

## SUPPORT FOR ROUGH SLEEPERS

At the start of this year Buckinghamshire Council received £1.7 million as part of the Homeless Prevention Grant. This will target financial support to provide temporary accommodation, pay deposits for new homes for those at risk of homelessness and mediate with landlords to prevent evictions. This is on top of the £2.7 million of funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to help rough sleepers. That funding stream covers five schemes running until March 2025 to help initiatives such as housing first support, emergency beds and drug & alcohol outreach.

**Cllr Mark Winn** said: *"This is one of the areas I am responsible for on Buckinghamshire Council. One of our key priorities is virtually eliminating rough sleeping and tackling homelessness. We are working with a number of local partners on projects focused on rough sleeping."*

You can find out more at

[www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/housing-and-benefits/housing/help-if-homeless-or-at-risk-of-homelessness/rough-sleepers/](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/housing-and-benefits/housing/help-if-homeless-or-at-risk-of-homelessness/rough-sleepers/)



**Rob Butler MP** recently joined Mark to visit Ardenham Lane House in Aylesbury which provides specialist support to help residents rebuild their lives and break the cycle of homelessness. Staff help residents with finding a long term home, looking for a job, education opportunities and help with additional issues.

## STOCKLAKE UPDATE

Sometimes what seems like a simple issue can end up being one of the most complicated. Stocklake was once such issue.

Residents had an issue with flooding. Initially it was thought the problem stemmed from the Bearbrook running behind houses. The Council cleared the vegetation in the stream and it was assumed this would resolve the flooding. However, after the cutback we discovered residents were suffering electrical issues and some reported water under their floorboards.

Buckinghamshire Transport Officers used video cameras via the drains to check the source, but no leaks were detected in the roads pipework.

Still the leaks got worse and this was when the team turned to Thames Water. It turns out pipes were leaking under some residents homes. We are pleased that following sustained efforts from both your Aylesbury East team and residents we were able to get Thames Water to come and repair these pipes just before Christmas. Fingers crossed a long standing issue seems to have been resolved.

### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE'S HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

Applications for financial help to the 'Helping Hand' team	£500,000
Digital food vouchers - for eligible nursery & school children and some arrivals from Afganistan & Ukraine the council is supporting	£820,000
Local community groups delivering free support to residents such as foodbanks	£300,000
Targeted support for priority groups such as Care Leavers & Pensioners through digital vouchers and other schemes	£360,000
Bolster the local crisis fund, which has already raised more than £80,000 in under a month of operation	£250,000

You can find out more about other measures & initiatives Buckinghamshire Council is undertaking alongside partners in the voluntary & community sectors at [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

## CLEARING GULLIES

For the second year running Buckinghamshire Council are clearing 85,000 gullies across the county with over two thirds now successfully cleaned since last spring. This work on the gullies, includes repairing those that require it, helping them to work efficiently, protecting property and minimizing damage to highways caused by runoff from roads.

Oakfield Road has a been a problem area for quite some time, **Cllr Mark Winn** asked the Local Area Technician and his team to investigate using an infrared camera looking for blockages.

**Mark** said, "This proved to not be as straightforward as first thought but it was clear the pipes were blocked. A gully clearance machine was used in early November for a number of days to clear the extensive blockages. I also asked that the lights on the crossing be tested as residents have pointed out that they are not very visible. Hopefully these improvements will increase visibility and safety on this well used crossing."

## PLAY AREA INVESTMENT

We were pleased to see Buckinghamshire Council, as part of their investment in play facilities across the county have completed works to replace the surfacing at Oakfield Road Park and Bedgrove Park Multi Use Games Areas. This year there will be an installation of a large colourful play facility in Vale Park due to start in the spring.

**Cllr Richard Gaster** said, "We are incredibly lucky to have these community facilities just on our doorstep. I know my children are going to love all the new additions and there will be something for every age".

## FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENTS

Thank you to residents across the area over the last few months for their patience in dealing with the footpath repairs on Narbeth Road and Broughton Avenue. These repairs have been taking place over the last few months.



## Junction Protection Marking & School Zig Zag Consultation

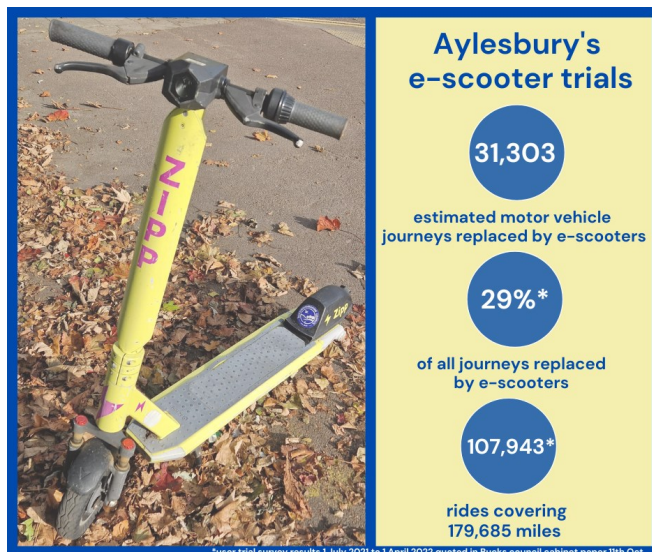
A Buckinghamshire Council public consultation is now open until Sunday 12th March on a number of traffic schemes across Aylesbury. Funding from the Community Board was secured for these consultations which are proposed as a way of making roads safer for motorists and pedestrians.

Within Aylesbury East there are a number of potential sites:

- Narbeth Drive
- Broughton Avenue/Barnsbury Avenue
- Broughton Avenue/Parton Road
- Cumberland Close/Penrith Way
- Long Meadow/Brentwood Way
- Ingram Avenue/Greetham Road and Ingram Avenue/Wellbeck Avenue
- Long Meadow/Cam Mead
- Camborne Avenue

You can view these proposals (including maps) at

<https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/>



## BEDGROVE LAYBY - GIVE US YOUR VIEWS



We have had feedback from residents who have been irritated by the continuation of car sales in the layby by the Bedgrove roundabout. The team have been regularly checking on these to try and find out who is selling the cars but when checking there are different seller details on each car. The law currently states it is illegal "if two or more motor vehicles are either exposed or offered for sale and are left for sale on a road within 500 metres of each other by a person acting for the purpose of a business selling motor vehicles".

We would like to hear your views. Please use the QR code to complete a quick survey about your thoughts on these car sales and possible restrictions that could be put in place.



You can also email in with your views on [team@aylesburyeast.uk](mailto:team@aylesburyeast.uk)