

Buckinghamshire Councillors Report Marsworth PC Mtg Feb 6th 2023

Buckinghamshire Council secures £397k in government funding to support active travel in the county

Buckinghamshire Council has been awarded £397k in funding from the Active Travel Capability and Ambition Fund – a national initiative from Active Travel England and the Department for Transport that aims to support local authorities to plan active travel infrastructure, develop expertise and deliver behaviour change activities.

The funding will be used by the council to support:

- Development of a Buckinghamshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) that will identify priorities for future investment in the active travel network
- Resources to encourage school-aged children and young people to walk, cycle and scoot to and from school
- Feasibility work for future active travel schemes
- Promotion and monitoring of recently constructed active travel routes, alongside wider activities to encourage behaviour change
- Training for officers and councillors on active travel infrastructure design

The one-year revenue Active Travel Capability and Ambition funding reflects Buckinghamshire Council being assessed by national government as being an authority with strong leadership and support for active travel, with strong plans and an emerging network. This Fund builds on the previous Local Authority Capability Fund, which provided £111k funding to Buckinghamshire Council through this initiative in 2021/22.

Feeling Blue? Don't suffer in silence – help is available in Buckinghamshire

January can be an inspiring start to the new year, but some may still face challenges during the first few weeks. Current cost-of-living pressures have affected us all in different ways, and for many it has meant that this year has started differently to the previous ones.

The colder, shorter days of winter can also have an impact on how we're feeling so it's important to know what mental health support is available, and how to access it. It's good to note that it's okay to not feel okay, and that during these difficult times, some people might be facing mental health difficulties for the first time. This is why it's especially important to look out for others and reach out for help when it's needed.

If you are struggling to cope, and feeling low or worried, the most important thing to remember is that you are not alone, and that help is widely available across the county.

If you are struggling to heat your home or afford bills, [Buckinghamshire Council's Helping Hand initiative](#) can help to ease financial pressures and support individuals or families in need, or those on low incomes. You can also visit the page to access advice, information and support if you are facing a financial emergency or a crisis. Residents in Buckinghamshire also have a range of options when it comes to mental health support and where to find it. If you are concerned about your mental wellbeing, contacting your GP is an excellent first point of contact to establish what support is right for you.

Additionally, you can contact NHS 111 at any time to speak to an NHS mental health professional, who is ready to support adults and children if they are concerned about their mental health, or the mental health of others. For a full list of organisations and helplines that can help you to support your wellbeing, visit [Buckinghamshire Council's Care Advice Mental health and wellbeing webpages](#).

Buckinghamshire Lottery: Strike it lucky and support local good causes

Buckinghamshire residents can support local good causes while also potentially winning big with Buckinghamshire Lottery. By purchasing a ticket for just £1 per week, players not only have the opportunity to win cash prizes up to £25,000, but they also support local good causes such as community groups, sports clubs and charities.

All proceeds from the lottery go towards supporting local projects and organisations that make a positive impact on the community. Whether it's supporting a local sports team, helping to preserve a historic building, or funding youth programmes, the Buckinghamshire Lottery is an easy way for residents to make a difference.

Buckinghamshire Lottery offers a 1 in 50 chance of winning – much better odds than the National Lottery. Recent winners include Mr M from Dunstable, who won a whopping £2,000 on Christmas Eve while supporting Stoke Mandeville-based wheelchair sport charity WheelPower.

To purchase a ticket and support local causes, go to: www.buckinghamshirelottery.co.uk

If you're part of a local good cause looking to boost your fundraising in 2023, why not sign up to the Buckinghamshire Lottery. It's completely free to sign up, there's no admin and no risk. Free marketing and support are provided to get you started. For more information, visit: www.buckinghamshirelottery.co.uk/good-causes

Digital tools help speed up the planning process in Buckinghamshire

A government minister has been to Buckinghamshire to see how the council is trialling innovative digital tools aimed at speeding up the planning process.

It's part of a government project funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – Buckinghamshire is one of three councils already using the pioneering approach to co-design, build, test and launch more efficient software for planning.

As part of the project, Buckinghamshire residents can use this prototype software to check if they need planning permission using [an online tool on the Council's website](#). Buckinghamshire residents can also [apply online for a lawful development certificate](#) – which certifies works they're undertaking don't need planning permission or to certify that past works are lawful.

The new software under development will help manage cases and applications more quickly and efficiently, ultimately helping planning officers to reach decisions more quickly. The new systems will also help planning officers and applicants to communicate directly more easily.

Inspired to teach in Bucks? Visit our recruitment fair this Saturday to find out more

Buckinghamshire Council, together with a range of local partners, is hosting a teaching recruitment fair this Saturday (4 February) and anyone interested in finding out more is encouraged to attend.

Teaching is a rewarding and fulfilling career, offering individuals a unique opportunity to inspire future generations, take on new challenges and share their passion for learning. Great teachers come from all backgrounds and include newly qualified graduates, those who've gained experience in other careers and those already working in a school or education environment.

The Teach in Bucks Fair, which takes place at the Buckinghamshire New University campus in High Wycombe between 11am and 3pm, will include presentations from a number of organisations including the Department for Education, Now Teach and a number of local school and university-based Initial Teacher Training providers. The event will include all the information needed on how to train to become a teacher including how to apply, the qualifications needed, the different routes into teaching and training programmes around the county. There will also be information on the scholarships and bursaries available.

Councillor Derek Town