

Buckingham Local Area Forum

**Buckingham Community Centre
15 May 2008
7pm-9.10pm**

Present:

Cllr David Polhill	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr David Rowlands	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Mike Smith	Buckingham Town Council
Cllr Derrick Isham	AVDC/Buckingham Town Council
Cllr P Saunders	Maids Moreton Parish Council
Cllr J White	Maids Moreton Parish Council
Cllr M Beck	Maids Moreton Parish Council
Eileen Sparrow	Beachampton Parish Council
Mike Wailing	Beachampton Parish Council
Geoffrey Purefoy	Shalstone Parish Council
Anthony Lawrinson	Thornborough Parish Council
Patrick Foaley	Gawcott Parish Council
J R Swedling	Turweston Parish Council
D V Richards	Turweston Parish Council
Warren Whyte	Buckingham Town Council
Geoff Culverhouse	Nash Parish Council
Ivy Cakebread	Stowe Parish Council
Jennifer Beckett	Radclive-cum-Chackmore
Colin Wesley	Radclive-cum-Chackmore
Mike Mortimer	Akeley Parish Council
G Bennett	Akeley Parish Council
John Riches	Middle Claydon Parish Council
Jacki Phipps	AVDC
Ian Metherall	Marsh Gibbon Parish Council
Iain Finnigan	Environment Agency
Dominic Milner	Environment Agency
Steve Orchard	Buckinghamshire County Council
Simon Dudley	Buckinghamshire County Council
Ian Reed	Buckinghamshire County Council
Ann-Marie Davies	Buckinghamshire County Council
Ann Winsor	Children's Centre Co-ordinator
Karen Adamson	Community and Development worker
Gina Bruce	Adult Social Care
Liz Wheaton	Buckinghamshire County Council

Apologies:	Cllr Tim Mills	AVDC
	Janis Harding	Buckingham Town Council
	Elsbeth Mullineux	Shalstone Parish Council

		ACTION
1.	<p>Appointment of Chairman</p> <p>Cllr David Polhill explained that after July, County Councillors will chair the meeting on an annual rotation basis. Cllr Derrick Isham nominated Cllr David Polhill as chairman for the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Notes of last meeting held on 25 October 2007</p> <p>Mr Mortimer from Akeley Parish Council had amendments to item 8.</p>	Amendments to be made to item 8
3.	<p>Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda</p> <p>None</p>	
4.	<p>Role of meeting – an update on the role of the Local Area Forum</p> <p>Steve Orchard (GC2C Programme Manager for Bucks County Council) provided an update on the GC2C initiative. He explained that Town and Parish Councils are key to getting closer to communities. This is a quantum leap in how services will be delivered. Previously core services set priorities as a “top down” process. In future, the needs of the local community will be assessed to set priorities. This will be achieved using consultation and closer working together. It is all about empowered decision-making and funding.</p> <p>He urged people to read the consultation on the Locality Strategy proposals which is now on the Bucks County Council website and to provide feedback. A paper on this will go to the Council on 10 July and there is a desire to have as much input as possible so that a rounded discussion can be had. It was concluded that the real benefit of creating 19 forums would be that local priorities and projects would be dealt with at a local level.</p> <p>A number of questions were then asked:-</p> <p>Why haven't the forums been properly publicised?</p> <p>The Chairman responded by saying that the parish clerks had been notified. It was agreed that contact should be made with the parish clerks to ask them to supply email addresses of relevant people/representatives for</p>	<p>Review the consultation on Bucks County Council website and provide feedback</p> <p>Bucks County Council to contact the parishes to update the distribution list</p>

	<p>attendance at future meetings.</p> <p>Why aren't parish councils included if they are deemed to be so important?</p> <p>A legal issue prevents parishes from being able to vote on some issues although the County Council is communicating with the Government Department asking for the barrier to be lifted as we are following the Pathfinder initiative. What we are proposing needs to be a three-tier approach so that it has meaning for everyone with equity of presence at the forums.</p> <p>If this is the case is there not a need to sort out who should represent the parish councils?</p> <p>There will be a constitution of membership once the formal meetings start.</p> <p>Is it true that there is a budget of £1/2 million for road maintenance, therefore each of the 19 forums would be entitled to £26k?</p> <p>In the 2008/09 budget, there is a provision for £500k although the 2009/10 budget has not been set yet. In terms of the division of the budget across the forums, this has not yet been decided but it was acknowledged that there needs to be a sensible way to divide it up rather than a simplistic 1/19th per forum.</p> <p>Where are the boundaries for the local areas?</p> <p>Maps detailing the boundaries have been sent to all parishes, but it was agreed that this needed to be done again.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Steve for his presentation and concluded that the needs of each local area forum will be different and that it is for each area to set their own priorities and to spend their budget accordingly.</p>	<p>Steve Orchard to send map detailing the parishes and local community areas</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>This item was moved up the agenda to allow the Environment Agency representatives to leave after their presentation.</p> <p>River Drainage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Update on Buckingham Flood Relief Scheme b. Flooding at Thornborough Mill – River Great 	

Ouse

c. Shalstone Parish/Turweston Parish – Cleaning of the Great Ouse tributary

Items (a) and (b) to be covered by the Environment Agency

Iain Finnigan from the Environment Agency provided an update on the Buckingham Flood Relief scheme which failed to receive grant aid due to the economic scores it received from Defra. The project is being looked at again to ensure it meets the criteria and can proceed to the next round. The results should be known in the next 8 weeks.

The following questions were asked:-

In 1998 (and last year), everything happened (in terms of homes being flooded) but the project wasn't given the go ahead. Please can the scheme be put on a priority list. Is there anything more we can do to ensure this happens?

Iain Finnigan responded by saying that the Environment Agency is a national organisation and projects are considered as part of national initiatives/priorities which follow Defra's guidelines. He reassured everyone that they are aware of the problems in Buckingham and everything is being done to ensure higher economic scores so that the project can proceed.

Who writes the criteria for the economic scoring and is it possible to influence the criteria?

Iain Finnigan explained that Defra set the economic criteria. He said the "rules" surrounding the criteria are being reviewed soon and there is a continual dialogue between the Environment Agency and Defra.

Can we have your assurance that all the work undertaken 5 years' ago will not be lost?

Iain Finnigan gave his assurance that the work will be used.

Dominic Milner, team leader of Main Operations at the Environment Agency, explained that his team looks at the maintenance needs and works up a project plan based on the needs and allocates a budget accordingly.

- Regular Maintenance done by the Environment Agency and AVDC:
 - Grass cutting
 - Buckingham berm (opposite Linden Village)
 - University High Flow Cut
 - Buckingham (Maids Moreton) High Flow Cut 3
 - Buckingham (Maids Moreton) High Flow Cut 2
 - March End/Wittmills Oak, Linden Village (cut by AVDC)
 - Weed Control
 - Sigma Back Channel (adjacent to School Lane)
 - Buckingham (Maids Moreton) High Flow Cut 1

There is also a programme of works for de-silting two lengths of the River Ouse this year.

- from Buckingham (Maids Moreton) High Flow Cut 2 upstream to Packhorse Bridge (this will also include bushing where required.)
- between Bridge Street and Ford Street to ease flows to and under the bridge.

There is no scheduled bushing for the area but if any become apparent they will of course be considered along with other priorities. Also, if required, the Agency will remove adhoc blockages that would give rise to a flood risk.

There is a programme for routinely inspecting water courses. The reach from Stony Stratford to Maids Moreton is classified as a low risk reach and is inspected on a 3 yearly cycle, the next inspection is due September 2009. The section from Maids Moreton to Radclive is a high risk reach and is inspected yearly and is in the programme for October 2008.

Contact number for any queries – 08708 506 506

(c) Shalstone Parish/Turweston Parish – Cleaning of the Great Ouse tributary

It was agreed that it is the adjoining landowners responsibility.

Environment Agency to write to Ian Reed at Bucks CC with details of the future programme for cleaning rivers

<p>5.</p>	<p>Update on Children’s Centre, Buckingham</p> <p>Ann Winsor, Children’s Centre Co-ordinator, explained that it has been a very busy, exciting and successful year. They now have two new purpose-built buildings and there was an official opening on 3 April which was attended by Cllr Marion Clayton.</p> <p>Main aims and achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceeded target of meeting 25% of children • Held 30 sessions last year which has increased to 90 sessions this year • Continue to work closely with other services, including JobPlus, Simply Walk and library services <p>There was a parents’ consultation in April, as a result of the open day, which presented interesting findings, including health drop-ins and “Dad’s” groups.</p> <p>Ann Winsor has the full findings of the consultation and invited people to have a look at it. She also said that she would be very happy to arrange visits to a children’s centre.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Adult Social Care</p> <p>Karen Adamson, Community Development worker for Bucks County Council, outlined her 3 main areas of responsibility.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. There will be 19 GC2C representatives (one for each local area) and they will attend the local area forums to deliver short presentations on what adult social care does and to ask for feedback for the local areas. They will also provide a vital link between adult social care and the local community. Six representatives have currently been recruited and the process of appointing the other representatives is currently taking place. b. Setting-up social care surgeries in the local community to provide help and guidance. There will be 2 surgeries in each of the 19 local areas throughout the year. c. Devising programmes to link communities and adult social care services. The aim is to raise awareness of the services provided by adult social care through its links with local communities to ensure people know where to go to for the support 	<p>Buckingham social care surgery will be on 23 May at the Buckingham Centre from 10am-1pm</p>

	<p>and services they need.</p> <p>Karen asked for feedback on the social care surgeries.</p>	
7.	<p>Aylesbury Vale District Council Services:</p> <p>Shalstone – litter on rural roads</p> <p>Waste collection – failure to arrive every fortnight in Radclive</p>	<p>Ian Reed to follow-up</p> <p>Cllr Derrick Isham to look into the Radclive waste collection issue</p>
8.	<p>Street Furniture</p> <p>a. proliferation of street signs b. road safety</p> <p>(a) There was concern about the level of signage in some rural areas as it was seen as becoming too suburban. Simon Dudley explained that the additional street signs are part of a Government-led project to “educate” drivers.</p> <p>(b) The 3 designs of the new safety signs have been implemented to reduce the numbers of casualties on the roads & to remind everyone that they have a shared responsibility for safety on the roads. Where possible they were located to replace the old 'kill your speed' signs. The initiative will include moving the signs at regular intervals in the future to keep the messages fresh in drivers minds.</p>	<p>If local communities strongly object to these signs consideration will be made to remove them as, a number of other communities have expressed a wish to have these signs located in their area's.</p>
9.	<p>Transportation issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways on call - drainage issue in West Street, Buckingham now resolved • Local Area Technician – Simon Dudley provided an update on the role of the LAT and explained that Ken Horne has one of the largest (and most rural) areas to look after. Simon also gave details of how the extra revenue funding had been spent (including pot hole repairs). • Speed Limit on A422 – in Area 14, consultation Spring 2009, revised limits (if any) in place by the 	

	<p>end of 2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cats Eyes – there is now budget for this project to proceed. Local Area Technicians have been asked to feed problem areas to Sian Thomas (Traffic Team Leader) for action where necessary. • Grass cutting – all three cuts include vision splays at junctions, double width cuts as required. These vision splays are attended to between routine cuts as necessary. • Radclive-cum-Chackmore Parish - Radclive received 30mph speed limit as part of 'Area 1' of the speed limit review in early 2004. It has been included, together with all areas north of the A422, within Area 14. Initial consultation on any proposed changes is due to take place in spring 2009, with any revised limits being in place before the end of 2009. Work has not yet commenced on detailed proposals for Area 14. • Thornton Parish – Satellite Navigation Systems Mike Smith from the GC2C team has written to the Road Haulage Association regarding the volume of HGVs on the roads. He hasn't yet received a reply. • Switching off street lights – Gawcott Road, Buckingham – a petition has been received. • Thornborough Parish – diversion routes through the village not to be recommended to the police – alternate route via Padbury has been proposed. • Fly tipping – any instances should be reported to AVDC. 	<p style="text-align: center;">There was a specific request for the grass to be cut in Turweston. Simon to follow-up</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report to the police any haulage company which continually uses the country roads</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Item reported above after item 4</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Thames Valley Police – Horse Watch</p> <p>Simon Dudley read out the following statement from Thames Valley Police.</p> <p>Thames Valley Police are warning all owners of rural property to be aware that the theft of oil and diesel is on the increase, as well as quad bikes, power tools, hay and animal feed. The police ask that you report any suspicious vehicles in your area, with the make, colour and registration plate where possible, as well as a description of occupants. Be suspicious of anyone who cold calls asking about vehicles/animals for sale, lost dogs, grazing/livery enquiries, or selling any equipment/tools from the back of a van. Asking people to call back to see “the owner” at a more convenient time will sort out the genuine callers. Please phone any information to the police non-emergency number 08458 505505. If a crime</p>	

	<p>is in progress, phone 999.</p> <p>In a recent incident near Henley, two Irish males twice tried to sell power washers to a yard owner, and took a lot of interest in her horses. The vehicles involved were a red van and a maroon transit type van.</p> <p>For information on crime prevention and securing your property, please contact your local neighbourhood watch office, who run Country watch, Farm watch and Horse watch schemes throughout the Thames Valley Police area.</p> <p>Sent on behalf of Helen Evans Thames Valley Horse Watch - 01494 736642</p>	
12.	<p>Dates of future meetings</p> <p>The next meeting is due to take place on Thursday 25 September 2008 – further details to follow.</p>	