

District Council

Planning: Following the recent publication of the government's housing white paper, AVDC has delayed the next stage of the Vale of Aylesbury Plan for a month or two. Do keep sending me local comments on this and other planning applications.

MyAccount: The council tax bills will be out soon for 2017/18. You can review these online via the MyAccount system on the AVDC website, as well as reporting any bin collection problems.

County Council

Elections: The county council has elections on the 4 May. If you have recently moved, or are now over 18, please ensure you are registered! <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

Roads: Following the repairs to the A413 and Akeley in 2015, I was able to secure the resurfacing of the A413 within Buckingham itself last year. Improvements have also been undertaken around Leckhampstead and the Dadford Road during 2016. I am seeking repairs for the A422 Cattleford Bends which have suffered following the winter weather. Please do report potholes and other road defects via the county council website as this goes direct to the local area technician for inspection.

Community Transport: I have recently initiated a community transport working group to look at how we can improve rural transport in and around Buckingham. The local area forum has agreed to earmark £10,000 to help with starting this up.

East West Expressway: I attended a conference with England's Economic Heartland, Department for Transport and the National Infrastructure Commission last week, and work continues to develop proposals for the Oxford to Cambridge expressway. The current feeling at AVDC and BCC is that the southern route (north of Aylesbury) would have benefits to both MK and Oxford and the proposed Aylesbury Garden Town, and release traffic from the existing A421. It is clear that the government see the new road bringing additional housing growth on top of local district allocations, so routing it along the existing A421 would have a significant impact not just from the road construction, but the further growth that could come with the road. A report will be published by Highways England towards the end of the year and could form part of the 2020-25 road programmes.
<http://www.englandseconomicheartland.com>

Local Government Organisation: Both councils have submitted proposals for scrapping the five councils of Buckinghamshire. The county council has proposed a single unitary option (<http://futurebucks.co.uk/>) and the district councils have put forward a two unitary option (<https://www.modernisingbucks.org/>) All local councils agree that the district and county model introduced in 1974 is no longer suitable for the delivery of local government services. The debate is which version of a unitary council is best for Bucks. The Local Government Secretary of State Sajid Javid is expected to make an announcement by the end of the month.

Cllr Warren Whyte, Buckinghamshire County Council *Cabinet Member, Planning & Environment*

Chairman, Buckingham Area Local Area Forum

@CllrWarrenWhyte

Buckingham East County Council division including Akeley, Buckingham, Coombs, Dadford, Foscoote, Leckhampstead, Lillingstone Dayrell, Lillingstone Lovell, Maids Moreton, Stowe, Silverstone Circuit and Thornborough. Luffield Abbey District Council ward including Akeley, North Buckingham, Dadford, Foscoote, Leckhampstead, Lillingstone Dayrell, Lillingstone Lovell, Maids Moreton, Stowe, Silverstone Circuit and Thornton.