



CLlr Jilly Jordan & Cllr Caroline Cornell

Newton Longville Parish Council Meeting, Monday 15th June 2026

Two new Best Start Family Hubs approved for High Wycombe and Burnham

At a meeting on Tuesday 12 May Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet approved plans for two new Best Start Family Hubs (BSFHs) – one in High Wycombe and one in Burnham.

As part of Buckinghamshire Council's Best Start in Life programme, the two new hubs will provide targeted support to families with young children and help to improve early years development.

The first BSFH opened its doors in Elmhurst, Aylesbury last month.

The national Best Start in Life programme requires local authorities to strengthen early years and family services to support children's development, improve children's readiness to start school, and increase the proportion of children achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) at the end of their reception year at school.

Buckinghamshire has been set an ambitious target of 80% of children achieving a GLD by 2027/28, including significant improvements in achievement by children eligible for free school meals. Achieving this will require targeted, early, preventative support for families facing greater challenges.

BSFHs will play a crucial role in that work, offering a targeted and comprehensive package of early years support as part of the council's existing Family Hub network.

The BSFHs, located in areas of higher need, will bring together health, early years and family support, with help ranging from parenting programmes which strengthen the home learning environment to more coordinated intervention where children have SEND or developmental needs, plus improved access to key services such as midwifery and health visiting.

A suitable location for the BSFH in High Wycombe is currently being identified. In Burnham, the site of the Adult Services Day Centre will be repurposed as the location for the new BSFH.

Buckinghamshire Council urges residents to consider fostering during Foster Care Fortnight

Buckinghamshire Council is marking Foster Care Fortnight 2026 by celebrating the vital role foster carers play in transforming the lives of children and young people across the county – and encouraging more residents to consider fostering and find out what may be involved.

Foster Care Fortnight ran from 11 to 24 May and is led nationally by The Fostering Network. This year's theme, *This Is Fostering*, highlights the everyday reality of fostering, the positive impact foster carers have on children's lives, and the pressures facing the fostering community, while also acting as a call for greater understanding and support.

Foster Care Fortnight was a chance to thank our foster carers for the hugely positive difference they make to the lives of children and young people in Buckinghamshire. Foster carers offer stability, compassion and understanding – often during the most challenging times in a child's life.

To mark the start of the fortnight, Buckinghamshire Council hosted its annual Foster Carers' Conference on Friday 8 May, bringing together foster carers from across the county to connect, learn and celebrate the incredible work they do. This year's conference focused on *Relational Repair* and featured keynote speaker Dr Karen Treisman, a leading expert in trauma, adversity, loss, child protection, fostering, adoption, refugee and asylum contexts, trafficking, and attachment.

Dr Treisman shared insights into building trust, empathy and trauma-informed care, supporting foster carers to strengthen relationships and better meet the needs of vulnerable children.

During 2025–26, Buckinghamshire Council approved a further 42 new foster carers. However, with more than 500 looked after children and young people in Buckinghamshire, the council is urging more residents to explore whether fostering could be right for them.

Buckinghamshire Council is keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in fostering, including those able to provide therapeutic foster care to specialist placements, looking after children and young people with more complex needs. [Find out more](#).

The council is also encouraging local businesses and organisations to become Fostering Friendly by pledging practical support for foster families, such as flexible working, supportive HR policies, help with local events or special offers. More information is available at: fostering.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/fostering-friendly

Anyone interested in fostering can learn more about joining the Foster with Bucks community, book a place at an information event, or sign up for updates at: fostering.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Buckinghamshire secures £6 million of government adult skills funding through devolution

Buckinghamshire Council has welcomed formal confirmation of the devolution deal it has put to the government, bringing £6 million of Adult Skills funding to the county.

It means the council will directly control this money, marking a significant milestone in its ambition to deliver a locally led skills system that responds directly to the needs of local residents, employers and communities.

The deal represents a major step forward in devolved decision-making for Buckinghamshire, enabling the council to take greater control locally and ensure that funding decisions are shaped by the specific needs of Buckinghamshire's residents, employers and communities.

Adult Skills funding supports learning and training for adults aged 19 and over, helping people to gain essential qualifications, improve core skills such as English, maths and digital, and access vocational courses that enable them to retrain or upskill. With devolved control of this funding, Buckinghamshire Council can now tailor provision more closely to local priorities and opportunities, supporting people to move into work, remain in employment or progress in their careers. This locally led approach will support inclusion, improve productivity and drive economic growth and prosperity across the county.

The devolved funding allows the council to commission high-quality courses that align closely with employer needs, support key growth industries and reflect local priorities. This includes helping to fill skills gaps and supporting people who find it hardest to get work.

In the first year of devolution, commissioning will focus on priority areas where skills needs are most clearly evidenced locally. These include English and maths, digital skills and artificial intelligence, health, social care and early years, net zero, construction, work readiness, and leadership and management.

More information about training opportunity can be found here:

[Skills, opportunities and employment | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

New survey launched to unlock tree planting opportunities across Buckinghamshire

Buckinghamshire Council is inviting expressions of interest from those with land and large gardens available for tree planting, to help realise the ambition of the Bucks Tree Mission, which aims to plant over half a million trees by 2031 – one for every resident living in Buckinghamshire.

Almost half of the target has already been achieved, with 257,000 trees predominantly planted in new woodland created on council-owned land. Now, residents, business owners, public organisations, community groups, farmers and landowners are being invited to support the mission by taking part in a short survey. The survey aims to identify what support would be needed to unlock more tree planting opportunities across the county.

Anyone with land potentially suitable for tree planting is encouraged to complete a short, multiple-choice [questionnaire](#) that takes no more than three minutes to complete.

Participants can also sign-up to receive further information about future funding opportunities and tree giveaways, as well as planting and maintenance advice and guidance on which species are best suited to their location.

As well as contributing to improved air quality and environmental sustainability, trees provide a wide range of ecosystem benefits, including habitat creation, biodiversity enhancement, flood mitigation, and improved access to green space for our communities.

We would encourage anybody interested in planting trees on their own land to take part in the survey, so we can better understand how to support tree planting across the county and move closer to achieving the ambitions of the Bucks Tree Mission.

Any enquiries relating to the project should be emailed to BucksTreeMission@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

1. The [Bucks Tree Mission](#) has been established to improve our environment and is a core component of the Buckinghamshire's Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy. The ambition is to plant 543,000 trees by 2031.
2. The Council's [Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy Progress Report 2024/5](#) reported that within the first four years of The Bucks Tree Mission programme, 216,000 trees were planted across nine new woodlands, with an additional 5,450 trees planted at Roddimore Wood in April 2025. These woodlands are forecast to sequester 17,000 tonnes of CO2 by 2125.
3. Species in both tree giveaway packs have been specifically selected for Buckinghamshire in consultation with the Council's ecology team. All trees will be sourced with Plant Healthy certification.

Council sets out how funding to support residents in need will be allocated

Buckinghamshire Council has recently agreed how crisis funding to support residents in need will be allocated following central Government changes to the process.

The Government has replaced the Household Support Fund with the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) which went live from 1 April. The new funding comes with updated criteria for how this financial support for families facing severe financial hardship must be provided. The guidance requires a move away from blanket support to a focus on targeted help for households experiencing a financial shock.

The changes that the Government has initiated to the criteria also means families who are eligible for free school meals will no longer get food vouchers during school holidays.

To help families prepare, the council has decided to delay making any changes until after May half term. Following this, eligible families will still be able to access the council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, which provides free activities and healthy meals during school holidays.

The funding received by Buckinghamshire to support local families in need has reduced significantly over the past two years, however Cabinet members have reaffirmed the council's commitment to supporting those facing financial hardship.

Crisis payments to support households who have experienced a financial shock, with essential costs for food and heating homes, will continue via the existing Helping Hand service.

Due to the reduction in funding, the council is also introducing a new financial resilience community fund to help local communities manage the cost of living and build resilience. Working in partnership with Heart of Bucks, the fund is being created to support local voluntary and community organisations delivering services such as financial advice, social and digital support, and help into work, strengthening communities and helping people get back on their feet.

During 2025/26 the council allocated a total of £4.2m via the Household Support Fund to help residents and vulnerable households in the county. This includes:

- Providing food vouchers to 16,000 young people during school holidays.
- Supporting over 70 voluntary and community sector initiatives from cookery courses to lunch clubs.
- Providing crisis support to 2,844 people (up until end of Feb 26).
- Providing 117 grants to support with rent arrears/ housing costs.
- Enabling 626 people to benefit from expert financial advice from Citizens Advice (up until end of Feb 26).

Council thanks new food waste recyclers and urges more to join in

Buckinghamshire Council is thanking the thousands of households who have got stuck straight into recycling their food waste following the introduction of food waste collections to most flats across Buckinghamshire.

The council is taking the opportunity to encourage all residents to play their part in increasing food waste recycling across Buckinghamshire, helping cut carbon emissions, generate green energy and keep general waste bins cleaner and fresher.

Councillor Ade Osibogun, Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change & Waste, said: “I want to thank residents living in flats who have got stuck straight into recycling their food waste. Within weeks of rolling out collections in the south of the county, our partner Veolia is already collecting ten tonnes of food waste from flats every week – enough energy to boil the kettle for more than 100,000 cups of tea!

“Food waste recycling had unfortunately been declining in recent years across Buckinghamshire. Around a third of waste placed in the wrong bin is food waste that could instead be recycled into green energy.

“For residents who may be unsure or new to food waste recycling, I would encourage them to give it a try. It doesn’t need to be perfect. All food waste except liquids can be recycled, and even small changes made week by week can have a real positive impact. Your recycled waste generates green energy and fertiliser, and reduces the council’s disposal costs, freeing up vital funds.”

Food waste recycling collections were introduced to over 25,000 flats with communal waste collections across Buckinghamshire between October and March, making it easier for thousands more residents to recycle weekly and ensuring Buckinghamshire complies with nationwide [Simpler Recycling legislation](#).

All solid food waste can be recycled through council food waste collections, including meat bones, tea bags, coffee grounds, leftovers, mouldy bread, and fruit and vegetable peelings. Recycling food waste benefits both the environment and residents. Food waste left in general waste bins can sit for up to two weeks, while food waste caddies are emptied weekly, helping reduce smells at home.

Residents do not need a special kitchen caddy to take part. Any container can be used and lined with plastic bags or newspaper, with all bags removed during the recycling process.

Read more about food waste recycling and what can be recycled at [Buckinghamshire Recycles](#).

Andrew Reidy, Divisional Head of Municipal Operations at Veolia, said: “Delivering food waste collections to thousands of new households across the south of Buckinghamshire is a significant milestone and one that will make a real difference in reducing the amount of organic waste being disposed of in general waste bins. By recycling food waste, residents are directly contributing to the creation of fertiliser and energy for the National Grid, while also helping to cut carbon emissions. We are proud to support Buckinghamshire Council in this important step forward and look forward to seeing even more residents get involved in food waste recycling.”



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