

**Corporate Plan:** BCC has launched a new 'interactive' corporate plan. It sets out the priorities and aspirations for the county. If you log on to [http://www.bucksccbchures.co.uk/corporate\\_plan\\_2011-13/](http://www.bucksccbchures.co.uk/corporate_plan_2011-13/) You will be able to access a series of short videos explaining how the county is working on education, highways, vulnerable people, adult services and lots more. There is one about how the county will support communities wishing to run their own libraries which will be of interest to Wing. It tells you how much money we have to spend and where it comes on and how it is spent. I have tried it myself and find it works rather well.

### **Asset Transfer Policy**

The policy aims to provide a standard method for leasing and renting out buildings to local communities. The complex process of putting together business cases will be made much easier for voluntary groups. For instance in Wing the County is already working with a group of volunteers on a way to run and finance the library and also on how we can continue to keep our youth club operating.

Land and buildings, owned by Buckinghamshire County Council but surplus to use, can now be leased to local groups wishing to run community services.

The policy will provide clear guidance to community groups and each case will be considered on its own merits. It will be reviewed once the Localism Act is completed and at least every three years after that.

The aim is to empower local people to deliver community services which best meet their needs – we are moving from an era where the council does everything to one where it helps local people deliver their own services. Communities will not be left to their own devices – the council officers will work informally and collaboratively with community groups to steer them through putting together a robust business case.

Cabinet spoke of the wealth of experience and expertise council officers can offer communities embarking on Big Society-style ventures, and are able to work informally and collaboratively with community groups to steer them through putting together a robust business case.

**Waitrose in Aylesbury:** Work should start this month on the store and on the new car park which will be available for all to use not just Waitrose customers.

### **Vale of Aylesbury Plan**

A package of support is being developed for all parishes to call on. It will include a toolkit to explain the ways in which parishes can involve their local community in the debate. In July the cabinet will set out more detail which will be available on the AVDC website from the beginning of July.

### **Speed Limit Review:**

The cabinet decided on Monday to implement all the speed limit reviews. North Marston was OK anyway but it is nice to know that people's views are listened to. Martin Tett paid a visit to see for himself to help him come to a decision.

### **Referendums :**

There is a requirement for a referendum to be carried out on Neighbourhood Plans. The result of the referendum is by a simple majority even if only three people took part. The problem with this is that there is a great deal of apathy amongst the general public in local matters. This could lead to a situation where a few people could get together and decide the future of our village. In my view democracy would not be served. For a referendum to be valid we need a defined minimum number of people to take part. I don't know what the ideal would be but to pull a number out of the hat maybe it should be 20%. The only way to get this changed is for voters to lobby their MP. If you share my concerns I suggest that as many people as possible write to their MP to protest.

## **Localism Bill**

The Government has published an updated plain English guide to the Localism Bill which can be viewed through the following link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1923416.pdf>

## **Become a Master Composter!**

Discover the joys of composting instead of sending tons of stuff to landfill. BCC together with Garden Organic are offering a FREE course on how to become a Master Composter. The course shows how a commercial composting site works and you learn about all aspects of home composting. To find out more telephone Lesley Tulitt on 01296 387797 or email her at [composting@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:composting@buckscc.gov.uk). The courses are becoming so popular that the September/October ones are already 85% full. There are some very good deals on composting bins – go to [bucks.getcomposting.com](http://bucks.getcomposting.com) where you can get one for as little as £15.00

## **Home to School Transport:**

A facebook 'conversation' on the future of home to school transport for pupils under 16 has been launched by Buckinghamshire County Council.

The informal discussion which is planned to run for two months until the end of August on the Council's facebook page, 'Our Buckinghamshire', allows residents and families to submit and discuss views and ideas about how they would like future home to school transport policy to be shaped. It follows on from a series of debates between parents and Mike Appleyard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Skills held across the county in June. Log on to:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Our-Buckinghamshire/118283198190717>

In addition Mike Appleyard has formed a panel of head teachers and parents to discuss the fairest way of charging for home to school. A report will be ready by September so that parents will know where they stand. There are a lot of problems associated with this subject. Two thirds of the grammar schools are seeking academy status so we need to sort that out.

**Fly Tipping:** If you see anyone tipping waste it worth reporting the offender to the witness hotline on 0845 330 1856 or download the 'Transport for Buckinghamshire' iphone application. If possible please take down the vehicle registration details. Witness led cases account for 40% of all convictions in our county. Last year the offenders had to pay a total of £80,000 in fines and costs.

Remember to attend the workshop in Winslow tomorrow night.