



Aylesbury Community Board agenda

Date: Tuesday 9 March 2021

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Virtual meeting via MS Teams. Join this meeting by clicking on the following link 5 minutes before the meeting is scheduled to start: <http://bit.ly/AylesburyCB090321> This meeting will also be recorded and subsequently available to view via the [Buckinghamshire Council website](#).

Membership:

M Winn (Chairman), S Morgan (Vice-Chairman), B Adams, C Adams, M Bateman, J Bloom, S Chapple, A Christensen, A Cole, T Hunter-Watts, N Hussain, T Hussain, A Huxley, S Jarvis, R Khan, R King, S Lambert, G Moore, G Powell, W Raja, B Roberts, B Russel, M Smith, M Stamp, A Waite and J Ward.

Agenda item	Time	Page no
1 Chairman's welcome Welcome from Mark Winn, Chairman of the Aylesbury Community Board.	6.30pm	
2 Declarations of interest	6.35pm	
3 Housekeeping To be presented by Amy Jenner, Aylesbury Community Board Co-ordinator.	6.40pm	
4 Actions To review and sign off the action notes from the last meeting held on 17 November 2020. Action notes – Aylesbury Community Board meeting 17 November 2021.	6.45pm	
5 Community matters To address questions from the public. Questions to be submitted in advance of the meeting to aylesburycb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk .	6.50pm	

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| 6 | Southcourt Emergency Active Travel Scheme Petition
To be presented by Suzanne Winkels, Head of Transport Strategy, Buckinghamshire Council. | 7.00pm | 3 - 12 |
| 7 | Community board priorities updates
To be presented by Chairman Cllr Mark Winn.
Spotlight on 'Improving the Environment' to be presented by Subgroup Chair Cllr Sarah James, Coldharbour Parish Council. | 7.15pm | |
| 8 | Funded projects
A summary of funded projects to date, to be presented by Chairman Cllr Mark Winn with project reflections from representatives from The Aylesbury Hindu Temple Trust & Florence Nightingale Hospice Trust. | 7.45pm | 13 - 16 |
| 9 | Thames Valley Police (TVP) update
To be presented by Inspector Graham Horton, Thames Valley Police. | 8.05pm | |
| 10 | Community news
A summary of local projects & initiatives to be presented by Amy Jenner, Aylesbury Community Board Co-ordinator. | 8.20pm | 17 - 20 |
| 11 | Chairman's close and date of next meeting
Tuesday 8 th June 2021 (18.30 - 20.30 on MS Teams). | 8.25pm | |

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: Amy Jenner (Community Board Co-ordinator) on 01296 383846, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



Report to Aylesbury Community Board

Date: 9th March 2021
Title: Southcourt Emergency Active Travel Scheme
Author: Suzanne Winkels, Head of Transport Strategy

1. Background

1.1 In May 2020, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps announced a £2 billion investment for walking and cycling. An initial £250 million was made available to local authorities, as part of an emergency active travel fund.

The initial weeks of the pandemic saw an increase in walking and cycling, and the fund was launched to support this and to help local authorities make it easier for people to use these methods. They encouraged local authorities to look at reducing “rat-running” whilst maintaining vehicle access, to introduce cycle segregation and other initiatives to encourage walking and cycling.¹

1.2 Buckinghamshire Council applied for funding and received £513,943² in phase 1 (Tranche 1) of the Government’s investment. This was for schemes across Buckinghamshire. Over 100 potential schemes were initially identified, before schemes were shortlisted and discussions commenced with local members and other relevant local stakeholders to progress.

1.3 One of the locations identified was Southcourt, in Aylesbury. This location was identified following the closure of the Old Stoke Road railway crossing (severing the Jet Way, one of the town’s gemstone routes, used to connect to the town centre and encourage cycling). It was also identified using the Department for Transport’s

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-billion-package-to-create-new-era-for-cycling-and-walking>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emergency-active-travel-fund-local-transport-authority-allocations/emergency-active-travel-fund-total-indicative-allocations>

Propensity to Cycle tool, with potential to increase walking and cycling particularly with local schools.

- 1.4 This report is written in response to a petition sent to the Cabinet Member for Transport, received on 27th November 2020. The petition states, "This is a petition about moving the planters and bollards, also the ones near Stoke Mandeville School that people have signed." It contained 643 signatures, the understanding is these signatures were collected via door to door visits undertaken in October and November 2020 by a local resident across both Southcourt and a wider area. The petition and this accompanying report are being presented to the first Aylesbury Community Board following receipt.

2. Main content of report

- 2.1 The trial in Southcourt was introduced to create quieter streets to promote walking and cycling, when accessing shops and facilities, whilst also improving access between the town centre, Southcourt and Stoke Mandeville Hospital. The scheme includes improved cycle route signage and lining, installation of cycle lane segregation and temporary road closures. It provides improved links to some of the existing Gemstone Routes, and a diverted routing to overcome the existing severed Jet Way.

A temporary cycle route connects into the existing Pebble Way and Pearl Way at the Churchill Avenue/ Prebendal Avenue Roundabout by converting pavements to shared footway/cycleways. Cycle directional signage and lining has been refreshed in this area.

Temporary point closures using decorative planters have been installed at the following locations to create quiet routes for cycling and walking:

- Chalgrove Walk near the junction with Churchill Avenue
- Chaloner Road near the junction with Carrington Road
- Thrasher Road near the junction with Carrington Road
- Thrasher Road near the junction with Cottesloe Road
- Old Stoke Road near the junction with Clover Lane

In each location, the full length of the road has remained open, facilitating resident access, but vehicular access is only possible from one side of the road. At each location, a "no through road" sign has been installed on local infrastructure (such as lampposts) and networks updated for mobile satellite navigation systems, to notify of point closures.

Following the above, the cycle route continues on to Cottesloe Road to connect to the existing Jet Way Gemstone route and onto Churchill Avenue. The existing Jet Way continues along Old Stoke Road, Nightingale Road and Penn Road towards the town centre.

Once the cycle route re-joins Churchill Avenue, a segregated cycleway using temporary pop up wands is provided for south eastbound cyclists, and the existing footway is as a shared-use path for north westbound cyclists. The route then joins the existing shared-use paths and advisory cycle lanes on Mandeville Road, connecting into Stadium Approach. Onward connections are available along Stadium Approach towards the Amber Way, A413 and Turnfurlong, in addition to the existing route on Harvey Road. A plan of the route is detailed below:

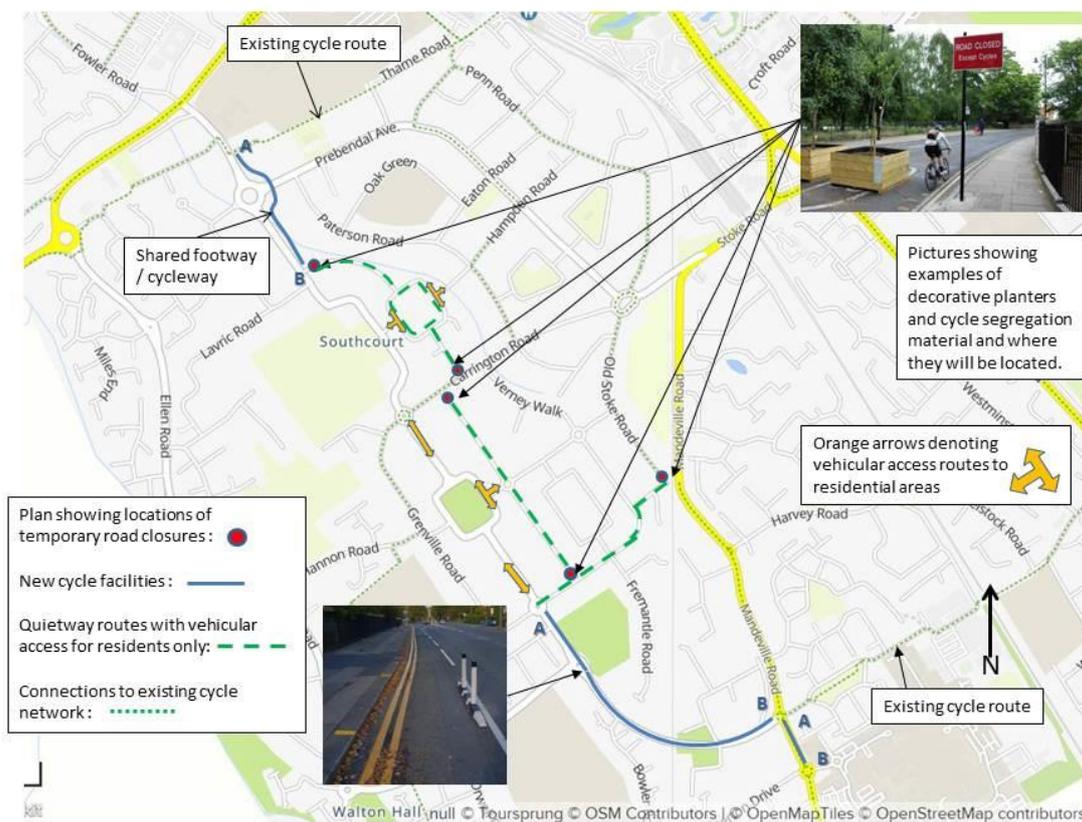


Image 1 – Southcourt scheme plan

2.2 In July 2020, the Department for Transport released “Gear Change, a bold vision for cycling and walking.”³ This focuses on a step-change in walking and cycling in coming years, to transform the role cycling and walking play in our transport system whilst also introducing health benefits. These include:

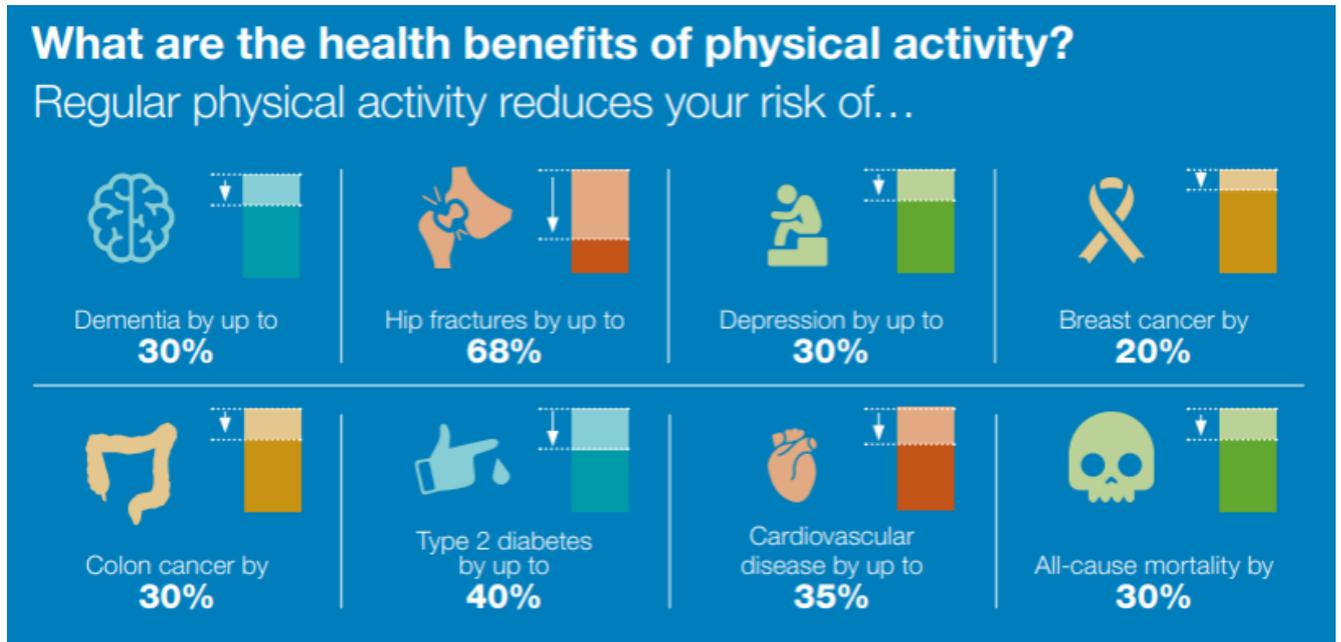


Figure 1: Health Benefits of Physical Activity₃

The segregated cycleway has been introduced in-line with latest Government standards, as detailed in Local Transport Note 1/20.⁴ This includes segregated cycle ways and a move away from shared use paths, due to the potential conflict between pedestrians and cyclists. In the future, the Government will only fund schemes meeting these new standards, through the new inspectorate and funding body, Active Travel England.

2.3 As outlined, Officers worked to identify potential Active Travel schemes across Buckinghamshire, of which Southcourt was one potential scheme identified. Officers met with local Councillors to discuss the potential scheme and feedback was sought on the proposals. Following discussions, it was agreed to progress the Southcourt

³

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904146/gear-change-a-bold-vision-for-cycling-and-walking.pdf

⁴

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/951074/cycle-infrastructure-design-ltn-1-20.pdf

scheme. This was supported by Buckinghamshire Council's Active Travel Steering Group, a group formed of Cabinet Members, whose portfolios cover aspects such as transport, logistics, sports and leisure, communities, planning etc.

- 2.4 The scheme was implemented under the Government's Emergency Active Travel Fund which had short, centrally set timescales. There was no requirement for full public consultation and the short timescales provided meant this was not possible. However, engagement was undertaken with local Councillors, the town council, schools, religious organisations, the school transport team and other local parties, such as shops and taxi operators. The emergency services were also consulted as part of the Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders. They did not raise any objection to the scheme and are able to update their routing accordingly in response to changes to public highway. In an emergency, blue light vehicles are not bound by certain traffic regulation orders such as one-way streets.

The potential for an Active Travel scheme in Southcourt was announced via a press release in July 2020⁵. Residents in the vicinity of the scheme in Southcourt received a letter in August 2020⁶ notifying them of the planned scheme and directing feedback via a web link, telephone number and email address. Initial works were delayed by several weeks, and a second letter was dropped to residents in the vicinity of the scheme in October 2020⁷, notifying them of the revised intended programme dates and providing the details for feedback via a web link, telephone number and email address.

Queries and feedback were first received in July 2020, following the press release. This included questions such as would residents be able to park outside their home, would delivery drivers be able to access roads to make deliveries and would visitors be able to get to properties. The answers to these queries were and remain yes, as the full length of the road has remained open, facilitating resident access, but vehicular access is only possible from one side of the road.

- 2.5 On 27th November 2020 the Cabinet Member for Transport received a petition regarding the Emergency Active Travel scheme in Southcourt. The petition states; "This is a petition about moving the planters and bollards, also the ones near Stoke Mandeville School that people have signed."

It contained 643 signatures, the understanding is these signatures were collected via door to door visits undertaken in October and November 2020 by a local resident.

⁵ <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/news/six-contenders-emergency-active-travel-plan/>

⁶ <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/4516029/walking-and-cycling-schemes-letter-southcourt.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/4516166/comms-letter-southcourt-october-2020.pdf>

On some of the individual pages, it states, ““this is a petition about the work on Chalgrove Walk.”

The petition was started prior to the scheme being implemented, without the changes being able to be monitored or observed by residents, Officers and others.

Some addresses have been provided along with signatures, and show a mixed area of collection, including Southcourt, Hawkslade and further afield, such as Aylesbury Town Centre. Some signatories have annotated with comments, for example explaining they are a visitor to the area not a resident.

The scheme in Southcourt was introduced for an initial duration of three months. It is a trial, and there is a limit to the extension of Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs). For clarity, this means it is not possible for the scheme to be repeatedly extended. As communicated with local residents via letter and via other outlets, such as the Buckinghamshire Council website, if any of the trial aspects of the scheme had support to be made permanent, this would be subject to public consultation.

2.6 As well as receiving the petition, we have also received feedback via our website, emails and through phone calls. Where possible, we have reacted and made changes to the scheme based on feedback received. The changes include:

- Reflective verge protectors installed at various locations due to cars overrunning verges.
- Planters fixed to the road with brackets and screws due to planters being moved.
- Central lines painted on the bridge at Churchill Avenue.
- Additional signage (“Give Cyclists Priority”) installed prior to railway bridge on Churchill Avenue.
- Planters relocated on Chalgrove Walk, and bollards added, due to verge cutting.
- Signage checked and replaced in one location, as it disappeared from the lamp post.

2.7 Whilst the scheme has received mixed feedback, there has been support at each of the point closure locations as well as regarding the scheme overall. Some residents have voiced concerns over being seen to support the scheme, in-case of local community repercussions.

Comments in support of the scheme include:

- Road feels safer and quieter (multiple point closure locations).
- There is less through traffic, the closure is worth the extra driving distance for the quieter road.

- Requests for the scheme to remain and be made permanent (multiple point closure locations), and some requests for it to be extended to other roads.
- A perception of less “anti-social” driving with slower traffic.
- Cyclists have commented they feel safer with bollards separating them from other traffic in the cycle lane/they prefer segregation.

2.8 Although at the time of writing (February 2021) the country is in a national lockdown, many pedestrians and cyclists continue to use the scheme as evidenced by the data collected. This is expected to increase when schools reopen, more people return to offices and the climate becomes a little warmer.

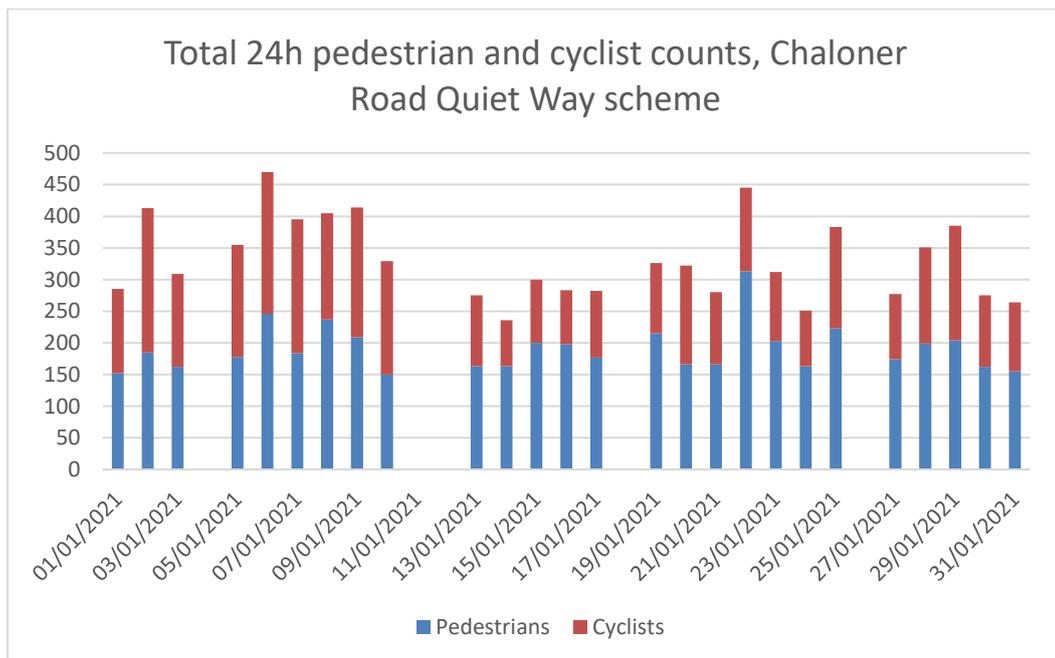


Figure 2: January Pedestrian and Cyclist counts, Chaloner Road

2.9 In February 2021, Officers extended the trial by one month, following discussions with local Councillors and subsequent approval by the Active Travel Steering Group. This was communicated to residents in the vicinity of the scheme. This was requested to take the trial to past the date of Community Board, where the petition is being heard, in line with the democratic process.

3. Next steps and review

3.1 This report has been provided to Aylesbury Community Board for information in response to the petition received.

3.2 The Department for Transport shares best practice is to undertake door to door surveys, to understand public opinion directly and once local residents and

communities have had the opportunity to experience any trial schemes. It is not currently possible to undertake a door to door survey due to the national lockdown.

- 3.3 In the meantime, feedback can still be provided via <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/active-travel/> and also transportstrategy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk All feedback is logged and monitored and used as part of the ongoing evaluation of the scheme.
- 3.4 A meeting is held on a monthly basis, including representatives from Aylesbury Town Council and local Councillors. Feedback from the Aylesbury Community Board meeting on 9th March 2021 will be taken back to this group, and Buckinghamshire Council's Active Travel Steering Group, for their consideration. As previously stated, if any aspects of the scheme were proposed to be made permanent, this would be subject to public consultation.

Appendix 1: images of the scheme



Image 1: Churchill Avenue and Ellen Road junction, including the segregated cycleway



Image 2: Thrasher Road with verge protectors installed



Image 3: Old Stoke Road with verge protectors installed



Image 4: Chalgrove Walk, following relocation of planters and bollard installation



Aylesbury Community Board- 9th March 2021

Agenda Item 8- Funded Projects

Fund	Budget	Allocated	Remaining
Community Area Priorities	£127,439	£15,027	£112,412
Local Infrastructure	£144,918	£58,446	£86,472
Health & Wellbeing	£61,581	£34,852	£26,729
Total	£333,938	£108,325	£225,613

The Aylesbury Community Board has allocated funding towards the following projects (to 23rd February 2021).

Project/Organisation	Project Summary	Fund	Funding allocated
Youth Outreach Unit Community Youth Ventures	CYV received funding to purchase the purchase and renovation of a youth bus which will provide regular visits to parts of the area where there is little or no youth provision in the evenings or across the weekend. The provision offers young people a safe place to go where they can share their worries in a calm settled environment with professionally trained staff. This project has started but is currently on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions.	Community Area Priority	£15,027
Tree of Light 'A time to reflect' video Florence Nightingale Hospice Trust	Funding was allocated to FNHC to enable them to create and produce a secular 'A Time to Reflect' film service available online, aimed at anyone who has used the NHS service in Buckinghamshire this year.	Health & Wellbeing	£1,800
LGBT+ Friends and Family Hub	HLC received funding towards the set up of a specialist LGBT+ hub to provide a safe space for the LGBT+	Health & Wellbeing	£4,375

Healthy Living Centre	Community in Aylesbury and the surrounding area.		
Crisis Counsellor Aylesbury Vale and Milton Keynes Sexual Assault & Abuse Support Service	Funding was allocated towards a 'Crisis Counselling service' for 14 months to provide short terms support to those affected by sexual assault and abuse, in response to increased need for support services during COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.	Health & Wellbeing	£10,696
Street Wardens Buckinghamshire Council- Community Safety	A one year pilot project to employ two full time Street Wardens in the Aylesbury Community Board area, to work with PCSO's and other local partners to help manage and reduce Anti-Social Behaviour and provide a reassuring presence to the local community, including retailers, other businesses and visitors to Aylesbury Town Centre and Coldharbour and Buckingham Park Village Centres.	Local Infrastructure	£58,446
COVID-19 Emergency Support St Peter's Church	Supporting the Aylesbury Churches Community Christmas Carol event- this was unfortunately cancelled due to new COVID-19 restrictions which were announced just a few days before the event- costs were still incurred by event organisers.	Health & Wellbeing	£1,322.40
COVID-19 Emergency Support Vineyard Storehouse	With an increase in demand, and reduced supplies, funding was allocated to provide additional food purchases and delivery support for vulnerable residents	Health & Wellbeing	£4,000
COVID-19 Emergency Support Bedgrove Volunteers	Funding used to support the Bedgrove Volunteers to continue to support their local community throughout the pandemic. Funding covered costs for PPE, and the set up of Covid helpline and shopping service.	Health & Wellbeing	£2,000
COVID-19 Emergency Support Space	To help maintain an online service to enable to Space to continue to provide a service to vulnerable individuals during lockdown.	Health & Wellbeing	£1,219

COVID-19 Emergency Support Southcourt Baptist Church	Funding was required to Bridge the Gap to support the provision of food & essential supplies to vulnerable residents during lockdown.	Health & Wellbeing	£2,000
COVID-19 Emergency Support Aylesbury Mosque	Funding was required to provide food & essential supplies to vulnerable residents during lockdown.	Health & Wellbeing	£2,000
COVID-19 Emergency Support Hindu Temple Trust	Funding was used to provide support to vulnerable families, including food provision.	Health & Wellbeing	£1,000
COVID-19 Emergency Support Bernwode Bus	Funding supported Bernie's Foodbank drive- to promote donations to local foodbanks, and then collect and distribute donations.	Health & Wellbeing	£3,000
COVID-19 Emergency Support The Oasis Partnership	Funding was required to help feed and house the homeless during the Covid-19 crisis. The money was used to supplement housing, advice, counselling and feeding vulnerable people, who are adversely affected by the crisis.	Health & Wellbeing	£2,000
COVID-19 Emergency Support Healthy Living Centre	Design and production of COVID-19 guidance leaflet available to Aylesbury Residents as a clear and easy guide to keep with them for reference.	Health & Wellbeing	£806
COVID-19 Emergency Support SeeAbility	Funding was used to introduce technology and contact-free digital activities to ensure that vulnerable disabled people supported by SeeAbility could continue to keep in touch with their loved ones.	Health & Wellbeing	£1,891.92
COVID-19 Emergency Support Citizens Advice	Funding was used to offer support and advice across a range of service, including financial, to individuals affected by lockdown.	Health & Wellbeing	£2,400

COVID-19 Emergency Support Aylesbury Town Centre	Along with Aylesbury Garden Town, funding was provided for the design and instalment of a large planter to act as a road closure, to support local businesses to be able to trade outdoors.	Health & Wellbeing	£500

*Please note that the Rothschilds Foundation allocated COVID-19 Emergency Support match funding to each Community Board for schemes funded through the Cllr Crisis fund- as this figure was a lump sum, it has not been reflected against each individual scheme.



Aylesbury Community Board- 9th March 2021

Agenda Item 10- Community News

This document highlights some key community activities and updates for the Aylesbury Community Board area. Please click on the links below for more information.

Please note any questions you have related to this content, should be directed to the relevant contact detailed on the website/social media, and that events and dates may be subject to change.

Help and Information

Helping Hands: 01296 395000 <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/get-support-food-and-energy-bills-over-winter/>. If you, or someone you know, needs extra support because of shielding, self-isolating, or if you are struggling day to day financially or with your mental health the Helping Hands team can help.

Bucks Online Directory (BOD): <https://directory.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>

Find activities, services and groups near you. This directory also includes groups offering support for those affected by Covid-19/lockdown. Groups who are registered with BOD are advised to update their listing.

Bucks Family Information Service:

<https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fsd/parent.page?parentchannel=24>

A place for families to find activities, organisations and services- such as things to do, advice support and details of the local offer for SEND

Fix My Street: <https://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/>

Report a problem on a street/road in Buckinghamshire or track the progress of reported issues.

Rapid Testing: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/bookarapidtest/>

Does your organisation have staff and volunteers who are leaving home to go out and work in the community? Fast, free rapid COVID-19 testing is now available in Buckinghamshire for public-facing staff and volunteers. Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 have no symptoms but can still pass it on. Regular testing can help identify cases of COVID-19 with no symptoms and break the chain of infection. Rapid testing can also provide valuable peace of mind to your staff and volunteers who are at increased risk of exposure to the virus because of their work in the community. For more information and to book regular appointments, visit <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/bookarapidtest/>

Town Centre

To keep up to date with what's happening in Aylesbury Town Centre visit <https://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/> or Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pg/aylesburytc/events/?ref=page_internal

Having your say

Aylesbury Community Board:

Please like and share our Facebook page so we can reach residents across our area <https://www.facebook.com/Aylesbury-Community-Board-106108777992919>

Your Voice Bucks: <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com>

Have your say and participate in local and Countywide consultations and surveys

Census 2021:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/council-and-democracy/census-2021/>
21st March 2021- Buckinghamshire Libraries (from Aylesbury Library) and Buckinghamshire Adult Learning (from centres in Buckingham, Aylesbury and High Wycombe) are offering a census support service (by telephone only where face to face is not possible due to COVID-19 restrictions). Team members will answer questions about the census, help people to complete the form online if required, help with understanding the questions and/or asking for an access code and signpost to translation support or to request a paper copy.

Local Projects

Discovering Buckinghamshire's Parishes:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/news/knowning-your-placediscovering-buckinghamshires-parishes/>

Are you a keen historian, local super-sleuth or simply fascinated by your parish's past? Do you belong to a local history society with shared knowledge of your local area? Or perhaps you're new to the area and keen to learn all about the history of your new home and surroundings? If so, then the Buckinghamshire Council Archaeology Service needs your help with updating its special 'parish summaries'.

Kingsbury and Market Square regeneration: www.kmspublicrealm.org

£4.5m has been committed to re-design Kingsbury and Market Square public spaces to help attract visitors into Aylesbury town centre and support businesses. The third phase of engagement took place between 15 – 24 February and included sharing the pre-planning design proposals for comment via stakeholder Zoom sessions and an online exhibition. These comments will feed into the detailed planning application due to be submitted in April. Visit www.kmspublicrealm.org and click the 'subscribe to project news' button to be kept up-to-date on this project with regular newsletters

Electronic Vehicle Charging Points:

Buckinghamshire Council were recently awarded £105k grant funding from the Government's On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS). The On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme provides funding for the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging points in car parks in residential areas where off-street parking is not available (e.g. terraced housing with no driveways). The £105k Government funding for 2020/21 will be used to install 8 new electric vehicle charging points in each of the following car parks (i.e. 32 new charging points in total):

- Aylesbury, Coopers Yard, HP20 2NF
- Aylesbury, Waterside North, HP20 1UG
- Buckingham, Cornwalls Meadow, MK18 1RP (flood resistant units will be installed here)
- Buckingham, Western Avenue, MK18 1HP

These car parks were identified after undertaking feasibility surveys from August to November 2020 on Council-owned car parks in priority areas across Buckinghamshire that met the Government's [OCRS Criteria](#). Groundworks will commence within the next month and will be managed by the Off-Street Parking Team.

Aylesbury Garden Town- new Cycling and Walking app:

Finding a walking and cycling route in Aylesbury just became a whole lot easier with the launch of a new cycling and walking web-based app for Aylesbury. The app provides a series of layered maps showing the Gemstone cycling network, rights of way, national cycling routes, canal tow paths, points of interest and the Town Council's Heritage Trail. Visit the new look [Aylesbury Garden Town website](#) to access the app and learn more about the Garden Town and ways to get involved.

Haydon Hill Cycleway Project: <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/road-projects-and-improvement-schemes/haydon-hill-cycleway/>. Planning permission was received 16th July 2020. Vegetation clearance works were carried out from 20th – 22nd October 2020. The main works of the cycleway are expected to start 19th April 2021 (for a period of 4 months). A press release about the construction start date is expected to be provided during March 2021 (before the start of the purdah period). Construction of the cycleway is expected to be completed during August 2021 (subject to Covid-19 and weather conditions)

A418 Oxford Road Project: <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/road-projects-and-improvement-schemes/a418-oxford-road-corridor-improvements/>. The project is being delivered in stages.

On the 29th of June 2020, work started on the fourth stage of the project and was substantially complete on 12th Sep 2020. The work included upgrades to the traffic lights at the Oxford Road/ Churchill Avenue and widening of Churchill Avenue to two lanes.

On the 1st of February 2021, work started on the final stage of the project. The work includes the refurbishments of White Hill & Friarage Road signalised (pedestrian) crossings and the installation of fibre optic & wireless equipment along the A418 Oxford Road.

Work on the final stage of the project is progressing very well and is expected to be completed during March 2021.

Phase 2 of the South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR):

This project forms a key part of the Aylesbury Orbital Link Road. This section of road is a proposed addition to the original SEALR Phase 1 works (1.2 kilometres between the A413 Wendover Road and the B4443 Lower Road). SEALR Phase 1 was recently unanimously approved by the Strategic Sites Committee. Phase 2 involves the construction of approximately 450 metres of dual carriageway from the future Lower Road roundabout westwards. At the western end of Phase 2, we will construct a new roundabout. This will connect to future road links such as the Stoke Mandeville Relief Road and the South West Aylesbury Link Road (SWALR). Both Phase 1 and Phase 2 would be constructed together as one programme of work.

Buckinghamshire Council hosted an online consultation from 1st February 2021 to 26th February 2021. For more information about SEALR Phase 2, please visit www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/sealr and <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/highway-projects/sealr-phase2-feedback/>.

Cabinet agrees actions to be carbon neutral by 2050:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/news/council-shares-climate-change-vision/>. The council has made a firm commitment to take action against climate change by adopting 60 different actions to become carbon neutral by 2050. Actions include installing renewable energy systems (such as solar panels) on our buildings, using electric and low emission vehicles in our fleet, continuing to upgrade street lighting to LEDs and using our planning powers to support climate change. To help offset carbon emissions, over the next ten years we will plant a tree for every person (543,000) living in Buckinghamshire. The Energy & Resources team will support the 16 local community boards in their local climate control initiatives to help deliver practical carbon reduction actions at a grass roots level.