

- Cllr Wadlow raised the matter of the Golf Course closing and some discussion took place on the reasons for this, along with the Hs2 impact. He also raised concerns about safety of children travelling along the footpath leading to Andrews Way and converging onto the road, which is dangerous as vehicles travel at speed along this entry road to the football pitches and there is no barrier to alert pedestrians or children on bikes that the path suddenly ends onto the road. Could the parish council install a barrier for safety reasons? This will be added to the May agenda for discussion.
- Cllr Pattison reported that the next edition of Coldharbour News would be the 50th edition and she would like any photographs or articles people may have to include in this special edition.
- Cllr James gave an update on the plans for the community litter pick.
- Cllr Baughan recently had a meeting with the church committee about possible youth activities for Y6 upwards and this will be discussed further.
- Cllr Searle gave some updates from the MVAS and reported that the highest speed on Coldharbour Way was 85mph. This will be reported to the local police by Cllr Bradford at his next meeting with them.
- Cllr Cole gave apologies for not attending the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm.
- Cllr Poland expressed appreciation to the grounds maintenance team for the works carried out across the parish. He also said the new LED lighting in the community centre was a good investment.

- **Bucks County Cllr S. Lambert sent the following report:**

Unitary Authority.

The Secretary of State had made a ‘minded to’ decision on the future of the County and District Councils, setting out a plan for a single Buckinghamshire-wide council. This week the Secretary of State laid the Structural Change Orders to formally make this happen. This is the second piece of legislation required to implement the new unitary council for Buckinghamshire and follows on from the Regulations that were agreed earlier this year. The Structural Changes Order details how the change to the new council will take place and the set-up of the new council. The draft Order will be considered by both Houses of Parliament. No changes of any significance have been made since the original draft. The Order confirms the following details:

- The name of the new council will be ‘Buckinghamshire Council’ and it will have 147 councillors.
- Elections for the new council will take place in May 2020.
- A temporary Shadow Authority will be formed, with all current county and district councillors having a seat on this body; the shadow authority will set the 2020/21 council tax and budget.
- Leadership will be provided by a 17 seat Shadow Executive with eight District nominees and eight County Council nominees, plus the Leader of the County Council as its Chairman unless the Executive votes otherwise.
- An implementation team, led by the County Council Chief Executive and with a district Chief Executive as deputy, should be established to manage the smooth transfer of services and staff to the new Council

It is expected that the Order will take around 6 to 8 weeks to progress through Parliament. Once it is approved the Shadow Authority then needs to meet within 14 days. With just one year to go, some real and effective progress in bringing

together the more than 1000 work-streams across all five authorities is properly underway.

Programme Management

Programme Managers have been appointed to coordinate the work that will be taking place over the next year. It is important that this programme reflects both district and county perspectives - and this is in fact already happening informally with officers from the five authorities. Further appointments to the programme office from across the councils will be made over the next few weeks.

There will be three Programme Boards co-chaired by both county and district officer colleagues. Each board will co-ordinate relevant work-streams. The board will also plan in outline the transformation work post-unitary of the new council. There are two further boards which are already in existence relating to Adult Social Care and Children’s Social Care. These boards are focused on improving services. It is critical that colleagues in these services are involved in the transition to the new organisation.

The Programme Boards and their chairs are:

Unitary Programme Boards	
Resources Board	John McMillan, Wycombe District Council and Sarah Ashmead, Buckinghamshire County Council
Communities Board	Steve Bambrick, Chiltern and South Bucks District Council and Gill Quinton, Buckinghamshire County Council
Housing, Growth and Economy	Tracey Aldworth, Aylesbury Vale District Council and Neil Gibson, Buckinghamshire County Council
Continuing Improvement Boards	
Children’s Board	Tolis Vouyioukas, Director of Children’s Services (BCC) and partners
Adults Board	Gill Quinton, Director of Adults Services (BCC) and partners

The chairs of these boards are all executive directors and heads of service; and these officers will attend regular meetings with the **Chief Executive**. These meetings will be known as the **Chief Executives’ Implementation Group (CIG)** and will ensure that work is progressed, and briefings produced for meetings of the **Interim Shadow Executive** which provides political directive.

The **Interim Shadow Executive** is an informal meeting of members from across the five councils. The County Council Shadow Executive nominees who are on this group have been in post for some time and have now been joined by district council colleagues, bringing together the members of this group from across the five councils. The first meetings have been held to begin discussions on how they will work together over the next year. The more collaboratively and effectively all members of this group work together, the better the outcomes for residents in terms of service delivery and value for money for our council tax.

You may recall in my reports over the past year that an application for leave to apply to the High Court for a **Judicial Review** against the Secretary of State's decision to implement a single unitary authority was made by Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe District Councils. This was refused by the court and the District Councils have now confirmed they will **not** be appealing this decision. This is very good news from a financial perspective, as it has already cost many thousands of pounds of council taxpayers' money. As and when there are further developments on our journey to a unitary council, including **roadshows for town and parish councils**, I will keep you updated in my monthly reports.

HS2

Preparatory works I commences by HS2 representatives up and down the line. Unlike our Member of Parliament, I have maintained my strong opposition to this major project which does not benefit Aylesbury in any way but leaves a poorly mitigated scar across our green and open space and comes within a few hundred meters of Fairford Leys. I have continued to help a number of residents with questions and issues arising from the scheme.

I was saddened to learn that HS2 have failed in one of their earlier promises to keep the Golf Club running for as long as possible and that it formally closed a couple of weeks ago. A huge loss of amenity space for not just our community but also the wider population. I will continue to keep abreast of events and the work programme, more so as works start to be visible to our community.

Brimmers Way footpath

Despite the repairs, defects keep re-appearing. I have now met with the county council highways team and we have debated taking the pathway away altogether from the wooden bridge by the main play park. In addition, we have debated opening up that road access onto Pine Street as a one way exit into Pine Street as the entire area only has one exit and entry at the corner of Firecrest Way. This would be subject to a Traffic Regulation Order variation and is therefore not as expensive as a full order. Residents will be consulted on this later in the summer.

Children's Centres:

Our area has one Children's Centre based out of Bearbrook School which is paired with Elmhurst. Over the last year the council has been consulting on major changes to these centres and front-line service provision for families.

The future of family support and children's centres across the County has now been made. As a member of a County Council working group into the proposals, I was involved at every stage of the development and research of the proposals, following a 'call in' of a previous decision to close all Children's Centres in the County.

The recommendation is that the new service be called the **Family Support Service**, following feedback that the term 'early help' did not describe the service well enough. The new service will comprise three family support areas teams that will work with other organisations, particularly schools and health, to improve access to services and provide more joined-up services. Key elements will include:

- A named key worker for each family who will create a team around the family to help them tackle the issues they face so they tell their story only once.

- Investment in the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service website to ensure there is effective promotion of community activities together with information and guidance for families.
- Open access to stay and play sessions for babies and toddlers at family centres.
- Each school to have a named link family support worker to co-ordinate family support.

Throughout the consultation it was clear that residents wanted to see family centres remain across the County. As a result, the Cabinet approved a plan that will see 16 family centres – which was 2 more than the revised proposal and 16 more than was in the original proposal!

The new Family Support Service will launch in September 2019, and prior to this, services will continue to be delivered as they are. The future intended uses of the children’s centre buildings due to be closed are set out in the Cabinet papers, which builds upon the detail published as part of the consultation process

Home to School Travel Assistance

Over the past year I have also been part of a member reference group reviewing travel assistance to school – otherwise known as ‘Home to School Transport’ for children and young people up to the age of 25 who have additional educational needs and an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

This is an immensely difficult topic to navigate and to report back on. The cost of Home to School Transport for Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) was £15m with an increase of £1-2m per year and was becoming unsustainable. There is an increase in numbers of special needs children that needed support, providing a service was crucial, therefore all elements of cost needed to be reduced to impact the total bill as well as the type of service support offered.

The proposed changes are part of the Council’s transport transformation programme to improve quality and best support residents’ travel needs. The programme aims to ensure a consistent approach in the adjustment to the support offered, that mitigates any negative impact on particular cohorts of pupils and is based on the following principles:

- Support those most in need.
- Promote independence.
- Provide the most cost-effective travel assistance.
- Promote and encourage the use of sustainable travel.

There are also a number of areas that were statutory but post 16 transport was not a statutory service and that colleges are mandated to provide a bursary for these students which was not being either advertised or taken up and the County Council had been picking up the costs.

The proposed change will provide skills for independent travel arrangements helping those SEN children to become skilled in travelling independently as well as asking parents of special educational needs (SEN) children to contribute towards the cost and remove free transport. Public transport routes that are similar to school routes are being reviewed to see if public buses and routes could be utilised while ensuring extra capacity was provided.

There public consultation process and feedback created many ideas and have been taken into account including those related to switching to public transport. The full cabinet report can be found here:
<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s130428/Report%20for%20Home%20to%20School%20Transport.pdf>

Aylesbury Opportunities Centre (adult day care centre)

As a member of the Health and Adult Social Care committee I have been chairing a Select Committee task and finish group to aid the cabinet member' decision making on proposals to close the Adult respite centre at Seeley's House in Beaconsfield.

There will be a rebuild plan at the Aylesbury Opportunities Centre in Briskman Way to accommodate 12 specialist beds for respite care and for those with continuing health care needs. This will mean the day centre services at Aylesbury for adults with additional needs will close for a minimum of a year while the rebuilding works take place. The report will be published at the end of June in time for a cabinet member decision in July.

Bollards Replacement at Fowler Road/ Fairford Leys Way

After several failed attempts and a further change in supplier the new bollards into Fowler Road at Fairford Leys Way are now working. I am acutely aware of the impact of this long ongoing saga and the difficulty that the inconsistency of bollard use and availability that has caused for our community. After four years of trying to get them fixed, the continuous failure again was both embarrassing and annoying.

I have been assured by the cabinet member that a revised warranty and a maintenance contract is now in place to keep them fully operational. The bollards are operational between 7am and 7pm Monday to Saturday with access to bus traffic and emergency vehicles only.

Changes to 'The Dump' (Household Recycling Centres including Rabans Lane)

The County Council cabinet are making made reductions to the opening times of the Rabans Lane Tip from 1st April 2019 and are introducing charges for certain items taken there by residents. The Rabans Lane 'dump' will no longer be open on Wednesdays and Thursdays, though the Aston Clinton site will remain open 7 days a week.

From 1 April 2019 residents will be charged for disposing of non-household waste items such as, bags of rubble, kitchen units, fence panels etc. Before unloading your waste, you will have to see a member of site staff who will work out how much you need to pay. Payments will be accepted via credit, debit, or pre-paid payment card only. Cash payments will not be accepted.

Details of the charges can be found here:

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/waste-and-recycling/changes-to-buckinghamshire-recycling-centres/charges-for-non-household-waste/>

Further details can be found here:

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres/>

Ofsted:

The latest Ofsted report on Children's Services was published in January and good progress is being made against the plan. As a member of the Children's Select Committee, we have been receiving regular reports. Similar as a member of the Council's Regulatory Audit and Risk committee we have had in-depth reports on progress.

This area of the council remains a high priority and has seen a significant increase in budget (circa £10M) this year alone. The latest report to the select committee can be found here: <https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s127932/Report%20for%20Ofsted%20Monitoring%20visit%20update.pdf>

County Council Tax

For the past six years I have been a member of the County Council Budget Scrutiny Committee which meets in early January to examine and make recommendations on all areas of proposed future spend by the County Council before these are considered by cabinet.

The Budget Scrutiny Committee met in public, some residents attended, and others watched it live on webcast. We received a number of emails and tweets during the meetings with questions and suggestions from residents, all of which were put to cabinet members appearing before the committee. To view the webcast and papers go to: <https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=667>

The was the last and 130th budget for Bucks County Council was been set in February. As a member of the Budget Scrutiny panel, I have had the ability to do a line by line review of the full council budget. While I may not agree with all the proposals for the budget, I am assured that the budget as proposed will be sufficient to see the council into its abolition and the creation of a new council in 2020, when Council services and Council Tax will become 'harmonised' across the whole county.

The council's budget of £356.3 million and capital spending of £86m will see a Council Tax rise of 2.99%, the equivalent of 71p a week extra for an average band D property.

Details of the Budget proposals can be found here: <https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s130103/Report%20for%20Medium%20Term%20Financial%20Plan.pdf>

A webcast of my budget speech can be found here: https://buckscc.public-tv.com/core/portal/webcast_interactive/387737/start_time/5148000?force_language_code=en_GB

As ever if anyone would like to contact me for assistance with anything to do with the county council roles and responsibilities, I am available at slambert@buckscc.gov.uk.

RESOLVED: Chairman to reconvene meeting under Standing Orders

6. Decisions by the Resources & Personnel Committee and Leisure Committee Meetings

Council is asked to receive and approve the minutes & decisions of the above Standing Committees. Minutes of the committees have been copied to all councillors.

- No committee have met since previous minutes circulated.

7. Finances and Orders for Payment

RESOLVED: To agree and authorise the following orders and retrospective orders for payment:

• Turfleet Hire	Cutting Machine Hire (BPPC to reimburse)	£1,008.00	3028
• George Browns	Maintenance	£218.34	3029
• Fairford Leys Ctr	Reimbursement Admin Costs	£675.00	3030
• Aylesbury TC	Reimbursement – postage stamps	£15.00	3031
• CH Morgan	Maintenance	£68.09	3032
• Mrs E C Wark	Insurance/Strimming damage	£180.00	3033
• BHIB	Vehicle Insurance additional cost	£21.52	3034
• Sally Pattinson	Reimbursement Expenses	£22.57	3035
• Playsafety	RoSPA Annual Playground Checks	£813.78	3036
• George Browns Ltd	Maintenance	£484.08	3037
• Spaldings	Litter Pickers	£240.00	3038
• Costco	Membership	£43.20	3039

RESOLVED: To receive, note and agree/accept the Councils Financial statements, income and expenditure report. Emailed to all councillors.

8. Planning Applications

- To receive, comment and to either object, support or oppose the following planning Applications.
- To consider late applications presented by the Clerk.
- To consider Ernest Cook Trust Permission on all planning applications
- To note and formally agree decision/comments made under delegated authority

- **19/01258/APP** **57 Arncott Way, FL**
Single storey rear extension
RESOLVED: No Objection

ERNEST COOK TRUST COVENANTS

Permission is sought from the following residents regarding their properties:

57 Arncott Way, FL
Single storey rear extension
RESOLVED: Permission Granted

There being no further business of the Council, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____