



Chesham & Villages Community Board agenda

Date: Thursday 26 January 2023

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: [Click here to join the meeting](#)
Via MS Teams - Virtual

BC Councillors:

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

Town/Parish Councils and other organisations:

- Ashley Green
- Chartridge
- Chenies
- Chesham
- Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards
- Latimer & Ley Hill
- The Lee

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the monitoring officer at monitoringofficer@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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 Co-ordinator). Clare Gray (Democratic Services Support) on 01296 387477, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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1	Chairman's Welcome	18:00	

2	Apologies for Absence		
3	Declarations of Interest		
4	Minutes of last meeting		3 - 8
5	Bucks Fire and Rescue presentation	18:05	
6	Opportunity Bucks - Chesham ward visit Presented by Cllrs Mike Stannard, Qaser Chaudhry and Nick Southworth	18:20	
7	Your Chesham Magazine Presented by Cliff Davies	18:35	
8	Mama Bee Project Feedback Presented by Amber Preen	18:45	
9	Community Board updates Presented by Ross Tackley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding Summary & Projects - Proud of Bucks Awards - Homes for Ukraine scheme 	18:55	
10	Community Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultations, Public Questions, Petitions (Kevin Goad) - Buckinghamshire Council Updates - HS2 Update 	19:05	9 - 14
11	Board Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updates for each Board Member (Unitary Councillors) - Update from Villages Forum (Chris Brown) 	19:15	
12	Date of Next Meeting Community Engagement Event and Proud of Bucks Awards Thurs 27 th April 2023 (venue tbc)	19:30	



Chesham & Villages Community Board minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Chesham & Villages Community Board held on Thursday 27 October 2022 in Via MS Teams - Virtual, commencing at 6.00 pm and concluding at 7.14 pm.

BC Councillors present

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

Town/Parish Councils and other organisations present

Ms J Lherbier (Chartridge Parish Council), Mr C Sully (The Lee Parish Council) and Mr R Watts (Ashley Green Parish Council)

Others in attendance

Ms J Lherbier (Chartridge Parish Council), R Tackley, Mr K Wilcox (Action Coach) and K Farooqi.

Agenda Item

1 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed attendees to the meeting. The Chairman highlighted the attendance of Kevin Goad, Director of Highways and Technical Services at Buckinghamshire Council. Kevin was the Community Board's new corporate director who replaced Steve Bambrick. The focus of this meeting was the environment.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mike Stannard, Cllr Ruth Fowler and Vicki Mistry from Sustainable Chesham.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 28th July were agreed as an accurate record.

5 Chiltern Conservation Board

Steph Horn from Chiltern Conservation Board gave a presentation on the Chess Smarter Water Catchment project. The slides were appended to these minutes.

The following points were highlighted:

- The project received funding from Thames Water as part of an initiative to

look at catchment based approaches and different issues in the area.

- The Chess river channel and water inside the catchment was land surrounding. The project would aim to improve water quality by working with farmers to change land management practices.
- The team leading on the project included Kate Heppell from St Marys University, a farming officer, engagement officer and a citizen science co-ordinator.
- The six key themes of the River Chess Strategy were improving water quality, managing flow, control of invasive non-native species, improving wildlife corridors, involving people and working together. Funding of £3million was available for the first five years of the project. The project was currently in year two of delivery.
- The first year involved documenting the state of the River Chess and assessing data from multiple sources and included recording the day zero understanding. The aim was to promote greater biodiversity whilst building on historic improvements made to the river catchment. New fencing had been installed to prevent cattle crouching for water and squashing the river banks vegetation. This had improved biodiversity and encouraged wildflowers to grow attracting bees and butterflies.
- The key activities in the second year of the project included greater capacity for water monitoring, volunteer's citizens' science project, land surveys, assessing contaminates, monitoring interventions put in place and river restoration project. Volunteers had been trained to undertake surveys for the project with intake increased due to popularity within the community.
- The next steps of the project would include expanding tracking the impact project, working with Chilterns Conservation Board, monitoring of butterflies and birds to inform the catchment and help understand the ANOB. There would be an increase in ground delivery and additional work with volunteer groups, land owners and charities.

Further information on the project and catchment area could be found at: <https://chesssmarterwatercatchment.org/>

A grant of up to £5,000 was available to improve the area in the Chess catchment: <https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=f9a249e15a8340eb84dcf3b69203dce3&extent=-0.8043,51.615,-0.3467,51.7939>

A member of the Board highlighted the flow of the river, it was advised work was underway with partners to achieve a better flow. There was a government initiative relating to chalk streams and ways to abstract water lower down the river to protect biodiversity.

The issue of sewage in the river was highlighted and what steps the water companies were taking to address this. It was advised Thames Water had an environmental project researching this issue. It was anticipated further information would be available in November regarding Chesham sewage treatment works.

Trevor Brawn from Sustainable Chesham provided an update on projects and initiatives, further information was appended to these minutes.

The following points were highlighted:

- The Repair Café Chesham successfully hosted twelve events with 232 items checked and 154 successfully repaired. The café took place the last Saturday of each month and hosted a variety of repairers with different skills. Alongside the repair café local produce was available. The Community Board funded the café to purchase a portable appliance testing kit as half of the items brought to the café were electronics. The next event would be held on 26th November at Chesham Town Hall from 10am-1pm.
- The Zone 9 Cycling Group were highlighting safer cycling in an attempt to encourage new cyclists, promote better health and reduce pollution. The aim was to make Chesham a location hub for walking, e-bikes and cycling whilst being wheelchair friendly.
- A sustainable fashion kids Swish event would be held in the new year at Chesham Town Hall. The free event would allow attendees to bring up to five items of clothing aged 3-12 in exchange for five items to take away.
- Sustainable Chesham was working with Chesham Town Council to increase biodiversity across the community. Wildflowers had been planted in the Meadows, Berkhamsted playing fields and Co-op fields. The team were also developing relationships with local schools in an effort to improve field management. There were 875 trees planted in the last year and more would be planted in the new year. The community orchard in Lowndes Park which produced local varieties of produce was sponsored by local community groups. Residents were advised how to leave more space in their gardens to promote wildlife.
- The leaking homes roadshow in conjunction with Bucks Community Energy would be launched this winter to educate residents how to save energy in their homes. Sustainable Chesham secured £1700 funding from the Community Board in February which was used to purchase thermal imaging cameras, training and implementation of energy surveys for households. The scheme would be rolled out this November and for a fee of £20 residents would receive a report to show where the greatest heat loss in the property occurred and how to reduce this.
- The group had taken part in community assemblies to promote better communication between local groups and to discuss how to promote water supply, reduce pollution and carbon footprints. There had been good progress on reducing dependence on cars, stopping the decline of local wildlife, how to source food locally and residential developments.
- A new initiative and strategy would be developed with other local groups to try and eradicate plastic bags from Chesham.
- Sustainable Chesham had a stall at the Chesham produce market which was useful to find out residents' environmental concerns and activities.

The Chair commended the wide range of projects Sustainable Chesham had successfully achieved and highlighted these initiatives were also relevant to the

villages surrounding Chesham.

A member of the Board queried if safer cycling around St Marys Way, Chesham had been considered. It was highlighted the road could be a danger area for cyclists with limited space for cyclists and two lanes for vehicles. It was confirmed the new infrastructure plan for the town and neighbourhood plan would look into these issues and seek to provide safer and better opportunities for cyclists.

A member of the Board asked if electric scooters had been considered for the Chesham area as they had been introduced in other local towns. Whilst Sustainable Chesham had not considered this they could be introduced after an assessment of the area.

Further information for residents to register for the leaky homes survey were appended to these minutes.

7 Formal Community Board updates

Ross Tackley, Community Board Manager provided an update on funding and community projects.

The Community Board had an annual budget of £111,000 with £21,000 spent on projects. A further £45,000 had been allocated to projects in the pipeline. The projects funded by the Board were listed on the slides appended to these minutes.

It was highlighted there were 88 Ukrainian guests in the Chesham Board area with 40 sponsor host families. After a six month stay with hosts guests were required to move in with new sponsors or into privately rented accommodation. There was a request for any residents who could be re-matched with Ukrainian guests to contact either Ross Tackley or Ryan Robinson. It was noted the re-matched process would not require a visa application as many guests were settled and working in the area.

The Opportunity Bucks programme was a local response to the governments national levelling up campaign to promote better opportunities for all residents. The programme would encourage ward partnerships and involve key stakeholders in the community. There would be a tour of the Chesham ward and town centre on 24th January 2023.

Buckinghamshire Council would run a welcoming spaces initiative this winter to provide warm spaces for residents in libraries and council offices. Members were advised to contact Ross Tackley with any suggestions of venues and a toolkit would be provided.

A member of the Board queried if ancillary building or annexes would attract council tax if they host Ukrainian guests. It was confirmed these properties would not be subject to additional council tax charges if they applied through the Ukraine scheme.

8 Community Matters

The Chairman highlighted no public questions had been received and there were currently no Buckinghamshire Council public consultations for Chesham.

A Member of the Board advised Chesham Town Council would launch a consultation on the environment, sustainability, heritage assets and use of public spaces linked with the neighbourhood plan.

The Chairman welcomed the Service Director for Highways and Technical Services Kevin Goad. It was highlighted Buckinghamshire had a new maintenance contract with Balfour Beatty and design and traffic modelling contract with Atkins starting in April 2023. Kevin would visit Chesham and the surrounding villages for a walkabout to find out highways issues affecting the area.

Representatives from Save Leather Lane provided an update on the campaign. There had been key collaboration between local residents, councillors and community groups to support the cause to protect the trees and bats in Leather Lane. There were ongoing bat surveys which helped the campaign and ecological argument for saving the trees. Leather Lane was a key connector of 7km of green space in the Chiltern ANOB with much of the surrounding area already decimated by HS2. It was hoped the campaign would achieve charitable status in the near future. Local residents were educated on bat conservation and bat walks had proved popular.

9 Board Discussion and Action Points

Ross Tackley, Community Board Manager provided an update on action points. The emergency preparedness of the ward had been assessed and the community resilience team would hold a workshop in November. The team would explain the process in emergencies such as flooding and natural disasters. Discussions were underway with Parish Councils to formulate community emergency plans and toolkits would be provided.

There would be a Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood policy forum meeting at Chesham Town Hall on 3rd November. Residents were encouraged to attend and complete a county wide survey which closed on 30th October.

It was advised a schedule 17 application for Leather Lane would be submitted in the new year. This would allow further time to consider the design and construction of HS2 in this area.

Visit Chesham had captured drone footage and gathered local information on Chesham and the surrounding villages which would be available on their website.

A member of the Board highlighted the application for construction of the Bowood Lane overbridge had been submitted by HS2 to Buckinghamshire Council. The Council had rejected the application citing environmental considerations. HS2 had appealed the decision and the planning inspector would assess the application. The Lee Parish Council and Wendover and Chiltern Conservation Board submitted representations to Buckinghamshire Council. There were concerns if the appeal was

successful for HS2 the implications this could have on the Leather Lane overbridge.

Ross Tackley, Community Board Manager would send monthly updates on the Board and projects. Further applications for funding would be welcomed and there would be a greater focus on reaching out to Ukrainian guests.

A member of the Board highlighted the repairs to local roads was unsatisfactory making certain routes unsafe for cyclists due to potholes. It was confirmed there was a dedicated team responsible for ensuring repairs to roads were co-ordinated and to a quality standard. The approach to dealing with road defects would be changed going forward.

10 Date and theme of next meeting

Thursday 26th January 6pm



An update for Community Boards from Buckinghamshire Council (Issue 1 2023 – January 2023)

Local Heritage Listing

Using government funding, the council has developed a Local Heritage List to protect some of the most important heritage sites in the county that contribute to the local character of Buckinghamshire.

The Local Heritage List identifies locally significant heritage sites and celebrates their contribution to local identity and character. These sites include historic buildings (houses, chapels, agricultural and industrial buildings), archaeological sites (upstanding earthwork remains and buried sites), formal gardens, public open spaces, public works of art, monuments and street furniture.

Sites were nominated by local communities and council staff and evaluated by the council's heritage and archaeology team with volunteers also working on the project.

The Local Heritage List is different to statutory listing and designations (e.g. Grade I, II and II* Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, and Registered Parks and Gardens), which are assessed nationally by Historic England.

Assets on the Local Heritage List will be recognised and considered in any future planning applications, helping to protect local heritage assets for future generations to enjoy. There have been more than 2,653 nominations for inclusion on the list and 771 of these sites are now being brought forward for adoption in Phase 1, with the rest being assessed for Phase 2.

To view a list of nominated sites, please visit the [Buckinghamshire Local Heritage List website](#).

ORCS funding for EV charge locations

After successfully securing £407k from the [Office for Zero Emission Vehicles](#) (OZEV) via their [On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme](#) (ORCS), the council will now be installing 128 new EV parking bays in 16 of its car parks across the county – with work being completed by April 2023.

We are now looking for other opportunities to broaden the public charging network in local town and village community car parks in Buckinghamshire.

Our aim is to submit a combined bid to the On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) in March 2023, to provide the funding for this initiative. We will work alongside town and parish councils to assess what type of chargepoint might be suitable for each site,

calculate the cost of installation and the power connection costs, and liaise with EV chargepoint suppliers on behalf of town and parish councils. We can also help to procure and manage the installation.

We are asking town and parish councils to contact evcharging@buckinghamshire.gov.uk by 27 January with any sites they wish to suggest or to discuss with us.

Find out more about [Buckinghamshire Council's 5-year Action Plan](#) to support the transition of the county to EVs.

Local Plan update – sites to be published following call for sites

Following the 'Wider' call for sites last year, over 700 sites have been submitted for consideration as land for possible future development within Buckinghamshire. Our previous calls for brownfield sites resulted in 300 sites being suggested. An interactive map showing these has now been published at [Brownfield CFS 2021-22 \(arcgis.com\)](#)

A list of other sites which have been submitted as part of our wider call for sites will be available in the coming weeks. Officers have now started the process of evaluating each of the sites against the criteria of suitability for their chosen use, availability and deliverability over the plan period to 2040.

Work has commenced on an Employment and Retail Evidence Study and a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (we expect to consult with the relevant statutory bodies on this shortly). We are in the process of appointing consultants for several other studies which are needed to inform the plan.

We are currently working to set out the overarching vision and objectives for the Local Plan for Buckinghamshire which will shape our work going forwards. In accordance with good practice on community engagement, the team is working on a forthcoming public consultation which will enable people to comment and give feedback on the draft Vision and Objectives.

Visitor Economy survey

Buckinghamshire Council has launched a new Tourism Survey which will help to shape the future of Buckinghamshire's visitor economy sector. The council is inviting input from residents, businesses and key stakeholders which it will use to help identify new opportunities and to support the future growth of the visitor economy across Buckinghamshire.

The survey will be an important contributor to a Visitor Economy Strategy currently being developed by Buckinghamshire Council and its partners. The strategy itself will aim to

identify how Buckinghamshire can build on the opportunities within its visitor economy with a view to supporting businesses and creating jobs.

The survey findings will be used to get a better understanding of where to focus support for the sector and explore what tourism businesses see as their main challenges and opportunities now and in the future.

Tourism is an important part of our local economy, as visitors spending their time and money in Buckinghamshire support more than 13,000 local jobs and over 2,000 small businesses. Responses from the survey will be used to develop a strategy and action plan which will help the tourism sector in Buckinghamshire to flourish and grow, supporting local jobs, workers and industries into the future.

The survey is live now and will be running until 17 February 2023. Buckinghamshire residents, business owners and other tourism stakeholders can complete the survey [here](#).

Current and upcoming consultations

As well as the Tourism Survey, take a look here to view other current consultations:

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.

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HS2 update for the Chesham & Rural Villages Community Board: January 2023

This update focusses on the impact of HS2 construction work on the Chesham and Villages Community Board area. Buckinghamshire Council's November 2022 HS2 update on 'What is Buckinghamshire Council doing on behalf of residents?' can be found at: [Update on HS2 from Buckinghamshire Council.](#)

1. Progress with the project in and around the Community Board area

The tunnel boring machines (TBMs) heading towards South Heath from Maple Cross have passed halfway and have crossed under the A413 at Gore Hill. ALIGN has finished the extensive concrete piling ('barrettes') in the South Heath area to stabilise the ground, and the construction of the north portal of the tunnel will now begin in earnest, anticipating the arrival of the TBMs at the portal in early 2024, having linked-up with the ventilation shafts in the Chalfonts, Amersham and Little Missenden, and the intervention shaft at Chesham Road, South Heath.

Construction of the section of the line northwards from South Heath by EKFB appears to be experiencing delays. In particular, there has been a lengthy delay in bringing the conveyor to move spoil over the A413/Chiltern Line into use, and a number of other significant construction-related delays. Having said that, excavation work and ground preparation has continued at the North Portal of the tunnel at South Heath with a hand-over of part of the site to Align, and there has been extensive preparation work in the cuttings heading north through The Lee.

Viaduct works at Wendover Dean and at Small Dean (over the A413 and the Chiltern railway line) are expected to be ramped up in 2023, as will be works in the Wendover and Stoke Mandeville areas. Also, significantly for the Community Board area, the six (yes, six) bridges to be built over or under the line between South Heath and Wendover will all be progressed in 2023. The movement of spoil northwards along the trace will be accelerated and large amounts of steel and concrete will arrive in the area, all using the A413.

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. Unresolved local design issues

Most Schedule 17 applications under the Act for the design and construction of the railway in the area have been approved by Buckinghamshire Council (BC) or are due to be submitted soon, however some significant local elements of design are outstanding:

- the north portal buildings at South Heath (due to be submitted to BC this spring)
- the Leather Lane overbridge and the lone oak (still awaiting the results of ecological and environmental review)
- the Bowood Lane overbridge (awaiting the outcome of an appeal to a Planning Inspector by HS2 Ltd after rejection by BC).

3. Summary of construction impacts and mitigation

Locally, 2023 started with more of the same – more road and lane closures, more flooding on the A413, more delayed construction works and a feeling that the project is not really demonstrating that it is “Respecting people; respecting places”.

Some of the works described above fall within the neighbouring Missendens and Wendover Community Board areas, but the impacts - particularly on the roads - are felt keenly by residents within the Chesham and Rural Villages Community Board area. These impacts continue to cause many concerns, in particular:

- **Frequent road closures**, on the A413, on Rocky Lane, on Frith Hill and in due course on Leather Lane, are all being planned by the project and will continue to have a major impact on the area. Local parish and county councillors are fighting hard to ensure that greater notice is taken of the impact this is all having and will continue to have on local communities and businesses. 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.
- Information on **Non-HS2 traffic ‘rat-running’** on hill-top lanes because of the frequent closures, is now being collated and discussed on a regular basis.
- The project is planning **extensive concrete piling through the Misbourne valley in 2023** and there have already been some complaints about the impact of noise and vibration. Again, local councillors have asked for a more detailed review of the likely impacts.
- Through the early part of this winter, **flooding on the A413 and other local roads**, caused at least in part by water discharged by the project, has been a major issue. BC is in discussion with HS2 Ltd as to where responsibility lies for preventing such incidents.
- At the top of Bowood Lane, in The Lee, the project has supposedly completed its first major piece of **tree planting in the AONB**. Local parish and county councillors have raised concerns with HS2 Ltd about the poor implementation of this ecological mitigation.

It is not at all clear that with the pressures of cost and time, the project has much real appetite to mitigate these impacts, but the local councils will continue to monitor and police as best they can the continuing construction operations. All these topics have become regular points of discussion at local liaison meetings with parish and county councillors.

4. To note in February / March 2023

- one-week total closure of Rocky Lane for water utility works (possible w/c 13th February)
- full weekend closure of the A413, London Road for utility diversion works (tbc in March)
- six-week closure of Frith Hill (South Heath Leg) for electricity supply works (dates tbc)
- abnormal steel loads begin to arrive at Great Missenden via A413 (March onwards)
- concrete piling works at Wendover Dean, Cottage Farm, Rocky Lane, and near Potter Row (various dates).

For the latest updates on HS2 works visit <http://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/map/>