



Community  
Boards

Community Boards  
**Annual Report**  
April 2023

# Introduction from Cabinet Member for Communities



**Cllr Steve Bowles**

**Cabinet Member for  
Communities**

As the Community Boards enter their fourth year, it is evident that they have truly cemented their place in their respective areas and have begun working as originally planned, engaging with local communities to identify and deliver change and improvements for residents.

Working with a wide number of partners and stakeholders, the Boards have continued to make good progress with the Council's priorities. Through building relationships and networks, the Boards have continued to make our communities strong and to support them in their ambitions.

The Boards remain invaluable to the overall delivery of council services and priorities. They are now known in their communities as a place where residents can ask questions, share thoughts and see ideas come to fruition.

Face-to-face engagement has been made easier this year with the Boards being able to hold their own engagement events as well as attending many local events. They have been able to talk directly with residents, listen to their concerns and really understand local matters.

The extensive work being undertaken by the Council on a local level is evident through the impactful initiatives led by the Community Boards.

Through engaging a range of local partners, the Boards have played a crucial role in facilitating activities to improve the local community, including setting up a repair café, tree planting schemes, and a community hub to attract investment and provide facilities for groups looking for somewhere to meet. The Boards have been successful in bringing people and organisations together for discussion and awareness, supporting them to improve their communities themselves, create facilities for people to use and owning the catalyst for change.

I am delighted this year to include details of this engagement work in the report appendix, along with details of funded projects as well.

In supporting the Council's priorities, Board priorities have specifically focussed on improving health and wellbeing, young people, environment, community buildings and spaces and highways. As well, they have effectively delivered new areas of work the Council has prioritised - the cost of living crisis, Ukraine and Opportunity Bucks.

The Boards have worked closely with Helping Hand by supporting the community aspect to cost of living using their local knowledge and understanding of need. There was a fantastic response across the Christmas period to ensure people received food and goods, as well as supporting warm spaces, encouraging people to use them, and ensuring people knew how to access Helping Hand.

The Community Boards responded promptly to the needs of Ukrainian guests staying in the county by championing the Homes for Ukraine scheme and supporting local learning classes, gatherings and events.

The Opportunity Bucks programme comprises three of our Boards, all of which have supported ward visits and are currently establishing ward partnerships to align with the priority to improve the local community and promote residents' achievements.

As detailed in the last annual report, several reviews had identified areas of improvement for the next 12 months and beyond. Most of these improvements have been delivered including a new slimmed down management structure, the introduction of a funding team and improved funding processes. The changes have meant quicker and clearer decision making, and funding decisions have speeded up greatly. A very successful small grants process was also introduced to enable smaller organisations to deliver Board priorities.

Whilst overarching governance remains in place, Boards have the flexibility to work as they wish, using action or task/finish groups as required. Each Board works to suit their communities and allows for organic growth under the governance, making them truly responsive to their communities.

The Boards have continued to understand the need to provide value for money and have leveraged contributory funding to add more value to their community work. This year some 334 projects have received funding, and alongside c£3m of contributory funding has provided for c£4.8m value to Buckinghamshire communities.

Board meetings have also continued to develop and strengthen with many taking place face-to-face engaging directly with partners and residents. Meetings have received presentations from organisations who have received funding for projects or where facilitation and engagement has taken place to deliver a project. It has been inspiring to hear what a difference even a small amount of funding has made to many residents and communities.

The work of the Boards is clearly making an impact locally and bringing improvement to many residents' lives both during their day-to-day lives and leisure time. The small grants enabled very small organisations to work with the Boards to deliver very local priorities and improvements.

We are delighted to have the opportunity to organise the Proud of Bucks Awards for the third year running. This year, the Community Boards took full ownership and responsibility for the awards, and we received an incredible 397 nominations. We are currently in the process of presenting the awards to the deserving winners, and we plan to continue celebrating their achievements in person throughout the early summer.

My thanks go to all the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, and Board Managers who have continued to work closely together to deliver the priorities, as well as to the wider Community Board team.

I also extend my appreciation to my fellow Councillors for their involvement in leading action or working groups and supporting the wider engagement work.

Steve Bowles,  
Cabinet Member for Communities



# Community Boards

## Community Boards 2022-2023

**334** Total number of projects supported

### Community Board top priorities



**£2m**

Total budget allocated to projects 2022-2023

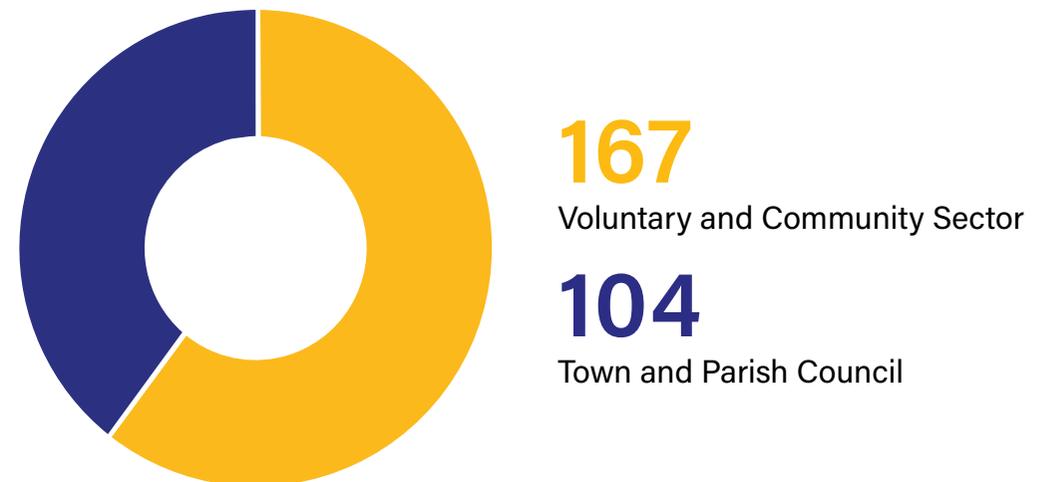
**£1.7m**

Spent on projects

**£1.02**

was achieved in contributory funding for each pound spent by the Boards

### Projects with strategic partners:



## Community Board Chairmen 2022 - 2023



**Mark Dormer**  
Amersham & Villages



**David Thompson**  
Aylesbury



**Jonathan Waters**  
Beaconsfield &  
Chepping Wye



**David Anthony**  
Beeches



**Howard Mordue**  
Buckingham & Villages



**Patricia Birchley**  
Chesham & Villages



**Santokh Chhokar**  
Denham, Gerrards Cross,  
& Chalfonts



**Ashley Waite**  
Haddenham  
& Waddesdon



**Arif Hussain**  
High Wycombe



**Peter Martin**  
Missendens



**Matt Walsh**  
North West Chilterns



**Dominic Barnes**  
South West Chilterns



**Mike Collins**  
Wendover & Villages



**Wendy Matthews**  
Wexham & The Ivers



**Ashley Bond**  
Wing & Ivinghoe



**David Goss**  
Winslow & Villages

## Improving our Environment

# 83

Projects supported  
improving the  
environment

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# £428k

Was allocated to  
**environment** projects...



# Improving our Environment

## Featured projects

- Quainton Community Heritage Orchard received a small grant to further develop work on a field for recreational purposes. The site had been regenerated into a community orchard and wildlife area in 2021 when the project was originally inspired by a discussion about the importance of Pocket Parks at the **Haddenham & Waddesdon Community Board** working group. Funding allowed for the purchase of a strimmer, accessible benches and a mixture of fruit trees. To mark this focal point, the local community has resurrected an old tradition and recently held its annual Wassailing event on the site.
- Supported by **North West Chilterns Community Board**, the Chiltern Conservation Board applied for funding to deliver specific hedgerow projects across three farms. The project will deliver many environmental objectives, which include a greater area of wildlife rich habitat, an increase in biodiversity and more carbon will be stored and/or sequestered. The project will also support farmers to encourage sustainable economic growth, and to maximise opportunities, through helping them to access additional resources for longer-term funding such as Countryside Stewardship schemes and upskilling farmers in practical land management.
- The Lace Hill Fruit Orchard was organised by the Lace Hill Residents Association in partnership with Buckingham Town Council, with funding from the **Buckingham & Village Community Board**. It involved the planting of several fruit trees on an open space field in the Lace Hill estate. The fruit will be available to the public for free and the maintenance will be carried out by the local residents association and volunteers living on the estate. The official launch was attended by Greg Smith MP and students from Lace Hill Academy.

## Quainton Community Heritage Orchard



## Chilterns hedgerow project



## Lace Hill Fruit Orchard



## Improving our Environment

- Schools eco project – **Chesham & Villages Community Board** devised its own workshop on climate change and the environment for local schools. Pupils (Years 4, 5 & 6) were tasked with creating their own Eco-Charters, a set of promises they can stick to at school, home and in the community. The Eco-Charters were then presented to a panel, along with TV adverts, role-plays, and leaflets.
- Grow Wilder - **Aylesbury Community Board** has been working with Oak Green School to explore opportunities to redevelop their green spaces to benefit the environment and provide education and skills opportunities for young people. Collaborative conversations were held on site to explore opportunities. BBOWT and Feedback Global were identified as key partners. Both partners have developed the Grow Wilder project to work with Year 5 students to provide environmental education to enable them to co-design each identified space and present back to the board- with a view that the winning idea will be implemented. A small grant has been allocated to enable this activity.
- **Missendens Community Board** funded a schools competition on the theme of 'Bee and Bug Friendly Gardens.' To facilitate the building of the winning gardens, the Board has linked up the organiser with the Walled Garden, a charity in Great Missenden who work with young people with learning disabilities, training them in horticulture and giving them experience of work, usually within the community. The charity will now undertake the building of the winning gardens, giving these young people additional and a different experience of working in the community.



Chesham Schools  
eco project

## Improving our Environment

The number of highways projects funded this year is lower than usual. This due to a change in contractor in April 2024 and the existing contractor being able to complete projects, or complete to a suitable stage for handover.

Several projects were identified during the year and will be taken forward for consideration during 2023/24 with the new contractor.

The new contract will see a new way of working which will look at the root cause of issues and applying measures for a 12 month period before proceeding with an improvement scheme.

- A dangerous crossroad in Longwick was highlighted by the Parish Council. It was agreed with Transport for Bucks to implement red high friction surfacing and install an 'Advanced Give Way' sign on its approach to the A4129 Thame Road. Funded by **North West Chilterns Community Board**, this provides a visible cue to motorists of the approaching junction and an improved surface to break on.

In addition, on the approach to this junction, the existing 30mph signs were replaced with yellow backed signs and dragons teeth road markings were also installed at the 30mph limit location.

- In a response to accessibility concerns for residents with mobility requirements, the **Aylesbury Community Board** sought local views on where dropped kerbs were required across the whole Community Board area. Funding was allocated for the installation of 10 pairs of dropped kerbs. The work was completed in February 2023.

Red high friction surfacing in Longwick



Dropped kerb installed in Aylesbury



## Improving our Environment

- Working together, **Beeches Community Board** and Farnham Royal Parish Council funded TfB to design and construct an extension to the footway on Blackpond Lane to address local concerns and improve pedestrian safety.
- Brookmead School Road Safety was a large scheme, put together and jointly funded by two parishes and **Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board** to improve safety to the school drop off area, which is on a main road through their villages. The scheme introduced several new traffic calming measures and saw the use of pencil bollards being installed. This design reinforces to drivers that the area is heavily used by children/families.

### Projects achieved through engagement

- Engagement between **North West Chilterns Community Board** with Thames Valley Police and Transport for Bucks arranged for regular speed enforcement by Thames Valley Police and an alternative way for TfB to deliver a new MVAS post on Cockpit Road, Great Kingshill due to speeding on the road.
- **North West Chilterns Community Board** engaged with Buckinghamshire Council to develop a North West Chilterns Cycling & Walking Plan which details the aspirations for the North West Chilterns. This will support and add significant value to the Council's countywide strategic LCWIP, by describing the opportunities and problems at a local detailed level in the area. This document was developed by the Board's Transport and Road Issues Action Group, at no cost, and is currently out in the Board area for consultation.



Footway on  
Blackpond Lane



Brookmead School Road  
Safety scheme

## Improving our Environment

- The tree planting project in Knotty Green is a great example of how the **Beaconsfield & Chepping Wye Community Board** supported and worked with the community, the local parish council, and other BC services including the environment and climate team, highways and licensing. A small group of residents, both older and younger, from two streets in Knotty Green came together and planted 73 trees in their two roads and have taken 'ownership' the trees. The aim was not only to make the roads more aesthetically pleasing, but to improve air quality. This joined-up way of working has strengthened relations between the Community Board, residents and Parish Council. This is the first example of a group carrying out this type of project with support from Community Boards.
- Local residents and groups within the **North West Chilterns Community Board** Transport and Road Issues Action Group, requested support to implement air quality monitoring to collect baseline data in Princes Risborough, before the construction of the relief road and new housing developments. This would enable air quality comparisons before, during and after the work is completed. Regular meetings were held with the council who agreed to complete this work for the Board.
- The Colne Valley Regional Park is a resource for local residents but there are threats to the integrity and sustainability from HS2 and Heathrow expansion, potentially two motorway service areas, several data centres, warehousing and Slough Green Belt released for housing. The **Denham, Gerrards Cross & Chalfonts Community Board** Chairman attended a meeting to discuss these threats, along with Joy Morrissey MP, Boris Johnson MP, Lord Randall and local Buckinghamshire Councillors.

## Beaconsfield – Knotty Green



## Colne Valley Regional Park



## Improving our Environment

- **Chesham & Villages Community Board** is an active member of the Chesham Regeneration working group and regularly attends both stakeholder and technical officer meetings to stay informed about the progress of the regeneration programme and to explore ways in which the Board can support its development and success.

The Board's participation in the Chesham Regeneration working group allows it to play a key role in shaping the future of the community and promoting positive change and growth. The Board is also updated on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and the efforts being made to improve and enhance the cycling and walking substructures in Chesham.

## Increasing Prosperity

**10** Projects supported  
economic recovery

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**£38k**

Was allocated to  
**economic recovery**  
projects...



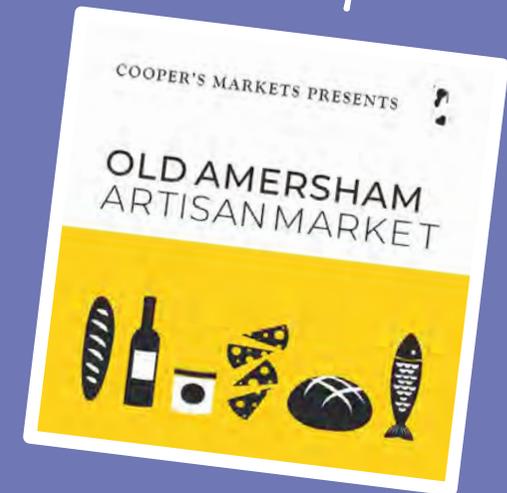
# Increasing Prosperity

## Featured projects

- The Risborough Area Community Bus (RACB) has provided much needed transport to the elderly, particularly those without their own transport and brought footfall and income to the town centre. Post covid restrictions saw passenger numbers drop affecting the viability of the bus and also the town centre. **North West Chilterns Community Board** supported a social media campaign to increase awareness, attract younger passengers and encourage people to leave their car at home. As a result, RACB has seen an increase in usage and new passengers.
- The monthly Artisan Market in Old Amersham has proven to be a huge success so far and **Amersham & Villages Board** were delighted to have been able to support its set-up. The market not only supports all locally based traders but also brings the community together on a regular basis to enjoy the historic market town.
- **High Wycombe Community Board** supported Shopmobility Scoot Further to purchase portable scooters to meet the needs of existing and new Shopmobility customers to enable them to go on overnight trips and attend appointments outside the town centre. During the first six months the scooters have generated £900 income which has almost covered the cost of one scooter, and have been hired out for 93 days to 18 individuals for family holidays, visiting craft fairs, music events and local visitor attractions and supporting family members visiting in the High Wycombe area.



Risborough Area Community Bus



Shopmobility Scoot Further High Wycombe



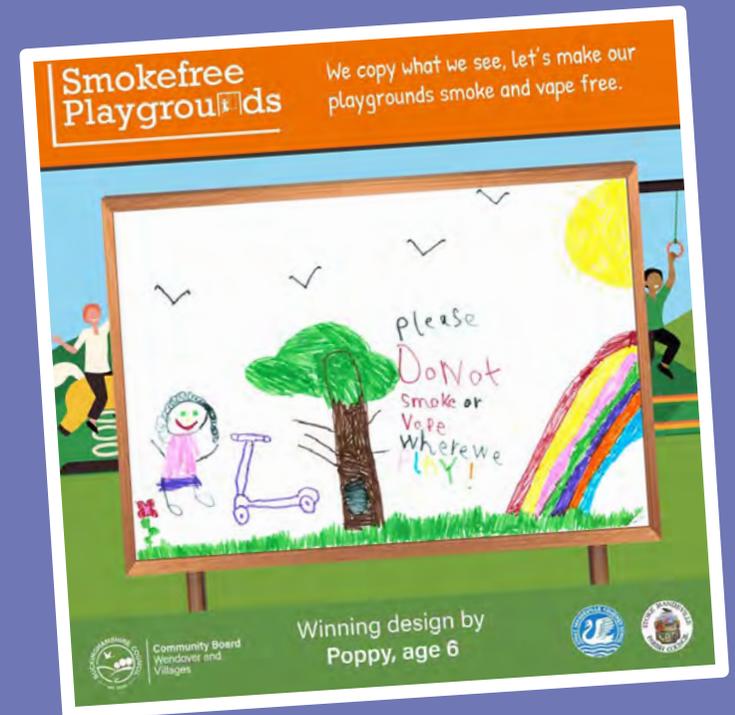
# Increasing Prosperity

## Projects achieved through engagement

- Repair Café – set up by the **High Wycombe Community Board** Environment and Climate Change action group. The project was delivered by volunteers for just over a year with All Saints Church providing the venue free of charge. No funding was required from the Community Board, but they worked with the Council's waste team who covered the cost of insurance and a toolkit.
- **Wendover and Villages Community Board** Health and Wellbeing Action Group, through working with Public Health, identified a high percentage of individuals with cardio-vascular problems and that a SmokeFree Playground initiative may help. Stoke Mandeville Parish Council offered their parish owned playgrounds to be part of this project and the Community Board Manager engaged directly with the local school to discuss the initiative and a poster competition idea. Over 50 designs were received followed by an awards ceremony. Runner-up designs were part of the social media campaign, displayed on Facebook and Instagram. The winning designs were made into signs and are now proudly installed and displayed at Eskdale Park, Stoke Mandeville.

This was a great example of working with the service area, parish, local school and Councillors to deliver something for the local community that they can relate to as their children and families have been involved and can physically see the outcome.

## Smokefree sidelines drawing competition winner



## Strengthening our Communities

# 219

Projects supported  
local communities

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# £1m

Was allocated  
to projects with  
**young people...**



# Strengthening our Communities

## Featured projects

- The village of Cuddington had outdated and inaccessible play equipment at the heart of the village. Parents asked for more age appropriate and accessible equipment. **The Haddenham & Waddesdon Community Board** helped fund new weather resistant equipment and flooring for the playground.
- **Chesham & Villages Community Board** collaborated with Mama Bee on a detached youth project aimed at addressing the needs of young people. A report highlighted challenges facing young people and proposed proactive solutions. The recommendation was to trial a pop-up youth cafe in Chesham. The cafe will be a safe and supportive space for young people to engage in open discussions on important topics such as education, healthy relationships, drugs, money etc.
- Helping vulnerable and at-risk young people was a priority for **Winslow & Villages Community Board** and they supported a project delivered by Action4Youth through mentoring, outdoor education, and group sessions with the aim of reducing gang and knife crime.
- **Chesham & Villages Community Board** works closely with the Chesham Youth Council to ensure that the voices and perspectives of young people in the community are heard. This includes regular discussions with the Youth Council to understand what matters to them and how CVCB can work with them to produce the best outcomes.

Last year, CVCB gave them the opportunity to run their own youth awards, empowering them to take a leading role in promoting the interests and achievements of young people in the community.



Cuddington  
Playground



Collaboration with  
Mama Bee

## Strengthening our Communities

- **Amersham & Villages Community Board** launched the Bright Ideas Competition for local schools, giving pupils from reception age up to sixth form the opportunity to think creatively about a project that the school could deliver within a budget of up to £1,500 to meet local priorities and make a difference to the wider community. Since launch, the Board have been busy visiting schools across the area to talk to them about the competition.
- **High Wycombe and North West Chilterns Community Boards** funded the first Growing Hope High Wycombe clinic providing free therapy for children and young people with additional needs. Parents of children with additional needs can feel isolated and overwhelmed and Growing Hope provides speech and language and occupational therapy. Children have come in completely non-verbal and by the end of their sessions have been able to start using words and communicating their needs.
- **North West Chilterns Board** awarded funding to Active in the Community to run their "Forever Cycling" sessions in six venues across the North West Chilterns, a programme which aims to get older adults physically, mentally and socially active by combining a cycling element, using floor pedals, with a virtual route projected onto a screen. The project addresses social isolation and develops healthier lifestyles to improve mental wellbeing and strengthen a sense of community among participants, particularly among older residents.
- The **Wexham and Ivers Community Board** supported 1st Iver Heath Scouts to make their hut a flexible and usable space for scout activities. It included a paved area to the rear of the hut with firepits built into the area, and an area bordering the village hall car park was extended to create a ramp to access the firepit area.

## Bright ideas competition



## Growing Hope High Wycombe



## 1st Iver Heath Scouts hut

## Strengthening our Communities

- **Denham, Gerrards Cross and the Chalfonts Community Board** supported and attended a Silver Sunday event, held in Denham Garden Village, a development of retirement apartments, houses and bungalows situated in south Buckinghamshire. Silver Sunday is a national event, designed to celebrate older people's lives, to bring people together, to enjoy each other's company and to make new friends. The event was organised by and for all residents, was free and provided a variety of entertainment along with afternoon tea. Around 200 people attended the event across the weekend.
- **High Wycombe and North West Chilterns Community Boards** funded the expansion of the Wycombe Mind Free Space project for 30 individuals and families. Social workers and NHS Mental Health teams refer clients to the hoarding support service and support workers use a person-centred approach to assist with the practical and emotional consequences of hoarding and neglect of homes and gardens. The holistic support approach results in sustainable improvements to the person's mental health and living conditions and reduces health and safety risks and maintenance requirements in homes.
- **High Wycombe Community Board** supported Chiltern Rangers working in partnership with the Stroke Unit at Wycombe Hospital in creating a tranquil garden area for rest, recuperation and relaxation for residents, as well as for friends and patients who may be offering support or visiting family and friends who may be receiving treatment. Many ex-patients, residents, community groups, businesses and hospital staff have donated furniture and garden equipment to support the garden and hospital staff prepared the garden in their own time in spring ready for the year ahead.



Silver Sunday  
afternoon tea



Tranquil garden area  
at Wycombe Hospital

## Strengthening our Communities

- **Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board** supported Slapton in their recreation ground improvements. This included park surface changes to meet safety regulations and cutting back overgrowth. The main part of the project was the installation of outdoor exercise equipment. In addition to a big rig, there is also apparatus that is accessible to wheelchair users. This has opened up opportunities to further develop the area and they are now going to install a walk/run track to surround the recreation park which will offer an accessible route, which can be measured should residents wish to use it as part of their exercise routines. It also allows for families/individuals to access the area at all times of the year.
- Black Park Model Boat Club is a friendly, non-competitive club, with membership open to all ages and abilities. The club covers all aspects of model boating, ranging from yachts to scale models on an informal basis. Interested non-members are also encouraged to turn up and try out the hobby using the club's "Have A Go" boats which are used to raise money for charity. **Wexham and Ivers Community Board** provided funding to refurbish the club's six radio-controlled "Have A Go" boats, which were constructed over 30 years ago by members. The boats are essential to the promotion of the club and require complete refurbishment to make them reliable enough to be used more frequently and consistently by members of the public.
- Covid highlighted the need for Oakley to have its own village store and café, having nowhere for local residents to go without travelling. A project was set up to establish a Community Benefit Society. With over 190 members the project is nearing completion and volunteers and local suppliers are being sought. **Haddenham & Waddesdon Board** were proud to offer funding towards the start-up costs of the project.



Outdoor exercise equipment in Slapton



Oakley village store and café

## Strengthening our Communities

- After the success of last year's event, **Beeches Community Board** collaborated with **South West Chilterns, North West Chilterns and Beaconsfield & Chepping Wye Community Boards** to deliver the Virtual Dementia Tour experience. Designed to provide an immersive experience of what the challenges of dementia can feel like, it gave dozens of residents and representatives of local organisations an opportunity to not only take part in the session but also to meet others impacted by dementia or working to improve the lives of those living with it. In addition, **Beeches Community Board** worked with **Wexham & The Ivers Community Board** to provide seed funding towards new dementia friendly seated exercise sessions in Stoke Poges and Iver, which have successfully provided healthy, tailored activities along with opportunities for social interaction.
- North Bucks Breathe Easy Group were awarded funding from **Winslow & Villages Community Board** to run Pulmonary Rehab Maintenance Exercise Classes, aimed at people who have recently completed sessions with the local respiratory team. Feedback from a participant: *"The classes are beneficial to me for several reasons. It makes me breathe easier, has helped me to walk further. To exercise is to strengthen my whole body, easier to climb stairs, to garden to do housework. I can actually walk further, may take time to get there, but without these exercises I wouldn't be able to achieve most of these things. Plus meeting other people in a similar situation, we help each other."*

## Virtual Dementia Tour experience



## Pulmonary Rehab Maintenance Exercise Classes

## Strengthening our Communities

- **Chesham & Villages Community Board** provided funding to the Chesham Society who are launching a visitor/tourism website for Chesham and Villages in Spring 2023. The website will promote the rural villages such as The Lee, Cholesbury, and Ashley Green. It will highlight the country walks, places of interest, local pubs and cafes. The website is a co-production project with the Community Board as there will be a section of the site dedicated to the Board to promote activity and engagement.
- Bourne End Junior Sports Club sits in the heart of the community and provides a facility that benefits the local area and for people of all ages, both young and old. The lighting affected the health and safety of those attending and prevented many activities from operating. **South West Chilterns Community Board** provided funding towards the new lighting. The replacement lighting has been installed and the club continues to use the facilities, including the pupils from the adjoining Bourne End Academy.
- The Lady Ryder Memorial Garden is a secret haven enclosed by a brick wall providing endless opportunities of support for anyone with special needs, mental health issues or just someone wanting to make a difference volunteering to restore the area back to its former glory. The all abilities garden was designed and created with the support of **South West Chilterns Community Board**. Through action group networking and having an understanding of what materials were required, the Board was able to link the applicant up with a building firm who provided the materials at a cost saving thousands of pounds.



Chesham  
Clocktower



New lights at Bourne End  
Junior Sports Club



The Lady  
Ryder Memorial  
Garden

## Strengthening our Communities

- Winslow and District Fishing Club were awarded funding from **Winslow & Villages Community Board** to purchase equipment that will enable them to keep the lake clear from weeds and to help control lilies. A water quality meter has been installed to enable monitoring of the oxygen level in the water, so they know exactly when to use the water pump to increase the oxygen and thereby protect the fish in the lake, an increasing necessity due to global warming. The lake is open for all the public to access and there are benches to encourage walks or people can sit and enjoy. The Club also host non-members using the water for a charity competition in aid of "Help for Heroes".
- **Buckingham and Villages Community Board** were pleased to support the Buckingham Swan Trail, a temporary public sculpture project which will take place throughout the summer holidays of 2023. Buckingham Town Council will collaborate with local schools, artists, groups, businesses, and organisations by helping them design, paint and sponsor a swan sculpture. The aim is to increase footfall in the town centre through the exploration of the Buckingham town's heritage.

Winslow fishing lake



## Strengthening our Communities

- All Saints Church is restoring the churchyard as a place to remember through the care and conservation of historic tombstones and monuments, as well as making a safe, clean and welcoming place for visitors. It will include social spaces, spaces for remembrance, and spaces where wildlife and biodiversity can be encouraged through the creation of a green space, combining architecture, history, landscape, and wildlife, which will complement both the natural and historic environment of the town. The **High Wycombe Community Board** funding contributed to a substantial project which will have a positive impact on the town centre appearance and improved access for the community.
- **Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board** supported the Whistle Brook renovation and clearance project. This involved clearance of dead hedgerow/trees and litter to open up the brook between Pitstone and Ivinghoe, offering opportunities for regrowth and improved biodiversity in the area. The school will be maintaining the area as things progress and there will be scope for environmental projects to take place here.
- **Beaconsfield & Chepping Wye Community Board** worked with Beaconsfield Town Council, Chiltern Rangers and local volunteers to create a Community Garden for all at the Ivins Road allotments in Holtspur. This Community Garden is used by the local community who can come and relax and enjoy the garden. The Community Garden benefits those who are socially isolated and lonely, those who do not have an outdoor space to garden, the disabled and school groups and gardening/older groups, and is a great way for people to skill-share.



Whistle Brook renovation  
and clearance project

Community  
garden in  
Holtspur



## Strengthening our Communities

- Prestwood Colts and Girls Football Club applied to **Missendens Community Board** for funding to convert some of the unused changing room space into a kitchen allowing them to open a café for everyone. Alongside fundraising, the café will provide a steady income to replace equipment and families less able to afford fees and kit.

The Club has around 220 players aged 5 to 16 with the younger age groups at full capacity, supported by a great network of volunteers. As Great Missenden football closed their services to younger age groups, Prestwood Colts have taken an influx of those children and given them the opportunity to play grass roots football. Over 36 dads volunteer every Saturday and Sunday as coaches and 10 committee members also volunteer to assist with running the club, including maintenance, finance, purchasing, fixtures, welfare officer etc.

- **Missendens Community Board** commissioned a youth survey with the creation of podcasts by young people for young people being put forward. The Community Board funded a radio presenter training day, delivered by two experienced and award winning radio presenters on BFBS, the Forces' Station. The day was a great success with the young people learning interview and research skills, and some mock interviews. There are already plans to open an after school space for young people and a link with the Misbourne School is being developed for the creation of 'Ted Talk' style podcasts.



Radio presenter training day

# Strengthening our Communities

## Projects achieved through engagement

- After a community presentation, **Beeches Community Board** was approached about a new local partnership seeking to provide employment advice and opportunities to pupils with special educational needs. An invitation to address a Board action group led to a range of offers of support, including from an Ambassador from one local school and the Chair of Governors of another, and a link with Buckinghamshire Business First which generated a meeting for the partnership with a local employers group.
- **Wendover and Villages Community Board** worked with Wendover Youth Centre who delivered two youth festivals during the summer of 2022, alongside running workshops to provide opportunities for young people to continue their engagement through activities they want to do. The project consisted of two youth festivals and summer workshops in art, baking, gardening and music as well as football sessions. The projects engaged with a total of 368 young people with an average age of 13 from the HP22 postcode area.
- A Teddy Bears' Picnic and Storytime was run by Ivers Hive. It was a free activity for children and their parents, and provided an opportunity to gather for story time, to colour, and to win a teddy bear from the **Wexham & Ivers Community Board**. The Board took the opportunity to discuss what priorities parents were interested in for their area.

## Ivers Hive Teddy Bears' Picnic



## Strengthening our Communities

- **Chesham & Villages Community Board** meets regularly with the six parishes through the Villages Forum meeting. This forum provides an opportunity for the parishes to work together, collaborate on ideas, and receive regular updates and presentations from different services within the Council. The Villages Forum is an important platform for fostering collaboration and cooperation between the Community Board, the parishes, and the Council, and is critical to the success of the Board.
- **Wexham & Ivers Community Board** attended an evening at Iver Environment Centre. There was a small event to showcase the centre to members of the Board – who had previously awarded the centre funding for restoration of their bridge, but wanted to show the educational facilities for those with extra needs.
- **Amersham & Villages Community Board** linked a local restaurant looking to give back to the community with Community Impact Bucks to set up a new lunch club.
- A health and wellbeing event organised by **Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board** brought partners and the local community together. Outcomes included Simply Walks identifying a new walk, Haddenham car club gained volunteer drivers, the Family Information Service engaged with a young family in crisis, and Bucks Fire & Rescue received referrals to their 80+ fire safety check service.



Iver Environment Centre

## Protecting the Vulnerable

**22** Projects to support  
the vulnerable

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**£27k**

Was allocated to  
improve **support for  
vulnerable people...**



# Protecting the Vulnerable

## Featured projects

- The **North West Chilterns Board** were proud to support the Princes Risborough Charity who provided 91 Christmas hampers, which included both basic and luxury food items, to individuals, couples and families that had been identified as being in need in the town of Princes Risborough and the surrounding area. This project brought together many local organisations to provide additional support to those in need and contributed to the overall resilience of the local community, including signposting additional resources to people most at need.
- The **Amersham & Villages Community Board** partnered with the **Denham, Gerrards Cross & Chalfonts, Missendens, Beaconsfield and Chesham Community Boards** as well as Helping Hand, in supporting the King's Church Christmas Lunch Hamper Project. They provided 221 hampers and delivered them across the region helping to make Christmas Day lunch that bit more special for over 700 people. As an extra this year the King's Church also provided 240 stockings with 3360 items. All the toys were donated from a local retailer and another provided the stockings.
- Following on from the success of St Thomas' Church 'food larder' during the pandemic, it was recognised that there was an ongoing desire to continue to be a resource for the people of Beaconsfield. This culminated in plans for the buildings of St Thomas' to be accessible seven days a week by opening a café at the back of the church to become the heart and hub of the community. **Beaconsfield & Chepping Wye Community Board** funding supported this development, and now called the Dove Café, is a successful hub that supports local groups and projects and has a wonderful bank of volunteers. The Community Board continues to work closely with the Dove Café, supporting non-funded projects, as well as those supported through funding.



Princes Risborough  
Christmas hampers



Christmas  
hamper  
collaboration



Dove Café at  
St Thomas'  
Church

## Protecting the Vulnerable

### Projects achieved through engagement

- **North West Chilterns Community Board** linked together Helping Hand and Princes Risborough Charity and they delivered a project which provided hot meal vouchers for those struggling during the cost of living crisis.
- **Chesham & Villages Community Board** has been collaborating with the Chesham Asian Welfare Society and the Mayor of Chesham to expand the reach of the Welcoming Spaces initiative, providing much-needed support to the community during the winter months.
- **Beeches Community Board** was very pleased to provide funding towards Burnham Beeches Rotary Club's Christmas Parcels project. Working with five local schools and the Burnham Care & Share foodbank to identify those in need, the project delivered 317 parcels to families in the Farnhams and Burnham area. As well as food and Christmas treats, the parcels included educational resources and information about sources of support.
- Supported by the **Buckingham & Village Community Board**, the Westbury Welcoming Space has been set up to allow local residents to come and have a warm and welcoming place of refuge during the cost of living crisis. Not only does it provide a warm space but also provides social opportunities through activities such as board games.

## Burnham Beeches Rotary Club's Christmas Parcels



## Westbury Welcoming Space



## Protecting the Vulnerable

- **South West Chilterns Board** discussed a community fridge with Lane End Youth & Community Centre. This led on to further ideas which would involve collaborative working with other council services and outside providers. They linked in with the Helping Hand team to establish the community fridge and signposting to the local senior social prescriber so the centre can extend their service offer to other areas.
- **Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board** provided a small grant to Wing market to provide meal boxes for families to collect with a voucher from their children's centre. The first recipe was a scotch broth and all packs were successfully distributed. This project was a pilot scheme due to the cost of living crisis. A Board member co-ordinated with the fruit and veg stallholders to complete the pilot, and from learning and feedback the Board will be able to identify opportunities for the future where cost of living continues to impact on the lives of local people.

Supporting the county's Ukraine guests has been important to the Boards as well. Whilst funding for events has in the main been from the Council's support for Ukraine fund, Community Boards have also played their part.

- **North West Chilterns Community Board** linked up Ukraine to Chilterns with the Council's Ukraine support team who funded Christmas gifts to Ukrainian children in the Chilterns area. The project aimed to bring people together and celebrate community cohesion after almost a year of displacement and trauma for these families. Christmas presents included toys, cookie kits, coloured pencils and colouring books, slipper socks and toiletries for 78 Ukrainian children, aged 1-17.

Wing market  
meal boxes



Christmas gifts to  
Ukrainian refugee children



## Protecting the Vulnerable

- **Wexham and Ivers Community Board** worked with the Mehiel Foundation & The Ivers Hive on the Christmas Sacks of Hope project. The project supported families - identified via the Ivers Hive and schools - through the provision of healthy food (such as fruit and vegetables), as well as other items (biscuits, custard, washing up liquid). A supermarket voucher was also included to cover the cost of purchasing meat for Christmas Day. The aim was that by distributing Christmas Sacks of Hope to families experiencing financial hardship, the project would alleviate some of the worry of being able to afford food over the festive period.
- **Chesham & Villages Community Board** demonstrated their responsiveness and commitment to supporting the Ukrainian community by quickly reacting to the implementation of the Homes for Ukraine scheme in Spring 2022. They offered assistance to set up two support groups - the Chiltern Sunflower, serving central Chesham, and the Hilltops Ukrainian Support Group for the villages. These support groups provide crucial support and resources for members of the Ukrainian community and demonstrate the Board's commitment to promoting inclusivity within the community, and support for the Ukrainian guests.
- **Amersham & Villages Community Board** also held a welcome event for Ukraine guests and their hosts, to provide information from services such as Bucks Adult Learning, Universal Credit, and the Family Information Service.

## Christmas Sacks of Hope project



## Welcoming Ukrainian guests



## Community Board Engagement Activity

Following the pandemic and various covid restrictions, this year saw the Boards to really get into their communities to meet people face to face, have valuable discussions and gain better insight.

Community Boards held their own engagement events to connect with partners and stakeholders, but also to engage with members of the public to promote the Boards, explain how they can get involved and check out what they see as the priorities for their local areas.

- **Amersham & Villages Community Board** invited key partners along to the local artisan market to share their gazebo and promote their services (Social Prescribers from Mid-Chiltern PCN and Thames Valley Neighbourhood Policing team).
- **Aylesbury Community Board** and **Wendover & Villages Community Board** have held a monthly engagement stall in Hale Leys shopping centre to talk to residents and understand their views about where they live. Residents have shared many views including about travelling around the area to support the Board's work around Active Travel. Residents were encouraged to hang a t-shirt on a washing line to share changes they have made to support themselves and their families with the cost of living.

## Engagement events

### Winslow and Villages



### Chesham



### Amersham artisan market

## Community Board Engagement Activity

- **South West Chilterns Community Board** community engagement event celebrated work supported by the Board, the success of local businesses, volunteer engagement and community initiatives.

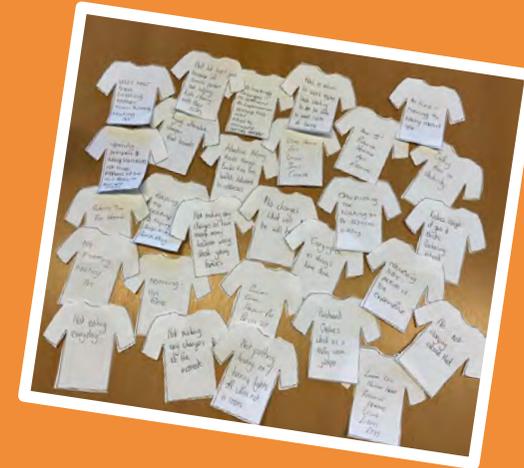
Many local organisations, blue light agencies, charities and Parish Councils came together for the afternoon providing a networking opportunity. It was also supported by a mobile unit from Marlow FM, had a play performed by Lane End Players and the local Senior Social Prescriber performed two solo sets singing.

The event saw the presentation of the Board's Proud of Bucks Awards.

- The **Aylesbury Community Board** Manager attends Fairhive Housing's weekly Community Hub to engage with residents and be a visible presence in the community.
- **Aylesbury Community Board** engaged with the local community at the Aylesbury British Muslim Association's Revive Health and Wellbeing event in 2022. They used different tools including a feedback frame to stimulate conversation and encourage feedback about living healthy and active lives in Aylesbury. This information has been used to inform and support the Community Board's priorities.



South West Chilterns  
engagement



Fairhive  
community  
hub

Revive  
Health and  
Wellbeing  
event



# The Proud of Bucks Awards 2022



**397**

Nominations

**46**

Winners

**48**

Commended

## Categories 2022-2023

- **Local Community Champion**  
For an individual (over age 21) who has made a clear and positive impact in their local community during 2022.
- **Young Community Champion**  
For a young person (under age 21) who has made a clear and positive impact in their local community or towards their peers during 2022.
- **Community Group Contribution**  
Recognises and celebrates a group in the community board area who has made a clear and positive impact on the community during 2022.

The Community Boards were very honoured to deliver the Council's Proud of Bucks Awards for a third year. The awards were kindly sponsored again by the Clare Foundation and provided an opportunity for each Board to celebrate those who go the extra mile for their community.

This year a small team from the Boards and communications designed and delivered the awards which saw some 397 nominations, 46 winners and 48 commended.

There were some fantastic nominations and the awards recognised people and organisations across Buckinghamshire who have made a positive impact on their local area.

With so many exceptional and worthy nominations, judging was a tough job for the Boards. Whilst not everyone can win it was inspirational to read how many people are going above and beyond to help others, so it is very pleasing to see some many people formally commended.

The awards will be presented from April onwards at events organised by each Board and celebrated in the community.

## The next steps

**As the Community Boards continue to undertake great work, deliver very local change and make a positive impact locally, there is still work to do to further embed their role but also to continue to respond to the cost of living crisis, Ukraine and Opportunity Bucks.**

This year will also see a focus on the Boards operating as a partnership and developing priorities to improve local place, moving away from some current views of the Boards being grant givers. Now is the time for the Boards to begin to shape their place and for the funding aspect to be a minority activity in what they do.

Alongside this, there will be an ongoing drive to increase the amount of contributory funding the Boards generate when funding projects. It is important this continues to increase to provide value for money where projects are funded, but also to add value across all communities from these projects. This will include delivery partners being encouraged to secure funding from other sources available to them.

Face to face engagement and facilitation has increased greatly this year and is evidenced in the appendix at the end of this report. Much of this work is often unseen with focus on funded projects and contributory funding. The Boards will build on this aspect of work to deliver their priorities and improving the local place.

The Boards will continue to respond to key priorities such as cost of living and Ukraine, as well as delivery of the Opportunity Bucks programme.

After the late start due to covid and various changes required, it's important the Boards are now able to have a good period of time to embed and grow their value. Relationships with key stakeholders, particularly town and parish councils and the VCSE, are further developed, and this is now the opportunity to work more closely together for our communities.

This year will see the new the highways contract come into place, with new processes and ways of working which will need to be embedded with the Boards. This will see a root cause and action solution approach in the first instance, before finances are sought, as well as a menu of off-the-shelf projects Boards may wish to consider.

During the year a review will take place to consider how the Boards operate and costs to ensure there is value for money. The review will also consider whether the geographical boundaries are still appropriate given proposed changes by the Boundary Commission.

It's important the Community Board work is seen as widely as possible, so focus will take place on ensuring their contributions are shown through branding (where appropriate) and through social media and other communications with residents and partners.

2023-24 will continue to build on the success of the Board work undertaken so far and ensure they remain the local face of the council.

**List of projects and engagement activity**