

Bucks Debate: Bucks County Council has been placed in the position where it has to make big cuts. They want to consult the electorate before making any decisions. If you are not sure what BCC does you can find out on:

http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/assets/content/bcc/docs/about_your_council/getinvolved.pdf

Several public meetings have been held across the county but you can still take part in the debate by logging on to:

<http://bucksconsultation.buckscc.gov.uk/bucksccp/KMS/elab.aspx?noip=1&CampaignId=313>

New homecare arrangements: Buckinghamshire County Council has reduced the number of agencies who deliver homecare to vulnerable residents from more than 40 to four - one for each of the four districts. It is hoped that these new arrangements will give council taxpayers better value for money and give vulnerable adults greater choice and control over their care. These new arrangements will start coming into effect from the end of this year and the transfer will be complete by spring next year. Savings of £3.5 million have been achieved.

People will be able to choose whether to either receive services arranged by the council or to arrange for their own carers by using a personal budget. These personal budgets will be identified by Adult Social Care through Self Directed Support.

Under the new contracts the agencies will operate a system that records when carers arrive and depart from a person's house, and the information will be monitored by the council. This system means that the council will only pay for actual time spent with service users.

'Are you Ready?' is published by the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum

This is a new booklet to help people cope in an emergency. You can pick up a copy from any of the council offices or the library or even download a copy: www.buckscc.gov.uk/emergencyplanning

The guide contains information to help people prepare for a whole range of emergencies, such as floods, extreme weather and outbreaks of disease. Also tips on how to cope if you get stuck in the car in the snow or you break down.

Bicester Road – Berryfields works will take place from 13 September 2010 and are expected to be completed by the end of November 2010.

Starting 13th September and lasting till the end of November work to install utilities to the new development plus a cycle lane and a toucan crossing will affect the A41 during off peak hours (0930-1530) when the A41 will be reduced to a single lane to allow the work to be undertaken safely. Two way temporary traffic signals will be in operation at these times and some delays are likely. The number of days when the signals are required will be kept to a minimum but the work needs to be carried out whilst ensuring the safety of road users and the operatives. Work in the vicinity of Berryfields Lane will need 3 way temporary traffic signals which will potentially lead to longer delays, however, these works are planned for week commencing 25 October 2010 which is Half Term in an effort to minimise the inconvenience.

Transport Information Centre: Log on to find an interactive map about road works in your area. You can report and track problems and in winter see where the gritting routes are – live! Plus Real time bus information. The service has been a huge success since its inception in June. Log on to: www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport

Big Society already a Big Deal on Buckinghamshire Buses

I thought you might like to hear about a community bus service that has started in Princes Risborough. 30 volunteers (mostly retired plus a couple of young mums) take turns to drive the 15 seater bus. It carried more than 200 passengers a week. The LAF voted £1500 towards the scheme and of course other funding is out there. No CRB check is necessary but volunteers need to take a driver awareness course. If anyone wants to know more pls let me know.

www.beabetterbiker.co.uk. This is where you can find out about how to be a better biker. The scheme has been so well received that it is in line for an award. Log on to learn all about it. Only available to Bucks residents.