C.R.A.P code can help residents protect themselves from rogue waste collectors who may dump their waste illegally. This helps residents avoid future potential fines and support keeping Buckinghamshire's streets, parks and countryside free from fly-tipping.

The S.C.R.A.P code gives confidence that their waste is being disposed of legally and responsibly:

**S** - Suspect all waste carriers; do not allow waste to be collected until a carrier has proven they are legitimate. If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is. A professional waste carrier should happily answer reasonable questions.

**C** - Check that the waste carrier is registered on the Environment Agency's website.

**R** - Refuse any unexpected or time-sensitive offers to remove rubbish. If something doesn't feel right or there are concerns that waste may be disposed of illegally, report it to the Environment Agency.

**A** - Ask where your waste is going. A legitimate carrier should be able to explain how it will be disposed of and provide evidence if asked.

**P** - Paperwork must be obtained: a proper invoice, waste transfer note or receipt (including a description of the waste being removed) and the waste carriers' contact details.

Taking these few simple steps before handing over rubbish, whether that be old furniture, general and garden waste or DIY materials, can help residents avoid potential fines, ensure their waste is disposed of legally and help keep Buckinghamshire clean.

No one wants to discover that rubbish they've paid to have removed has been dumped illegally. By taking a few simple checks before handing over waste, residents can protect themselves from potential fines, help prevent fly-tipping and keep Buckinghamshire clean.

If waste is given to an unregistered carrier, it could be dumped elsewhere, harming the environment and creating costs for local communities. By following the S.C.R.A.P. code, residents can make informed choices about who takes their waste and help stop fly-tipping before it happens.

Together, by making the right checks before handing over our waste, we can help prevent fly-tipping and keep Buckinghamshire clean, safe and attractive, protecting the neighbourhoods, parks and countryside that matter most to our communities.

Fly-tipping harms our neighbourhoods, damages the environment and creates clean-up costs that ultimately fall on local communities. By each doing our bit, together we can S.C.R.A.P. fly-tipping. For more information visit: How we can S.C.R.A.P. fly-tipping in Bucks | Buckinghamshire Recycles

# Working together to keep communities safe across Buckinghamshire

Keeping communities safe across Bucks is a key priority for Buckinghamshire Council and forms the basis of a newly updated plan for working together with the police and health and community organisations across the county to address the crime and safety issues that matter most to residents.

The Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy brings together Buckinghamshire Council, Thames Valley Police, health partners and community organisations to help create safer neighbourhoods and stronger communities across Buckinghamshire.

The focus is not just on responding when something goes wrong, but on preventing problems in the first place. By spotting risks earlier, tackling the causes of crime and anti-social behaviour, and getting support to people who need it, the partnership can help prevent problems from escalating.

The strategy focuses on six priority areas for partnership action that can make the biggest difference for residents:

- Neighbourhood crime and shoplifting - targeting hotspots and repeat offenders.
- Anti-social behaviour - reducing disorder and helping make public spaces safer and more welcoming.
- Fraud and scams - protecting residents from financial and emotional harm.
- Harm and exploitation - protecting those most at risk.
- Community cohesion - strengthening relationships and building trust within communities.
- Domestic abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG) - preventing harm, supporting victims and tackling perpetrators.

People want to feel safe in their community and this is fundamental to their quality of life, and that's why this strategy is so important. By bringing together organisations from across Buckinghamshire, we're taking a joined-up approach to tackling the issues that matter most to residents.

This is about preventing problems before they occur, protecting vulnerable people and making sure support is there when it's needed. Whether it's reducing anti-social behaviour, tackling shoplifting, protecting people from fraud or supporting victims of domestic abuse, our focus is on creating safer communities and better outcomes for residents.

By working closely with our partners and local communities, we can build stronger, more resilient neighbourhoods and help ensure Buckinghamshire remains a great place to live, work and raise a family.

The Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy provides a clear framework for partners to work together over the coming years, combining resources, expertise and local knowledge to reduce crime, prevent harm and improve outcomes for residents across the county.

# There’s no time like the present to explore the past - Buckinghamshire History Festival 2026!

Buckinghamshire History Festival returns in November, giving residents another opportunity to explore and celebrate the county’s history and cultural heritage.

The festival, organised by Buckinghamshire Archives, showcases a huge range of events, activities and exhibitions throughout November. There’s something for everyone, ranging from tours of the Buckinghamshire Archives, and historic walks through Amersham, Marlow and High Wycombe, to online talks and traditional corn milling demonstrations – and there’s even some creative performances through means of dance and theatre productions!

History fans old and new will welcome back this celebrated annual event which brings back Buckinghamshire's past to life through the stories of the county's people and places. Our heritage helps make Buckinghamshire such a great place to live, and supporting the cultural experiences that bring communities together is a key priority for the council
This month-long festival provides communities with lots of chances to be inspired and entertained by Buckinghamshire’s history through a series of online and in-person events.

With the Buckinghamshire Archives temporarily closed to public access in preparation for its relocation to a new purpose-built space in High Wycombe, I'm delighted that we're still able to offer this opportunity for residents to immerse themselves in local history.
I’d encourage everyone to check out the full listing of events happening throughout November and to follow @BucksArchives on Facebook, X and Instagram.

Find the full listing of festival events, visit: https://histfestbucks.co.uk/whats-on



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