

Sign showing elderly people crossing by doctor's surgery. Highways have responded that this should be easy to organise. I have left it with Sue and Ann Marie at Highways to arrange. Let me know if you need me to do anything else.

Web Casting:

BCC will soon be webcasting meetings. I watched a test broadcast of a scrutiny meeting and found it was rather well done. It will be an opportunity for voters to see how their councillors perform. If the one I watched is anything to go by I think people will be impressed on how deeply members probe the cabinet.

2012 is a year of big celebration for Buckinghamshire:

As Buckinghamshire prepares to welcome the London 2012 Games and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee it has arranged a series of events:

The County Council aims to ensure that residents get a piece of the action with four giant Live Site video screens around the county during the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

There will be four giant Live Site video screens around the county during the Games. These 80ft wide screens will be set up as official London 2012 Community Live Sites at Aylesbury, Amersham, High Wycombe and Burnham during the Games to show the day's action. And each will coincide with a neighbouring community festival featuring activities ranging from sport and culture to arts and crafts.

Buckinghamshire plays a unique role as a host county of the Olympic and Paralympic Games:

* Dorney Lake is host to the rowing, sprint canoeing and adaptive rowing.

* Stoke Mandeville, the birthplace of the Paralympic movement, will host the Paralympic flame festival on August 28.

And the county will feature on the route of the Olympic Torch Relay on July 9 and 10.

Just over a month before the torch arrives, Buckinghamshire will be in the midst of celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Communities across the county have been invited to light beacons, and the County Council is simplifying the process of organising Jubilee street parties and waiving the cost of road closures.

To help communities prepare for the celebrations a Buckinghamshire Celebration Toolkit has been prepared. It is packed with great ideas, practical information, guidance and suggestions to help people arranging an event to mark the Jubilee or the Games. It is available online at www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/london2012/events.page?

THE DETAILS

The Games live sites include:

Saturday 4 August: Burnham Park, Burnham. Working with Burnham Town Council and South Bucks District Council, to coincide with the Men's Four, Men's Lightweight Double and Women's Lightweight Double sculls final.

Sunday 5 August: The Rye, Wycombe. As part of the Wycombe Community Festival with SV2G and Wycombe District Council, to coincide with the Men's 100m Final.

Saturday 11 August: George V Playing Fields, Amersham. Working with Chiltern District Council, Amersham Town Council and other Chiltern partners, to coincide with the 200m Men's Canoe Single, 200m Men's Kayak Single, 200m Men's Kayak Double, and the 200m and Women Kayak Single Finals.

Saturday 1 September: Vale Park and Aylesbury Town Centre, Aylesbury. As part of Parklife and Proms in the Park with Youth for Christ, Aylesbury Town Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council, to coincide with the Paralympic adaptive rowing events.

Updated news and information is available, along with an events calendar, on the County Council's website, at:

www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/london2012/london2012.page?

Challenge To Young People on New 2012 'Brand For Bucks'

Young people across the county are being challenged by County Council Leader, Martin Tett, to create the '2012 Brand for Buckinghamshire'.

As a host county for the London 2012 Games, and with the advent of the Queen's historic Diamond Jubilee, Buckinghamshire heads into a 'Year of Celebration'. The leader of the Council thinks it is particularly important for young people to make their mark by competing to describe the essence of the county's qualities in a succinct slogan of no more than 10 words.

The competition, co-ordinated by Connexions Bucks, the information, advice and guidance service for young people, launched on Monday January 9th to mark the 200 days to go before the Olympic Games opening ceremony.

"Our young people are fantastic. Like Bucks itself - bursting with energy and creativity," said Martin. "I'd like to harness this to help promote our year of celebration."

The winning slogan will be displayed on publicity material at public celebration sites across the county, and the winner will take home a £100 voucher donated by the John Lewis Partnership, High Wycombe.

Entry forms can be found at www.connexionsbucks.org.uk

Health and Well Being:

Buckinghamshire residents will soon be asked for their thoughts on plans to improve their health and well-being.

In January the newly formed Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board (SHWB) will put their strategy out for public consultation. It will set out some key areas for action and a vision for Bucks over the next 3-5 years. It will become the key document spanning health, public health and social care on which future services will be based. The new system will bring together the clinical expertise and local knowledge and understanding of the needs of patients and the public to help inform the plans for meeting local needs.

The Board will be looking for the views of Buckinghamshire residents and stakeholder groups, including those involved in housing and education, as these can be major factors in improving the health and well-being of individuals.

The consultation will start towards the end of January and continue to the end of March. It will be available online through the Council's website www.buckscc.gov.uk.

The Board consists of representatives from County and District Councils, the Primary Care Trust, GPs and LINKs (the body that represents the public in health and social care matters).

It was formed in response to the Government's agenda for radical reorganisation of how health services are delivered and managed in England under the recently Health and Social Care Bill. The board will be in shadow form until April 2013, when it will become a statutory body.