



Amersham Community Board agenda

Date: Wednesday 4 November 2020

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: MS Teams Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item	Page No
1 Chairman's Welcome & Introductions	
2 Apologies for Absence	
3 Declarations of Interest To disclose any Personal or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.	
4 Minutes of the last meeting To agree the minutes of the last meeting.	3 - 6
5 Neighbourhood Matters Questions from members of the public to be submitted in advance of the meeting to Amersham@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk.	
6 Chiltern Voice Presentation To be presented by David Rees, Director- Chiltern Voice.	
7 Updates from Sub-Groups To be presented by members of the sub-groups.	
8 Community Board Funding Applications for Approval	7 - 20
9 Date of Next Meeting 18 February 2021- 7pm. Venue to be confirmed.	

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: Christina Beevers on , email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



Agenda Item 4
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, , Mr B Drew, Cllr M Flys, Cllr M Harker OBE, Cllr G Harris, Mr D King, Cllr D Phillips, Cllr N Shepherd, Cllr M Tett, Cllr L Walsh, Cllr J Waters, Ms L Richardson, and Cllr G Williams

Others in attendance

Mr D Alder, 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, Ms C Purves, Mr J Shaw, Ms M Turner, Sgt D Walsh, Mr I Lamb 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.

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 Funding Report - 2020/21 Date of Decision **04/11/2020**

Organisation Name	Voices and Choices CIO
Project Name	Community Companionship
Funding Stream	Community Area Priorities / Health & Wellbeing
Total Cost of project	£5,000
Amount of Match Funding	N/A
Amount being applied for	£5,000
Amount suggested	£5,000

Project Summary

Voices and Choices currently offer two services in the Chiltern area of Buckinghamshire. They support older people to find practical services which help them stay safe in their homes. They also provide a community advocacy service which supports older people when speaking up about decisions being made which impact on their lives, or where they might have a complaint about a service they are currently receiving.

To support older people further in the Amersham area, Voices and Choices would like to offer a Community Companionship service whereby trained volunteers will be matched with users and work closely with them to understand their interests and needs, and provide information and referrals to local support networks or activities. The aim of the project is to reduce loneliness in older people, and has come at a particular time where more people are socially isolated and may be in need of support and companionship. Voices and Choices have a very extensive knowledge of groups and networks across the Amersham Community Board area and are very well respected by the community.

As part of the project, Voices and Choices will run local information sessions for residents to learn more about the services that can help. They already work closely with Trading Standards, local police and bank personnel and will initially focus on avoiding all forms of financial abuse. They have close relationships with many local organisations including Citizens Advice, AgeUK Bucks, Carers Bucks, the Alzheimer's Society, and local disability groups. They will also offer a quarterly meeting for group facilitators to share experiences and strategies for supporting lonely people who attend their groups and to help identify them in the future.

Voices and Choices work collaboratively with other services and providers and will continue to work with Social Prescribers to identify those who need support.

How does the project address local priorities?

Coronavirus Recovery and Ongoing Support:
 With the continuing impacts of Coronavirus, the lockdown, and restrictions in place, more elderly people are becoming, or continue to be, socially isolated and need support to be linked with organisations,

groups and services which could help them to regain confidence and independence.

Evidence from the Public Health profile of the Community Board shows that Amersham has a slightly older age profile compared with the County overall and that loneliness for people aged 65 and older is a key area for the board to explore and should encourage community cohesion and befriending. Age UK loneliness maps have also identified the local Amersham wards which are at medium or high risk of loneliness. Working closely with local organisations will enable Voices and Choices to identify more local people in the community who require access these services.

How does the project align with the values, objectives and corporate priorities of Buckinghamshire Council?

Strengthening Communities: Providing support to the older population to help reduce social isolation has been identified as a key issue for the Amersham Board as well as Bucks as a whole. Enabling older people to access groups of interest to them will strengthen local resilience and support people to create and maintain their own networks. This will help people to remain independent for as long as possible.

Protecting the Vulnerable: Supporting residents by accompanying them to groups and activities will increase their confidence and reduce levels of loneliness by helping them to develop new connections/friendships and access local support networks. In addition, all volunteers receive the relevant Adult Safeguarding training.

How does the project achieve value for money?

Voices and Choices have applied to other sources in order to continue their existing services and organisational running costs. They are looking to provide this service specifically to the Amersham Board area – social isolation is an issue which has already been highlighted to the board as an area of focus within the Public Health Profile.

Voices and Choices have applied to other Community Boards (Chesham & Villages and Denham, Gerrards Cross & Chalfonts) however have confirmed that any funds paid by the Amersham Community Board will only be used for services within the board area.

Community Board Coordinator comments

Connection Support offer a countywide service on a similar basis which provides support to residents who are socially isolated, links them up with local groups and services and helps to build confidence for individuals to develop relationships and support networks and regain their independence. This service is time limited to up to 6 visits within an 8 week period in order to reduce any potential dependence that could come from offering ongoing support, which could consequently impact on the number of residents that could be supported each year.

Voices and Choices wish to offer a similar service but on a flexible basis (i.e. for as long as the person needs). With an increase in the number of socially isolated and vulnerable residents due to Covid, additional support in the Amersham area could help to fill a gap where increased demand could put more pressure on the existing services.

Following conversations with the prevention team it is advised that there needs to be consideration around the level of support available and the potential to create dependency on a service. Voices and Choices should continue to work closely with Connection Support, Social Prescribers and other voluntary groups and organisations to avoid duplication and ensure that these services complement each other and work towards the same end goal (i.e. for services users to regain independence).

Voices and Choices volunteers are already very well known within the community and have built up relationships with more local residents during the coronavirus crisis. They also have excellent connections with local partners who can help to identify those in need to ensure that the service offered can reach the right end users.

Voices and Choices should be aware that funding granted through Community Boards will prevent them being able to apply for the annual Buckinghamshire Council Prevention Grants.

The applicant will be required to agree to terms and conditions, which include a monitoring agreement, as discussed with the Community Board Coordinator before the fund will be formally awarded.

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Amersham Community Board Funding Report - 2020/21

Date of Decision 04/11/2020

Organisation Name	Citizens Advice Chiltern
Project Name	Community based debt caseworker
Funding Stream	Community Area Priorities / Health & Wellbeing
Total Cost of project	£8,755
Amount of Match Funding	N/A
Amount being applied for	£8,755
Amount suggested	£8,755

Project Summary

Chiltern Citizens Advice are looking to provide a trained debt case worker who will provide one to one help to local people with severe debt in the Amersham and Little Chalfont area. The Caseworker will be available one day each week, initially from a Community Access Point and then at the office in Amersham which will be re-opening.

Debt caseworkers take ownership of client's debt and help them to find a way forward by attending appointments, presenting required paperwork and negotiating and advocating on the client's behalf. They often represent clients who are at court, or risk of homelessness and support them with budgeting and repayment plans as well as helping to file for insolvency or bankruptcy. The role is a long term and complex position and often involves reassuring the client to support them through a difficult time of their life.

Covid has had a significant impact on debt across the UK. In Amersham in particular, there has been an increase of over 400% in issues relating to redundancy and almost 200% in requests for food bank vouchers. This problem is only expected to worsen with a continuing rise in redundancies. Holiday periods on credit arrangements are set to end and evictions expected to increase as the ban on this has ceased.

How does the project address local priorities?

Coronavirus Recovery is a priority for the Amersham Community Board, and within this, debt and financial insecurity was raised as a key area of focus for the working-group. The debt-case work proposal was discussed in the working-group meeting which took place on 8 October and the group very much supported this activity which addresses a significant need in the local community.

All people impacted by severe debt will be able to benefit from this new service, including those struggling to pay bills or becoming reliant on welfare payments, or people who are in unreliable work or perhaps have been made redundant and are now unemployed.

How does the project align with the values, objectives and corporate priorities of Buckinghamshire Council?

Protecting the vulnerable: Often it is the most vulnerable people in our community who are most at risk of debt – as a result of low income, unreliable employment or being reliant on welfare benefits. By providing one to one support to those in severe debt we can prevent further crises such as eviction and homelessness.

Increasing Prosperity: The project will help those in severe debt by negotiating with creditors, arranging debt management plans and maximising clients' income by reviewing their eligibility for additional welfare benefits. The debt caseworker can also help clients feel more empowered to manage their money and avoid debt in the future.

How does the project achieve value for money?

Working closely with Council Access Points will enable CAB to offer this service at a reduced cost (avoiding additional costs for rent/building access).

In anticipation for the huge impact of coronavirus on the local community in terms of debt and financial insecurity, this small amount of funding can offer support to a significant number of local residents. For CAB services generally it is estimated that every £1 spent can provide a £16.33 financial benefit to clients, so this funding could provide a financial impact of over £140,000 to the local community.

Community Board Coordinator comments

Chiltern Citizens Advice received annual grants from Buckinghamshire Council which contributed towards core organisational costs and debt advice activities up to March 2022. The Casework role is not currently available in the Amersham area however is now needed more than ever.

CLLr Crisis funding was awarded by the Amersham Community Board in April 2020 to support with debt advice and coronavirus related activities.

Further conversations are taking place around debt advice in partnership with the CAB and the Council; however this particular activity will compliment what is already in place and provide vital support to residents at a time of significant need.

The applicant will be required to agree to terms and conditions, which include a monitoring agreement, as discussed with the Community Board Coordinator before the fund will be formally awarded.



Amersham Community Board Funding Report - 2020/21

Date of Decision 04/11/2020

Organisation Name	Little Chalfont Community Association (LCCA)
Project Name	Coronavirus Support
Funding Stream	Community Area Priorities / Health & Wellbeing
Total Cost of project	£1250
Amount of Match Funding	N/A
Amount being applied for	£1250
Amount suggested	£1250

Project Summary

The LCCA have been working with volunteers in the local area to coordinate vital support to residents during the Coronavirus Pandemic. This includes support with shopping, prescriptions, friendly chats as well as coordinating donations to the Chiltern Foodbank. The LCCA provided leaflet drops in the early stages of lockdown (March 2020) to provide those who were not 'tech savvy' or perhaps were socially isolated from their local community, with information on how to access this village-wide support. They have also provided support to other local groups such as the Good Neighbours and Facebook Help Group, in order to coordinate efforts and ensure coverage across the whole village.

With the situation changing rapidly and in anticipation for a spike in cases during the Autumn/Winter months, the LCCA need to provide further communication to ensure that all local residents, who may require support, know how they can access it. This will be in the form of a village-wide leaflet drop.

How does the project address local priorities?

Health and Wellbeing is a key area for all Community Boards to focus on particularly in regard to the ongoing impacts of coronavirus. The Amersham Community Board agreed Coronavirus Recovery as one of the areas of focus for this year and some of the key elements of this were social isolation, debt & financial insecurity and physical inactivity.

This activity will provide local residents with the vital support needed in their area to help reduce impacts of social isolation and loneliness, improve mental health and wellbeing, as well as providing access to resources such as food and medicine for those who are unable to leave their homes due to self-isolating or suffering with Coronavirus.

How does the project align with the values, objectives and corporate priorities of Buckinghamshire Council?

Protecting the Vulnerable by providing vital support during the ongoing pandemic.

Strengthening our Communities by encouraging and supporting volunteers and developing local support networks which can help to take some pressure off statutory services.

How does the project achieve value for money?

All of the work in support of residents in the village has been done through the networks of local volunteers therefore at no cost. Community support networks are a vital resource across the county and could help significantly to reduce/mitigate some of the impacts a rise in cases and greater restrictions could cause. This small contribution towards the group will enable the whole village to access support should they need it.

Community Board Coordinator comments

Funding was provided by the Councillor Crisis fund for March leaflet drops and the volunteer groups in Little Chalfont have been able to support many residents during the pandemic. This vital support is still very much needed and with a rise in cases anticipated, is important to ensure it can continue over the months to come.

The applicant will be required to agree to terms and conditions, which include a monitoring agreement, as discussed with the Community Board Coordinator before the fund will be formally awarded.



Amersham Community Board Funding Report - 2020/21

Date of Decision 04/11/2020

Organisation Name	Chiltern Voice Ltd
Project Name	Chiltern Voice Radio
Funding Stream	Community Area Priorities
Total Cost of project	£50,000
Amount of Match Funding	£ various from other sources – Chesham/Missenden boards/ sales/ fundraising
Amount being applied for	£5,650
Amount suggested	£5,650

Project Summary

Chiltern Voice Community Radio won an FM Broadcast Licence for the term of 5 years. Funding is being sought to finance additional equipment and installation work to enable the radio station to launch on FM wavelength in April 2021.

The station will have the potential to reach all of the community in the Chilterns and everyone will be able to benefit from local news, interests and services. It will provide a platform of promotion for local people, groups and causes who will be invited to tell their stories as guests of the station.

Chiltern Voice will open up training and volunteering opportunities which may prove valuable during and post Covid-19. Schools and young people will be encouraged to participate and offered training and useful life skills.

The aim is to provide a feel-good, local community vibe which is educational, inspiring, entertaining and a voice and news channel for the local community.

How does the project address local priorities?

Chiltern Voice provides a communication and media platform for the local area. The Station is also a vehicle to support local initiatives and could play a part in addressing many of the Amersham Board priority areas including Coronavirus Recovery, Town/Village Centre Revival, Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Young People.

Chiltern Voice demonstrated through the pandemic how the health & wellbeing of many residents was a priority, with listeners contributing to local information and the presentation team working to find ways to broadcast through the lockdown. During lockdown, the radio station helped to promote multiple local initiatives including local food banks.

The radio station often welcomes young broadcasters in evenings and weekends offering the opportunity

to develop and improve their skills and experience. The station will carry out further work with local schools to provide a chance for students in the area to be involved in producing their own radio shows and they will be offered the relevant training.

Many local businesses, organisations and local groups who have worked with Chiltern Voice have valued their support and the opportunity to spread the word about their services and activities. There is a regular information spot that broadcasts throughout the week bringing a focus to local community organisations which will bring benefit to the listeners. It is free for local groups to promote details about their activities. The station can also provide an opportunity for neighbouring areas to share their own news - for example Amersham may wish to talk about its town centre revival activities to a wider audience.

How does the project align with the values, objectives and corporate priorities of Buckinghamshire Council?

Strengthening Communities: Chiltern Voice will support the community through various means. The radio station is a communication platform and can be used to create discussion, local pride and a distribution point for local information and initiatives. Chiltern Voice will also become a community itself and will help promote many other groups and organisations within the Chilterns to benefit people in the local community.

Protecting the vulnerable: Chiltern Voice has worked with young vulnerable volunteers and will continue to provide opportunities to gain core transferable skills. It also provides a platform for creativity and inspiration for all local people; young, older and vulnerable. Targeted community safety messages and government announcements also help to protect the community.

Increasing prosperity: Chiltern Voice will be a support to the Buckinghamshire Business Community by providing affordable localised advertising options on the radio to raise the profile of local business. It can also help to provide experience for employment, training and education. A young presenter developed so well within Chiltern Voice that it helped him gain a place at the Global Academy for a future media career. Presenters have opportunities to visit other radio stations to help them develop their own skills through work experience too.

How does the project achieve value for money?

The radio station has been fundraising and gaining revenue since conception through events, grant funding and advertising sales which pays for general running costs. The Community Board funding would cover the cost of the new equipment needed now they have obtained the FM licence, including a new mixing desk, an on air playout system (computer system), transmission equipment including FM transmitter, audio processor, RDS encoder and Antennae. The target age group in broad terms is 25 - 65 year olds although they aim to communicate in various ways with as wide an age range as possible. The funding would provide a long term, sustainable solution for running a successful radio station and enhance the spread of local and national news.

Community Board Coordinator comments

Chiltern Voice has been running for four years and has gained local recognition. There are no other commercial operators that identify within the area and Chiltern Voice would fill that gap and provide a service to people who may not have a means of finding out about current, local information. Added to the demise of the local newspaper, they will be able to deliver to a wide reach, including those who are vulnerable or unable to leave their home.

The radio show has traditionally featured local groups and offers a platform to talk about the topics that are important to the community. They have worked with local community forums and organisations who work with vulnerable adults to help identify the needs to shape the programmes. Some examples of this include works on the HS2 rail line affecting the local area, local provision for the disabled, housing development on the green belt and promotion of services from partners including Lindengate and Chiltern Samaritans. They provide listeners with the opportunity to question those involved in decision making locally, including Councillors and senior local Police Officers.

Chiltern Voice has a good understanding of the local community through engagement, events, promotion and working with local groups and communities. A regular local information spot is broadcast throughout the week and brings focus to local organisations that provide benefits to their listeners. Chiltern Voice has also submitted applications to the Chesham and Missendens Boards and welcomes the opportunity to promote the Community Boards, funding and achievements in the area and will endorse local Board initiatives.

The applicant will be required to agree to terms and conditions, which include a monitoring agreement, as discussed with the Community Board Coordinator before the fund will be formally awarded.

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Amersham Community Board Funding Report - 2020/21

Date of Decision 04/11/2020

Organisation Name	Amersham Town Council
Project Name	Amersham Youth Council
Funding Stream	Community Area Priorities
Total Cost of project	£500
Amount of Match Funding	N/A
Amount being applied for	£500
Amount suggested	£500

Project Summary

Local Youth Councils represent the views of young people. They are run by young people in the community and provide an opportunity for them to engage with decision makers and influence decision making in local councils.

Covid has had a significant impact on many people this year, this of course includes students who were unable to attend school for months during the summer, which is thought to have impacted in many ways, not just on education but also on mental health due to the disruption of routine and social interactions.

Amersham Town Council would like to do something positive to support young people and give them a voice in the local community. The Youth Council will be available to all young people aged 11-17 who are resident in Amersham and will provide opportunities to explore areas of interest and campaign on issues that are important to them. It will enable young people to develop organisational and leadership skills, enhancing their self-esteem and self-confidence which will put them in good stead for life.

How does the project address local priorities?

Supporting the Health & Wellbeing of Young People by providing an opportunity for young people to explore issues that are important to them. They will be invited to attend Town Council meetings to share their views and this will help to develop their presentation skills and understand how committee style meetings work, as well as ensuring that decision makers take young people's views into account.

How does the project align with the values, objectives and corporate priorities of Buckinghamshire Council?

Strengthening our communities: children and young people are the decision makers of the future and it is important that their views are considered and that they are supported to develop key life skills and reach their full potential in education and beyond.

Buckinghamshire Council want to encourage residents to get involved with improving local services, such

as through community boards. This should be the case for all age groups, and the Youth Council will be an excellent way to engage with the younger generation.

How does the project achieve value for money?

This small allocation of funding will provide opportunities for many young people in the community board area to get involved with and understand the decision making process. It will provide a positive activity after a very challenging period of time for many young people.

Community Board Coordinator comments

Buckinghamshire Council's Youth Development team have been working with the Town Council to support the setup of the Youth Council. They have shared learnings from other Councils, such as Chesham Town Council who have had great success and the intention is for Amersham to use a similar model.

The applicant will be required to agree to terms and conditions, which include a monitoring agreement, as discussed with the Community Board Coordinator before the fund will be formally awarded.