

# Edlesborough PC - Buckinghamshire Councillors Report for 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## Westcott Drone Centre flying high

A [Drone Test and Development Centre](#) (DTDC), launched in 2023 at [Westcott Venture Park](#) in Buckinghamshire by partner organisation [Satellite Applications Catapult](#), is undergoing a major upgrade to its facilities to increase its capacity and capabilities. Drone companies will now be able to test their products and solutions at a much earlier stage in the development process in a safe and controlled environment.

The DTDC received £1.4million in funding from Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), now managed by the [Buckinghamshire Growth Board](#) following the transition of the LEP into [Buckinghamshire Council](#) last year.

The DTDC is upgrading to service a broader variety of drone companies and deepen the amount of support available. These new capabilities will allow companies to bring their innovative solutions to market much more rapidly.

The development and expansion of the DTDC is a sign of growing demand for drone operations and will support flight operations both here in the UK and globally. The cutting-edge facility compliments Westcott's commitment to innovation and will be used to develop and enhance services to build a world-class drone services hub here in Buckinghamshire.

The DTDC site is a former RAF base and has a 270m runway, four dedicated landing pads for vertical, or vertical to horizontal take-off, and multiple flying areas offering real-world environments.

Future plans for the site **(and possible employment opportunities)** also include the development of Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) capabilities. To find out more about the DTDC visit the Satellite Applications Catapult website:

[www.sa.catapult.org.uk/facilities/dtdc/](http://www.sa.catapult.org.uk/facilities/dtdc/)

## Stop - It's the law

Council urges drivers to be respectful of the vital work carried out by school crossing patrollers.

Known commonly as lollipop men and women, Buckinghamshire's 60 school crossing patrollers are on duty come rain or shine, morning and afternoon during school term time, wielding their trusty STOP signs to help children and adults reach school safely. While most drivers are respectful and stop when requested, a small minority can be abusive and put lives at risk with dangerous manoeuvres, as they refuse to stop to allow safe crossings.

Since the start of the school year in 2021 to November 2024, there have been 39 reported incidents. Of these, four were injury incidents, 29 were near misses, and the remainder were verbal incidents. However, it is expected numbers are higher than this, as patrollers don't report every incident, despite encouragement.

School crossing patrollers have a legal right to stop traffic for anyone who needs help crossing the road. They have the same authority as a police officer to stop traffic. Failing to stop when a school crossing patrol displays the stop sign is an offence that can result in a £1,000 fine, three penalty points, and disqualification. Failing to stop puts vulnerable road users at risk and patrollers are instructed to report any driver who fails to stop to the police, which could lead to prosecution. Instances of dangerous behaviour include drivers using abusive language, failing to stop when the patroller is already in the road, and swerving around patrollers to get past. Drivers also make patrollers' jobs more difficult by blocking pavements and stopping or parking inconsiderately to drop off children, especially at School Keep Clear markings and bus stops.

- Slow down when you see a patrol warning sign or flashing lights and be prepared to stop.
- Stop when the patrol is displaying the stop sign.
- Be patient and do not move forward.
- Do not park where the patrol works, on zig-zag lines, or other areas with parking restrictions.

To report any incidents involving School Crossing Patrollers, residents are asked to contact:

- Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe (West) - Corinne Randall on 01296 383 432

## **Upgraded CCTV system being rolled out across Buckinghamshire**

Buckinghamshire Council is pleased to announce a major upgrade in its Community Safety CCTV system, with the first new cameras now live. It's part of a £868,000 investment that introduces newer technologies and fully modernises the system.

Installation of the new cameras is underway with the first new cameras being positioned in High Wycombe – installation will then continue to roll out to other parts of the county.

As part of the upgrade, older analogue cameras are being replaced with newer digital models. Many of the new cameras have 360 degree coverage, resulting in improved coverage and clearer image quality. The majority of CCTV cameras are placed in Town Centre locations; where they are located is based on crime statistics, population density and night-time activity. The council cannot disclose precise locations of the cameras for security reasons and to protect the integrity of the system, but the network ensures good coverage of CCTV, particularly in areas that have seen higher rates of crime and anti-social behaviour. CCTV footage is monitored from the council's dedicated control room by specialist operators.

CCTV cameras are used by the council as an important tool to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and promote community safety and reassurance. While CCTV cannot stop crime, it is an important way to deter criminal and anti-social activity and assists in solving crimes and providing evidence.

Councillor Derek Town