

## Report to Midgham Parish Council

District Councillor: Chris Read, Member of West Berkshire Council for Bucklebury Ward

Date: 12-01-2026

Full Council (extraordinary) – 29<sup>th</sup> January

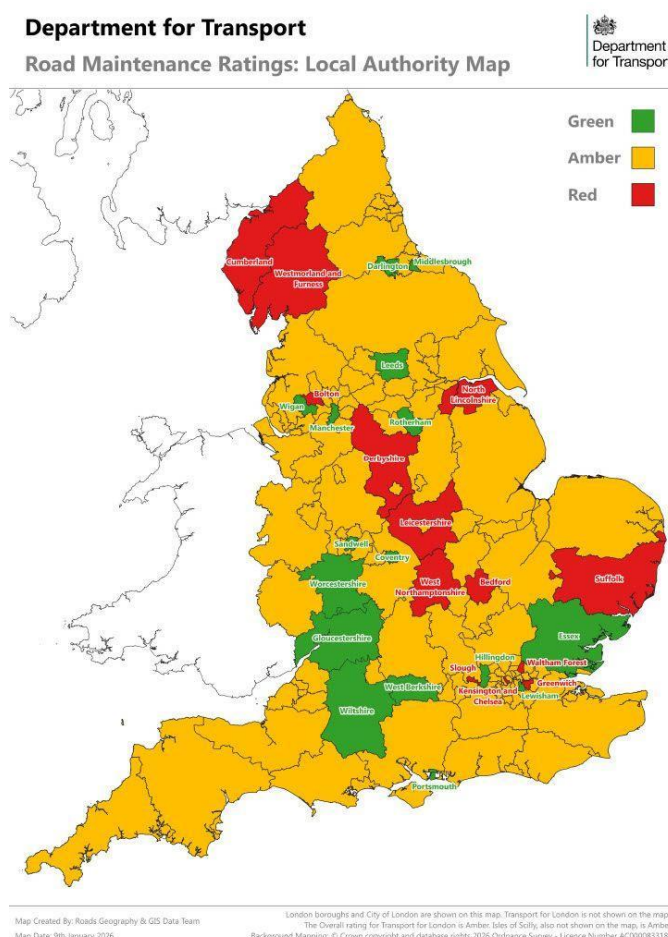
Executive Meeting (extraordinary) – 29<sup>th</sup> January

### Current Surveys and Consultations:

[Proposed Traffic Regulation Order: Hermitage, Bucklebury and Cold Ash 20mph speed limit \(ref: 2526HERM20\)](#)

### Highways

Report on the BBC website give West Berkshire a “green” rating on potholes [Potholes map rates council road repair progress - BBC News](#)



Since the low point in West Berks of 2022 there has been an increase in focus on resurfacing and potholes to try to reverse the managed decline in road conditions.

That is not to say that more cannot be done, and I will focus to chasing up on the major potholes seen and reported to me (many thanks to Cllr Phil Teal on his latest report). After lobbying from myself and residents we also have also got a reverse on decision on the Cox's Lane depression and pothole (old badgers den issue) which hopefully will be dealt with soon.

## **Reading Borough Council Land Grab**

In response to Reading Borough Council writing to the government for a “land grab” of the eastern wards, residents have responded with a definite “Non”. Latest from Purley Residents in Purley on Thames are backing staying in West Berkshire in the latest parish survey resisting Reading Borough Council's expansionist plans into eastern parts of the district.

## **Latest Youth Survey**

Young people are feeling happier, safer and more supported, according to the latest survey undertaken by West Berkshire Council.

This year's survey reached over 5,000 secondary school-aged students, including, for the first time, home-educated students.

One of the most positive findings is the rise in student happiness. Compared with the previous survey, more young people say they feel happy at school and satisfied with their educational progress. These improvements reflect the dedication of local schools, families, and staff to our younger residents.

Safety is another area where West Berkshire's young people are feeling increasingly positive.

Nearly all respondents said they feel safe in their local area and at school, with these figures now above the national average. Alongside feeling safer, young people also spoke highly of the range of things to do locally, with satisfaction levels outstripping those in other parts of the country.

The survey also revealed the strength of support networks available to young people. Most said they would turn to a parent or carer if they were worried, and more are seeking help from school staff and youth workers than in previous years. This growing confidence in the adults around them is a testament to the community's commitment to supporting its youth.

While some challenges remain, particularly around mental health and bullying, young people have shared thoughtful suggestions for further improvements. Their suggestions - from better mental health support to more affordable activities and improved transport - will help guide the Council's work in the months ahead.

## **Local Work**

Quick reminder that there is a survey on the proposed 20mph speed limits for Upper Bucklebury (Mortons Lane, Briff Lane, Berrys Road), Bucklebury, Paradise Way and Paradise Close closing 28<sup>th</sup> January (whether you are for or against). I have dropped off a reminder leaflet at all the houses (where I could access letter boxes) if they live on mentioned roads. See link above for survey. I am lobbying WBC highways to get Midgham, Stanford Dingley and Woolhampton on the list of villages to be consulted for 2026/27.

Also hope everyone has had the chance to use Carol's Crossing near the old Coach & Horses Pub, whether to use the buses to Reading and Newbury, visit Midgham Marshes or just popping across to see friends at Brimpton Road. Many thanks again to Mrs Carol Pettifer for her persistence in lobbying me and the council to get this important road safety project in place. If anyone has any more ideas please reach out to me.

As always any questions or concerns on Council Services please contact me anytime.

Kind Regards

*Mr Chris Read*

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