

Report to Midgham Parish Council

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

Date: 08-09-2025

Next Executive 25th September

Extraordinary Council 11th September

Full Council 16th October

Local Plan – SP14 NE Thatcham – “Meaningful Community Engagement”

The briefing for Councillors (parish and district) only took place on Thursday 24th July in the Council Chamber at our Market Street Offices in Newbury. I believe the briefing slides have been distributed to all the parish councillors now? (if not please contact me and I will forward).

During the evening, Officers set out the envisaged scope of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the estimated timetable for its delivery, as well as how WBC Planning intend to engage with the public throughout the process. I have written to the planning team leader and planning portfolio holder on when and what is the next step and awaiting an answer.

Green Matters -

The very popular soil conditioner and caddy liners give-away is taking place again.

Caddy liners are available over September from all West Berkshire Council Libraries, Council Office Reception at Market Street Newbury and Tilehurst Parish Council (who have an office open from 9.00am to 3.00pm Monday to Friday). Proof of address required or library card required.

Soil conditioner give away! In partnership with Veolia, West Berkshire Council's environmental partner, we're offering free locally produced soil conditioner for the seventh time at Padworth Integrated Waste Management Facility between 10am - 4pm on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 October.

For the giveaway weekend, no appointment is needed - just bring proof of address to confirm you are a West Berkshire resident and **your own bags or boxes to easily carry and load the soil conditioner into your car** - the soil conditioner will be loose, no direct loading into vehicles for health and safety reasons. Residents can still use the household waste recycling centre as normal but must still book an appointment.

This is a free event, and some queues are likely during peak times. Please arrive after 10:00am to avoid congestion; Padworth staff will restock throughout the day so there's plenty to go around. Please be patient when you arrive as we aim to allow as many people as possible to collect the soil conditioner. Also, let's be fair - we ask residents to take a reasonable amount so everyone can benefit to enjoy this fantastic offer.

Please note there will be vehicle restrictions in place. Vehicles listed as 'prohibited' in the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) user guide will not be allowed to collect the free soil conditioner. No commercial vehicles will be admitted; this is for householders only. Residents must take necessary precautions for carrying the soil conditioner safely to their vehicle. The event organisers accept no liability for any injuries or damage that may be sustained by residents loading their vehicles.

Parish Council Matters –

An invitation to the next District Parish Conference has been issued to all Parish Councils which will take place on Tuesday 21 October 6:30pm – 8:30pm in the Council Chamber, West Berkshire Council, Market Street, RG14 5LD.

For those wishing to attend in person there will be refreshments from 6pm before the conference commences at 6:30pm. The conference will also be accessible via a Zoom link.

Please do register for the event as a Parish Councillor as it covers a range of issues and opportunities for parishes and their residents as well as a chance to ask questions of the Leader of the Council, Cllr Jeff Brooks.

A draft agenda will be circulated shortly.

Bucklebury Common Interest Group

BCIG will be held on Monday 15th September. A number of community engagement events of those interested have been held since the last one in March, but if anyone has any questions please raise with me, Local Access Forum, or Bucklebury Commoners Association.

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

Kind Regards

Chris Read

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