

Report to Woolhampton Parish Council

District Councillor: Chris Read, Member of West Berkshire Council for Bucklebury Ward

Date: 20-04-2026

District Parish Conference – 29th April 6.00 pm - 8.30 pm

Full Council – 17th July

Executive Meeting – 21st May

Consultations

- Residents' Survey (2026) End date: 2026-05-10

The survey asks residents about their experiences of key services such as waste and recycling, planning, education, social care and road maintenance. It also explores views on communication and engagement, feelings of belonging and safety, and optional questions on wellbeing and demographics. The findings will help shape council services and priorities in the coming years as the current Council Strategy approaches its end.

This is the first broad residents' survey since 2021 and comes at a time when national and local circumstances have changed significantly, including economic pressures, increased demand on public services and evolving work and lifestyle patterns. The feedback will provide important evidence to support service planning, policy development and how the council engages with communities.

- Planning Public Access Service feedback survey 2026 End date: 2026-05-07

The Council would like to know if:

- you were aware of the Planning Public Access service (West Berkshire Council's Planning Portal) before this survey
- you use the service, and if so, do you find it easy to navigate
- you have any suggestions for improvements to the service

- Proposed nominations for the Local List of Heritage Assets End date: 2026-04-30

Green Issues

West Berkshire hits record recycling highs

Provisional recycling rate for 2025/26 stands at 55%

Thanks to the fantastic efforts of residents, West Berkshire is celebrating some of its best recycling results ever, following to move to three weekly black bin collections back in September 2025.

Our provisional recycling rate for 2025/26 stands at 55% - the highest our district has ever achieved.

And the progress doesn't stop there. Comparing the most recent reporting period with the same time last year shows just how much of a difference residents are making:

- Black bin waste has dropped by 1,049 tonnes. That's a huge 15% reduction. That means far less waste ending up in landfill or energy-from-waste facilities.
- Dry recycling is up by 199 tonnes (6%), showing that more materials are being sorted at home and given a new lease of life.

- Food waste recycling has surged by 22%, with 260 extra tonnes collected and transformed into soil conditioner instead of going landfill.
- Fly-tipping has not increased and has instead shown a small decrease.

Financial performance is extremely positive. The service is expected to exceed its £150k savings target. While final figures are still being confirmed, savings for 2025/26 are estimated to be around £280k after implementation costs and expected to rise to approximately £488k in 2026/27. Recycling food waste helps reduce what goes into black bins and supports more sustainable, closed-loop, waste management.

West Berkshire Council launches kerbside recycling for plastic tubes

West Berkshire Council, in partnership with Veolia, is pleased to announce a new addition to its kerbside recycling service: **plastic tubes** can now be recycled from home as part of your regular collection.

This includes all toothpaste tubes both hard and flexible, cosmetic tubes and food tubes.

Some other examples include:

- Herb pastes
- Cake/biscuit icing tubes
- Hand creams
- Moisturisers

If it is hard or soft plastic and tube shaped - squeeze it, recycle it!

How to recycle your tubes correctly:

- Empty the tube completely - squeeze out any remaining product
- Leave the cap on - it can be recycled too
- Keep tubes flat, not rolled - rolling makes them smaller and harder to recover for recycling
- Simply place your plastic tubes in the same container used to collect your plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, aerosols and tins/cans.

Business

The Berkshire Business Board is inviting new applications to join their Board

The Berkshire Business Board, an advisory body to the Berkshire Prosperity Board established in 2024 to drive economic prosperity in Berkshire, is inviting new applications to join their Board.

The Berkshire Prosperity Board brings together council leaders and chief executives to drive inclusive, green and sustainable economic growth across the sub-region. The Business Board plays a vital role in bringing together senior leaders from across Berkshire's key industries to embed a strong, independent business voice into local decision-making and provide strategic advice and market insight.

Members help to shape regional economic strategy, inform investment priorities, and strengthen collaboration between the public and private sectors to support long-term prosperity. Current members include the Leader of West Berkshire Council, Syngenta, Bayer, Blake Morgan LLP, Equinix, Shadow Box Studios, AWE, the University of Reading, Activate Learning, Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Skills and Business Hub.

Jim Reay, Global Head of Health and Safety at Syngenta, Chair of the Business Board says:

"The Berkshire Business board aims to give advice and recommendations to the authorities across Berkshire about how to develop their economy, i.e. how to boost business growth in the county - in order to attract, retain, and grow businesses of all sizes. It is imperative that we have the right environment for businesses to start, and small businesses to grow, as well as developing a strong offer for key sectors across Berkshire such as Health and Life Sciences where there is a link to the Government's industrial strategy, and by well-using fabulous assets in the region like Heathrow, multiple Film Studios, and the University of Reading."

What we are looking for

The Board is seeking senior representatives from small, medium and large enterprises operating within Berkshire who can:

- Bring significant sector expertise and commercial insight
- Act as ambassadors for Berkshire, using their networks to support regional growth
- Contribute actively to discussions and attend quarterly in-person meetings
- Provide informed, strategic advice and market insight to strengthen Berkshire's competitive position

Why join?

Membership of the Berkshire Business Board offers a unique opportunity to:

- Influence regional investment and growth priorities
- Shape economic strategy and policy at a strategic level
- Collaborate with senior public and private sector leaders
- Play a direct role in driving productivity, innovation and prosperity across Berkshire

Membership is for a three-year term.

Businesses interested in applying should contact Rhian Hayes, Programme Director, Berkshire Prosperity Board, for further information and/or an Expression of Interest Registration Form.

Applications close 28 April 2026.

Highways

West Berkshire launches major new highways improvement programme to keep our roads among the best in the region

West Berkshire Council is set to deliver a significant new Highways Improvement Programme for 2026-27, investing in smoother, safer and more reliable roads for residents right across the district.

Building on the Council's recent Green status in the Department for Transport's Road Maintenance Ratings map, the new programme continues West Berkshire's strong track record of maintaining some of the highest quality roads in the region. This top rating reflects the council's commitment to keeping people moving safely and efficiently.

The programme will begin in April 2026 and includes 41 resurfacing, retexturing and surface dressing schemes. Communities such as Thatcham, Lambourn, Streatley, Aldermaston and Burghfield will all see improvements, with works covering A roads, B roads and rural routes that residents rely on every day.

This investment supports the council's priority to deliver high quality local infrastructure that benefits residents, businesses and visitors, ensuring West Berkshire remains a great place to live and work.

Residents can find the full list of improvements and follow updates as work gets underway by visiting the [highways webpage](#).

As always any questions or concerns on Council Services please contact me anytime.

Kind Regards

Chris Read

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