



EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

**Clerk's REPORT of the ordinary meeting of Edlesborough Parish Council
held on 20th March 2024 in Edlesborough Pavilion.**

PLANNING

Buckinghamshire Council Call for Sites

Buckinghamshire Council's (BC) new local housing need figure has increased significantly under the government's revised standard methodology (December 2024) from 2,912 to 4,319 homes per year. Because of this, the Local Plan will be expected to provide sites for approximately 91,000 new homes for the period until 2045, an increase overall of about 30,000 homes compared with the previous government's housing figure for the county. This means that BC will need to consider all available site options if they are to accommodate this level of housing growth.

All sites that are submitted to BC through this call for sites engagement exercise and the previous 3 exercises will be technically assessed within the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA). This will assess sites for their suitability, availability and achievability to accommodate development. To give you an indication of how this process will be undertaken, BC have published their draft methodology which can be found at <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/housing-and-economic-land-availability-assessment-helaa/>.

BC have prepared some FAQs which are available at – <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/call-for-sites-faq>

In addition to this, further information on the HELAA is available in government guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-and-economic-land-availability-assessment>.

This call for sites exercise is open from Wednesday 12th March until 23:59pm on Wednesday 23rd April 2025.

If you have submitted sites previously, please do not resubmit the same site.

These sites are already being assessed. If you have a new site to submit, this can be done in either of the following two ways:

You can either submit a site using the following link <https://buckinghamshire.oc2.uk/document/12> or download a call for sites form <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/call-for-sites-form>

Completed forms can be returned by email to planningpolicyteam.bc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or by post to:

Call for Sites
Planning Policy Team
Buckinghamshire Council
Queen Victoria Road
High Wycombe
HP11 1BB

Rural Exception Scheme Properties – Update from Buckinghamshire Council

Background

Rural exception schemes are designed to allow local people to continue living in villages they have a current, previous or family connection to. Lettings to rural exception scheme properties are subject to strict requirements, set down in a planning obligation agreement covering which persons shall be eligible to occupy the accommodation

Normally persons will be required to need such accommodation and have a connection to the parish, based on residence, historic residence, employment or family residence. Obligation agreements vary for specific schemes, however usually persons with a strong historic connection to the parish are sought, followed by those named in the s106 cascade arrangements.

When a rural exception scheme vacancy becomes available for reletting, it is advertised on [Bucks Home Choice](#) and applicants can express interest in the property and be considered, along with applicants from

parish council housing registers, if they meet the criteria set out in the s106 agreement. Not all applicants qualifying for parish registers have previously been able to join Bucks Home Choice, as those considered to be adequately housed and not in 'Housing need' have not been able to register.

New Approach

In July 2024, the council consulted with residents on updating our [housing allocations policy](#) reflecting legislative changes. The new policy has now been agreed and came into effect in March 2025.

The new policy aims to prioritise Buckinghamshire residents by strengthening local connection criteria and providing better outcomes for priority cases (i.e. care leavers and households in temporary accommodation).

We would now ask you to invite all applicants on parish registers, to register on [Bucks Home Choice](#) and select that they have registered for consideration for a rural exception scheme property. They will be asked for details and proof of their rural local connection. The Choice Based Lettings team will then be able to efficiently allocate rural exception scheme properties via Bucks Home Choice. We will, however, continue to contact parish councils to ensure they do not have any potential nominees on their register who have not yet registered and expressed interest via Bucks Home Choice.

Should you require any further information, please contact the Choice Based Lettings Team Leader, [Rachel Emms-Davies](#).

EPC SURGERY – 06/03/25

One parishioner –

- requested that the right of way from Brook Street to the river be resurfaced - This request has been submitted to the Buckinghamshire Council Rights of Way Team.
- Asked how they could see information about the Councils spending – the Clerk showed the parishioner the financial information on the Council website.
- Suggested that the Council should consult parishioners prior to setting its budget – the Clerk will share this suggestion with the full Council.
- Asked how the Council communicates with parishioners – the Clerk explained that the Councils primary form of communication is via the Council website and the monthly Focus reports. The Council also shares some information via Facebook posts, these often direct parishioners to the Parish Council or Buckinghamshire Council's website. There are also noticeboards in each village.



One parishioner expressed disappointment in the condition of the grass verge on The Green after the cutting of The Pastures hedge – the Clerk has spoken with the contractor who confirmed the remaining cuttings would be tidied once the grass cutting schedule commences.

ASHRIDGE ESTATE COMMITTEE

Cllr Hurst attended the meeting on 24th February.

VILLAGES

Edlesborough

- The property sent a hedge cutting notification letter has taken the required action.
- The Clerk has received further communications from residents concerned about the safety issues along Slicketts Lane. The Clerk has responded with the following information.
“The Buckinghamshire Council Local Area Technician (BC LAT) has confirmed that a “*Pedestrians in road*” sign would be the most relevant sign here as Slicketts Lane is within the village where most

roads would be expected to have an adjacent footway. He can arrange for this to be installed from maintenance funding but as it is in effect an improvement, he cannot give it a high priority.”

Dagnall

- Several patch repairs have been carried out on the B440 between Dagnall and the Travellers Rest roundabout. Buckinghamshire Council. The Dagnall sign remains in the Clerk’s Garden. The Clerk has asked the Council contractor to attach the sign to the new gate.



Northall

- Buckinghamshire Cllr Chris Poll has had the following response from the BC LAT re the flooding issue on the pavement outside Marbled Meats in Northall – *“The footway is maintained by the highway authority. It is just that the access to the property “behind” the footway does not appear to have ever been constructed other than in stone and this makes it a bit more complicated to repair. The installation of some additional drainage may be required but in the first instance I will try to repair the footway in such a way as to ensure that pedestrians do not have to walk through the puddle.”*

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HIGHWAYS

The Clerk has provided Councillors with a record of current issues.

The Clerk carried out a site visit at Slicketts Lane and has submitted numerous photos to Fix My Streets and the BC LAT. The Clerk has requested a site visit with the BC LAT to establish what can be done to improve the road surface. On 14/03/25 the Clerk has received an automated message from Fix My Streets stating *“The Highway Officer has attended the site and carried an inspection based on your report. As a result of this inspection, we plan to resolve the issue reported within five working days. State changed to: Action scheduled.”*

SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS

No new applications have been received.

FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

- The Clerk has informed the Council about the lack of meter reading for the Dagnall Allotments water supply. Castle Water have requested that Thames Water read the meter ASAP. However, any charges will now fall into the 2025/26 financial year.
- The Clerk will prepare the end of year accounts for the April meeting.
- **Section 137 expenditure limit for parish and town councils**

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has informed us of the increase in the [Section 137 expenditure limit for parish and town councils in England](#) for the 2025/26 financial year. The new limit is £11.10 per elector, up from £10.81 in 2024/25. The increase reflects the percentage rise in the retail price index between September 2023 and September 2024, in accordance with Schedule 12B of the Local Government Act 1972. Section 137 of the Act allows parish and town councils to incur expenditures for purposes that benefit their communities when no specific statutory power is available.

AED'S & COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Nothing to report.

EDLESBOROUGH MEMORIAL HALL (EMH)

The boiler service was conducted on 26th February.

Gas and Electric meter reads will be taken on 27/03/25 ready for the supplier change.

THE GREEN AND PLAY AREA

The Clerk received a report of quad bikes on the Green on 9th March. An inspection found that no damage had been caused on this occasion.

ST MARY'S CARNIVAL 2025

The Clerk will attend the next Carnival Committee meeting on 19/03/25.

SPORTS CLUBS

Cricket

The annual agreement and invoice the 2025 season having been sent to Edlesborough Cricket Club on 30/01/2025 have not been returned. Payment was due by 01/03/25.

The Clerk has sent an email chasing the agreement and payment of invoice.

EB Lions FC

Play was suspended on one weekend due to the condition of the pitches.

Training on weekday evenings is scheduled to resume on 31/03/2025.

Edlesborough Tennis Club

Nothing to report.

EDLESBOROUGH PAVILION

The damage to the main entrance door has been repaired.

A productive meeting was held between representatives of ECSC CIO, ECSC Trading Company and EPC. The notes from the meeting have been circulated to the full Council.

ALLOTMENTS

The water has been reinstated. One tap at Dagnall and one tap at the Green needed replacing.

The Clerk holds a waiting list for allotments.

Dagnall Allotments

All plots are let.

Cllr Wilkinson and the Clerk met with the Dagnall Warden to discuss his tree proposal. Cllr Wilkinson will propose an amendment to the Allotment Agreement at the April meeting.

Northall Allotments

All plots are let.

One tenant has been asked to remove a trampoline from their plot.

The Clerk has written to one tenant about the condition of their plot and the lack of work on it.

Cow Lane Allotments

All plots are let.

Green Allotments

All plots are let.

CEMETERY

The purchase order for the new grave markers has been placed and paid for.

CHURCHYARD

To date there has been no response from UK Power about the power cables in the tree branches.

BRIDLEPATH

Nothing to report.

WAR MEMORIAL

Nothing to report.

BUS SHELTERS

Nothing to report.

CAR PARKS, LITTER, RECYCLING AND DOG BINS

Nothing to report.

STREETLIGHTS

D16 in Hunstmans Close, Dagnall is failed. The Clerk has raised a request for a repair with UK Power Networks.

One of the three lights on the Edlesborough side of Waterside was reported to the Clerk for repair. These three lights belong to Central Bedfordshire and are labelled with their reporting information.

It was not easy to report the fault. The phone number directs the caller to the Central Bedfordshire online reporting site, the site will then not accept the report as the asset is the Edlesborough side of the river.

The BC LAT has assisted in reporting the failed lamp. The Clerk has informed EBPC and Central Bedfordshire Cllr Spicer of the failed asset and reporting issues.

WEBSITE

Information about the upcoming elections has been added to the website.

CLERKS ANNUAL LEAVE

The Clerk will be on Annual Leave from 7th – 16th April inclusive. Cllr Ferguson will take over the Memorial Hall bookings and calls to the Council.

