

Hampden House Car Park: Shoppers and visitors to Aylesbury will be able to park at the Hampden House multi-storey car park on Sundays from 13 March.

Hampden House, which is located just off Aylesbury High Street (next to the QD store), is a long stay car park with more than 360 spaces. Shoppers and visitors will be able to park free of charge every Sunday from 7am until the gates close at 8pm.

Changes to Housing Benefit. A lot of changes are proposed as outlined in the attached press release.

Anti Social Behaviour. I have a lengthy document produced by the Community Safety Partnership. The priorities are summarised as:

1. Taking preventative action
2. Ensuring people feel confident that problems are dealt with effectively
3. Supporting and empowering those who are affected
4. Working with communities to address their greatest concerns
5. Dealing effectively with perpetrators

To read the full document log on to: http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/community_safety/partners.page

Internships at BCC

Buckinghamshire County Council is offering 'internship' positions, three to six-month unpaid work placements open to school, college and university leavers who are resident in Buckinghamshire.

Interns will get personal support from those immediately overseeing their work and will also be supported by a mentor from another area of the council. At the end of the programme, the intern would have an overall performance review with their mentor. They will be provided with a reference and statement of achievements/testimonials which will demonstrate the experience and skills acquired.

The latest unemployment figures show that the number of young people aged 18-24 claiming job seekers' allowance was 1,260 which represents 24.7% of all claimants in the county. Of these, 175 have been claiming for more than six months.

No previous experience is needed to apply for the internship scheme. The Council is just looking for bright, committed young people who want to make a contribution to the local community. To apply please use the on-line application form Telephone 01296 382603

<http://www.e4s.co.uk/search/internship-jobs>

HS2 latest

The HS2 fighting fund continues to grow as other authorities commit funding. At the moment we have over £250k for 2011/12, with more expected.

HS2 Ltd is proposing a number of two-day consultation events in May (subject to final confirmation).

- **Aylesbury** – 10 and 11 May. Venue - Olympic Lodge Hotel, Stoke Mandeville

There will also be a one-day trailer exhibitions in Waddesdon on 16th May. Our overarching campaign message remains *is HS2 the right investment priority for the UK?* I believe the case is far from proven.

For further details, follow the link below

http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/sites/bcc/transport/high_speed_2.page

Transparency

In line with Government requirements to publish data by the end of January, all our expenditure over £500 is now available on our website. To view the spreadsheets, please click on the link below:

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/sites/bcc/finance/payments.page>

Investing in County's infrastructure for long term savings

Funding constraints over many years mean investment in some areas of the county's infrastructure has not kept pace with deterioration. But, by investing capital funds in priority areas now, the Council may prevent having to spend more in the future.

Currently £6m - £8m a year from the Council's revenue budget is spent on reactive maintenance, such as potholes. Last year 16,000 potholes appeared in the county's roads. Additional resources, including £2m from County reserve funds, meant potholes were being repaired at the rate of 400 a day.

In recognition of the need for a well maintained highway network, and in response to public opinion, it is proposed that capital money is used in the coming financial year for resurfacing as a priority. This provides a long-term solution, and a cheaper option in the long run.

The Big Society

A joint scrutiny review between Buckinghamshire County Council and all District Councils in Bucks is taking place on the Big Society. The purpose of this Review is to help understand what can be achieved through a 'Big Society' approach in Bucks; identify how councils and councillors can help to build community self-reliance. The group conducting the Review will gather evidence and then produce a report with recommendations to Buckinghamshire's County and District Councils.

The group conducting the Review is holding a series of meetings during February/March to gather evidence from key individuals and organisations. Invitations have been issued to local groups and national experts. Topics that the group are looking at include how the private sector can support local communities; ideas on how councils can support community groups; volunteering.

CRB Checks. The need for these has been watered down a fair bit. You don't need a check for private arrangements like baby sitting or helping with youngsters over 16. Have a look on the website if you need to know more. http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/campaigns/Vetting/DG_183221

Welfare Reform Bill - Summary of the Bill

A Bill to make provision for universal credit and personal independence payment; to make other provision about social security and tax credits; to make provision about the functions of the registration service, child support maintenance and the use of jobcentres; and for connected purposes. If you are interested log on to: <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/welfarereform.html>