

Chesham & Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum

Title:

Update report from Transport for Buckinghamshire

Date:

25 March 2013

Contact officer:

Ann Marie Davies
Transport Localities Team Leader
Aylesbury Vale, Missendens and Chesham & Chesham Villages

Electoral divisions affected:

Parishes within the LAF

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.

Area Maintenance

Routine Maintenance

At present, the peaks and troughs in the numbers of potholes, have been absorbed by the works teams, whilst keeping other patching, white lining, gully emptying crews etc, on normal duties. The workforce is to be supplemented on 27th February by the introduction of a Velocity Patcher. This self contained unit, is specifically for potholing, minor patching and sealing of road surfaces and will initially be used on the rural roads. If you have any queries, please contact you local area technician in the first instance.

Any urgent works should be reported via the Contact Centre on: 0845 230 2882 or through our website at:

http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/transport/ea_report_problem.page

A full list of when work will be taking place is available on:

<http://www.transportforbucks.net/Roadworks-Centre.aspx>

Winter Maintenance

The recent cold snap passed without significant disruption to the network. Salting crews were able to treat both primary and secondary routes prior to snow fall on both occasions following advance forecasts.

2013/2014 – 2014/2015 Capital Works Programme

Over the last couple of months TfB Officers have been meeting with local County Councillors to ascertain their top 5 priority sites to programme over the second phase of the Capital Works. The programme will be a two/three year programme which will commence April 2013.

In the next round of LAF's we will be in a position to advise on the locations chosen and the treatments that will be undertaken.

Traffic Management

No Update

Road Safety

Community Speedwatch

To raise awareness of Community Speedwatch across Buckinghamshire, the road safety team are planning a programme to work with local communities to deliver the scheme, as

vehicles being driven too fast are a major factor in preventing people from enjoying the environment they have chosen to live in.

The idea is to liaise with local communities and attend locations on set days and times and run community speedwatch in your area.

The road safety team will have a set of speedwatch equipment for use free of charge to work in partnership with community volunteers, e.g. a member of the road safety team will operate the equipment with a member of the local community at a location known for a speeding problem. Using local knowledge will allow community speedwatch to be used most efficiently in a pro-active manner.

If you are interested in working with the road safety team to run speedwatch in your local community please contact Nigel Spencer by e-mail on nspencer@buckscc.gov.uk

For more information about Community Speedwatch visit:
<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/transport/speedwatch.page>

Road Safety Team services to the local community:

SAGE – Safer driving with Age; for motorists over 65 years of age who would like a confidence boost. Our team of qualified instructors offer an hour's assessment.

Be a Better Biker – assessment days for motorcyclists. Just bought a bike or advancing to a more powerful engine? Our team of instructors will help you make the most of biking.

Get in Gear young driver's course – theory workshops and on the road training. Essential advanced motoring skills for newly qualified drivers.

Business Driver Assessments – 2 hour on the road assessments for employees who drive vans, minibuses or cars for work. Includes a DVLA licence check and full report.

Speed Limit Review Update – the following information has been sent out by the Cabinet Member to all County Councillors:

With the recent installation of new speed limits in Area 14, the countywide speed limit review is now complete. All of Buckinghamshire's roads have been assessed and new speed limits have been installed, where appropriate, in accordance with National policy.

I am writing to inform you that as a result of challenging financial priorities the County Council is no longer able to fulfil its aspiration of providing a further round of countywide follow-up reviews.

This means that, with the exception of a few legal anomalies, funding for implementation of any already proposed 'follow-up' review limits and for any new requests for speed limit changes, will need to be sourced either directly from Local Councils, the Local Priorities

Budget process via a Local Area Forum of communities , or from independent sources.

Local communities will have the opportunity to identify whether any previously proposed speed limit changes are still relevant to them and/or whether there are other speed limit proposals which they may prefer to develop through public consultation as one of their locally funded priorities.

Transport for Buckinghamshire is developing a system to support local communities in this process. Proposed speed limits will need to meet the criteria set out within the Department for Transport Speed Limit Policy (revised guidance is anticipated to be published early in 2013)

Members in areas directly affected by this decision will be sent more detailed information from Transport for Buckinghamshire. This will give an explanation of the implications for your local 'speed limit review area' and background information on National speed limit policy, so that you will be better equipped to deal with any queries from local councils/residents in your electoral division.

If you would like further details or arrange a meeting to discuss this further please contact Pat Francis pfrancis@buckscc.gov.uk or Sue Brown ssbrown@buckscc.gov.uk

DfT Speed Limit Guidance for Councils

On 18th January 2013 the Department for Transport, (DfT), published new National guidance to local councils to help them implement consistent speed limits on local roads. This guidance also incorporates recent changes that create more flexibility for authorities to implement 20mph limits and zones. The DfT also published at the same time a detailed [speed limit appraisal tool](#) which is designed to help councils to assess the full costs and benefits of any proposed local speed limit schemes. This appraisal takes into account casualties and other traffic effects, together with other factors such as quality of life. The document setting out the new guidance, DfT Circular 01/2013, together with the speed limit appraisal tool and further information can be seen at :- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/setting-local-speed-limits>

We are still waiting for the outcome of a public consultation carried out by the Government in Spring 2012 on proposed changes to the way that Traffic Regulation Orders are advertised. At present any new speed limit orders have to be published in local newspapers and this can be an expensive process. The consultation proposed that the public may be made aware of the changes in other ways which could be more effective and potentially less expensive. The consultation papers can be seen at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2012-06>.

The County Council has already completed a review of the speed limit on every one of its roads. As a result and due to competing demands on resources the County Council is no longer able to fund requests for speed limit changes. However, a new process is being developed by Transport for Buckinghamshire, subject to Key Decision, to enable communities to request and fund a change in a speed limit. This will include requests for 20 mph limits.

A summary of the key points in DfT Circular 01/2013, with reference to 20mph limits/zones, are that traffic authorities can, over time, introduce 20mph speed limits or zones on major streets where there are, or could be, significant numbers of journeys on foot, and/or where pedal cycle movements are an important consideration, and this outweighs the disadvantage of longer journey times for motorised traffic. This is in addition to residential streets in cities, towns and villages, particularly where the streets are being used by people on foot and on bicycles, there is community support and the characteristics of the street are suitable. General compliance with the 20mph limit needs to be achievable without an excessive reliance on enforcement by the police.

Irrespective of the funding source, any proposed speed limit changes will need to be in accordance with the National Guidance on setting speed limits.

The implications and full details of the recently published DfT speed limit guidance and associated documents are now being reviewed and our process for dealing with all requests for changes to speed limits should be ready during Spring 2013.

Appendix (i)

Speed Limit Reviews - Process from 2013 Onwards

The Cabinet Member for Planning & Transportation has agreed the following:-

- From 2013, all requests for changes to speed limits will, (with the exception of a few legal anomalies and other specified speed limits), be funded either:-
 - Directly by individual Parish/Town Councils, or
 - By a Local Area Forum via the Local Priorities Budget process, or
 - From independent sources or
 - As part of a casualty reduction scheme
 - Or a Section 106 develop funded agreement
- There will be a formal application process and fee to manage and evaluate requests for speed limit changes. This will include 20mph speed limits and Quiet Lane proposals.
- Irrespective of the funding source, requests for speed limit changes will only be consulted upon and implemented if they comply with the National guidance on setting speed limits.
- This policy should be reviewed within 3 years of the publication of this Report.

TfB Poster Policy

A new policy has been adopted which will allow local communities to display temporary roadside posters. These posters which may display both words and images and moved around a number of different locations are to highlight road safety or sustainable travel messages. A pilot was carried out in Ellesborough where local children designed a 'Slow Down' message for drivers to take notice and these were well received with no negative feedback from the residents.

This policy does not include the displaying of unauthorised or commercial signs/posters which often become an eyesore and can reduce the effectiveness of necessary road signing. The County Council retains the powers to remove these posters if they are not erected in accordance with the guidelines.

A link to the details can be found below

<http://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=2999>

Speed Campaign throughout January

Speeding drivers were targeted throughout January by Transport for Buckinghamshire's Road Safety Team working in partnership with Thames Valley Police and Community Support Officers.

Roadside checks were carried out and publicity material distributed throughout local communities to highlight the dangers of driving at excessive speed. This complements the Association of Chief Police Officers speed campaign which also ran in January.

Consultation with local communities has shown that speeding is often a top priority in their neighbourhoods.

Peter Hardy, Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport said, "We are committed to reducing the number of people injured and killed on our roads by targeting those drivers who continue to drive at excess speed. Speed limits are there for a reason, and I would urge drivers to stick to the limit and slow down".

Activities which happening during the month long campaign were:

- Roadside checks across Buckinghamshire with support from the Thames Valley police.
- Posters from the Government's 'Think' campaign distributed to Parish Councils.
- Think exhibition display in the Friars Square centre in Aylesbury.
- Community Speedwatch campaign promoted to local communities with practical demonstrations from the Road Safety Team.

Be a Better Biker Courses Celebrate 10 Successful Years

With spring-like weather forecast, many motorcyclists will be on the roads, and Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) is encouraging them to improve or refresh their skills with a 'Be a Better Biker' course.

The next course starts on Saturday March 23.

The successful training scheme, starting its 10th year, has attracted more than 600 bikers,

and since courses began in 2004 there has been a significant drop in biker crashes.

In 2012, four bikers were killed and 41 seriously injured on Buckinghamshire's roads. This accounted for 21% of those killed and seriously injured on the county's roads during the year, and is a reduction of 47% since the Be a Better Biker campaign started in 2004.

Peter Hardy, Buckinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport, said: "There is an overwhelming demand for places on these courses, which is testament to its value to our county's bikers. I am proud of the work our Casualty Reduction team has done and I would encourage any motorcyclist to take advantage of the course and improve their skills - it might save your life."

As part of the 'Be a Better Biker' assessment day, riders are taken out on roads that have claimed motorcycle casualties. Their skills are analysed by highly trained assessors and pointers given on how they can improve to become safer riders.

The campaign also promotes the benefits of post-test training, to ensure that a biker's riding capabilities best match those of their machine, as well as making biking even more enjoyable.

The first assessment day is on Saturday March 23 in Princes Risborough and courses run through till October at various venues across the county. The assessment day costs the biker a discounted rate of £50, and TfB covers the rest of the cost of the day.

Feedback from bikers on previous courses said it was "excellent value for money" and "a scheme everyone should be made to take part in".

In December 2011 the 'Be a Better Biker' initiative was awarded a Prince Michael International Road Safety Award for its outstanding contribution to road safety and has also been successful in becoming runner up in two national awards in previous years, The National Transport Awards and the Highways Excellence Awards.

For further details about the assessment days or to book a place please visit:

www.beabetterbiker.co.uk

Passenger Transport

Community Transport Challenge Fund

A new scheme aimed at improving links for people who live away from major transport routes has been launched in Buckinghamshire.

Transport for Buckinghamshire, Buckinghamshire Community Foundation and Community Impact Bucks have worked together to introduce the Community Transport Challenge Fund.

Approximately 75 community transport schemes exist in the county, often run by a small

team of volunteers. The aim of the Community Transport Challenge is to support new and existing services in activities that help people get around. Grants of up to £30,000 will be available to registered charities, village car schemes and social enterprises. A total of £150,000 is available, to be split between the successful applicants, and can be used for either capital or revenue purposes.

The activities must either be completely new projects or a clearly different approach to an existing service and the award of funds will be split into two phases:

Phase One: Summer 2012- November 2012

Phase Two: January 2013- 30th June 2013

All applicants will be supported by Buckinghamshire Community Foundation and Community Impact Bucks, who will also take applicants through a health check.

more details on the BCF website (and on ours shortly)

http://www.buckscf.org.uk/apply_for_a_grant/community_transport_challenge_fund/

New Quality Agreement for Routes 4 and 62

Buses between Chesham, Amersham and High Wycombe are set for an overhaul from Sunday 14th April, 2013.

Arriva and Carousel have signed a Quality Agreement which will mean the 4 and 62 will both be numbered service 1, and will operate a co-ordinated timetable, 7 days a week, and accept each other's return tickets.

This marks a major step for the route, which will see two independent services running every 20 minutes combined to form one co-ordinated service running every 15 minutes. For the first time, passengers buying a return ticket on the Arriva service can return on the Carousel service and vice-versa.

Full Details:

Arriva 0844 800 4411 or www.arrivabus.co.uk

Carousel 01494 450151 or www.carouselbuses.co.uk

Minor Changes for Services 353 and 354

From Sunday 31st March, 2013, there will be minor changes to services 353 and 354 in Chesham.

Service 354 has been re-awarded to Arriva, and will see its timetable slightly revised to better compliment other services in Hertfordshire.

Service 353 Sunday service has been awarded to Red Rose, but the route and timetable are unchanged.

There are no changes to route 353 on any other days.

Details:

Arriva 0844 800 4411 or www.arrivabus.co.uk
Red Rose 01296 747926 or www.redrosetravel.com

Asset - Street Lighting

Night Time Scouting

As part of our policy to move away from reactive to planned preventative maintenance I am pleased to confirm night-time patrols of all street lights, illuminated signs and illuminated bollards maintained by the County Council countywide resumed in August. As the attached schedule confirms, the whole county is due to be inspected by the end of September.

Faults identified during the patrols will then be attended between by the end of November. It must be stressed that not all faults will be repaired during this period as some assets will require a subsequent visit to fully repair the defect.

Although the overall effectiveness of this strategy will be first reviewed in May 2013, provisional patrols dates for 2013/14 have been detailed.

A copy of the Non-Key Decision that is linked to the re-introduction of night-time patrols has been attached for your information.

Appendix (ii)

Appendix (iii)

Update - September 2012 Patrols

Across all thirteen routes almost 3,600 faults were identified; 2,127 street lights (7% of total asset), 1123 illuminated signs (23% of total asset) and 342 illuminated bollards (19% of total asset). Of these only a 200 defects remain outstanding, which we are working through. Our patrollers are due to go out again this month.

Parish/Town Street Light Sticker Trial

To help the public identify which street lights belong to county and parish (or town), and therefore who to report faults to, we are offering a small number of parishes a trial to work

with us to sticker their lamp columns with specially made stickers. We are proposing to subsidise the cost of these to encourage them to take part, as this will help both the parish, their residents and TfB to help ensure faults are reported to the correct party so repairs can be carried out swiftly. We will be asking parishes to cover 25p of each sticker, which will cost 72p in total. Stickers can be ordered in batches of 100.

Parishes will be contacted from 13th Feb. if they are keen to participate, stickers will aim to be delivered to them by March.

Initially we will be contacting Wendover, Amersham, Burnham and Princes Risborough Parish councils – one in each district of the county.

Parishes may not have available funds, however they can put into next year's plans if they feel it is a worthy priority.

Feedback Questionnaire

Some good news to report back from the results received via the Feedback Questionnaire for both the North and the South of the County

	Members	Parishes
LAT's	96.4%	91.5%
Si Khan / Anne Marie Davies	96.15%	98%

Thank you to all of you that responded, now we just need to make sure we keep the good work!

Local Priorities Bids (Transport) 2012-13

Chesham	30325	
Chesham	4000	Culvert Improvements
Chesham	15425	Fullers Close verge hardening – January 2013 for proposed works
Cholesbury	2500	Pound Lane / Stony Lane kerbing of grass triangle
Cholesbury	2500	Oak Lane / Jenkins Lane kerbing of grass triangle
Cholesbury	450	Salt Bin – Delivered
Chartridge	450	Salt Bin – Delivered
Chesham	5000	Car Park entrance improvements

