

ACTION NOTES

MEETING:	Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum
DATE:	2 May 2012 7.30 pm to 9.40 pm
LOCATION:	Chartridge Village Hall (Reading Rooms), Chartridge, HP5 2TN

Present:	John Axon (Ashley Green Parish Council), Mohammad Bhatti MBE (Buckinghamshire County Council), Patricia Birchley (Buckinghamshire County Council), Chris Brown (Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council), Noel Brown (Buckinghamshire County Council) (Chairman), Keith Platt (Latimer Parish Council), Nick Rose (Chiltern District Council - Cholesbury, The Lee & Bellingdon), Eanne Russell (Chartridge Parish Council), Elizabeth Stacey (The Lee Parish Council) and Fred Wilson (Chiltern District Council - Hilltop and Townsend)
In Attendance:	Jonathan Dickens, Simon Dudley, Christine Gardner, Hannah Ladlow, Cath Marriott, Martin Parkes, Martin Tett and Helen Wailing
Apologies:	Alan Bacon, Michael Brand, John Ford, Andrew Garth, Peter Hudson, Alison Pirouet and Mark Shaw

Item	ISSUES RAISED
1	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>See above.</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed Jonathan Dickens, who was the new Local Area Technician for the Chesham Local Area. Jonathan Dickens had previously worked in the Missendens area.</p> <p>Ann-Marie Davies, Transport Localities Team Leader, was on sick leave and members sent her their best wishes.</p>
2	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
3	<p>ACTION NOTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2012 were agreed and signed as a correct record.</p> <p>Matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiltern Credit Union – this was progressing and the Chairman encouraged members to become involved / lend assistance to the Union.
4	<p>QUESTION TIME</p> <p>There were no questions.</p>
5	<p>PETITIONS</p> <p>There were no petitions.</p>

HIGH SPEED 2 UPDATE

Martin Tett, Leader of Buckinghamshire County Council and Chairman of the 51m Group was welcomed to the meeting. Nick Rose, Leader of Chiltern District Council and a member of the 51m Group, was also in attendance.

Nick Rose introduced Martin Tett and said that a very productive 51m Group meeting had been held earlier that day.

Martin Tett gave the following update:

Legal issues

The decision from the Secretary of State to proceed with High Speed 2 (HS2) had not been unexpected.

Evidence had been built up gradually which could be used for a judicial review (JR) application. JR applications could either be based on a process being flawed or on a decision having been irrational. Most JR applications were based on a process being flawed. It was very hard to prove that a decision had been irrational.

A letter had been submitted to the Court, giving the seven main grounds for the claim, including:

- The consultation being flawed (two consultations were carried out at the same time – one on the specific route and one on the entire high speed network strategy) (there had not been an adequate consultation on the alternative put forward by the 51m Group, to upgrade the West Coast mainline).
- The decision to proceed being flawed. In particular the impact on Euston Station.
- An equalities impact assessment had not been carried out regarding the use of Euston Station.

A response had been received from the Department for Transport on 27 April 2012. A court date for the JR was expected in November 2012.

51m also supported the JR application being made by the HS2 Action Alliance which challenged the environmental assessment and its conformance with EU law.

Five JR applications had been made in total, by:

- 51M Group
- High Speed 2 Action Alliance (two applications)
- Heathrow Hub Group (lobbying for a terminal near Heathrow)
- Aylesbury Golf Club Group

The Government had asked that all four JRs be consolidated into one hearing.

Engagement

As well as campaigning against HS2, the 51m Group was also working to support residents in engagement. A National Environment Forum meeting had been set up but no local authorities had been invited to this. A Planning Forum had also been set up, but this was for officers only and not for elected members. 51M had stated that this was not acceptable.

HS2 Ltd had set up seven community forums in Buckinghamshire, but there was no over-arching group for the whole County. It was important that any changes made in one forum area were not detrimental to another forum area.

51m had also worked with the leaders of Staffordshire County Council and East Cheshire Council, who were potentially interested in joining 51M if HS2 was detrimental to their areas.

A member said that the HS2 Summit had been very good, and said they were pleased to hear that

51m was working to put an over-arching structure in place. The member said that they were concerned that anger against HS2 could affect the level of engagement in the process. Martin Tett said that they could not control the responses of individual people. He and Nick Rose had discussed having a Mitigation and Compensation Forum, to look at common issues such as noise mitigation and highways changes.

Nick Rose said that community forums were for the community and should be run by the community, and not by HS2 Ltd. It was crucial that each community forum meeting was minuted and that the minutes were agreed at the subsequent meeting. The minutes might be used as evidence later on in the process.

A member said that communities should go into the forums with a clear aim, and that this would put the communities in a position of control. Martin Tett said that it was very important to address the structure above the community forums. For instance, major decisions would be made at the Planning Forum.

Martin Tett also said that the leadership shown by Nick Rose and Patricia Birchley in opposition to HS2 had been fantastic. Nick Rose said that Chiltern District Council had pledged another £125k at its meeting the previous day.

Patricia Birchley said that Nick Rose and Martin Tett had both contributed a huge amount of their personal time to this cause, and said that supporting local people was their first priority.

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TRANSPORT UPDATE

Simon Dudley (Transport for Buckinghamshire) referred members to the report on pages 7-14 of the papers. Simon Dudley was in attendance in place of Ann-Marie Davies, who was on sick leave.

Jonathan Dickens, the new Local Area Technician for the Chesham and Chiltern Villages area was also in attendance.

Simon Dudley said that Moveable Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) had been piloted in the village of Ford. Temporary speed indicator devices were also available (£100 per week).

A member asked how long it took to replace a sign or lamp column which had been knocked over. Simon Dudley said that a sign would take 6-8 weeks to be replaced. A light column would take 4-6 weeks to be replaced.

A member thanked Jonathan Dickens for his communications and updates to Councillors.

A member of Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council said that it was not clear what jobs the community road gangs could carry out. Jonathan Dickens said that he would supply a list of jobs (attached).

An updated list of applications for the delegated budget 2012-13 had been circulated.

The budget allocations for 2012-13 had not yet been made. However members could agree schemes in principle, subject to the funding allocated.

Funding for the Local Area Forum in the future would no longer be ring-fenced or divided between Transport and Local Priorities. Instead, there would be one pot of money, which could be allocated as the Local Area Forum decided, although any applications for the funding would have to meet at least one of the Local Area Forum's agreed priorities (see agenda item 8).

Members expressed disappointment at the late arrival of the proposals for the Highway funding, and requested they were taken back and resubmitted with recommendations and costs. Simon Dudley apologised for the situation that had arisen.

The updated list of applications would be sent out three weeks before the next meeting.

8

LOCAL PRIORITIES UPDATES

Christine Gardner referred members to the reports on pages 15-34.

Responses to actions template circulated for comment

Pages 15-17 contained an action plan based on the previously agreed local priorities. Christine Gardner said that this was a working document and that changes could be made to it along the way. Members had already sent their comments on the action plan and these had been incorporated. A lead from a rural area was needed for the Priority 'Investment in the revitalisation of the town centre and villages including a Visitor / tourist strategy.' Chris Brown said that he was happy to lead on this with Fred Wilson.

Update on 'Revitalisation of the town centre and villages' local priority (see attached update)

Martin Parkes (Chesham Chamber of Commerce) told members that Chesham had submitted a bid to be a pilot in the Mary Portas Pilots. Performing and visual arts were central to this. Young people would be involved via schools. The activities and excellence already in place needed to be communicated. Arts and culture was all around the area and should be accessible to everyone. The 'Better Chesham' Group had agreed that performing arts were a special feature of the local area.

One idea was an Arts Bus, which would be full of pieces of art and would travel round schools and villages. The bus could take art to the villages during the day and take performing arts out in the evenings (e.g. dancers). The aim was also to attract attention towards the local area and to air talent.

Members noted that there was a fire bus and also a painted bus which could be hired from Oxfordshire.

Fred Wilson said that music had been played in Chesham at Christmas. This had attracted a lot of people and had received a lot of feedback. The Chairman said that the arts trail through the shops had also caused a lot of interest. A member of Chartridge Parish Council said that it needed to be better advertised as they had not known about it.

Update on Building Community Capacity Project (see attached update)

Chris Brown, Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council, referred members to his update paper. In addition, he said the following:

- About 30 new volunteers had been recruited but succession-planning was needed for volunteers.
- It was hoped that the volunteer 4x4 car scheme would lead to a more general car scheme.
- The pub lunch club was for all ages and cost £6 for a two-course meal.

The Chairman said that the scheme was a very good blueprint for other villages, and had done very well.

A member asked if the initial funding had been used as start-up costs or as ongoing costs. Chris Brown said that the funding had provided a salary for a project manager. The scheme was sustainable as once it had been set up, the project manager would gradually be required less and less.

Applications for funding from the Local Priorities Budget

Christine Gardner told members the following:

- The Report starting on page 19 was an annual report, describing the arrangements for delegated funding in 2012-13.
- The two budgets which were previously separate were being merged to form a single

Local Priorities Budget (ring-fencing had been removed).

- The amount allocated to each LAF was not yet known, but it was assumed that this would be similar to the total amount allocated in the previous year (£54 4000).
- The criteria for funding applications were described on page 20.
- Page 23 showed the list of applications which had been agreed in the previous financial year under the Local priorities Budget. Some funding had been returned and with a Chairman's decision awarded to additional projects.
- Current applications for 2012-13 were described on pages 25-34. There were eight proposals.

Members discussed the eight applications. It was noted that there was a lack of clarity over the deadline for bids, and that this needed to be better advertised.

A member also said that they felt uncomfortable with the process, as members had not finalised their agreed priorities before the applications were received.

A member said that if all eight proposals were agreed there would not be funding remaining for applications made later in the year.

A member also expressed concern that the LAF could become an ongoing funder for an organisation such as the Citizens Advice Bureau. Christine Gardner said that the application from the CAB was for a completely new project, for outreach work.

Christine Gardner told members that all the applications were time-sensitive, except the CAB application and the application from Elmtree School.

It was noted that the application for the Building Community Capacity project was for the cost of a project manager.

The Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum noted the arrangements in 2012/13 for its delegated budget as described in the report [and also noted the expenditure of the allocated funding in 2010/11 at the end of this report].

The Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum proceeded with indicative allocations in order that they could be implemented as soon as the delegated budget figure was confirmed in early May.

RESOLVED

Members of the Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum agreed that funding from the Local Priorities budget be allocated to the projects listed below. Members noted that an extra £280 had been added to the Building Community Capacity project to cover publicity and hall hire etc whilst the amount recommended for the Jubilee events in Chesham.

CAB application and Elmtree School application will be considered at the next LAF meeting, in July 2012.

Project	Amount requested	Amount agreed
Building Community Capacity Project	7920	8200
Pond Park Health and Community Fair	425	425
Rafe's Place at Chesham Youth Centre	1510	1510
Chesham Events Group - Chesham Jubilee Celebrations	3000	2000
Chesham Asian Welfare Group –	2000	2000

Movers and Shakers Chesham Asian (and other BME) Men's Health and Wellbeing Project	1950	1950
TOTAL	16805	16085

9 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

This item was deferred due to timing at the meeting.

10 LOCAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2012 CELEBRATIONS

This item was taken out of order.

Hannah Ladlow, Events Officer, 2012 Programme Team at Buckinghamshire County Council, told members that 2012 would be a year of celebration, with both the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics and Paralympics.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

2012 beacons would be lit on 4 June 2012 across the UK. 60 of these would be in Buckinghamshire. The beacons would be included in a book which would be presented to the Queen.

A toolkit had been prepared for parties (street parties or beacon celebrations). There was also an events calendar:

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/sites/bcc/leisure/jubilee.page>

Bunting had been ordered in bulk, and sold to Parish Councils at a discounted rate. An ongoing discount had been secured, and if any more was required, members should telephone on 0845 3708090 or email buckscc2012@buckscc.gov.uk

London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics

Buckinghamshire was hosting the rowing and canoeing events at Dorney Lake. The Olympic torch would also be going through Buckinghamshire on 9 July 2012, through Buckingham and Aylesbury.

There would also be a flame festival at Stoke Mandeville Stadium for the Paralympic Torch.

Four live site community events were planned, with big screens:

- Saturday 4th August, Burnham Park, Burnham
- Sunday 5th August, The Rye, High Wycombe
- Saturday 11th August, George V playing field, Amersham
- Saturday 1st September, Vale Park, Aylesbury

The Amersham event was being planned in association with Chiltern District Council, Amersham Town Council, Amersham Library, Amersham Community Centre and Nexus. The event would include sporting activities run by Cadbury's, a climbing wall, the I-van, a diving display and other sporting and creative groups. 3000 people were expected. A road closure order had been arranged for Woodside Close in Amersham. Parking would be an issue, and it was hoped that there would be a park and ride site at the Amersham School and two primary schools.

The aim was for a legacy to be left in Buckinghamshire after the 2012 Games were finished, and visitors would be encouraged to join the groups after attending the events.

Further information on the Olympics and Paralympics in Buckinghamshire:

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/sites/bcc/london2012/london2012.page>

11	TIMING OF LOCAL AREA FORUM MEETINGS The Chairman said that there had been a proposal to start the Local Area Forum meetings earlier, to avoid late finishes. Members discussed this but agreed that the meeting start time should remain as 7:30pm.
12	RESIDENT SURVEY AND COMMUNITY RESULTS - FOR INFORMATION Members noted the slides.
13	DATE OF NEXT MEETING 11 July 2012, 7:30pm, venue tbc 26 September 2012, 7:30pm, venue tbc

LOCAL COMMUNITY GANG REPORT SHEET

(To be returned to Area Office 2 weeks before Gang due in area)



Parish _____

Sheet..... of

Date _____

Signed _____

Supervisor _____

Defect to MAKE GOOD	Location	Quantity	Comments
Vegetation affecting Signs and Sight lines on the Highway			
Graffiti on road signs and apparatus			
Siding back carriageways and footpaths			
Hand weeding in minor localised area			
Release & realigning signs / posts			
Clean signs			
Painting signs and guard rails			
Cutting back overhanging highway vegetation			
Clearing excessive silts from junctions and channels			
Clearing silts from gully grating and recesses			
Clearing Grips			
Minor verge repairs			
Controlled Weed Treatment			
Removing obstructions from the Highway			
Minor kerbing works			
Other works as specified			

Minute Item 7

Local Priorities Update

Priority Description	Potential Solutions	Next Steps/Actions	Lead
Investment in the revitalisation of the town centre and villages Incl. Visitor/tourist strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Turn Chesham & Chiltern Villages into a recognised centre of excellence for the Performing Arts. Create identity & definition. - Leverage the many assets we have in this area (music groups and choirs, schools with strong performing arts departments, the Elgiva etc.) and perhaps create an annual (Midsomer?) Festival. - Create open air performance areas in Town and village centres. - Create an arts communication channel. - Leverage literary heritage - Promote, facilitate & host “new arts” movements - Involve disenfranchised youth in making and creating art - Consider other assets of the area that would attract footfall such as heritage and landscape. - Develop a high-speed broadband and Wi-fi hub in Chesham. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arts Trail project (BetterChesham group) - Specialist shops brochure - Advertise “Gateway to the Chilterns” as a strap-line. - Identify performance areas. - List and promote each area’s current arts projects & festivals. - Address transport issues and consider implementing an Arts Bus (to take art to schools, villages, residential care homes and day centres) - Engage with printed press & social media to create an accessible communications network. - Establish a voluntary arts team to liaise and coordinate arts activities, i.e. produce and arts road map for the area - Need a list of accommodation 	<p>Fred Wilson</p> <p>+</p> <p>..... (ideally from Villages)</p>

Building Community Capacity - Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Update to Chesham and Chiltern Villages LAF – 2 May 2012

1. Background

In June 2011 the LAF allocated £5000 to support Building Community Capacity projects. Half of this provided project management support to Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish. The aims being to enable volunteers to be better equipped to support vulnerable and older people living in their community and to encourage residents aged 50+ to plan for the future.

A report was provided to this LAF in October outlining the background to the project and the activities already launched. This update focuses on activities implemented over the 10 month period and plans for the second year of the project which are contingent on further funding.

During the first six months over 30 new and existing volunteers were recruited to the 'Hilltop Villages Good Neighbours Group' and they identified the Group's priorities. These priorities focused on identifying and overcoming causes of isolation, providing social transport, sourcing advice, and support for elderly residents, carers and volunteers. The overall aim being to encourage independence for older age villagers, so they can remain in the rural community.

2. Initiatives launched

To meet the priorities identified above the following initiatives have been launched: -

- a. **Publicise** project to whole community through the Parish Magazine to bring existing volunteers on board and recruit new ones. – **Actioned September 2011**
- b. Form a 'not for profit' organisation, to administer grants, obtain volunteer insurance, secure a bank account, and bespoke telephone number etc – **Actioned October**
- c. Set up a **email discussion group** for volunteers and **website** – **Actioned October**
- d. Create a **volunteer-led 4x4 car scheme** so urgent doctors appointments are kept or prescriptions fetched etc; during extreme weather conditions – **Actioned November**
- e. Publish a **directory** of useful public services functions – **Actioned December**
- f. **Support Digital Switchover** for local residents – **Actioned February 2012**
- g. Identify experts and organise occasional **advice sessions** for older age and vulnerable adults at their monthly social gatherings - **Actioned April**
- h. Organise monthly **Pub Lunch Club** – a daytime meal / social gathering. - **starting May 9th**

3. Briefing to other Parishes

One of the objectives of the project is to identify how activities might be expanded into other rural communities. Presentations have been done to other parish councils including at a neighbouring LAF meeting. This will continue in year two.

4. Plans for second year

- a. Organise 'workshops' for the community on topics identified as priorities such as personal/ property security; consumer concerns; health provision; social services etc.
- b. Pick up on district, county and national initiatives which could benefit the target group.
- c. Promote and sustain development of the project across the LAF area and Chiltern District.

5. Thanks

Alongside the energy and enthusiasm of volunteers the project's success has been possible due to the support from our project manager Maggi McKerron and a grant by Cllr. Patricia Birchley of a £500 Leaders Award.