

Shaping the future of **Buckskin & South Ham**

Your Community Newsletter - Edition 9, December 2025



**A great read
for everyone**

Keeping you up to date

This Autumn has been all about our Neighbourhood in Focus sessions and Community Co-design - and they are already making a big impact! Together, these two initiatives are laying the groundwork for a process that's collaborative, inclusive, and rooted in local pride. Thank you to everyone who's taken part so far.



What you've told us matters since 2023

Over the past two years, you've shared a great deal of feedback with the team - through surveys, in-person at events, during the summer of listening and on your doorstep. We committed to sharing that feedback with you and have created an updated 'Community Insights 2025' publication.

Community Co-Design Associates (CDAs): Local Voices Leading Change

Our CDA programme is in full swing, and it's already proving to be a cornerstone of the opportunities for shaping the future of the neighbourhoods. These local residents are working hand-in-hand with the project team, bringing lived experience, local knowledge, and fresh ideas to the table. By co-designing solutions, they're helping ensure that any proposed future change reflects what really matters to the community. You can read more about the CDA programme in the Spotlight section on page 5.

Your Neighbourhood in Focus Workshops: Listening and Learning

Alongside the CDA programme, our "Your Neighbourhood in Focus" workshops helped us dive deeper into what makes each area unique. These sessions were all about listening – gathering insights, stories, and priorities from residents to shape future plans. Whether it's about green spaces, housing, or community hubs, your input into these events is helping us build a shared vision for the future.

Next steps

We're now shaping the next steps. In early 2026, we'll be sharing updates with the community on our first priority areas and projects. We know people are keen for more certainty, and while we can't provide that for everyone just yet – because we're still in the early stages – we'll aim to give clarity wherever we can.

Sign up on our website to receive regular news updates:
shapingthefuture.commonplace.is/

This insight has helped shape our autumn workshops to gather more detailed information on each area and to understand your hopes and aspirations for the future.

Some of the key ways people got involved



*Please note that a single individual may have completed multiple different surveys and attended multiple events.

Summary of Key Community Feedback Themes

Throughout the engagement process, several consistent themes have emerged:



Green Spaces: Residents particularly value local greenery, seeing it as central to the area's identity. There's strong support for protecting and improving these spaces.



Homes: While many take pride in their homes, some homes – particularly SNG properties – are seen as needing maintenance or upgrades.



Getting Around: Walking routes are appreciated but could benefit from better upkeep and lighting. Car use is high, with concerns about confusing road layouts, parking issues, and traffic hotspots.



Improvements: Views on change are mixed. While small-scale improvements (e.g. to open spaces or facilities) are welcomed, larger redevelopment ideas – especially new housing – are met with more concern, particularly from private homeowners.



Shops & Local Centres: In South Ham, there's a limited appetite for new retail as the area is well served by local supermarkets. In Buckskin, residents want more variety and fewer takeaways.



Community Spaces: Socialising often happens in homes, but there's interest in a community hub or pub. The King's Road Café is seen as a positive addition. The loss of Westside Community Centre is still felt, while Ridgeway remains a valued asset.



Local Services: Access to healthcare is a concern, especially with potential population growth. Residents want better local provision, particularly for vulnerable groups.



Local Character: There's a strong desire to protect and enhance the unique identity of neighbourhood spaces, with future plans expected to reflect this.

If you're interested in finding out more, the full publication is available on our website. Scan the QR code or visit: shapingthefuture.commonplace.is/



In the spotlight

Local Voices at the Heart of Change: The Community Co-Design Associates

Plans for Buckskin and South Ham are moving forward – and the people shaping it are the ones who live here: you.

The Community Co-Design Associates (CDA) programme, launched by Sovereign Hill Partnership (SHP), is putting local voices at the heart of shaping the future. It's a hands-on opportunity for residents to work side-by-side with regeneration and design professionals to imagine, test, and shape ideas and a future vision for their community.

Each associate is a local resident. They're being supported with expert training in regeneration, planning, and design. Together, they're building the skills and confidence to help lead conversations about what change could look like – and how it can reflect the values and character of the community. It's about designing ideas with people, not for them.

What Have We Been Up To?

The CDA programme is packed with interactive workshops that spark ideas, build knowledge, and get everyone thinking big. So far, the group has explored:

- Introduction to Co-Design – What it is, why it matters, and how it empowers communities.
- Introduction to Regeneration and Planning – Understanding how places evolve and the role of planning in shaping change.
- Understanding Your Neighbourhood – Mapping what matters most locally and identifying opportunities for improvement.
- Homes and Buildings – Exploring what makes a home feel right and how buildings can support community life.
- Streets, Connection and Movement – Rethinking how we move around and connect with each other.
- Green Spaces and Green Routes – Celebrating nature and exploring how to protect and enhance it.
- Stitching It All Together – Bringing the big ideas into one shared vision for the future.

What's Next?

The CDA programme is part of SHP's wider commitment to building stronger, more inclusive, and more resilient communities. With local people leading the way, we're not only shaping ideas – we're building a shared sense of community.

The team would like to thank the CDAs for their valued input and time in shaping the future of the neighbourhoods.

What we've been doing in your neighbourhood

South Ham community clean-up

Our amazing Localities team and colleagues at SNG were out in force on 15 October, volunteering alongside local partners to help spruce up the neighbourhood.



Together, they rolled up their sleeves to clear rubbish around the King's Road and Pinkerton Road area, got their paint brushes out and installed some autumn hanging baskets – making it cleaner, greener, and more welcoming for everyone.

A huge thank you to members of the community who popped out to say hello and offer an encouraging word. We had some lovely feedback:

"It's good to see the parade having a much-needed freshen up today. It lifts the spirit to see community projects happening."

"I met Denika and the team from Mencap painting and decorating outside of the King's Road shops today.

They have done an amazing job; the place looks brand new and really welcoming. I love the plants!

Thank you so much for helping to make our community look and feel great."



Skills 4 Work | Basingstoke

FREE employment and skills programme

Unemployed and living in Basingstoke?

- Receive 1-2-1 support and coaching
- Develop your job-search, CV and interview skills
- Access IT equipment and digital skills support
- Complete online and face-to-face training and qualifications
- Get grants to help fund training and work opportunities
- Support with self-employment and business start-up



Open to all SNG and non-SNG customers.
For more details, use the QR code to visit our website.

0300 5000 926

skills4work@sng.org.uk



**Funded by
UK Government**



What's next

Become a Champion for Your Community!

We know how important it is to hear directly from local people – and now, residents from Buckskin and South Ham are being invited to help lead the way.

A community engagement organisation, Newman Francis, will shape this initiative alongside the community and will act as an independent team of advisors with extensive expertise and experience in working with local residents.

They'll work alongside you to shape a resident-led advisory panel to work with Sovereign Housing Partnership (SHP) and will be recruiting people who want to champion the voice of their community. Whether you're a

homeowner, SNG customer, or private renter, your perspective matters – and we'd love to hear from you.

The team is looking for a mix of experiences, ages and backgrounds to make sure the panel truly reflects the neighbourhood. If you're passionate about shaping the future of your area and making sure local voices are heard, this could be the role for you. Look out for more information in early 2026.

Interested?

Read more about the work of Newman Francis and a few of their successful case studies:

newmanfrancis.org/residents/

Drop us an email at yourcommunity@sovereign.org.uk to register your interest and find out more.

Local Plan - What's the latest?

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is currently developing a new Local Plan. The Local Plan is a framework that will guide future development and planning decisions in the borough until 2042. It includes a spatial strategy setting out what type of development will take place and where, and gives details of proposed sites for new homes and employment space.

On 11th November, councillors at the Cabinet meeting approved an updated draft spatial strategy to proceed to Regulation 18 consultation. The draft strategy includes a policy to guide neighbourhood renewal in the area. The policy requires a masterplan to be prepared with full involvement and consultation with the local community.



The Regulation 18 Public consultation is now underway and will end on 23 January 2026. Please visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/dlp-have-your-say to find out more and give your views.

Following this consultation there will be a further consultation, known as Regulation 19, before submission of the Local Plan for public examination.

Want to stay informed?

You can read more about what's happening on the Council's website: www.basingstoke.gov.uk/about-lpu



New hub to unlock opportunities for young job seekers



Basingstoke and Deane

Young people can now benefit from help and support to get back into employment and training, following the launch of a new hub in Basingstoke.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Inclusion Education and the Department for Work and Pensions are working together to launch Basingstoke Youth Hub – a new service which will provide employment and personalised support for young job seekers across Basingstoke and Deane.

The hub has been uniquely designed to help young people take the next step in their career. Alongside support on CV writing, interview preparation and job searching, the new service will provide dedicated support for mental health and

neurodivergent needs, to build essential skills and boost confidence for all.

Hosted by Inclusion Education in Belvedere House, Basing View and funded by the Department for Work and Pensions and the borough council, it will initially focus on supporting young people currently registered with Jobcentre Plus and actively seeking employment, with the potential to help more young people in the future.

Businesses that are recruiting new staff and would like to get involved and support the hub with work experience or volunteering opportunities, can get in touch by **emailing partnerships@basingstoke.gov.uk**



Your community notice board

Check out the activities happening locally this autumn. Add the dates to your diary and pop along.

Kings Café

Kings Road, South Ham.

Tuesday to Friday, 9am to 2pm
Great choice of food available from a full breakfast to homemade cakes.

South Ham Seniors:

Mondays 10am to 11.30am

A new social club with a different weekly activity including quizzes, craft, board games and guest speakers. £2 entry – hot drink and biscuits included.



Westside Community Pantry

Running from Kings Café

Tuesday 11am to 1pm

Wednesday 11am to 1pm

The Pantry is a membership scheme aimed at helping people make their money go further. Members will be able to get 12 food items for £5.



Basingstoke Church

St Peter's (South Ham), Pinkerton Road, RG22 6QP.

After School Café:

Wednesdays (term time) 2.15pm to 4.45pm

After-school play café for primary-aged kids with their families. It's all free, including drinks and snacks.

See you at The Four: 4pm Sundays.

It's church but not as you know it! An hour of worship, prayer, and community, light snacks and drinks.

Buckskin Foodbank



Buckskin Evangelical Church, Chiltern Way, RG22 5BB.

Friday 10.30am to 12.30pm.

As well as food parcel collections, you can also receive support from Citizens Advice every week, and there's an Andover Mind wellbeing drop-in every fortnight.

Ridgeway Community Centre



Blackdown Close,
Buckskin, RG22 5BW.

Eco-food Market Pantry:

Wednesday and Friday
10am to 1pm

12 food items for £5, bring your own containers and boxes.

0-5 years activities (see our Facebook page for information).

Youth Club:

Tuesday, 4.45pm to 6.15pm
£2.00 per child.

Parent Toddler Group:

Tuesday 10am to 12pm
£1.50 per child,
(includes refreshment).

Ridgeway Ravers:

Wednesday 10am to 12 noon
Over 55's club, new members welcome.

Lunch Club:

Thursday 12 noon to 12.30pm
All ages, £6 for dinner and pudding, tea/coffee.
To book call 01256 470665

Cosy Corner Café:

Monday to Thursday 9am to 2pm.
Friday 9am to 1pm (Great choice of food available from a full breakfast to baked potatoes).

Seniors Well-being Walks:

Tuesday, 9.15am (free 45 minute gentle walk around the local area).

Table Tennis:

Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month. 1.30pm to 3.30pm (lively community sessions - all abilities welcome and equipment supplied. £5 per session incl. refreshments).

Buckskin Evangelical Church



Chiltern Way, RG22 5BB.

Refresh Café:

Tuesday (school term-time only),
10am to 12pm. Enjoy friendly conversation, refreshments, and free Wi-Fi.

Stepping Stones:

Wednesday, 10am to 11:30am.
A parent and toddler group. Lots of toys to play with, socialising for both baby and mum as well as a hot drink and snack.

Allstarz:

Wednesday, 5.30pm to 6.30pm.
A free club for children to come to, they get a snack, do crafts and games and have a story.

Buckskin Food Pantry:

Thursday 11am to 12.30pm. (doors open at 10am)
A place where people can come and collect out-of-date food and have a cuppa and a sweet treat.

Alpha Course:

Thursday, 9:45 to 10:45. Course where you can explore Christianity and its answers to some of life's questions.

Coffee Morning:

Thursday, 10.30am to 12:00 noon.
A social space to enjoy a coffee and some treats.

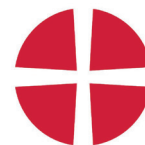
Stitch and Craft:

Thursday, 8am to 10am.
This is a social group where everyone brings along the craft they love and spends time doing it together.

Lunch Plus:

Every other Friday, 11am to 1.30pm.
It begins with coffee and a biscuit, followed by lunch and pudding. (Voluntary donation of £3).

St Andrew's Methodist Church



Western Way, South Ham, RG22 6ER

Mug and Biscuit:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
10am to 1.30pm - hot food served until 1pm.

Mums and Toddlers:

Thursday 10am to 11am, term-time.

Boys' Brigade:

Friday evenings
5 to 8 yrs 6.30pm to 7.45pm.
9 years to older 7.45pm to 10pm.
Contact info, email: theresa.strachan@googlemail.com
number: 01256 329616.

Knitting Group:

Wednesday 1pm to 3pm, term-time,
includes shared projects and your own projects, a chat and a cuppa.

Buckskin Evangelical Church



Chiltern Way, RG22 5BB.

Christmas activities:

Community Carol service, 14th December, 4.30pm to 5.30pm (run by the children from Chiltern Primary School), followed by Carols by Fairylight from 6.30pm to 8pm.

Live nativity: Jesus the light of the world. Sunday 21 December, 10am to 1pm. A fun filled morning where there will be a chance to complete Christmas escape rooms, crafts, refreshments, a Christingle and live animals.

Christmas Day Service:

25 December, 10.30am to 11.30am

inspero *Passion for People*

Kempshott Village Hall, Pack Lane,
Basingstoke, RG22 5HN.

Inspero Food Bank, Community Shop and Fridge:

Tuesdays 9.30am to 12.30pm

It provides a range of food, hygiene items, cleaning products and pet food. (Open 3 days per week Monday, Tuesday, and Fridays for emergency food parcels upon referral).

Cooking & Healthy Eating classes

Would your child like to learn how to cook and have fun learning? Inspero offers a Children's Bursary Scheme, which entitles one child per family to receive 6 free cooking classes with dinner and dessert, and an opportunity to achieve prizes and certificates. Note scheme subject to family circumstances.

Santa's Grotto with games and treats:

Tuesday 23rd Dec
10am to 1pm
£1 per child - they can see Santa and receive a present.
We will have games and food treats as well.



For further info on any of the above:

Phone: 07950 686614

Email: catherine@inspero.org.uk

Website: www.inspero.org.uk



**Basingstoke
and Deane**

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Community Safety Patrol Officers (CSPOs)

As part of the council's Safer Communities Team, the Community Safety Patrol Officers (CSPOs) aim to improve the wellbeing of local residents by helping to create a feeling of safety across the borough and the team can often be seen on patrol in Buckskin and South Ham.

Focusing on antisocial behaviour and environmental crime, the team works closely with local communities, the police, and other agencies to carry out high visibility patrols, providing reassurance and deterring and addressing antisocial behaviour by using Hampshire Constabulary accredited powers and antisocial behaviour legislation.

For more information visit
[www.basingstoke.gov.uk/
CSPO-team](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/CSPO-team)
[email cspo@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cspo@basingstoke.gov.uk)
or call 01256 844844
and ask for the CSPOs.

To report antisocial behaviour,
call 101 or report online at
www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/
report in an emergency or to
report a crime, call 999.

CGHB Surgeries - News from the Patients Participation Group (PPG)

For details of
what's on and
to get a copy
of the latest
newsletter
visit:

www.cghppg.weebly.com/news
or Email:
cghb.surgeryppg@btinternet.com



Basingstoke Carnival Dance Club

Basingstoke Carnival Hall,
Council Road, RG21 3DH

Tuesdays 2-4pm (£5 non-members
and £4 for members, which includes
tea and biscuits)

A social group - to learn: Ballroom,
Latin, and Sequence Dance.

For further details Email:
banterharris1968@gmail.com
Phone: 07890 028669

**We want to hear from other local
groups about their forthcoming
events, what services they provide,
when and where they meet -
anything which may be of interest
to others.**

**Use this bi-monthly newsletter to
publicise your events and provide
details of local support that's
available. We'd also love to hear your
thoughts on this edition and what
you'd like to see included in the
future. Email: [yourcommunity@
sovereign.org.uk](mailto:yourcommunity@sovereign.org.uk)**

Find out more

Do you know someone else who would like to receive this
community newsletter?

We're using a doorstep distribution company to deliver these
newsletters to your home, but you can also view and sign up to receive
regular news updates electronically, via our website. You'll also find lots
of other information to keep you up to date with what's happening.

Website: shapingthefuture.commonplace.is

Email: yourcommunity@sovereign.org.uk

Phone: 0300 5000 926*

*Calls from UK landlines are charged at local rates. Charges from mobile telephones
vary. The charge for your call will depend on your mobile phone provider and the
contract that you have with them.

**Please contact us if you'd like a copy of this information in another
language or format. Or visit our highly accessible website:**

Polish

Prosimy o kontakt, jeśli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać kopię tych informacji w
innym języku lub formacie. Są one również dostępne na naszej stronie
internetowej.

Portuguese

Entre em contacto conosco se desejar uma cópia destas informações noutro
idioma ou formato. Ou visite o nosso website, totalmente acessível.

Nepali

कृपया यदि तपाईं यो जानकारीको प्रतिलिपि अन्य भाषा वा ढाँचामा चाहनुहुन्छ भने हामीलाई सम्पर्क गर्नुहोस् । वा
हाम्रो पूर्ण रूपमा पहुँच योग्य वेबसाइटमा जानुहोस्।

Hindi

अगर आप इस जानकारी की कॉपी किसी और भाषा या फॉर्मेट में चाहते हैं तो कृपया हमसे संपर्क करें। या हमारी
पूरी तरह से ऐक्सेसिबिल वेबसाइट पर जाएँ।

Urdu

اگر آپ کسی دوسری زبان یا فارمیٹ میں اس معلومات کی کاپی چاہتے ہیں تو براہ کرم ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔ یا ہماری
مکمل طور پر قابل رسائی ویب سائٹ پر جائیں۔

Arabic

يُرجى الاتصال بنا إذا كنتم ترغبون في الحصول على نسخة من هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى أو في تنسيق آخر، أو يمكنكم
زيارة موقعنا الإلكتروني بكل سهولة ويسر.

Romanian

Vă rugăm să ne contactați dacă doriți o copie a acestor informații într-o altă
limbă sau într-un alt format. Sau vizitați website-ul nostru complet accesibil.

