



**Community
Boards**

Denham, Gerrards Cross & Chalfonts Community Board agenda

Date: Wednesday 16 November 2022

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: MS Teams

BC Councillors:

S Chhokar (Chairman), P Bass, M Bracken, T Broom, T Butcher, I Darby, G Hollis, Cllr C Jackson, S Rouse, J Rush, L Smith BEM and A Wood

Town/Parish Councils and other organisations:

D Brackin (Fulmer Village Parish Council), O Davison-Oakley (Seer Green Parish Council), T Shinner (Chalfont St Peter Parish Council), J Chamberlain (Chalfont St Giles), Cllr J Walsh (Denham Parish Council), Hellen Orme (Gerrards Cross Parish Council), Ruth Ryan (Chalfont St Peter), Pete Dale (Chalfont St Peter), M Thomas (Seer Green Parish Council), J Hatton (Chalfont St Peter Parish Council), Anne Marie Vlarar (Chalfont St Peter), S Kumar (Chalfont St Peter), Sharon Williams (Denham Parish Council), D Bray (Chalfont St Giles), E Hungin (Seer Green Parish Council), K Dickson (Chalfont St Peter Parish Council) and K Southworth (Chalfont St Peter Parish Council)

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 Clare Gray at democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or 01895 837529.

Item No	Item	Time	Page No
1	Chairman's Welcome	18:00	
2	Apologies /Declarations of Interest /Minutes of last meeting	18:05	3 - 10
3	Queen's Award for Voluntary Service & Queen's Award for Enterprise Presentation by Andrew Smith OBE.	18:10	
	3a Questions Arising	18:30	
4	Proud of Bucks Presented by Cllr Santokh Chhokar, Chair of Denham, Gerrards Cross and The Chalfonts Community Board.	18:35	
5	Youth Engagement - School focus Presentation by Lizzie Wright, Community Board Manager for Amersham & Villages.	18:40	
	5a Questions Arising	18:50	
6	Community Matters Questions from members of the public can be submitted in advance of the meeting to denhamgxchalfonts@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk	18:55	
7	Buckinghamshire Council Updates Presented by Simon James, Service Director for Education.	19:05	11 - 20
8	Community Board updates Presented by Liz Charter, Community Board Manager, Denham Gerrards Cross and The Chalfonts.	19:15	
9	Date of Next Meeting February 23 rd – Board Meeting via MS Teams January 26 th 6.30pm – Funding Meeting via MS Team	19:25	



Denham, Gerrards Cross & Chalfonts Community Board minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Denham, Gerrards Cross & Chalfonts Community Board held on Wednesday 8 June 2022 in Via Ms Teams, commencing at 6.30 pm and concluding at 7.50 pm.

Members present

S Chhokar (Chairman), M Bracken, T Broom, T Butcher, I Darby, J Rush, A Wood, D Brackin, T Shinner D Bray, H Griffiths, T Patrick Smith, L Hungin, C Stuart-Lee, D Brackin, J Chamberlain, T Greenfield, R Gill, B Holborn, S Kumar Jha, J Walsh, K Dickson, C Jackson, R Massey, J O'Keefe

Others in attendance

D Evans, M Dias, C Gray, S Jefferys, M Bergh, S Weston, M Locke

Agenda Item

1 Chairman's Welcome including Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Members were welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman.

The Chairman confirmed Cllr Jonathan Rush had been appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Community Board.

Marco Dias was acting Community Board Manager alongside Leonie Dale. A permanent appointment would be made in due course.

2 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Vlader, Cllr Bass, Cllr Hollis, Cllr Rouse, Matt Everitt and Cllr Smith.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2022

The minutes of the meeting held 27 January 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

5 Community Matters

The Chairman welcomed updates from Board Members on community activities and projects.

Cllr Tony Shinner provided an update on community matters in Chalfont St Peter.

- The Big Biodiversity Battle which received funding from the Community Board was well underway and had enabled valuable improvements to open spaces. There had been a lot of interest from volunteers such as schools, churches, businesses and local groups.
- The recently opened Memorial Gardens have proved very popular with local residents.
- The Council has received a planning application for a new motorway service station next to the Colne Valley Regional Park which was geographically within Chalfont St Peter.
- There was a request for the Community Board and Highways Team at Buckinghamshire Council to assess Bull Lane in Gerrards Cross and Chalfont St Peter after a potentially fatal road accident involving a young child.
- Over 1500 residents turned out for the lighting of the Queen's Jubilee beacon in the village last Thursday.
- There were several Ukrainian families resettled in the village who have settled into the area well.
- The traffic survey on the A413 conducted by Buckinghamshire Council had been received. The Community Board had assisted with the funding for the survey. There would be an estimated cost of £28,000 to replace speed signage highlighting a reduction from 70mph to 50mph. Further details had been requested.

Cllr David Brackin highlighted the top community priorities for Fulmer Parish Council.

- A top priority was road safety as there had been a number of collisions. Pinewood Studios would assist with funding and whilst the work has been negotiated with Buckinghamshire Council there were concerns about pricing and the quality of the work. Assistance with speed assessments would be appreciated and the parish council were in the process of setting up SpeedWatch and MVAS.
- Another priority was further development of the King George field community hub which provided a positive wellbeing space during the covid19 pandemic. Development of the studio was a priority and further funding would be needed. The Board helped with funding for parking on the verges last year and bike racks had been mounted which were well used.
- There had been a number of complaints received regarding missed waste collections in the area which were due to operational issues. It was requested this issue was escalated at Buckinghamshire Council, although this was currently being addressed by the Cabinet Member.
- Other priorities included improved communications on broadband and attention to developments at Pinewood Studios as a new planning application for further development had been submitted. The full list of priorities was appended to these minutes.

A Member highlighted the parish could obtain devolved responsibility for highway changes, it was agreed further discussion would take place outside of the Board

meeting.

Cllr Michael Bracken advised there had been a large number of very successful events across the Community Board area for the Queens Jubilee and requested a meeting to feedback knowledge and experiences. The Chairman highlighted there was a quarterly meeting for Community Board Chairmen and Parish Councils which would be useful in sharing experiences of events. It was requested the Community Board Manager added this as an item on those meetings in the future.

Cllr Des Bray requested assistance in finding a location for a new community orchard project in Chalfont St Giles. This would be an area for residents to relax and learn about cultivation of fruit trees with the possibility of involving local school children. An application for funding would be submitted to the Board in the near future.

Cllr Isobel Darby highlighted the two upcoming events Chalfont St Giles Show and Feast Day were not led by the Parish Councils. These were very successful and large scale events put on by community organisations therefore, it would be useful to have their feedback as well as Councils. The Community Board would have a pitch and information display at the Chalfont St Giles feast day on 25th June.

Cllr Julia Walsh gave an update on the Denham area, there were 17 Jubilee events across Denham including well attended street parties and the lighting up of the church tower to coincide with the lighting of the Queens Jubilee beacons. It was reported the Denham Scout Hut had been badly burnt by vandals which was a great concern and disappointment to residents and the Parish Council. The fire could have been attributed to gas bottles which had been left on the premise for a considerable amount of time. The Parish Council were liaising with Buckinghamshire Council to discuss options for the site and there was potential for the Community Board to assist with funding an alternative community building.

Jane Chamberlain advised the Board on updates from Chalfont St Giles.

- The HS2 tunnels had been constructed under the village with construction moving towards Amersham next. The Parish Council were liaising with HS2 for funding to refurbish the village pond and playgrounds.
- There had been a focus on traffic calming measures in the village which included raising zebra crossings and making safer walking routes to schools and recreational grounds.
- It had been a busy weekend for the Queens Jubilee celebrations for the events team who arranged a street party in the centre of the village with over 3000 attendees. The Church, Community Orchard and the Parish Council hosted an event on the Saturday which included a brass band and fancy dress.
- The next event upcoming was the Chalfont St Giles Show on 3rd September 2022.

Cllr Andrew Wood gave an update on projects in Gerrards Cross.

- Community safety was a big priority and the installation of CCTV in the area.

Discussions were ongoing with Buckinghamshire Council with the Council seeking further electrical testing. The budget for the project was £35,000 however £70,000 had already been spent. There had been frustrations at the lengthy process and the Parish were liaising with the Highways Manager.

- Cllr Wood advised he attended the task and finish group which was looking at the contract tendering for Transport for Bucks including process improvements. It was noted all options were being explored including more devolved powers for Town and Parishes relating to highways.
- It was advised the Parish raised £11,000 for the Queens Jubilee event on Saturday as sponsorship from local businesses. Parishes were encouraged to seek local business support for future events as £26,000 had already been raised this way for the Christmas lights.

6 Buckinghamshire Council Update

Marco Dias, Localism Manager Buckinghamshire Council provided an update on Buckinghamshire Council.

Thousands of Ukrainian refugees have been welcomed into Bucks and the Council was working alongside strategic partners to help people settle in. The Council has produced welcome packs for sponsors and their guests to ensure they were able to access the right support. There was an internal team at the Council offering localised support, Clare Brown was a sponsor lead who could assist. There was further information online

[A Helping Hand for Ukraine | Buckinghamshire Council](#) or email Ukrainesupport@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Buckinghamshire Council had a designated team to assist residents struggling with the cost of living crisis to help with food and bills.

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/housing-and-benefits/support-with-food-bills-and-finances/>

A dedicated website for carers had been set up with information and support [Support for carers | Care Advice Buckinghamshire](#)

The Buckinghamshire Local Plan survey closed on 11th February with over 3000 responses received. It was anticipated the findings would be published in summer which would be circulated to community groups. There were 330 submissions outlining brownfield sites which could be suitable for housing developments. The online form was available at [Brownfield sites in Buckinghamshire | Buckinghamshire Council](#) to submit further options for brownfield site.

Members were advised to check the [Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space](#) as all Buckinghamshire Council and NHS consultations were published there.

The Localism Manager advised he would raise all the topics highlighted by Board Members to the relevant Service Director.

7 Updates from the previous year

Marco Dias, Localism Manager, Buckinghamshire Council provided an update on the Board's previous years funding and projects, the presentation was appended to these minutes.

- The budget for last year was £222,000, the funds were allocated 25% highways, 15% economic recovery, 15% environmental projects and the remaining for general funding.
- There was £8,000 unallocated funding which was a similar amount to other Community Boards.
- Community Board funding allocated enabled £78,000 of funding from other organisations including town and parish councils to be leveraged. By working in partnership over £290,000 was invested into the local community.
- Environmental projects and highways accounted for £60,000 of the budget respectively. The main beneficiaries of funding included Town and Parish Councils, voluntary and community sectors and other smaller organisations.
- There were a large variety of projects funded including Big Biodiversity Battle in Chalfont St Peter which had a positive impact on the community and the Community Fridge in Chalfont which every month prevented over 1tonne of food from wastage.

A Member requested copies of the slides and information to present at the Chalfont St Peter Feast Day.

8 Forward Planning

Marco Dias, Localism Manager Buckinghamshire Councils provided an update on future priorities and areas of focus for the Board.

- Based on 27 survey responses from March 2022, the key priorities were identified as the environment, health and wellbeing, highways, economic regeneration, opportunities for young people, older people and culture.
- Four action groups had been created with the aim of holistically and proactively setting up projects across Parish and Community Board boundaries. Task and finish groups would aim to deliver the projects or events.
- The funding for Community Boards was half of last year's budget, due to the budget being amalgamated for two years due to covid19. The normal level of funding per year was £114,000 with maximum limit of £20,000 to be spent on highways projects.
- £5,000 was allocated to small grants and Community Board funding applications would seek to be agreed within a maximum of four weeks compared to four to six weeks previously.
- The funding criteria was similar to the previous year however the maximum allocation for a project would be £15,000. Contributory funding was mandatory for projects over £1,000. The funding application was on the Buckinghamshire Council website and any ideas could be discussed with the Community Board Manager.
- The funding applications would be considered in three funding windows and applications received by the end of June would be agreed in July. The budget

would be allocated at three points during the financial year. The leads for current applications being considered would be contacted imminently by the Community Board Manager.

- The calendar of meetings for the year has been mapped out with some dates yet to be decided. The dates for Community Board meetings would be circulated in the newsletter and invites sent for MS Teams. Any persons wishing to join the meetings were asked to get in touch.

A Member queried that previous approved funding applications for Gerrards Cross which were to be carried forward into the new financial year were not showing on the list in the presentation. It was confirmed these should be included on the list and it would be amended.

A query was raised relating to matching the contributory funding from the Community Board by organisations and if this would need to be monetary or the equivalent support work. It was advised in the majority of cases the equivalent monetary value would be matched however there was flexibility. For instance, if the Board provided the funding for equipment the organisation could provide annual maintenance. The applications would be reviewed on a case by case basis.

There would be a new simpler form for applications for funding under £1,000, this would be live on the website by the end of the month.

There was a discussion relating to the allocation of funding for highways and how to get the best value of money from the budget. Seer Green Parish Council had received a quote of £9,000 for 100 yards of yellow lines. It was noted that this budget could deliver a number of highways projects and the costs quoted were quite high.

The Chairman advised action groups and task and finish groups would provide a hybrid approach to bring people together to discuss any initiative or community issues to develop projects. The Community Boards would be able to make decisions advised by the action groups but the Board would still have the final decision on funding.

There was concern from Members the funding for the Community Board was relatively small to enact large changes to the community. Furthermore, concern was raised around the large number of task and finish group meetings for the size of the fund and if these were value for money. The Chairman reiterated the Boards were not just there to provide funds for projects but also to identify community issues and influence new initiatives whilst bringing organisations together.

A Member from Seer Green Parish Council advised their annual precept was less than other local parishes. There was a need to upgrade CCTV in the area and yellow lines to deter parking on certain roads however, the Parish was awaiting feedback from Buckinghamshire Council. It was noted the quote for partial yellow lines on a road was £9,000 which was one fifth of the Parishes annual precept.

There was a request for the Officer from the Community Safety team responsible for CCTV to attend a Board meeting to advise the Parish Councils how to progress these projects.

There had been confusion regarding the application for funding process and if a representative from the Town and Parish Council needed to attend the meeting to put their application forward in person. It was confirmed once an application for funding had been submitted the Community Board Manager would be in contact to discuss the requirements however, it wasn't a necessity for applicants to be present at meetings.

It was highlighted if Town and Parish Councils were seeking double yellow lines on roads they could contact Buckinghamshire Council to arrange a public consultation. Further information on the CCTV camera review was requested. The Community Board Manager confirmed they would look into the status of the CCTV review and endeavour to have the Community Safety Officer responsible attend the next Community Safety and Transport group meeting.

A Member highlighted they were able to have CCTV installed in the local area however there wasn't the capacity for Town and Parishes to monitor the CCTV round the clock.

In response to discussion about the Community Board budget and remit a Member highlighted it was important to be realistic about funding as tackling large scale community issues would cost millions. The Community Boards had been discussed by Members at the Standards and General Purpose Committee and Terms of Reference for Community Boards would be produced and any feedback from Members would be valued.

A Member highlighted the Economic Regeneration action group would meet next week, the first meeting of the financial year. There was a request for Board Members to put forward ideas for projects which could be discussed at the meeting. The Chairman advised the action group may have a name change to incorporate the word business to highlight this as a greater focus of the group.

A Member highlighted the CCTV in their area was saved onto a hard drive and was not monitored live. The CCTV footage and ANPR cameras had proved useful in assisting police target crime.

It was suggested that the Board could identify problems and issues in the local areas first and then set up various action groups to address these community matters. It would be important to use the budget carefully and decide the remit and outcomes of action groups.

9 Town and Parish Council updates

This item was covered in Item 5 Community Matters.

10 Action Group Minutes

The Chairman highlighted the Action Group Minutes had been circulated in the agenda pack for this meeting for Board Members to review.

11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be in the form of a Community Board Event taking place 13 July 2022 6:30pm at Colston Hall, Gerrards Cross.

There would be presentations from projects funded by the Board and local groups would be invited. The Chairman requested Board Members spread the word about the event in particularly to smaller local groups.

It was advised interviews were underway for the vacant Denham, Gerrards Cross & The Chalfonts Community Board Manager post. An appointment would be made in the next week with the successful candidate in post in the next few months.



An update for Community Boards from Buckinghamshire Council Late Summer (September 2022)

**Buckinghamshire Council Update
September 2022**

Help in these difficult times

As we move into autumn there's one issue above all others that stands out and that, of course, is the current cost of living pressures, especially where energy and food bills are concerned.

This is impacting everyone; businesses, residents and particularly those who are already struggling. For some households the prospect of what winter will bring is extremely worrying. Many people are in need now and want to know what extra support is coming in the winter months.

The council is taking a range of actions to help residents with the cost of living and it's a package of support that will continue to develop over the coming months.

The community boards have a critical role to play in this, both in helping to identify areas of need and supporting the provision of help. Work is already in hand looking at how best boards can help with this work where it is appropriate.

Support available to those who need it:

Helping Hand

The council's Helping Hand team offers advice, help and information to people who need it, including financial help to cover the food and energy costs to households in crisis, as well as helping with paying for other essentials like sanitary items and nappies. The team is available to help individuals or families in need, those on low incomes and those who are experiencing a financial emergency or crisis.

Our Helping Hand programme provides support to local individuals and families who are experiencing financial hardship. They can call the team on 01296 531 151 or use the [online contact form](#). You can read more about the help available on the [dedicated section of our website](#).

The Helping Hand team is issuing Post Office vouchers to some 8,000 pensioners in Buckinghamshire who are in receipt of Council Tax reduction or who have previously been supported by Helping Hand; this will ensure there is support available to those who need it most.

‘Welcoming Spaces’

We will be joining forces with other organisations across Buckinghamshire to create a network of welcoming spaces this winter, to assist when the weather turns colder.

Starting with council libraries, these locations will provide a warm, welcoming and supportive space for anyone who needs it. Anyone who comes in from the cold will be welcomed and will be guaranteed respect, dignity and warmth; the aim is to offer a friendly ear and, overall, to create places that help people save on their heating bills and that also offer advice and support. This is an example of an area where community boards can play a key role in working within their communities to identify potential welcoming spaces and help set them up.

Information and advice

Our fantastic network of volunteer groups and charity organisations plays a vital role in providing community support and specialist advice and information. We have created a [‘Cost of Living’ section on our website](#) to make it easier to find advice and information. You can also search our [Family Information Service website](#) for more information on the wider support and advice available to any households that need it.

There are a number of great community projects that offer help in different ways. For example, take a look at the [‘Grow It, Cook It, Eat It’ project](#) that the council supports and we have already seen being developed through community boards. This includes a range of initiatives that help with the cost of food, ensure food isn’t wasted and has a number of health and environmental benefits. Local initiatives like this play a vital part in the overall general support available to residents who need a helping hand.

There is also the support on offer from central government this winter. This is the current package:

- Eligible residents in receipt of disability benefits will receive a £150 cost of living payment from 20 September.
- All households in Great Britain will receive a £400 discount on their electricity bills this winter, applied in six monthly instalments, automatically coming off bills, starting in October.
- In addition to this, households on means tested benefits including Universal Credit, Pension Credit and Tax Credits will receive a Cost of Living payment of £650 this year.

You can find out more about these payments on the government’s website [here](#) and access wider information about the overall support available to households via [their website](#) – this contains information on transport and childcare costs too.

In addition, the websites of the main energy providers contain valuable tips about how to save energy in the home.

Highways – a new contract and what it means for community boards

Maintaining and improving the roads in the county is one of the issues that matter most to residents and is a top priority for Buckinghamshire Council.

As you will be aware, Buckinghamshire Council will be starting new highways contracts in April next year and this will have an impact on community board projects currently in the pipeline. It is also an opportunity to build in a delivery model with community boards in mind.

The current situation

Across all the community boards there are currently about 58 projects which have been agreed and funding committed but are yet to be completed by the outgoing contractor (Transport for Bucks, TfB). The status of these approved projects is as follows:

- 22 projects are rated Green and are scheduled to be completed by the end of March next year
- 10 projects have been rated as Amber and delivered to a gateway stage ready for the new contractor to take forward eg. design, feasibility
- 26 projects are rated as Red and are under review but may not be started at all because of their complexity or the time to implement overlaps with the change in Highway's service provider.

All Amber and Red projects continue to be reviewed with TFB to determine if any can be delivered under the current contract by March 2023. Updates will be provided if the situation changes. Furthermore, the Highways service will work closely with our new service provider to determine if they are able to deliver any amber and red projects prior to the contract start date in April 2023.

There are also about 55 projects that have been proposed with PIDs drafted for which no decision to proceed has yet been taken. These projects will not be taken forward until the new contract has started to ensure that they are priced correctly by the new service provider and firm timescales can be agreed for implementation.

Boards can still reserve funding for these schemes from the current 2022/23 budget, but the final prices will need to be confirmed with our new service provider. You can also continue to discuss highways priorities and solutions.

Balfour Beatty Living Places has been awarded the new highways maintenance contract and the new consultancy contractor will be Atkins. The council will be working with the new contractors and outgoing contractors Ringway Jacobs to ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangements under the name Buckinghamshire Highways.

Looking Forward

As advised already, given the changes to the highway service, Boards should not accept any additional applications highway schemes in 2022/23 and no further projects should be submitted for consideration for 2023/24. Community Boards will be consulted on the development of a new protocol and process for Highway schemes during the transition to the new contract ready for April 23, please therefore keep any new schemes on hold pending the new process for taking these forward.

The new highways working arrangement will include a community-based design delivery model for small schemes specifically for Community Boards to develop their local highway schemes. We will also provide greater clarification on which highway schemes are appropriate for Community Boards to bring forward.

Additionally, and to further help support Community Boards, a 'menu of options' will be developed for small highways schemes that show the indicative prices and implementation timescales for a range of suitable small local highways schemes to better inform the Boards in decision making.

Any partners currently with a live scheme on the RAG list will continue to receive communication from the TfB/project technician and their Community Board Manager, and community boards, Highways and TfB will continue to work closely during the transition.

While we appreciate the delay to delivering schemes will be disappointing, the new approach being adopted does highlight the commitment to the work of the Boards in delivering local highway improvements in the new contract.

Support for Ukrainian guests continues across the county – further help is still needed

Arrivals from Ukraine are still coming into our county with 700 hosts now offering accommodation to over 1,200 Ukrainian guests.

We continue to work hard to make sure the families can access schooling, work, finance, practical items, English language lessons and emotional support through our Helping Hand for Ukraine scheme – further details at [A Helping Hand for Ukraine | Buckinghamshire Council](#).

We recognised the significance of Ukraine Independence Day (24 August) as everyone reflected on their personal journey and loss. The summer break also brought the challenge of keeping our younger guests occupied and this year we offered free holiday activities and food on the HAF scheme and Boredom buster bags from our partners LEAP.

We also continue to work with our voluntary sector colleagues and local community groups, now with an eye on the new challenges coming up. We also have over 150 staff in sponsor liaison roles, in addition to their day jobs, who keep regular one-to-one contact with sponsor households.

We recognise that Ukraine families living in Buckinghamshire will be concerned about what happens when their current sponsorship arrangements come to an end. This is especially a concern for those families that have settled into communities and schools. In some locations, it will be challenging to find alternative accommodation locally due to a lack of availability and high housing costs. We want to help our guests from the Ukraine as much as we can and are looking at solutions which will require all tiers of government, the private and voluntary sector to work together. Options being considered include:

1. Extend with sponsor – If both parties are happy to stay together then once agreed the guests can continue living in the same area and keep their local support network.
2. Rematch with a new sponsor – The Council will help the guests rematch with a new sponsor home or the guests can find their own rematch, although this could mean they would need to move to a different area which would impact on their support networks including schools/employment.
3. Private rental – Guests can look at renting privately if they can afford this. High rents across the south east make finding affordable housing difficult for many. Some guests may be eligible for a Local Housing Allowance to help meet rental costs and we will help them find out if this support is available to them. The Council may also be able to help with a deposit guarantee and one month's rent upfront. Again this could mean guests having to move to a different area if there is no affordable private rental accommodation locally.
4. Social housing – All guests are eligible to apply to join the Council's housing register. However, there is a very high demand for social housing in Buckinghamshire, so depending on the type and size of property they are looking for, there is likely to be a long wait for a property.

On top of the housing issue, there is the cost of living crisis hitting us all – the impact on both hosts and guests is already evident so we are working with central Government to make sure Bucks' residents' voices are heard; tangible, long-term solutions are found; and we can continue to support both our residents and our guests.

Waste and recycling missed bins and garden waste charges

Missed bins

Unfortunately, in some pockets of the former Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe district areas of Buckinghamshire, disruption as a result of re-organising waste rounds continues. Although on average 99.6% of bins are being collected successfully every day since the start of the reorganisation, there are still a significant number of bin collections being missed every week.

Our contractor Veolia continues to work at bringing service levels up to the standard that we expect. The council is continuing to hold Veolia to account for delivering greater progress and meeting the required standard and is closely monitoring the service.

We continue to ask any residents experiencing pockets of poor service to report missed bins on the council website (www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/missed-bin) as soon as they can.

Garden waste charges

New garden waste subscription arrangements began on Monday 26 September. A campaign has been running to raise awareness of the change and the need to subscribe to the service to have garden waste collected from this date. The service is now a single chargeable 'opt-in' garden waste collection service, at a cost of £50 per bin per year (or reusable bags for properties not suitable for wheeled bins).

This means anyone who has previously received free collections of garden waste will now have to subscribe, paying an annual fee to continue receiving fortnightly kerbside garden waste collections from the council. Our household recycling sites continue to provide free disposal of garden waste for anyone not wanting to pay for the subscription service.

More information on how the service works can be found at [Buckinghamshire Council's Arrange a garden waste collection web pages](#).

Community Boards success at County Show

The county show was a fantastic success for the community boards, it was a great opportunity to reach a huge number of residents and also other organisations that we could network with in the future.

The main themes coming through were lack of activities for young people, better bus services including community buses, speeding and litter issues. In addition, we managed to sign up more residents to receive our newsletters.

In summary, it was a great event for us to attend.

Town and Parish Charter

Buckinghamshire Council's Town & Parish Charter was agreed and published on our website in July. This charter is founded on our respect for all councils in Buckinghamshire as independent, democratically accountable bodies and has one simple aim – to articulate and demonstrate our commitment to working together to serve the people of Buckinghamshire.

Community boards have a great record of working with our local councils and this charter is essential reading – you can view it at [Town and Parish Charter | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

Better enforcement for moving traffic offences

Buckinghamshire Council is one of a handful of local authorities in England outside of London to have successfully applied for powers to enforce moving traffic offences (MTOs) that were previously only enforceable by the police. These offences are where drivers ignore restrictions in place at a location – for example driving through a no entry sign, making banned turns, entering a yellow box junction without a clear exit or driving on bus or taxi routes.

The new enforcement powers will make use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology at 14 locations across Bucks. The locations were listed as part of a consultation about support for the council's plan to apply for the powers from February to April 2022; they are places where restrictions have been in place already for some time for road safety reasons or to prevent traffic congestion.

The locations where cameras will start to be installed from December will be highlighted through council communications. Signage will be erected well in advance at the camera locations to give drivers plenty of notice of the enforcement powers.

The cabinet decision can be seen at

<https://buckinghamshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=17388&x=1>

Local Heritage Listings

Buckinghamshire Council is one of 22 local authorities to receive funding to develop a Local Heritage List as part of a national initiative to improve the provision and standard of locally held Lists of Non-Designated Heritage Assets (NDHA). The list seeks to identify locally significant assets and celebrate their contribution to local identity and character.

Developing this list provides a rare opportunity for Buckinghamshire residents to nominate important assets around the county that are not currently listed but that have significant heritage interest. By adding these heritage assets to a Local Heritage List we can ensure their local importance is recognised and taken into account in the planning process.

Once on the list, these assets become known as Non-Designated Heritage Assets (NDHAs). They differ from those sites that have statutory protection and national designations, such as Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Registered Parks and Gardens.

Working with a team of volunteers, we are currently assessing over 2,000 nominations ranging from mileposts, street art and open spaces to historic buildings, water mills and chapels. We intend to adopt a phase one local list this winter, with a phase two in 2023. For more information visit [Home - Buckinghamshire's Local Heritage List \(local-heritage-list.org.uk\)](https://www.local-heritage-list.org.uk) or email localheritagelist@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Current and upcoming consultations

Buckinghamshire Council consultations

All current consultations and surveys from Buckinghamshire Council are available to view on our website <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/>

Where appropriate, we also list NHS consultations and surveys as well.

1. Money Matters - Have your say on Buckinghamshire Council's spending priorities for 2023/24

Opened: 12th October 2022

Closes: 20th November 2022

We are working hard on spending plans for next year. With a really challenging economic climate, with rising energy costs, interest rates and inflation, it's more essential than ever that you tell us how you want your money to be spent.

The costs involved in providing our services have risen sharply due to higher inflation. This makes setting the budget and balancing the books extremely challenging this year.

In considering your response, take time to reflect on the wider needs of the whole of Buckinghamshire in addition to the specific priorities for yourself, your family, your immediate community, your business or your organisation.

You can tell us your views in one of the following ways:

- Complete the online survey at [Money Matters: Have your say on Buckinghamshire Council's spending priorities for 2023/24 - Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space](#)
- Complete, and return, [a printed version of the survey \(PDF 0.27MB\)](#)

You can pick up a paper copy of the survey in one of our [Council Access Points](#), including libraries.

If you have any questions about this activity, please email us at consultations@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

Please tell us your views by midnight on Sunday 20 November 2022.

2. Have your say on a new pattern of wards for Buckinghamshire Council

Opened: 2nd August 2022

Closes: 5th December 2022

New boundaries are being proposed for council wards in Buckinghamshire Council.

The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what residents and local organisations think about the proposals.

The Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It is reviewing Buckinghamshire to make sure:

- councillors will represent about the same number of electors
- that ward arrangements will help the council work effectively

More detail on the proposal and information on how to submit your views can be found here [Have your say on a new pattern of wards for Buckinghamshire Council - Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space](#)

Please give your views by Monday 5 December 2022.

3. Chiltern area car parks Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) consultation 2022

Opened: 31st October 2022

Closes: 28th November 2022

We want to hear your views on our proposal to extend an existing Public Spaces Protection Order in 21 council-controlled car parks in the Chiltern area of Buckinghamshire.

We have a key role to play in helping make local places safe to live, visit and work in. Tackling anti-social behaviour continues to be a high priority for us and our partners.

Public Spaces Protection Orders are aimed at ensuring public spaces can be enjoyed free from anti-social behaviour. They provide us with legal powers to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a defined area.

An extension is being proposed to prevent:

- Occurrence or re-occurrence of the activities identified in the Order, or
- An increase in the frequency or seriousness of the activities identified in the Order

If not extended, the Chiltern area car parks PSPO will expire on 7 April 2023.

More detail on the PSPO and information on how to submit your views can be found here [Chiltern area car parks Public Spaces Protection Order \(PSPO\) consultation 2022 - Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space](#)

4. Proposed changes to home to school transport from September 2023 consultation

Opened: 19th October 2022

Closes: 4th December 2022

We want your views on proposed changes to council-run school bus charges (Spare Seats scheme), our Home to School Transport Policy (0 to 25 year olds) and our Post-16 Transport Policy Statement for 2023 to 2024 to make them easier to understand.

More detail on the policy and the proposed changes, along with information on how to share your views, can be found here [Proposed changes to home to school transport from September 2023 consultation - Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space](#)

Please tell us your views by midnight on Sunday 4 December 2022.

10/11/22: Notification received from The Post Office Limited of Temporary Branch Closure at Hedgerley.

More information can be found here: [Consultation Hub – Hedgerley SL2 3RP](#)

Any questions or comments can be made via the National Consultation Team at:
Postofficeviews.co.uk Comments@postoffice.co.uk FREEPOST
Your Comments Call: 03452 66 01 15
Textphone: 03457 22 33 5