

WENDOVER ROAD ROUNDABOUT

The wet and cold winter weather, which needed twice as many grit runs across the county as the previous year has left our roads bearing the brunt. On April 1st a new contractor started, with maintenance of our roads now falling under Buckinghamshire Highways.



Left: Before the work Right: After the works to the roundabout

Sue highlighted for many months her concerns regarding the dangerous state of the road at the roundabout on Wendover Road/Wendover Way. The road surface had completely broken down with large ruts and potholes. We are delighted that this repair work was recently completed. Sue also asked for all the small stones on the pavement, which had come from the broken road surface to be swept up.

Buckinghamshire Highways

There are now 11 crews working extended hours, 7 days a week to get on top of our road problems, with over £7 million invested by both Buckinghamshire Council and the Government.

One of the newest innovations is the 'pothole pro' machine, something David Thompson fought hard for the Council to invest in even before he was elected as a Unitary Councillor. This vehicle makes pothole repairs faster. It first cuts into the road surface where a pothole has appeared, crops the perimeter of the hole neatly to ensure a watertight repair, then brushes away and collects the debris afterwards. Highway teams then lay and compact the asphalt into the prepared hole.

David said, "the 'Pothole Pro' helps speed up the whole process, crews are now fully trained and certified to use this machine and may see them on the roads when you are out and about across the county."

STOKE BRIDGE ROAD

Concerns have been raised about the number of large vehicles using this bridge. At a recent Local Area Technician (LAT) meeting, Sue asked if weight restriction signage could be checked as it was felt that some signage may have been damaged and removed at some stage.

SOUTH EAST AYLESBURY LINK ROAD (SEALR)

The South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) development is proceeding at a reduced pace as the recent heavy rain has delayed the re-siting of the overhead cables, underground.

The process to remove the overhead cables continues and we would strongly recommend that any resident interested in the development of this vital Link Road, should sign up for the regular updates that the Council produces.

To sign up to receive the updates please visit www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/sealr, then select 'Sign up for project updates' towards the bottom of the page. If you would like to see previous bulletins you can do so, below the sign up box.

PHONE MAST—WENDOVER ROAD

Several residents contacted the team regarding diminished mobile phone coverage in the Patrick Road area. Sue made enquiries and was told that the phone mast was hit by a vehicle in late February damaging the cabinets next to it which supplied the power/connections to it. Repairs started in late March but at the time of writing are yet to be completed. Sue has also been told that the existing phone mast will have to be relocated as part of the SEALR project but before that happens, legal agreement will need to be completed between the Council, landowners and the network providers. Hopes are that O2 will fully repair the mast soon.



ELM FARM ROAD TRAFFIC ISSUES – UPDATE

The ongoing traffic problems radiating from Elm Farm Road and into the surrounding roads, especially at school drop off and pick up times continues to be a huge concern.

We have been successful in getting agreement that a traffic scheme is put together for this area. Once completed a consultation will then need to take place on the proposal. The drawing up of the scheme is now in the hands of the relevant officers and Cabinet member at Buckinghamshire Council and when we know more, we will let residents know. Funding will need to be sought for the consultation and then the scheme, which we will continue to press for.

When the consultation is advertised, please do respond, it will be a chance to give your thoughts.



David, Sue and Denise held a meeting on site with Cabinet member for Transport Cllr Steve Broadbent & Council officials to highlight the traffic issues for residents, buses and emergency vehicles.

MP SAVES BUCKS' FIRE URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE



Rob visiting Bucks' Fire Urban Search & Rescue based at Aylesbury Fire Station.

Urban Search & Rescue at Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service has been saved until at least 2025, following the intervention of our local Member of Parliament Rob Butler with the Fire Minister. It had been feared that this vital service would be shut in weeks, but the Home Office has now written to our Chief Fire Officer to say it will remain open for two more years. Rob has seen for himself what a crucial role USAR plays to keep our communities safe in Bucks and further afield, with a highly skilled and dedicated team who face danger almost every day of their working lives. As soon as he heard that USAR was threatened with closure he spoke to the Minister, and he immediately promised to look again at the proposals. Good to his word, the Minister has reviewed the plans and now confirmed that funding will be available until at least April 2025. Rob will continue working with the Chief Fire Officer and the Chairman of the Fire Authority to convince the Home Office and HM Treasury to keep it open for good.

E-BIKE TRIAL SCHEME

A trial e-bike scheme was launched in May, this trial will work alongside the existing e-scooter hire scheme in our area. E-bikes are for those travelling longer distances and following a trial in the Waddesdon area it has been recommended that an e-bike hire scheme on a zonal basis be introduced initially in Aylesbury and High Wycombe.

The plan is to gather seasonal patterns in usage and to see how they interact with e-scooters in trial areas. The bikes will have a speed limit of 15mph, be GPS monitored and tracked, geofenced to only operate in certain areas meaning that the motor cuts out in designated locations, such as pedestrian zones, and will come equipped with a bell and light for safety. They are legal to use in the same locations as conventional pedal bikes.

It will be interesting to see how popular this new scheme proves to be for our area.

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