

## Parish Council Report for period up to 14 August 2019

### Cllr Graham Bridgman (West Berkshire Council, Burghfield and Mortimer Ward)

#### West Berkshire Council

##### Meetings

The next full council meeting will be on 12 September.

##### University Centre Newbury

WBC was approached by Newbury College to provide interim funding for a new purpose-built University Centre on the Newbury College campus. The Centre is expected to be of benefit to the local economy as a whole and is in line with the WBC priority “working together to make West Berkshire an even greater place in which to live, work and learn”.

The Executive approved the loan facility of £3.5m at its meeting on 25 July, to bridge the timing gap between the construction of the Centre and the sale of a parcel of land at the site to fund the project.

The overall cost of the University Centre is estimated to be in the region of £5m to £6m and the College has made a successful bid to the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), securing a capital grant of £1.75m dependant on project milestones being achieved.

This is really positive news for the district and the courses will be geared to meet higher level skills needs for local business, delivering qualifications in the five priority sectors identified by LEP research – digital technologies, business & finance, engineering, health & social care and construction.

The development of the Centre meets the Council Strategy 2019-23 and Vision 2036 priorities of supporting everyone to meet their full potential, developing infrastructure to grow the local economy, ensuring sustainable services through innovation and partnerships, supporting businesses to start, develop and thrive and making West Berkshire a great place to live.

##### Climate Conference

Further to the piece about the climate emergency debate in my last report, and as part of the consultation process in drawing together the WBC strategy and delivery plan, a Climate Conference is planned for Monday 28 October at Newbury College (chosen for half term so as to provide the option for younger people to be able to attend).

The Rt Hon Richard Benyon MP will open the conference and there will be a mixture of speakers, with parallel hour long sessions running in the morning and afternoon. More details are to follow and tickets will be available shortly through the WBC online booking system (maximum of four tickets available per applicant).

##### Local Heritage Assets Consultations

WBC is considering nominations for assets in Burghfield, Hungerford, Kintbury and Newbury to be included in the local list of heritage assets, as having special local architectural, archaeological or historic interest.

The Burghfield asset being considered is Iverne House, Burghfield Road, RG30 3RD which was fortified in 1941-42 (*“Existing thick walls and heavy buildings provided a ready-made alternative to a pillbox and many were converted to defensive positions by the simple expedient of adding embrasures ... The heritage interest covers two parts; the house itself and the loop-holed wall in the garden along the Burghfield Road. The gun embrasures on the house are still clearly visible on the Burghfield Road side with two at ground level and three on the upper floor wall. A further single embrasure exists on the upper floor on the wall facing South West”*).

The consultation runs until 22 August and can be found here: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=36247>.

## Green Bin subscription renewal 2019/20

Current subscribers should have received an email or letter detailing how to renew subscriptions online.

The 2019/20 subscription period runs from 2 September 2019 to 28 August 2020 and costs £50 for the first bin - <https://citizen.westberks.gov.uk/gardenwastesubscribe>.

The main renewal process is for people to use the online subscription service but WBC is aware that there have been some technical issues with the payment portal. These are being addressed, but payments can be taken by cheque or over the phone if residents cannot access the portal – please contact Customer Services (01635 551111) in the first instance, where you will be directed to dial a secure payment line.

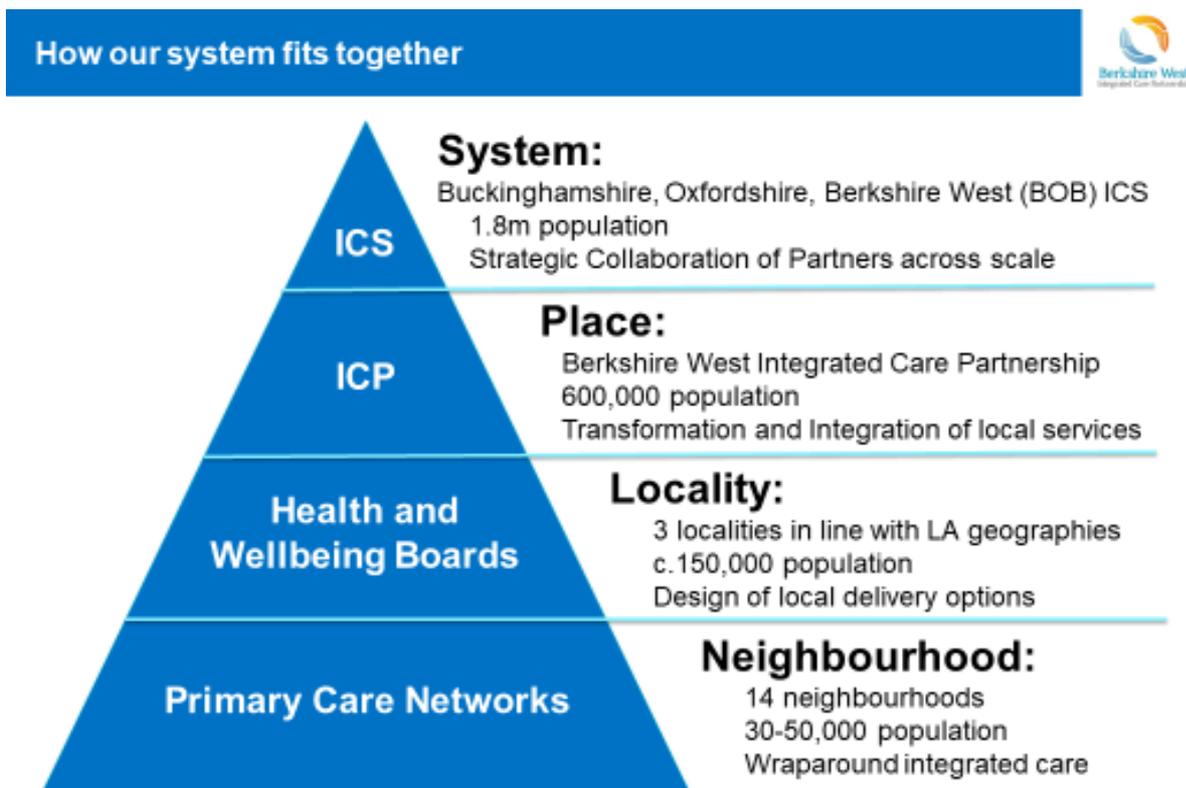
Garden waste can also be taken to one of the recycling centres in Newbury and Padworth, or can be composted at home (opening times for the recycling centres, seven days per week, are: Newbury 08:30 – 19:30; Padworth 08:00 – 18:00).

## Local Matters

### Berkshire West Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) Launch Event

Further to my item last month about the Integrated Care System covering Berkshire West, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire (the BOB ICS), on 18 July the Berkshire West ICP was launched at Shaw House.

Geographically, the ICP covers the West Berkshire, Reading and Wokingham council areas and sits below the BOB ICS. Underneath the ICP sit the three local Health and Wellbeing Boards and below them the new Primary Care Networks (“PCNs”) which bring together local GP practices:



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The ICP consists of seven public sector organisations – the three councils, the Berkshire West Care Commissioning Group (CCG) and the three local NHS Foundation Trusts (Berkshire Healthcare, Royal Berkshire and South Central Ambulance). It has 44 GP practices, a combined budget of about £1bn and in excess of 10,000 staff.

The ICP has a number of aims, including:

- supporting people to take care of their own health and well-being;
- providing care closer to home wherever appropriate;

- integrating services across providers to improve delivery;
- providing co-ordinated primary, community and social care to efficiently meet residents' needs;
- to better understand the needs of the population so as to design services more effectively;
- to share understanding of the quality of services so as to have a system-wide approach to the delivery and monitoring of quality;
- to make the most effective use of the Berkshire West pound and deliver financial sustainability;
- to improve staff and workplace wellbeing, and sustain a highly skilled health and care workforce.

### **Berkshire West Care Commissioning Group**

The Berkshire West CCG has recently been assessed by NHS England as Requires Improvement. I am waiting for more details – there is no specific report, rather a set of scores and the CEO of the CCG is going to prepare a briefing note.

### **Safeguarding Adults**

The revised 2019/20 West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board Strategy and Business Plan have been finalised and can be found at <http://www.sabberkshirewest.co.uk/board-members/priorities-plans-and-reports/>.

### **West Berkshire Lottery**

The lottery has raised £55k in its first year so far. This is hugely encouraging and we know it is making a difference to the charities which have signed up. For more, go to <https://www.westberkshirelottery.co.uk/>.

Further, since 21 July anyone purchasing a ticket for the Lottery draw has been automatically entered in to an additional weekly raffle to win prizes, courtesy of local businesses in West Berkshire, for example:

- three months free membership at leisure centres in West Berkshire including the Northcroft Lido, courtesy of Legacy Leisure;
- £30 to spend on a meal in Bill's Restaurant, Newbury;
- Mrs Farquhar's Afternoon Tea for two at the Grade I listed Shaw House.

There are now 96 causes signed up to fundraise with 50p from each £1 ticket sold going directly to a local good cause, and a further 10p going into the community fund.

### **Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner- Survey**

Matthew Barber, the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, is seeking your views about policing in the Thames Valley. To have your say visit <https://www.matthewbarber.co.uk/policing-survey-2019>.

### **New Local Police Area Commander**

Superintendent Nick John took over from Jim Weems as the new LPA for West Berkshire from 1 August. It is hoped that he will attend the next NAG meeting (see below).

### **Neighbourhood Action Group**

Further to the report last month, the work on a new constitution for the NAG nears completion. The next meeting is on 21 August and it is anticipated that the recent traveller encampments (see below) will be amongst items discussed.

### **New GWR timetable**

Great Western Railway has announced a completely revised timetable to be introduced in December. As well as improved services between Newbury/Reading and Paddington, there will be a third train added to the Reading/Basingstoke service at peak times.

## **Traveller incursions**

The recent incursions in Beech Hill, Mortimer and Burghfield have highlighted the lack of action by TVP in relation to s61 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (*"If the senior police officer present at the scene reasonably believes that two or more persons are trespassing on land and are present there with the common purpose of residing there for any period, that reasonable steps have been taken by or on behalf of the occupier to ask them to leave and ... that any of those persons has caused damage to the land ... he may direct those persons, or any of them, to leave the land and to remove any vehicles or other property they have with them on the land."*). On the other hand, there is a joint WBC/TVP protocol to provide guidance on managing unauthorised encampments.

As well as these issues will shortly be discussed by the WBC Executive, plus the new TVP Chief Constable is due to attend council on 12 September when I intend to raise the issue.

## **Members' Community Bids**

Geoff, Royce and I have received various proposals and will be considering them shortly.

## **Parishes**

### **Parish Council sizes**

The question of the number of members on a parish council was raised recently and this is the initial advice received from Sarah Clarke (WBC Head of Legal and Strategic Support): "[the] process is referred to as a community governance review" and WBC "has the power to undertake such reviews but there would be considerable resource implications for us in doing so". "In light of [this] and other priorities, it is unlikely that we could commit to such a project during the next 12 months".

For more, see [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf).

### **Burghfield**

#### ***Planning application - land adjacent to The Hollies***

As councillors will no doubt be aware by now, the detailed application for 28 houses was granted at the planning committee meeting last Wednesday (10 August).

I was in correspondence with Gemma, the registered manager of The Hollies, and the agents for Crest, the developer, right up to the meeting and discussions about the precise nature of the treatment/extent of the boundary between the site and The Hollies are continuing. I expect an agreement to transfer the buffer strip to Larchwood (owner of The Hollies) and plant it with 3/3.5m pleached trees to seek to provide instant screening, and await the outcome of the further discussions.

### **Stratfield Mortimer**

#### ***Birch Lane***

There has been yet further correspondence with residents and WBC, with a local meeting due shortly.

**Graham Bridgman**

14 August 2019