

Local Area Working Impact: 2013-2017

£2.8M
local priorities funding



306
Transport projects



396
Community projects

234
MEETINGS

Adult Social Care
Dementia Good Neighbours Schemes
Trading Standards Prevention Matters
Anti-Social Behaviour **TOPICS** Libraries
Community Health & Wellbeing Youth Forums
Community Safety Community Hubs

85
Resident petitions presented at LAFs



52
resolved



80%
MVAS moved monthly by volunteers

feasibility studies

£109k
LAF investment

£2.8M

LAF funding

£1.2M

Match funding

£820k

Successful funding bids to implement studies



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1. Introduction

Over the last four years each Local Area has funded a range of projects that have all addressed a local priority as well as supporting County Council priorities.

Overall, 702 projects were delivered, including 306 transport schemes. In total £2.8million has been allocated from local area budgets, which has resulted in an additional £1.2million match funding being provided for the funded projects.

Of this, £109,000 was spent contributing to feasibility studies which have, so far, led to £820,000 being invested into the delivery of the proposed schemes.

The first chapter of this report details the priorities of the Gerrards Cross & Denham Local Area, and lists all the projects funded in the last four years. The total budget for local area projects was reduced in 2015; there were more projects in the first two years of the period.

The remainder of the report describes a range of projects supported across the county, grouped by the themes that have been addressed.

2. Gerrards Cross & Denham Local Area Funding Review

Each Local Area determines priorities for the local area plan. To this end, the Gerrards Cross & Denham Area work towards the County Councils strategic priorities.

The current strategic priorities are:

- Safeguarding our Vulnerable
- Creating Opportunities & Building Self-Reliance
- Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive

Funding supporting Buckinghamshire County Councils strategic priorities

Strategic Priority	Allocated	Match Funding	Total
Safeguarding our Vulnerable	£0	£0	£0
Creating Opportunities & Building Self-Reliance	£0	£0	£0
Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive	£125,133	£12,000	£137,133
Totals	£125,133	£12,000	£137,133

Years in review

2016/2017				
Project	Allocated	Match Funding	Total	Local Priority Addressed
Gerrards Cross MVAS	£2,000	£2,000	£4,000	Creating Opportunities & Building Self-Reliance
Denham Footpath Feasibility	£13,000	£10,000	£23,000	Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive
Denham school SLOW signs	£500	£0	£500	Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive
Totals	£15,500	£12,000	£27,500	

2015/2016				
Project	Allocated	Match Funding	Total	Local Priority Addressed
Dropped kerb on Hay Lane	£4,915	£0	£4,915	Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive
Parking consultation for Ethorpe Close and related roads	£12,000	£0	£12,000	Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive
Contribution to 2 school flashing signs in Fulmer	£1,000	£0	£1,000	Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive

Totals	£17,915	£0	£17,915	
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2014/2015				
Project	Allocated	Match Funding	Total	Local Priority Addressed
Dukes Wood Avenue footway improvements	£11,800	£0	£11,800	Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive
Stoke Common Road footway	£3,950	£0	£3,950	Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive
Gerrards Cross bridleway 3 improvements	£15,000	£0	£15,000	Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive
DEN/31/2 – footpath surface improvements.	£10,000	£0	£10,000	Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive
Street light on the corner of Village Road, Denham	£1,222	£0	£1,222	Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive
Village Road Street Lighting	£1,700	£0	£1,700	Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive
Hedgerley MVAS (Haddenham)	£1,200	£0	£1,200	Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive
Total	£44,872	£0	£44,872	

2013/2014				
Project	Allocated	Match Funding	Total	Local Priority Addressed
Denham yellow box junction	£4,300	£0	£4,300	Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive
New Town road	£29,046	£0	£29,046	Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive
South Park Crescent	£10,600	£0	£10,600	Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive
MVAS ground screw for Fulmer and Hedgerley	£1,200	£0	£1,200	Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive
Village Rd lighting, Denham	£1,700	£0	£1,700	Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving & Attractive
Total	£46,846	£0	£46,846	

3. Community & Public Transport

This section looks at previous projects undertaken by all LAFs between 2013 and 2017, in so far as they are linked to community and public transport priorities. During 2013-17, the LAFs collectively spent 1.16% of their budget on community and public transport projects or £61,376. When match funding is considered, the total spent by LAFs and partner organisations rises to £150,076.

Link to Buckinghamshire County Council Strategic Priorities

Priority: Safeguarding our vulnerable

- Support our most vulnerable adults to lead independent lives through Health & Social Care Integration (Better Care Fund)
- Ensure that our older, disabled and vulnerable people receive the support that is right for their needs, delaying the need for care through earlier diagnosis, intervention and re-ablement

Priority: Creating opportunities and building self-reliance

- Support our voluntary and community sector to help our communities to help themselves

Examples of Community Transport LAF Projects

Haddenham Wheels to Work



Wheels to Work was a moped loan scheme for young people (16-19) from rural areas of Buckinghamshire, who are unable to access employment or training opportunities due to a lack of transport. Candidates received a 50cc moped for a period of up to nine months, in return for a £50 monthly wear and tear fee. Community Impact Bucks reported that enquiries were received from two young people within the LAF area to join the Wheels to Work scheme. As a result two mopeds were purchased using funding of £3,850 from the LAF. The bikes have been utilised to assist other young people participating in the scheme.

Local Transport Subsidy Buckingham

It was determined that there was a need for a bus service to connect villages to Buckingham. The LAF appointed community champions who, working with the localities and community's manager for the area, recommended Buckingham LAF should subsidise a Bus route from every parish that runs once a week on a market day into Buckingham.

£10,000 was provided by the LAF to subsidise the first 12 months, funding was provided on the understanding that Buckingham Town Council and the Buckingham Traders Association will provide funding in future years. LAF members including parish councils will reviewed the success halfway through the year and decided whether to provide ongoing financial support based on success and income to date.

Although the scheme did not prove successful in the long term, because the number of passengers using the service were not sufficient to fund an ongoing service, it remained useful, in that it highlighted transport needs in the local area.

High Wycombe Shopmobility

High Wycombe Shopmobility is a registered charity offering the free daily loan of mobility scooters, manual and powered wheelchairs. High Wycombe LAF agreed a contribution of £3,500 towards the purchase of 2 mobility scooters to replace worn out mobility equipment. Equipment can be used to access services in High Wycombe Town centre, for business, shopping or leisure purposes, promoting and enabling independence and enhancing daily living for anyone with limited mobility whether permanent or temporary; you do not have to be registered disabled.

Chiltern Dial-a-Ride



In 2013/14 the Chesham LAF contributed £1,741 to assess the demand for dial-a-ride buses operating through the Chiltern Villages offering transport to GPs, shopping events, social activities, etc. This funding was used to test demand for different concepts by piloting a few ideas and getting feedback.

Following the successful pilot, Chiltern Dial-a-Ride became established in the local area with the main aim of providing an affordable, accessible and safe transport service for people living in or close to Chiltern District who, due to age, illness or disability are not able to transport themselves or to use public transport services. Chiltern Dial-a-Ride operate a fleet of 10 vehicles, all with tail-lifts or ramps and wheel chair facilities, driven by a team of drivers including volunteers, and coordinated by a small team.

In the first quarter of 2016 Chiltern Dial-a-Ride completed **3,546 passenger journeys**.

“Mr Hall from Chesham who is wheelchair bound had not been out of the house, other than for hospital appointments, for 3 years until he found out about Chiltern Dial-A-Ride, he now goes to the local market on a Wednesday and feels his quality of life has changed.”

Wexham & Ivers - Community Bus Service Needs Analysis

The Wexham & Ivers LAF contributed £2,000 which, together with £3,000 match funding, was used to conduct a needs analysis for a community bus service and work out detailed costings for providing this. For this purpose, CTA Consultancy was commissioned to provide a comprehensive overview of the community transport sector in the area.

Following the review of the local community transport sector, different options were explored which included a Sunday shopping service, with return trips on consecutive Sundays to Windsor, the Museum District in London and Petticoat Lane. The cost for the local trip was £7 return and for the London Trips it was £9 return, with a discount for children.

Although none of the options explored became established, the research and trial following this project were useful in highlighting local transport needs, and are now feeding into a health transport scheme.

Waddesdon Community Bus



Waddesdon Local Area Forum (LAF) identified the need for community transport provision, following a decrease in public transport, the demise of Aylesbury Vale Dial A Ride, and representations made by several groups of residents. The LAF formed a sub-group to review the options, which resulted in a committee being set up which became the community bus committee. The LAF contributed

£8,265 towards the funding for a new community bus, which will serve outlying villages to take older people to regular clubs and events.

The group worked closely with the community buses in Winslow and Princes Risborough to identify the best option, and initially purchased a bus from the Winslow service. Community Impact Bucks provided the group with advice and support.

Forum chairman Paul Irwin, said one of the priorities was to **strengthen community transport**.

“We’re very concerned to tackle social isolation,” said Paul. “This bus will be a lifeline for people who find it difficult to get out and about because the rural nature of our communities doesn’t support regular public transport.”

4. Employment and Business

This section looks at previous projects undertaken by all LAFs, in so far as they are linked to employment and business priorities. The report focusses on case studies and best practice from within Buckinghamshire over the last 5 years.

Link to Buckinghamshire County Council Strategic Priorities

Priority: Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving and Attractive

- Create the right conditions for firms to flourish and succeed
- Get the best deal for Buckinghamshire from economic growth and development
- The creation of more jobs for local people

Priority: Creating Opportunities & Building Self Reliance

- Ensure all our young people are prepared for the world of work and adult life by promoting volunteering, work experience and apprenticeships
- Devolve Council assets and services to town and parish councils where it makes sense to do so.
- Promote good citizenship
- Buckinghamshire residents are skilled and ready for employment
- Buckinghamshire communities are supported to help themselves

Examples of employment and business LAF projects

Pop up shop



The High Wycombe LAF contributed £3,000 to the STRIVE Enterprise Business start-up course for 25 local residents. The 13 week course benefitted would-be entrepreneurs in starting up and developing their business ideas. The Enterprise CUBE supported people to engage in enterprise by offering advice and training on social enterprise, enterprise creation, community engagement and management skills helping individuals to start their own businesses or self-employed careers. The total scheme value came to

£15,000 with £12,000 being contributed through match funding.

Buckingham Youth Enterprise

The Buckingham Youth Enterprise project provided part-time work opportunities for local people meaning that 14 young people were employed over the first, 2015 season. This project enabled mostly young people (16-19) to access local part-time work; helping them develop their work skills including: organisation, communication, planning, time management, team working, receiving and giving constructive feedback. Five of the 2015 workers asked for references to enable them to secure other part-time work, highlighting this project's success in helping young people improve their employability.

This project also provided retired people with voluntary work opportunities that directly benefit the community within which they live, maintaining (and even enhancing) local environment quality standards so that limited budgets do not result in limited services or lower quality standards. Complaints over grass verges were significantly down over the 2015 season with Town Councillors receiving many comments about the scheme and the value it offers.

The £10,000 provided by the Buckingham LAF towards this scheme resulted in positive outcomes for the community and enabled this project to become self-sustaining in a great example of LAF funding being used to support employment, business and young people.

Blue Light course



This Blue Light Course was part-funded and supported by the Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum (£1,970) as part of the local area plan priorities concerning employment skills and diversionary activities. The 30 hour Blue Light course was held at Chesham Fire Station during the February Half Term week. The week was designed to give young people the experience of training with the emergency services and to learn new skills including team building and safety activities. The youth crew were issued with a uniform to wear for the course and participated in activities including drill ground and fire engine familiarisation, hose running, and kit checks. Other activities included first aid arson reduction/awareness, radio procedure, knots and lines, chip pan display and home safety checks.

Wheels to Work

In the Great Brickhill, Wing & Ivinghoe local area plan, the issue of Transportation for young people was identified as a priority. Wheels to Work is a moped loan scheme for young people aged between 16-19 years (or up to 25 years of age in some circumstances) who find it difficult to access work or training opportunities because of a lack of transport. Eligible candidates receive the loan of a 500cc moped for a period of up to nine months. Candidates are expected to pay a small monthly 'wear and tear' fee, pay for their own fuel, wear the provided safety equipment and take the moped in for monthly safety checks.

The scheme was been successfully piloted in the Aylesbury Vale area and there was a waiting list for young people wishing to participate in this scheme. However there was a shortage of mopeds and funding. The LAF provided £2000 towards the purchase of one moped to be used exclusively for eligible young people within the local area for a minimum period of two years. 'Eligible candidates received a 50cc moped for a period of up to nine months, in return for a small monthly £50 wear and tear fee and a refundable deposit of £100 subject to the bike being returned in a satisfactory condition.

Supporting Community Businesses

The Winslow and District Local Area Forum set new priorities in 2013 which included, "Support community businesses". No proposals were provided or ideas submitted to address the priority. The LAF arranged for a detailed review to be carried out of all the community businesses in the area. Data was also provided by two funding programmes for community

businesses on all the queries they had had from the LAF area. All the enquirers were contacted to identify any support needs they may have had.

A report was provided summarising all the local community businesses that were in place and being planned, along with details of all the sources of help, advice and funding available locally and nationally.

The LAF was provided with some suggestions for the kinds of work that the LAF may have wanted to consider investing in. A similar report was provided for other LAFs with a similar priority.

Ultimately, no groups received funding through the LAF. However, a number of prospective groups were linked with successful community businesses such as the North Marston Community Shop, who provided advice and support, so a new network of peer support was established.

5. Environmental

This section looks at previous projects undertaken by all LAFs, in so far as they are linked to environmental priorities. This report will focus on case studies and best practice from within Buckinghamshire over the last 5 years.

Environmental projects can benefit communities by improving the local environment and increasing understanding of nature and the environment, particularly amongst young people. Environmental projects in Buckinghamshire are especially relevant as a large part of the County sits within The Chilterns Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Buckinghamshire is blessed with a number of woodlands, parks and other areas of cultural heritage and wildlife treasured by local residents (Wendover Woods, Burnham Beeches, Black Park, etc.).

Link to Buckinghamshire County Council Strategic Priorities

Priority: Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving and Attractive

- Continue to invest in the maintenance of the County's existing roads and footpaths
- Continue to protect the Green Belt, AONB, Rights of Way and Green Spaces
- Promote and encourage sustainable approaches to energy, water and waste
- Improved condition of roads and footpaths
- Protecting our high quality natural environment

Examples of Environmental LAF projects

Community Orchard



Buckingham in Transition received £2,597 funding from the Buckingham LAF for a project to develop woodland that grows according to the principles of an eco-system, with food producing plants. The main activities were designed for residents, including school children, to learn about biodiversity, plant relationships, and food production. Another benefit was bringing people together to form a community group of volunteers and learn about planting and growing.

The main activities were designed for residents, including school children, to learn about biodiversity, plant relationships, and food production. Railway walk volunteers were invited to participate, and all the schools in the Buckingham area had the ability to use the woodland to develop part of their curriculum in a practical way; and their involvement started once the woodland was established.

Elmtree School Sensory Garden

The Chesham & Chiltern Villages Local Area Forum awarded £2,000 to Elmtree School to support the completion works to their new Sensory Garden.



Elmtree School is situated in an area of social deprivation characterised by high unemployment. The garden was created to provide Elmtree's pupils and the wider community with an inspirational outside space that would stimulate the senses. With this in mind the plants and other design elements were selected with intention of providing experiences for seeing, smelling, hearing, touching, and tasting.

The school and the community were very much involved with the development of the garden. The final design was an interpretation of the winning entries of 8 of the pupils in the school following a competition to draw or write their vision of the garden. Parents and neighbours also helped out with the organisation and the hard landscaping.

The garden was opened in September 2012 and the Elmtree School pupils are the primary users of the garden with 180 children in the main school and up to 100 in nursery. All of these children spend time in the Sensory Garden at playtimes, lunch and during the day for curriculum based activities. They enjoy a range of physical activities and are aware of the link with their health. It is beneficial for the children to be working in the garden, maintaining it, and carrying out other learning activities there too. The successful transformation of the space into the Sensory Garden has significantly enhanced the local environment.

Haddenham in Transition Thermal Imaging Equipment

The LAF purchased thermal imaging equipment for Haddenham in Transition in 2010. This has been very well used for imaging of local houses both by the group and by volunteers in Cuddington, Chearsley, Towersey, Long Crendon and Ford. Overall, the three years of the thermal imaging campaign volunteers imaged nearly 300 homes and businesses and provided in excess of £28,000 value to the community (£8,000 following the £2,200 grant to acquire the camera). This estimate of benefit/value refers only to the making of the images and the advice to householders - it does not include the considerable value (savings on heating bills, reduction of carbon emissions, etc.) to those householders who took action to improve the thermal efficiency of their homes using the images (around two-thirds of those who took part in the 2009-10 campaign survey indicated that they had taken action on the evidence of the images).

The initial campaign was selected as a finalist for "Best Community Initiative" in the 2011 National Climate Week Awards. There is no charge, although householders who have had imaging are invited to make a donation at the local meetings where the results are presented. There is not an up to date figure for the savings which households have been able to make following its use, although a survey years ago indicated that about two thirds of households imaged had made energy efficiency savings as a result. The project demonstrated strong benefit for, and participation from, residents aged 60.

National Energy Foundation; reducing energy bills for carers and older people in Haddenham and Long Crendon

The National Energy Foundation (formally United Sustainable Energy Agency) already worked closely with Carers Bucks who have 54 carers registered with them living in Haddenham, and 22 in Long Crendon. Their support group runs on the fourth Monday of the month which this project would support. National Energy Foundation has recently undertaken some data analysis and mapping on behalf of Aylesbury Vale District Council, which highlighted particular areas where action could be taken for the Haddenham and Long Crendon area. Both areas have around 1 in 4 properties that have solid walls. These typically are more expensive to insulate, and therefore many remain uninsulated, resulting in the properties being more expensive to keep warm in winter. The off-gas-network data indicates that 50% of Long Crendon is not connected to mains gas, typically the cheapest fuel to heat a property with. The result of this is that at least 1 in 2 residents have to use more expensive fuels in the village: oil, LPG or electric heating.

GIS mapping of electricity consumption showed relatively high use as compared to many other areas of Buckinghamshire. NEF delivered a talk and information stand, working closely with the Haddenham and District Carers' Support Group at one of their coffee morning meetings, offering follow up visits to their homes to advise on a one-to-one basis about their energy needs, and ways in which these can be made more efficient.

The aims of the general advice session and follow-up house visits were to:

- Provide information, literature and energy saving gadgets suitable for the residents being cared for through this group.
- Focus on small changes that each of us can make in order to add up to make a significant difference.
- Demonstrate energy-saving gadgets through hands-on displays, to show the extent of cost-savings these can achieve for residents of Haddenham, Long Crendon and surrounding areas with the aim to ensure vulnerable residents are more healthy and comfortable in their own homes.
- Promote financial assistance (such as the Green Deal for home efficiency improvements – replacement boilers, solid wall, cavity wall and loft insulation). It is hoped that this will bring additional funding into the region through ECO grants available through the Green Deal scheme, helping to greatly increase the efficiency of properties and thermal comfort of vulnerable residents.
- Promote the Bucks Community Energy Champions Network, and invite carers to become more involved in this initiative. National Energy Foundation (NEF) is an independent charity, based in Milton Keynes, which aims to deliver carbon reductions and address fuel poverty by offering a range of sustainable energy solutions to individuals, business and organisations.

6. Children and Young People

This section looks at previous projects undertaken by all LAFs in so far as they are linked to children and young people. Between 2013 and 2017, the LAFs collectively spent 9.22% of their budget on projects for children and young people or £317,171. When match funding is considered, the total spent by LAFs and partner organisations rises to £431,485.

Link to Buckinghamshire County Council Strategic Priorities

Priority: Safeguarding our vulnerable

- Safeguard children
- Ensure that vulnerable children fulfil their potential, including their emotional and physical development as well as their educational achievement, training and employment prospects

Priority: Creating Opportunities & Building Self Reliance

- Ensure that our young children growing up are 'school ready' by providing help, support and advice to families with pre-school children
- Enable and support our children to be successful and cared for throughout their school years, with a particular focus on promoting high quality education across all our schools
- Ensure all our young people are prepared for the world of work and adult life by promoting volunteering, work experience and apprenticeships
- Improve community safety and reduce crime and the fear of crime
- Continue to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents and address major health risks
- Support our voluntary and community sector to help our communities to help themselves
- Promote good citizenship

Examples of Children and Young People LAF Projects

Chiltern Summer Outreach

Chiltern Youth Projects received funding of £500 from the Chalfonts LAF and £2,000 from the Amersham LAF to run a summer activities programme in the Amersham and Chalfont areas. The programme was run over a period of five weeks with the aim of engaging with young people in the Chiltern District with little to do over the summer; encourage them to plan projects and trips that would widen their perspective of life; help them raise money for these projects; and discover and deal with any issues of concern.

Over the five weeks, the summer team engaged with well over 40 different young people. Many of the activities run were suggested by the young people themselves and several of them helped to run the activities. Additionally, over £700 was raised. This money went towards the cost of trips, transport and food over the five weeks. Activities were wide-ranging and included:

- A trip to Thorpe Park
- A Results Day celebration in Chesham Open Air Swimming Pool (funded by CDC)
- Hanging out parks in Chesham, Amersham and Little Chalfont
- Paintballing

- Use of the Youth Centre
- Helping with National Play Day
- Volunteering at the Opening of St Michael's Square
- Serving refreshments at the Big Screen Day

As a result of the programme TVP noted a 50% reduction in anti-social behaviour. The activities undertaken, which involved several young people giving up their time simply to help other local causes, have broadened the young people's perspectives on life as well as giving them a sense of having achieved something over the summer.

Aylesbury Youth Action - Tackling Social Isolation in Our Community

Aylesbury Youth Action worked with young people aged 14-24 to plan and deliver weekly groups that tackled social isolation in the community, provided friendship, offered fun activities, and encouraged interaction and community engagement. Between January and March 2015, the GALAF funding supported AYA volunteers' activities across a range of projects:

- The Griffin Place Club for primary school children and their siblings who became homeless and were staying in temporary accommodation.
- The After School Club for children who were fleeing domestic violence and staying at the local Women's Refuge.
- AYA volunteers also helped at the Young Carers Club nights for children aged 6-9 who had a close family member with an illness, disability or addiction.
- The young volunteers also provided friendship and activities for children and young people aged 8-18 at The Grove Respite Centre, who had physical and learning disabilities and were socially isolated from mainstream peers.

Between January and March, more than 30 young people volunteered on these projects around the Aylesbury area. The activities also provided positive diversionary activities for the young people volunteering, developing skills in team work and leadership, offering valuable experience in a range of caring professions, and opening their eyes to the needs of others in their community.

The groups were each run by a small team of young people, and managed by a youth management group, supervised by AYA staff at project and management level. In addition to this project, Aylesbury Youth Action have also delivered a number of youth volunteering projects in the following LAFs: GBWI, GALAF, Wendover and Winslow.

Aylesbury Vale Youth For Christ - Greater Aylesbury Youth Forum

The Greater Aylesbury Forum has been running for a few years and has had funding support from BCC through the GALAF since 2012/13. Young people from the Greater Aylesbury area have since met together to discuss issues relating to young people, think about the needs and respond by providing resources, events and activities in the community. Funding has been spent on a variety of projects, including:

- Resources to be shared amongst the youth
- Research projects looking at the needs of the youth and community
- Putting on musical concerts for young people
- Training events and team building activities

AVYFC has also been involved in setting up and maintaining Wendover Youth Forum and the Great Brickhill, Wing and Ivinghoe Youth Forum.

Padbury Youth Club

Padbury's youth club closed when the existing volunteers were no longer able to keep it going. The LAF contributed to the salary of a youth worker to run one evening a week for a year to re-establish the group. At the end of the year, the parish council were so impressed with the club's development that they agreed to provide ongoing funding to preserve the club for future years.

Westbury Youth Club

Westbury received substantial grants from a number of sources to completely rebuild their village hall and pavilion. The parish council applied to the LAF for funding to develop use of the centre by young people in the village. This resulted in a series of events which were used to identify activities which young people would continue to be involved in, and also resulted in young people being involved in the Management Committee of the new centre.

Aylesbury Vale Youth For Christ - Winslow Young People's Project (mobile skate ramps)



In 2015/16 the Winslow LAF awarded £3,500 for the creation of mobile skate ramps to be used by young people from the area. The young people were involved in building the ramps from scratch. This project has been extremely successful and the mobile skate ramps continue to be used by young people, in a great example of LAFs funding sustainable projects.

In addition to these projects, AVYFC have also delivered a number of projects for young people in the following LAFs: Beeches, GBWI, GALAF, Wendover and Winslow.

Buckingham Youth Enterprise

The Buckingham Youth Enterprise scheme was given £10,000 by the Buckingham LAF over the course of the 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years. The aim of this scheme was to establish a social enterprise within Buckingham Town that employs local people to undertake local highways maintenance services such as: verge grass cutting, verge strimming, footpath clearance and edging, and sign cleaning.

This project employed 12 young people in 2014 and 14 young people in 2015 on a part-time basis. A large number of participants left the scheme to secure other work and the references and experience they gained from taking part in this project were instrumental in helping them secure further employment.

Another benefit from this scheme is that the quality of the environment around Buckingham was maintained, being considered satisfactory in 2015, and complaints over grass verges were significantly down over the 2015 season with Town Councillors receiving many comments about the scheme and the value it offers.

This project continues to prove successful and will continue to run in 2016/17 without LAF funding. This illustrates how LAFs can have a lasting and positive impact in the community by investing in sustainable projects, particularly those in line with the BCC strategic objective to help communities help themselves.

Wendover Decides

Wendover Decides 2012 gave residents in the Wendover local area the opportunity to vote for the projects they would like to see receive a share of £10,000 to benefit the area. All the participating projects met local priorities which included reducing social isolation and activities and facilities for young people aged 11+. There were 539 valid votes (and 63 incorrectly completed forms) and residents decided to award the £10,000 as follows:

- Wendover Youth Centre (£3,000)
- Identifying Young Carers (£3,000)
- Boomerang Toy Library (£3,000)
- Blue Light Project (£1,000)



Wendover decides was a great example of the local community engaging with the LAF and deciding what projects would best fit the local priorities.

7. Community Budgeting

This section summarises some previous projects undertaken by LAFs between 2013 and 2017, which are linked to the processes of Community Budgeting and mentions the impact on communities, and links to BCC strategic priorities.

Background

Community Budgeting (CB) is a term that covers a range of initiatives and approaches, one of which is known as 'Participatory Budgeting'. Participatory budgeting is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend part of a public budget and is described in the following terms:

"Participatory budgeting directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending priorities for a defined public budget. This means engaging residents and community groups representative of all parts of the community to discuss spending priorities, making specific proposals and vote on them, as well as giving local people a role in the scrutiny and monitoring process."

In Buckinghamshire, some of our Local Area Forums have held community budgeting schemes over the past few years. These schemes have taken place in Greater Aylesbury, Amersham, Buckingham and High Wycombe.

The Local Area Forum (LAF) invites organisations who have projects that will benefit the specific community linked to that LAF to submit proposals for their ideas and then a shortlist is created that residents in that area will have the opportunity to vote on, based on their preferences

The projects that applied to take part were assessed against the three areas that all local area projects are asked to meet:

- Fit with Local Area Forum priorities
- Fit with Buckinghamshire County Council priorities
- Value for money.

Link to Buckinghamshire County Council Strategic Priorities

Priority: Safeguarding our vulnerable

Most residents live healthy lives but some need extra support. The Council, working closely with our partners, is successful in equipping our most vulnerable children, adults and families with the support and skills they need to do more for themselves and to get back their independence at the earliest opportunity

Priority: Creating Opportunities & Building Self Reliance

Buckinghamshire residents have the aspiration and opportunities to lead successful and independent lives, taking responsibility for their own health and wellbeing and supporting each other in their communities. Young people thrive in Buckinghamshire's schools enabling them to progress to good jobs and training opportunities in our County.

Priority: Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving and Attractive

Buckinghamshire is a rapidly growing county and its economy is one of the strongest in the country. As it grows our challenge is to help it remain a thriving and attractive place to live

and work, securing good jobs, good road, rail and other essential infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of our residents. The County Council is proactive in protecting the county's unique countryside, setting standards of excellence in its growth, including exceptional standards of sustainable development design

Examples of Community Budgeting LAF Projects

Choose 4 Greater Aylesbury (C4GA)



Choose 4 Greater Aylesbury

We are pleased to invite local organisations and community groups to submit proposals for a share in the £17,500 Local Area Forum (LAF) funding that is available to the local area.

The projects proposed must directly benefit residents in the Greater Aylesbury area. If it's a wider project, then only the Greater Aylesbury part can be proposed.

Residents in Greater Aylesbury will then decide how the money will be allocated by putting the projects in order of preference on a ballot form or online.

This puts local residents in control of how money is spent within their community.

The deadline for submitting proposals is 31 July 2014.

For more information visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/choose4aylesbury

Choose 4 Greater Aylesbury 2015 enabled residents in the Greater Aylesbury local area the opportunity to vote for which of the six projects they would like to see receive a share of £17,500.

Run by the Greater Aylesbury Local Area Forum (GALAF), Voting was open to all residents from the Greater Aylesbury area, either online at: www.choose4greateraylesbury.com or via paper voting in ballot boxes throughout the area.

Voting was undertaken by ranking all six project choices from 1—3 (with 1 being the highest). The top three projects receive £4,000 each, then project four receives £3,000, project five £2,000 and project six receives £500. Ballot boxes were placed in different locations in Greater Aylesbury.

Choose 4 Greater Aylesbury 2015 ran from 30 March - 30 May. 1,752 residents voted from across the Greater Aylesbury area (Aylesbury Town, Bierton with Broughton, Buckingham Park, Fairford Leys, Hulcott, Quarrendon, Stoke Mandeville, Watermead and Weedon).

Six projects were selected and received funding:

- First Gear (£4,000)
- Support for Parent Carers across Bucks (£4,000)
- Street Angels and Chaplaincy (£4,000)
- Aylesbury Youth Action (£3,000)
- 42 Aylesbury Youth Motor Project (£2,000)
- Culture Sounds (£500)



Amersham Decides



Your vote counts! Amersham Decides

Six local projects have been shortlisted to receive a share of £10,000 from the Amersham Local Area Forum.

Details at: www.buckscc.gov.uk/amershamdecides

Vote online at amershamdecides.com

Voting closes 31 July 2015

Which projects will you support?

Amersham Decides 2015 enabled residents in the Amersham local area to have the opportunity to vote for which excellent community projects they would like to see receive a share of £10,000 of County Council funding allocated through the Amersham Local Area Forum. **1,555 residents voted** from across the Amersham area.

Six projects were selected and received funding:

- Chiltern Youth Projects- Mental Health and First Aid Training (£3,000)
- Voices and Choices—Stay in Your Home (£3,000)

- Amersham Men in Sheds (£1,500)
- Pop Up Cinema (£1,500)
- Amersham Museum– Memory boxes (£500)
- Chiltern Rangers - Be a Ranger for a day (£500)

Buckingham Decides



Buckingham Decides 2015 enabled residents in the Buckingham local area to have the opportunity to have their say in how £9,500 of County Council funding from the Buckingham Local Area Forum should be allocated to five excellent community projects.

Voting was undertaken by selecting the top three project choices (although all five projects were allocated a share in the £9,500). The top two projects would receive the £3,000, projects three and four would receive £1,500 with £500 for the project coming fifth.

1,016 residents voted and five projects were selected and received funding:

- Men in Sheds Buckingham (£3,000)
- Home Visiting Service - Citizens Advice Bureau (£3,000)
- Generate - Buckingham Youth Action (£1,500)
- Young Persons Activity Group - Buckingham Activities Group (£1,500)
- Skate Bucks - Aylesbury Vale Youth For Christ (£500)

High Wycombe Decides

High Wycombe Decides 2015 enabled residents in the High Wycombe local area to have the opportunity to have their say in how £17,500 of County Council funding allocated by the High Wycombe Local Area Forum should be allocated to eight excellent community projects.

Voting was undertaken by selecting the top three project choices (although all eight projects were allocated a share in the £17,500). The top three projects would receive the £4,000, projects four and five would receive £2,000 with £500 for each of the final three projects.



2,934 residents voiced their preference and nine projects received funding:

- Tenancy Support Worker: Wycombe (£4,000)
- Homeless Connection (£4,000)
- Identifying Young Carers: Young Carers Bucks (£4,000)
- Boomerang Toy Library: Bucks Play Association (£4,000)
- Bucks New Usage:, Bucks New University (£2,000)
- Cooking with Confidence: Empower to Cook (£2,000)
- Motor Mechanics Course: Skidz (£500)
- Developing Downley Library (£500)
- Be A Ranger for a Day: Chiltern Rangers (£500)

8. Addressing Anti-Social Behaviour

This section looks at some projects undertaken by LAFs between 2013 and 2017 to address issues which are linked to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), and lists some providers and links to BCC strategic priorities.

Link to Buckinghamshire County Council Strategic Priorities

Priority: Creating Opportunities & Building Self Reliance

- Improve community safety and reduce crime and the fear of crime.
- Buckinghamshire communities are safe places to live

Background

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 defines anti-social behaviour as 'behaviour which causes harassment, alarm or distress'. It covers a wide range of issues from crime and serious nuisance to frequent and annoying behaviour. Anti-social behaviour has a negative impact on the quality of life of victims and residents. Examples of ASB include:

- Abandoned vehicles
- Harassment/intimidation
- Animal related problems
- Litter/rubbish
- Hoax calls
- Noise/air pollution
- Drug/substance misuse
- Persistent nuisance
- Fly tipping
- Public disorder
- Graffiti
- Street drinking and begging

ASB data analysis in Buckinghamshire between 2015-17

	24/01/2015 - 23/01/2016	24/01/2016 - 23/01/2017	% Change
Chiltern And South Bucks	1,948	1,912	-2%

Neighbourhoods by ASB incident numbers (most recent rolling 12 month)				
Rank	Neighbourhood	Previous Rolling 12 Month	Most Recent Rolling 12 month	% Change
1	Chesham	459	397	-14%
2	Burnham / Farnhams / Taplow	179	268	50%
3	Chalfonts	249	244	-2%
4	Denham / Gerrards Cross	226	224	-1%
5	Amersham	218	219	0%
6	Iver / Stoke Poges / Wexham	200	187	-7%
7	Missendens	179	172	-4%
8	Beaconsfield	190	147	-23%

	24/01/2015 - 23/01/2016	24/01/2016 - 23/01/2017	% Change
Aylesbury Vale	2,884	2,176	-25%

Top 10 Neighbourhoods by ASB incident numbers (most recent rolling 12 month)				
Rank	Neighbourhood	Previous Rolling 12 Month	Most Recent Rolling 12 month	% Change
1	Aylesbury South	499	369	-26%
2	Aylesbury West	571	357	-37%
3	Buckingham and District	291	213	-27%
4	Aylesbury Central	336	200	-40%
5	Aylesbury North	239	152	-36%
6	Wendover	150	142	-5%
7	Aylesbury East	146	125	-14%
8	Great Brickhill / Wing / Ivinghoe	95	109	15%
9	Haddenham / Long Crendon	66	86	30%
10	Winslow and District	157	85	-46%

	24/01/2015 - 23/01/2016	24/01/2016 - 23/01/2017	% Change
Wycombe	1,408	1,880	34%

Neighbourhoods by ASB incident numbers (most recent rolling 12 month)				
Rank	Neighbourhood	Previous Rolling 12 Month	Most Recent Rolling 12 month	% Change
1	Wycombe East	289	428	48%
2	Wycombe South	299	371	24%
3	Wycombe West	300	371	24%
4	Marlow	190	268	41%
5	Chepping Wye Valley	129	145	12%
6	Princes Risborough	55	110	100%
7	Marlow South West Rural	55	61	11%

LAF projects to address or prevent Anti-Social Behaviour

CCTV



CCTV (closed-circuit television) is a TV system in which signals are not publicly distributed but are recorded, primarily for surveillance and security purposes.

Aston Clinton parish council introduced a CCTV system to the park in the centre of the village after consultation with Thames Valley Police. The park has

a wide range of amenities which had been subject to unacceptable levels of crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The CCTV system has enabled the council to follow up

specific incidents. The aim of this project is to reduce the number of crime incidents and increase deterrence, for the safety of Aston Clinton residents and other users of the park.

The Wendover LAF contributed the sum of £2,300 towards the CCTV in Aston Clinton.

Buckingham Activities Group (BAG)

The Buckingham Activities Group (BAG) is a partnership group comprising of AVDC, BCC, Buckingham Town Council, Thames Valley Police, Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust, Project Street Life, Buckingham Youth Club, Buckingham and Maids Moreton NAG, Buckingham Youth Action and Buckingham Town Youth Council.

The Group organises an annual programme of activities that could also be diversionary for young people aged 8 – 18 years, in order to maintain the low rates of ASB achieved by the Group's initial work. These activities are led by the needs of young people, and have recently included weeks of sport sessions like basketball and American football, music club, events and competitions.

Statistics provided by the BAG group of figures collected over a 2 year period shows a decrease in antisocial behaviour in the area.

Chiltern Youth Projects—Summer Activities



Chiltern Youth Projects (CYP) runs weekly clubs (years 5-13) for boys, girls, and mixed youth clubs in a variety of locations around Amersham. CYP also has an established summer outreach team and is building links with schools. Whilst being a largely affluent area, Amersham does have groups of young people who are marginalised or identified as 'at-risk'. As a result they often miss out on youth provision due to their backgrounds and behaviour.

CYP works to build positive relationships with the marginalised young people and help provide a safe place for them to belong, be cared for and loved. CYP's strategic partnerships with the Town, District and County Councils, together with Thames Valley Police allow them to feed into local and regional forums with regards to youth work. They also participate in the Independent Police Advisory Group to represent the views of young people with regards to local policing.

Chiltern Youth Projects received funding from the Chalfonts LAF to run a summer activities programme in the Amersham and Chalfont areas, with the aim of engaging with young people who were hanging out in the Chiltern District with little to do over the summer; It was to encourage them to plan projects and trips that would widen their perspective of life; help them to raise money for these projects; discover and deal with any issues of concern.

The summer team engaged with well over 40 different young people, most of whom had little opportunity to do anything outside of 'hanging out' over the summer. Many of the activities



ran were suggested by the young people themselves and several of them helped to run the activities. Additionally, over £700 was raised by 24 of the young people as a result of a 'Sleep-Out'. This money went towards the cost of trips, transport and food over the five weeks.

SMART Drug and Alcohol Support Service (Aylesbury)



SMART is a charity, helping people to overcome the devastating effects of drug and alcohol dependency. SMART's innovative projects are designed to assist in transforming the health and wellbeing, prospects and opportunities of people, especially those with substance misuse and the issues that this brings. These issues include social isolation and stigmatisation, anti-social behaviour, homelessness and many more.

SMART works with local people, their families, and other community organisations to help people reach and maintain recovery for the long term. They offer a vast array of professional support and structured programmes, which includes outreach and support, 121 sessions, group work, peer support, complimentary therapies, housing support and access to structured treatment. They also use mentoring for a less formal process.

In 2014-15 Greater Aylesbury LAF allocated £4000 for a new SMART project across the Greater Aylesbury area, to buy and renovate a campervan to be used to provide outreach support to those facing social isolation. This van is equipped with the ability to provide warm meals and drinks, and is staffed with Recovery facilitators who provide substance misuse advice to all using the van.

Owen's story *At 29 Owen got botulism through contaminated Heroin, and ended up paralysed. "Nothing ever changed my mind until I started using the local SMART service and got a worker that understood what was happening to me. I started working hard: using the service, going to AA meetings".*

Owen ended up in hospital with a tumour on my spine and came out in a wheelchair. He had to adapt to life.

"Working here with my worker saved my life. *Talking about my feelings and emotions from before I started using drugs. I had to really connect with someone. Nothing I ever did satisfied me. I felt emptiness in my soul. Today my life has improved through this service. I used the groups here. I was so done being controlled by medications that I said I was not using anymore. And I haven't touched a drop or drug since, in over three years. I started working here. It saved my life. I can't thank this service enough. It gave me my life back. I came out the other side."*

SKIDZ and Street Dreams

The SKIDZ Motor Projects charity provides opportunities for disadvantaged young people to gain vocational motor trade skills and access to courses in motor engineering in an adult work-style environment, providing qualifications as well as experience of the world of work.



Street Dreams acts as an extended family to disadvantaged, disengaged and disruptive young people supporting them to achieve a positive sustainable life by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities as a means of helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals.

In 2012-13, The project 'Street Dreams and SKIDZ' engaged with youngsters from deprived areas of High Wycombe offering opportunities with learning through new and challenging activities with the aim of reducing the amount of anti-social behaviour over the half term period. The project, which received £5,688 from the High Wycombe Local Community Partnership, aimed to equip youngsters with vocational skills in motor mechanics and furniture renovation and encouraged the development of intergenerational relationships. Young people identified with disadvantaged backgrounds were recruited on to the programme and spent a week learning the basic skills required to renovate furniture and learn basic car motor mechanics.



The young people attended sessions for four days out of the week and on the fifth day were taken Quad-biking as a 'reward day'. They were also presented with certificates on the final day to recognise their efforts and achievements over the course. The project was very successful engaging with 13 young people and had an 80% attendances rate, 40% have been/were implicated in some form of anti-social behaviour, and 55% came from areas of significant deprivation within High Wycombe, 1 pupil from a Special School and 1 pupil from a Pupil Referral Unit.

All of the young people enjoyed the project and felt that they had learned a lot of valuable skills and expressed interest in attending similar projects. As a result two further school holiday projects were run with funding support from elsewhere.

Buckingham - Project street life equipment for activities



Project Street Life is a charity based in Buckingham, which aims to educate and train young people to achieve their full potential and to steer them away from a life of crime. They run clubs for the young people of Buckingham. Various activities such as Table Tennis, Table Football, and Nintendo Wii are available together with an opportunity to get to know one another in a safe and non-threatening environment. A tuck shop is always available and films and music are able to be enjoyed.



In 2014-15, the Buckingham LAF contributed £630 towards the purchase of woodworking tools such as saws, hammers, drills, jigsaws etc. The activities gave a really good opportunity to engage with the youth. They benefitted from being able to choose from a range of activities that requires them to plan through an idea of what they want to achieve and follow this through seeing a positive product at the end of it.

9. Footpaths

This section looks at previous projects undertaken by all LAFs between 2013 and 2017, in so far as they are linked to footpath priorities. This report will focus on case studies and best practice from within Buckinghamshire over the last 5 years.

Footpaths perform an important function, particularly in rural communities, offering a convenient way for residents to access community facilities and services. Over the past 5 years LAFs have funded a number of footpath projects which have significantly benefited local communities by improving paths to schools, connecting different parts of a village or restoring rights of way.

Link to Buckinghamshire County Council Strategic Priorities

Priority: Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving and Attractive

- Continue to invest in the maintenance of the County's existing roads and footpaths
- Continue to protect the Green Belt, AONB, Rights of Way and Green Spaces
- Improved condition of roads and footpaths
- Protecting our high quality natural environment

Examples of LAF Footpath projects

GBWI footpath sub group

The LAF created a Footpaths and Cyclepaths subgroup. The subgroup, consisting of representatives of each parish, compiled a list of all the footpaths requiring work, and potential routes for footpaths to be created. Research was carried out to identify available funding sources, and then the sub-group prioritised the list. Each parish council was asked how much match funding they could provide to each possible scheme. The LAF then funded the schemes in order of priority over several years. Some of the funding was for feasibility studies to establish the viability and cost of new routes. One of these is now in receipt of New Homes Bonus funding from AVDC to implement the scheme.

Ivinghoe Footpath

Ivinghoe footpath no. 4 is one example; this is a well-used footpath linking Station Road/Maud Jane's Close residents to the school, and the SureStart Centre. The path was in poor condition and extremely muddy and difficult to cross in winter and during wet weather. In addition to this, the surface was not suitable for the many pushchair users who walked along the footpath. Ivinghoe Parish Council proposed chipping the footpath, to which the landowner agreed. Following this agreement, GBWI LAF agreed to fund £5,934 towards this work, which resulted in marked improvements to the condition of the footpath.

Tyler's Green Footpath

Following several requests from residents to improve the cross Common footpath, Tylers Green Parish Council submitted an application to the LAF for funding to address this. The footpath frequently became muddy and difficult to use in poor weather conditions. Funding for this project came from the LAF (£5,000) and the Parish Council (£3,000) in a great example of partnership working. The top surface used was self-binding gravel, which over

time will bleach out and blend with the surroundings. It offers a hard surface so that all can access the Common.

The project has been well received by local residents and is still a well-used path that joins the two sides of the village of Tylers Green.

Safer Route to school footpath and seating at Green Meadow



For several years there had been an issue with children's safety on the pavement to and from school, on School Lane, Seer Green. The narrow pavement was difficult to navigate especially when parked cars open their doors into the pedestrians. A survey was conducted with parents/guardians of the children at the School and Preschool, the result was a 90% agreement (of parents who completed the survey) to construct a path across Green Meadow.

The total cost of this project was £14,000 and this was financed by £10,000 grant from the Chalfonts LAF, £3,500 from the Living Streets charity with the balance being met by the Parish Council. The path has been a great success with many more people using it than originally anticipated and the school has also appreciated the path as they use the route to take the school children to Church each week.

Families who use Green Meadow had also informed the Parish Council that there was not enough seating in Green Meadow, especially in the shade. The Chalfont's Local Area Forum kindly provided further funding towards two further picnic tri-tables and a circular bench in the shade of the tree, all of which are now being used and enjoyed by families in the area.



10. Older and Vulnerable People

This section looks at previous projects undertaken by all LAFs between 2013 and 2017, which are linked to Older and vulnerable people and a detailed look at some providers. It also briefly looks at the Buckinghamshire population demography in recent years, the impact on the communities, LAF's projects and funding to address the challenges and links to BCC strategic priorities.

Background

Data from the last ONS figures first released in July 2012 shows that the total population of Buckinghamshire increased from 479,000 in 2001 to 505,300 in 2011 (5.5% increase, 26,300 people) – taking the population of the county to over half a million people which is the largest rise in any 10 year period since the census began in 1801.

There is large increase in the number of older people aged 60 or over, from 93,200 to 115,300 – an increase of 22,100 (23.8% Just under a quarter of Bucks residents). Note that 16.6% of the Buckinghamshire's population are now aged 65 yrs and over, higher than the national proportion for England and Wales which is 16.4%.

There has been a very large percentage increase of 27.7% in the most elderly aged 80 and over – increasing from 18,100 in 2001 census to 23,100 in 2011 (5,000 more people). The ONS population projection for Buckinghamshire 2015-2033 shows a 44% increase in people aged 60+(and extra 55,000), a 140% in people aged 90+ (an extra 6,800) a shortage of 20-35year olds and more teenagers (13% more 8-18year olds).

This increase the population - particularly in the older age group - could mean an increase in the number of vulnerable people in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.

This includes people with learning disabilities, mental health problems, older people or those with a physical disability or impairment. It may also include individuals who may be vulnerable as a consequence of their particular personal situation such as domestic abuse, chronic illness, drug or alcohol problems, social or emotional problems, poverty or homelessness.

In addressing potential challenges associated with an aging population, and safeguarding of Vulnerable people in the county, Buckinghamshire County Council has developed strategic plans, which include safeguarding our vulnerable, creating opportunities and building self-reliance. LAF schemes support and enhance these plans by addressing local opportunities and needs in partnership with local councils and groups.

Link to Buckinghamshire County Council Strategic Priorities

Priority: Safeguarding our vulnerable

- Support our most vulnerable adults to lead independent lives through Health & Social Care Integration (Better Care Fund)
- Ensure that our older, disabled and vulnerable people receive the support that is right for their needs, delaying the need for care through earlier diagnosis, intervention and re-ablement.

- Provide understanding and dignity in end of life care
- Vulnerable Adults are safe and protected from harm
- Vulnerable Adults are supported to lead independent lives

Priority: Creating Opportunities & Building Self Reliance

- Continue to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents and address major health risks.
- Support our voluntary and community sector to help our communities to help themselves
- Improved health and wellbeing for all of our residents
- Buckinghamshire communities are supported to help themselves

Example Projects

Men in Sheds



Men In Sheds support older men to get together, share and learn new skills all in the welcoming space of a 'Shed'. It's a place that gives men who have experienced life changing events such as redundancy, retirement, bereavement or mental/physical ill-health 'A New Lease of Life'. Men in shed engage socially isolated men in activities where they can learn new practical skills or enhance existing ones.

Men In Sheds projects are open to all men, most but not all of those involved are older men.



There are currently Men In Sheds projects in in 5 LAF areas: Buckingham, Winslow, Amersham, Wycombe and Aylesbury. They usually apply for a start-up grant and later become independent and self-sustaining, an example is the Amersham Men in Sheds which started in 2015 with LAF funding but became independent in June 2016 growing from only 3members to 13 regular members.

They hope to play an active role in the rehabilitation of these men by building confidence, enhancing social contacts, developing and enhancing skills and enabling those who wish to return to work to do so. An example of a positive impact is the documented report from a GP in Milton Keynes stating that at least two older men showed significant improvement in their mental condition having joined and attended the Milton Keynes Shed.

The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) - home visiting service

The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) - home visiting service is aimed at members in the community who face rural isolation and are often excluded from mainstream services. They include the elderly (75yrs and over), people with disabilities, families with young children in rural areas who do not have cars or means of transportation and carers of people with disabilities who cannot leave the people they care for on their own. Usually the needs

required include advice on the (disability) benefits system, housing, filling of the forms and debt management. These services are provided to people in their own homes although by

CAB specialist advisers work within the community promoting greater co-operation and joint working initiatives with other local complementary organisations, helping towards maximizing people's incomes and restoring them to more viable living standard. This enables the elder population to live independent lives for longer. It also helps to address poverty issues for young families, tackling many of the root causes of social isolation and exclusion in rural areas.

Over the years, they have noted an increased number in demand of their services from people with early stage dementia, people in their late 50s and early 60s needing advice on how to care for their aging parents, usually in their 90s. And an overall 30% increase in the demand for the service with home visiting accounting for around 12% of that increase. During the 12 month funding period the Home visiting service helped 287 households in the north Buckinghamshire area. In total they helped 475 clients and their families.

The table below shows the breakdown of issues dealt with by the home visiting service. CAB also records the financial gain to each client e.g. what extra income and benefits they are receiving as a result of our advice:

Client P. phoned the bureau asking for help in getting her ESA benefit reinstated. She was too poorly to come into the bureau so a home visit was arranged. The home visitor completed a holistic needs assessment and was able to see the conditions in which P. was living. She had become isolated and found it very difficult to leave is flat. Also she wasn't eating properly.

Over the coming few days the home visiting team was able to obtain a food parcels for the client to help in the short term and to assisted P. in making a fresh set of benefit applications. They were also able to obtain to £100 energy fuel grants, which were paid directly to her energy supplier.

The home visiting service was awarded grant by both Buckingham and Winslow LAFs to the total sum of £8,240.

The Older Persons Directory

The Older Persons Directory is a Guide to services for older people living in specified areas. It has been developed to help older residents in the area become aware of local services and activities that are available to them. The services and activities include those provided by both public and voluntary sector organisations. This printed guide has come about as a result of requests from local organisations working with older people who feel a 'one stop shop' of information is needed. The guide covers the area and its surrounding villages.

Amersham, Beeches and Wexham and Ivers LAF have invested the total sum of £2,750 towards the project.

Carers Bucks Caring for Older Carers in Aylesbury



Carers Bucks' Caring for older carers provides support for the growing number of people aged 75 or over who are caring for loved ones. In Buckinghamshire there are over 14,700 carer aged 75+ and over half of these care for someone for 50 hours a week or more. Research showed that older carers have long-term health challenges such as problems with their back, arthritis, heart disease, cancer or depression. Over 50% reported that their physical health had decreased and 40% said their mental health had deteriorated. Some have had to cancelled treatment or an operation due to their caring responsibilities.

The project piloted a specialist support service for carers aged 75 and over which included in person support which is not available generally. Older carers sometimes struggle to engage with support that is simply online or impersonal, and may have additional needs. The success of the project led to successful funding bids being awarded to Carers Bucks who are now rolling out the service more widely.

Aylesbury Youth Concern Female Worker

Aylesbury Youth Concern is a charity that offers help and support to vulnerable young people aged 13-25, many whom have complex needs. They run a drop-in for support session and noticed an increase in the demand for a female worker especially for gender sensitive issues.

The target group for this project is vulnerable women who have experienced issues such as domestic violence, sexual abuse and exploitation, neglect, sexual health, emotional distress, mental health and self-harm. Through the project, Aylesbury Youth Concern are focussing on building a trust relationship and quickly resolving priority issues for those entering the service at crisis point.

Through the grant from the Greater Aylesbury LAF, they have supported 171 young women through drop-in and outreach sessions, some of whom have been fed into other services as appropriate such as Nightstop, drugs engagement project, mentoring scheme and multi-media studio, and have received testimonials and feedbacks from clients. An unexpected benefit has been that having a female support worker has helped some young men, who may have had negative male role models in their lives and therefore wish to access support from a female.

Feedback from some of the young people include:

"I told her stuff I couldn't have told the guys"

"It helped me build the confidence to get the help I needed from CAMHS"

"I've stopped using drugs at last"

"I can't believe I did it...I got into Art College and have finally moved out of home"

Contact the Elderly



Contact the Elderly is a charity organisation supported by a network of volunteers. The group organises monthly Sunday afternoon tea parties for small groups of older people aged 75 and over, who live alone, offering a regular and vital friendship link every month. Once a month volunteers take isolated elderly people, 75 and over, in the area out for tea.

Hosts then welcome the group into their homes for a tea party. This regular monthly outing makes a huge difference to the life of an isolated person and gives them something to look forward to.

Drivers collect two to three elderly guests, take them to the party and join in, and then return them safely home.



Jim, 95, has been a member of one of Contact the Elderly's Harrow groups for many years and in the video he gets collected by his driver Ash and is driven to the tea party.

"I put it in my calendar and it gives me that feeling that I've got something to look forward to," says Jim.

"It's not so much the tea and the cake but the important bit is getting together being able to talk to one another. **You're taken in as one of their family for that afternoon**".

11. Strengthening Communities

This section summarises some previous projects undertaken by LAFs between 2013 and 2017, which are linked to activities that strengthen communities, and mentions the impact on communities, and links to BCC strategic priorities.

Background

Community cohesion refers to the aspect of togetherness and bonding exhibited by members of a community, the “glue” that holds a community together. It is about inclusion, making the effort to find out about others, treating each other with respect and building good relations between different parts of the community. This can be achieved by strengthening a community, through connecting people to activities or programs that help them find positive ways to spend their spare time for example, festivals, youth and intergenerational programmes and events. Events have direct and indirect impacts on communities. They provide opportunities for participation, interaction, skills development, and volunteering, social, cultural, economic and environmental developments.

Research shows that the more involved local people and suppliers are in terms of provision of services, food, beverages, and attractions, the greater the economic benefits to the region.

Link to Buckinghamshire County Council Strategic Priorities

Priority: Creating Opportunities & Building Self Reliance

- Improve community safety and reduce crime and the fear of crime.
- Support our voluntary and community sector to help our communities to help themselves
- Promote good citizenship
- Buckinghamshire communities are safe places to live
- Buckinghamshire communities are supported to help themselves

Priority: Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving and Attractive

- Create the right conditions for firms to flourish and succeed
- The creation of more jobs for local people

Example Projects

Wycombe African Caribbean Community Day 2012



The principal objective of the day was to bring people together in an atmosphere where they could mingle easily and cement old friendships and in this they were delighted with the response. Community cohesion was the aim and it was gratifying to see the delight on their faces as they left for home after a day in the sunshine. The atmosphere was calm and peaceful, and the performances were well appreciated.

The High Wycombe LAF contributed £160 towards the costs of the Day and attendance surpassed the estimated 1500 people of the 2011 event.

St Michael's and All Angels Celebratory Event



St Michael's and All Angels organised the first ever celebratory community event in Amersham's new "town square" held on 4th August 2012. It was felt that a "town square" would function as a community hub, linking church with community, hosting live events throughout the year. It is hoped that these events will further support the vitality, viability and the sustainability of the town - A place where a sense of community identity is strengthened.

The launch festival provided an opportunity to celebrate Amersham's community identity and to strengthen community relations between church, civic organisations and residents. St Michael's Square was officially opened by The Rt. Revd. John Pritchard Bishop of Oxford and some 300 local people attended the short service of dedication held on the square. Thereafter there were a number of musical performances by local bands/choirs. A number of local charities had stalls. There was a BBQ with cream teas served on the square in the afternoon. An order of service was produced in which the contributions of the various funders including the LAF were acknowledged. There has already been a huge uplift in people using the square on a daily casual basis and a number of community groups have used the square to raise funds and their profiles.

The Amersham LAF contributed £2,500 towards this event.

Penn Community Projects

Penn Parish Council held three community events between the 17th-19th of June 2016. The projects were an afternoon tea & tea dance, a mobile climbing wall event, and an open air cinema for young people and their families.

The free Open Air Cinema aired a family movie at the Local Common with the aim to reducing social isolation and enhance interaction, using open spaces and access to the outdoors. Families were also encouraged to walk to the event. The Mobile Climbing Wall appealed primarily to the 11+ age group. The event also included a 2-3 mile fun run with specific prizes for 1st 13-14 year old and 1st 11-12 boy and girl.

An open air stall was set up giving children the opportunity to take part in some scientific experiments. Bucks School of Dance performed an open air workshop for all school children from 5-16 years to have a go at street dance.

Amersham LAF allocated £500 towards the Community Projects in Penn.

North West Chiltern - Risborough Area Community Bus



In 2005 a survey showed that commercial bus services covering the residential areas of Princes Risborough and the surrounding villages had significantly reduced. In 2006 a voluntary body called Risborough Area Community Action (RACA) – now Risborough Area Partnership (RAP) – conducted a Local Travel Survey to determine how best to address the problem of declining bus services. RACA distributed 3,000 questionnaires and 65% of respondents said

that they would use a community bus service if made available.

A project group, set up to examine the feasibility of a community bus service, confirmed the demand suggested by RACA's survey, identified potential routes covering residential areas poorly served by commercial bus services, determined the type of service best suited to the task and an appropriate type of bus, and identified funding opportunities and methods of recruiting volunteer drivers.

The North West Chilterns LAF agreed a contribution of £10,000 towards the purchase of the new Risborough Area Community Bus.

Winslow Volunteering Project

The event was organised by the Great Horwood and Singleborough Youth Club. The day involved the organisation of an afternoon concert in the village hall by Great Horwood Silver band with an afternoon tea provided. The young people of the youth club played an active part in organising the entertainment, preparation of the tea and serving the guests. The aim of the event was to help young people realise their potential, gain self-confidence, engage with the local community and encourage intergenerational interaction. Profits from tickets and raffle sales were split between the youth club and a charity of its choice.



The Winslow LAF contributed the sum of £900 towards the youth club's costs.

Beeches Pop up Youth Work



This project is being run by the Youth Café organisation to carry up 10 Pop Up Youth events across the Beeches Area. The events were organised to promote the current youth clubs and increase membership. Farnham currently do not have a youth club so the aim in this area is to generate interest and potentially to support the setup of a permanent youth club. The further aims of the project are to create a network of youth leaders across the area that will be able to share ideas and promote projects across the

different youth clubs. Youth Café will also carry out work to identify priorities for the Beeches area through contact with local young people and this will then be reported back to the LAF to consider addressing in future years.

The activities that will take place during these Pop Up events included outdoor sports, skateboarding on mobile skate ramps and electric Karts.

The Beeches LAF allocated £3,400 towards Pop up Youth Work across the LAF area.

Waddesdon Community Library Digital Intergenerational Project

“Get Connected” is a social project aimed at older vulnerable and isolated people and the school’s sixth form students. Through intergenerational learning, the students are teaching basic skills lessons to help the older people feel more confident on tablets and other electronic devices. The classes are relaxed and therefore encourage the social aspect of the project between the different generations. They are taking place in Waddesdon Community Library taking advantage of the large bright space and focus on four main areas; Getting Online, Social Media, Video Calling and Skype and Online Shopping.

Waddesdon is situated 7 miles from its nearest town of Aylesbury. Despite being on a bus route this distance can lead to many feeling isolated from various services. Waddesdon Community Library was established in February 2016 and is already acting as a gateway to many of these services. Starting a project like “Get Connected” will give vulnerable & isolated people the opportunity to connect with others and engage with their local community as well as gaining skills to become more self-reliant.

In 2016-17 Waddesdon LAF invested £2,370 toward the purchase of the equipment.

12. Community Traffic Calming

This section summarises community led Traffic Calming projects undertaken by LAFs.

Link to Buckinghamshire County Council Strategic Priorities

Priority: Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving and Attractive

- Continue to invest in the maintenance of the County's existing roads and footpaths

Although Traffic calming is not included directly as one of BCC's strategic priority plans it fits by exception in 'Keeping Bucks Thriving and Attractive' as BCC recognizes that in some local areas, road safety remains a pressing concern, and as such, LAFs are permitted to continue investing in road safety schemes subject to the evidence of need, and provided 50% match funding from a non-Buckinghamshire County Council source is provided.

The County Council's role is to educate drivers, not to enforce speed limits, which is the role of Thames Valley Police, and so LAF funding can only be used for raising awareness of drivers' speeds and the possible consequences. Research has shown that a 1mph drop in speeds can lead to between 2 and 5% drop in casualties.

Types of Traffic Calming Measures

Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS)



Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) re-enforce existing traffic signs and are only activated to alert drivers who are travelling above a pre-determined speed set in the device. They will usually be speed limit roundels (order signs), or warning signs to target those motorists who are considered to be driving too fast for the local prevailing conditions. VAS are permanent post-mounted signs that display either the speed limit or warn of a hazard ahead. They

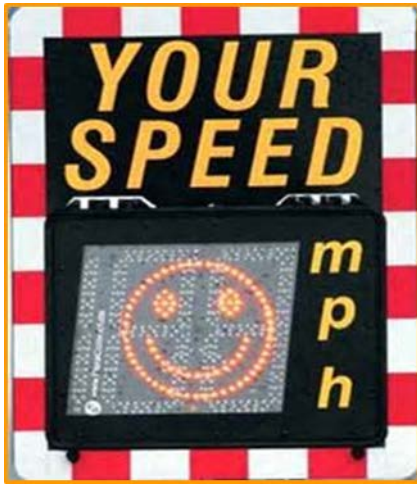
must comply with The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 (TSRGD) and be type approved for use on the public highway.

A study into the effectiveness of VAS at over 60 locations across the country has been undertaken for the Department for Transport. This showed that where collisions were recorded, these were reduced by up to a third and that average speeds were reduced by 4mph. Although the speed reductions may seem modest, VAS appears to be very effective at reducing the speed of faster drivers. The cost of installing a VAS is at least £17,000 and may be significantly higher if no power is available at the chosen site.

VASs are only permitted where this is substantial evidence of need – too many signs would reduce their effectiveness, and go against the Council's de-cluttering policy for the roadside. Parishes that have invested in VAS Include; Wendover, Chepping Wye Valley, Seer Green,

Halton, Buckland and Princes Risborough. The LAFs have collectively invested £33,600 between 2012-2016.

Temporary Speed Indicating Devices (TSIDs)



Temporary Speed Indicating Devices (TSIDs) are temporary sign installations that alert road users to the speed at which they are travelling along a given stretch of the highway. They are educational devices to advise drivers of the speed at which they are travelling through a given area and assist in developing a more balanced attitude and behaviour towards speed choices for given environments.

The TSID will display the drivers' speed, together with a frowning face, or a smiling face, dependent upon whether they are travelling above or below the given speed limit.

A small scale study into the effectiveness of TSIDs has been undertaken for BCC by The University of Reading.

This showed that when TSID was deployed, average speeds were reduced by about 3.5mph. After TSID was removed, there remained a residual reduction in pre-TSID speeds of between 5.5 and 6.5%. Although this trial took place at a small number of sites and only over a two week period, the results are encouraging and BCC is now supporting the wider use of TSIDs. TSID cannot be used for Data collection.

Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs



The Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) initiative is a locally managed scheme where rechargeable vehicle activated signs can be purchased by the Parish/Town Council and moved around the village to pre-agreed locations, co-fixed onto existing posts or onto a movable post secured by a ground screw.

MVAS displays the speed limit when approached by a vehicle travelling above a pre-determined speed, acting as a reminder to drivers exceeding the speed limit. The aim of this is to encourage a safer driving speed and improve road safety. MVASs also collect speeding data which can be analysed and provided to Thames Valley Police to make the case for speeding enforcement where there is evidence of higher than usual speeding. Some parishes have also used the data they have collected to support requests for traffic mitigation for planning applications. Swarco Traffic Ltd is BCC's approved supplier of MVASs, along with Highways & Solar who can arrange for the supply of ground screws and hinged posts.

The average cost of an MVAS, including several ground screws, is about £3,300, and collectively LAFs have invested around £137,647 between 2012 and 2016.

Community Speedwatch; Sentinel Cameras

Community Speedwatch is a traffic monitoring scheme that is co-ordinated by the Police and Buckinghamshire County Council but managed and run by volunteers in a community. The

volunteers are trained to use a detection device to monitor the speeds of vehicles travelling through their local area. The registration number of speeding vehicles is recorded. Warning letters are then sent out by the Police to the registered keepers stating that their vehicle has been reported as speeding.

Locations for monitoring speed are selected from sites suggested by the community, based on where there is most local concern about speeding traffic, or the impact of speed. Sites will be risk assessed for suitability by a trained Neighbourhood Police Officer or a Police Community Support Officer. Ideally a minimum of six volunteers are needed to set up a scheme. Volunteers are issued with high visibility jackets and roadside mobile signs, which must be displayed to notify motorists that they are entering a Community Speedwatch area.



Parish Councils may wish to join together to run a Speedwatch scheme to reduce costs. Equipment consists of the Speed Detection Radar, electronic recording device, tripod, high visibility jackets and roadside mobile Speedwatch signs. Confirmation of £5 million public liability insurance for roadside working by volunteers must be included on the Parish Councils insurance cover



Several LAFs have purchased one or two Sentinel cameras to enable effective community speedwatch projects. The Cameras take an image of passing traffic, which ensures that roadside volunteers take down the correct details, which are essential for the police volunteers to be able to send a letter. They also enable volunteers to capture details of several consecutive vehicles.

The Sentinel cameras are produced by UNIPAR Services Limited and the average cost is about £3,700. The practice in Buckinghamshire has become that one parish council buys a camera, with LAF funding, and then coordinates its use by all interested parishes in the area. Parishes pay around £5 each time they use the camera for a week, ensuring a moderate fund for repairs should they be necessary.

LAFs that have purchased Sentinel cameras for their speedwatch programme include; Great Brickhill, Wing and Ivinghoe and Buckingham.

High Visibility Speed Message Posters (HVSMPs)



High Visibility Speed Message Posters (HVSMPs) are temporary posters that give drivers an indication that local residents are concerned about traffic driving too fast for the conditions on the local road. These posters can be installed or requested by Local Councils, where resources allow.

The posters usually installed temporarily and only for a few weeks every quarter, in a given location to gain maximum impact upon road users. The very fact of their temporary nature

ensures that road users notice their presence. They are re-installed at periods throughout the year, rather than them being permanent installations and the risk those drivers will develop an attitude of 'sign blindness' towards them