

Chesham & Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum

Title: Update report from Transport for Buckinghamshire

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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.