

County Consults Over Cuts: The County Council is expecting that the cuts already announced, together with whatever bad news the Comprehensive Spending Review has brought us, is likely to create a total deficit of around £90 million. This had led to some very difficult decisions that will not only impact on the Council Tax payer but will also affect staff at all levels. Staff have already agreed a pay freeze as have the elected members. Savings being consulted on with the staff cover redundancies, changes to terms and conditions in areas such as mileage rates. If all of them are implemented we can expect savings in the region of £650K per annum. We will have a better idea of what the cuts mean to BCC on 2nd December but the ball park figure is that local authority funding will reduce by 26% over the four years of this Parliament.

Libraries: There are going to be some changes to the way libraries are run. The County libraries in Aylesbury and High Wycombe will remain as will the district libraries. 50% savings will need to be made if we are to keep the local community libraries such as the one in Wing. One way to keep the community libraries running would be to recruit volunteers or perhaps they could share space with other services. There will be a meeting in Wing library at 7.00 pm on 13th December. A full consultation starts on 9th November and runs till February.

Consultations: The library consultation should be available on line now. You can also take part in other consultations in your own time and look at the feedback on completed consultations by logging on to: http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/about_your_council/Have_your_say.page

Snow Clearing: A new 'Snow Code' has been published by the Department for Transport which encourages a more common sense approach to clearing snow and reassures people that they are unlikely to be sued if someone slips. The code offers advice on how to safely clear snow and includes tips such as:

- Don't use hot water as this will melt the snow, but may replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury.
- Use sand or ash as a salt substitute should salt supplies run out.
- If shovelling snow, think where you are going to put it so that it doesn't block people's paths or drainage channels.
- Be a "good neighbour" by clearing snow for those people who may be unable to do so themselves.

Transport for Buckinghamshire: Have launched a respect our road workers campaign. Some people hurl abuse at them and sometimes fail to obey temporary traffic signals. These signals are used not only to protect the workers but also to ensure that the traffic flows as smoothly as possible. The workers aim to minimise inconvenience to motorists as well as catering for the safety of pedestrians. They work very hard in difficult circumstances and all they all they require in return is as much respect as anyone expects in their place of work

Book your Birth and Death Registration Appointments Online

People in Buckinghamshire can now book their appointments for registering a birth or death online at www.buckscc.gov.uk/registration. Bookings can be made at a date, time and location to suit the individual in, Aylesbury, Wycombe, Amersham and Buckingham. The booking system is quick and easy and will enhance the current service delivered through our Register Office and is expected to be particularly convenient to people who are at work during the department's open hours.

The Internet: BCC is keen to get as many people online as possible. Newcomers to the web can sign up for a free one-hour session on a one-to-one basis at all the BCC libraries. If you want to try one of the taster sessions visit your local library or phone 0845 230 3132. They are also still looking for more volunteers to run the sessions that are expected to run until 2012 - if that interests you, you should also visit your local library or call 0845 230 3132.

Volunteer Car Schemes: Following funding agreed by the Local Area Forum (LAF), the County Council and Community Impact Bucks are working together to help communities develop volunteer car schemes. A public meeting to encourage residents to volunteer for a car scheme will be held at 6pm on Thursday 25 November at Dagnall Church HalTo find out more, call Kathy Bovington on 01442 842796

Census: The 2011 Census is 4 months away but now is the time to start thinking about hard to reach people and those who might need help in your area. www.census.gov.uk is their website where they have downloadable communication tools and lots of information.