

Cllr. Steven Broadbent
Leader
Buckinghamshire Council
Via. email

30th January 2026

Dear Cllr. Broadbent



Re: Colne Valley Regional Park boundary extension

Bucks was a key driver in the formation of the Colne Valley Regional Park (CVRP) in the 1960's, nearly 50% of the CVRP is in Buckinghamshire across parts of 6 parishes. We work closely with the Council to deliver environmental improvement and community engagement projects.

The CVRP made great strides forward in 2025 including:

- Debate in the House of Commons on 'Protection of the Colne Valley Regional Park', led by Joy Morrissey MP, that secured a clear statement of support from the Minister for Housing & Planning, Rt. Hon. Matthew Pennycook, that the government recognises the value of the CVRP for people and wildlife, he shares the desire to see it protected. He has subsequently met with local MPs to discuss how that can be achieved.
- £200k development grant from the Lottery to prepare an application for a £5.1M landscape restoration and community engagement project.
- Detailed conversations with National Highways to make the case for the CVRP as the location for a £multi-million biodiversity and landscape restoration project that they want to fund somewhere in the SouthEast of England.
- River restoration projects, including tackling invasive species and community litterpicks on the Alderbourne that were funded by Affinity Water with match-funding from the Bucks Natural Environment Partnership. Cllr. David Moore has linked this to the Council's Chalk Stream Motion.

Cllr. David Brackin, Chairman of Fulmer Parish Council has written to us in support of the achievements of the Colne Valley Regional Park and to request that the Park boundary be extended further into Fulmer Parish so that the whole of the Alderbourne is included within the Regional Park. (Currently the Alderbourne in the parishes of Denham and Iver is included, but only a small part within Fulmer).

Unlike the Chilterns National Landscape there is no statutory process for extension to the Regional Park boundary. This can be agreed at a local level between the CVRP Trust and the Parish Council, although we would value the comment, input and 'in principle' support from Buckinghamshire Council at this early stage. This could bring potential benefits to the Council under the areas of Environment (land and water), community, health and wellbeing of residents.

Detail on the criteria for consideration and the process for boundary extension of the Regional Park can be seen here: <https://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/wp->

Colne Valley Park Trust
Charity Registration Number: 1181303

Registered Office: c/o Colne Valley Park Visitor Centre, Denham Court Drive, Denham, Buckinghamshire, UB9 5PG
www.colnevalleypark.org.uk

<content/uploads/2026/01/Boundary.pdf> In summary, we will review the area for potential boundary extension under the criteria of:

- Connectivity. This will be evidence-led with reference to Landscape Character Assessments, Bucks Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Existing/Potential Value. This will look at current/potential path & wildlife corridors, opportunity for landscape & river restoration (including delivering on Bucks Chalk Streams motion), farming and other rural business.
- Support and Sustainability. How can resources be secured for boundary extension and landscape restoration? Are there Policy commitments (even if only 'in principle')?

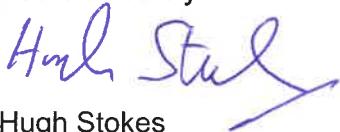
Our intention is to produce a report on the above by March including a cost/benefit analysis of opportunities to deliver the six objectives of the CVRP for benefit of local residents. We will then seek formal approval of Fulmer Parish Council and a commitment for support of the work of the CVRP, before the final decision is made by the Trustees of the CVRP.

I ask Buckinghamshire Council to:

- Indicate 'in principle' support for this process to extend the boundary
- Identify a lead contact (whether cabinet member, local ward councillor or senior officer) for our Managing Agent to liaise with during this process.
- Provide comment on how this process can link with the forthcoming local plan as relevant for an update of policy for the Colne Valley Regional Park and the proposals map.

I trust you agree that this presents a good opportunity for landscape restoration for the benefit of local residents. I would be grateful if you could send an initial reply via email at your earliest convenience before Mon 16th February. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Hugh Stokes
Chairman

Cc

- Cllr. David Moore, Farnhams & Stoke Poges
- Cllr. Dev Dhillon, Farnhams & Stoke Poges
- Cllr. Thomas Hogg, Farnhams & Stoke Poges
- Cllr. David Brackin, Chairman, Fulmer Parish Council
- Joy Morrissey MP, for Beaconsfield Constituency
- Steve Bambrick, Corporate Director, Planning, Growth & Sustainability