

## **ACTION NOTES**

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>Buckingham Local Area Forum</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>15 December 2011 7.00 pm to 9.20 pm</b>
<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>The Buckingham School, London Road, MK18 1AT</b>

<b>Present:</b>	Mrs J Beckett (Radclive-cum-Chackmore Parish Council), Chris Benton (Water Stratford Parish Council), Hedley Cadd (Buckinghamshire County Council), Ivy Cakebread (Stowe Parish Council), Terry Cavender (Akeley Parish Council), John Chilver (Aylesbury Vale District Council), Geoff Culverhouse (Nash Parish Council), Patrick Fealey (Aylesbury Vale District Council), Roger Landells (Twyford Parish Council), Pearl Lewis (Aylesbury Vale District Council), Alex Matthews (Thornton Parish Council), Edwin Maxwell (Tingewick Parish Council), Llew Monger (Aylesbury Vale District Council), Howard Mordue (Aylesbury Vale District Council), Tom Morrison (Hogshaw Parish Meeting), Nick Osgerby (Steeple Claydon Parish Council), Jackie Phipps (Aylesbury Vale District Council), David Polhill (Buckinghamshire County Council), Susan Renshell (Aylesbury Vale District Council), John Riches (Middle Claydon Parish Council) and Robin Stuchbury (Aylesbury Vale District Council)
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Simon Dudley, Inspector Emma Garside, Debbie Gibbs, Mark Grindall, David Hedley, Ann Kiceluk, Lynne Maddocks, Stephen Townsend, Doreen Weingart, Liz Wheaton and Andrew Wilkins
<b>Apologies:</b>	Ann Cobban, Ann-Marie Davies, Phil Gomm, Derrick Isham, Lady Scott, Mike Smith, Sir Beville Stanier, Mrs J Swadling and Warren Whyte

Item	ISSUES RAISED
<b>1</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p>Apologies as above.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>ACTION NOTES</b></p> <p>The action notes of the meeting held on Thursday 29 September 2011 were agreed as a correct record.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE</b></p> <p>The Chairman read out an email from Transport for Buckinghamshire with regards to the relinquishing of highway rights of the churchyard in Buckingham which is dependant upon a positive outcome to a consultation process. The Chairman asked LAF Members if they would be willing to earmark part of the priorities budget monies to fund a possible consultation.</p> <p>A Member asked whether there are funds available in the budget for this if they were to agree to it. Mark Grindall, Localities Manager, responded by saying that there is some money available but funding would not be agreed before extensive research had been undertaken and a report presented to the LAF. He went on to say that the Chairman was just asking for feedback tonight from Members and that no money would be allocated.</p>

The Chairman asked Members for their views of which 8 Members were in favour of earmarking some funds, 7 Members were against the idea and there were 4 abstentions.

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## **LOCAL PRIORITIES UPDATE**

The foreground priorities for the Buckingham LAF are as follows:

- Evening bus services and access to leisure facilities to be improved (awaiting a champion)
- Improved support for carers (champion: Margo Parfitt/ Mike Smith)
- Flood Mitigation (champion: Terry Cavender/Pearl Lewis)
- Address Buckingham Hospital service reduction (John Riches)
- Promote Local Shopping facilities where they exist (Roger Landells)
- Insufficient Public Transport in Rural areas (Mike Smith/Stephen Townsend).

### **Flood Mitigation**

Terry Cavender reported that £5,000 had been allocated to the "Flood Mitigation" priority at the last meeting but this will not be spent in this financial year so he asked for the money to be put back into the budget to be spent on other priorities.

The Member for Padbury said that residents were pleased to have been awarded funding to help with flooding problems at the bottom of the village.

### **Promoting Local Shopping facilities**

Roger Landells, the local champion for this priority, explained that he is still in the information gathering phase and he said he would re-circulate the information he needs from each parish as he has not received many responses to date.

**Action: Roger Landells**

### **Improved Support for Carers**

Stephen Townsend provided an update on the "Improved support for carers" priority. He said that funds allocated by the LAF will be used to undertake research (£5,000). Further funding is being sought for use in promoting the website and raising the profile of carers (a total of £7,500). Mark explained that he needs to meet with Adult Social Care to see what they are providing and if further funding from the LAF is required, then he would prepare a full report for Members to consider.

**Action: Mark Grindall**

Stephen went on to ask the representatives from the Hospital Trust for further information on the £400 million Government funding for carers. He thought it was going to be published as part of the PCT's published reports in October 2011. Richard Mills, Director of Strategy, NHS Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Cluster, responded by saying that it has not been published yet. The funding is not ring-fenced and it has to be looked at within the context of all priorities. The Government would like to see the money used to support carers but it is not additional funding. There has been a lot of national debate around this issue.

### **Buckingham Hospital Service Reduction**

John Riches is the local champion for the above local priority and has invited representatives from Health organisations to attend the LAF meeting. The Chairman introduced Rachael Corser, Associate Director of Nursing, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, Richard Mills, Director of Strategy, NHS Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Cluster and Lee Jones, Assistant Director of

Communications, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust.

Mr Mills started by explaining that there is a commitment to keep services at Buckingham Hospital and there is an appreciation that certain local health services are required. A number of changes are taking place and Mr Mills outlined two main changes.

- Bucks Healthcare Trust is operating local integrated Community Services and is the first Trust in the Country to achieve this.
- Primary Care Trusts are soon to be abolished and this role will be taken on by local GPs. Jonny Marshall is leading on this national initiative.

Mr Mills went on to say that certain services will have to be centralised and he provided the example of stroke patients now being treated at Wycombe Hospital where there is a hyper-acute stroke unit offering world-class specialist care. Better patient outcomes are achieved in these instances and patient's return to their homes faster due to the high quality of care they receive.

Ms Corser re-emphasised that investments are taking place at Buckingham Hospital. Community Services are now available around the clock and money has been invested in home intravenous services.

During discussion, Members asked the following questions and made the following observations.

- A Member commented that the NHS should not be undermined and the services at Buckingham Hospital should be utilised, including offering a number of specialist clinics. Another Member went on to say that moving services from Buckingham Hospital to Stoke Mandeville means that residents have to endure at least a three and a half hour round trip and these are unacceptable time delays. Mr Mills explained that there is a need to centralise certain services but the Trust does continuously monitor the demand for services.
- A Member asked about waiting lists and said they had seen two sets of figures. Mr Mills said that the Trust is very proud of what it has achieved in relation to waiting lists and said that the money had been used well to provide high quality care.
- A Member spoke from personal experience in relation to physiotherapy. Since the service was contracted out, the appointment waiting times have increased. Mr Mills explained that it was a Government directive for certain services to be put out to tender. The company providing physiotherapy services at Buckingham Hospital are responsible for setting their own staffing levels but any major concerns about the quality of the service should be addressed, in writing, to the Trust.
- A Member commented that people have to travel much further now for their Hospital treatment and parking at Hospitals is very expensive and there is a lack of parking available at Hospitals. Mr Mills explained that each Hospital is responsible for its own parking arrangements and there are no easy answers. The Member went on to suggest that staff members should park off-site and shuttle arrangements should be put in place to bring them to and from work which would free up parking places for patients.
- A Member asked about the refurbishment works at the Winslow Health Centre and asked why the works were six months over-schedule. Mr Mills explained that more problems were uncovered once work started and the scheme cost more than initially thought, but the end result has meant more services can be provided by GPs at the surgery.
- A Member said that residents in Buckingham tend to go to Milton Keynes for treatment as it's closer than going to Wycombe. Mr Mills explained that Milton Keynes Hospital is not part of Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust but the Trust does commission services to Milton Keynes Hospital.

The Chairman thanked Mr Mills, Ms Corser and Ms Jones for attending the meeting and providing Members with an update on the current situation at Buckingham Hospital.

	<p><b><u>Improvements to the evening bus services and access to leisure facilities</u></b></p> <p>Mark Grindall, Localities Manager, explained that there are a number of initiatives which are being explored and developed. He mentioned the iVan which was very well received last year which the LAF contributed £5,000 from its budget. A Member asked whether local youth clubs can be included in the targeting of this process. Mark explained that the initiative can be opened up to include more youth clubs and more areas. The facility would be placed where the need is greatest.</p> <p>Mark asked Members of the LAF to agree, in principle, to allocate funding to another iVan initiative and for other youth projects to be looked into in conjunction with the relevant service areas. Mark said that it would be subject to further background information and extensive research into costs and feasibility.</p> <p>Members agreed to this.</p> <p>Mark went on to say that he is looking into whether a voluntary organisation can take on a commercial bus route.</p> <p>A Member suggested that the on-going planning consultation could include questions in relation to local transport needs which would save money and time in conducting a separate transport consultation. Ann Kiceluk said that she would take this back to AVDC and find out whether the timings of the consultation would coincide.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action: Ann Kiceluk</b></p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>QUESTION TIME</b></p> <p>Martin Howes, a member of the public and a member of Bucks Fire and Rescue, said that he attended a meeting yesterday at which they were told that the control centre is going to be moved to Cambridgeshire. He raised concerns in relation to how the decision was made as he felt some of the discussions had been held in private.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested that any concerns relating to decisions made by Bucks Fire and Rescue should be directed to them. He went on to say that after the last LAF meeting, he wrote to the Chief Fire Officer, on behalf of the LAF, to express concerns over the consultation document.</p> <p>Terry Cavender told Members that the Government has published a consultation document relating to Fire Authorities being subjected to scrutiny in the future. He said he would circulate further information after the meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action: Terry Cavender</b></p>
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>PETITIONS</b></p> <p>There were no petitions.</p>
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>TRANSPORT FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE UPDATE</b></p> <p>Simon Dudley took Members through the TfB report, including the agreed schemes for the delegated budget in 2011/12. He went on to advise Members to log into the Service Information Centre which provides a wealth of information, including the progress being made by the snow gritters. He said that a recent competition at local schools has resulted in the gritters being given names, such as Snowdrop, Snow Angel and Margritt.</p>

A Member commented that Councillor David Rowlands was to provide an update on the 20mph following the decision from the Department of Transport in October. In David's absence, this has been deferred to a future meeting.

**Action: David Rowlands**

The Member for Akeley said that they were unaware of a Vehicle Activated Sign in Akeley and asked Simon to look into this and let the local residents know.

**Action: Simon Dudley**

The Member for Padbury thanked Simon for the 30mph signs which have now been put in the village of Padbury. He went on to say that he would contact Simon after the meeting regarding Main Street in Padbury as the residents are unhappy about the fact that there is no footpath and speeding is a real problem.

**Action: Padbury Parish Council**

A Member commented that 30mph signs are needed in Maids Moreton near the rugby club. Simon explained that there is no need for repeat signage if there are traffic lights nearby.

The Member for Nash explained that there are number of missing drain covers in their area. Simon said that they have received a number of reports of missing drain covers which have been reported to the police. Orders have been raised to replace them and the replacements will be bolted down in an attempt to reduce theft.

The Chairman thanked Simon for his update.

## **9 THAMES VALLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE UPDATE**

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Emma Garside. She started by explaining that the new 101 non-emergency Police number is now live. Agreement has now been sought to change the neighbourhood boundaries to be co-terminus with the LAF areas. The IT changes to support this process have been delayed and it is not now possible to meet the April 2012 so the implementation date for changing the boundaries has now been stated as October 2012.

The consultation relating to the front counters at police stations is still on-going but is due to end in February. This relates to the Old Gaol station in Buckingham. Inspector Garside explained that she has challenged the suggestion to reduce the opening times to 3 days a week. The suggestion now is to open 5 days a week but to slightly change the opening times from 9.30-2pm to 10-2pm. She went on to say that she would have liked to see the Old Gaol open on Saturdays as well and asked for parishes to support this by becoming involved in the consultation process.

Inspector Garside reported the following crime rates for the area.

- In Buckingham Town, serious acquisitive crime is down 41% but criminal damage to vehicles and buildings has increased. Crime rates, overall, are down by 17%.
- In Buckingham North, serious acquisitive crime is down by 26% and crime, overall is down by 31%.

PCSO Denise Grayburn has moved to the Waddesdon area so Inspector Garside said that she would be looking for a replacement for this area. The police are working closely with the University with regards to anti-social behaviour around Nelson Street. There was a serious arson in relation to a farm building on the A422 but no-one has been caught yet in relation to this crime.

Speeding is still a priority in the area and an HGV operation has been taking place in Buckingham

	<p>Town. Someone is currently on bail following a drugs raid which resulted in around £1,000 worth of a class B drugs being seized. There have been a number of traffic accidents as a result of icy mornings and Inspector Garside advised people not to leave their keys in the car ignition whilst defrosting their windscreens and she also advised people not to leave their Christmas presents on display.</p> <p>Inspector Garside concluded her update by telling Members that 3 PCSOs have received a Commendation relating to the way they handled the arson attack as they were the first on the scene. Inspector Garside said that the Commendations were very well deserved. The Chairman asked for the congratulations from the LAF to be passed onto the PCSOs.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Inspector Garside for her very useful update.</p>
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>AVDC UPDATE</b></p>
<p><b>i</b></p>	<p><b>Changes to refuse &amp; recycling at AVDC</b></p> <p>Ann Kiceluk, Lead Officer from Aylesbury Vale District Council, introduced her colleague, Andy Wilkins to talk through the changes to refuse and recycling at AVDC during 2012.</p> <p>The Officer gave a presentation on the proposed changes to waste refuse and recycling within Aylesbury Vale (presentation attached to minutes).</p> <p>The Officer highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The collections are to be re-organised from a 5 day to a 4 day week. This will free up one day a week where training could be delivered or used to catch up on collections following bad weather etc. It was commented that this will deliver £500k of savings per year.</li> <li>• The change in the system can take more material including a food waste collection.</li> <li>• There will also be the option to subscribe to a new garden waste service at a cost of £36 per year, with a suspended service for two months a year.</li> <li>• If an assisted collection is required alternative arrangements are possible.</li> <li>• It is estimated 60-70% of waste will be diverted from landfill.</li> <li>• Additional black bags will no longer be collected.</li> </ul> <p>He went on to say that there have been very few complaints from the pilot areas in Buckingham and Winslow.</p> <p>During discussion, Members asked the following questions and made the following observations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Member felt that it was a great step forward and asked whether more information could be provided on what should go into the blue bins – perhaps stickers on the bins. The Member went on to say that they did not like the idea of residents now being asked to pay £36 per year for the brown bin service. Andy Wilkins responded by saying that the communication pack provides details on what can go into each bin. He said that he appreciates the costs associated with the brown bin but it is relatively cheap by comparison. The reality is that AVDC cannot afford to provide the service at no cost.</li> <li>• AVDC has one of the worst levels of recycling and there is a need to drive the recycling figures up.</li> <li>• A Member mentioned the texting service which you can sign-up to via AVDC's website and this provides an instant update.</li> </ul> <p>Tingewick Parish Council emailed a question in advance of the meeting in relation to bin collection in the area. Andy Wilkins responded by saying that the team leader is aware of this and he will look into it further after the meeting.</p>

	<b>Action: Andy Wilkins</b>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>BUCKS CC CHANGE TO HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES</b></p> <p>Members were asked to note the update on the new contract to improve household waste recycling centres in Buckinghamshire.</p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>OPEN FORUM</b></p> <p>Mr Morrison from Hogshaw Parish Council asked to update Members on the Energy from Waste issue.</p> <p>At this point, the Chairman left the room as he declared an interest in this issue as he is Chairman of Development Control Committee at Bucks County Council.</p> <p>Mr Morrison explained that the next few weeks are going to be very important. He said that there have been some fantastic letters from parishes who are opposed to the plans. The deadline for responding to the planning application is 16 December although late representations will be considered. He urged parish councils who have not made a representation to do so and he said that there are experts on hand to guide parishes through the process. Whilst the Development Control Committee meeting date has not been confirmed, a provisional date of 24 January has been mentioned. Mr Morrison said that individual parishes can attend this meeting as it is a public meeting.</p>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS</b></p> <p>The next meeting will take place on Thursday 29 March 2012. Venue to be agreed.</p> <p><b>Future dates:</b></p> <p>Thursday 28 June  Thursday 27 September  Thursday 13 December.</p>