

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

Your Community Newsletter - Edition 8, October 2025



**A great read
for everyone**



**Sovereign
Network
Group**



**Sovereign Hill
Partnership**

Keeping you up to date

We received a great response to our 'summer of engagement', where we listened to feedback from residents and re-shared information to raise awareness about potential changes in Buckskin and South Ham, and how our work together is shaping a shared vision. Our aim is to keep listening, keep learning, and make sure everyone's voice is heard.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the drop-in events, spoke to the team on your doorstep, and completed the survey. **This summer, we have had 1,700+ conversations with residents.**

370

people at
four
events

1300

during
door
knocking

36

home visits
where we
spoke to 70
residents

212

new
surveys
were
completed

What You've Told Us Matters

We know how much pride many of you take in your homes and the communities around you. You've shared that keeping homes well-maintained and ensuring public spaces are clean and free from litter are important to you – and we want you to know we've heard you.

What stood out



Layout and spaces for parking affect neighbourhood relations.



Green spaces are important to many of you, and you would like to make sure that they feel safe and welcoming with better lighting and play opportunities for all ages.



We also heard concerns about the loss of key services like Westside Community Centre and the Library.

If you're interested in finding out more, details will be available soon on our website.

Please get in touch if you have any unanswered questions - our door is always open. Email: yourcommunity@sovereign.org.uk



What's next

Help Shape the Future of Your Neighbourhood

This autumn is all about co-design – following on from the feedback we have heard from different members of the community, we now want to work with residents to explore what the different neighbourhoods across South Ham and Buckskin might need in the future, what improvements people would like to see, and also what might not be appropriate.

Your ideas and experiences are important and will guide what could be created, influencing ideas about new homes, facilities, and public spaces - making sure they truly support and meet local needs.

By working together, and exploring possible options, we'll better understand what matters most to your communities, build the homes we need, and create places that help people live well now and for years to come. This will help to guide our plans, with more details to be shared in early 2026.

If you're interested in getting more involved and working directly with Sovereign Hill Partnership (SHP) and our design team to explore ideas for the future, you can apply to join the Community Co-design Associates programme or Neighbourhood in Focus sessions (see pages 4 & 5 for details)

It's really important we hear your voice, and that's why we're also setting up a resident-led group to act as an advisory panel to SHP. This group will be made up from Buckskin and South Ham residents, with a mix of experiences, ages and backgrounds – from homeowners, SNG customers and private renters. Look out for more information and register your interest by emailing yourcommunity@sovereign.org.uk

Help Shape What's Next

The Community Co-Design Associates Programme

Regeneration isn't just about building new homes – it's about creating spaces that work for everyone who lives and works there. That's why local residents are helping to shape the plans from the very beginning.

Community Co-design Associates (CDAs) are at the heart of this process - working alongside us to make sure proposed new homes, green spaces, and community facilities reflect what local people want and need.

Building on the previous Community Design Associates (CDA) programme, we are excited to announce a new CDA series this autumn. Over the course of 6 to 7 workshops in October and November, participants will explore

key themes, all informed by updated insights and feedback gathered during the spring and summer 2025 engagement period.

The CDA programme is open to all members of the community, whether you are a homeowner, private renter, or SNG customer – all are welcome. You will receive training and be compensated for your time.

Through these sessions, working with our design team, the group will:

- Reflect on project ambitions.
- Build on what we know and have heard so far and work with us on developing emerging design ideas.
- Look at key themes such as green and open spaces, local centres and services, and housing quality.

This next phase of the CDA programme will ensure that local voices continue to shape and strengthen the vision for your community.

What have the CDAs been involved in so far?

- Design workshops and sessions – sharing their views and helping shape early ideas.
- Public spaces – influencing what matters most for parks, play areas, and community hubs.

- Pop-up events and exhibitions – supporting ways for neighbours to get involved.

Join the team - It's a great opportunity to have your voice heard, meet others, and make a real difference to the future of your neighbourhood. You will receive training on how to contribute to discussions and working sessions and will be compensated for your involvement.

Want to get involved?

We'd love to hear from you. To find out more about what's involved visit: www.shapingthefuture.commonplace.is, Scan the QR code or email us.



Neighbourhood In Focus Sessions

This October, we're launching a series of workshops designed to put your neighbourhood centre stage. These sessions will give residents the chance to dig deeper into the feedback already shared at recent exhibitions and explore the challenges and opportunities shaping the area's future. These workshops will be round-table, interactive sessions.

Through these 'In Focus' workshops, we hope to:

- Provide space for open and detailed discussion about community feedback.



- Explore how resident input can shape and refine the project ambitions.
- Offer a "taster session" for those curious about how issues and opportunities can be addressed through design, without the commitment of joining the full CDA series.

Sessions will take place in Buckskin and South Ham, making it easy for people to get involved close to home. Please note, the content will be the same for each workshop, so you only need to attend one.

Ridgeway Centre: 7 October,
Saint Andrews Church: 9 October,
Both days 6 to 8pm.

Our aim is to come back to you in the new year with follow-up sessions so you can see how we have progressed on ideas.

To sign up for the workshop, go to: www.shapingthefuture.commonplace.is



What we've been doing in your neighbourhood



Local Loops - Step into the Story of Your Community, with New 6K Route for Everyone

A new 6k community route is coming soon. This has been created to help people get active, connect with others, and explore the local area in a fun and meaningful way. Whether you walk, run or cycle, this route is all about moving for your wellbeing - at your own pace.

What makes it special? Along the way, you'll spot artworks and signs inspired by local history - from memorable landmarks to the people and events that shaped the neighbourhood. Designs for proposed lamppost flags along the route were inspired by local young people, who used their creativity to shape a trail that tells the story of the community.

We know that there is an interesting history in Buckskin and South Ham, which is very important to you, and this rich heritage is something that we think should be celebrated. Our research found information about 'race around the houses', a regular running trail around South Ham that took place in the 1960's. Therefore, Local Loops is more than just a route - it's a celebration of community spirit, past and present. And it's open to everyone.

So, whether you're looking to get fitter, explore with the kids, or just enjoy a mindful walk, this is your chance to step outside and experience your area in a whole new way.

Stories from Buckskin and South Ham

In a celebration of Buckskin & South Ham's proud heritage, we're pleased to share that some residents' stories have been collected in a special book.

Created in collaboration with Hampshire Cultural Trust, the book covers sixty years of memories of Basingstoke, evoking an inspiring and story-filled past.

The book is a result of our early conversations with local residents in 2023 that highlighted a strong community with immense pride in the shared history. The collection of stories and memories came through conversations, reminiscence, creative workshops, and visits to local sites, including Milestones Museum. Developed as part of the reminiscence project, Memory Lounge, at the museum, everyday objects from the 1960's as well as participants' own photographs and memorabilia, inspired conversations and shared memories of living and working in the area over the decades. You'll find more information on the Milestones Museum's website at: www.hampshireculture.org.uk/stories-buckskin-south-ham-60-years-memories-basingstoke



If you're interested in the book, email: yourcommunity@sovereign.org.uk

Green Fingers: Getting stuck in and growing together!

Over the summer, the Green Fingers project - run by Mencap and funded by a £6,000 grant from the SNG Thriving Communities Fund - brought families and neighbours together to enjoy nature in fun, hands-on ways.

From buzzing bug hotels to exciting scavenger hunts, the project offered a brilliant mix of outdoor activities for all ages over nine days. Together, the community created new planters, explored the local environment, and enjoyed the well-being boost that comes from getting close to nature.

It wasn't just about gardening: it was about connection, inclusion, and feeling good. A big thank you to everyone who joined in and helped make the green spaces even more welcoming.



Creating new opportunities

Skills 4 Work: Free employment support for everyone

Skills 4 Work is a completely free 1-2-1 employment support and coaching programme. It's open to anyone living in Basingstoke (including non-SNG residents) aged 16 and over. Thanks to funding by the UK Government through the Shared Prosperity Fund, and match funding from SNG, the programme can help you to access grants to help fund training and work opportunities, improve your skills and qualifications, or start your own business, and provide the help and confidence you need to take the next step in your career.

To find out more, email: skills4work@sng.org.uk



In the spotlight

Local Plan - What's the latest?

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Local Plan Update process is currently underway. The Local Plan shapes where new homes, jobs, and green spaces go – so it's important the community stays involved.

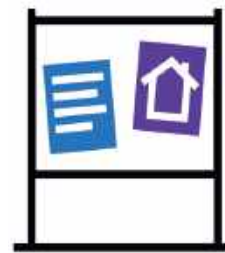
After last year's public consultation (Regulation 18) by the Council on its draft plan, the Government introduced new planning reforms and updates to national policy. This included new housing targets for all of England, including Basingstoke, which meant the Council's plan needed to be updated.

The draft spatial strategy forms a strategic part of the Local Plan Update and was discussed by councillors at the Council's Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 4 September 2025 and will form part of the Cabinet meeting on 11 November. The decisions the Council makes through this process will impact our work in Buckskin and South Ham, so we'll share any updates we have in the next newsletter.

Want to stay informed?

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





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 Thursday, 9am to 3pm
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 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.



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.

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 each month. 1.30pm to 3.30pm (lively community sessions - all abilities welcome and equipment supplied. £5 per session including 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 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.

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:

Friday, between 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: 01256329616.

Knitting Group:

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

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



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. For further info:

Phone: 07950 686614

Email: catherine@inspero.org.uk

Website: www.inspero.org.uk

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



**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
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.



A frightfully fun half term in Basingstoke town centre

The Love Basingstoke team will be bringing some Halloween fun to Basingstoke town centre from Wednesday 29 to Friday 31 October. It will be a great opportunity to keep children entertained for free during half term.

Activities include making spooky masks, performances and workshops from Bubblesman, Scratch Built Productions' Magical Market Stall, potion making and a pumpkin trail. For those feeling a bit more adventurous, there's a caving experience and bungee trampolining, and then head to the Halloween disco for some more monstrous fun.

All the activities are free, run between 11am and 3pm and there is more info 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

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 ہمارے 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 بإمكانكم 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.

