

Issue 32
Winter 2022

park news



Published by Buckingham Park Parish Council

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Chairman's Notes

I can't believe it is time to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and we come to mark the end of 2022. The year has flown past.

As I look back there have been several things that stand out in the life of the Parish Council this year. The return of our summer Fete. Thank you to everyone who attended and the feedback we have had was overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to Jan, Luke and the team at the community centre who organise the event and I know it wasn't easy to bring the event back after 2 years off due to Covid.

I also really enjoyed visiting the many houses that had been decorated for Halloween. So many people did an amazing job. I appreciate that Halloween isn't for everyone but it has become an opportunity for young families to come together and join in an event that many families enjoy.

We applied for a grant, and were successful, to create our new community gym. This is an investment that will hopefully allow people easy access to gym equipment at a time when our rising bills means paying for gym access has become more difficult. We are grateful to the Aylesbury Community Board for the grant.

We have set out some of the key issues we have been working on are continuing to work on in the below. I do however want to draw attention to the issue of the land being vacated by the surgery.

The GP surgery moved over the summer and, by the time you read this, the temporary porta cabins will have been removed. The land should be returned to park space but we have requested that we retain the car park to help alleviate on street parking on Colonel Grantham Way. I know many are unhappy with the loss of the surgery from Buckingham Park but it was always a temporary solution until a permanent facility could be built in Berryfields. It has long been agreed



that the land would be returned to the Parish Council once the surgery had moved and it is a requirement of the original planning agreement that it goes back to being a part of our park. I am therefore deeply frustrated that Buckingham Council are currently refusing to return the land for community use. I am concerned that they are talking of retaining the land because they want to generate revenue from it and that likely means wanting to build on what should be community space. Buckingham Park should not suffer for the financial difficulties of Buckinghamshire Council and the agreement to return the land should be honoured.

Returning to positive news I would like to welcome our two newest Parish Councillors Gary Mitchell and Chris Donohoe to the council. Gary and Chris have jumped straight in and are updating the list of all our broken street lights to report to developers for fixing. We do have one remaining vacancy on the Council so if you are interested in getting involved with the community and helping to improve where we live please email our clerk Keith Gray for more information (keith.gray6@btopenworld.com).

I hope you can join us for our Christmas celebrations at the Community Centre

Anders Christensen
Chairman

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Buckingham Park Road Adoption

The infrastructure roads through Phases 1 and 2 are now adopted.

Buckinghamshire Council are now working with both Taylor Wimpey (TW) (on the Phase 1 housing) and Careys (Phase 2 housing) to progress these areas to adoption. TW have submitted a S.38 application, that is currently being processed and a 'snagging' meeting is arranged with Careys to any identify remedial works to be carried out.

The Western Link Road S38 Agreement was completed earlier this year and the road is due to be adopted later this month.

The work to the infrastructure roads through Phases 4 and 5 was completed and has allowed adoption to take place in conjunction with point 1 above.

Phase 4 (Persimmon) Residential

(Part) – This area is currently serving a long-term Maintenance period and its adoption is now dependent upon Persimmon completing all agreed remedial works.

Phase 4 (TW Oxford) Residential Area (Part) – This area does not currently have an Agreement in place. However, we are in continuing discussions with the developer and their appointed consultant, Vine and are looking to deal with matters relating to the adoption of this phase in the near future. Action TW Oxford and Vine – The consultant, Vine, has recently undertaken ground testing to determine the detail of the sub-surface construction of the roads, which they are now assessing. This will help to determine the extent of any remedial works required and, hence, the next steps to be taken – An application for the formal S38 is also expected in the near future.

Phase 5 (TW Oxford) Residential Area – as with 6 above, this area does not currently have an Agreement in place and we are in continuing discussion with the developer and their appointed consultant and are looking to deal with matters relating to the adoption of this phase. Contact established with Vine and, as in 6 above, outstanding issues are being addressed – An application for the formal S38 is also expected soon.

Phase 3 Residential and Infrastructure – The sequence for taking these remaining areas forward, as either individual or combined Agreements, is still yet to be decided by TW, as they are currently prioritising the work in point 2, and we will discuss with them how best to progress with these in due course. Action TW South Mids.

Road Repairs

The management of road repairs by Buckinghamshire Council is changing in April 2023 and the current contractor is not accepting any new work orders. The upshot is that there will likely be no new parking restrictions in the parishes/ town until 2023 and even then, the new contractor will be playing catch up with the backlog for a while. We will however hope to get the consultations for Buckingham Park underway so that we can join the queue in the back log. We will not be able to afford blanket parking restrictions so they will have to be targeted at where they will be most needed.

Doctors' Surgery

Works have started on the removal of the porta cabins and the land returned to grass (but parking will be retained) for the time being. The land, originally part of the main play park, should be transferred to the Parish Council and we will decide what to do with it then. Discussions are taking place with Buckinghamshire Council about the land transfer.

Warm Welcome UK

The Community Centre is joining up to the Warm Welcome scheme this winter to help residents in need. Warm Welcome encourage different businesses to open their doors to vulnerable people who may be struggling to warm their homes during the winter, we are also in discussions with the foodbank about offering free hot food and drink once a week on Mondays. You can visit www.warmwelcome.co.uk to see other business who have signed up to the scheme around Aylesbury.

Main Playground Refurbishment

The parish council will be refurbishing the main playpark. Plans are in place for installing some new equipment and further maintenance works.

Vacancies and Co-option of Parish Councillors

We are pleased to welcome two new co-opted parish councillors, Gary Mitchell, and Christine Donohoe. We look forward to working with them and we still have a vacancy if anyone is interested, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council for information.

Parking Restrictions

We are considering parking restrictions / double yellow lines in some parts of Buckingham Park but have hit a dual stumbling block in that Buckinghamshire Council are no longer funding parking restrictions centrally so we have to apply to our Local Community Board which only has funding to cover 3-4 streets per year for the whole of Aylesbury town. We will continue to pursue this as best we can and reach an informed decision.

Community Centre Update

What a busy year it has been since my last update in December 2021, the last year has seen the community centre re-establish itself as one of the busiest in Aylesbury. We started the year with uncertainty over what the future held with coronavirus but it has been great to be able to move on from Covid restrictions.

We have held a range of community events this year including an Easter market, live wrestling, discos, a

two-night Navaratri function, a Halloween party hosted by Louise from "The Party Poppers" and most recently a food fest hosted by the Aylesbury Hindu Trust. These events are always well attended so thank you to everyone who came and if you did not know these events were on keep an eye on the Community Centres Facebook page going forwards.

Our regular hirers keep us busy

through the week, there is great variety for young and old.

We currently have our small hall available to hire on Monday nights and we have a few slots open in the Large Hall, predominantly around midday if anyone is interested. Our halls tend to get booked up about 3 months in advance for weekend parties so you will have to act quick to secure a date.

Buckingham Park Food bank - Helping local people in crisis

It is such a blessing to have a foodbank in Buckingham Park Community Centre. We are now facing yet another challenging time for everyone with the cost of living rising every month. Because of this, there is rise of food bank users all over the nation.

Food banks are grassroots, community organizations aimed at supporting people who cannot afford the essentials in life. The food bank in Buckingham Park is supported by "The Trussell Trust" who provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty, they also campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK.

We wish to thank all the people who have donated to the food bank this year, thanks to the distributors who regularly brought those boxes of food to the centre. Thanks to the Community Centre who give us a place to store the boxes and distribute food to the people in need. Thanks to all the Volunteers who have sacrificed their time willingly from day one. Last but not least, thanks to the people in Buckingham Park for using the food bank.

Here in Buckingham Park Community centre, the food bank is open every Monday from 1:30pm to 3 pm (Except on bank holidays). We have seen people in crisis come to the food bank, with or without a voucher and we have managed to send them home with food.

Because of the increase of the cost of living, this Christmas my church "The Exchange" have decided to provide a meal on the 16th of December for those who live in Buckingham Park and are struggling financially. This first event will be through invitation only however we are hoping to be able to expand these events to the general public in the future provided we get more volunteers to help. If you have questions about volunteering or anything else foodbank related, please drop in and meet us on Mondays or pass a message onto the community centre. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas.

Pyn Shabong

Community Champion



In November Buckingham Parks very own Dayo Olowosale received recognition for his charity work over the years and through the Covid-19 pandemic in the form of a British Empire Medal. Originally announced as part of the late Queen's birthday honours, Dayo then met the Countess Howe, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire last month to formally receive his medal. Dayo has lived on Buckingham Park for many years and whilst chairman of the Nigerian Community Association Aylesbury ran subsidised classes for the community.

In 2019 he then branched out and started his own charity Daytop. They have worked with major retailers to cut food waste and provide food packages to those who most need it around Aylesbury. Not only this but he has also run successful sewing workshops and computer skills classes at a subsidised cost thanks to his sponsors.

You will often see Dayo at the Community Centre through the week delivering fresh Greggs to be handed out to the general public and his nonstop work rate is an inspiration to all.

As with all charities donations are key and money raised allows Daytop to grow and reach more people in the community. Please visit www.daytop.co.uk to learn more about what they offer.

**Live
Carol Singing**

**Nativity
Animals**

**Reindeer
Petting**

**Christmas
Arts and
Crafts**

**Teddy
Tombola**

**Santa's
grotto**

CHRISTMAS AT THE CENTRE

6pm – 7:30pm

Wednesday 14th

Buckingham Park Community Centre

Greenway Link Path

Over the last couple of months, you may have heard about the new greenway link path between us and Berryfields being built. The path which starts next to the ball court playground weaves between the fields and finishes on Martin Dalby Way opposite the new Berrycroft Surgery. The path provides a car free alternative for day-to-day travel into the key areas of Berryfields and connects with other key cycle routes and the Waddesdon Greenway.

On Friday 23rd September 2022, the final new surfacing was laid on the remaining sections of the route, 158 solar eye lights and seats were installed on Friday 7th October and Monday 10th October 2022 respectively. Final minor works such as planting of hedges and trees will be completed over the following months with Buckingham Park Community Centre and Smiles FC volunteering to help to plant these along with local resident Lucy Jones.

On Wednesday 12th October 2022, the new shared use path between the Berryfields and Buckingham Park developments was officially opened to the public.

Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet Member for Transport, Steve Broadbent said: "Before the opening of this Greenway, you only had the choice of using the shared path running next to Martin Dalby Way – which is a busy road – or using a path by the River Thames which was prone to flooding.

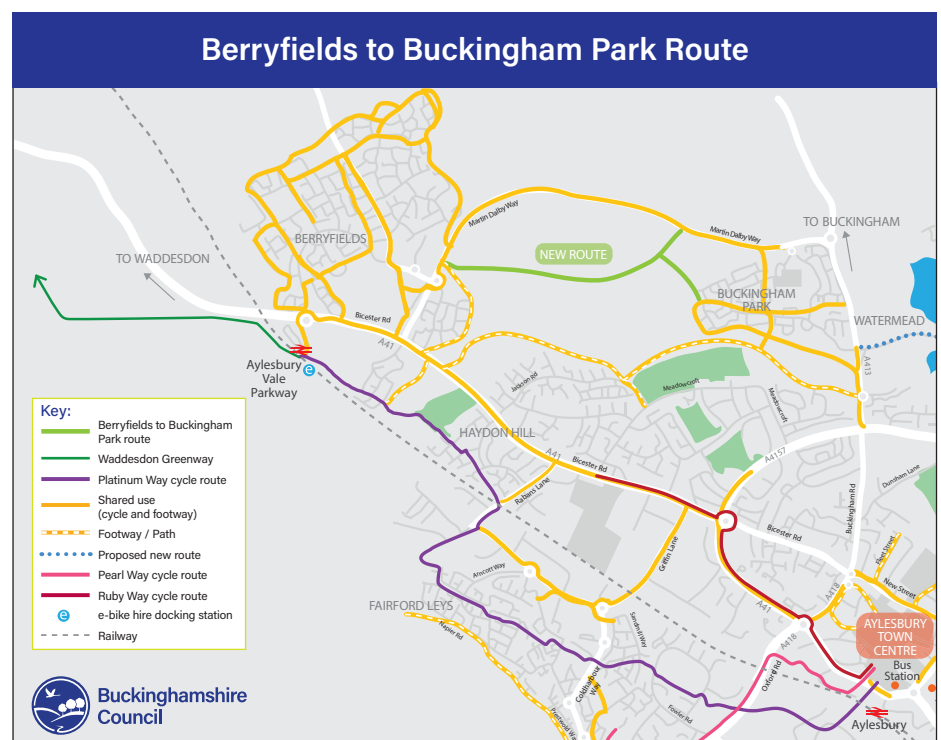
"Now this wide path with its hard standing and gentle gradient is a much more attractive and accessible proposition for walking, cycling, and wheeling."

The project has been delivered under budget and in record time, with construction work completed in just 6 weeks. The scheme was



funded from a budget of £397k which is made up of section 106 contributions from developers, the Aylesbury Land Use and Transportation Strategy (ALUTS) fund, which brings together developer contributions, and the Cycle Rail fund.

Steve Broadbent added: Creating these greenways makes it easy and enjoyable for people to walk and cycle which is great for both mental and physical health. It also makes it easier for people to make low carbon journeys by active travel, train, and bus.





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Buckingham Park Community Centre
01296 435239

BT Fault Line
0800 800151

Buckingham Lodge
0300 123 7243

Clerk to Buckingham Park Parish Council
07789 586594

McCoys Fish & Chips
01296 427648

Berryfields Medical Centre
01296 310940

Buckingham Park CofE Primary School
01296 415687

Buckingham Pharmacy
01296 332901

Barnardo's Shop
01296 330096

Express Tanning & Beauty
01296 393311

Budgens
01296 485137

Electricity - Power Loss
0800 3163105

Gas - Emergency
0800 111999

NHS Out of Hours Service
111

Stoke Mandeville Hospital
01296 315000

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Call 101, the 24-hour Thames Valley Police non-emergency number to report a non-emergency crime. You can also report a non-emergency crime at your local police station during its opening hours.

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MEETINGS DIARY

The dates for the forthcoming meetings of the Parish Council are:

Tuesday 6th December 2022 Tuesday 7th February 2023

Tuesday 7th March 2023 Tuesday 4th April 2023

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at Buckingham Park Community Centre at 8pm. Everyone is welcome but please check the Parish Noticeboard or the website to ensure that no last minute changes have been made.

www.buckinghampark-pc.gov.uk



Buckingham Park Carnival 2022



Thank you to everyone who came and we look forward to seeing you all again next summer

