

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	<p>CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN</p> <p>Noel Brown (Buckinghamshire County Council) was confirmed as the Chairman of the Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum for the ensuing year.</p>
2	<p>APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN</p> <p>Fred Wilson (Chiltern District Council) was appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum for the ensuing year.</p>
3	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>See above for apologies.</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed Mark Shaw as County Councillor and as Mayor of Chesham.</p>
4	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
5	<p>NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 APRIL 2013</p> <p>The notes of the meeting held on 10 April 2013 were agreed and signed as a correct record.</p> <p>Matters arising</p> <p>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>

	<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>

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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