

Dear All,

Welcome to the Travel Safe Bucks newsletter! Travel Safe Bucks promote safety campaigns with information and advice for road users including drivers, passengers and motorcyclists. There will be information provided throughout the year on campaigns for speeding, drink and drug driving, seatbelts, mobile phones and distracted driving. In addition to this we will share interesting news and stories in relation to road safety via the dedicated Travel Safe Bucks website and social media platforms (links at the end of this email).

We will be sending out regular email updates with road safety news so please distribute this information as you see fit within your Parish.

Take Extra Care – Take Two!

Now that restrictions on exercise have been eased, some children are back to school and we are able to travel a bit more, traffic on the roads has increased and phase two of the Take Extra Care campaign has been launched. The idea behind it is to remind road users to stay alert and protect the emergency services, by travelling safely.

Take Extra Care phase one was launched in March and was designed to highlight the important role drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and riders play in helping to protect the emergency services - by keeping themselves and other road users safe.

The messaging in phase two remains the same - do everything you can to avoid being involved in a crash, allowing the emergency services to focus their attention on the pandemic.

Phase two comes with its own set of artwork and a new toolkit, including web banners, social media graphics and messaging for specific road users and situations including cyclists, pedestrians, drivers and parents on the school run. To download the toolkit and social media animations please visit: <https://roadsafetygb.org.uk/takeextracare/>



Sharing the Roads!

Recently a joint letter was written by Transport for Buckinghamshire, Thames Valley Police and Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue, about how we should all be sharing the roads safely. Please see below a copy of the letter.



Transport for
Buckinghamshire



During the pandemic we have all had to accept some restrictions and guidelines that differ to the normal freedoms that we have in this country.

The country has largely responded with great community spirit and acted more considerately towards others with acts of kindness and respect.

Now, as some restrictions are eased, we should remember that certain laws regarding driving and driver behaviour have always been in place, and will continue to be in force when the pandemic is a distant memory.

As once-empty roads fill up again, with more cars, lorries and motorcyclists, and with more people now enjoying cycling and walking, the roads and pavements may all be busier. So it's even more essential that we all slow down and watch out for each other.

Please keep yourself and others safe:

Wear your seatbelt.

Don't drink and drive or take drugs and drive.

Stop your car somewhere safe if you need to use your mobile phone when driving.

Drive within the speed limits.

Whether you have been using the roads during the lockdown or not, now is the time to think about other road users and how they may be affected by your actions.

We, Transport for Buckinghamshire, Thames Valley Police and Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue all ask you to look out for each other by being a responsible and considerate road user and keep watching out for other people as you did during the pandemic.

Thank you

#takeextracare

#slowdownsavelives

Watch Your Speed!

During the first two weeks of June, Thames Valley Police (TVP) ran a speed awareness campaign with #slowdownsavelives across social media. Now that traffic levels are rising again, children are beginning to go back to school and more cyclists on the roads, we urge the public to abide by the speed limit.

Slowing down and not speeding, makes the roads safer for everyone. The more you speed, the higher the risk of a collision and the consequences that comes with it. Speeding doesn't just affect other motorists, it also affects pedestrians, cyclists and any other road users. The slower you are going; the less time it takes for the vehicle to stop when you hit the brakes.

With speed in mind, have you had the chance to take our online speed e-learning module yet? It takes about 15 minutes to complete and is free to do.

Online Speed e-learning module: <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/road-safety/managing-speed/speed-awareness-e-learning-module/>

Link to Highway Code <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>

Don't Drink and Drive!

During lockdown, there has been an increase in alcohol sales and now that pubs are opening again the temptation to socially drink is increased.

It's important to remember that alcohol can slow your response time down, even a small amount of alcohol can affect the functions needed to drive safely. The brain takes longer to receive messages from the eye, processing information is difficult and instructions to the body's muscles are delayed. This is as well as blurred vision and decreased inhibitions mean you may act on urges that you normally wouldn't.

There is no fool-proof way of drinking and staying under the limit. It can depend on your weight, age, gender, metabolism, type and amount of alcohol, what you've eaten and your stress levels. Even small amounts of alcohol can affect your ability to drive, so the best thing to do is avoid it completely if you will be driving.

If you are caught drink driving, you face a number of penalties depending on the seriousness of the offence. Anyone caught over the limit when driving would be banned from driving for at least 12 months and face an unlimited fine. You may also be sent to prison for up to six months.

Rather than face the consequences of drink driving, there are an increasing number of alcohol-free alternatives out there including [mocktail recipes](#) and even no alcohol gins and prosecco. Just because you're driving, doesn't mean you can't join in.

If you do decide to have a couple of drinks and need to travel the next day the [Morning After Calculator](#) can help you to calculate *roughly* when it will be safe for you to drive the next day, it can also help you calculate when to stop drinking alcohol if you have to drive the following morning.

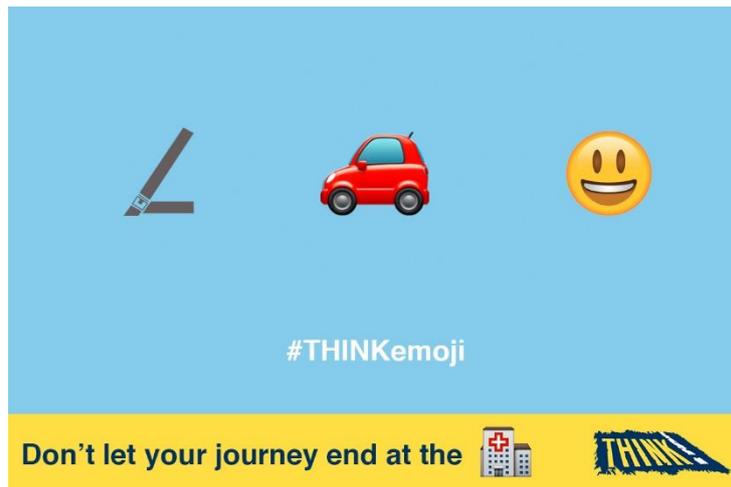
Belt Up!

During June and July, police across Buckinghamshire will be focussing on a nationwide campaign to ensure drivers and passengers are wearing their seatbelts. Over the last five years official Government figures have shown that over 20% of car occupants killed were not wearing a seatbelt.

In a crash, you're twice as likely to die if you're not wearing your seatbelt. Drivers and passengers between the ages of 17 and 34 have the lowest seatbelt wearing rates, combined with the highest accident rate.

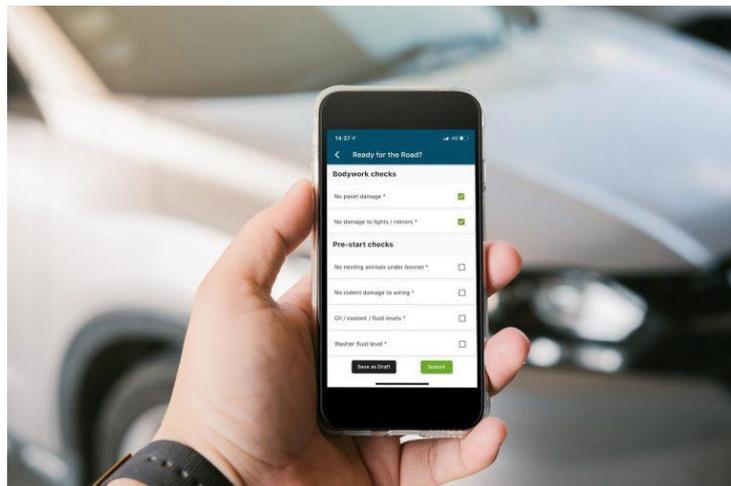
People are less likely to use a seatbelt on short or familiar journeys, putting them at serious risk of injury or fatality in a crash.

There are penalties involved in not wearing your seatbelt, even as a passenger! If you are caught not wearing your seatbelt you could be fined £100 on-the-spot. You could also be prosecuted which could result in a maximum fine of £500.



Ready for the Road?

An app has been launched to help companies prepare their drivers and vehicles so they are 'ready for the road' after lockdown. The app was created by Highways England's Driving for Better Business (DfBB) programme, in partnership with FleetCheck, TyreSafe and Mercedes-Benz Vans.



The app has been designed to help drivers ensure their vehicles are roadworthy and includes a 20-point checklist and information showing how to properly sanitise the vehicle.

The app also includes 12 short animations to help drivers understand how different the roads will be post lockdown, including higher traffic levels as more commuters avoid public transport.

A management portal is available for employers using the app, to help manage vehicle maintenance and repairs that could be needed and send any changes in policies directly to their drivers.

The management portal will include links to Government guidance relating to vehicles during Covid-19 and resources created for the DfBB Transport Toolkit.

The package is free to use for employers with more than 10 vehicles.

We hope you have found this email useful, and as always, please feel free to share any of the information inside with residents of your Parish in whichever way is appropriate.

Make sure you follow us on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/travelsafebucks>) and like us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/TravelSafeBucks>) to stay up to date with all that we're up to in between updates!

Should you wish to report a pothole or problem on the road; go to:
<https://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/>

Kind Regards,

The Road Safety Team

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/contact-us/>