

West Berkshire Council Report to Theale Parish Council

8th December 2025

Theale Christmas market and Lights Event

Congratulations and thanks to all concerned in planning and running this superb event.

Local Government Reorganisation

West Berkshire Council's Executive Committee has approved the submission of the "Ridgeway Council" proposal, together with South Oxfordshire and vale of White Horse, to the Secretary of State. A vote in favour was also held by the full Council.

Reading Borough Council also submitted their request to extend their boundary to include the Tilehurst and Purley wards if the Ridgeway Proposal is accepted, but not Theale or Pangbourne as has been previously reported.

Mayoral Combined Authority.

West Berkshire, the other Berkshire councils and the Oxfordshire councils have sent an "expression of interest" in forming a Thames Valley Mayoral Combined Authority. This may or may not include Swindon. Buckinghamshire has not engaged so far.

The government is encouraging the forming combined authorities and mayoral ones are promised more financial devolution.

Police and Crime Commissioners are to be abolished. They are due to be replaced by mayors or boards of council leaders (where there is no mayor) by 2028.

Planning Application 25/02571/FUL

This new application for a car wash behind the post office gives an incorrect address ("High Street Car Park"). I have asked for this to be corrected.

Planning Application 25/00319/FUL

The council has been notified that an appeal has been made against the refusal of permission for two houses on the land at the end of Roundhead Road. However, the appeal has not yet been validated and appeal documents are not yet available.

Application 25/00041/WR has been raised in consequence, but I'm not sure why.

Alan Macro

Councillor for Theale

West Berkshire Council

7th December 2025