Annual Parish Meeting Report

1. Community Engagement – WhatsApp Group

The ward-wide WhatsApp group has continued to grow and now has over **500 members**.

- The group provides a valuable platform for residents to:
    - Ask questions
    - Share information
    - Receive timely and accurate updates
- Feedback suggests it is working positively and improving communication across the community.
- Residents are encouraged to help promote the **WhatsApp Group** to further increase participation.

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2. Highways and Transport Updates

Upcoming Roadworks

A number of significant roadworks are scheduled over the coming months. All dates remain subject to change.

A41 (Buckinghamshire):

- 27–29 April: Overnight closure at Woodham (resurfacing)
- 8–10 June: Overnight closure at Canalettos (resurfacing)
- 12–23 June: Overnight closures at Ludgershall & Fleet Marston (resurfacing)

A41 (Oxfordshire – outside parish remit):

- Weekend closures (4am Saturday to 6pm Sunday):
    - 25–26 April
    - 9–10 May
    - 16–17 May

Further details, including diversion routes, will be shared closer to the time.

Highways Contact

A new **Area Inspector** has been appointed:

- **Casey-Jane Sutton (Buckinghamshire Highways)**
- She has already begun supporting the area and will be introducing herself to local parishes.

FixMyStreet Reporting System

The FixMyStreet platform continues to be a key reporting tool and is undergoing improvements to enhance usability and reporting quality.

2026 Year-to-Date Figures:

- 28,018 reports submitted
- Top issues reported:
    - Potholes: 11,344
    - Fly-tipping: 2,114
    - Road surface issues: 2,029
    - Abandoned vehicles: 1,521
    - Parking violations: 672

Improvements include:

- Closure of over **60,000 historic reports**
- Improved map accuracy showing only live (“open”) issues
- Focus on improving quality and clarity of status updates

Highways Programme and Winter Response

- £120 million highways programme delivering:
    - 140 road schemes
    - 11 footway projects
    - 35 structural works

Winter response included:

- 14,000 reports assessed
- 3,500 potholes repaired
- 25 gritting runs completed

Sustainable Travel

- Buckinghamshire ranked as the **top large authority** for Modeshift Stars accreditation
- 85 schools and 1 college are now accredited

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3. Finance and Strategic Overview

- Budget for **2026/27 approved**
- Inflation remains higher than forecast and continues to be monitored
- Medium-term financial plan remains balanced for the next three years
- No significant overspends expected for 2025/26

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4. Economic Development and High Streets

- The **Retail Revival Programme** continues to support local businesses
- High Street Business Convention hosted over 80 attendees
- Local businesses recognised for excellence in customer service

Markets:

- Regular Sunday markets established in Aylesbury and High Wycombe
- Plans underway for:
    - Farmers markets (in partnership with NFU)
    - Themed markets
    - Young Traders initiatives

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5. Major Infrastructure Projects

HS2

- Ongoing disruption continues to impact local areas
- Buckinghamshire Council is actively pursuing funding from HS2 Ltd for road repairs

East West Rail

- Passenger services delayed beyond 2025 due to industrial disputes

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6. Libraries and Community Services

- **Year of Reading 2026** launched:
    - 280+ participants in “Read 6 in 2026”
- Fines amnesty introduced for pre-school children
- Extended hours through Library Flex programme exceeding expectations

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7. Housing and Homelessness

- 1,365 households sought housing support (Dec–Feb)
- Rough sleeping figures increased slightly:
    - 11 (Dec), 12 (Jan), 19 (Feb)

Temporary Accommodation:

- 375 households currently supported
- Reduction in nightly-paid accommodation use

Bucks Home Choice:

- 4,942 applications
- 272 properties allocated (Dec–Feb)

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8. Planning and Infrastructure

- Local Plan:
    - 10,000 responses under review
    - Next stage (Regulation 19) expected July 2026

Developer Contributions:

- £33 million secured through Section 106
- £6 million collected via Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- 245 affordable homes delivered

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9. Environmental Enforcement

- 93 fly-tipping cases investigated
- £61,700 issued in fines
- 10 successful prosecutions

Littering and Vehicle Offences:

- 140 cases pursued with strong tribunal success rates

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10. Community Safety and Support

Community Safety

- Legal action taken against persistent anti-social behaviour, including aggressive begging

Cost of Living Support

- Introduction of a new **Crisis & Resilience Fund**
- Funding reduced by £300,000 compared to previous schemes

Parking

- New 7-year enforcement contract awarded to APCOA from June 2026

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11. Children and Young People

Best Start in Life Plan (2026–2029)

Key priorities include:

- Early SEND support
- Stronger home learning environments

Children's Services

- Local children's homes rated "Good"
- Expansion of specialist and step-down provision

SEND

- Ofsted inspection confirmed meaningful progress
- Improvements in leadership and EHCP quality

Youth and Employment

- "Connect to Work" programme supporting 1,640 residents
- New employment support tools launched

- Youth Summit 2026 engaged 160 young people