

News for the Parishes

Making Aylesbury Vale the best possible place to live and work



February 2020

Clerks – Please share the following information with your Parish Councillors

VALP Statement

(Councillor Carole Paternoster, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure)

As you will be aware the VALP continues to progress. The Inspector has already concluded that it is capable of being made sound. At the end of December AVDC successfully concluded our 6 week consultation period on the main modifications needed to make the Plan sound which had been recommended by our inspector.

We were pleased to see such interest in the consultation and we have received approximately 850 individual representations. Sadly despite our best efforts in encouraging representations to be made online a large proportion of these were submitted either by email or letter and this has added to the length of time for these to be processed.

The Inspector has also asked us to give a Council response to the issues raised in the representations. As part of this we have continued to engage with several external consultants, including the Bucks County Council, to ensure that these are responded to appropriately. This is an important stage and it is important to ensure we give full and reasoned responses. However, we can only complete this stage once we have received all necessary input from external partners.

The team are nearly in a position to submit AVDC's response to our Inspector and we anticipate that this will be sent by the first week in March.

We will then need to await our inspector's response before we are able to progress to the next stage. We hope that the inspector will accept our submitted response, but it is possible that he may wish to ask for further information or hold further hearing sessions.

At this stage we do not anticipate that the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan will be found sound before the new authority (Buckinghamshire Council) is established. If this is the case we do understand that the new authority will continue to prioritise the final process and ensure its adoption in due course.

Parish Elections 2020

Parish Clerks will receive a set of nomination packs around mid-March for handing to those individuals wishing to stand as candidates at this year's elections. The Notice of Election will be for display from 31 March, the first day for submission of nomination papers, which must be received by the Returning Officer by 4pm on 8 April.

Voting in the Buckinghamshire Council election, Town/Parish elections and the Police and Crime Commissioner Election will take place on 7 May 2020. Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm. Electors will be sent a poll card at the end of March/beginning of April advising where to vote.

You must be registered as an elector to be able to vote. New applications for registration have to be submitted by 21 April 2020.

Applications to vote by post have to be made by 5pm on 22 April 2020 and proxy vote applications by 5pm on 29 April 2020.

For more information: Email: ereg@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk Telephone: 01296 585701

AVDC launches grant fund to support environmental projects

It is an exciting time in the Environment portfolio at the moment with the AVDC Environment initiative almost ready to go.

Working with Heart of Bucks Community Foundation and Bucks County Council we will be setting up two named funds: The Green Schools Fund and The Green Community Fund.

Schools, Town and Parish Councils and community groups will be able to apply to Heart of Bucks for grants from these funds to support environmental projects. We will also be funding training sessions to help people with their projects.

A launch event is being planned for Thursday 12 March at AVDC with market stalls and guest speakers, talking about how to apply for grants and also about project ideas to help kick start our aim for a greener future for Bucks.

The evening will start at 6pm with coffee and market stalls, with the main event starting at 6:30pm. Invitations and full agenda for the evening will be sent out nearer the time. Meanwhile reserve the date and time in your diary.



Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War: Aylesbury Vale District Council small grants scheme

When VE Day dawns on 8 May 2020 it will be 75 years since the guns fell silent in Europe at the end of the Second World War.

The special day will be an opportunity to remember and reflect on the sacrifices that were made during the conflict, and show our gratitude to those who gave so much, so that we could live in peace.

To recognise the landmark 75th anniversary year, Aylesbury, Chiltern and South Bucks and Wycombe District Councils are launching various small grant schemes for town and parish councils and constituted community groups, to support activities taking place to mark the anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

In Aylesbury, applicants can apply for funding of up to £150 per project for local events to mark VE Day. These could be local events such as street parties, memorial services or musical performances. The events must take place on Friday 8 May, Saturday 9 May or Sunday 10 May 2020 for VE Day in order to be eligible for funding.

Cllr Peter Strachan, Cabinet Member and Armed Forces Champion said: "Aylesbury Vale District Council is pleased to be able to offer small grants to help support communities to mark this significant anniversary. I hope that local events will both celebrate Victory in Europe and also honour all those that fought so bravely in the conflict, many of whom lost their lives fighting for their country and the freedoms we enjoy today."

In addition, Bucks County Council has announced that it is waiving the road closure fees for communities that want to organise street parties to celebrate VE and VJ Day:

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/news/free-road-closures-offered-for-events-to-commemorate-vej-75/>

To apply for a grant please complete the short online application form at www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/ve-grant by **no later than Friday 28 February 2020**

Funding decisions will be made during the week commencing 2 March 2020.

For further information, please contact the Grants Officer, Jan Roffe at: jroffe@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

£1.2 million government grant funding available to rejuvenate community hubs

Village halls may apply for up to £75,000 through a government £1.2 million government scheme helping these community hubs make vital refurbishments to continue the invaluable role they play in rural communities. The announcement was made at the start of Village Halls Week, a national campaign celebrating the services that village halls provide in rural communities across England.

Please note that this is a **not** an AVDC initiative. For further information about the scheme and to apply you must visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/village-halls-boosted-by-12-million-to-rejuvenate-community-hubs>

Planning Performance Improvements

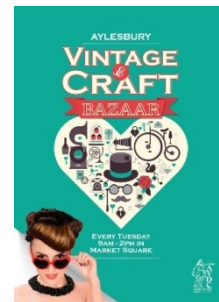
In 2019 members raised concerns about the performance of AVDC's planning service, so in August 2019 a Planning Improvement Board was convened, chaired by Cabinet Member Cllr Peter Strachan.

The Board set four objectives (Improve performance against Government Statistics; Reduce complaints & handle them more effectively; Reduce and eventually clear the backlog; Reduce average days to process applications) and set out a 90-day improvement plan.

The transition period ended at the end of January 2020 and the new operating model has now transitioned to 'business as usual'. We are delighted to report that the changes have led to significant improvement in the four objectives, including a significant reduction in the number of complaints. [Please see the summary report](#) for more information.

For more information, please contact the parish liaison officer Hazrat Hussain: parishsupport@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

New year, new you, new venture!



Aylesbury hosts its weekly markets in the historic Market Square, based in the heart of the town. There are four weekly markets – a Vintage & Craft Bazaar on Tuesday, General Market on Wednesday and Saturday, and the popular Foodie Friday Market.

If you're thinking of starting a new business or want to extend your existing creative venture into a new area, a stall at the market could be exactly what you need. Starting from only £14.30 per day for an erected stall, it's an affordable and flexible way to test your business idea.

Becoming a market trader is a low-cost, low-risk way to turn your business dream into a reality.

Benefits include:

- **Start small and grow.** Perfect for any budding entrepreneur.
- **Flexibility.** You can be your own boss.
- **Low-risk.** Take your product or service straight to your customers without committing to long-term property leases.
- **Low-cost.** Fewer overheads than permanent premises.
- **Fit in with your other commitments.** You can trade from 10am – 2pm.
- **Expand your social circle.** You'll be part of a group of like-minded traders.

To help get you started, there are some great incentives for you:

- **Reduced rent.** Weeks two and three for half price; weeks four and five for FREE.
- **Regular event days to encourage footfall.** Aylesbury is proud to win national awards for its involvement in the national 'Love Your Local Market' campaign.
- **Fully-engaged award-winning town centre management team.** They'll work closely with you to help you succeed.

More information about trading at an Aylesbury market

Visit aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/markets

Email pkirkham@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

Call 01296 585880

Garden Waste Sticker System

Garden waste collection service – 2020!

Our 2020 garden waste collection service recommenced on Monday 27 January.

If you've subscribed to this years' service, your new subscription sticker for 2020 (and brown garden waste bin if you're a new customer) is on its way! Please make sure you've followed the instructions on the back of the sticker to correctly affix the sticker to your brown garden waste bin - our crews will only collect and empty the garden waste bins which are correctly displaying a valid subscription sticker.

For any further information on our garden waste collection service, please visit the [AVDC Garden Waste webpage](http://aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/garden-waste-service). (link - <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/garden-waste-service>)

Unsure on when your collection day is? You can check here:

<https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/find-your-bin-day>

Happy gardening!



Street Cleansing Services are Now Even Closer to The Heart of Aylesbury Vale

Keeping the streets of Aylesbury Vale clean and safe has always been our priority. For more than 20 years our street cleansing and horticulture services have been delivered by a contractor. However, as of 21 January this year, these services are now being delivered by an in-house team, in order to deliver both savings and quality improvements. These services are delivered 365 days a year and include works that are vital to the public, such as:

- Litter picking and emptying of bins (both litter and dog bins)
- Sweeping the roads
- Removal of fly tipping and graffiti
- Grass cutting, hedge and shrub maintenance
- Play area inspections and maintenance
- Maintenance of football/cricket pitches
- Erection/dismantling of market stalls

Check out our brand new Street Scene webpage for more information on how you can help keep the streets of Aylesbury clean and tidy: <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/street-scene>

The end of three great AVDC grant schemes - but lots to celebrate!

For many years Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) has been proud to financially support local projects and services through its grant funding schemes for the voluntary and community sector and parish and town councils. With the advent of a new unitary authority these schemes have now sadly had to close and new arrangements for funding are being put in place, but there is a still lot to celebrate!

During the seven years of its administration, over £6.1 million in New Homes Bonus grant funding has been awarded to 62 different capital projects across Aylesbury Vale. Projects funded range from the improvement and renovation of existing community facilities, the remodelling of Wendover's Manor Waste, a multi-use games area, trim trail and the long-awaited Shopmobility and public toilet block in the centre of Buckingham, Winslow's new Town Park and Arboretum, a safe pedestrian footway linking the villages of Marsworth and Pitstone and play area improvements in Weston Turville, Ivinghoe and Stewkley. Brand new village halls have been built in Westbury and Cheersley, and new community buildings are soon to commence construction in Aston Clinton and Berryfields. This is just a snapshot of the projects funded!

In September 2017, the New Homes Bonus microgrant scheme for smaller projects was introduced. These grants have enabled a wide variety of smaller projects to come to fruition including refurbishments of community and sporting facilities and equipment purchases. Funding totalling just over £131,000 has been awarded to 109 projects up to December 2019.

All of the projects funded through these two New Homes Bonus schemes have helped to improve the living experience for people of all ages living in Aylesbury Vale.

Grant funding of over £500k has also recently been awarded to 17 voluntary and community sector organisations to support local services through AVDC's Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Scheme. Organisations awarded funding include: Citizens Advice Aylesbury Vale, Aylesbury Homeless Action Group, Aylesbury Women's Aid, Queens Park Arts Centre, The Healthy Living Centre, Aylesbury Vale and Milton Keynes Sexual Assault Support Service, Lindengate and Carers Bucks.

This funding is crucial to help these organisations to continue to provide vital services for local people through the period of change when the new Buckinghamshire Council comes into existence from 1 April 2020.

For a full list of all projects and organisations awarded funding in 2020/21 please visit the AVDC website at:

<https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/newhomesbonus>

<https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/grants-voluntary-and-community-sector>