

# Buckinghamshire Council

A year has already passed since the local elections when you as residents of the Ridgeway West Division elected us as your Buckinghamshire Councillors.

As the tragic war continues in Ukraine, Buckinghamshire Council along with key stakeholders, are looking to assist the many refugees who have fled their country to seek shelter in UK.

When the Government asked for the public to volunteer to house these refugees, it was the residents of Buckinghamshire who stepped up to the plate, all 2,500, to be the 2nd highest county in the country.

Please find below the links on the council's website for those who wish to help/ get involved:

## Sources of Support

- We have a dedicated area on our website for anyone who would like to know more about how they can help or get involved. Check out the '[Helping Hand for Ukraine](#)' pages on the Buckinghamshire Council website.

- We also have an online pledge form on our website where people can offer supplies, translations, toys etc. - this can be accessed here: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/helping-hand-for-ukraine/making-a-donation-pledge-support/>

A new [Ukraine Crisis Fund](#) has been set up with our partners Heart of Bucks, which allows people to donate money that will directly help Ukrainian families arriving in Buckinghamshire. This is similar to how we channelled donations to Afghan families who've also arrived here.

The funds have helped us to provide all they need to set up a new life in the county. In the same way, money raised through the Ukraine Crisis Fund will go directly towards helping these people who've fled their homes and arrived here in Bucks.

## Homes for Ukraine Visa Scheme

The scheme we are currently supporting is the '[Homes for Ukraine](#)' visa scheme. This is where Ukrainian families can apply for a visa if they have a sponsor, such as a family or charity wishing to offer safe and secure accommodation for at least six months. In this first phase of the scheme, sponsors need the name of a Ukrainian individual or family to fill in the visa application.

People who would like to become sponsors, but do not have a link to a Ukrainian family can still [register their interest](#) in sponsoring a family. The Council plays no part in matching sponsors with Ukrainian families and that is currently being co-ordinated through charities and other channels.

Once a UK household has made contact with a Ukrainian person or family in need of sponsorship and both parties want to proceed, either can fill in and progress the visa application.

The Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme is separate from the UK Family Scheme which enables Ukrainian applicants to join family members in the UK - further details about this scheme are [on the Government's website](#).



## School parking

The parking restrictions are now in place on Main Road close to St John's School, which will make the road safer for both motorists and for the children.

It has been reported that speeding is an issue which will require addressing. There are plans for a Community Speedwatch campaign and we are looking to the North West Chilterns Community Board to seek funding for some speed indicator devices to be able to research what speeds are being experienced.

If you have any other matters or concerns relating to Buckinghamshire Council such as Roads, Adult Social Care, Children services, Education, Planning, Waste & Recycling and Libraries for example that you need some assistance with, please don't hesitate to contact either:

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Robert Carington  
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# Speen Helping Hospices

Christmas seems a long way past now, but for SHH late November and December were the culmination of our fundraising events for 2021.

It was wonderful to be back in Speen Chapel for the Christmas Market, the perfect venue for an important village day. We had some new stall holders this year; both our regulars and the newbies all did very well. Counting the takings at the door, food sales, second-hand jewellery and scarves, the cake stall, the silent auction, our SHH craft stall and the stall holders table fee we raised £2,786.64. A very good result.

The Christmas Hamper raffle and the carol singing raised £820 and £880 respectively. The carol singers battled their way around the village over three separate evenings singing their hearts out.

Huge thanks and praise for the Sassy Santas for turning out on a grey day for another fun run. They raised £1,040, we are so grateful for their commitment and support to SHH.

These final events brought our **Grand total of money raised during 2021 to £19,326.93.**

We allocated £4,500 to each of the charities, and you can see how the money is spent on our website under fundraising. We do appreciate the support we get from Lacey Green and Loosley Row. Thank you all.

We are so grateful to Ruban and Vicky at Speen Stores, an amazing shop by the way, as they are very happy to sell raffle tickets and publicise events on our behalf.

We started 2022 with our first event the Valentine Dinner raffle for three lucky couples to win a three-course meal with cocktails



and Fizz delivered to their door. The recipients were delighted with the meal. £840 was raised.

Wine Tasting 9th September in the Chapel Hall. Lloyds Wines will run the evening.

## Other news

It may seem very unimportant, but we have finally got online banking with Nat West (no mean feat, it was a Herculean task!) and have set up a contract with SumUp to take card payments at events.

## Diary dates

Spring Lunch 11th May at the Horses Trust. Jane Marchant from Alchemille will be selling plants.

Jazz in the Park on Sunday 12th June at Hampden Cricket Ground with Martin Hart.

Open Gardens 12th July. If you would like to open your garden, please contact me.

Bridge Challenge and Afternoon Tea 19th October in North Dean Village Hall.

Christmas Market 19th November in Speen Chapel Hall.

For further information about the events check out our website [www.shh-shop.org](http://www.shh-shop.org)

Don't forget if you would like to support or sponsor a fundraising event, offer a prize for a raffle or would like to help us in some way, please contact me [grainnesuter@btconnect.com](mailto:grainnesuter@btconnect.com) or 07778803260.

**Grainne Suter**