

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Chiltern Community Partnership Annual Report 2012/13</b>
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## **1 Purpose of this Report**

- 1.1 This report aims to provide an update of the Chiltern Community Partnership's achievements and actions for 2012/13.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) was published in 2009 and was developed after an in-depth consultation with residents, local businesses, voluntary organisation and local stakeholders. The SCS depicts the challenges and priorities shared by the partnership.
- 2.2 The SCS centres on five main themes which were identified during the consultation period. The five main themes are:
- 2.1.1 Thriving Economy – 'Lifelong enterprise, the entrepreneurial heart of Britain'
  - 2.1.2 Sustainable Environment – 'Protecting our heritage, protecting our future'
  - 2.1.3 Safe Communities – 'Being safe, feeling safe'
  - 2.1.4 Health and Wellbeing – 'Healthier, happier and longer lives'
  - 2.1.5 Cohesive and Strong Communities – 'Strong, confident and active communities'
- 2.3 Since the SCS was published in 2009 the Chiltern Community Partnership has been working to implement the SCS in Chiltern and to make sure that we continue to have an exceptionally high quality of life in the faces of changes impacting the District.

## **3 Achievements**

- 3.1 This section of the report will look at the five main themes in the SCS and discuss what the Partnership has achieved in the last year.

### **3.2 Thriving Economy**

- 3.2.1 This year the thriving economy theme has concentrated on two main aims within this theme. The first is increasing access to affordable housing within Chiltern; the second was to help promote innovation and enterprise.
- 3.2.2 The Chiltern Community Partnership has this year worked closely with the Local Enterprise Partnership and Bucks Business First. Bucks Business First have strong ties with the business community in Chiltern with membership from 134 businesses. The Chiltern Community Partnership worked to encourage Bucks Business First to support the work being done with the Amersham and Wycombe College to promote entrepreneurship among young people at the Amersham and Wycombe College.
- 3.2.3 Increasing affordable housing within Chiltern was a key aim identified in the thriving economy section of the SCS. During 2012/13 there were 102 affordable homes delivered within Chiltern, this was well above the target of 25 affordable homes. All affordable homes delivered in this period were new builds. There were a total of 88 Affordable Housing Units at Turners Field in Little Chalfont, 4 affordable properties for rent at Brandon Mead in Chesham and 10 social rented dwellings in Chesham.
- 3.2.4 The Chiltern Community Partnership also took part in a housing summit this year. The housing summit aimed to raise awareness of the importance of having affordable housing.

The partnership includes a variety of different organisations all have very different background and all benefitted from attending the housing summit.

### **3.3 Sustainable Environment**

- 3.3.1 This theme mainly consists of four aims for Chiltern. These are tackling climate change, enhancing and protecting the local environment, reducing waste and increasing recycling and maintaining the transport network.
- 3.3.2 One of the key aims under sustainable environment was to lower the carbon footprint within Chiltern. The carbon emissions in the Chiltern District overall have reduced by 27% since 2009.
- 3.3.3 The Council has also been keen to lead by example and has upgraded all lighting in the council office to more energy efficient lighting as well as installing solar panels at the Council offices, the Chesham Leisure Centre, and Amersham Multi-Storey Car Park. The Council have also purchased an electric car which is used by officers on work assignments.
- 3.3.4 The Chiltern Community Partnership have worked with Low Carbon Chiltern Co-operative. This is an organisation that was set up in 2011 with a grant of £37,000 from the Department of the Environment and covers Amersham, Chesham, Chalfont St Peter and Jordans. The organisation aims to help communities reduce their carbon emissions by suggesting where improvements can be made that would reduce energy bills, improve the level of comfort to users and raise awareness.
- 3.3.5 The first project tackled by the Low Carbon Chiltern Co-operative was the Amersham Youth Club. They were able to advise on improvements that generated a 5.5% return on investment. A further grant of £30k was received from the Bucks County Council “Big Society Fund”. The funding was used by Low Carbon Chiltern Co-operative to implement a further 8 community projects including a “Low cost, no cost” workshop in March 2013 for the managers of community buildings in the Chilterns to discuss energy bills, energy purchasing and energy improvements that can be carried out at minimal cost.
- 3.3.6 The Partnership recommended groups for Low Carbon Chiltern Co-operative to contact which could potentially support their work with the community in the future including developing links with Bucks Community Foundation and Community Impact Bucks.

### **3.4 Safer Communities**

- 3.4.1 The safer communities section of the SCS has concentrated on four areas. The four areas are: reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, reduce the fear of crime, reduce the harms caused by alcohol and drugs, and improving the safety of local people.
- 3.4.2 The Chiltern Community Partnership have received regular updates on crime statistics and initiatives being taken by the Thames Valley Police. Generally crime within the Thames Valley area has been slowly reducing over the last few years. Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 and 31 March 2013 there was a 6.9% decrease in all crime as well as a 6.3% decrease in burglary and a 11% decrease in theft from vehicles. There has been a 6.3% reduction in the percentage of burglaries from dwellings in Chiltern in 2012/13 when compared to the same period last year. This has exceeded the council’s performance indicator target of a 5% reduction.
- 3.4.3 Violence was also at low levels at less than 2 incidents per day. The council performance indicator for the percentage of reduction in violent offences for 2012/13 did not meet the target of a 5% reduction. Although the annual 2012/13 figure shows a 0.9% increase there

has in fact only been an increase of 5 incidents compared to the same period last year. It must be taken into account that while the Police are committed to reducing violence against the person, the Police continue to encourage the reporting of domestic violence which increases the recorded figures.

3.4.4 The Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority have also used the Community Safety Newsletter to help encourage residents understand the importance of having a fire alarm within the home and testing it regularly.

3.4.5 There continues to be low levels of graffiti, and litter on the streets within Chiltern. Maintaining a clean environment within Chiltern is important in helping members of the public feel safe. If an environment is clean and looks more appealing it will feel safer helping reduce the fear of crime.

### **3.5 Health and Wellbeing**

3.5.1 The health and wellbeing section within the SCS highlights the partnerships aims to help reduce health inequalities, help the elderly, children and young people, reduce homelessness, and create well connected communities.

3.5.2 This year the Chiltern Community Partnership worked with Bucks County Council to help with the implementation of the Families First initiative in Chiltern. Families First is a multi-agency approach to work with problem families. The programme will target families who have complex issues such as emotional and physical health problems; domestic violence or isolation. The programme aims to save money in the long run by encouraging a much more efficient use of funds and a preventative approach.

3.5.3 Chesham within Chiltern has been chosen as one of the areas within Buckinghamshire to pilot the ambitious multi-partner programme. The results from Chesham will be compared to schemes elsewhere and the programme will be re-evaluated. The Chiltern Community Partnership has been very supportive in implementing the scheme and have been kept up to date by Bucks County Council.

3.5.4 This year 4,552 people attended all sports zone activities compared to 6,647 in the previous year. This is due to the fact that the work being done by GLL outreach this year now includes targeting older people as well as young people and children. Although there are overall less people attending sport zone activities the number of people attending from the hard to reach areas that are being targeted are high.

3.5.5 Chiltern Community Partnership have also received updates about the changes to the benefit system. The changes are due to be put into place in October 2013. The partnership learned that the welfare reforms could mean that 300 families within Chiltern will be negatively affected by the reform, as well as the fact that the outcome from the reforms would mean more homelessness and the need for help with financial management.

3.5.6 The council has also continued to process all new claims for Housing Benefits in 16 days which is above the council target of 20 days and any change of circumstances for benefits are processed within 3.42 days below the national average of 12 days and the council target of 5 days.

3.5.7 As mentioned above preventing homelessness will be an important aim once the welfare reforms are implemented. The council currently has been above target for the number of homelessness cases prevented for the last 4 consecutive years. Between April 2012 and March 2013 144 cases of homeless were prevented by the housing team at Chiltern District Council.

### **3.6 Cohesive and Strong Communities**

- 3.6.1 The Cohesive and Strong Communities sections in the SCS includes areas such as sustain and grow a thriving voluntary and community sector, increasing confidence in the communities, helping all communities get on well together, and reducing levels of disadvantage.
- 3.6.2 The Chiltern Community Partnership have been kept up to date with the Local Area Forums restructure that took place in 2012. The partnership has also been keen to work with Local Area Forums in the future. The Local Area Forum is seen as an opportunity for local people to have their say and influence decision-making.
- 3.6.3 The Partnership also received an update from Bucks County Council on Prevention Matters. Prevention Matters is a model which is aimed at addressing the growing challenges of increased demand on health and social care support contrasted with the decrease of spending. The prevention programme would be aimed at medium need group. The Partnership provided some valuable feedback on which partner's would find it beneficial for the community if they were kept informed.
- 3.6.4 Lastly, the results from the 2011 Census have been released by the Office for National Statistics this year. Due to the breadth and depth of the 2011 Census results the information is being released in phases. The Partnership has received an update of the current statistical information that has been released. It is hoped that the information from the 2011 Census could be beneficial in identifying any drastic changes in Chiltern that we may need to take into account.

### **4. Future of the Chiltern Community Partnership**

- 4.1 One of the main topics which the Partnership has dealt with this year has been the decision to merge the Chiltern Community Partnership and the South Bucks Partnership.
- 4.2 Chiltern District Council and South Bucks District Council carried out a consultation with partners to consider the integration of the two partnerships (the Chiltern Community Partnership and the South Bucks Partnership). An email formally asking for feedback was sent out on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2012. The consultation ended on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013 with a total of 20 responses received the majority were in favour (13 with 7 against).
- 4.3 Organisations such as Thames Valley Police, the NHS and Bucks Fire and Rescue Service felt it would be useful to have a joint partnership as the organisations already covered both areas. These organisations could see the benefits of joining up on both time and strategic level. However the main concerns for those against the merger related to the different styles of the two partnerships currently, the loss of local identity and focus and for South Bucks Parish and Town Councils perceiving less involvement.
- 4.4 The South Bucks Partnership currently had four large plenary meetings a year attended by all Town and Parish Councils whereas the Chiltern Community Partnership had a smaller steering group. It was considered that the way forward might be to include the best of both, retaining the larger meetings for all but also the smaller meetings which were considered more effective for driving decisions.
- 4.5 In April 2013 the Chiltern Community Partnership merged with the South Bucks Partnership. The merger led to a new steering group being established, the joint Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership steering group. The steering group includes representation from the following organisations:

- Voluntary Sector (including youth services)
- Parishes (two representatives from each district)
- Bucks Fire and Rescue Service
- Police
- Health
- Housing Provider
- The two Councils
- Private Sectors

4.6 There will also be two evening plenary sessions taking place each year which will allow for the steering group to report back to the wider partnership on any important issues or points of discussion. All parishes and town councils and interested organisations would be invited. The wider partnership meetings will be a great opportunity for involvement from parish and town councils.

4.7 As we now have a new joint Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership, this will be the last end of year report for the Chiltern Community Partnership.

## 5 Further information

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<b>Background Papers:</b>	None

## 2012/13 Partnership Performance Indicators

Key: Have we improved compared to 2011/12? ↑=Better, ↔=Same, ↓=Worse /Are we on target? ✓=Met it, ◻=Within target, ✗=Missed it											
Code	Performance Indicator	2011/12 Value	Current Performance				Future Targets			Latest Notes	
			Annual Target 2011/12	Actual 2012/13	Target 2012/13	Have we improved?	Are we on target?	2013/14	2014/15		2015/16
<b>Thriving Economy</b>											
SER NI 155	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	29	29	102	25	↑	✓	25	33	33	All of the affordable homes delivered in 2012/13 were new builds
<b>Sustainable Environment</b>											
SER 006	Reduce fuel poverty: Number of households receiving heating and insulation improvements per year	233	200	19	150	↓	✗	50	50	50	The target was not achieved this year due to national changes to the Warm Front Grant and Utility Schemes, pending the introduction of the Green Deal.
SER NI 192	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	47.18%	50%	46.10%	50.00%	↓	◻	N/A	N/A	N/A	Below target due to light weighting of packaging, poor weather for green waste production.
SER NI 195a	Improved street and environmental cleanliness - Litter	3%	6%	1%	6%	↑	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	
SER NI 195b	Improved street and environmental cleanliness - Detritus	6%	18%	9%	10%	↓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	
SER NI 195c	Improved street and environmental cleanliness - Graffiti	0%	0%	0%	0%	↔	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	
SER NI 195d	Improved street and environmental cleanliness - Fly-posting	0%	0%	0%	0%	↔	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	
SER NI 196	Improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping (1= very effective 4= poor)	2	1	T.B.C	1	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	Figures not yet available.

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Code	Performance Indicator	2011/12 Value	Current Performance					Future Targets			Latest Notes
			Annual Target 2011/12	Actual 2012/13	Target 2012/13	Have we improved?	Are we on target?	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	
<b>Safer Communities</b>											
SER VIO	Percentage reduction in violent offences against a person [from 2011/12 baseline 672]	N/A	N/A	-0.9	5	↓	✗	5	5	5	There has only been an increase of 5 incidents during the period.
SER BFD	Percentage reduction in burglaries from dwellings [from 2011/12 baseline 317]	N/A	N/A	6.3	5	↑	✓	5	5	5	
<b>Health and Well-being</b>											
OPIPE 43	Total attendance at all sports zone activities	6,647	Not Set	1,388	Not Set	↓	Not Set	Not Set	Not Set	Not Set	
RES BV78a	Speed of processing - new HB/CTB claims	12.3	20	14.64	20	↓	✓	18	18	18	
RES BV78b	Speed of processing - changes of circumstances for HB/CTB claims	4.28	5	3.42	5	↑	✓	5	5	5	
<b>Cohesive and Strong Communities</b>											
CEx 8	The percentage response to the annual canvas	93.98%	94%	96.11%	94%	↑	✓	94%	94%	94%	