



Chesham & Villages Community Board agenda

Date: Thursday 27 October 2022

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Via MS Teams - Virtual

Membership:

P Birchley (Chairman), J Baum, Q Chaudhry, E Culverhouse, M Fayyaz, J MacBean, N Southworth, M Stannard and G Williams

Agenda Item	Time	Page No
1 Chairman's Welcome	18:00	
2 Apologies for Absence		
3 Declarations of Interest		
4 Minutes of last meeting		3 - 8
5 Chiltern Conservation Board Speaker - Steph Horn	18:10	9 - 12
6 Sustainable Chesham Speakers – Trevor Brawn/ Vicki Mistry	18:25	
7 Formal Community Board updates Funding Summary Homes for Ukraine Scheme Levelling Up: Opportunity Bucks Welcome Spaces	18:40	
8 Community Matters Consultations, Public Questions, Petitions New Service Director (Kevin Goad) Buckinghamshire Council Updates Save Leather Lane – questions on report	18:55	13 - 26

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| 9 | Board Discussion and Action Points | 19:05 |
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| 10 | Date and theme of next meeting
Thursday 26 th January 2023, 6pm online
Theme: Economic Development | 19:20 |

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: Ross Tackley (Community Board Manager). Clare Gray (Democratic Services Support) on 01296 387477, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



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. 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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River Chess 'Smarter Water Catchment' Project

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Agenda Item 5

CHILTERN'S CHALK STREAMS PROJECT



CHILTERN'S
CONSERVATION BOARD



CHILTERN'S
CHALK STREAMS
PROJECT

What is a Smarter Water Catchment?

Smarter:

Water:

Catchment:



Delivery Team



Research Officer –
Professor Kate Heppell



Catchment
Co-Ordinator –
Steph Horn



Chess Farming
Officer –
Josh Biddle



Engagement Officer –
Piers Brown



Citizen Science Co-Ordinator –
Hannah Parry-Wilson
Start Date 31/10/22

Working in partnership



Environment
Agency

AffinityWater



Herts &
Middlesex
Wildlife Trust



Queen Mary
University of London

River Chess strategy



Year	Budget (Funded by Thames Water)
1-5	£3,000,000
6-10	TBC

Projects:

Year 1

- State of the River Chess - <https://bit.ly/3dw52Ee>
- Created 800m of fencing for water voles

Year 2

- Increased capacity for water quality monitoring
- Began training Citizen Science Volunteers

Next steps

- Expand - Tracking the Impact <https://www.chilternsaonb.org/tracking-the-impact.html>.
- Increase on the ground delivery





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 underhand looking at how best boards where it is appropriate can help with this work.

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 already been awarded the new highways maintenance contract and the new consultancy contractor will be announced in late September. 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.

Community Board Chairmen have been invited to a Highways Stakeholder Conference on 13th October.

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 Board 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](#).

New on-demand PickMeUp service for Wycombe

Described as a cross between a bus and taxi service, a new 'demand responsive' service was launched by the council and Carousel on 27 September in the High Wycombe area as part of a pilot scheme funded by the Government's Rural Mobility Fund. The trial service will run for three years, with scope to run for longer if successful, and an Aylesbury pilot is due to launch later in the autumn.

Sitting under Carousel's 'PickMeUp' brand, the Wycombe pilot will serve several communities, including Booker, Daws Hill, Wooburn Green, Wycombe Marsh, Loudwater and Downley. These either have a limited bus service or a route which only serves part of the community. The PickMeUp service will also improve access to areas with steeper gradients.

Users will be able to book one of five fully accessible minibuses to collect them either directly from their home, or from one of the 500+ pickup points in the local area. Ideal for those who may not have access to a bus stop either by their home, or a service that operates direct to their desired destination, the DRT service is quick and easy to use for commuters, students, and people with accessibility issues.

Buses can be booked in advance of a trip via an app (through which passengers can also pay for tickets and track buses in real time) or by calling 01494 296021. Buses can be booked in advance, or on the day of travel, and will run from Monday to Friday, 6am-7pm. Journeys will only cost a little more than a local bus service – between £2 and £3.50 per trip depending on distance travelled, and concessionary bus passes will be accepted for free travel.

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?MId=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 \(local-heritage-list.org.uk\)](http://Home-Buckinghamshire's-Local-Heritage-List-local-heritage-list.org.uk) or email localheritagelist@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Current and upcoming consultations

Share your community safety concerns to help us keep Buckinghamshire safe

The [Safer Buckinghamshire Board](#) is a local Community Safety Partnership that brings together experts from the police, fire service, probation, health and social care services. The board develops an annual action plan to reduce crime in Buckinghamshire and help keep it a safe place to live and work.

To develop this plan, the Safer Buckinghamshire Board is conducting an annual Community Safety survey to hear resident views on:

- The impact of crime, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol issues where you live or work
- Your experience of reporting crimes
- How safe or unsafe you feel in Buckinghamshire

The survey is open to anyone living or working in Buckinghamshire and is **running until Sunday 16 October**. Have your say and complete the survey below for a chance to win a £100 supermarket voucher*: <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/communities/safety-2022>. The results of the survey will be combined with an analysis of all crimes that happen in the county to help Safer Bucks set priorities for the year. *Terms and Conditions apply

Buckinghamshire Council consultations

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.

Hazlemere Neighbourhood Plan – Publication of plan proposal – Regulation 16 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

Hazlemere Parish Council has produced a Draft Neighbourhood Plan covering the entire parish area. The reason we are writing to you is because you have previously commented on the neighbourhood plan, or are a statutory body we need to inform.

The Neighbourhood Plan is being publicised in advance of an examination. The consultation period runs until midnight on the 10th November 2022.

The neighbourhood plan documents, comment form and further information can be found on the Your Voice Bucks website:

<https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/planning/hazlemere-neighbourhood-plan/>

Please note all comments must be received before midnight on 10th November 2022. Any comments received after this time will not be accepted or taken into account.



20th October 2022

Report from the Campaign to Save Leather Lane

We would like to submit this update from the Campaign to Save Leather Lane (the "Campaign") in advance of the Chesham and Villages Community Board Meeting on 27th October.

The campaign was created by local residents in February/March 2021 when residents at Leather Lane, the Lee, first became aware of the threat to the entire row of 99 veteran oak trees that line the ancient Holloway of Leather Lane.

Combined efforts from Carol-Anne O'Callaghan and her family, along with Lindsey Spinks from Lawyers for Nature and local councillors managed to stop the felling of these trees on 17th March 2021.

HS2's subcontractor EKFB stopped work after 3 trees came down at the haul road. Residents Jim Ashton and Carol-Anne then took the opportunity to set up Anabat readers which recorded very high levels of bat activity - over 7 species of bats that use Leather lane as a commuting corridor including the endangered barbastelle bat.

The reason the trees were under threat is because HS2 had designed the over road (to take the Lane over the track) on the Southern side where all the rich Ecology lies. At the HS2 Bill's committee stage local campaigners insisted that the over road should be built to the North, which is a field with far less ecology and therefore far less impact. This was, however, turned down on spurious grounds. At this time no surveys had been carried out and was therefore not available.

In May last year, the campaign started to engage with local councillors, groups and EKFB to push for an over road to the north in order to save the rich ecology and wildlife corridor to the south. As part of this work, the Campaign has carried out ongoing bat surveys, engaged with experts, including a local engineer from

JNP in Chesham in order to produce a design to the North and expert ecologists to support their ecological and legal arguments.

The fact is that HS2 did not carry out adequate surveys prior to the passing of the HS2 act - we believe that this information was required at the time the bill was presented to Parliament and that adequate surveys should have been presented in order for HS2 and the Government to make an informed decision regarding designs and, most importantly, to keep their legal commitments as required by the Mitigation Hierarchy and other key requirements which were incorporated in to the Environmental Statement.

The Campaign has effectively carried out the work of HS2 and other groups in conducting surveys and providing vital push back and accountability to ensure that HS2 adhere to the law and minimise damage in the Chilterns AONB.

We have done this with a lot of good will, mainly from our team and also from the public who have contributed to our Crowdfunder to enable us to pay for our costly design engineer, ecologists and legal/campaign advice.

However, we are now out of resources and at a critical time of the campaign where we feel that we still have a chance to: a. Save Leather Lane and re-route the over road to the North and b. Save Ilona the lone oak as a result of our recent campaign.

The Campaign has:

1. Stopped HS2 felling the entire line of Oaks - 87 remain;
2. Presented strong ecological and legal arguments to preserve the remaining 87 Oaks of Leather Lane and held HS2/EKFB to account;
3. Provided a workable engineering design for the North side at huge cost to the Campaign and Campaigners;
4. Ensured that EKFB now carry out bat surveys throughout the summer of 2022 as required by law following expert guidance;
5. Ensured EKFB review their design for the South side in light of our Ecology case and as a result they have reduced the number of remaining trees they would fell;
6. Held HS2 to their Design Principles submitted at committee stage to preserve the Holloway and intervened with BCC to ensure the lane remains a single track lane with passing places not a 60mph two lane road;
7. Engaged with EKFB and their engineers who agree that the Campaign's design IS a workable solution.
8. Our civil engineer presented our design (known as Option 7) and there was detailed discussion of engineering points, comparing Option 7 with EKFB's option, which concluded that our Option 7:
 - Saves more trees (in fact it saves all the remaining 87 veteran oak trees);

- Crosses the line at right angles, so is cheaper to execute;
- Will require adjustments to a transformer location and landscaping; and
- Meets all the required engineering parameters.
- Both designs are outside of LoD, so the same issue applies to both designs;
- MPATS accessibility consideration applies to both designs;
- Out Option (Option 7) appears to be cheaper and would save more trees and protect the remaining wildlife and bat corridor.

This last point is most important: it allows Bucks Council to refuse an application to build the bridge currently proposed by EKFB as the development “could reasonably be carried out elsewhere”. Therefore BCC have a legal basis upon which they should reject any Sch 17 application for a North side design which fells any more trees.

9. Ensured that EKFB adhere to the Construction Exclusion Zone in order to protect the remaining trees on Leather Lane. Action has been taken and needs monitoring.
10. We have consulted with the UK’s top bat experts who provided reports that were submitted to EKFB when they were due to fell trees for the Track Trace last summer. As a result, we managed to pause felling at the Track Trace to ensure that Mitigation for the fragmentation of the wildlife corridor was considered and put in place. This was carried out in consultation with Bucks County Council and requires ongoing monitoring and pressure on EKFB to fulfil their commitments made at the meeting on 18th May 2022.
11. We continue to engage and defend Ilona the Lone Oak and question flimsy claims from EKFB/HS2 re bunds and the need to fell her [see our previously circulated letter and we will shortly be issuing a second letter with support].
12. We have now led 3 successful bat walks allowing local people young and old to come and see and hear for themselves the bats of Leather Lane, including the endangered Barbastelle bat, which we have recorded on the Lane using bat detectors.
13. We are applying for charitable status as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Current Situation:

We have continued to palace Anabat readers on Leather Lane throughout the summer and have sent survey results to our Ecologists for analysis.

We are pressing for EKFB to share their survey results and intend to have a meeting to follow up from our meeting in May to determine the activity of bats on Leather Lane.

We are putting pressure on HS2 to stop felling Ilona the lone oak at the top of Leather Lane. We are engaging with the GMPC and local groups on this matter. We have sent a letter with support from local groups and initiated a public campaign where some 200 people (mostly locals) wrote directly to Mark Thurston. As a result, HS2 are now reconsidering their flimsy landscape designs.

We are holding an event on 29th October for Ilona with local and national groups and press to which you are invited.

We intend to share the framework of our success with other groups in order to protect Ecology, Heritage and Biodiversity at a time of Climate Change and great threat to our future.

We believe that collaboration is key.

Yours Sincerely

Lindsey Spinks (LLB)Hons

On Behalf of the Campaign to Save Leather Lane