



Chesham & Villages Community Board agenda

Date: Wednesday 30 September 2020

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Via Video Conference

Membership:

A Bacon, P Birchley (Chairman), N Brown, E Culverhouse, A Garth, P Hudson, P Jones, J MacBean, N Rose, M Shaw, N Southworth, M Stannard, D Varley, N Varley and F Wilson

Agenda Item	Time	Page No
1 Introduction by Chairman		
2 Apologies for Absence		
3 Declarations of Interest To receive any disclosure of disclosable pecuniary interests by Members relating to items on the agenda. If any Member is uncertain as to whether an interest should be disclosable, he or she is asked, if possible, to contact the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting. Members are reminded that if they are declaring an interest, they should state the nature of that interest whether or not they are required to withdraw from the meeting.		
4 Minutes from the Last Meeting To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2020.		3 - 18
5 Thames Valley Police - Update To receive a verbal update from Roy Evans of Thames Valley Police.		19 - 22
6 Leader Update		
7 Sub-Groups Updates		23 - 36

- HS2 – update from Cllr C Sully
- Village Forum – verbal update from Cllr P Birchley
- Covid-19 Response – verbal update from Cllr M Shaw
- Town Team – verbal update from Cllr J Macbean
- Progress on Community Forum – verbal update from Cllr J Macbean

8 Funding and Priorities

37 - 38

9 Presentation

To receive a presentation by Colin McGregor-Paterson of The Oasis Partnership.

10 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 3 November 2020 at 7.00pm.

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

For further information please contact: Liz Hornby on 01494 42126101296 383042, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



Agenda Item 4
Buckinghamshire Council
Chesham & Villages Community
Board

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Chesham & Villages Community Board held on Tuesday 14 July 2020 in Virtual Teams Meeting, commencing at 7.00 pm and concluding at 8.55 pm

Members present

Mr A Bacon, Ms P Birchley, Mr C Brown, Mr N Brown, Ms E Culverhouse, Mr P Hudson, Mr P Jones, Ms J Lherbier, Ms J MacBean, Mr D Martin, Mr M Shaw and Mr M Smith

Others in attendance

Ms H Cavill, Mr D Flecknoe, Ms V Martin, Ms K Wager and Mr G Williams

Apologies

Mr A Garth, M N Varley, Ms H Farrelly and Mr C Sulley

Agenda Item

1 Confirmation of Chairman and Vice- Chairman

Ms P Birchley would take on the role of the Chairman as bestowed by the Leader of Buckinghamshire Council. Ms J Macbean had been appointed by the Chairman as Vice-Chairman of the board. Ms H Cavill had been appointed as the Community Board Coordinator and Ms A Williams was appointed as the Committee Assistant.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr A Garth, Mr N Varley, Ms H Farrelly and Mr C Sulley.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

4 Overview and Vision for the Board

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and highlighted that additional attendees were Mr G Williams, Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health, and a representative from Public Health to deliver a presentation to the board. The first meeting was open to parish councils and members of the board to discuss priorities and arrange sub groups. Statutory partners would be invited moving forwards from September 2020.

The Community Board had already allocated almost £20,000 worth of funding to various

projects and organisations in the area in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was highlighted that the services offered by local parish councils and voluntary groups had been highly appreciated by shielding residents.

The newly established Community Boards were a new service and would operate differently to the previous Local Area Forums (LAFs). The new unitary council viewed the board as a local voice for matters of community. Across Buckinghamshire Council the community boards had been allocated a budget of £3.9 million and could therefore achieve more on a local level than the LAFs. The role of the Community Board Coordinator was to support the board, gain local knowledge and work alongside members and partners through sub groups.

Each board would have different priorities and set direction of Buckinghamshire Council. The Police Inspector would attend two meetings annually to cover community safety. Public health and environment could be part of the same remit. Meetings would last roughly 90 minutes and would reach as widely as possible to residents, allowing residents' preferences to be heard.

The following point was highlighted during questions and comments from the board:

- Issues of speeding needed to be addressed in conjunction with inappropriate movement of heavy goods vehicles down narrow lanes.

5 Public Health Profile

Mr D Fleckno, Public Health delivered a presentation (appended to the minutes) and highlighted the following:

Indicators were difficult to measure and were only helpful when synthesised with local insight from the board. The importance of place had become increasingly emphasised and the impact of the area in which individuals were raised. The impact of Covid-19 meant that community support was key to resilience during height of pandemic and recovery.

Non modifiable factors included genetics, age and gender. Modifiable factors included lifestyle, community and economy and could have an impact on wellbeing.

The ways in which Local Government could influence factors were highlighted:

- Demographics, population of area (assets and issues)
- Natural environment,
- GP records around local health behaviours, long term health conditions.
- Council information around local vulnerable groups and member knowledge of population.

Not all communities were affected in the same way by the pandemic. The health impacts were greater for older people, males, ethnic minority groups and individuals with long term health conditions. Indirect impacts would have a greater long term effect on young people who were developing. All impacts were amenable by strong community support.

Nationally the Chesham and Villages area was mid-range in terms of vulnerability. The public health profile was intended to be a high level overview made up of a wide variety of data sources. Combined with the knowledge of members, the information could be used to shape the priorities of the board. Nationally, Buckinghamshire had overall good health outcomes.

The five public health recommendations based on analytical data were as follows:

- High levels of smoking
- Childhood obesity
- Substance misuse
- Food poverty
- Higher than average levels of diabetes and heart disease (increase risk of Covid-19)
- Covid 19 economic recovery- benefits etc.

The Chesham and Villages profile was varied. Local knowledge was key as to where input on particular variables would be most helpful.

The following points were highlighted during questions and comments from the board:

- Successful health checks had previously run from Chesham Mosque. This had resulted in residents identifying the early stages of various illnesses. The health checks had been received positively and appreciated by residents.
- The statistics and factors in the report had to be read in context to local knowledge.
- The indicators could often be complex and “Deprivation” and “Vulnerability” could be contradictory. “Deprivation” had the potential to be misleading and was made up of different factors such as postcode average, income and car ownership. These were not always accurate based on the area, for example urban or country. “Vulnerability” takes into account number of other factors including deprivation.
- Chesham town appeared to be less deprived than the villages. Public health were still in the early stages of quantifying the mental health impacts of lockdown. Some people would have been a lot more isolated than usual and mental wellbeing would have suffered as a result.
- The board were aware that in Chesham wealthy and deprived areas were very close to each other with eight to ten years difference of life potential.
- Members were keen to focus on young people and the impact of their education as a result from the pandemic. Expected apprenticeships may no longer exist. Local solutions would be welcome to this.

The Chairman thanked Mr Fleckno for the presentation.

Mr Williams, Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health with gave a verbal report summarising the activity that had taken place by the portfolio since the implementation of the new Buckinghamshire Council:

The Public Health team had been working to full capacity over past few months as services were devolved from central government to local authorities. This was a testimony to the importance of community boards in the eyes of the council. The formation of the unitary council was a tremendous accomplishment of officers and councillors given the short time scale. Community boards were a key element of gaining local knowledge and insight in order to represent the needs of residents. The budget for community boards was £3.9 million. Community Board Coordinators were extremely significant roles to aid the function of the boards. The service was very keen to ensure that all parties felt engaged and had a say in shaping priorities. A significant amount of work would be done through sub groups.

The following point was highlighted during questions and comments from the board:

- Mr Williams was attending weekly meetings with the National Association of Local Councils (BALC) with the Buckinghamshire Association alongside Ms C Hawkes, Service

Director for Localities to discuss the avenues in which town and parish councils could have access to middle tier officers. Mr S Garwood, Localities Manager was tasked with town and parish council relationships and would liaise with BALC on a regular basis. There would be a number of avenues in which town and parish councils could make contact with officers such as through the Community Board Coordinator or BALC. A contact list would be compiled for town and parish council use.

ACTION: Ms Cavill

The Chairman thanked Mr Williams for his attendance at the meeting.

6 Sub Groups

The Vice-Chairman led a verbal discussion in which the following suggestions for priorities were made:

Chesham Town- economic development and regeneration.

“Town Team” was put together several years ago. Previous funding had been allocated and was yet to be spent. Several local groups were involved such as Chesham Connect, Economic Development Officer and Chesham Renaissance Community Interest Company. This would be a great opportunity to formalise the work already completed over the last couple of years. There were exciting opportunities with this project as well as challenges such as change of retail on high street and the impact of Covid 19. The work would directly relate to the Villages. It was highlighted that it was important to have wide representation in this group, including a Buckinghamshire Councillor, an officer and the Chairman of the Planning Committee. The planning would influence the next five to ten years of regeneration.

Village Forum

The group was keen to ensure that the views of the villages were understood in terms of decision making. The first meeting of the forum had already been held with high levels of attendance. The work carried out would feed into the board so that there was an emphasis on village activity.

HS2

HS2 would have a heavy impact on some villages but would affect all villages and Chesham town to an extent. The previous Chiltern District Council liaison group was successful at holding contract liaison officers to account. It was suggested that the Chesham and Villages board could liaise with Amersham and Missenden Community Boards to tackle the issues and hold officers to account.

Mr Williams highlighted that a meeting had been set up with the HS2 Community Engagement Managers and an emphasis was placed on engagement with Community Boards. The HS2 sub group chair would meet with the group on a regular basis. It was highlighted that knowledge across the group was crucial and it would be in everyone’s interest to share knowledge across the Community Boards.

Chesham Resilience Response Group

Chesham Action Volunteer Group had been set up several years ago and was actively working with issues and helping local residents. The Covid-19 crisis had made it clear that the fastest and most proactive response came from local community organisations. Chesham Support for Coronavirus had been a fantastic model of how the group responded and allocated various tasks. A lot of learning has come from this response and it would be beneficial to capture the information in the case of a second peak or another crisis.

In response to concerns that this could demonstrate the council attempting to oversee the

organisation of the local voluntary groups directly, it was clarified that this was not the intention. Member involvement was on an informal capacity and during the Covid-19 crisis Buckinghamshire Council Area Co-ordinators had reached out to local groups to offer support with best practice, safeguarding and information. The concept of the group would be to offer support and funding when needed, not dictate the activity carried out. Members of the board suggested that the requirements of the smaller village may vary from the group.

Community Forum

This would focus on how the board would interact with police, ambulance and fire services to set priorities. Ms K Wager, Localism Manager highlighted that the localism management team had met with the Chief Inspector to discuss this. A suggestion had been made of holding a workshop with Community Board Chairmen and the relevant sub group leads.

The environment was important to all residents and would be a key theme through all aims and sub groups.

7 Covid-19 Reflections

The Chairman led a verbal discussion in which the following reflections were made:

The Covid-19 Chesham Support Hub had delivered 228 services to local residents alongside information sent to shielding residents by Public Health. As a result of the pandemic there had been a significant increase in the use foodbanks.

Concerns of residents going forward were redundancy and the end of furlough schemes. Volunteers had begun to return to work resulting in a struggle to meet local demand. It was predicted that the ease of lockdown restrictions would result in an increased demand for services including domestic violence and mental health.

The Chairman praised the local community response and the efforts of volunteers.

8 Local Priorities Discussion

The Chairman led a verbal discussion in which the following suggestions for priorities were made:

- Health and fitness classes in the villages
- Town regeneration
- Public Health- health checks, reducing loneliness
- Outdoor Wellness Facility- previously received grant from Chiltern District Council but was subsequently short on money. A contribution from the board would be appreciated.
- Local Societies for each village
- Youth and young people
- Public Transport- Unsatisfactory due to infrequency of services and lack of passengers. Buckinghamshire Council was focussing on doubling the number of school buses to provide social distancing and unable at present re-allocate public buses.

It was highlighted that all priorities would incorporate environment and climate change.

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Health and Wellbeing Profile – Chesham and Villages Community Board

Public Health Team, Buckinghamshire Council



Introduction to the profile

- The community we live in is one of the most important factors for our health, from before we are born right up until the end of our lives
- The indicators included in this profile are all important markers of the health and wellbeing of the local community
- The profile highlight areas where things are going well, but also importantly where improvements can be made **to help inform priority setting for current local health and wellbeing needs**
- Strong communities will be a key driver for recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

Structure of the profile

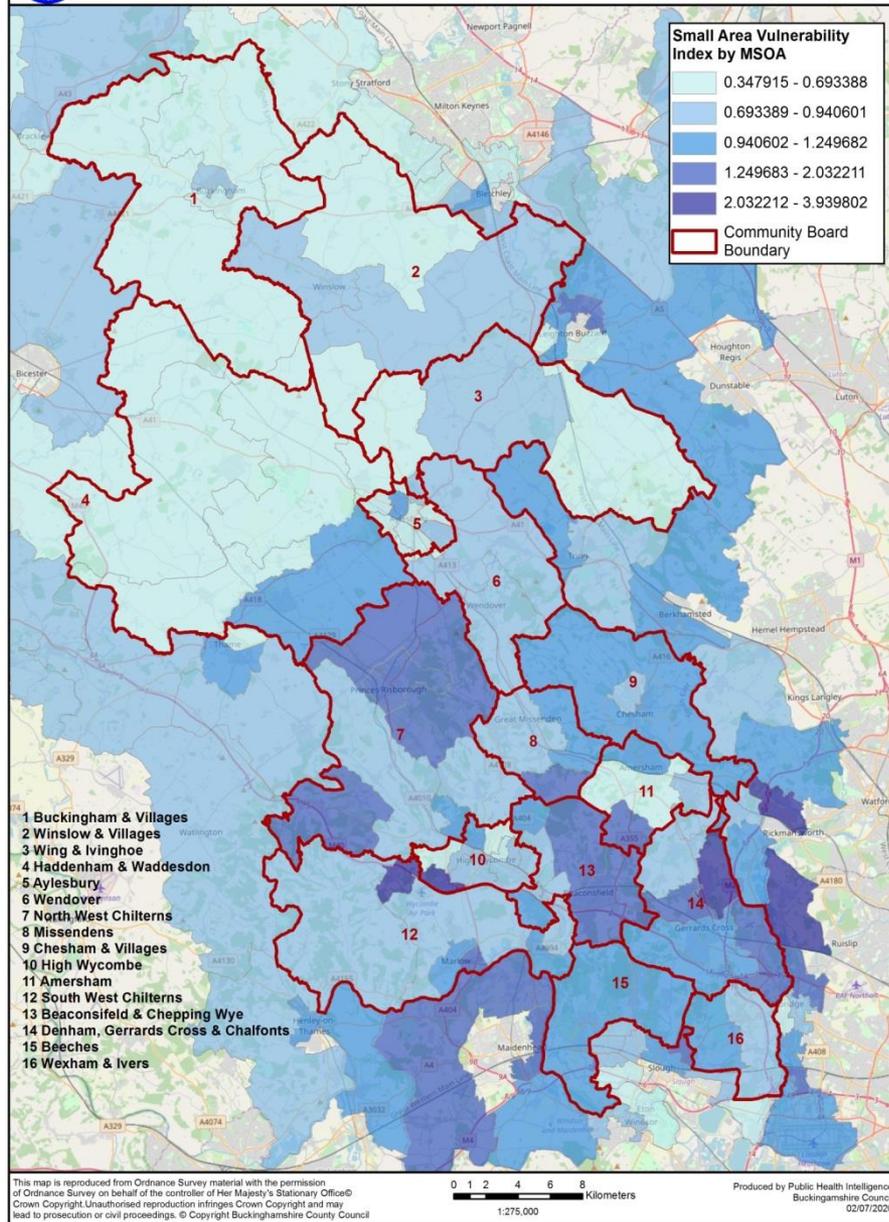


The impact of COVID-19 on communities

- COVID-19 has been shown to have a differential impact on communities
- Factors such as **older age, male sex, being from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) group, residing in a more deprived area, occupation and certain long-term conditions** (e.g. diabetes, obesity) are associated with a greater risk of infection or a poorer outcome following infection
- ***What have been the impacts of COVID-19 in your community? What are you hearing from your community members about how COVID-19 has impacted their day to day lives?***



Small Area Vulnerability Index in Buckinghamshire,
by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA), June 2020



Important considerations

- This profile is a high level overview of health and wellbeing indicators from existing data sources. Communities will have more intelligence on local issues and **importantly assets** which can be incorporated into the full picture of local needs and how they can best be met
- Many of the indicators are presented in comparison to the other community boards or the County overall. Therefore, some community boards will by definition perform “better” or “worse” than others. Please also refer to the national (England) reference values where available for wider context.

Recommendations based on the profile (1)

1. Reducing **smoking, childhood obesity, physical inactivity** and **substance misuse** are key areas for your community as they are major causes of preventable ill health and death. The Council's Live Well Stay Well service can support your community to stop smoking, lose weight and get active. Anyone can self-refer themselves to this service. One Recovery Bucks can support anyone wanting support for substance misuse.
2. This profile paints a picture of a generally healthy area with pockets of inequality where the higher levels of substance misuse, smoking, physical inactivity and social isolation are likely to be disproportionately clustered. **Community engagement** to identify these areas, and to understand and collectively tackle the drivers of these problems is recommended.
3. Chesham and Villages has a **greater number of residents living in households at higher risk of food poverty** compared with the County overall. Initiatives such as a community fridge, food clubs or a regular community meal could be explored to ensure all residents have access to healthy food in adequate quantities and of good quality.

Recommendations based on the profile (2)

4. This community has been impacted by **COVID-19**. People with long term conditions like **diabetes** and **heart disease** appear to be at higher risk of poorer outcomes following infection with coronavirus. Chesham and Villages has a higher rate of uptake of NHS Health Checks compared to Buckinghamshire, but ranks 4th highest for **emergency admissions due to cardiovascular disease**. Further promotion of **NHS Health Checks** is strongly encouraged, as this programme addresses risk factors of heart disease, diabetes and kidney disease and can help to identify problems before they become an emergency.
5. As part of the **local COVID-19 recovery plan**, initiatives to improve mental health and wellbeing are important to consider. Initiatives that support employment should be also considered, as this community has **a higher proportion of unemployment benefit claimants** compared with the County average, and also has the highest proportion of residents seeking advice from the Citizens Advice Bureau in the County, **particularly regarding benefits and tax credits**. **Financial stress can negatively impact mental health**, which may already have worsened by other aspects of the pandemic including restrictions due to lockdown.

Public Health Buckinghamshire need your help!

Buckinghamshire Council's Public Health team has launched its new '**Buckinghamshire Coronavirus Health & Wellbeing Survey**'. The survey aims to understand how residents in Buckinghamshire have been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic including how the lockdown and its consequences have impacted their daily lives and health and wellbeing. The information collected through the survey will be used to help tailor the local recovery throughout the county following the impact of Coronavirus.

To make sure we get a representative response we would be grateful if you could promote to your clients and encourage them to complete the survey.

To complete the survey, please visit [Buckinghamshire Coronavirus Health & Wellbeing Survey](https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/public-health/coronavirus-ph-survey/) at <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/public-health/coronavirus-ph-survey/>

Thank you

Any questions?

Community Board Chesham

The priorities for your Neighbourhood Policing Team (NHPT) are currently decided by the Community Forum. This steering group is made up of local residents and representatives from organisations across the area. The forum is not run by the police, although we do attend as representatives. This allows us to speak to a wide cross-section of the community, find out what you most want improved in the area, and consider how we and others can accomplish these aims. The top three priorities are chosen by the forum every three months and are then assumed by your Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Burglary

Figures show that Chiltern & South Bucks is one of the most targeted areas in the force for burglaries. We use analysis to identify crime areas and times when burglars are likely to target addresses. Targeted houses will often be attacked by a group of people rather than an individual.

Statistics showed that over the last three months the two most common ways of entering houses were by the front and rear doors. Surprisingly the front door was the most used method of gaining entry and in the evening the most likely time of an attack. The most valuable bit of crime advice that we can give out is to keep your doors locked at all times not just at night. As the seasons change and it starts to get darker, now is the time to again think of home security. There are many companies that provide good quality CCTV that are not just the usual visible cameras but ones that are built into doorbells. Having viewed lots of footage, these doorbell cameras are very good quality/

Chesham Neighbourhood officers have been working with our Amersham Colleagues on various operations and have had positive results. These operations have been cross border working with other forces.

Chesham has seen a 50% reduction in Burglary over the past few months.

Since 1st June: Last year This Year Reduction

Chesham Dwelling	26	13	-50%
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Chesham – Commercial / Business	15	6	-60%
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Drug Dealing

We are seeing an increase of County Drug Line Gang members starting to arrive in our area. This is worrying and these groups pose a risk to those who are most vulnerable. Amersham & Chesham Neighbourhood Teams will be dealing with this head on. Identified problem areas can expect to see an increased police presence and they will be informed of the concerns which we have and asked to report suspicious activity. We want to make life as uncomfortable as possible for any would be gangs so that we can protect our community.

The Neighbourhood Teams are constantly developing intelligence from reviewing cases to being out on patrol. We've found that the joint operations have also been great as disrupting drug dealers and users.

Recently Chesham officers worked with drugs dogs and targeted commuters coming into Chesham via the train lines. The dogs had many identifications and many people were searched utilising our stop and search powers. These dogs were so good, that the persons who were in possession of drugs handed them over at the earliest opportunity. The dogs were also used to search a particular hotspot in Chesham and a knife was found hidden in bushes

On the same day, officers stopped a vehicle in Ashley Green and arrested 3 males. They were arrested for possession with intent to supply.

ASB

ASB is a big issue in Chesham and we have seen an increase in reports. ASB has many different categories that fall within Personal, Nuisance and or Environmental. You can see the full list at:

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/af/antisocial-behaviour/#:~:text=Antisocial%20behaviour%20is%20defined%20as%20%27behaviour%20by%20a,and%20Police%20Reform%20and%20Social%20Responsibility%20Act%202011%29.>

We have had a few reports of loud speeding vehicles in Chesham which we understand is a Nuisance however the vast majority of reports are posted on Social Media. We understand the issues and are working to resolve the problem with the help of our traffic colleagues. As previously documented, issues need to be reported correctly and not via social media.

As expected COVID-19 has introduced a new problem for the police to manage and this has been a particularly big area for us in day to day policing since March. Not only did the public expect us to enforce the government guidelines, but we also found there was an increase in people reporting neighbours for Covid breaches. This has then caused further demand on the police as the neighbours no longer get on and the team are then having to manage new neighbour disputes. The team spend a lot of time (some that are long term) intervening with problem solving methods such as liaising with housing landlords, partner agencies such as environmental health and mediation charities..

Personnel Changes

Chesham Neighbourhood Team now consists of myself Sergeant Roy Evans and Pc McVeigh. In addition, we would like to welcome 2 new officers to the Team. Pc Hugh Flanagan and Pc Jack McGregor who have joined Chesham from their previous role on the emergency response team. Having known them for a number of years, I know that they will be a great addition.

We also have our Policing Staff who consist of PCSO's Les Roche, Lee Bryan, Harry Carter and Matt King.

Since 1 June 2020 to 19 September 2020:

Violence against a person:

Last year This Year Change

Chesham	198	247	25%
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Violence with injury:

Chesham	59	70	19%
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Violence without Injury:

Chesham	139	177	27%
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Serious Assault GBH:

Chesham	3	2	-33%
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Drugs:

Chesham	25	25	0%
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Possession of weapons:

Chesham	4	8	100%
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Robbery:

Chesham	3	2	-33%
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Theft from vehicle:

Chesham	35	28	-20%
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Theft of vehicle:

Chesham	13	11	-15%
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All VICTIM crimes:

Chesham	512	466	-9%
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HS2 update for the Chesham and Villages Community Board: September 2020

1. Introduction

This note reviews the direct impact of the HS2 project on the area covered by the Chesham and Villages Community Board (C&V CB). It does not consider the broader county or national picture.

The direct impacts on local communities will vary in different parts of the C&V CB area, which stretches from The Lee (which is on the line of route), through Chartridge, Cholesbury and Chesham and on to Ashley Green, Chenies, Ley Hill and Latimer.

This note considers in particular:

- a) The latest programme for HS2 works between Amersham and Wendover
- b) The impacts of and the mitigation of those works in the C&V CB area
- c) The HS2 project's engagement with local councils and communities.

[The next local meeting with HS2 Ltd and their contractors is due to take place on 22nd September. Updates provided at that meeting will be reported at the C&V CB meeting on 30th September.]

2. Programme of works

The latest indication of the programme of works between Amersham and Wendover - from various HS2 Ltd and contractor sources - is summarised in Annex 1, along with, where known, the latest traffic forecasts (some recently updated, others taken from the Environmental Statements).

a) Align – Chiltern tunnel construction

The two tunnel boring machines (TBMs) are due to be shipped to the UK this month. They will then be assembled at the South Portal, near Denham, and will be 'launched' in April/May 2021. The development of each of the five ventilation/access shafts has been programmed so that each shaft is ready to receive the TBMs as they arrive at each location.



Initial site set-up at the **Amersham vent shaft** has begun and below-ground work at the site is due to start in April 2021. Construction work will continue at the site until 2025, when the site will be handed over to the (yet to be appointed) rail-systems contractor.

The **Little Missenden (A413)** and **Great Missenden (Chesham Road)** shafts follow-on, with initial site set-up from October 2020 and February 2021 respectively; excavation work starts in May/June 2021 and continues until 2025.

Align's programme shows their construction work at the **North Portal** scheduled to start in December 2022, with EKFB then having handed-over the site to them. The TBMs are due to

arrive at the North Portal in late 2023/early 2024, where they will be ‘de-constructed’. This site is also due to be handed over to the rail systems contractor in early 2025.

b) EKFB – civil engineering works: South Heath to Wendover

The detail of EKFB’s programme of works on the surface in this area is less clear at this stage. We know they plan to construct the route between South Heath and Wendover “from both ends” using an internal haul road to be built adjacent to the railway’s line of route (see Annex 2). We also know that they plan to build the Small Dean viaduct as early as possible, so as to be able to run surplus spoil over it during the construction of the Wendover cut-and-cover tunnel and thereby reduce traffic on the A413. To enable this, construction has started of their works compound, south-west of Wendover.

However, we do not yet fully understand the timing of the construction of this internal haul road, nor how the over and under-bridges are to be built at Leather Lane and Bowood Lane, nor how the construction compounds at these sites will be built, nor whether a bentonite plant has to be built at South Heath, nor how they will access it, nor how much spoil will be moved where and when, etc. We are hoping for an update on these issues together with up-to-date traffic forecasts at the meeting on 22nd September.

What is clear however is that starting in the spring of 2021, HS2 construction traffic using the A413 will ramp-up considerably - see 3.1(a) below.

c) Fusion – ‘Enabling works’

Fusion continue with a number of ‘enabling’ activities in the area, including road works along the A413 to mitigate the impact of construction, archaeological and ecological works and ‘vegetation clearance’. Most of their work should be completed in the next 6-9 months. It is understood that they will not receive any new contracts after October 2020.

d) Planning approvals

Before HS2 contractors begin major construction works, they are required to get a sign-off approval from the local planning authority and/or local highways authority under Schedule 17 or Schedule 4 of the HS2 Act.

The District Councils received applications between 2017 and 2019, for works at the Colne Valley viaduct, the Chiltern Tunnel South Portal and the Chalfont St Peter Ventilation Shaft (see <https://www.councilshs2information.org/schedule-17-consent-approvals>)

Buckinghamshire Council (BC) were expecting to receive further submissions in August/September 2020 for:

- Chalfont St Peter vent shaft - see 3.2(a) below.
- Chalfont St Giles vent shaft
- Chilterns North portal (traffic routes only)
- Wendover Dean viaduct, including cuttings and embankments

A recent judgment in the High Court on the issue of Schedule 17 submissions has ruled in favour of the local planning authority (Hillingdon Borough Council) and against HS2 Ltd. This judgment appears to require the applicant to be much clearer in their Schedule 17 submissions as to how they will mitigate local impacts than had been previously assumed by HS2 Ltd and their contractors. Local parishes have asked BC for a statement as to how they are interpreting this ruling and are currently waiting for a response.

3. Impact and mitigation

3.1 Construction impacts

a) Traffic routes and volumes

The major areas of concern regarding construction traffic in the C&V CB area are:

- The volume of HS2 traffic on the A413 (the official construction route)
- HS2-related traffic using other routes e.g. the B485/A416 through Chesham and the hill-top lanes in local villages
- Non-HS2 traffic 'rat-running' to avoid HS2 congestion.

HS2 Ltd and their contractors are required to only use the approved haulage routes for HGV vehicles; however there appears to be nothing to prevent HS2-related LGVs, vans and cars using unapproved routes. There is local concern over the effects of sub-contracting and whether HS2 Ltd will be able to monitor and police all HS2-related vehicles. Local examples during the 'enabling phase' suggest that they will not.

HS2 Ltd and their contractors have yet to release details of their expected traffic flows at each site to local communities; in many cases the only information available is that contained in the Environmental Statements produced over five years ago. A more up to date Local Traffic Management Plan (LTMP) has been drafted which reflects the latest thinking and this has been discussed with BC. Local parishes have been seeking the opportunity to review this with BC, in order to input their local knowledge, but no discussions have so far been scheduled.

A recent planning application by Align has been made to BC for traffic routes and flows into the sites at Amersham, Little Missenden, Chesham Road and the North Portal; however, they do not seem to include EKFB traffic flows, which remain unavailable for local review.

b) Monitoring hill-top traffic

An Undertaking & Assurance (U&A) was given to BCC to measure the knock-on effect of rat-running by traffic trying to avoid any hold-ups on the A413 between Great Missenden and Wendover. It was agreed that bench-mark traffic surveys and ongoing monitoring would be carried out to measure the levels of traffic on the A413 and on nearby lanes before and after construction started. This U&A has led to protracted debate – between HS2 Ltd, their contractors and BCC – about when and where the monitoring should take place, and who should install it. The locations for monitoring were agreed over two years ago.

Automatic traffic counters are now being installed at six locations to create the monitoring 'grid-line' (see Annex 3):

- Rignall Road, Great Missenden
- Aylesbury Road, Great Missenden
- A413 Missenden Bypass, Great Missenden
- Potter Row, Great Missenden
- Village Road, Ballinger
- Chartridge Lane, Chartridge

When activated, collectively, these counters will give a good indication of changes in traffic on the A413 and the local hill-top lanes. The exact locations can be seen at:

<https://www.thelee.org.uk/2020/08/06/hs2-traffic-monitoring-equipment/>

c) Footpaths

There is also increasing concern in the area that temporary footpath closures (and indeed temporary or partial road closures) are going to be greater than anticipated. The Missenden area has recently experienced a number of ‘temporary’ footpath and lane closures, some of which seem to be continuing, indefinitely. The Chiltern Society has lodged a formal complaint over footpath closures in the area.

HS2 contractors have suggested that protester action has made it difficult for them to safely reopen some footpaths in the Missenden area.

d) Landowners

Along the line of route, throughout Buckinghamshire, there have been many reported cases of delayed payments to landowners; this seem to especially affect farmers whose land is being taken permanently or temporarily by the project.

3.2 Design of structures

Ventilation shafts, viaducts and tunnel portals in the AONB are known as ‘key design elements’. The contractors are therefore obliged to formally *“engage with the public on the development of the design”* before submitting their final proposed design to the planning authority for approval. The Detailed Design Principles document (DPP) produced by the HS2 Chilterns AONB Review Panel in 2017 contained guidance on the design of all structures in the AONB. However, in practice, the detailed designs are being produced by the contractors before meaningful public engagement. As a result, community engagement events seem to be having little impact on key aspects of the development of the design.

a) Ventilation and Access Shafts

The DDP document suggested that, for all sites, except Amersham, the strategy should be *“maximum concealment and integration within the landscape context, through a combination of adjustment of ground levels, building design and screen planting”*. At Amersham, however, the DPP states *“... the site particulars will prevent this approach. This development should acknowledge its inevitable visibility and aim to make an appropriate architectural statement”*.

Local community engagement has already taken place on the design of the Chalfont St Peter shaft and a final design has been submitted recently to BC. Images of what this vent shaft building will look like (the first of four similar sites) have been released by the contactors, saying: *“Taking its inspiration from the style of local barns and other agricultural buildings, the headhouse is designed to fit into the surrounding landscape”*.



Images of the proposed Chalfont St Peter Ventilation Shaft (Align JV)

At Amersham on the other hand, the architects have come up with a radically different design, referencing “its inevitable visibility and the aim to make an appropriate architectural statement”. Local public engagement on this design runs until 27th September.



Image of the proposed Amersham Ventilation Shaft site (Align JV)

The indications are that this design has not been well received locally. It will be a test of the contractors and HS2 Ltd how they respond to the feedback from public engagement.

Further engagement events are being planned on the design of the Little Missenden and Chesham Road, Great Missenden shafts over the next six months. It is assumed locally that they will be similar to the Chalfont St Peter proposal.

b) Chiltern tunnel North Portal

Indicative designs of the portal at South Heath were displayed at local community events in 2019. Again, a full local engagement is expected over this coming winter, before the Schedule 17 submission is made.



Indicative image of Chiltern tunnel North Portal (Align)

c) Wendover Dean viaduct

A consultation on the design of this viaduct took place in 2019 and the final design appears now to be settled. A Schedule 17 submission for this construction was expected in August.



Indicative image of Wendover Dean viaduct (EKFB)

d) Small Dean viaduct

Similarly, a consultation took place on the design of this viaduct in 2019. It is understood that further discussions have taken place with BC on detailed issues, such as ‘dual carriageway-proofing’ the route under the viaduct and ‘safe cycleways’. A Schedule 17 submission is expected soon.

3.3 Noise

Apart from the general issue of noise during construction, which is controlled by the Code of Construction Practice, there is still concern amongst those living near the line that the original estimates of the noise impact of the trains when running, made in the Environmental Statements, fail to fully reflect the likely actual impact on residents.

EKFB are contracted to design and construct the railway in such a way as to ensure that the ES levels are not breached and where possible (at reasonable cost) they are improved. To support this, they have undertaken further noise modelling, incorporating the proposed design of the line, the chosen catenary system, and the likely locomotive units. They have reported that this modelling suggests (see Annex 4) that, although there may be a small number of receptor sites (in the vicinity of Rocky Lane) which may experience noise levels above that contained in the ES and which would therefore need specific local mitigation) all the rest will be no worse, and over 50% would be better. However, this has not convinced residents close to the line in South Heath, The Lee and Wendover, and further discussions are planned on this subject, involving BC’s noise officer.

3.4 Water

Concerns have been expressed as to how the tunnelling will affect the aquifers and hydrogeology in both the Chess and the Misbourne valleys. In addition concerns have been expressed, at Wendover, in relation to the effect the ‘cut-and-cover’ tunnel will have on the flow of water off Bacombe Hill and, more generally, about water quality and the supply of water to the project.

The Chiltern Society, the Chess Association, ‘Impress the Chess’ (Chesham), the Chiltern Conservation Board and others are all in discussions with HS2 Ltd, the contractors and the Environment Agency. Concerns have been strengthened by recent incidents leading to turbid water, in Shardeloes Lake and near the Colne Valley test pile site – both believed to be associated with HS2 drilling operations in the vicinity.

In addition, Affinity are constructing a pipeline to convey water from their Chalfont St Giles extraction point to be purified at the Amersham pumping station.

4. Local engagement and consultation

4.1 2017-2019

Until 2019, ‘community engagement’ on the HS2 project took a number of forms:

- HS2 Ltd and contractors held **local open events**, sometimes on specific issues, sometimes a more general ‘drop-in’. These events also provide updated construction information, which was valuable to local communities.
- The contractors ran specific **community consultations** e.g. on the design of the viaducts
- **Chiltern District Council** held regular (but not frequent) large open forums to which senior HS2 Ltd and contractor staff were invited to present updates on their current plans
- Buckinghamshire County Council and Chiltern District Council hosted regular (but not frequent) **meetings for Town and Parish Cllrs** to discuss HS2.

None of these have resulted in any significant changes to the design of the project, although they have helped to ensure that promised mitigation is delivered – eventually – and, to some extent, have enabled residents and local groups to keep up to date with the project plans.

Protest groups

Alongside the long-established local opposition groups, a new wave of ‘Active Resistance’ organisations has spread northwards from the Colne Valley camp at Harvil Road.

The protest camp on the Great Missenden Link Road (now removed) had some success in preserving most of the Link Road trees. However, two much larger protest camps are now well-established – in the woods on the A413 just south of Wendover and in Jones Hill Wood (on the Wendover / The Lee border) – and look likely to be there for some time... or at least until forcibly evicted.

These activities have attracted the attention of HS2 security and CCTV vans patrolling the area, adding to local concerns about the role of HS2 and its contractors, and the wider impact of the project on people’s lives.

Chilterns local meetings

In 2017, in the Chilterns, a **Joint Chiltern Parishes Liaison group** was established with HS2 Ltd and the contractors, initially including just three Chiltern Parish Councils – Great Missenden, The Lee and Wendover, who shared interest and concerns about the development of the railway, above ground, in the AONB between South Heath and Wendover. This forum provided a useful vehicle for keeping local groups apprised of the latest plans and, to a limited extent, an opportunity to influence some decisions. The group grew to include Little Missenden PC, Chesham TC, Chesham Society, Chiltern Society, Wendover Society, the Great Missenden Village Association and the Chiltern Conservation Board. Cllrs and officers from BCC and CDC also regularly attended meetings. Such was the interest in simply ‘finding out more’ about the project that the meetings sometimes grew to over 30 people attending. The last meeting of this group was in December 2019 and was notable for the absence of any representatives from HS2 Ltd. Since then, no further meetings of this group have taken place.

4.2 Moving forward

Effective local engagement between HS2 Ltd, the contractors, the planning authority, town and parish councils and local residents has been difficult over the past 12 months, because of:

- The uncertainty over the future of the project and delays to the ‘Notice to Proceed’
- Frequent changes in personnel at HS2 Ltd and within the major contractors
- The move to the Buckinghamshire Unitary Authority

- HS2 Ltd's decision to delegate key communication roles to subcontractors
- Differences of opinion between HS2 Ltd and BC as to whose responsibility it was to engage with local communities
- The impact of Covid-19

It is now understood that BC and HS2 Ltd (through their contractors) are evolving new community engagement and communication frameworks.

In the meantime, in the Missendens, a new, smaller group, initially led by County and Parish Cllrs, has been formed to continue meetings with the major contractors to discuss the project in the immediate area. The group has been meeting regularly again since April 2020 and is now led by BC officers. HS2 Ltd are expected to attend the September meeting.

Some local County Cllrs have expressed concern to senior officers in BC that, at present, they are not kept sufficiently in the loop on discussions between BC, HS2 Ltd and the major contractors. It is understood that a possible solution may be to introduce regular meetings between BC officers, Community Board representatives and HS2, perhaps following the Missendens meeting approach described above.

5. Summary

This note reviews the current and expected direct impacts of the HS2 project on the C&V CB area as at September 2020. What emerges is that 2021 will see a huge increase in HS2 excavation and construction works all along the A413 – at the five ventilation / access shafts; at the north portal of the Chiltern tunnel, along the cuttings heading north from the tunnel and at the two viaducts south of Wendover. Should traffic in the area return to pre-Covid levels, then severe congestion is likely.

Much work still has to be done by HS2 Ltd and their contractors to finalise the detail of their works in this area, and to get them approved by BC. Local towns and parishes, community interest groups and residents expect to be properly engaged and, where appropriate, consulted as these details emerge.

There has been a feeling that the groups with the greatest knowledge of where and how HS2 will impact on the community, and what measures might mitigate these impacts, have been marginalised in the engagement strategy, in part because these groups have no executive authority in decision-making processes and in part because their views have been seen on occasion as being unduly negative and obstructive. However, now that the project is 'proceeding', it is hoped that by working together, BC Officers and Cllrs, Town and Parish Cllrs and local interest groups can establish a framework for regular engagement with HS2 Ltd and their contractors, to run alongside the statutory engagement processes.

Communities have now lived with the prospect of HS2 for over 10 years... there will probably be another 10 years of 'engagement' before the project is finished. An improved method of communicating with residents and community groups is still needed.

I am happy to produce (briefer) updates for future meetings of the C&V CB.

Cllr Colin Sully; The Lee Parish Council; September 2020

Annex 1: Programme of Works between Amersham and Wendover

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Traffic *
ALIGN JV (general)	Sept: Receive and assemble TBMs	April/May: TBM launched from south portal	July: Colne Valley viaduct construction start		TBMs arrive at north portal		
Amersham Vent Shaft	June: initial site establishment; site set-up	April: below ground work starts	➡	November: above ground structures start	➡	March: Handover to rail systems	HGVS up to 190 LGV/cars ??
Little Missenden Vent Shaft	Oct: initial site establishment; site set-up	May: below ground work starts	➡	➡	January: above ground structures start	February: Handover to rail systems	HGVS 160-200 LGV/car 20-30
Chesham Road Shaft		Feb: initial site establishment June: below ground work starts	➡	March: above ground structures start	October: Handover to rail systems		HGVS 180-220 LGV/car 80-90
North Portal: South Heath	[See EKFB]	Oct: Handover of site from EKFB (?)	Dec: above ground works start	➡	Arrival and deconstruction of TBMs	February: Handover to rail systems	HGVS 30-40 **
EKFB							
North Portal (inc South Heath cutting)	* Vegetation clearance * Drainage shaft and micro-tunnel	April: start of excavation of portal and cuttings	➡	➡	➡	Handover to rail systems	HGVS 70-230 ** LGV/car 150-210
Leather Lane Overbridge			Start overbridge	➡	Completion	Handover to rail systems	HGVS 30-50 LGV/car 80-120

Bowood Lane Overbridge			Start overbridge	➔	Completion	Handover to rail systems	<i>HGV 20-30 LGV/car 80-130</i>
Wendover Dean Viaduct		* worksite mobilisation	Construction of viaduct	➔	Completion	Handover to rail systems	<i>Not Available</i>
Small Dean viaduct	* Construction of site access road and compound * Construct concrete batching plant	* A413 re-alignment * Piling work	Constriction of viaduct	➔	Movement of surplus material over Small Dean viaduct to back-fill Wendover tunnel	Handover to rail systems	<i>Not Available</i>
Wendover 'cut-and-cover' tunnel			Commence excavation / construction	➔	Completion	Handover to rail systems	<i>Not Available</i>
FUSION							
B485 Frith Hill	To be completed						
B485 / Kings Lane	To be completed						
Link Road, GM	To be completed						
Small Dean lane	To be completed						
Ecological	Various)					
Archaeology	Various) ➔ ??					
De-vegetation	Various)					
NATIONAL GRID	* Complete re-alignment work at South Heath and Wendover						

* Latest estimate of 2-way vehicle movements per day - 'normal' to 'busy'

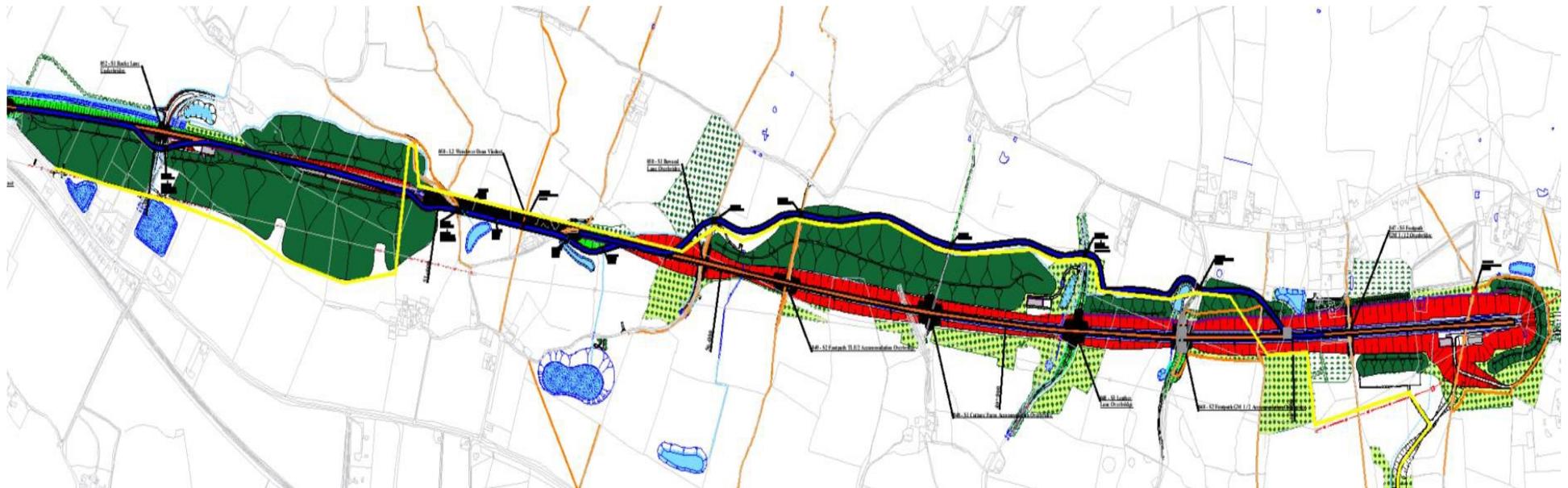
Align HGV figures taken from their Schedule 17 submission 2020

EKFB figures (and Align LGV/Car) taken from the Environmental Statements

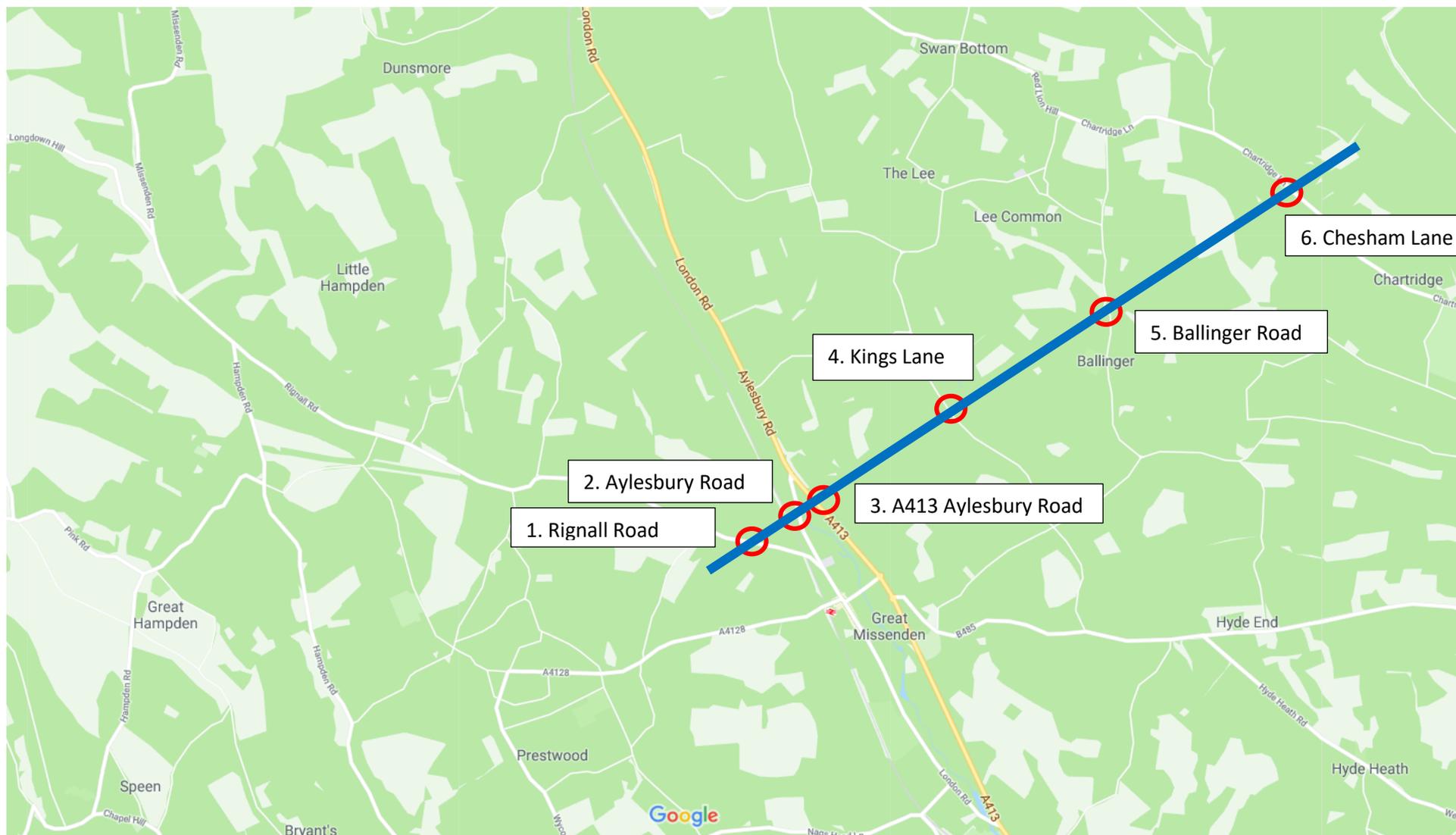
** ES suggests combined figures much higher than that shown by Align alone

Annex 2: Schematic showing works between South Heath and Wendover

The thin yellow line shows approximate route of an HS2 internal haul road between the North Portal at South Heath (far right) and Rocky Lane (far left).



Annex 3: Locations of automatic traffic counters



Annex 4: Changes to Noise Levels from ES reported figures (estimates made for EKFB in 2019)

Change to Noise Level from ES

Night-time:

- No significant changes to ES reported figures
- 3 receptors increase by <0.8 dB
- 46 receptors no change
- 53 receptors reduced by 0.1 - 3 dB
- $L_{Aeq(\text{night-time})}$ ranges from 39 to 69 dB
- LOAEL exceedances
 - ES stage - 48
 - Current - 46



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Chesham & Villages Community Board

Chair - [Patricia Birchley](#)

Deputy Chair - [Jane MacBean](#)

Board co-ordinator - [Helen Cavill](#)

The full Community Board membership and details of meetings is available on the [Local Democracy Chesham & Villages Community Board page](#).

The Chesham & Villages Community Board covers the following town and parish areas:

- Ashley Green
- Chartridge
- Chenies
- Chesham
- Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards
- Latimer & Ley Hill
- The Lee

View our map to [check the area or parish that you live in](#).

Our priorities

Each year we will look at what matters to our local area the most, using data and local intelligence to help us determine the priorities our board will focus on. Some of this information can be found in the [Chesham & Villages Public Health Profile \(PDF document\)](#). We will involve residents, partners, local groups and organisations in understanding what the local issues and priorities are.

Priorities for 2020/21 are:

- Health & Wellbeing
- Transport, Highways & Environment
- Community Safety & Resilience
- Economic Development and Regeneration

These priorities will help us determine where we take action and allocate funding to improve the local area.

Apply for funding

If you have a project that relates to one of the priorities above, you can [apply for funding online](#).

Working Groups

We take actions on issues linked to our priorities. To do this, we have working groups that bring together board members and representatives from the community and relevant partner organisations.

Working groups identify and discuss issues linked to our priorities, and we consider project ideas and requests for funding linked to these issues.

- Village Forum
- Chesham Resilience/Covid Recovery
- Town Regeneration
- HS2