



## Chesham & Villages Community Board minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Chesham & Villages Community Board held on Thursday 28 July 2022 in Via MS Teams - Virtual, commencing at 6.00 pm and concluding at 7.10 pm.

### **BC Councillors present**

P Birchley (Chairman), J Baum, E Culverhouse, J MacBean and N Southworth

### **Town/Parish Councils and other organisations present**

Ms R Fowler (The Lee Parish Council), Ms J Lherbier (Chartridge Parish Council), Ms C Miller (Chesham Town Council), Mr R Watts (Ashley Green Parish Council)

### **Others in attendance**

Ms M Bergh, Ms K Frei (Buckinghamshire Mind), Ms S Horn (Chilterns AONB), Ms D Hulme, Mr C Mcgregor-Paterson (The Oasis Partnership), Ms A Preen (Mama Bee Group), Mr K Wilcox (Action Coach) and Ms S Graham

### **Agenda Item**

#### **1 Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. This meeting today was focused on youth and the next meeting on 27 October would focus on the environment. The Community Board Co-ordinator Ross Tackley welcomed Sue Smith who had replaced David Martin on this meeting representing Chenies Parish Council.

The Chairman referred to the successful in person event on Monday 30 May 2022 held at the Elgiva Theatre in Chesham which included presentations from local businesses and charities and an Award Ceremony.

The notes of the meeting held on 24 February 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **2 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were given including Cllrs Mohammed Fayyaz, Gareth Williams and Chris Brown, Colin Sully, Anne Birkett and Oli O'Neill (Chesham Youth Club), Denise Hawkes (PCSO), Amy Jenner (Senior Community Board Co-ordinator North), Sergeant Roy Evans (TVP), Zoe Sole (Social Prescribing {Project Worker, Oasis Partnership) and Claire Annison (TVP).

#### **3 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **4 Speaker 1: Chesham Youth Council - Presentation on Paris Trip**

Charlotte Miller represented the Youth Council on providing an update to the Board on their trip to Paris which included a presentation on gender equality to Mairie de Houilles as part of the twinning project and a trip to the SITRU incineration plant to look at renewable energy. Networking opportunities were also provided with a Youth Council from Germany who were also there as part of the twinning project and the Youth Centre in Houilles. The Youth Council thanked the Board for an incredible experience.

The Chairman asked about the presentation to the Mairie de Houilles which related to gender equality in education and differences in curriculum, which included non-binary persons. Charlotte commented that it was interesting to see how the UK compared to France and their approach to gender equality. In response to a question from the Vice-Chairman Charlotte commented that it would be useful to feedback on what the Youth Council had learnt in Paris to different schools in the local area and to reflect on this, although it was noted that Chesham and Villages were very progressive in this area.

In terms of future work of the Youth Council they were looking to organise Youth Community awards. In response to a question it was noted that the awards would be split into different areas such as environment, diversity and sport. The Community Board had a small grants fund which could be used for the Awards which hopefully would also be sponsored by local businesses.

Colin McGregor – Paterson from Oasis Partnership reported that it would be helpful to link in with the Chairman of the Chesham Youth Council about opportunities that could be available for partnership work in the future.

Charlotte was thanked for her presentation.

#### **5 Speaker 2: Monica Bergh (Lead Practitioner Youth VCS) - Mama Bee Project**

Monica Bergh provided a presentation to the Board on the Mama Bee Project. Amber Preen (Director of Mama Bee) was also available to answer questions. The Youth Centre had not been operating as normal due to some challenges to manage behaviour and also staffing issues. There were also issues in Chesham that needed to be addressed relating to exploitation of young people.

There were a number of projects operating in Chesham such as working with the theatre and also with LEAP on a Sportivate project which aimed to help bring community cohesion to Chesham, bringing people from different backgrounds together with sustainable sporting activities. Chesham Youth Council were also working in partnership with the Terence Higgins Trust to provide a C-Card walk-in centre for young people and sexual health support. Switch Bucks also provided support for alcohol and substance addiction and support for family and friends and the TreeHouse Project helped young people with mental health issues. Monica commented that it was key that all these projects were co-ordinated to maximum

advantage for Chesham youth. There had been discussions about smaller groups of young people meeting in the Bagnall Centre initially.

The Vice-Chairman reported that she had been appointed on the Chesham Youth Club Management Committee and welcomed meeting with Amber, Monica and Colin regarding future ideas. Alison Piriouet who had undertaken great work for the Management Committee had now retired. The Vice-Chairman thanked Alison for her service to the Committee.

Amber reported that she had submitted some proposals to the Board on bringing services together and engaging young people. Chesham was not exclusive in the fact that there was a reduction in the provision of services for 13-19 year olds and there was a lack of support and training for volunteers. Her proposal was to have a detached 12-week project to re-establish relationships with young people and to break down barriers to engagement. This could lead to drawing them back to the Centre which could then be used in a safe way as a positive engagement space. Working with the other projects mentioned above could also help engagement and expanding services to include careers advice and help with wellbeing. Match funding was available.

The Chairman asked about services in the villages and Monica commented that young people did travel to Chesham for services which also helped with social isolation. The detached project could also be extended to the villages as well. A Member commented that young people could be reliant on parents to bring them into towns as there was no public transport outside school buses. An outreach service in the villages would be helpful. Monica reported that the initial project would focus on Chesham to try and address some of the challenging issues being experienced. Colin reported that the Oasis Partnership did have access to a minibus which was lottery funded but funding for fuel would be required.

Members noted that Newtown Family Centre were running sessions on how to build confidence and self-esteem with a four week course starting week commencing 26 September. A place could be booked by emailing [earlyhelpduty@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelpduty@buckinghamshire.gov.uk). The Centre could also help with any small group work.

The Vice-Chairman reported that this work presented an opportunity for resetting services for young people and the opening of the Youth Centre. She referred to diversionary programmes which the legacy District Council used to run which had been successful. The detached project in collaboration with other projects and partnership work would help deal with a mix of different issues and understanding the landscape. Once the project was underway a presentation could be made to the Chesham Villages Forum.

The Chairman thanked Monica and Amber and the support of partners in this exciting project.

## **6 Formal Community Board Updates**

Ross (Community Board Manager) provided an update on Community Board Funding. At the start of the new financial year the Board had £111,128, £19,512 had been allocated with a remaining budget of £91,616. £15,108 had been allocated for projects. The intention was to allocate £28,000 per quarter and for the first quarter £27,570 had been allocated.

Projects in Q1 were as follows:-

- Chesham Society new website
- Jubilee events
- Chesham Museum exhibition space
- Hats Off ! Festival
- Repair Café PAT machines
- Chesham Youth Council – Paris trip
- Creative Translation Workshop Ukrainian
- Chesham Cricket Club (pending)

The Community event at the theatre had been very successful which had included the Proud of Bucks awards. Reference was also made to the Ley Hill Green Week. An update was given on Ukrainian support. There were two community groups; Hilltops Ukrainian Support Community and Chiltern Sunflower Support. 69 guests had arrived, hosted by 31 sponsors with 17 guests still to arrive, hosted by 8 sponsors. A number of services had been provided including advanced English for adults, music lessons for a Ukrainian boy, cooking evenings and trips. There was one area lead to help provide support and 4 sponsor liaison officers. 1,101 families were now in Buckinghamshire with 646 sponsor families. A Ukrainian newsletter would be provided including information on housing provision after six months. Sarah Graham who represented the Hilltops Ukrainian Support Community (135 guests) reported that they had a coffee morning on Wednesdays. She also commented that intensive English lessons were being provided for children.

The HS2 update would be circulated with the minutes including an update from the Village Forum.

See slides attached to the minutes.

## **7 Community Matters**

The Vice-Chairman and Cllr Southworth reported that as part of local work to create the Chesham Neighbourhood Plan, Chesham Town Council were working with Create Streets to put together a design code to ensure that new development in the town were beautiful, sympathetic to architectural history and enhanced the places people live in. This was a collaborative process, obtaining the views of residents on architectural styles, to create a design code and Neighbourhood Development Orders which ensured that new buildings reflect and were sympathetic to what Chesham residents want to see in future building styles and form. The link below included an interactive map so that residents could share their favourite and least

favourite buildings, (whether this was their brick work, detailing, arches, eaves or anything else).

<https://communities.createstreets.com/Chesham>

There was also a consultation on regenerating the play areas in Lowndes Park. Comments should be made before the 31st August 2022, when the consultation survey would close.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/lowndesparkplayareas>

## **8 Board Discussion and Action Points**

Colin McGregor-Paterson reported that a Prosperity Fund had replaced the European Social Fund and that the Oasis Partnership had submitted a bid to help improve employment opportunities. The Board had contributed £9,000 of funding. He would provide the Board with further updates.

Kat Frei reported that Bucks Mind were undertaking some projects with schools including those in the villages to help mental health; this included weekly toolkits and sessions during the holidays. She commented that this was an area to pursue including resilience particularly following the pandemic.

The Community Board Co-ordinator referred Members to the Board funding which was being supplied in quarters. The funding for young people had ended this current quarter and the next funding quarter would focus on the environment. Members were referred to a recent Cabinet report on the Buckinghamshire Levelling Up Framework where the focus of the programme would be in Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Chesham. Local action plans to tackle five themes would be developed for each area through engagement with communities led by the Community Boards (Education and Skills, job and careers, quality of public realm, standard of living and health and wellbeing).

With reference to the Ukrainian families a Member emphasised the importance of using Bucks Adult Education Service. Reference had already been made to the English lessons taking place in the area.

## **9 Date of Next Meeting**

27 October 2022 at 6pm

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## Community Board Chesham and Villages

### **Funding Summary Report: July 2022**

This paper provides a summary of the funding applications received this financial year with a status update.

#### **Community Board Budget Overview**

This table details the current budget position for the Chesham & Villages Community Board.

Year	Budget	Allocated	Remaining Budget	Projects in the Pipeline/Process
2022/2023	£111,704	£11,162	£100,542	£19,708

#### **Funding Applications Status Summary**

Scheme Name	Scheme Description	Amount	Status and Updates
Chesham Society	Website for locals and tourism	£8,350	Awaiting Board decision
Chesham Cricket Club	Improvements to local community	£8,058	More info still required
Latimer/Ley Hill Parish Council Jubilee Event	Funding towards jubilee events to take place on Ley Hill Common, including entertainment	£450	Approved
Chiltern AONB	Contribution towards resignage Cross-board application	Awaiting cost	Pre-application Further info received Discussions to be held with Boards
Oasis Partnership Jubilee Event	Contribution to Jubilee Event - materials	£500	Approved
Cholesbury PC	Contribution to Jubilee Event	£370	Approved
The Lee PC	Contribution to Jubilee Event	£250	Approved
Chesham Museum	Exhibition space	£1,000	Approved
Restore Hope	Portacabin Makeover	£1,000	Application received Awaiting further info

Movers 'n' Shakers Covid Recovery Scheme		£1,000	Invite to complete application
Chesham Connect	Hats Off! Festival	£2,000	Approved
Chesham Connect	Revit Group	£Awaiting (likely 2000)	Pre-application
Chesham Repair Café	2 x new PAT testing machines	£492	Approved
Chesham Youth Council	Youth Trip to Paris	£2,800	Approved
The White Hill Centre (Friday Bowls/Pioneer Bowlers)	Seeking £1350 towards purchasing two new (medium-paced) bowls mats. 50 members of mixed male/female. One group is partially sighted.	£1,300	Proceed to CB
Stephen Spender Trust	Project on creative translation in all pupils in year 5 at five primary schools in Board area, focusing on Ukrainian translations and culture	£3,300	Approved

**Notes**

Budget £111,704

Per quarter spend (25%) £27,926

Q1 – Apr, May, June

Q2 – July, Aug, Sept

Q3 – Oct, Nov, Dec

Q4 – Jan, Feb, Mar



## HS2 update for the Chesham & Rural Villages Community Board: July 2022

*This update focusses on the **impact of HS2 construction work on the Chesham and Villages Community Board area**. A more detailed presentation of **HS2 construction activities in the whole of the Chilterns**, made by Keith Hoffmeister of the Chiltern Society in July 2022, can be found at [22 07 HS2 Update for the Chiltern Society - YouTube](#)*

*Buckinghamshire Council's July HS2 update on '**What is Buckinghamshire Council doing on behalf of residents?**' can also be found here: [Update on HS2 from Buckinghamshire Council](#).*

1. Summary of current local construction work affecting the Community Board area  
2022 has seen significantly more HS2 construction activity in the local area than we saw in 2021, with all the associated lorry movements.

a) Align – Main Works C1 (Hillingdon to South Heath)

- The two **tunnel boring machines** are due to arrive at the North Portal at South Heath in early 2024, having linked-up with the ventilation shafts in the Chalfonts, at Amersham and Little Missenden, and the intervention shaft at Chesham Road.
- **At South Heath**, the construction of 'barrettes' (deep concrete piles) has begun to support the Chiltern tunnel as it comes to the surface through the friable chalk.

b) EKFB – Main Works C2 (South Heath to Brackley)

- Excavation work continues at the North Portal of the Chiltern tunnel **at South Heath**, and in the cuttings heading north through **The Lee**.
- **Internal access roads** from South Heath through to Rocky Lane have been completed to facilitate this excavation and keep some construction traffic off the A413.
- Work has started on the foundations for the **Wendover Dean and Small Dean viaducts** and **Rocky Lane under bridge**.
- **A temporary conveyor** is being built over the A413 at London Road, near the bottom of Rocky Lane to carry some of the spoil from the cuttings over the A413 and the Chiltern Railway. This is expected to start operation in September 2022.
- **Leather Lane** A local campaign group is trying to improve the ecological mitigation in this area by challenging the design of the overbridge and the re-aligned lane. At the time of writing these issues have not been resolved. Meanwhile, the actions of this group have already resulted in some re-thinking by EKFB of the alignment of the lane and over bridge and a significant number of trees will be 'saved'.

Construction work will continue at all these sites until at least 2025, when the handover of sections is due to begin to the (yet-to-be-appointed) rail-systems contractors, who will install the track, signals, catenaries and lineside equipment.

## 2. Summary of construction impacts and mitigation

Most of the above works fall within the neighbouring Missendens and Wendover Community Board areas, but the impacts - particularly on the roads - are felt keenly by residents of The Lee and others

within the Chesham and Rural Villages Community Board area. These impacts continue to cause many concerns, including:

- The volume of **HS2 traffic on the A413** (the official construction route for all sites between Amersham and Stoke Mandeville) continues to increase. We await an announcement of the result of Bucks Council's appeals over decisions regarding HS2's local construction routes.
- The impact of **HS2 traffic using other roads** in the area. We continue to see and hear reports of HS2 construction traffic using non-approved routes and further enforcement and signage has been requested of the contractors.
- **Bowood Lane** has been closed to all vehicles from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 for at least 18 months.
- **Rocky Lane** and **Leather Lane** have also been the subject of frequent closures over the past six months, and complaints have been made to EKFB and HS2 Ltd about their lack of concern about the impact of the cumulative effect of road and lane closures in the area on local communities.

As a result, the period of the lane closures on Rocky Lane in July was reduced by reopening when the work moved further away from the road, and the July/August full closure has been deferred by EKFB so that they can "review the method of working". There is a possibility that the full closure (previously planned for five weeks) may be reduced in impact by the replanning. This is a small sign that the project managers are finally starting to think, albeit in an extremely limited way, about the impact on residents and not just on the project's needs

- Information on **Non-HS2 traffic 'rat-running'** on rural lanes because of the frequent closures in the area, is now being collated and discussed on a regular basis.
- As the programme of works accelerates, there are also increasing concerns about the extent that the project is relying on **extended hours of working**. It appears that Main Works Contractors are using the extended hours provisions of Sch 61 to 'catch-up' on delays to the project, which is not what local communities believe was envisaged in the Act. Further discussion with Bucks officers has been requested on this issue.
- At the top of Bowood Lane, the project has supposedly completed its first piece of major **tree planting in the AONB**. Local parish and county cllrs have raised concerns with HS2 Ltd about the poor management of this ecological mitigation.
- The closure of many **footpaths in the area** continues to give rise to confusion for walkers and a further review of signposting has been requested. The footpath carrying the **Chiltern Way** through this area is supposed to remain open (albeit diverted). There has recently been some confusion over this with security contractors apparently failing to abide by this decision.

These topics have become regular points of discussion at local liaison meetings.

### 3. Local engagement

The framework for regular engagement by BC Officers and Cllrs, and Town and Parish Cllrs with HS2 Ltd and their contractors, to run alongside the statutory engagement processes, continues to evolve.

- Local County Cllrs are now meeting on HS2 as a 'Members Interest Group'.
- Parish Councils and local County Cllrs have regular engagement with the contractors' Community Engagement Managers, and others as necessary.
- Face-to-face open events are now taking place again and we are seeing regular visits to the area by the EKFB mobile visitors' centre (MVC). *[The next scheduled visits by the MVC are at Butler Cross (27<sup>th</sup> July) and the Bucks Show (1<sup>st</sup> September).]*



## An update for Community Boards from Buckinghamshire Council Summer (July to September 2022)

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

Over the last few months there has been an outpouring of support for our Ukrainian guests from our communities, alongside the work that we at the council are doing. We now have over 1,100 Ukrainian guests with more than 600 still expected to arrive.

The community boards have been central to our efforts and have achieved so much across the county. Highlights include:

- More than 60 people gathering at a local pub to welcome and make new friends and share stories.
- Working with the community to put together welcome packs including food parcels, toiletries, vouchers from supermarkets and cafes, free eye test, donated gifts, clothing, toys, tech equipment, and SIM cards.
- Coffee mornings with talks covering a wide range of subjects including trauma, fraud, banking and life in the local area.
- Weekly lunch sessions where professionals help support both the host families and Ukrainian friends with various issues.
- Helping to secure funding for Ukrainian professionals – so far funding has been secured for a doctor and an accountant to take the relevant exams to practise here in Buckinghamshire.
- English classes.
- A social event led by a group of Ukrainian guests to celebrate summer solstice.
- A weekly yoga class led by one of the Ukrainian guests.

There's a dedicated area on our website for anyone who would like to know more about how they can help/get involved – check out [‘Helping Hand for Ukraine’](#)

### Support with food, bills and finances – Helping Hand and Holiday Activity Fund

As we approach the summer holidays, this is a timely reminder that we have support available for families and individuals in need, those on low incomes and those who are experiencing a financial emergency or crisis.

Our Helping Hand team can help if you – or someone you know:

- are struggling to afford food
- cannot keep on top of your bills
- are in debt

- are struggling to pay for essential goods in your home.

Find out more about our Helping Hand team and how they can [support with food, bills and finances](#). Our #backontrack scheme offers practical advice and support for people experiencing money difficulties: [Money problems - advice and support if you are struggling to make ends meet | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

Using the Government Household Support Fund, the Helping Hand team will be providing £50 Digital Food Vouchers to eligible children and young people to support families over the summer holidays. These vouchers will be distributed through schools in July.

We also have our Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme for children who receive benefits-related free school meals. Further information can be found at [HAF information for families | Family Information Service \(buckinghamshire.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Community boards will be at the county show on 1 September**

The Bucks County Show is happening on Thursday 1 September at Weedon Park on the outskirts of Aylesbury for the first time since 2019, before the lockdown.

This action-packed one-day event includes a whole range of summer activities for all the family, from the traditional livestock competitions, horse of the year show and showjumping, freestyle motorcycle display, to the gentler arts of home and garden skills.

Buckinghamshire Council will be having one big combined stand highlighting that we are one unified organisation supporting residents in so many different aspects of their lives.

Of course the community boards are central to that support. The managers are working together to plan the community board stall that will raise their profile, show some of the many successful projects carried out and encourage people to get involved with their communities through the boards. There will also be fun activities for the younger visitors!

## **Update on the £150 council tax energy rebate**

Over 80% of the £150 council tax rebates to help offset rising fuel costs have been paid to eligible households. There is also an additional discretionary £25 Helping Hand top-up which Buckinghamshire Council is paying to householders who are on specific benefits.

Anyone who pays their council tax by direct debit should have received their rebate automatically. Anyone who pays by another method is required to claim their rebate – details can be found at <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/council-tax/150-council-tax-energy-rebate/how-to-claim-the-council-tax-energy-rebate/>

Claimants have until August 2022 to supply their bank details enabling the council to pay directly into their bank account. There is funding available for all eligible properties.

From Monday 1 August householders will not be able to supply their details and all those households that have not claimed will receive a £150 voucher instead, which can be cashed at any post office.

## Bucks Online Directory

A reminder that the Bucks Online Directory is a great place to publicise any community events, support groups, activities and services to local people. And please do share the link with anyone who may benefit from the information provided:

[Find activities, groups and services near you | Bucks Online Directory | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

## Current and upcoming consultations

### Buckinghamshire Council consultations

A reminder that 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.

Here are current and upcoming consultations that are relevant to specific community boards:

Buckingham & Villages (meeting 6 July)

- [Buckingham Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order \(PSPO\) consultation 2022 - Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space](#) (closes 11 July)
- [Winslow and Steeple Claydon PSPO](#) (closes 11 July)
- [Aylesbury Vale Parks and Open Spaces Public Spaces Protection Order \(PSPO\) consultation 2022 - Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space](#) (closes 25 July) (*Buckingham & Villages is the only relevant board that is meeting before the closing date*)

High Wycombe (meeting 13 July)

- Bellfield Road (High Wycombe) reserved matters consultation (due to launch 11 July)

Missendens (meeting 14 July)

- [Land off Amersham Road Development Brief](#) (closes 18 July)

Winslow & Villages (meeting 28 July)

- [Winslow Neighbourhood Plan](#) (closes 11 Aug)
- Drayton Parslow Neighbourhood Plan (due to launch 14 July)
- Mursley Neighbourhood Plan (due to launch 4 Aug)

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# Community Board Funding

Year	Budget	Allocated	Remaining Budget	Projects in the Pipeline/Process
2022/2023	£111,128	£19,512	£91,616	£15,108

## Notes

Budget £111,128

Per quarter spend (25%) £27,782

Quarter	Allocated	Pipeline Spend	Total
Q1 Apr, May, June	£19,512	£8,058	£27,570
Q2 Jul, Aug, Sept		£7,050	
Q3 Oct, Nov, Dec			
Q4 Jan, Feb, Mar			
<b>Totals</b>			

# Projects in Q1

- Chesham Society New Website (£8,350)
- Jubilee Events (£1,570)
- Chesham Museum Exhibition Space (£1000)
- Hats Off! Festival (£2000)
- Repair Café PAT machines (£492)
- Chesham YC – Paris trip (£2,800)
- Creative Translation Workshop Ukrainian (£3,300)
- *Chesham Cricket Club – pending*







# Ley Hill Green Week



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**UKRANIAN  
COMMUNITY  
HUB**

**10AM  
TILL 12.30PM  
EVERY  
FRIDAY**

St Mary's  
Church Rooms  
Chesham  
HP51HY

Access via Lowndes  
Park through the  
iron gate at the end  
of the park's main  
walkway, and also  
from Church Street.

Further information  
Tel: 07759 026098  
[info@chilternsunflowersupport.org.uk](mailto:info@chilternsunflowersupport.org.uk)



**Chiltern Sunflower  
Support**

Invite Ukrainians, their hosts  
and supporters to our  
weekly Ukrainian Community  
Hub.

Join us to access support,  
learn about local services  
and ask questions.

Make and meet friends, with  
refreshments and activities  
for children and young  
people.



**Hilltops Ukrainian  
Support Community**

# Ukraine Update – Chesham and Villages



Guests arrived  
**69**



Hosted by  
**31** Sponsors

## Coming soon

- Newsletter for guests
- Housing information  
(County-wide communications)

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Guests to arrive  
**17**



Hosted by  
**8** Sponsors

6 ready for guests

2 awaiting checks

## Chesham Ukraine Team

Area lead



SLOs volunteers

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