

Beconsiderate – motorists encouraged to think about pedestrian safety when parking by schools

Motorists in Buckinghamshire are being asked to think of the safety of pedestrians, as part of a new campaign focusing around schools.

Many children are taken to and from school by car everyday but sometimes in the rush to get there on time, it can be tempting to pull onto the kerb or part way onto a driveway, stop on zig zag lines or even pull into a bus stop. However, vehicles blocking pavements and footpaths often means pedestrians, which can include young children, those with limited mobility and older people, are forced to go into the road to get past, which can be extremely dangerous. Equally, part blocking a private driveway or lowered kerb can prevent larger vehicles including emergency ambulances and fire engines from getting through and pulling into a bus stop can lead to unnecessary traffic queues.

The *#Beconsiderate* campaign recognises that the majority of motorists do consider pedestrians and other road users when they park but seeks to give a gentle reminder to think carefully about where they stop.

New gully cleansing programme in Bucks over two-thirds complete

For the second year running Buckinghamshire Council has pledged to clean 85,000 highway gullies across the county, repairing those that require it. The operation has been ongoing since the spring and now, the teams have successfully cleaned more than two-thirds.

Thousands of trees planted in Bucks for National Tree Week

During National Tree Week, Buckinghamshire Council has been working in partnership with Chiltern Rangers and the local community to host nine days of tree planting events in the Vale of Aylesbury. The nine days consisted of planting over 4,000 trees, hedgerow plants, native bulbs and wildflowers along the new Platinum Way cycleway in the sections of Haydon Hill and Somerville Way in Aylesbury.

The planting supports the Bucks Tree Mission, which aims to create a greener future by planting over 543,000 trees in Buckinghamshire over the next nine years.

Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board

In the new year – January we will be invited to nominate candidates for the Pride of Buckinghamshire. The three categories will be

1. Young individual up to 21 years who has contributed to the local communities
2. Adult individual aged 21 and over who has made a difference to their local communities
3. Group, team, Association etc who have made a positive contribution to communities.

Householders urged to take up free opportunity to cut energy costs

Householders in Buckinghamshire who are on low incomes and whose homes have a poor energy performance rating, are being urged to take up an offer of free funding to make improvements to their homes which could save them money on their energy bills, but time is running out to apply.

The grants, which are funded by central government, are available to both homeowners and private renters who meet the eligibility criteria. The funding is available for a range of property types including those not connected to the gas grid which are currently using an alternative energy supply such as oil.

To qualify for a grant, homes should have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rated E, F or G (a D rating may be eligible in some circumstances). Households should also have an annual income of no more than £30,000 or be on means-tested benefits. Those who have an annual income of under £20,000 after housing costs are taken out are also eligible. Allowances are made for the number of children in the household and also for those who have recently lost income.

Types of improvements include:

- Insulation and ventilation
- An upgrade to a low carbon heating system such as an air source heat pump
- Heating controls
- Energy efficient hot water solutions
- Energy efficient lighting

For owner occupiers, the work will be carried out for free. For rental properties (whether private or social), the landlord will be expected to pay at least one third of the cost towards the work.

Residents are asked to visit: www.buckinghamshire-applications.co.uk for more information and to complete the online application form. The deadline to apply is 31 December 2022 and there is limited funding available, so householders are urged to act quickly. The scheme is being managed locally by partners City Energy, who will process all applications and liaise with householders to work out the best options available for their property.

Builder pays the price for fly-tipping in Buckinghamshire

A builder from North London who tried to evade justice, has paid the price for fly-tipping in Buckinghamshire with a hefty fine imposed by the courts.

Faisal Kamran, from Northolt in North London, appeared at High Wycombe Magistrates Court on 30 November. Kamran previously ignored a court summons regarding the charge of illegal dumping and was arrested. When he finally appeared in court, he pleaded guilty to the charge.

The court heard that a pile of rubbish had been found on Wexham Park Lane on 27 April 2022, by an enforcement officer from Buckinghamshire Council. When examined, the waste led the officer to a householder who had recently had his bathroom renovated.

The householder revealed that Kamran had collected the waste which was later found dumped. When interviewed under caution at Hayes Police Station Kamran admitted dumping the waste, claiming that he intended to go back and get it.

Magistrates fined Kamran £1,066 and ordered him to pay the council's full costs of £1,097.57. He was also ordered to pay a victim surcharge, making a total to pay of £2,265.57.

Buckinghamshire Council tops Modeshift STARS league table!

Buckinghamshire Council has topped a league of 59 Local Authorities who are members of the Modeshift STARS scheme – with the council having the highest percentage of schools with a sustainable travel plan. They are also ranked fourth highest in terms of the quality of the travel plans awarded.

The scheme is sponsored by the Department for Transport and encourages school-aged children and young people to walk, bike, scoot or get the bus to school. The scheme awards gradings on a Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Green basis to promote sustainable, active, and safe ways of travel for families doing school runs. There are now 60 schools (a total of 24,668 students) in Buckinghamshire with Modeshift STARS, an increase of 14% from the same time last year. The scheme offers schools an online tool to help them plan, monitor and develop a nationally recognised School Travel Plan against set criteria. This plan is then used to designate the accreditation they will be able to achieve.

Buckinghamshire Council win appeal against 'inappropriate development' in Beaconsfield

Plans for the 450 residential property Beeches Park development next to the Amersham Road (A355) and Minerva Way in Beaconsfield were refused at the Council's South Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee on 25 November 2021; this decision has now been upheld at appeal by the Planning Inspectorate (decision announced on 20 December).

Buckinghamshire residents receive awards in the New Year's Honours list

Awards for 20 Buckinghamshire residents were announced today in His Majesty King Charles III's inaugural New Year Honours List. One from the Ivinghoe Ward -

Mr Alan John Richard Williams: For services to the community in Edlesborough, Buckinghamshire

Councillor Derek Town