

CHEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MAY ANNUAL MEETING AND MAY MONTHLY MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1st MAY 2024 AT 7PM IN THE PAVILION



052/24 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Present - Cllr C. Fee in the Chair, Cllr A Hollett Vice Chair, Cllr D Bevan, Cllr T Richards, Cllr K Oastler and Roz Roberts, Clerk

Cllr C Poll – Buckinghamshire Council
Cllr P Brazier – Buckinghamshire Council
Cllr D Town – Buckinghamshire Council

1 member of the Public was in attendance

Apologies:-

Cllr Daly – Tennis Match
Cllr Finch – Recovering from a tooth extraction

053/24 TO APPROVE THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023

It was RESOLVED to approve the audited accounts of the Parish Council for the financial year ending 31st March 2023.

054/24 TO RECEIVE THE DRAFT ACCOUNTS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2024

a) **Internal Audit 2023-24** - The report from the Internal Auditor, Roger King, for 2023-24 was read to the council. It was noted that the Internal Auditor had no recommendations to make to the council and the report was accepted by the Parish Council.

b) **Annual Governance Statement 2023-24** - The Annual Governance Statement was read out and agreed by the members of the Parish Council. It was then signed and dated by the Chairman and Clerk.

c) **Accounting Statements 2023-24** - The Parish Council agreed that the figures shown in the accounting statements presented fairly the financial position of Cheddington Parish Council and properly presented receipts and payments. The Accounting Statements were approved by the Parish Council and signed and dated by the Chairman and Clerk.

055/24 TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE FEE

“Looking back at last year it seems that we have completed a lot of “tidying up and repairing” type jobs around the village which were in need of doing:

The windows in the bus shelter were replaced: we have renewed all the map noticeboards: refurbished all the bench seats in the village: renewed the post and painted the Millenium sign: replaced all the litter bins with new modern ones: planted a new tree to replace the one that was felled at the village hall: installed a Friendship Bench for the corner of New Street with an inscription suggested by Cllr Bevan: we’ve numbered all the street lights: tidied up the verge outside Orchard Manor and Network Rail has generously replaced the rail side fence at the top of the recreation ground. Also, a defibrillator was installed at the village hall, so we now have three in the village.

These may all seem minor things, but I think they go toward making our village look cared for.

A lot of the day-to-day tidying is done by our Handymen. Colin left us last year, but we recruited Lucy in September, so rather than Handymen we now have “Handyfolk”.

Lucy is fully competent at using all the “boys toys”, strimmer, hedge cutter, painting, whatever – she’s there and as for Keith and his new grease gun - there is nothing in this village that will

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ever squeak again! So a big thank you to all the handyfolk for their hard work during the year and out in all weathers!

I would also like to thank Mel Stevens our Allotment Warden, who resigned last year, for his work on the administration of the allotments and to the allotment holders who maintain the newly planted heritage fruit trees.

Last Spring the Parish Council nominated Cathy Craft for the Best of Bucks Award in recognition of many years of work she has done for various community activities in the village. We were delighted when she was announced winner of the Wing & Ivinghoe area.

More recently the Parish Council applied for, and were successful in gaining, a grant from the Football Foundation to improve the condition of the pitch at the recreation ground. Part of this application included the Clerk and a member of Cheddington Football Club undertaking a Football groundsmanship course. So, if you need to know anything about topsoil, sub soil, drainage, length of grass, frequency of cuts and all the other fascinating facts about pitches Roz or Jack will only be too delighted to tell you.

Also last year we gave financial support to Cheddington Scouts towards its refurbishment of the scout hut.

In May we celebrated King Charles III's coronation on The Green, then literally the next day Wicksteed arrived to remove most of the old play equipment ready to install the much-anticipated new play equipment. When installation was completed in June and ever since, it has proved to be very popular with the children and indeed some adults. The only problem was that a large area of turf had to be replaced. This was done during the hottest June since 1884, but thanks to residents who live around The Green "evening watering parties" were held until it rained in July and I don't think it's stopped raining since !

So, in conclusion, I would like to thank our Buckinghamshire Councillors Chris, Derek and Peter for all their advice, and their help in getting the roads around the village resurfaced.

Thanks to my fellow Councillors for their help, especially Cllr Hollett who seems to get a very odd assortment of jobs to do, and of course, thanks to Roz for all the many varied tasks she undertakes on our behalf, whether they be enjoyable, extraordinary or just plain exasperating, they are all done with a "wee smile"

Cllr Richards thanked the Chair.

056/24 ANNUAL REPORT FROM BUCKS COUNCILLORS

Cllr Poll provided a detailed report behalf of the 3 Ivinghoe Ward Councillors. It was agreed to include the whole report as it contained some very useful information.

Please see Appendix 2 (page 8) for full report.

057/24 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Fee was nominated as Chair by Cllr Hollett and seconded by Cllr Oastler.
Cllr Fee completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form.

058/24 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Hollett was nominated as Vice Chair by Cllr Fee and seconded by Cllr Bevan.
Cllr Hollett completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form.

059/24 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES (APPENDIX 1)

See Appendix 1 (page 7) for updated details.

Clerk was asked to contact the Cheddington Walking Group re. a volunteer to check the village Rights of way routes.

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060/24 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

061/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

062/24 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council's Monthly meeting held on the 3rd April 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

063/24 TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Cllr Brazier

Straw – Cllr Brazier and the Head of Buckinghamshire Highways had driven around the area and were shocked at the extent of the 'straw debris'. An officer had been assigned. It was agreed that clearly straw movements are expected but not all of the year round blocking gullies/peoples gardens. Clerk to advise residents to contact Cllr Brazier with any complaints going forward.

064/24 CLERK'S UPDATE REPORT - to note updates to ongoing matters:

- **Cheddington Neighbourhood plan** - Nothing to report.
- **Barratts - Land at Gooseacre** – Nothing to report.
- **Connecting Path Suggestion at Recreation Ground** – On hold.
- **Cheddington s106 Pedestrian and Cycling Improvements Scheme** – Cllr Fee and Clerk meeting Paul Foot, Local Area Technician Friday 10th at 11am to discuss positions of SIDS.
- **Orchard Manor Zebra crossing** – Clerk waiting on confirmation of installation of signage. Saplings had been planted, as requested by the PC, to fill the shortcut gap at the crossing.
- **Future development of football/sports facilities at the Recreation Ground – MUGA** – Planning application submitted. Officer has asked for more info regarding the type of fencing.
- **Football Pitch Upgrading, Cheddington Recreation Ground** – Nothing to report. Clerk waiting on specialist contractors to return call/emails.

- **General**

- **Friendship Bench** – Installed on grassy verge at New Street/Brownlow by footpath.
- **Inspection of All Play/Fitness Equipment** – Clerk had circulated the updated version of the March inspection Report. No issues were raised.
Zip Wire – Cllr Hollett and Clerk met with Darran Williamson, Wicksteed on site on the 16th April. The zip wire was adjusted, and the seat raised.
- **Engraving 'missing' names on the War Memorial** – Clerk contacted Northampton Stonemasons Ltd on 16th April. Awaiting on a response.
29th April received a response from IR Quince Monumental Masons Ltd who were still interested. Will provide a quote for the June Meeting.
- **Black Poplar Trees At Recreation Ground** – Clerk has spoken to JDR Treecare who have advised the works will be done as soon as the ground hardens enough for a cherry picker.
- **Accident on the Green 3rd January 2024** – Aviva have paid out. Railings have been removed and are in the process of being refurbished.
- **Overhanging Vegetation Field, Station Road** – Clerk had contacted Seabrook for an update. Email received from Savills, the managing agent for owner, Society of Merchant Venturers. A tree inspection would be arranged for Station Road. The surveyor would ensure that prescriptions are made to give at least 2 metre clearance of any lighting and where feasible this distance will be increased.

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Due to ash dieback the inspection is being planned for June. This will allow the ash trees to be in full leaf so an assessment of the extent of any dieback in the crown can be made.

- **Stand alone toilet block at Recreation Ground** – Clerk has requested HH to produce some alternative drawings. Clerk contacted the tree officer dealing with the application, Ryan Lloyd, who gave advice of where the toilet block could be. Clerk to arrange a separate meeting with Hugo Hardy.

- **Great Brickhill Wing Ivinghoe NHPT** – Confirmed a representative would be in attendance at 7th August and 6th November meetings.

PCSO Hobson has forwarded the crime figures for Cheddington from 1st December 2023 to 30.04.24 25 in total.

December – 1x Road Related Incident, 1x Road Traffic Collision.

January – 1 x Road Traffic Collision, 1x Wildlife Crime, 1x Suspicious Vehicle, 1x Theft from Vehicle, 1x Drug Offences, 1x Criminal Damage.

February – 1x Theft from Vehicle, 1x Anti-Social Behaviour, 1x Road Traffic Collision

March – 3x Suspicious person, 2x Assault with injury, 1x Road Related incident, 1x Road Traffic Collision, 1x Assault without injury, 2x Suspicious vehicle.

April – 1x Public Order, 2x Assault without injury, 1x Assault with injury.

065/24 CORRESPONDENCE, CONSULTATIONS AND CIRCULARS

Easter Weekend Event/Future Events at Cheddington Village Hall:-

31.03 & 01.04.24 - Isobel Feber, Resident 20 Church Lane - email - Easter Event Village Hall
Email of complaint regarding traffic.

15.04.24 - Kim Miles, Resident – email - Fantasia Events Village Hall – email of complaint

15.04.24 - Michelle Andrews, Resident - email - Events – email of complaint

01.05.24 - Anthony Turner, Resident – email - Sunday Market – A Thank you

All events have now been cancelled. The Parish Council is disheartened that the event organiser has decided to cancel any future events at the Village Hall from July due to 3 complaints.

24.04.24 - Janet Banham, Cheddington Methodist Church – email - Chapel Solar Panels - Possible funding – Clerk to advise that in this instance the Parish Council cannot financially assist this type of project. Clerk to suggest that they contact Buckinghamshire Council about sources of grant funding for the installation of solar panels on public buildings.

30.04.24 - David Nabbs, Resident – email - Position of Parish Councillor – Clerk to suggest that Mr Nabbs attend a few meetings to see what the Parish Council does/is involved in and also to advise that there are Local Elections next year.

066/24 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS/MEETINGS ATTENDED

Nothing to report.

067/24 VILLAGE WALK

Clerk to email a few possible dates.

068/24 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) The May 2024 payments, in accordance with the financial report, were signed off by Cllr Fee and Cllr Richards.
- b) Car Park Light at Recreation Ground – The quote for works from Amp'd Up/Vision Build (including instal of 4 pathway lights and excavation groundworks) in the sum of £4522.58 was Agreed.
- c) The annual BALC Subs & NALC Affiliation Fees subscription of £331.38 was Agreed.

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- d) To purchase a case of wine (as in previous years) for the internal auditor, Roger King was Agreed.

069/24 PLANNING MATTERS

To Consider Applications Received via Buckinghamshire Council:-

24/01122/APP - 28 Hill Side Cheddington Buckinghamshire LU7 0SP - Householder application for single storey side extension – No Objections.

24/00667/APP - Cheddington Recreation Ground, High Street, Cheddington - Construction of MUGA sport ground with the inclusion of 4 floodlight columns at 8m high – Cheddington Parish Council supports planning application No. 24/00667/APP - Cheddington Recreation Ground, High Street, Cheddington as this will provide a valuable outdoor sports facility for benefit of the whole of the village.

24/01318/APP - 13 Manor Road, Cheddington Buckinghamshire LU7 0RW - Householder application for demolition of porch and rebuild with first floor extension to front with pitched roof - No Objections.

To Receive Determinations by Buckinghamshire Council:-

No determinations received at time of Agenda publication.

Other Planning Matters:-

070/24 REPORT ON ANY URGENT MATTERS

Nothing to report.

071/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th June 2024 at 7pm.

The meeting finished at 8.30pm.

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FINANCIAL APPENDIX

MONTH 2

AS AT 30/04/2024

VCHR	DATE	PAYMENTS - CURRENT ACCOUNT	NET	VAT	TOTAL	
PAVILION INCOME TO 30.04.24 FYI						
DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS DEBITED						
DD009	16.04.24	SSE Energy Supply - Pavilion 05.12.23-04.03.24	£ 406.39	£ 162.49	£ 568.88	
DD010	18.04.24	N Power - Street Lights 01.03.24-31.03.24	£ 1,547.95	£ 309.59	£ 1,857.54	
DD011	22.04.24	Epson - Printer Subscription	£ 32.16	£ 6.43	£ 38.59	
DD012	22.04.24	BT re. wifi - Pavilion April 24	£ 43.11	£ 8.62	£ 51.73	
DD013	22.04.24	Bank Charges to 31 March 2024	£ 5.00	£ -	£ 5.00	
DD014	25.04.24	Nest - Clerk Pension April 24	£ 124.95	£ -	£ 124.95	
DD015	29.04.24	02 - Clerk's Mobile 13.04.24-12.05.24	£ 14.25	£ 2.85	£ 17.10	
		TOTAL DDs Made	£ 2,173.81	£ 489.98	£ 2,663.79	
DD PAYMENTS TO BE MADE						
		TOTAL DDs To Be Made/Clear	£ -	£ -	£ -	
ONLINE PAYMENTS MADE						
OL016	04.04.24	Mrs E R Roberts - Sign/Grease Gun Amazon	£ 26.69	£ 3.75	£ 30.44	
OL017	09.04.24	Cheddington Petanque - Works Assistance	£ 675.00	£ -	£ 675.00	
OL018	11.04.24	Mrs E R Roberts - Pavilion Safety Sticker/Teatowels	£ 6.89	£ 1.38	£ 8.27	
OL019	15.04.24	BBKV 2024 Entry Fee	£ 25.00	£ -	£ 25.00	
OL020	24.04.24	Mrs E R Roberts - Salary April 24	£ 1,507.35	£ -	£ 1,507.35	
OL021	24.04.24	HMRC (06.04-05.05.24)	£ 347.86	£ -	£ 347.86	
OL022	30.04.24	Simon Barrow Inv SB0365 April 24	£ 2,283.33	£ 456.67	£ 2,740.00	
		TOTAL OL Payments Made	£ 4,872.12	£ 461.80	£ 5,333.92	
ONLINE PAYMENTS TO BE MADE						
OL023	02.04.24	E R Roberts - Expenses March 24	£ 43.23	£ 2.76	£ 45.99	
	02.04.24	Lucy Lawson Inv no. 008 - (Not received yet)	£ -	£ -	£ -	
OL024	02.04.24	Keith Malcolm Inv no.022	£ 337.08	£ -	£ 337.08	
OL025	02.04.24	Leighton Hire Centre Inv 77793	£ 109.20	£ 21.84	£ 131.04	
OL026	02.04.24	Rialtas Support Inv SM28984	£ 192.00	£ 38.40	£ 230.40	
OL027	02.04.24	Rialtas MTD VAT 24/25	£ 110.00	£ 22.00	£ 132.00	
OL028	02.04.24	Eurooffice Inv 4505426 - Pavilion Clening/ Address labels Clerk	£ 113.89	£ 22.77	£ 136.66	
OL029	02.04.24	BMKALC Inv 5215 - Annual Subs	£ 331.38	£ -	£ 331.38	
OL030	02.04.24	CheddingtonMethodist Church - Warm Spaces March/April 2024	£ 200.00	£ -	£ 200.00	
		TOTAL OL Payments To Be Made	£ 1,436.78	£ 107.77	£ 1,544.55	
CURRENT ACCOUNT - Community						
R1	02.04.24	Buckinghamshire Council re. Devolved Services	£ 2,804.85	£ -	£ 2,804.85	
R2	02.04.24	Cheddington Tennis Club Inv 2024/224 - Flodlights Q3 & Q4	£ 647.87	£ 129.57	£ 777.44	£ 777.44
R3	02.04.24	Cheddington Tennis Club Inv 2024/225	£ 187.50	£ 37.50	£ 225.00	£ 225.00
R4	03.04.24	S J Brooking Allotment Rent 16C	£ 16.00	£ -	£ 16.00	
R5	04.04.24	Julie Campbell Inv 2024/227	£ 343.75	£ 68.75	£ 412.50	£ 412.50
R6	08.04.24	AVIVA - Insurance Claim Railings	£ 4,725.00	£ -	£ 4,725.00	£ -
R7	10.04.24	D P Harper Inv 2024/229 Pavilion Hire	£ 45.00	£ 9.00	£ 54.00	£ 54.00
R8	12.04.24	Precept Payment 1	£ 59,000.00	£ -	£ 59,000.00	
R9	12.04.24	HMRC VAT 01.01.24-31.03.24	£ 2,528.04	£ -	£ 2,528.04	£ -
T1	15.04.24	Transfer to Savings Account	-£ 59,000.00	£ -	-£ 59,000.00	
T2	15.04.24	Transfer to Savings Account	-£ 8,000.00	£ -	-£ 8,000.00	
R10	15.04.24	Hugo Hardy Inv No 2024/231	£ 22.50	£ 4.50	£ 27.00	£ 27.00
R11	16.04.24	Petanque Inv 2024/232	£ 22.50	£ 4.50	£ 27.00	£ 27.00
R12	16.04.24	Petanque Inv 2024/222	£ 10.42	£ 2.08	£ 12.50	£ 12.50
R13	19.04.24	SJ Butcher - Inv 2024/234	£ 45.00	£ 9.00	£ 54.00	£ 54.00
R14	22.04.24	N A Webber Allotment Rent 17A	£ 8.00	£ -	£ 8.00	
T3	24.04.24	Transfer from Savings Account	£ 5,000.00	£ -	£ 5,000.00	
R15	25.04.24	Julie Cowell Allotment Rent 17C	£ 18.00	£ -	£ 18.00	
			£ 8,424.43	£ 264.90	£ 8,689.33	£ 1,589.44
SAVINGS ACCOUNT - BMM						
T1	15.04.24	Transfer from Current account	£ 59,000.00	£ -	£ 59,000.00	
T2	15.04.24	Transfer from Current Account	£ 8,000.00	£ -	£ 8,000.00	
T3	24.04.24	Transfer to Current Account	-£ 5,000.00	£ -	-£ 5,000.00	
			£ 62,000.00	£ -	£ 62,000.00	
BALANCES 30.04.24						
		Current A/c			£ 3,668.05	
		Savings A/c			£ 172,312.70	
		TOTAL			£ 175,980.75	
		Less DDs to be paid			£ -	
		Less Online Payments to be made			£ 1,544.55	
		CURRENT BALANCE			£ 174,436.20	

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APPENDIX 1

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES

	2024-2025
Recreation Ground Fence/Recreation Ground Area	Handyfolk
Planning Working Group	D Bevan T Richards D Finch A Hollett – Planning Manger re. planning applications (NB All councillors are requested to examine all planning applications)
Play Equipment Inspector	Keith Malcolm (Handyman)
Finance Working Group	All Councillors
General Data Management Group	T Daly R Roberts
Village Hall Mgmt Cttee	C Fee
Street Light Warden	C Fee
Rights of Way Group	S Vessey (Clerk to contact Cheddington Walking Group for a replacement volunteer)
Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board	All Councillors
War Memorial	N Strange M Glendinning
Flag Pole	D Bevan
Allotment Warden	Position Currently Vacant Working Group Managing
Tree Warden	C Fee
Community Speed Watch/MVAS Unit	S Vessey Chris Poll R Roberts
Clock Winding	School Caretaker
Town Lands Trust	C Fee P Banister M Watson
Handymen	Lucy Lawson / Keith Malcolm
Defibrillator	Guardians T Daly / R Roberts

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APPENDIX 2

Ivinghoe ward – Buckinghamshire Councillors report for Cheddington Parish Council AGM 2024

General introduction

During the last 12 months we have continued our commitment to attend every parish council meeting. We have dedicated members to each parish and try our best to add a second. This underscores our continued support to you and the importance we place on the work of Parish Councils.'

The current financial position of all local government remains particularly challenging and we in Buckinghamshire are no different. We have nonetheless just passed our budget for the year 2024-2025 which protects our core services and continues with our commitments laid out in 2021. Those statutory services consume a large part of our budget, social care being in the order of 71% of all expenditure for example, but we remain committed to the promises we made. Our pledge to plant a tree for every resident in Bucks is on target with Wing wood, for example, which now has 109,000 trees with a further 23,000 due to be planted this year. The budget for road maintenance was further enhanced with an extra £5m announced at the budget setting meeting. Central government has also added £1.65m this year to help overcome what has been another challenging winter. The wettest February on record has had a major impact on road surfaces but the gulley cleaning programme introduced last year has had a major impact on flood alleviation. There is still more to do of course, but this proactive approach has undoubtedly had a positive impact.

Buckinghamshire Council sets budget for next three years

Councillors in Buckinghamshire have approved the council's Medium Term Financial Plan, which sets out its spending plans and how these are budgeted for over the next three years.

The budget has been set amidst a volatile economic environment and outlines where the council will make savings to balance the books over the next three years, while committing spend to the priority areas residents have asked for.

Councils across the UK are facing acute financial pressures, particularly in four key areas that support vulnerable residents; social care for both adults and children, temporary accommodation for homeless people and transport for vulnerable children to get to and from school. These services alone make up 71% of Buckinghamshire Council's budget, leaving only 29% of the budget to pay for all the other services the council provides, from fixing and improving roads, to collecting bins and providing libraries and leisure centres.

The costs of providing some of these services have also risen well above already high inflation rates, for example, a 20-30% increase in road construction and repairs costs. With council tax funding 80% of the council's net operating budget needed to pay for these services, councillors have agreed to raise the base rate of council tax by 2.99% with a further 2% increase in the adult social care precept. This means an overall rise of 4.99% in council tax bills, or an extra £1.69 per week for the average Band D household.

The budget also sets out how much the council proposes spending as part of its £666 million 'capital' programme, which is shaped by what residents have told the council they want to see prioritised.

Councillors have also voted through an amendment to make an extra £5 million from Reserves available directly to address the deterioration of local roads caused by the severe weather conditions in recent weeks. It means a total of £110 million is now set aside for roads repairs and improvements over the next four years.

Overall, the final budget includes spending:

- £110 million on roads with a further £8.4 million on footways
- £26.1 million on services to support housing and homelessness, including affordable housing action plans and disabled facilities grants
- £14.7 million on climate change and flood management
- £37.6 million on town centre regeneration and economic growth

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The final budget has been agreed following rigorous cross-party scrutiny of the plans that were originally put forward in January. The financial plans for each portfolio area were looked at in detail during a series of meetings last month. The final plans have also been adjusted in recent weeks after the government made some extra funding available to councils, meaning a further £5 million can now be set aside for Social Care, the majority of which has been allocated to a contingency fund for this service.

The council has also agreed to additional council tax charges on homes that have been empty for more than twelve months. While savings across the board are still being found to balance the books, this additional income has allowed the council to reverse a small number of savings measures originally put forward. For example, for now we will not need to shorten opening hours at our Household Recycling Centres and the council can continue the gully cleansing programme and reinstate a round of weed spraying and litter picking.

However, overall, the council still must deliver considerable savings to balance the books, over and above the £75.4 million already saved since becoming a unitary council. Some of the savings' measures include tough decisions, such as allocating less money to our community boards and some local voluntary organisations.

The council has also put forward long-term solutions to reduce costs including:

- investing in additional children's homes to reduce the heavy cost burden of external placements
- making savings in Adult Social Care through providing help for some residents, where it fits their need, to live more independently
- rationalising the council's office space, such as closing the King George V site in Amersham
- investing in more housing and temporary accommodation units to bring down the spend on costly nightly-paid accommodation

A key part of this budget is about managing the considerable risk and continuing turbulence, which is why we have put most of the extra funding we have had from government in recent weeks into our adult social care contingency pot. We are making some tough choices to deliver the savings we need to balance the books and we are also closing under-used office space and examining the best ways to maximise efficiencies from our activities overall – but there really is little room for manoeuvre indeed as we have been finding savings year after year already.

Infrastructure

Freight zone

We are delighted to report that the installation of the Ivinghoe Freight Strategy (Phase 1) was implemented last year as planned.

The purpose of the Freight Zone is to restrict HGV access to the area to those that have a business reason to be there. HGV traffic entering the area as a cut-through to somewhere else will be in breach of the order, this traffic should be encouraged to follow more suitable roads around the zone. Those operators who are based within the zone are allowed passage within the zone.

Phase 1 covers the installation of signage around the zone making the 7.5 tonne environmental traffic regulation order restricting HGV traffic with exception for local access legal.

Phase 2 (which is currently being implemented) covers the more bespoke advance notice signage on key routes around the zone, including Central Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, to alert drivers and operators about the restriction enabling them to avoid breaching the order and follow the more appropriate routes

Some FAQs

1) Whether training vehicles are allowed through the villages?

HGV driver training vehicles are not a permitted exception to an environmental weight restriction as they do not strictly require local access, on the basis that they can undertake driver instruction on roads where there is no constraint. The driver test centre in Leighton Buzzard is

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also not allowed to undertake examination movements inside the zone without a permitted exemption.

2) Whether restrictions apply if they are not carrying freight?

There is no specific requirement for vehicles to carry freight, the restriction is based on the 'maximum gross weight' (MGW) of the vehicle. That is the plated maximum weight a vehicle can carry fully laden, including driver, axles, and load. It does not matter if a vehicle is empty or not, if its MGW is above the restriction weight the movement would be in breach of the order.

3) To whom I should address any complaints if such vehicles are prohibited?

It may be useful to speak to the operator, this would give them the opportunity to make use of appropriate routes elsewhere. If they continue to use routes through the zone without any local business the breach may be reported to the police using their online tool. The aim is to discourage through traffic.

Here is the link if required: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/making-a-road-traffic-incident-report/>

Highway/Road maintenance and repair.

We are now approaching the end of the first year with the new contractor Buckinghamshire Highways. During the last 11 months the Ivinghoe Ward members have had regular meetings/surgeries with the Local Area Technician to review road repair priorities and issues. The obvious current issues have been the state of local roads and particularly 'potholes. We are beginning to see a more positive approach than previously experienced. The result being response to reports and quality of repairs once completed.

The capital programme that covers the total resurfacing of large sections of highway is a list of projects that are now being completed and removed from the list that previously only was added to. In Cheddington, Station Road and Leeches Way / Goose Acre and West End Road were resurfaced to a very high standard.

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES

Community Board – Ivinghoe and Wing Wards.

Recent changes have resulted in a more robust approach to funding and supporting local initiatives. This includes a new Community Board Manager whose approach is both positive and productive.

PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

Social Care

Adult and Childrens Care is the most important service delivered by the council and demands the lion's share of the budgets. The detail of the spend will be available after mid-April when they are formally communicated.

Fostering in Bucks

Could you, or someone you know, help young people in Bucks?

We have more than 500 children in Buckinghamshire in need of caring, supportive homes and we are looking for more foster carers to ensure that young people do not have to move far away from their family, friends, and schools. Could this be you or someone you know?

IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Chiltern Beechwood Special Area of Conservation (CBSAC)

Ivinghoe ward sits within the extended area of Ashridge affected by this current moratorium on planning applications, planning applications that will result in increased residential population i.e. housing developments are affected. The area covered is within a 12Km of the Ashridge National Trust boundary.

A Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is an internationally recognised designation comprising habitats and species of significant ecological importance. Natural England has overall

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responsibility for protecting SACs and says that the Chilterns Beechwoods is the most degraded SAC in the country.

SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace) Mitigation Strategies need to be in place before planning applications proposing a net increase in new homes in the vicinity of the SAC may be permitted. SANG Mitigation Strategies have been approved by our neighbours, Dacorum Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council. We are working on the draft Buckinghamshire SANG Mitigation Strategy at the moment and are aiming for its approval – either by Cabinet or as a Leader Delegated Decision – by the end of the year.

The issue is more complex for us because, unlike the situation in Dacorum and Central Bedfordshire, we have no existing areas of suitably located greenspace which can readily be converted in a SANG. We are therefore in discussion with several developers, trusts, other local authorities, and Natural England with the aim of securing the provision of SANG within or close to Buckinghamshire.

INCREASING PROSPERITY

UK Film Industry

It has been reported that Buckinghamshire has more production ‘Sound stages’ than anywhere else in the world and this includes Hollywood. Over the past year there have been several planning applications to add to the facilities associated with the film industry including extensions to the site at Pinewood.

Priorities and projects aligned to Opportunity Bucks

Building the Opportunity Bucks programme will require a collaborative approach from every service in every directorate in the council, with many existing projects and campaigns already sharing the same priorities as the programme.

We will focus on five key themes:

- Education and Youth Engagement
- Jobs, Careers and Skills
- Quality of Public Realm
- Standard of Living
- Health and Wellbeing

Council initiatives and projects which align to the Opportunity Bucks priorities should be communicated as such to build familiarity, reputation, and recognition. Aligning projects and programmes to Opportunity Bucks also helps us to ensure that we are using our collective resource as efficiently as possible, not duplicating, and maximising benefits to our residents.

Each project or campaign will have its own communications objectives but will include the key aims of the Opportunity Bucks strategy. It will also incorporate the Opportunity Bucks design concept and branding as far as possible, to ensure it is visually recognisable as part of the overall agenda, whilst recognising that different campaigns will be aimed at different audiences and may require slightly varied branding or artwork to maximise the effectiveness of the specific project.

Examples of projects which share the Opportunity Bucks objectives include:

- Buckinghamshire Adult Learning’s Multiply programme improving adult numeracy
- Public Health’s focus on heart health and cardiovascular disease to reduce health inequalities across the county
- Interview and CV writing workshops put on by our HR & OD team at The Mandeville School in Aylesbury

South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR)

Whilst the traffic management of Aylesbury may seem of little relevance to us here in our part of the county, it is of interest to us that the SEALR is continuing at pace. SEALR will see the construction of 1.1 miles of dual carriageway including three new roundabout junctions designed to ease congestion in Aylesbury and provide an easier route for traffic to flow without going

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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 (High Speed 2).

The council is coordinating the SEALR scheme with the project moving forward in two phases. Phase 2 will connect the B4443 Lower Road to a new roundabout junction with both the Stoke Mandeville Relief Road and future South West Aylesbury Link Road.

The new road will ease pressure on our unsuitable roads at times of congestion in other areas.

Creating an age friendly Buckinghamshire for all

Buckinghamshire Council has outlined its commitment to helping older people in Buckinghamshire live healthy, active, and independent lives.

As set out in its Healthy Ageing Strategy which has been formally approved by the council this week.

The document sets out the vision for how Buckinghamshire aspires to be a place for all residents to enjoy growing older in an age friendly community. The strategy also includes an action plan of how the vision will be achieved.

To become an age friendly community, the strategy focuses on eight interconnecting areas outlined by the World Health Organisation (WHO):

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transport
- Housing
- Participation in society
- Volunteering and employment
- Communication and information
- Community support for health and wellbeing
- Respect and social inclusion

In the first year, the focus for Buckinghamshire will be on two priorities - outdoor spaces and buildings and participating in society.

To oversee the implementation of the strategy a multi-agency Age Friendly Bucks Partnership has been set up with external partners including the NHS and voluntary sector organisations. The views and ideas of residents and community groups have shaped the aims of the strategy and will continue to inform the implementation.

To further support the success of the strategy Buckinghamshire Council has joined the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities which is run by the Centre for Ageing Better and affiliated to the WHO's Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities. Being a member of this network provides access a range of additional resources including good practice guidance and advice. In addition, the council has partnered locally with Age UK Buckinghamshire to ensure a local focus in maintained.

Find more information on Healthy Ageing in Buckinghamshire on the website.