

Chesham and Villages Local Area Forum

Title:

Update report from Transport for Buckinghamshire

Date:

29 September 2010

Author:

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Electoral divisions affected:

Chess Valley,
Chesham East
Chesham North West
Chiltern Ridges

Summary

1. From 2010 this standard report will be issued to each Local Area Forum (LAF) / Local Community Partnership (LCP) from Transport for Buckinghamshire.
2. It will aim to provide a comprehensive update on current and relevant Transportation issues which are tailored to each individual LAF / LCP.
3. Standard topics to be covered will be:
 - Dates of when Local Community Gangs will visit parishes
 - Major issues likely to affect parishes within the LAF / LCP
 - Update on ongoing local issues
 - Policy Development
 - Any other information
4. In addition, it will cover any emerging issues which could or will affect Local Area Forum / Local Community Partnership areas.

Recommendation

That the members of the forum note the contents of the report



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Supporting information to include the following if a decision is being requested:

Area Maintenance

We have continued through the spring and summer making repairs to our roads. Using a pothole gang dealing with the emergency Cat 1 repairs and a road fixer gang making larger patch repairs and these will continue throughout the year. There have also been programmes of plane and patch and surface dressing.

A programme of weed treatment has been carried out and a further treatment will be carried out later this year. Noxious weeds have also been treated.

Gulley emptying both cyclic and reactive is ongoing and a programme of emptying problem soak ways has started

Local Area Community Gangs are undertaking small maintenance issues, which primarily have been brought to our attention by Parish Council's and please continue to contact your Local Area Technician with any works so that forthcoming programme can be compiled.

Winter Maintenance

. The TfB winter maintenance review is ongoing and will be taking account of recommendations made by the County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A detailed report will be submitted for a Cabinet Member Key Decision at the end of September.

In summary a few of the anticipated outcomes are as follows.

- 1) Salt stock for this coming season will be increased by a further 2,500t providing greater resilience.*
- 2) A snow network will be developed in order to concentrate our limited resources on a reduced network in periods of snowfall.*
- 3) Fundamentally the Priority 1 precautionary network will remain unchanged although the assessment of roads to be considered for inclusion is ongoing.*
- 4) Proposal to sell salt to Parish and Town Councils to encourage an increased level of self help in the community.*
- 5) Clearance of Town Centre footways will be carried out by Town and Parish Councils under the devolved highway functions agreements as well as procedures being put in place with District Councils.*
- 6) A network of farmers and other contractors is being developed to provide additional resources in severe weather.*
- 7) Clearer guidance will be provided regarding liability of clearing snow and ice from footways.*

Traffic Management

There are no specific schemes to report on at this time, but as always there is an ongoing inspection of signs and lines with work taking place through our own TfB teams.

Policy

Local Transport Plan 3 development

LAF members were sent a memo on 3rd August indicating that the consultation due to take place in August would be delayed until later in the year. Further clarity has now been

realised and the LTP3 Consultation Document will be taken to Cabinet in early November, allowing the Full 12 week public consultation to take place in mid November. As before, the consultation will be mostly online, but paper copies of the booklet will be sent to Parishes and put in libraries and Council offices.

Transport for Buckinghamshire would also be most grateful for Parishes' support during the consultation. If Parish Councils could include a short article in their Parish Newsletter informing their residents that the Consultation is taking place TfB would be most grateful.

In the time leading up to the consultation in November, the Transport Policy Team in TfB is working on re-drafting the strategy, in line with latest guidance, to make the document more relevant to local communities. This document is truly a 'Plan for Buckinghamshire' and now the main emphasis, as driven by 'the Big Society' and Local Area Planning, is on strategic local needs; the national agenda plays a much smaller role.

We hope to reflect the needs of the local community in the Plan and we hope you will take an active part in our consultation in November.

An outline of our timetable is as follows:

LTP Document development and Consultation draft	Now – 25 th October
Cabinet Approval of Consultation document	8 th November
12 Week Full Public Consultation	15/11/10 – 18/02/11
Final document approval by Cabinet	21 st March 2010

For more information or clarification please contact transportps@buckscc.gov.uk

Road Safety

Road safety checks carried out by the Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership in conjunction with Road Safety Officers from Transport for Buckinghamshire and Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Specialist Officers (NSO's) .

The locations are determined by local Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAG's) in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Officers.

Educational alternatives to prosecution are promoted during these checks and drivers have the option of attending speed awareness, mobile phone courses or completing an online seatbelt awareness course.

The aim is to educate drivers and therefore allow them to have a better understanding of why and how their direct actions behind the wheel can affect the safety of themselves and others.

Postcodes are recorded to determine whether it is local drivers who are contravening traffic laws and this information is fed back to local NAG's by Neighbourhood Officers

26-Jun CDC Chesham St Marys Way (nr Elgiva) 13 1

Passenger Transport

Nothing to report at this time.

Development Control

42-44, Townsend Road, Chesham- redevelopment of the site for B1 use. Outline

application. Highway Authority raised no objection subject to visibility splays, relocation of access to central point and sufficient parking and manoeuvring within the site.

Application at 197, 203-205, Land Ro 201 & 207, Chartridge Lane and RO 68-78, Berkeley Avenue, Chesham – 34 dwellings. Only just been consulted so if mentioned by the Parish then the Highway Authority has responded yet

Parking

Parking Enforcement in Buckinghamshire

This briefing note has been prepared to inform Members of changes to the way on street parking enforcement is to be carried out in Buckinghamshire.

Parking enforcement in Wycombe, Chiltern and Aylesbury Vale was decriminalised a number of years ago – which passed the responsibility from the Police to the local Authority.

Currently the County Council has agreements with the three Districts that enable them to carry out the enforcement and ticket processing on our behalf within their own individual areas. They have carried this out in conjunction with their own off street car parking responsibilities for a number of years.

The financial model for Civil Parking Enforcement anticipated that a break even or surplus position will be reached over a period of five years, however this has not been the case to date in any of the three areas and county wide Civil Parking Enforcement is operating at an annual loss of over £500,000 which includes both the District and County deficits. The County Liability for 2009/10 was £189,000 and forecast to rise to over £200,000 in 2010/11

This loss clearly cannot be sustained and we, in consultation with the districts, have concluded that the only option is to bring the work back to the County Council and to manage the on-street parking in all three Districts under a countywide contract. This will bring economies of scale and ensure that the County is able to exercise greater control and management of the parking finances within the available budget. Savings will be made by having a single management structure and by being able to plan parking beat routes more efficiently. The principle has been adopted by other County Council's.

Transport for Buckinghamshire is now working towards putting out a contract to the private sector for on street parking enforcement within Aylesbury Vale Wycombe and Chiltern district areas. Tender documents are being prepared to invite bids from specialist private contractors.

A Cabinet Member Key decision report is being prepared and this will be published very shortly. Also, information reports are being presented to the current round of LAF meetings

.It should be noted that although the tender specification will indicate that off-street parking enforcement can be included at a later date there is no expectation by the County that off-street enforcement will be undertaken. However by including it in the tender documents it allows the Districts the opportunity to use the benefits of a single contract if they are looking to make their own efficiencies

Although a private contractor will be enforcing parking there will not be any targets or quotas. It is illegal to set these and so the public can be assured they will form no part of

the contract.

There will be a single set of standards across the three Districts and priority will be focused on those areas where there are concerns that parking infringement is affecting safety and congestion.

It is intended to have the new contract in place by next summer.

TLTL – Delegated Budget update

Delegated budget schemes for 2010 – 2011

Attached is a schedule of this years schemes none of these schemes have been completed to date.

Delegated budget schemes for 2011 – 2012]

Pleas find attached a schedule showing the requests that have been received this is for information only, the schemes having yet to be evaluated and costed.

STREET WORKS

Gas work in Chesham is now finishing and there is nothing further to report for this meeting.