

Table 1

**Buckinghamshire Local Committees
Answers to Questionnaire**

1. Are you:

- 70** a parish councillor
- 10** a district councillor
- 11** a county councillor
- 13** a representative of another organisation
- 12** an officer (County/District/Parish)
- 5** other (please describe)
- 1** no answer

2. Is this response:

- 27** formally agreed by your organisation
- 30** an informal view - no time to consult my organisation formally
- 65** personal views

THE EXPERIENCE SO FAR

3. Which Local Committee(s) covers your area?

- 49** Aylesbury Vale
- 21** Chiltern
- 17** South Bucks
- 31** Wycombe
- 4** All Committees

4. How many Local Committee meetings have you, or your organisation, attended?

- 41** Four or more
- 30** Three
- 23** Two
- 12** One
- 16** None

please tell us what has prevented you from attending

- 15** not available / clash of meetings
- 4** no information / not invited
- 3** agenda not relevant / attendance not necessary
- 2** late notification of date
- 2** cost of travel / can't get to venue
- 3** other

5. At present, the Local Committee meets four times a year. Do you think that the Committee should meet:

- 11 less often
- 12 more often
- 95 same as now
- 4 no answer

6. Do you feel that the way meetings are conducted is:

- 10 too formal,
- 4 not formal enough,
- 90 about right
- 18 no answer

7. When would you prefer meetings to take place?

- 4 prefer morning
- 31 prefer afternoon
- 52 prefer early evening (5.00 or 6.00 start time)
- 25 prefer evening (7.30 start time)
- 10 no answer

8. Do you feel that meetings are

- 50 too long
- 4 too short
- 53 about right
- 15 no answer

9. Where should local committees meet?

- 79 Regularly at the same location
- 32 At various locations around the committees area
- 1 Other suggestions
- 10 no answer

comments

- 6 public transport/access/minibus
- 2 adequate parking
- 2 large enough/suitable equipment
- 5 other

10. Do you feel that the agendas are:

- 54 too long
- 2 too short
- 48 about right
- 18 no answer

If too long, or too short what might we do differently to improve the meetings?

- 29** have fewer items on each agenda
- 2** have more items on each agenda
- 43** focus each meeting around one or two major issues
- 21** make more use of workshops or seminars
- 20** invite views by post
- 8** other suggestions

11. Do you feel that the local committees have been dealing with topics, which are important to your organisation?

- 76** yes, the topics considered are important to my organisation
- 13** some important topics have been missed
- 9** some topics inappropriate
- 3** no
- 21** no answer

12. Do you feel that action is taken on issues agreed at Local Committees?

- 36** yes
- 7** no
- 54** sometimes
- 25** no answer

13. At the first meeting of each local committee workshops were held on 'hopes and fears' about local committees. The hopes and fears expressed are summarised in the table below. What do you now think about these statements?

	agree strongly	agree	Disagree	disagree strongly	no answer
Local Committees provide a real voice for local people 13a	5	57	33	5	22
It has been difficult to reach agreement in the Committee 13b	5	33	43	6	35
Spending has followed local priorities 13c	2	58	18	5	39
The County Council has listened 13d	3	67	17	7	28
Insufficient money is allocated 13e	26	39	16	2	39
There is better understanding between the three tiers of local government 13f	3	58	26	4	31
Local Committees are just a talking shop 13g	10	39	46	4	23
Larger Councils dominate the meetings 13h	18	42	33	7	22

THE FUTURE

14. Local Committees have so far only dealt with certain issues, particularly highways. The Local Government Act 2000 opens up a range of possible ways that Local Committees might be used in the future. Please tick any of the following ways you think Bucks Local Committees could be used:

- 58** Advising the County Council on the decisions it makes
- 59** Helping the Council's Select Committees examine areas of the Council's work
- 38** be expanded to include other council service areas

- 2 *refuse disposal / waste management*
- 1 *control of fly tipping and litter*

- 4 *transport / public transport /buses*
- 1 *community transport*
- 2 *social services transport*
- 2 *school transport*
- 1 *modal split*
- 1 *monitoring work of area offices*
- 1 *footpaths / rights of way*
- 1 *road safety*

- 1 *structure planning*
- 2 *housing plans*
- 1 *more environmental aspects relevant to rural areas*
- 1 *environmental issues other than roads*
- 2 *local and environmental issues*

- 1 *NOT social services or education*
- 2 *keep to environmental issues*

- 1 *developing and piloting new ideas eg road safety*

- 3 *social services*
- 1 *care in the community*

- 3 *education*
- 1 *school governor appointment*
- 1 *school organisation*

- 1 *property disposal (purpose of new use)*
- 1 *libraries*
- 1 *law and order, police*
- 1 *Community Plan*
- 1 *consultation on new Cabinet*
- 1 *monitoring area offices*

- 90** To consult local communities about issues affecting their area and the County as a whole
- 6** other suggestions

15. The Local Committees are currently made up of representatives from the County, District and Parish Councils. Members of other organisations are also invited to attend, for example the Thames Valley Police Authority. Do you think the organisations represented on the local committees are:

91 about right

7 too many

8 too few

16 no answer

If too many or too few, what changes would you make to representation?

More Parish Council

Representation of Disabled Users,

Reps of Youth Council

Blind Association

Age Concern

Transport 2000

Railway Development Society

Local Amenity Group

More external organisations e.g. Police and driving organisations

Less Parish and County Councils

16. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about how the Local Committees could be improved?

see Table 4