



Buckinghamshire Council

Amersham Community Board

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Amersham Community Board held on Thursday 10 September 2020 in MS Teams virtual meeting, commencing at 7.00 pm and concluding at 8.30 pm

Members present

Cllr D Bray, Ms F Copp, Cllr I Darby, Mr B Drew, Cllr M Flys, Cllr M Harker OBE, Cllr G Harris, Mr D King, Ms S Payne, Cllr D Phillips, Cllr N Shepherd, Cllr M Tett, Cllr L Walsh, Cllr J Waters and Cllr G Williams

Others in attendance

Mr D Alder, Mr G Allison, Ms P Batting, Ms C Beevers, Ms S Boshier, Ms E Burgham, Mr P Clark, Ms E Davis, Mr R Funk, Mr A Garnett, Mr K Gayle, Ms A Greenhalgh, Mr J Hay, Ms H James, Ms H Mee, Mr E Newhouse, Mr O O'Neill, Mr M Pegg, Ms B Poole, Mr C Purves, Ms L Richardson, Mr J Shaw, Ms J Thomas, Ms M Turner, Sgt D Walsh and Ms L Wright

Agenda Item

1 Chairman's Welcome & Introductions

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and advised this meeting was the official launch of the Amersham Community Board and was pleased to see many new faces in attendance.

2 Apologies of Absence

Apologies were received from:

Mr P Martin- Buckinghamshire Council, Ms I Darby- Buckinghamshire Council, Mr C Jackson- Buckinghamshire Council and Ms S Payne, Chesham Bois Parish Council Clerk.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

4 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2020 were **AGREED** as an accurate record.

5 Introduction to Community Boards

Mr M Tett, Leader of Buckinghamshire Council gave a live version of the introduction to Community Boards, that was shared amongst all boards.

Link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0i722j79hw&feature=youtu.be>

The Chairman gave an overview of the slides appended to the minutes.

6 Updates from Sub-Groups

Ms B Poole from Voices & Choices gave an update on behalf of the Covid-19 Sub-group and let the Board know what the volunteers from Voices and Choices had been during the lockdown period. There was some confusion around the current funding/grant situation for Voices & Choices, the Community Board Coordinator agreed to look at this offline and update accordingly.

ACTION: Ms L Wright

There was a discussion around Community Boards working in partnership to fund projects jointly that sat across Community Board boundaries and for Members to contact Ms L Wright with any ideas.

ACTION: Community Board Members

Ms C Purves voiced an interest to be involved in the Covid-19 sub-group, Ms L Wright would add her to the group and ensure an invitation to the next meeting would be sent out.

ACTION: Ms L Wright

Mr J Shaw from Chiltern Rangers gave an overview of the role of the Chiltern Rangers and their work with the Health and Wellbeing of young people sub- group.

Mr D King gave an overview of the 1st meeting of the Village and town centre revival sub-group. Ms M Harker agreed to share her contacts for work of the sub-group to progress.

ACTION: Ms M Harker

It was confirmed that although this focus group was initially focused on Amersham, in time there would be further groups that would look across the whole Community Board area.

The Chairman advised there had been a suggestion for a transport group to look at items including HS2, speeding, parking, pavements and cycleways. The Chairman asked for volunteers for the focus group. The board were asked to contact the Community Board Coordinator if they were interested in being part of the focus group.

ACTION: All Community Board Members

There was some discussion around the Chesham Bois funding application that had been received by the Community Board.

RESOLVED: The Chesham Bois Parish Council funding application was **AGREED** by the Board.

The Chairman advised there were four further funding applications that had been received and would be coming up for approval by the Community Board. An overview of these projects was given.

The projects were:

- Amersham Town Council- A replica locomotive to be built in Oakfield Corner, Amersham on the Hill. The Total cost of the project was £12,300 and they would look to source match funding before speaking to the board.
- Little Chalfont-Road improvements. This was still awaiting costs from Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB).

- Amersham Parking Review- Awaiting costs from TfB. This was to be picked up offline.
ACTION: Mr G Williams

Amersham Town Centre Sub-group- a tactical campaign to support retailers in Amersham with trading in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

7 Neighbourhood Matters

There had been no groups come forward for this item. It was deferred to a future meeting.

8 Getting Local People Involved

The Chairman asked the Community Board of suggestions of local groups to invite to the meeting. Suggested groups were:

- Amersham and District Residents Association
- Amersham Action Group
- Careers Springboard
- The Rotary Club

It was felt that there were many local charities and groups across the area that should be invited along. Members were asked to send any suggestions to Ms L Wright for her to make contact in time for the next meeting.

ACTION: All Community Board Members

It was requested if the notes from each of the sub-groups could be shared so Community Board Members were aware what was taking place at each.

ACTION: Ms L Wright

Ms M Harker gave a brief overview of the upcoming Silver Sunday initiative that was due to take place in Amersham to celebrate older people in the community. This year instead of this being in the community the plan was to take high tea to over 500 elderly people across Amersham, Chesham and Little Chalfont. It was asked if anyone was aware of a resident that could be included in the project, could they please pass the details on to Ms Harker.

ACTION: All Community Board Members

9 Date of Next Meetings

Wednesday 04 November 2020, 7-8.30pm.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting.

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Amersham Community Board

10th September 2020

Community Board Funding

The overall budget for Community Boards across Buckinghamshire is £3.9m which is made up of three elements, broken down as follows for the Amersham Board:

- **Community Area Priorities Fund (£84,704)**
- **Health & Wellbeing Fund (£22,693)**
- **Local Infrastructure Fund (£38,512)**

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/improving-your-local-community/apply-community-board-funding/>

Funding process:

- **Pre – Application**
- Community board sets Area Priorities & Funding opportunities promoted centrally and locally to the not-for-profit sector.
- Applicant contacts Community Board Coordinator to discuss the project and application & Community Board Coordinator discusses potential applications with Community Board Chairmen, and local members as appropriate

- **Submission**
- Applications completed using online form
- Community Board Coordinator consults relevant service area and secures any internal service assessments needed e.g. all applications requesting transportation works will be assessed by Transport for Bucks (TfB) Network Improvement Team (NIT) for assessment and budget estimate (PID) ready for the following year's budget.
- For transport specific schemes the applicant and local members will be sent the PID to review & confirm desire to go ahead with application.
- Community Board Coordinator carries out an initial assessment and writes a report for the members of the community board
- Reports discussed with Chairmen, and local members as appropriate & shared with relevant sub groups or work streams

- **Decision**
- Reports go forward to Community Board meeting & Applicants invited to attend the meeting.
- Community board discuss and agrees to fund project & Recommendations sent to relevant senior officer for ratification.

- **Implementation**
- Applicants notified & award letters issued.
- Promotions as required.
- Invoices processed.
- Recipients complete evaluation form at end of project.

Priorities

- Coronavirus recovery and ongoing support
- Village and Town Centre revival
- Green issues and the Environment
- The Health and Wellbeing of Young People

Sub-Groups

- Coronavirus
- Village and Town Centre revival
- The Health and Wellbeing of Young People
- Communications

Coronavirus – key themes

- To understand more about the impacts on debt/financial insecurity.
- To understand more about the impacts on Mental Health
- To understand more about future step up plans for Foodbanks.
- To investigate the role of Social Prescribing and link with local surgeries.
- To promote Neighbourhood Watch and similar schemes more widely – sharing any information across the network to help raise awareness of support services available
- To promote the Bucks Volunteer Matching Service to community groups
- To support elderly/vulnerable people with physical activity

Village & Town Centre – Key themes

- To discuss and agree the purpose of the group, i.e. short term vs long term actions, timescales and what does success look like?
- To collate existing data about shopping habits and footfall and to identify where there are gaps/trends/opportunities
- To encourage people to ‘shop local’, working with local businesses and retailers
- To encourage people to visit the towns & villages as a destination, making them an attractive place to visit. Learn from success in other towns.
- To gather more information about success in other towns e.g. small market towns.

Shop Local Workshop



Health & Wellbeing of Young People – key themes

- To promote opportunities for young people leaving school and finding work
- To understand the needs of young people e.g. working with partners to develop surveys
- To work closely with schools and other youth clubs/groups to understand where support is required
- To support youth organisations with recruiting volunteers

Communications

- The aim of the comms initially will be to let people know what the Community Board is and provide them a way of contacting the board to discuss the priorities and needs of the local area. The group would need to gather dates of publications and provide a schedule of regular Community Board Content.
- The future aims will be to provide relevant messages and news stories which will draw people's attention and increase engagement with the board, working with partners to share information widely and targeting comms to different groups.

Next Steps

- An **action plan** is in development following the first meetings of the sub-groups
- If anyone has an interest in these areas and would like to get involved, contact Lizzie.Wright@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- Transport Sub-Group