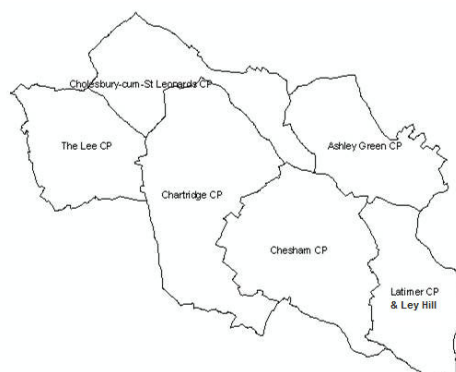


CHESHAM AND CHILTERN VILLAGES LOCAL AREA FORUM



DATE:	9 October 2013
TIME:	7.30 pm
LOCATION:	St Leonards Parish Hall, Jenkins Lane, St Leonards, HP23 6NW

TRANSPORTATION DROP-IN SESSION WITH THE LOCAL AREA TECHNICIAN FROM 7PM

AGENDA

Item		Page No
1	Apologies for absence	
2	Declarations of interest	
3	Notes of the meeting held on 10 July 2013	1 - 8
4	<p>Question time There will be a 20 minute period for public questions. Members of the public are encouraged to submit their questions in advance of the meeting to receive a full answer on the day of the meeting. Questions sent in advance will be dealt with first, followed by verbal questions. Please contact Helen Wailing on 01296 383614 or hwailing@buckscc.gov.uk to submit your question.</p>	
5	Petitions	
6	Transport Update	9 - 12
7	<p>Broadband Update Chris Rawson, Bucks Business First</p> <p><i>10 mins</i></p>	
8	<p>Town / Parish Council Updates <i>Up to five minutes each</i></p>	
9	<p>Local Priorities Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce Anti-social Behaviour through Youth Activities – <i>Noel Brown</i> • Support the Local Economy and Employment – <i>Fred Wilson</i> • Reduce the Social Isolation of Asian communities – <i>Noel</i> 	

Visit democracy.buckscc.gov.uk for councillor information and email alerts for meetings, and decisions affecting your local area.

	<p><i>Brown</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chesham Community Wellbeing Project – <i>Zoe Dixon</i> • Improve highways and road safety – <i>Transport for Buckinghamshire rep</i> • Community transport – <i>Chris Brown</i> • Enhance a sense of community in a village - <i>all</i> 	
10	<p>Information Slot / Guest Speakers <i>10 mins each plus discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Policing and Community Safety – Richard Vine, Inspector for Neighbourhood Police <i>and</i> Katie Galvin, Senior Community Safety Officer, Chiltern District Council • New Permitted Development Rules / Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Site Options Public Consultation – Graham Winwright, Chiltern District Council 	
11	<p>Allocation process for the Local Priorities Devolved Budget Christine Gardner, Localities and Communities Manager – Chiltern</p>	13 - 18
12	<p>Healthwatch Bucks - for information</p>	19 - 24
13	<p>Date of next meeting 5 February 2014, venue tbc</p>	

Democratic Services Contact: Helen Wailling, Tel 01296 383614, Email hwailling@buckscc.gov.uk

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

Agencies: Buckinghamshire County Council, Chiltern District Council, Ashley Green Parish Council, Chartridge Parish Council, Chesham Town Council, Cholesbury cum St Leonards Parish Council, Latimer and Ley Hill Parish Council, The Lee Parish Council

ACTION NOTES

MEETING:	Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum
DATE:	10 July 2013 7.37 pm to 9.42 pm
LOCATION	Chartridge Village Hall (Reading Rooms), Chartridge, HP5 2TN

Present:	John Axon (Ashley Green Parish Council), Chris Brown (Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council), Noel Brown (Buckinghamshire County Council) (Chairman), Joan Lherbier (Chartridge Parish Council), Mark Shaw (Buckinghamshire County Council) and Fred Wilson (Chiltern District Council - Hilltop and Townsend)
In Attendance:	Zoe Dixon, Simon Dudley, Christine Gardner, Paul Gosling, Rebecca Petherick and Helen Wailing
Apologies:	Alan Bacon, Patricia Birchley, Martin Parkes, Keith Platt and Elizabeth Stacey

Item	ISSUES RAISED
1	CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN Noel Brown (Buckinghamshire County Council) was confirmed as the Chairman of the Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum for the ensuing year.
2	APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN Fred Wilson (Chiltern District Council) was appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum for the ensuing year.
3	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE See above for apologies. The Chairman welcomed Mark Shaw as County Councillor and as Mayor of Chesham.
4	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.
5	NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 APRIL 2013 The notes of the meeting held on 10 April 2013 were agreed and signed as a correct record. Matters arising Page 2 – Latimer Road – Simon Dudley (Transport for Buckinghamshire) reported that the company Swarco was changing the components used on the Vehicle-activated sign (VAS) so that there was only one panel. The VAS would be installed in 2014. Latimer Parish Council would need to contact Sian Thomas (Transport for Buckinghamshire).

	<p>Simon Dudley would email the Chairman – Action: SD</p> <p>Swarco had stated that Latimer Road was not a recommended location for one VAS, let alone two. This was because it was too close to the junction. Noel Brown said that the sign had not been put at the site agreed by Ken Moloughney (Transport for Buckinghamshire), which was further away from the crossroads and had much better vision.</p> <p>Page 2 – Gritting of pavements – Simon Dudley reported that a meeting was being held in Princes Risborough on the same topic, and that it had been suggested that the Parish Councils could grit pavements through devolved services within the existing budget. Simon Dudley asked that someone from Chesham Town Council contact him so that a route could be agreed.</p> <p>Page 2 – Little Theatre signs – Tim Fowler (Transport for Buckinghamshire) had sent a message to say that it was not likely that the signs would be funded by either the County Council or the District Council. The County Council could direct people where to go as regarded sourcing of signs.</p> <p>Footpath Spur Tim Fowler had sent a message to say that stopping the alley would have a cost, due to the Consultation which would be necessary. Members should contact Tim Fowler if they wanted to pursue this.</p> <p>Page 4 – Street Lighting – Carl Goulding (Principal Lighting Engineer, Ringway Jacobs) was happy to advise on this.</p> <p>Page 7 – Moveable Vehicle-activated Sign (MVAS) – the Chairman said that the MVAS was available for Parish Councils as well as for Chesham Town Council. The MVAS could be moved around to different locations, and needed ground screws (these could be provided by the Local Area Technician). The MVAS would be at each site for about two weeks. Some MVAS were solar-powered and some battery-powered. Action: Parish Councils to co-ordinate with Bill Richards at Chesham Town Council.</p>
6	<p>QUESTION TIME</p> <p>There were no questions.</p>
7	<p>PETITIONS</p> <p>There were no petitions.</p>
8	<p>TRANSPORT UPDATE</p> <p>Simon Dudley (Transport for Buckinghamshire) referred members to the report and updated them as follows.</p> <p>Gullies The gully-emptying programme was based on the risks caused by gullies. Gullies on A, B and C roads were emptied once a year. Gullies on unclassified roads could only be emptied once every two to three years. Flood spots had been identified at which gullies would be cleaned more regularly. These were:</p>

Red Lion Street
St Mary's Way
Broad Street
Hog Lane
Eskdale Avenue
White Hill
Waterside

Gullies in Chesham Town would be emptied in July / August 2013 as part of the routine programme.

Mark Shaw (Buckinghamshire County Council) said that Berkhamstead Road and Lycrome Road should be added to the above list.

Chris Brown (Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council) said that his Parish had gullies which had not been properly dealt with for 10 to 15 years. Simon Dudley said that they should report this to Jonathan Dickens (Local Area Technician), as there was a jetting unit which would clear most things.

The Chairman said that capital flooding money should be used to clear some gullies.

The gully programme was on the web:

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

Grip maintenance was separate to gully work.

Road maintenance

The jet patcher was currently in Hyde End / Chesham. At Greenway in Chesham, proper patching work was being done, with a thin surface coating on top. The joints could then be repaired specifically.

Snow clearance by farmers

Simon Dudley reported that they were waiting for permission for Transport for Buckinghamshire to take ownership of the County ploughs (eight of these would be replaced). These would be made available to farmers on a 'first come, first served' basis. Zoe Dixon said that she would chase this – **Action: ZD**

Chris Brown said that his Parish had a farmer who already had a plough. Simon Dudley said that the farmer would need to sign up to the new agreement, which would be sent out. This included a retainer, to cover repairs. The farmer should contact Simon Dudley about any repair work needed on the plough. Simon Dudley said that he could not guarantee that farmers would be called out every time it snowed. The farmers would need to wait until they were called out, and had been given a route by the County Council.

Chris Brown said that his Parish had problems on roads which were not on the salting route. Simon Dudley asked for details of these. Simon Dudley noted that the County Council would be buying some slush blades as well, for town centres.

The Chairman noted that snow tyres were better in snowy weather than 4x4 vehicles.

Grass cutting

Simon Dudley said that there would be two cuts in the year for rural areas and eight cuts in

	<p>urban areas. There would also be cuts at visibility lines at junctions (those reported via Highways on Call or recorded as complaints).</p> <p>Mark Shaw said that quality of strimming was an issue in Chesham. Simon Dudley said that he would feed this back <i>[Action completed]</i>.</p> <p>Rebecca Petherick (Waste Team, Chiltern District Council) said that Chiltern District Council was working hard to clean streets, but that this was then ruined by grass cuttings being left on the street. There had also been reports from refuse vehicle drivers about overgrown trees and visibility (particularly in Dunsmore). Simon Dudley asked that the list be sent to Jonathan Dickens or to Highways on Call (0845 230 2882). The County Council would write to land-owners if clearing was needed on their land. Zoe Dixon asked that the requests be copied to her.</p> <p>The Chairman said that there were overhanging trees at the bottom of Chenies Hill, but that nobody knew who owned the land. Simon Dudley said that legally it could take six months until the County Council could go in and clear the land.</p> <p>Priority Roads for re-surfacing Chris Brown asked if there was a list of priority roads. Simon Dudley said that this was being put together, in conjunction with newly-elected Councillors. An updated list would be circulated - Action: SD</p> <p>The Chairman said that members would like to know the staffing arrangements for the future. Simon Dudley said that they were trying to get things settled down and that the work would be project-driven.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>TOWN / PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES</p> <p>Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council Chris Brown reported that the Parish Council was considering purchase of a defibrillator on one or two sites (e.g. in the Cricket Club). It was then hoped that sponsorship / funding and training could be given.</p> <p>The Parish Council was also looking at the ‘Community Right to Bid,’ as the village pub was about to close.</p> <p>Ashley Green Parish Council John Axon reported that residents had registered the Golden Eagle Pub on the Chiltern District Council website.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>LOCAL PRIORITIES UPDATE</p> <p>Reduction of anti-social behaviour through youth activities Noel Brown reported that anti-social behaviour had been reduced by 25% through a youth event held in Waterside, Chesham. There had also been a 65% reduction over summer 2012. Similar events were being run in 2013.</p> <p>Supporting local economy and employment Fred Wilson said that the Visitor Economy Project was going well. Many visitors came to Buckinghamshire because of the countryside and nature. The hub in the town centre was bringing things together.</p>

Some slides are available for information via this link:
<http://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/b15439/Agenda%20Item%2010%20-%20Supporting%20Local%20Economy%20and%20Employment%20-%20information%20slides%2010th-Jul-2013%2019.30%20.pdf?T=9>

Reducing isolation of Asian communities

Noel Brown reported that re-elections were being held for the Mosque Committee.

Chesham Community Wellbeing Project

Christine Gardner circulated an information sheet (attached) and reported that the next meeting of the Reference Group was on 1 October 2013. Emerging themes included worklessness, outreach work, high-need groups (lone parents, disabled, unemployed). Worklessness often drove other social issues.

Zoe Dixon said that she had started a secondment at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). A representative of DWP would also be working at the County Council.

A youth employment initiative had been started to find out what the barriers were and what young people thought of the current service. It was hoped that the County Council could offer some work experience posts. Section 7 of the Information Sheet showed initiatives being scoped.

Improving Highways and Road Safety

Noel Brown referred to Germain Street, Chesham, and said that cars had hit child pedestrians on the shoulder four times in six months. The Local Area Technician had also been hit. A response regarding the cost of changes to the Street was still awaited, for the costed proposal for the one way system, as agreed at the site meeting including the School Head and Residents. The proposal was for a one way section from the school down to King Street, with no entry at the King Street junction towards the school – **Action: Zoe Dixon to report to Casualty Reduction Team**

Community Transport

Chris Brown said that bids had been made to two organisations for funding for a Dial-a-ride vehicle. The next stage was to fund training and development of voluntary drivers. Drivers would be recruited through Parish and Town Councils and training would be provided free of charge. Chris Brown said that he would contact Parish Councils / Chesham Action Partnership (CHAP) / Martin Parkes. **Action: CB**
A group of representatives from the Parish and Town Councils would be needed. Noel Brown suggested that this could be run through CHAP.

Noel Brown also said that sharing a taxi could be much cheaper if there was only one pick-up location.

11 INFORMATION SLOT (GUEST SPEAKERS)

Citizens Advice Bureau

Paul Gosling (Chair of Chilterns Citizens Advice Bureau) referred to his report (attached) and said the following:

- A Community Outreach Project pilot had been run.
- During the Community Outreach Project pilot, 175 people had been seen. Of these, 30 had gone through to the 'full advice' stage. Approximately 10 involved full

casework (resolving debt etc.).

- Issues were becoming more complex.
- The pilot had been successful. Additional money had been obtained from the County Council for outreach, to deliver c. 20 sessions to meet needs arising from welfare reforms.
- Citizens Advice Bureau had applied to the Big Lottery for money to integrate advice services and to extend services in deprived areas. Significant funding had been received for outreach work, home-visiting and a single telephone number.
- Citizens Advice Bureau was working in partnership with Age UK, Carers Bucks, Bucks Mind and the Beaconsfield Advisory Centre.
- The Outreach service was available in Chiltern District and in the South Bucks District.

The Chairman said that the Chesham Wellbeing Project targeted areas of deprivation, and would appreciate support.

Chris Brown (Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council) said that he was working with Julie Trehan, and asked if this would be on an ongoing basis. Paul Gosling said that it depended on the funding. Parish Councils needed to be consulted about the key areas of need and deprivation. There would be a process of prioritisation and a balance in how the funding was distributed.

Chris Brown said that the BBC had come to visit them in June 2013 as Cholesbury had been found to be the wealthiest community in the UK. However there were still deprived / isolated pockets. Mark Shaw (Buckinghamshire County Council) said that the challenges were transport and access.

Paul Gosling said that within the current funding, mobile outreach project workers were a key element and two posts were included.

Christine Gardner said that the mobile library service was willing to bring people round to provide advice (a 'mobile office'), and that she could give Paul Gosling the contact details for this **Action: CG**

Zoe Dixon said that the Department for Work and Pensions had been in contact that day about getting 12 direct referrals to the Citizens Advice Bureau. Paul Gosling asked for contact details for this **Action: ZD**

Refuse and Waste Changes

Rebecca Petherick (Waste Service Delivery Manager, Chiltern District Council) reported as follows:

- Wycombe District Council and Chiltern District Council had joined their waste teams together in 2012. A new joint waste contract had started in March 2013, which would generate significant savings for both Councils.
- The new contract included improved street cleansing.
- The new waste contract had started on 15 July 2013. The aims were to increase the amount of recycling and to reduce landfill waste.
- Food waste would be collected weekly. National restrictions were going to be brought in which would restrict the amount of food waste being sent to landfill.
- The County Council was taxed on all waste sent to landfill.
- Wheeled bins had been delivered to all properties which were suitable for wheeled bins. Wheeled bins were cleaner and safer to put out and were better for the health

and safety of the contractors collecting the waste. The aim was also to control the amount of waste produced.

Mark Shaw (Buckinghamshire County Council) said that he was receiving four to five complaints a day from residents about the new waste service. It would be helpful to obtain responses so that residents did not think that nothing was being done.

Rebecca Petherick said that the Councils were receiving c. 1000 telephone calls a day about the new waste services. She had also received 550 emails that day. There was a lot of pressure on the Waste Team. Any specific queries were logged on a spreadsheet for use by three Roll-out Officers. When calls were received, they were colour-coded.

Mark Shaw said that communication was important.

John Axon (Ashley Green Parish Council) said that residents had not been happy when black bin liners were first introduced in the 1930s, but had quickly become used to these.

Zoe Dixon said that in Surrey there had been some resistance to wheeled bins, but that after six to eight months, everyone had wanted to use them. Zoe Dixon also said that the new waste service was similar to the one in the Aylesbury Vale, which worked well and produced a very small amount of residual waste.

Rebecca Petherick said that all bin deliveries would be finished by the end of the week. In addition, red bags for textiles would be supplied. Battery recycling bags would be supplied in August 2013.

Standard Solution

The blue wheeled bin would be for mixed recycling (glass, plastic, foil, cans etc.). The paper box would remain for paper and card.

Food waste was separated, using a caddy in the kitchen and then a large bin outside. 10 free corn starch liners would be supplied. Further supplies could be bought from Chiltern District Council or from supermarkets.

The garden waste bin was an 'opt in' service.

Non-standard Solution (e.g. for flats)

Purple waste bags would be used for general waste (six months' supply of bags would be supplied).

Blue bags would be used for mixed recycling (two of these would be supplied).

Kitchen waste caddy and outside bin would be supplied.

Garden waste would be an 'opt-in' system, and would be placed in a hessian sack.

All collections would be fortnightly, apart from the food waste, which would be weekly.

What happens to the waste?

Food waste would be collected and placed in a pod in a vehicle (the same vehicle as for general waste). The food waste would then be taken to the London Road depot from where it would be taken to Wallingford, where it would be made into fertiliser for local farmers.

Mixed bio-waste was taken to High Wycombe.

Recycling would be collected by Viridor and taken to Kent, where it would be sorted and separated. Some recycling would be sent abroad, as markets were limited in the UK. However c. 80% of recycling would remain in the UK. The destination for different kinds of recycling changed all the time, depending on where the best market was.

Paper would be sent to the London Road depot for sorting. Paper and card were separated, due to a long term contract with a company in Wales.

Further questions

John Axon said that some people (e.g. older people) might continue to use black sacks after 15 July 2013, and asked if the refuse crews would be flexible about this. Rebecca Petherick said that 80% of residents had also been given a new weekday for refuse collection. This had been communicated by calendar. However a large number of these leaflets had been found in the paper recycling, so may not have been read. There would be some leniency in the first two weeks, and some side waste would be collected during the first week. After that, bins would only be collected if the lids were closed, and no side waste would be collected.

Fred Wilson (Chiltern District Council) said that there was a rumour about there being some smaller bins. Rebecca Petherick said that a 140 litre bin would be available from August. The normal black bin was 180 litres and the normal blue bin was 240 litres. Larger bins were available for larger families.

Chris Brown asked if the vehicles were the same size. Rebecca Petherick said that the smallest vehicle was 7.5 tons, and was already in operation. It was used where there was difficult / narrow access.

The largest vehicle was now 32 tons. The largest vehicle previously had been 26 tons.

Joan Lherbier (Chartridge Parish Council) said that some people would not understand the new system. Rebecca Petherick said that for the first two weeks, information would be left for residents who used the wrong bins or who did not put out the right waste. Officers were also willing to visit people and to explain the scheme. Due to the way in which the waste was processed, they had to be careful not to contaminate waste. If anyone needed further assistance, they should contact the Waste Team. As a last resort, if people were not able to understand the changes, waste could be placed in the black wheeled bin, as the waste in there would not be monitored.

Contact details for Rebecca Petherick:

rpetherick@chiltern.gov.uk

Further information:

<http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/article/2825/Waste-and-Recycling-News>

(including faqs):

<http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/questions>

12

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9 October 2013, 7:30pm, St Leonards Parish Hall

Chesham & Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum

Title: Update report from Transport for Buckinghamshire

Date: 20 September 2013

Author: Sean Rooney

Contact officer: Tim Fowler
Customer Service Manager

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 UPDATE

Cyclic Gulley Cleansing is in operation, we are currently targeting the A,B and C roads and once these have been completed will work on the unclassified roads.

Our grass cutting programme is well underway and currently we are on target to complete the 10 urban cuts by the middle of October. The first rural grass cut has also been completed and the final one metre width cut will take place in October/November.

The number of reported potholes across the network has reduced and we hope to continue this trend as a result of the £30M which is being invested into our road network over the next two years.

Road Safety

Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA)

Young drivers aged 17 - 24 account for 27% of all killed or seriously injured casualties and are over represented in crashes in Buckinghamshire.

As a result the Road Safety Team are partners in delivering a hard-hitting theatre production which outlines the risks young drivers face on the road.

Safe Drive Stay Alive is funded through Thames Valley Police Driver Education.

There are two performances on each day, at 10:30 and 1:00 pm; which last approximately 1 hour 15 minutes.

11th 12th November – The Swan Theatre, High Wycombe
13th 14th November - The Ridgeway Centre, Milton Keynes
20th 21st November – The Kings Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford

All Bucks Secondary Schools and colleges are invited and attend High Wycombe, Milton Keynes or Oxford venues.

More than 3000 students from secondary schools and colleges in Buckinghamshire will be attending.

SDSA is delivered across the Thames Valley in partnership with, Fire & Rescue Services, South Central Ambulance Service and Thames Valley Police.

To book a place or for more information, visit: <http://safedrive.org.uk>

Asset - Street Lighting

The Countywide LED Street Light Replacement Programme on the Major Route

Network

In June 2013 the Buckinghamshire County Council Business Investment Group (BIG,) approved a three year LED lighting replacement strategy which will mainly be implemented across the A & B road network and over the next 3 years almost 7500 street lights will be replaced.

The lighting columns will remain in situ and the project focuses solely on changing the lantern in order to provide best value.

There are numerous benefits to changing to LED technology which include:

- Increased energy savings
- Lower carbon emissions vs traditional units
- Reduced maintenance costs vs traditional units

LED lamps are now an established and reliable proposition when considering invest to save opportunities.

LED provides on average 50-60% reduction to annual consumption when compared to traditional lighting and have an extended life of 20 years as opposed to the standard 3 to 6 years for a traditional lamp.

Up until 2013 the cost of these units to install largely outweighed the benefits to the end user, save for larger projects such as PFI where all of the units are replaced, however now the prices are comparable to traditional units and therefore provide a viable alternative.

The replacement programme is part funded by the County Council and SALIX, an independent not for profit company, funded by the Department for Energy and climate Change. The energy savings provided by this initiative will cover the repayment of the SALIX loans.

Replacements will commence in the Autumn 2013. 1,100 street lights will be replaced by the end of December 2013 with a further 1,550 across all 4 areas of the county by the end of March 2014. It should be noted that this first 3 year programme is for the main strategic network. The detail of the programme will be updated on the TfB Service Information Centre www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport .

The programme to replace street lights in residential areas across the county is subject to future funding but is in progress with a view to achieving 90% LED across the county within a 5 year period.

If a road closure or traffic management is required to carry out the work then TfB will endeavour to work closely with other teams who may need to work in the area to minimise general traffic disruption. As the activity is limited to swapping the lantern there are no civil works required and as such works at each column should be around the 15-30 minute mark thereby allowing pro-active measures to be taken to avoid traffic disruption.

LED lighting is different from traditional lamps. LED lighting provides a perceived brighter light output which has been described as 'clinical', this in turn will cause changes to the current night scene that people are used to. Any change may provoke a response from the public.

Glare - some people find they are dazzled when looking at LED lighting. LED lights produce a white light source, however this is offset by the LEDs more focussed distribution of lighting vs traditional lamps and it should be stressed that there should be no cause for a user to look directly into the light.

Health – there are some perceptions that LED lighting has an impact on health. There has been some concerns over the suppression of melatonin (responsible for regulating our biological clock), due to the blue light content, with the fear that it will adversely affect the daily cycle. Based on lighting levels deemed appropriate for street lighting across Buckinghamshire, the risk is considered to be minimal and measures can be taken, such as rear shields on this fittings, in the event of an on-going complainant

Environment – concern over wildlife and natural patterns of behaviour. All artificial lighting affects wildlife to one extent or another, whether from street lighting, security lighting or light spilling out from commercial or residential properties.

The negative messages should be minimal and the benefits far outweigh any minor concerns given the need to reduce energy consumption and in turn the county council impact on the environment when the carbon tax levy is applied in April 2014.

Buckinghamshire County Council

Visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/democracy for councillor information and email alerts for local meetings

Report to Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum

Title: Allocation process for the Local Priorities Devolved Budget

Date: 9th October 2013

Author: Phil Dart, Service Director, Localities and Safer Communities
Tel: 01296 382398

Contact officer: Christine Gardner, Locality Manager
Tel: 01296 383645. Email: cgardner@buckscc.gov.uk

Electoral divisions affected: Chess Valley, Chesham East and Chesham North West, Chiltern Ridges

Summary

1. This paper describes amendments to the allocation process for the Local Priorities devolved budget. The purpose of these changes is to ensure that, in a time of significant reductions in the County Council budget, this resource will be used most effectively to support the delivery of the County Council's strategic plan whilst also addressing key local priorities.
2. These amendments will take effect in 2014-15; and should also be applied in the allocation of any outstanding Local Priorities budget in the current year.
3. At present, it is anticipated that the same Local Priorities Devolved Budget will be available as in 2013-14. However this will be subject to the setting of Council's budget in February 2014.

Recommendation

4. The Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum is recommended to note the amendments for the allocation of devolved budget as described in the report.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Background

5. The Local Area Forum provides the opportunity for local Parish, District and County Councillors, along with residents' organisations and other appropriate local organisations, to help prioritise County Council expenditure and activity in their area. Each forum has a Local Priorities budget available to help it address local priorities and achieve improvements for its local area.
6. The County Council has seen its central Government Grant cut by some 41% over the past four years and is anticipating a further cut of 24% as a result of recent Government announcements. At this time of heavy reductions in Council budgets, it is even more important that, in order to continue to justify locally determined expenditure, all proposed projects satisfy important criteria to ensure that it is a good use of County Council budget.

New framework for the allocation and use of Local Priorities Budget

- **Eligibility criteria**

7. Proposals for support from the Local Priorities budget must meet the following criteria:
 - directly and unambiguously support one or more of the County Council's Strategic Priorities
 - be a robust solution to a clearly evidenced local need, either one of the Forum's agreed priorities or in another way address a well-evidenced community need
 - should not fund activity or schemes which are the primary responsibility of another body unless it can be demonstrated that the purpose is not within that organisation's funding capability and that the County Council's contribution is an essential part of the funding package to achieve the benefit for the local community

- **Submission and evaluation process**

8. To help LAFs interpret the priorities at the local level, the Council will publish a guidance document which clearly articulates this in December 2013.
9. Forums are encouraged to allocate their budget in good time to ensure that the budget can be effectively utilised during the financial year to which it relates. Many Forums adopt a commissioning approach and are proactive in developing schemes to meet priorities. However where a Forum will consider submissions, the Locality Manager will consult with the Chairman and agree a timetable for submissions to allow for evaluation and allocation.
10. Proposals for Local Priorities funding can be submitted by any organisation. To ensure that sufficient information is provided for the evaluation, proposals must be submitted on the proposal form. The proposal form is available online and also directly from the Locality Manager.
11. The Locality Manager will evaluate potential proposals, whether commissioned or unsolicited. In evaluating proposals, the Locality Manager will assess:
 - the fit with the County Council's strategic plan and local priorities
 - whether the proposal is to fund an activity or scheme which is the primary

- responsibility of another body
 - the effectiveness of the proposed solution
 - value for money including whether there is other funding available or if 'quick wins' can be identified to enable specific proposals/issues to be resolved quickly through other means.
12. The Locality Manager will make recommendations to the County Councillors on the Forum who will in turn agree the list of proposals for consideration by the Forum.
 13. To allow for opportunities that require a swift decision, funding may be agreed in between LAF meetings in consultation with the Chairman and other County Councillors on the Forum and the Service Director.
 14. In October, in consultation with the LAF Chairman and other County Councillors, the Service Director will take a view on the likelihood of unallocated and unspent monies being used that year. Advised by the County Councillors, the Service Director will allocate such budget to activities that will benefit the area or elsewhere during the remainder of 2013-14.
- **Other considerations**
15. The allocation must be in line with Buckinghamshire County Council's financial orders and procurement framework. Early consideration of funding priorities and possible schemes will enable the Locality Manager to ensure compliance with the Council's procurement framework.
 16. LAFs are encouraged to involve the community in their work. Participatory budgeting or similar 'Local Referenda' are encouraged to allow local residents to prioritise spend which meets the Local Priorities budget criteria and promote the role of the LAF.
 17. Funding must be spent on activity within the financial year for which it is allocated. For this reason LAFs are urged to allocate their budgets as far in advance as possible as this will enable schemes to commence early in the relevant financial year once the budget is confirmed by Buckinghamshire County Council. Early allocation is especially important for engineering schemes or schemes for which additional funding needs to be raised to ensure that such schemes can be completed during the financial year to which the budget relates.
 18. Allocations can be made on schemes which span two financial years (or more), but funding can only be assured for the current year. This should be borne in mind if making such an allocation i.e. what value can be achieved in the 1st year should funding not be available for the remainder of the scheme in subsequent years.
 19. As a general rule, the budget should not be used for retrospective funding i.e. on activity which has already taken place.
 20. Funding relating to the maintenance, development or operation of an asset and/or service transferring from Buckinghamshire County Council to a community group will be decided as part of the Council's transfer decision. LAF devolved budget can contribute to this transfer funding package but will not be available separately for the same or similar purposes. This arrangement will remain in place for three years following the transfer

date.

- **Funding terms and conditions**

21. Standard terms and conditions apply to schemes receiving LAF financial support:
 - a) The LAF's financial contribution may only be used for the purposes agreed by the LAF and detailed in the submissions held by Buckinghamshire County Council. Any variations must be agreed by the Service Director and any significant changes will require reconsideration by the LAF.
 - b) Payment will be made upon invoice with proof of expenditure e.g. relevant paid invoices/receipts at completion of the scheme. (Advance or staged payments can be made by separate agreement with the County Council should this be necessary).
 - c) Buckingham County Council's Local Area Forum must be given full recognition in all publicity. Funding may be withdrawn if this requirement is not followed.
 - d) The funding can only be used during the financial year to which it relates. The recipient must alert the Locality Manager at the earliest possible opportunity if it is likely that the scheme expenditure is slipping from its original timetable.
 - e) The recipient must provide monitoring information requested by Buckinghamshire County Council and may also be required to attend a LAF meeting to speak on the outcomes of the project.
22. The requirement in 21 d) above to alert the Locality Manager if the expenditure timetable is slipping is to enable Locality Manager to manage the devolved budget effectively. For example, if scheme slippage is notified early enough the funding can be reallocated for other purposes and, if the LAF wishes, an appropriate allocation made in the subsequent financial year for the original scheme. A failure to notify the Locality Manager of delays may result in the funding being lost to the scheme and the LAF.
23. In addition to the standard terms and conditions, the Locality Manager or Forum may recommend additional conditions for specific schemes.

Formal responsibility for decisions, management of the budget and dispute resolution

24. As in previous years, in terms of formal decision-making, the LAFs will be advising the relevant Service Director on how to spend the devolved budget. The Service Director will implement that advice unless there is a good reason not to do so. In such an instance, a full explanation will be provided to the LAF including possible options which may allow a modified scheme to proceed.
25. The Service Director has delegated responsibility for the management of the devolved budget to the Locality Services Manager and, day to day management, to Locality Managers. Issues relating to the devolved budget or individual schemes should be raised with the relevant Locality Manager who may refer upwards if appropriate.
26. Any disputes will be moderated by the local County Councillors, escalated to the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement for final arbitration if necessary.
27. Any recommendation from a Local Area Forum for expenditure does not become effective until it has been evaluated as eligible for funding; and has been endorsed by the County Council's Cabinet Member for Community Engagement. For this reason, it is important that the LAF respects the allocation and evaluation framework and subsequent

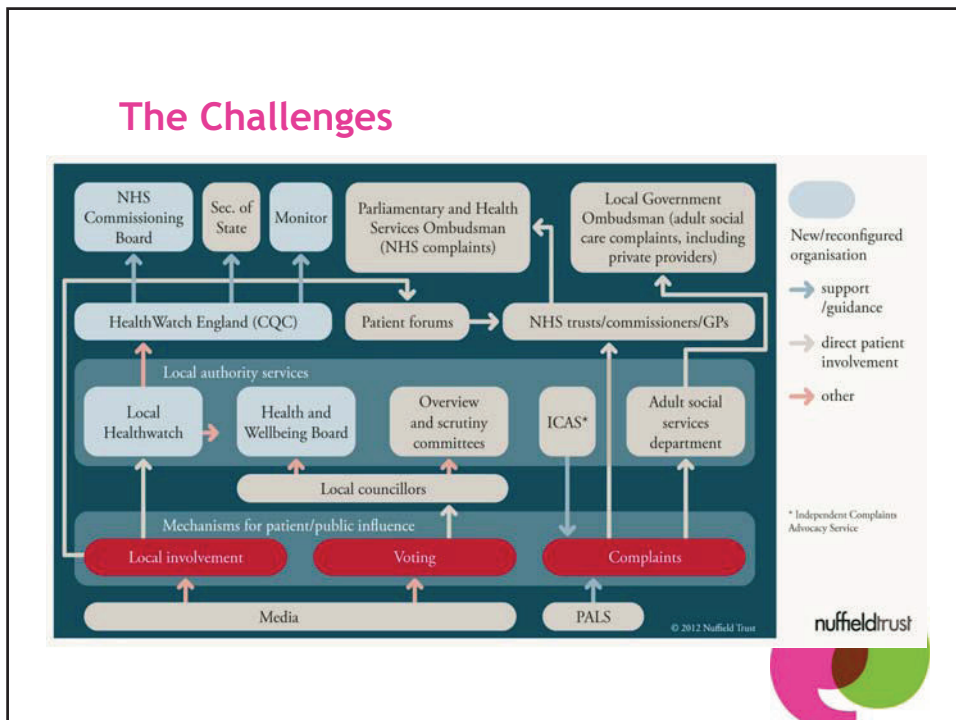
recommendations to avoid the possibility of its decisions being overturned.

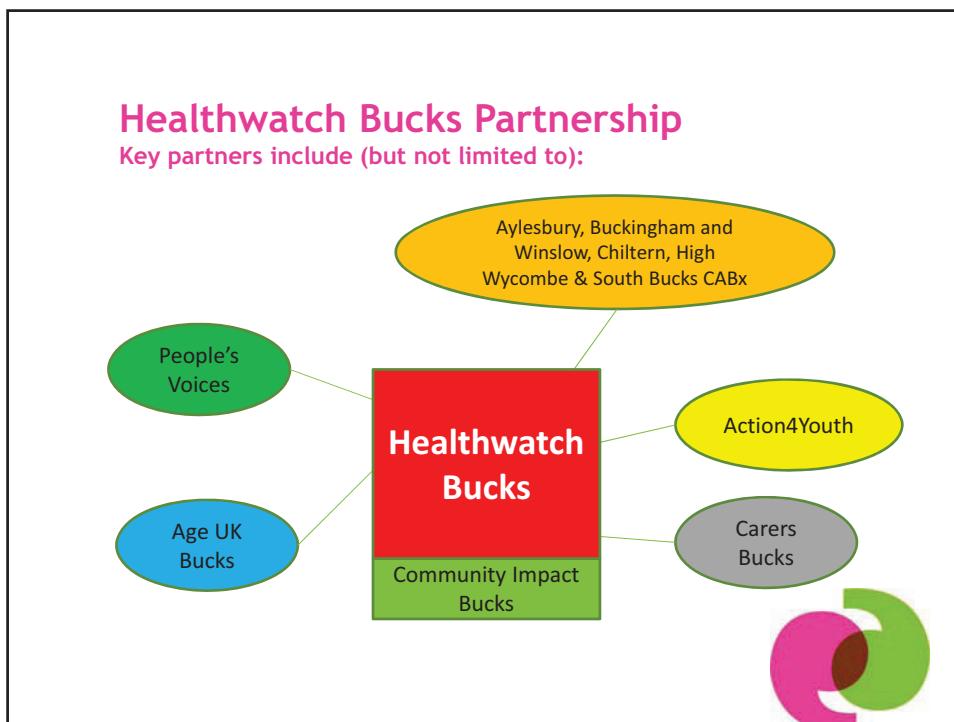
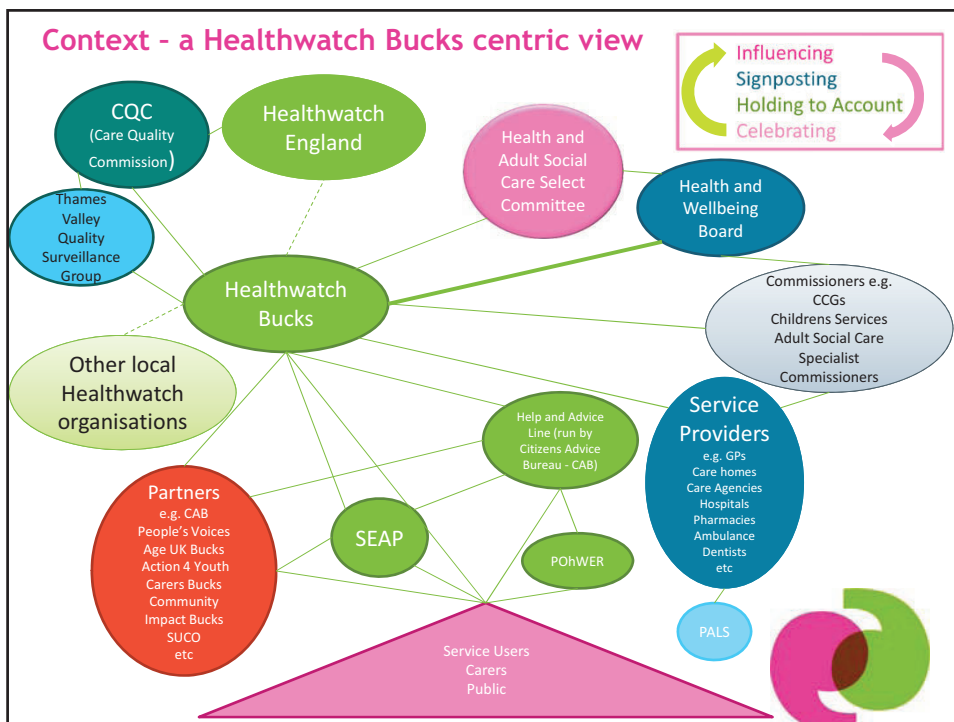
Transportation schemes

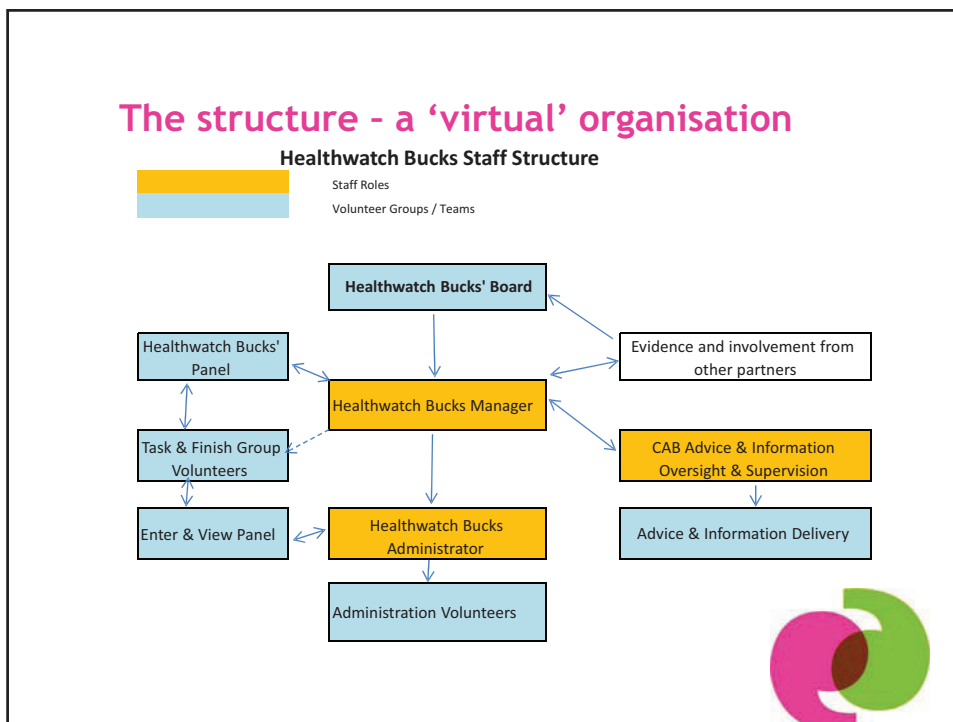
28. Transportation schemes are usually delivered by Transportation for Buckinghamshire (TfB). If parishes and town councils wish, they can appoint an external contractor for delivery of transportation schemes. However, TfB approval for any scheme on the public highway is required. Parish and town councils should also be aware that only contractors with the required accreditation approvals needed to work on the public highway will be permitted to undertake the works.

Local Priorities Devolved Budget funding reserve

29. There will be exceptional circumstances which cannot be accommodated within the devolved budget management framework described in this report. For this reason a funding reserve has been established for Local Priorities approved schemes which meet certain criteria. The reserve will under no circumstances be used to allow LAFs to carry forward budget accruing from miscellaneous under spends or a simple failure of the LAF to allocate its budget in good time and in line with the devolved budget management.







About Healthwatch Bucks

Healthwatch Bucks is the independent consumer champion for health and social care in Buckinghamshire. We ensure that the voices of those who use services reach the ears of the decision makers.

Aims:

- Influencing
- Signposting
- Holding to account
- Celebrating good practice

We will do this by:

- Collecting data and stories about the good and the bad, so we can use evidence based criteria to influence commissioning and policy
- Helping individuals to navigate their way through the system - giving advice and information
- Using powers to 'Enter and View' to be influential in achieving service improvements, through partnership with: service providers; the local health and social care voluntary sector; the Health Overview and Scrutiny and Committee; the Health and Wellbeing Board; Healthwatch England; Clinical Commissioning Groups and the local authority.

Partners:

Healthwatch Bucks is developing partnerships across a variety of sectors to:

- Drive awareness of Healthwatch among all care users and groups everywhere
- Use the knowledge and experience that partners have to paint a picture of health and social care across the county
- Increase diverse involvement in local Healthwatch and ensure improvement in services
- Affect policy change for local health and social care
- Provide Healthwatch England with evidence to affect policy change for health and social care nationally

Types of issues/queries the LAF could forward to Healthwatch:

Local area concerns about any social care service

Local area concerns about any NHS provided service

Local area feedback on social care and health services which are working well (to help influence future policy)

e.g. concerns re service quality, lack of access to services, feedback on successful new services



For individuals:

For help and advice call: 0845 2606216

Have your say about the local health and social care services in your area via the website at

www.healthwatchbucks.co.uk

healthwatch
Bucks



Volunteering:

Interested in volunteering for Healthwatch Bucks?

We have a variety of interesting roles for people with many skills.

For more information and role descriptions have a look at our website.

Please get in touch with us.



Glossary:

HWB	Health and Wellbeing Board
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
HASC	Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee
CAB	Citizens Advice Bureau

SEAP Support Empower Advocate Promote - has the contract for NHS complaint advocacy

POhWER Has the contract for Mental Health advocacy and Social care complaint advocacy



