

## **ACTION NOTES**

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>19 October 2011 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm</b>
<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Willoughby Room, Latimer House, Latimer, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, HP5 1UG</b>

<b>Present:</b>	Mohammad Bhatti MBE (Buckinghamshire County Council), Chris Brown (Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council), Noel Brown (Buckinghamshire County Council) (Chairman), Andrew Garth (Chiltern District Council - Ashley Green, Latimer and Chenies), Chris Howell (Chartridge Parish Council), Joan Lherbier (Chartridge Parish Council), Keith Platt (Latimer Parish Council), Mark Shaw (Chesham Town Council), Elizabeth Stacey (The Lee Parish Council) and Fred Wilson (Chiltern District Council - Hilltop and Townsend)
<b>In Attendance:</b>	David Cowell, Ann-Marie Davies, Christine Gardner, Chris Rawson, Rachael Rothero, David Schofield and Helen Wailing
<b>Apologies:</b>	John Axon, Alan Bacon, Patricia Birchley, Michael Brand, David Natali and Kerry Stevens

Item	ISSUES RAISED
1	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p>See above.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Latimer Parish Council for arranging the venue and refreshments for the meeting.</p>
2	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
3	<p><b>ACTION NOTES</b></p> <p>The notes of the meeting held on 15 June 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.</p> <p><b>Matters arising</b>            Page 7 – Ann-Marie Davies (Transport Localities Team Leader) reported that since the previous meeting, the application for funding for a Feasibility Study into the A416 and Hog Lane / Two Dells Lane had been withdrawn and a new application, for a Vehicle Activated Sign had been submitted. The total cost of the sign was £7800, and Ashley Green Parish Council would be paying £2200 of this cost. This change had been agreed by the Head of the Transport Service at Buckinghamshire County Council.</p>
4	<p><b>QUESTION TIME</b></p>

**Severe Winter Weather**

Peter Reeve, a local resident, asked if the Council was better prepared for severe weather for 2011-12, and said that:

- During the severe weather in the previous winter, salt and grit had been spread directly on top of snow, without clearing the road first. This was not effective.
- Peter Reeve had driven from Aberdeen back to Buckinghamshire during the severe weather and had only found the roads to be hazardous once he entered Buckinghamshire.
- Cars had been abandoned in Chesham and the surrounding areas during the snow, which indicated that the drivers did not know how to prepare for winter driving, and had not brought shovels with them.
- Also, drivers needed information on skid control as cars had been abandoned following skidding.

Ann-Marie Davies (Transport for Buckinghamshire) said the following:

- The previous two winters had seen unprecedented weather. In 2010-11 there had been a lot more preparation for the severe weather than in 2009-10.
- A sophisticated system was used to determine when to carry out gritting.
- A winter maintenance leaflet had been sent to all Parish Councils.
- A Service Information Centre on the website provided detailed highway information - <http://www.transportforbucks.net/Transport-and-roads.aspx>
- An 'app' for smart phones was also available - <http://www.transportforbucks.net/Apps.aspx>

David Schofield, (Cabinet Spokesman for Transportation North, Buckinghamshire County Council) asked for feedback about the County Council website, as it was going to be updated shortly.

**5 PETITIONS**

**Petition - objection to the proposed closure of Outreach Day Centre in Chesham for adults who have disabilities and learning difficulties**

Mr and Mrs Gates presented the above petition and said that there was a lot of anxiety and rumour about the closure. The petition was 65 pages long and contained 1440 signatures.

The Chairman said that he would pass the petition to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.

Michael Brand (Buckinghamshire County Council) said that he supported the petition.

**6 TRANSPORT UPDATE**

Members noted the Report.

David Schofield (Buckinghamshire County Council Cabinet Spokesman for Transportation South) said that the Council was working to re-surface as many roads as possible. Improvements in communication were also being carried out.

The following day the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation would be inspecting the Chesham area with the Local Area Technician and Derek Lacey, District Councillor.

David Schofield also said the following:

- 12.5 tonnes of grit had been stocked up for winter. In the previous year just under 10 tonnes of grit had been used.
- Salt bins were available and cost £450 per bin. The cost included replacement grit and lifetime maintenance. Salt was also being sold in 1 ton bags to Parish Councils, for between £65 and £85 per bag.
- Utility road works in Sycamore Road, Amersham – the shops there were losing trade and the utility company had not informed the County Council of the works. If this happened in other areas, members should let David Schofield or Ann-Marie Davies know.
- The County Council would need assistance from farmers if severe weather occurred. Guidance stated that farmers could use red diesel when clearing snow for the County Council. Spare snow ploughs for tractors were available.

Ann-Marie Davies (Transport Localities Team Leader) then said the following:

- She had now been confirmed as the replacement for Chris Schwier, who had retired earlier in 2011.
- There were a number of issues regarding the work in Germain Street, and there was regular communication with local councillors. A safety audit would be carried out after the work completion date.
- Delegated budget schemes which had been agreed for 2011-12 were progressing. Those schemes which had not gone forward in the current year would be re-submitted for consideration for the delegated budget 2012-13.

A member of Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council said that in 2010 they had submitted the names of three farmers who had offered to help with snow clearing, but had received no response. The same had happened this year.

David Schofield said that he would take this forward. **Action: DS / AMD**

**Contact details:**

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**7 UPDATE ON BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY IN CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS AND ITS ENVIRONS**

This item was not taken at the meeting, due to time restrictions. A note for information, prepared by Chris Brown, Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council, is attached to the Minutes.

**8 BROADBAND FOR RURAL AREAS**

Chris Rawson, Bucks Business First, was welcomed to the meeting.

Chris Rawson said the following:

- There was an aspiration for the UK to have the best broadband in Western Europe by 2015; for a minimum of 90% super-fast broadband in Buckinghamshire by 2015; and for the remaining 10% of Buckinghamshire to have a minimum of 2mb per second (A map of current coverage in Buckinghamshire is attached to the Minutes).
- £9billion of funding had been announced nationally.
- Bucks Business First was working with Hertfordshire County Council to achieve value for money and a more extensive project.
- There was funding of £2.1m available for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes (£1.8m for Buckinghamshire). It was a 'gap funding' model, which needed match-funding by local authorities. It was hoped that Buckinghamshire County Council would double the funding available.
- The task was huge and it was not possible to make definitive promises. There were variables, such as how far a house was from the broadband street cabinet, or if a house had an exchange-only line. Work was being carried out with BT and with Virgin.
- The key components of the project were delivery and procurement. Nationally there were six preferred bidders. The local project team would stimulate and register demand.
- A very large piece of work to engage with communities would be carried out.
- The 'digital divide' needed to be considered, to ensure that people with no IT experience could make use of the broadband.
- The BT infinity website allowed residents to search using their postcode, to find out the predicted speed and timing of broadband in their area.

A member asked if the project was commercial-based or whether it would address whole communities.

Chris Rawson said that it would address whole communities, and that the project was all-encompassing. Priority areas would be areas with a critical mass of people, and higher potential take-up of broadband services.

A member of Latimer Parish Council said that fibre optic cables for broadband had been laid for Latimer House in 2010. This had disrupted the village, but village residents had not been connected to the broadband. Chris Rawson said that if the network had been plugged into BT, it could be given to village residents. However if it was a private network this might not be possible. Chris Rawson said that he would look into this – **Action: CR**

**Contact details**

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**ENDEAVOUR CENTRE**

Rachael Rothero (Service Manager - Strategic Commissioning, Adults and Family Wellbeing) and David Cowell (Programme Manager - Day Service Modernisation) were welcomed to the meeting.

Rachael Rothero updated members about the Day Opportunities Programme.

### **Overview of changes to the Day Care Service**

In 2010 a major consultation had been undertaken by Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC), with a set of proposals to transform the traditional day care model to a range of different new services.

A review of the day care estate had been carried out, and many buildings were in a very poor condition. Some buildings were not even suitable for wheelchairs.

In March 2011, following more than 123 public meetings, the BCC Cabinet had made its final recommendations regarding day care provision.

Unlike other local authorities, BCC had decided that it was critical to continue to support people with high needs in buildings.

Six day opportunity centres were proposed (one for the Chesham / Amersham area), and there had been a significant capital investment of £6.5m.

BCC was working closely with architects to ensure that building designs supported the needs of the most vulnerable people. There had also been a series of 'meet the architects' public meetings.

The new buildings would be accessible and would bring wider community benefits, such as providing information on other services. There would also be cafés, which could potentially be run by Learning Disability clients. Extended opening hours were also planned in the evenings and at weekends.

The national agenda was moving towards personalisation, with clients being supported to understand their needs and given a personal budget. If clients wished, they could take a direct payment in lieu of BCC services, and could use this to buy services from other providers.

BCC was linking with existing and new providers. Two large provider events had been held, with 90 attendees. Work was also ongoing with providers to develop the 'marketplace.'

Volunteer and social enterprises were also being encouraged. BCC had been involved in the development of the Big Society Bank, which would provide start-up funding and loans.

Vulnerable people needed support to spend their direct payments. Support brokers had therefore been employed to provide face to face meetings with clients. A number of accredited brokers were now in place.

Another consideration was friendship groups in existing centres, and solutions for these groups were being looked at.

From December 2011, a Universal Advice and Information Service would be in place, which was an electronic directory to replace Bucks Info.net.

In addition, more funding was being put into expanding community capacity and the volunteering infrastructure in communities.

### **Specific changes in Amersham and Chesham**

The preferred option for the building based model was the Amersham Library site, and the current proposal was for a new day centre, library and café there. BCC was working with

Chiltern District Council (CDC) on this, as CDC owned the land.

The existing Endeavour Centre site in Chesham had a number of different uses, including a registered Learning Disability care home, a garden centre, a school and a day centre.

A few years previously the Fremantle Trust and Housing Solutions had agreed re-provision of a learning disability care programme. BCC had paid for 60 beds in the Amersham / Chesham area, and a site was being sought for the home.

One proposal being explored was a 60 bed nursing home on the existing Cameron House and garden centre sites. This would mean that the existing Cameron House clients would be part of a new development at Maple Court Care Home (supported living for Learning Disability clients).

A significant amount of time had been spent exploring the options for the Endeavour Day Centre. The existing building was not fit for its purpose, and as it was on a hill, was not reachable in severe winter weather. The centre was set to close in 2012. Until the new service was in place, clients would be moved on an interim basis, and there was a commitment to do this to a location as close as possible to where they lived, with reasonable and manageable travelling times.

The school on the same site was considering a new skills centre where the day centre currently stood.

Options for retaining the garden centre on the site were also being considered and how this could be included as part of the skills centre.

The Endeavour Outreach Service was not provided from the Endeavour Centre site. The Outreach Service was planned to continue, via providers from the voluntary / community sector. A staff consultation was currently being carried out and would end in December 2011. There would not be a gap in services, and all clients would have an assessment.

The Day Service Project Board had agreed to send out very regular bulletins to clients, to avoid rumours and anxiety. Copies of the first bulletin were available at the meeting. There were still some uncertainties, and the bulletins would clarify these wherever possible.

A member said that Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) needed to communicate better with carers. Rachael Rothero said that BCC was working with Carers Bucks on this.

A member asked if the organisations which currently delivered the day care services were being fully engaged in the Consultation.

Rachael Rothero said that the Consultation had been the most extensive ever carried out by the Adult Social Care Service. A significant number of responses had been fed into the business case, and everybody had had an opportunity to be involved.

The Chairman suggested that there be direct engagement with the Endeavour Outreach Service.

A member noted that many carers were themselves in their 70s or 80s, and that communication and engagement techniques which were used needed to reflect this.

	<p>The Local Priorities budget for the year 2011-12 was £20 000, and £13 318.05 of this had already been committed to projects at previous meetings.</p> <p>Members were asked to consider the funding proposals in the papers. All projects funded had to be completed by March 2012. If the budget was not allocated by November 2011, it would be returned to the Head of Service at the County Council.</p> <p>Due to the timing at the meeting, it was agreed that the funding decisions would be made by email.</p> <p><b>Resolved</b></p> <p><b>Members of the Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum agreed that the funding decisions would be made by email before the next meeting.</b> [email sent out is attached]</p>
11	<p><b>WINTER DRIVING WORKSHOPS - FOR INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Members noted the information.</p>
12	<p><b>COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER POLICY</b></p> <p>Members noted the information.</p>
13	<p><b>JOINT DISTRICT AND COUNTY BIG SOCIETY REVIEW FINDINGS</b></p> <p>Members noted the information.</p>
14	<p><b>HIGH SPEED 2 UPDATE</b></p> <p>Members noted the information.</p>
15	<p><b>BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION</b></p> <p>Members noted the information.</p>
16	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>25 January 2012, 7:30pm, venue tbc</p>





## **Building Community Capacity - Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Briefing to Chesham and Chiltern Villages LAF - 19 October 2011**

*(The following report was due to be given at the LAF meeting but under the Chairman's direction due to lack of time it was agreed these notes would be attached to the minutes).*

### **1. Background**

As you know at the end of June this year the LAF agreed to allocate £5000 to a Building Community Capacity Project through the Local Communities Budget to support the current Chesham project and to develop activities to support older and vulnerable adults in a rural community i.e. Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish and its environs.

The £5000 provides for the resource of a project manager, Maggi MacKerron based at Chiltern DC who has been providing support to both local community teams.

As I was not able to be present at the June meeting, firstly can take this opportunity to thank the Forum for agreeing to support this project.

### **2. Activity since LAF meeting in June**

A briefing meeting took place in July involving the Parish Council, Local County Councillor and Cabinet Member for Health and Well-being Tricia Birchley, Project Manager Maggi MacKerron, and an invited group of parishioners who had experience in providing voluntary support in the local community.

A range of issues which could impact on vulnerable adults were discussed and from this a smaller number of initial priorities identified.

- a. Organise a volunteer 4x4 vehicle support for those unable to get to urgent appointments or stranded by extreme weather conditions;
- b. Investigate if the lack of public transport impacting on those without cars or no longer able to drive could be mitigated through a local volunteer car scheme;
- c. Encourage more neighbour contact for those in the community 'isolated', physically or socially due to health issues, bereavement etc;
- d. Provide advice service or 'clinics' for residents unable to access internet or travel to towns in such areas as: social services, housing, health, financial, consumer, safety, technology, etc;
- e. Expand number of volunteers and carers use email network to provide support; share advice on public services or useful information for those they are helping.

On 1<sup>st</sup> September a launch meeting was held with a larger group of local residents with experience of providing support to local people and also those with particular skills (e.g. IT and publicity). Our neighbourhood Police Constable Kevin Flint also attended to advise on how the police could support the project.

The outcome of this meeting was the identification of a number of actions divided into short and medium term.

### 3. Actions

#### a. Short Term actions

- i. Communicate to the whole community through the parish-wide Magazine to publicise and seek involvement of more volunteers – **Actioned 25<sup>th</sup> September**
- ii. Create a email discussion group for volunteers – **Actioned 1<sup>st</sup> October**
- iii. Initiate contingency plans for a volunteer-led 4x4 car scheme to deal with extreme weather conditions this winter so parishioners can get to urgent appointments or home, if stranded at local towns/stations – **Actioned October**
- iv. Set up a ‘not for profit’ body to administer grants, obtain volunteer insurance, bank account, telephone number etc – **to be implemented by mid November**
- v. Directory of vital and useful contacts numbers – **to be published 1<sup>st</sup> December**

#### b. Medium term actions

- i. Develop existing arrangements for outreach to residents who are isolated by identifying or surveying who might need support, and make it easier for them to make contact, seek company through social events, or offering regular visits;
- ii. Organise one or more ‘workshops’ for the whole community on topics identified as priorities such as personal/ property security; consumer concerns; health provision; social services etc;
- iii. Pick up on other national initiatives including those which seek volunteers to assist implementation at local level. For example, the Chiltern Community Transport Hub or the Digital Switchover in April 2012;
- iv. If demand exists either develop a volunteer car scheme or associate with existing community car arrangements;
- v. Seek additional sources of funding to support initiatives;
- vi. Undertake presentations to neighbouring parishes about the project.

### 4. 4x4 transport Extreme Weather Scheme

Given it is already October we have progressed this item quickly. A meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> October to hear about the Chesham ChAV scheme and decide whether to set up a local arrangement. Alison Pirouet Chiltern District and Chesham Town Councillor provided a very pragmatic presentation on the Chesham Scheme which provided an excellent basis for the discussion which followed and led to agreement that a ‘Not for Profit’ management body be formed to administer its operation.

The management body is currently been worked up: a constitution is being drafted, budget requirements identified, securing funding of circa £500, public liability insurance sought, 0800 contact number acquired, and most important attracting further volunteers with 4x4 vehicles etc.

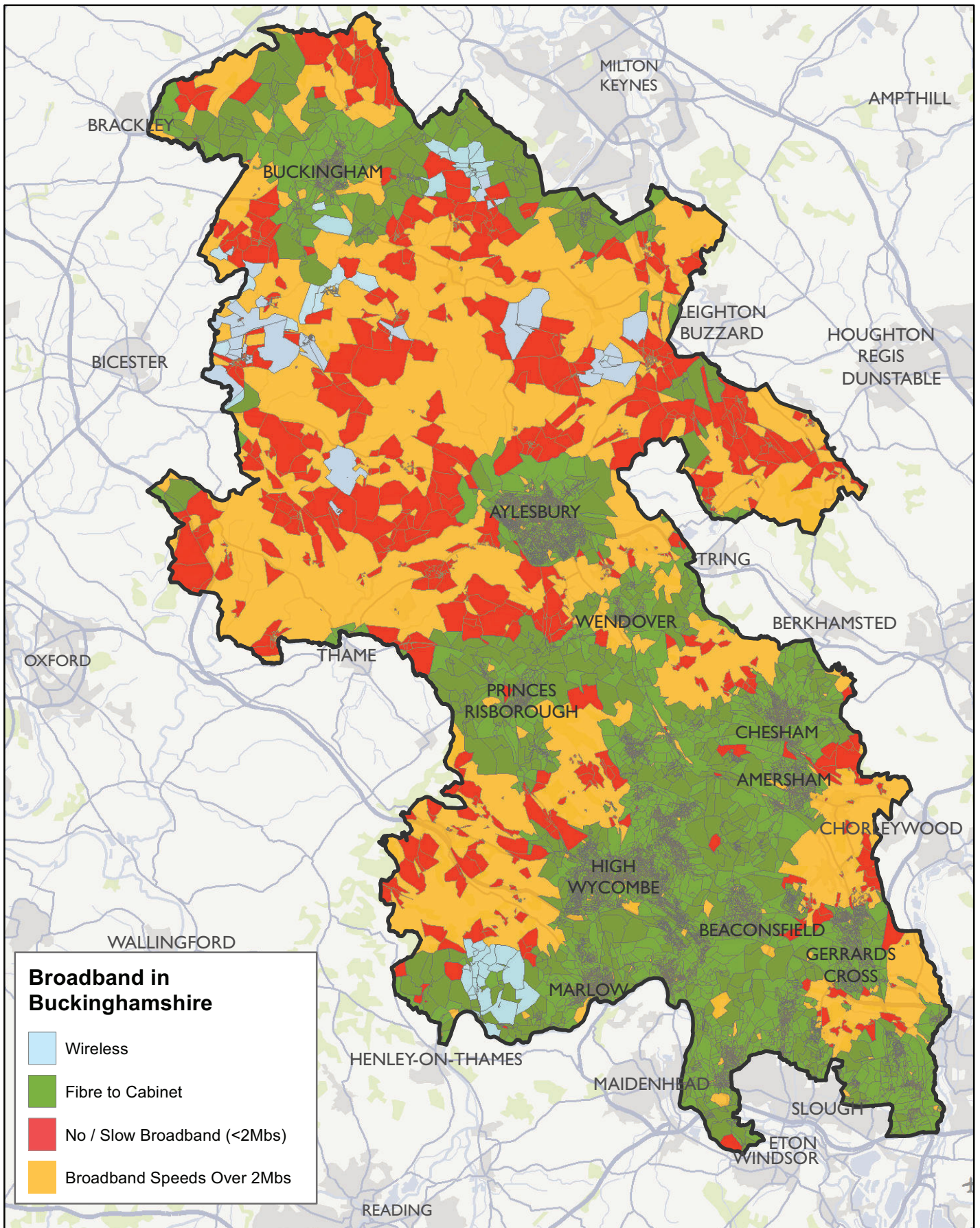
### 5. Briefing to other Parish Councils

One of the objectives of the project is to identify how activities might be expanded to, or repeated in, other rural communities. Enquiries from Parish Councils who would like to hear about initiatives and ‘lessons learnt’ would be welcomed.

Chris Brown

Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council





**Broadband in Buckinghamshire**

- Wireless
- Fibre to Cabinet
- No / Slow Broadband (<2Mbs)
- Broadband Speeds Over 2Mbs

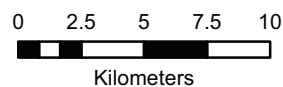
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**Broadband Speeds in Buckinghamshire**



Produced by BBF  
15 September 2011





From: Wailling, Helen  
Sent: 21 October 2011 14:20  
Subject: Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum 19 October 2011- local priorities delegated budget

Importance: High

Dear LAF Members

At last night's LAF meeting it was agreed to take this item off the agenda to allow time for the workshop part of the meeting to start and the young people in attendance to participate. Consequently, I am asking Members of the LAF for their views on each of the attached two proposals so that the Chairman can make an informed decision outside a LAF meeting. Please can you email me your views by Wednesday 26th October latest.

In the report it also mentions that we have in the region of £2,000 - £3,000 unallocated. Therefore, I would welcome any further ideas for projects meeting the local priorities by the end of this month when unallocated budget is returned to the Service Area. Although at the workshop we did not have time to discuss solutions/actions to the priorities, some thoughts may have come out of your initial discussions that could be built into projects that we commission out of the remaining budget.

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<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/moderngov/mgConvert2Pdf.aspx?ID=12790&T=9>

I look forward to hearing from you.

Christine  
Localities and Communities Manager - Chiltern  
01296 383645

