

In touch



Autumn 2020

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL— YOUR NEW UNITARY COUNCIL



The new Council's logo

Buckinghamshire Council was created on the 1st April this year and has taken over the roles of the District and County Council. The first few months have been busy dealing with the issues caused by COVID-19 but it has also been re-organising the services it provides and putting the staffing structure into place. Until an election takes place all the existing councillors are members of the new authority and two of our Wycombe councillors are in the Cabinet. They are Katrina Wood who is Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Tony Green who is Cabinet Member for Youth Provision.

Because it is a new council, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has commenced an electoral review of Buckinghamshire Council. This will look at:

- the total number of members to be elected to the council
- the number and boundaries of future electoral divisions
- the number of councillors representing each electoral division and the name of each electoral division.

All the committees of the Council have been meeting although by video calls rather than face to face. A new initiative are the 16 community boards across the county. Community Boards have been created to bring the new council and communities together, giving people the opportunity to speak up and get actively involved in improving their local area. In July, local councillors, town and parish councils and some community groups in each of the board areas held introductory meetings to begin looking at how to develop these partnerships, consider the local data and information about their local areas and start the conversation about their key areas of focus. Behind the scenes, coordinators for each board are working hard in their local communities, making connections and encouraging residents, groups and organisations to contribute to conversations about their local area, including understanding the impact of Covid-19.

There are 4 boards covering the Wycombe Constituency. They are: **High Wycombe; Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye** (Hazlemere, Tylers Green and Loudwater); **North West Chilterns** (Downley, West Wycombe and Piddington) and **South West Chilterns** (Lane End, Hambleden Valley).



From the Junior Imperial and Constitutional League founded in 1906 to the Young Conservatives rebranded in 2018, youth engagement has been a part of the Conservative Party for more than 100 years. The youth wing has been through many changes over the past few years and it remains a vital part of the Conservative Party.

The Young Conservatives is organised at a local level within Associations. **All Party members aged 25 and under are automatically members** of the Young Conservatives and are organised into branches within their local Associations. The objective of these branches is to bring people together, organise social events and activities and campaign for Conservatives both locally and nationally.

If you are under 26, Conservative supporting and interested in getting in touch with like-minded people, then get in touch with the Wycombe branch of the Young Conservatives. Contact Nathan Thomas at nathanandrewthomas@hotmail.com for more information.

Caring and Campaigning for our Community

LAUNCH OF THE CONSERVATIVE WOMEN'S ORGANISATION IN WYCOMBE

The Conservative Women's Organisation is the oldest politically affiliated female organisation in the country, and we are delighted to announce the launch of a branch of the CWO here in this Constituency.

Our aims will mirror those of the national organisation, with a particular focus on what we think will work best in Wycombe. These are:

To have more women stand for elected positions

To bring more women into leadership roles in the Association and to facilitate their influence into policy development

To improve the Association's performance in campaigning, and voluntary community engagement

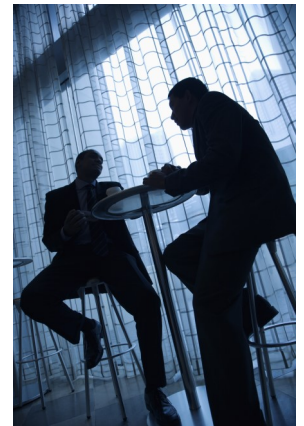
Our Launch Meeting will be an evening with our neighbour, Joy Morrissey, the recently elected MP for Beaconsfield, hosted by our own Steve Baker.



This will be held on the evening of Tuesday 27th October, and Joy's subject will be a discussion on how Association members can play a positive part as volunteers to actively support and improve the lot of the disadvantaged in our community. Covid has demonstrated that when we work together we can really make a difference to people's lives, and the waning of the virus should not mark the retirement of our good will towards each other. We are very much looking forward to learning from her as to what we can do in Wycombe.

The meeting will be held on Zoom, and is open to all Association members and their guests. If you would like information on becoming a member of Wycombe Conservatives, please email us at office@wycombeconservatives.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Wycombe Conservative Association Policy Forum gives members an opportunity to go beyond the headlines and explore challenging issues and policy in depth. The events include a presentation and discussion. At "White Jihad, Terrorism & Policing", Research Professor Alberto Testa reported on Far-Right activism, radicalisation and violence (terrorism) and in sport on the link Far-Right Hooliganism. Professor Testa has extensive media experience and has spoken about his studies and research on television, radio and the press. This evening was an alarming wake up call for anyone complacent about the Far-Right. At "The Science Behind Effective A&E" Dr Raghieb Ali addressed what A&E is actually for, and how best the NHS should deal with the huge breadth of things that happen to us. Dr Raghieb is the Director of the Public Health Research Centre and a Professor at New York University and a Visiting Research Fellow at the Department of Population Health at the University of Oxford. At our next event (on Zoom) Steve Baker MP will be talking about "COVID-19 and Liberty", addressing the challenges government faces balancing the public health crisis caused by the epidemic and the impact this has on our personal freedoms.



Steve Baker MP

Just as the last few months have thrown-up many challenges and changes for everyone, the same is true for me as your MP. Normally I would attend community or charity functions most weekends but with the coronavirus restrictions these have largely fallen away. I was honoured to attend the Battle of Britain wreath laying in mid-September. I also joined a socially distanced autumn litter pick organised by Wycombe Marsh Community Environment Group. I'm happy to play my part to make us all proud of where we live.

While on the litter pick, I noticed a derelict building which has been vacant for a long time, despite planning applications to convert the site. It's a shame such buildings are left to rot – they make neighbourhoods look run-down and amenities are needed for local people. Although not responsible for developing the site I have told the Council that, if there needs to be a change in planning law to make this happen, it should tell me so I can raise this in Parliament. I have taken-up other local concerns brought by councillors, such as speaking to the Home Secretary about the nuisance caused by discarded silver nitrous oxide cannisters. Please write to me at the House of Commons if there is policy which you believe needs changing to help local people.



We cannot allow dereliction to continue