

Shaping the future of Buckskin & South Ham

Your Community Newsletter - Edition 6, February 2025

Setting our shared ambitions for the future

Following discussions over the summer at our community events and with both the Young Design Academy and Community Design Associates, together with our research, we have identified the following overall ambitions:



Renewed homes and streets where residents feel safe

Buckskin and South Ham should be safe and welcoming neighbourhoods where all ages feel comfortable in their homes and streets.



A prosperous, strong line

A community where people have training opportunities, and there's a focus on providing the services people need.



A sustainable, healthy and resilient neighbourhood

Buckskin and South Ham should be sustainable neighbourhoods that are resilient in a changing climate, supporting the health and well-being of all residents.

Intro

Go to these boards to hear some of our ideas!

Board 1

Board 2

Board 3

Board 4

A great read for everyone

Keeping you up to date

What a busy and exciting autumn and winter we've had! A big thank you to everyone who braved the cold weather and storms to visit the exhibitions. We discussed our four shared ambitions and initial ideas for meaningful change in your area. With over 250 survey responses, we're now reviewing your feedback to shape our next spring engagement in March, where we'll show you how this work is shaping a shared vision for Buckskin and South Ham. Read more about our shared journey on pages 4-5, and what we've achieved together.

Since Autumn 2023 we've been working with you and your neighbours to ensure we develop a plan that works for everyone. Take a look at the timeline below to see how you've been part of this journey and the exciting steps ahead!

Autumn 2023 to Winter 2024

- Public exhibitions
- Community meetings with local groups
- Workshops on specific themes
- Created a group of local people to work on developing a plan (Community Co-design Associates)
- Ran a local Young Design Academy programme
- Recruited professional design team
- Carried out technical research of the area

Happening now

- Reviewing your feedback and technical research
- Continuing community engagements including meetings, workshops and public exhibitions
- Refining our shared ideas and proposals for change

Autumn /Winter 2025

- Share our next stage of proposals and community events
- Explain support available for all affected residents and businesses
- Outline likely timescales

2026 & onwards

Any major changes would take several years to start and are likely to take 20 to 30 years to complete across the whole area. Major regeneration projects need multiple approvals, such as planning and funding. There will be many opportunities for you to share your views. If the implementation of proposals affects you – through demolition, relocating your business, or moving home – we would work closely with you to provide support.

What's next

Fresh plans for the Beacon

We're converting the former pub into a Community Hub for the residents of South Ham, with the aim of supporting Westside Community Association. The space offers immense potential to serve as a centre for social and educational activities for your community and will provide a haven for individuals of all ages to learn, grow, and meet. We're at the early stages, working alongside Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and the community association, to shape how to make the most of the space and open new opportunities.



Employability and household finance drop-in sessions

Looking to take the next steps towards work, training or managing your household finances better?

Whether you are looking for your first job, thinking of returning to work after a break, looking to create a pathway towards training, or need some support with your household finances - come along and chat with the team, we're here to help you kickstart 2025. This opportunity is open to everyone living in Buckskin or South Ham.

Where: Ridgeway Community Centre, Buckskin RG22 5BN

When: Wednesday, 26 February – 10am to 1pm
Thursday, 6 March – 5pm to 8pm.



Arts trail update

Have you spotted more pieces of art appearing on the shutters around the neighbourhood? The Russell Howard Pavillion's latest creation is by local artist Gillian Smith. 'The stables' are inspired by the former farm's history. Artist Samantha Emmons has also started the design on the Kings Cafe shutters to create a bright and inviting feel to the area when the premises are closed.

Developing a plan with you

Autumn 2023 & Summer 2024

Your experience of the area today

You told us that homes are costly and outdated, and there are issues of safety in the area.

You think public transport is unreliable, expensive and that there is a lack of services in the area.

You told us that green spaces feel unsafe and that there are few spaces for play or sports.

We heard that pride in the area is starting to dim, particularly for young people.

Our shared ambitions to improve the area

Ambition 1:
Renewed homes and streets where people feel safe

Ambition 2:
A prosperous community with strong links to a growing economy

Ambition 3:
A healthy, sustainable and resilient neighbourhood

Ambition 4:
A proud and empowered community



Autumn / Winter 2024

Your ideas to make improvements a reality

- More energy efficient housing
- More variety in size of housing for different types of households
- More housing of different tenures

- Introduce more shops, cafes and other services
- Design greener centres
- Improve opportunities for work, skills development and play

- Create safer green spaces
- Prioritise the distance between green spaces and your home
- Improve accessibility and connection to green spaces

- Create more spaces to meet people
- Create spaces that support health and well-being
- Provide better access to play

To read the Autumn 2023 and Summer 2024 reports, visit:
<https://shapingthefuture.commonplace.is>

You said, we're doing...



Improving skills and learning through gardening

Basingstoke Mencap received an SNG Thriving Communities grant of £4,375 for their 'gardening in the community' project. They've been busy supporting 25 SNG customers in Buckskin and South Ham, who needed a helping hand: supporting them in clearing their gardens and bringing them back into better use.

The programme employs gardening assistants with learning disabilities and supports them on their employment journey. Due to the programme's success, we're looking at ways to continue this.

Amplifying community voices: shaping the future together

The team from Howling Bear Creative, a video production agency, has been working closely



with the local communities of Buckskin and South Ham to create digital content reflecting their hopes for the future. By mentoring young people and interviewing residents, they've produced films that share personal stories and aspirations for the area.

The project focused on amplifying young voices to understand what these communities need to support future generations. It explored access to skills development, education, and career opportunities, raising important questions about whether current pathways meet the needs of young people and future growth.

We're excited to be able to share these short films with you soon.

From garages to workspaces: New business opportunities unveiled

We're thrilled to offer an exciting opportunity for small businesses to rent affordable workspace. By transforming unused garages into adaptable business units, we're introducing an innovative way to breathe new life into underutilised spaces. This pilot project supports local entrepreneurs while making smarter use of existing resources, creating vibrant hubs for business and community growth.

Are you a sole trader, small business, or local entrepreneur looking for affordable, flexible workspace? Visit our website to learn more and register your interest today!

shapingthefuture.commonplace.is/ or scan the QR code with your smartphone.



In the spotlight

Creating employment and skills opportunities for local people

The specialist team from Augarde and Partners (A&P) has been looking at future opportunities for leisure, community, and commercial facilities in the neighbourhoods.

To help with this, the team has recruited a local resident. She has been busy researching the local and wider Basingstoke community to understand people's hopes and aspirations for the future. It's been a great way to dig deeper and create new career opportunities for local people.



Issy, A&P's researcher said: "I was struggling to find work that fitted around my family, when this role came up it sounded perfect for me, I haven't done anything like this before, but I felt fully supported from day one.

"I am really enjoying working with A&P, especially in my neighbourhood, I feel a lot of pride being part of the future local improvements, and it has also given me an insight into a new career which I plan to follow."

The team gathered all this insight from the researchers to create a film focused on the community past and present, alongside local film producer Howling Bear. The theme is 'a place of opportunity for all' and tells the story of the future you would like to see. Members of the community - of all ages - got involved.



Your community notice board

As Spring fast approaches and we're starting to think about the warmer weather, look out for activities happening locally. Add the dates to your diary and pop along.

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.

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).



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

Inspero Food Bank, Community Shop and Fridge:
Tuesdays 9.30am to 12.30pm

(Note: open 3 days per week Monday, Tuesday, and Fridays for emergency food parcels upon referral).

It provides a range of food, hygiene items, cleaning products and pet food.

A small donation is requested.

Love2Cook:

children's cooking classes. Limited free bursary spaces are available. During the class the children cook a delicious and nutritious two-course meal under the guidance of a chef and experienced volunteers.
www.inspero.org.uk/love2cook/

Contact Inspero for further information:

Phone: 07950 686614

Email: catherine@inspero.org.uk

Lift-off: beginners' strength training

Want to get more active? This fully funded six-week course will help you to build strength and confidence.

Monday 10am to 11am (Buckskin Evangelical Church) – plus the opportunity for refreshments and chat after the class. To register your interest email: SportandWellbeing@basingstoke.gov.uk

For more information on local well-being initiatives visit: www.basingstoke.gov.uk/current-health-initiatives

Basingstoke Community Pantry



Paddock Road,
South Ham, RG22 6QD.

The pantry is currently running from Kings Cafe on Kings Road:

Tuesday 10am to 1pm

Wednesday 10am 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.

Thornycroft Bowls Club

Clubhouse in Russell Howard Park,
South Ham, RG22 6PS.

The club offers a warm and friendly welcome. Its aim is to promote bowls as an aid to physical and mental well-being.

Tuesdays from 6pm to dusk, with time for socialising afterwards. The season is from April to September. Visit www.thornycroftbowlsclub.co.uk for further information or phone Dave Wright on 01256 461820.

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.

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

Boys' Brigade:

Friday 6.30pm onwards, age 5 to 18

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 Mother 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 9am to 12.30pm. A place where people can come and collect out-of-date food and have a cuppa and a sweet treat.

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:

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



Basingstoke
and Deane

Are you a health and social care professional or volunteer working with adults?

Whether you're a GP, social worker/ prescriber or volunteer befriender, you are invited to join Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for a free workshop on how to help people become more physically active.

Date: Friday 14 February 2025

Time: 10am to 12pm

Venue: Basingstoke Aquadrome, Worting Road, Basingstoke, RG22 6PG

Cost: Free (20 spaces available)

You'll learn:

- National guidelines and positive tips
- Importance and benefits of being active
- How to have positive conversations about being more active
- Key signposting resources

For more information email: sportandwellbeing@basingstoke.gov.uk

To book: forms.office.com/e/Sh6tjP2tGi

Kings Café



Kings Road, South Ham:

Tuesday to Thursday, 9am to 3pm
Great choice of food available from a full breakfast to homemade cakes.



**Basingstoke
and Deane**

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

As part of the council's Safer Communities Team, 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 csपो@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.

Getting help with domestic abuse

Domestic abuse can affect men and women of any age, from any culture or religion, in a heterosexual or same-sex relationship, in a family relationship (or not in a relationship at all), living with or apart from their abuser.

The abuse could be physical, psychological, sexual, financial or emotional, or could be in the form of 'honour' based violence, including forced marriage, modern-day slavery or female genital mutilation (FGM).

Knowing where to reach out for help is an important first step. You can find useful advice and support information here:

[www.basingstoke.gov.uk/
domestic-abuse](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/domestic-abuse)

[www.sovereign.org.uk/advice-and-
guides/concerns/domestic-abuse](http://www.sovereign.org.uk/advice-and-guides/concerns/domestic-abuse)

**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.

Garden support services

During recent walkabouts in your area, we've noticed some gardens may need a little extra help. Did you know that some local charities can support you?

Bike Shed can help you access garden tools without the cost of buying them. Visit: www.basingstokeshed.org.uk
email: basingstokeshedcharity@outlook.com or call 07434 678104.

Basingstoke Furniture Project

To avoid items being placed in your garden, recycle them if they can be re-used. Visit [www.n-c-r-c.org/community-
furniture-project-basingstoke/
cfp-basingstoke-contact-us/](http://www.n-c-r-c.org/community-furniture-project-basingstoke/cfp-basingstoke-contact-us/)

email enquiries@cfpbasingstoke.org
or call 01256 320700.

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

Email: cghb.surgeryppg@btinternet.com



Let's Glow returns to brighten up Basingstoke town centre



Let's Glow is back to illuminate Basingstoke town centre with a free light trail from Thursday 20 to Saturday 22 February. Visitors will find magical illuminations, immersive light installations and atmospheric projections across the Top of the Town and War Memorial Park between 6pm and 9pm.

More information will be shared through the Love Basingstoke social media channels and is available on the website at www.LoveBasingstoke.co.uk.

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

What's coming up and how to get involved



Connect More digital skills programme

Join our FREE digital drop in session

Please bring your own device and we'll show you how to:



Use your phone,
tablet or laptop



Shop
online



Chat and
message online



And much
more

When?

Friday 14th February, Friday 14th March
Friday 11th April, Friday 9th May
10am – 12pm

Where?

Ridgeway Community Centre
Blackdown Close
Basingstoke
RG22 5BW



Join us at our fun spring events and see how your ideas are helping to shape the future of Buckskin and South Ham.

There will be information on the project, plus games and workshops - as well as some fun freebies.

You will also have the opportunity to win prizes.

- ✓ Saturday 22 March:
St Peter's Church,
Pinkerton Road,
South Ham - 11am to 3pm
- ✓ Saturday 29 March:
Buckskin Evangelical Church,
Chiltern Way, Buckskin
- 11am to 3pm

These events are for everyone living in Buckskin and South Ham.

We will keep you up to date on our website so please make sure you sign up for updates.

Sign-up!

To make sure you are the first to hear about upcoming activities and ways to get involved, please sign up for news updates on our dedicated website: <https://shapingthefuture.commonplace.is/>

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

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

Polish

Prosimy o kontakt, jeśli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać kopię tych informacji w innym języku lub formie. 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 एक्सेसिबिल 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.

