

Beeches Community Board minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeches Community Board held on Tuesday 15 November 2022 via Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting, commencing at 6.00 pm and concluding at 7.57 pm.

BC Councillors present

D Anthony (Chairman), G Sandy, K Ashman, P Kelly and T Hogg

Town/Parish Councils and other organisations present

C Linton, G Chapman, J Dax, L Pope, P Rowley, R Worthington, and J Carey

Others in attendance

A Chapman, R Binstead, G Harding, H Cavill, L Headley, N Surman, P Harper, R Ambrose, L Charter, and M Devlin

Agenda Item

1 Chairman's Welcome

Councillor David Anthony, Chairman of the Beeches Community Board, welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr R Bagge, J Morrissey (MP for Beaconsfield), A Turner (Office manager for Joy Morrissey MP), R Small (Lent Rise School), D Alder (Neighbourhood Watch), M Bergh (Youth Practitioner), A French, R Home, J Jebson, H Mee (The Clare Foundation), R Horton-Kitchlew, E Chason and D Hulme (Family Support Service).

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26 July 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

Councillor P Kelly requested an update on the Bucks Mind Mental Health project being ran in schools. Andy Chapman, Community Board Manager, explained that the project had been extended and feedback would be available and circulated at the end of the school term.

4 Declarations of Interest

None.

5 Cost of Living and Financial Security

Gill Harding, Head of Community Support, was in attendance to inform the Community Board about the Helping Hand Team. The presentation slides referred to in this meeting would be appended to these minutes, with some key points below:

- The team received £2.4 million from the Government's Household Support Fund for April to September 2022.
- A further Household Support Fund grant of £2.4 million was received for October 2022 to April 2023 to support vulnerable households.
- The Helping Hand team continued to support individuals and families in need of financial support. It was noted that they can assist with referrals to food banks and other food support organisations. You can get in touch via the Buckinghamshire Council website or by telephone: 01296531151.
- The level of demand has increased, with on average 50 new Helping Hand applications every working day. It was expected that the number of first-time applications would rise.
- G Harding informed attendees of a range of schemes including Food Support, financial insecurity, cost of living and Opportunity Bucks.

Lisa Pope, Burnham Care and Share, informed attendees of the initiative based in Burnham Park Hall. 2021 was its first full year of operation, issuing 1000 vouchers and supporting 2562 individuals. At point of this meeting, Burnham Care and Share had issued 827 vouchers supporting 2308 individuals. The following was noted:

- The food bank was now operating self-sufficiently, with the help of grants and local donations.
- L Pope had observed an increase in people asking for support with electricity and gas. It was hoped that potential grant funding would help fill this demand. Moreover, St Peter's Church had provided every client with at least 1 energy voucher over the December period.
- A greater number of asylum seekers looking for support were recorded; however it was noted the food bank is only able to assist them as an emergency and not as an ongoing basis.
- Burnham Care and Share had assisted a number of clients to be rehomed.
- They had recently signed up to the Buckinghamshire Council Food Champions Scheme, which encouraged residents to organise long-life food collections for their street. So far, 6 streets had registered.
- Maidenhead Food Share were supporting the Burnham Care and Share.

Pei Harper, Buckinghamshire & Surrey Trading Standards, was present to speak about safeguarding against scams, particularly cost of living scams. The key points were highlighted below:

- Attendees were informed that once an individual has been scammed, they were twice as likely to be scammed within 12 months. Intervention during this period was a key focus for Buckinghamshire & Surrey Trading Standards.
- Types of scams included postal, doorstep rogue traders, online, and text message scams.
- It was noted that Buckinghamshire & Surrey Trading Standards were able to

provide free call blocking devices to avoid scam calls, doorbell cameras, and "no cold calling" sticker packs.

- Buckinghamshire & Surrey Trading Standards were the lead authority in prosecuting illegal money lending and loan sharks.
- P Harper asked attendees to think of any community groups they would like Buckinghamshire & Surrey Trading Standards to liaise with to raise awareness of scams.
- Trading Standards Alert Newsletter was available here.

Lew Headley, Community Impact Bucks (CIB), was in attendance to raise awareness of CIB and its role to support charities, organisations and small groups. The presentation slides referred to in this meeting would be appended to these minutes, with some key points below:

- CIB provided online resources to help start up an organisation, secure funding and find volunteers. In particular, the Buckinghamshire Volunteer Matching Service was noted as a valuable tool.
- CIB offered one-to-one support to organisations with a yearly income of less than £100,000.
- The Cost of Living Survey undertaken in August 2022 received 83 responses from organisations. 83% were concerned with the spiralling costs.
- L Headley highlighted the Charity Excellence Framework, who had developed crisis fund resources for charities.
- Organisations could sign up for free information on a weekly basis with CIB.

Helen Cavill, Buckinghamshire Council, was present to raise awareness and promote the Street Association Scheme. Attendees were informed that it was a resident-led initiative, with members becoming the contact in the street. Members received informational signposting packs to help support vulnerable residents.

During discussion the following points were highlighted:

- H Cavill stated that 50 residents had signed up to the Street Association Scheme in Burnham.
- H Cavill explained that Helping Hands Service could help beyond food support, to include utilities, winter warmth, and white goods. Members were encouraged to refer to Helping Hands if appropriate.
- Councillor T Hogg suggested sharing success stories to encourage people to raise awareness of these services.
- L Pope explained that they receive support from local supermarkets and were able to distribute excess food.

6 Service Director Update

Richard Ambrose, Buckinghamshire Council, was present to give an update. The full report was available in the agenda pack and the following was highlighted:

 Support for Ukrainian Guests past the initial 6 months. The Council had been trying to extend agreements where possible, rematch families, and assist families enter private rented accommodation. Buckinghamshire Council had agreed to financial incentives to help but was looking into increasing the

- supply of temporary accommodation.
- The Town and Parish Charter had been agreed and had been published on the Buckinghamshire Council website.
- Buckinghamshire Council had gained powers to enforce moving traffic offences. This was going to be rolled out in 14 locations across Buckinghamshire, with one being in Taplow.
- Consultations including spending priorities for Buckinghamshire Council, Dorney Lake Public Spaces Protection Order, and proposed changes to Home to School transport.

7 Action Group Updates

Councillor George Sandy presented the update for the Wellbeing action group. The following was noted:

- Farnham Royal Girl Group received a new shed via Community Board funding.
- Community Ventures volunteered to run an outreach programme. The Family Information Service provided a list of local organisations who can provide support for young people.
- The Burnham Beeches Rotary Club were planning to distribute 300 Christmas food parcels to families. The project cost was estimated at £9235 and an application had been made to the Community Board for a grant of £5000.

Andy Chapman, Community Board Manager, gave an update on the Infrastructure and Highways action group. The points below were raised:

- Balfour Beatty Living Places maintenance contract. Projects that had not been started would be reviewed by the new contractor to check costings and delivery plans.
- A "menu of options" design would be developed to provide information around small highways schemes with indicative prices and delivery times.
- Community Boards would be consulted over new arrangements with the provider.

Andy Chapman, Community Board Manager, gave an update on the Improving our Environment action group. The following was mentioned:

- Community Board had approved applications from Taplow and Burnham Parish Council for the Eco Audit Projects. These involved surveys of parish buildings to identify opportunities for carbon reduction. The learning from this would be shared.
- A Chapman called for volunteers to get involved in the action group.

8 Funding and Applications Update

A Chapman gave a funding and applications update. The full update would be appended to these minutes. It was noted that around £53,000 had been granted to fund projects.

9 Community Matters

A Chapman mentioned the new Buckinghamshire Boundaries Consultation from the Boundary Commission.

One petition had been running locally through August and September 2022, to remove layby parking on Bath Road. It was noted that there was not enough support for the petition to be taken forward.

10 Action Plan Update

A Chapman explained that this update had been circulated with the agenda report pack and would be available to read.

11 Any Other Business

A Chapman explained that the dates for the 2023 Proud of Bucks Awards had been decided. Nominations would open on 9 January until 12 February 2023.

12 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 21 February 2023

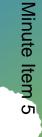






Helping Hand Team

Gill Harding
Head of Community Support



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Our offer (Household Support Fund 2)

*£2.4 million from Government's Household Support Fund delivered between April — September 2022

Food (vouchers/ foodbank referrals/ hot meal referrals/signposting to local food support organisations)

Fuel (vouchers/ grants)

White goods

Carpet

Referrals to VCS
organisations for additional
support – furniture/
clothing/ children's toys/
equipment

Grants – to support with gas/ electricity/ rent/ council tax arrears etc.

Household Support Fund – Grant 2 - £2.4m

How the funds have been allocated (draft view)



	April to September 2022
Holiday food vouchers	834,184
Partners/Community projects	£110,665
Heart of Bucks HH Crisis Fund	£222,800
Helping Hands direct support	£261,540
Pensioners	£800,000
Other	£170,000

In addition to this, an additional £70k has been added to the Heart of Bucks Crisis Scheme from CEV Fund and just over £150k from LES Base Budget funds

5,652 referrals in to the team (many are repeats requiring additional support)

FOOD

2,775 supermarket vouchers issued (exc. FSM holiday provision)

2,118 Foodbank referrals made

FUEL

1,696x Post Office vouchers issued to top up pre-payment meters

29x gas cylinders purchased 9x oil tanks topped up

WHITE GOODS ORDERED

263 x cookers 226 x washing machines 221 x Fridge freezers 197 x beds/ mattresses

CARPET (2 essential rooms) 182 households

HOT MEAL REFERRALS

107

GRANTS

£270,000 awarded

What worked well



Relationship with Voluntary & Community Sector

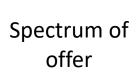


Relationships with strategic partners e.g. housing association and DWP



Engagement with internal departments

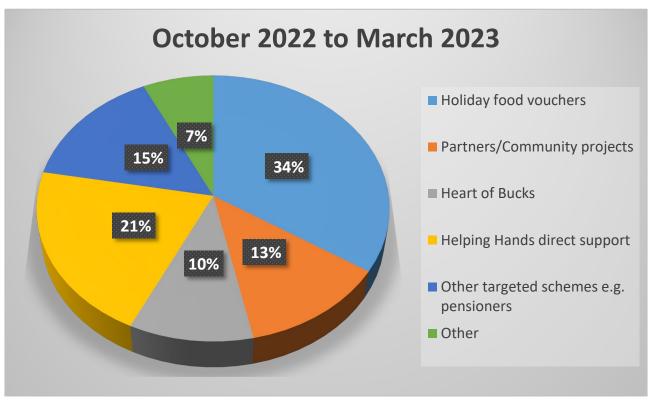
Use of data and insight





Household Support Fund – Grant 3 Oct – April – £2.4m

Agreed funds % allocation



The Helping Hand team continues to support individuals and families in need of food support.

We can assist with referrals to food banks and other food support organisations - Support with food, bills and finances | Buckinghamshire Council

Are you struggling with food, fuel, bills and finances?



If you or your family are in need of support, on low income or experiencing a financial emergency or crisis, find out what help is available.

Let us know if:

- you are struggling to afford food or fuel
- you cannot keep on top of your bills
- you are in debt
- you are struggling to pay for essential goods in your home

Get in touch

- buckinghamshire.gov.uk/helping-hand
- O1296 531 151

Our phone lines are open:

- Monday to Thursday (9am 5.30pm)
- Friday (9am 5pm)

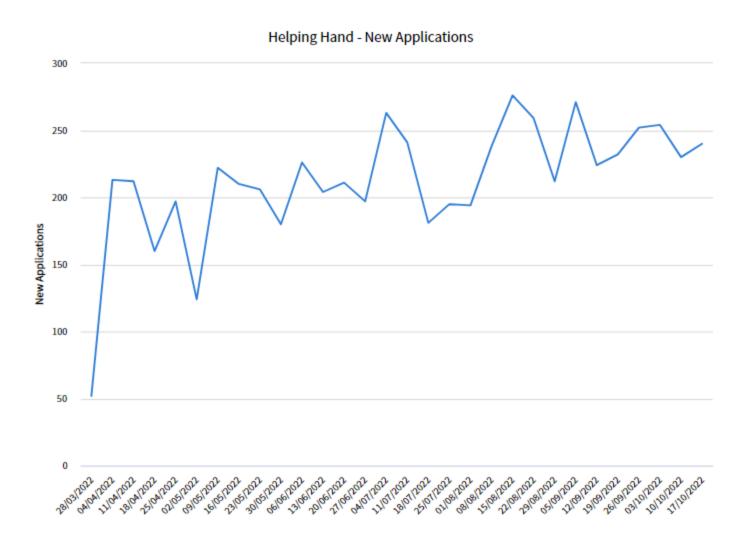
In an emergency our out-of-hours team can be contacted on 0800 999 7677.





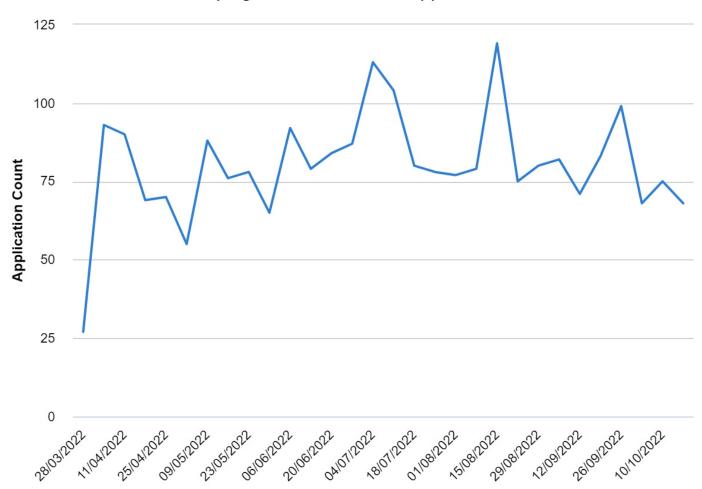


Helping Hand Direct Support – New Applications



Helping Hand Direct Support – First Time Applications

Helping Hand - First Time Applications



Those Helping Hand has supported

Steve, a married man with two children has been unable to work due to his terminal illness. This impacted the financial stability of his family. He started to incur debts with his energy supplier as he couldn't keep up with the payments following the loss of income.

Helping Hand were able to apply for a Heart of Bucks grant for David, which resulted in him being awarded £640 to clear his energy arrears. He was also signed posted to the Revenue and Benefits Team, so that he could receive support with his Council Tax reduction.

David, an elderly gentleman on low income was struggling to make ends meet due to the rise in food, energy and fuel costs. He had accumulated debts as he has been using credit cards to pay for food, fuel and other essential items.

Helping Hand were able to apply for a Heart of Bucks grant for £730.80 to pay off his debts. He was also sign posted to Step Change for debt support.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

Customers Helping Hand has supported

"Thank you so much for sorting this for me, it means so much and I'm so, so grateful as it has helped so much with my finances and taking away the stress and worry of wondering how I was going to get on top of things with all the other stuff we have talked about and my health.

I hope your well and have had a nice summer. I also wanted to say thanks, for calling me back whenever I asked very quickly and the conversations we had and listening to me. It helped more than you know."

"Thank you so, so much, your help is literally a life saver, and I can't express how much I appreciate it. Currently in a very dark time of life, and you guys have shone a light and made such a huge difference. Thank You."

"I cannot thank you all at Helping Hands for all the help you've given me to start me on my new life away from years of domestic abuse. I will be forever grateful. I appreciate everything you have helped me with, I at one time had no confidence in getting the help I most needed. Helping Hands has changed that, thank you from the bottom of my heart"

Food Support schemes



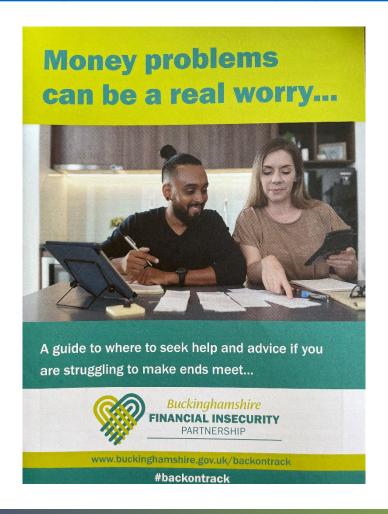


- One Can Trust developed a half term dinner club in both Micklefield and Downley to support families during the October half term
- A total of 374 meals in total which supported 35 families across Micklefield and Downley
- All families expressed appreciation and said how the dinner clubs were a great support to them over the half term
- Helping Hands supported both projects via the Household Support Grant and referred residents to the scheme

Food Support

- meal-plans.co.uk feed your family evening meals for £20 per week (recipes provided including slow cooker/ air fryer/ vegetarian etc.)
- <u>Too Good To Go</u> purchase food at a reduced price before a shop closes
- Olio
- <u>Community Fridges</u> sharing excess fresh produce
- kitche.co an app designed to reduce food waste and save you money (scan your receipt after food shop, recipes identified, reminders sent)
- Plans for Food Cycle to launch in High Wycombe in January 2023

https://www.buckinghamshire.gov .uk/campaign/money-problems/



Back on Track Event – 21st October 2022

Company	Representatives/Guest Speakers	Content	Location
Red Kite Community Housing	Halima Hussan		Table- main library
Helping Hands Team	Gill Harding/Katie Galvin	Fuel/food voucher advice and Cost of Living	Gazebo – Eden Centre
Paradigm Housing	Jenna Samuel	Enhanced offer of tenancy sustainment	Table- main library
DWP	Mary Johnson/Ben Stykuc	Accessto Work Info Workcoaches	Table- main library
Fedcap	Joshua Marshall	Helping residents to reach their full potential - overcome barriers and supporting you back into work.	Table- main library
Libraries	Gina Nicholls	Promotion of library resources	Table – main library
Careers Springboard	Julia Meazzo	Coping with career change, redundancy and finding new employment	Table- main library
Adviza	Allan Potter	Building Futures and Skill Up Bucks	Table- main library
CAB	Anna Day	Benefits Money Matters	Table- main library
Oasis	Jenni Parker	Returning to work after gaps in employment	Table- main library
Buckinghamshire Adult Learning	Christine Katsimitsiri	Information on our full FREE* offer for adults 19+ including workshops on Job search / CVs and application forms, interview skills, a Digital Skills programme for beginners / improvers, maths, English, English for Speakers of Other Languages	Table- main library
BUDS	Janneke Elford	ŤBC	Table in Library or Gazebo

https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/campaign/returningtowork/

The thought of returning to work can be daunting, but we're here to help



FREE EVENT! Return to Work, High Wycombe Library, Friday 21 October, 10am - 5pm

If you're seeking employment and need some tailored support and advice on returning to work come and see us at our drop-in Return to Work event where one of our partners will be happy to help.



buckinghamshire.gov.uk/campaign/returningtowork

#backontrack





Supported by High Wycombe Community Board

Useful sources

- https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living/ (external guidance)
- Money Saving Expert (Martin Lewis)
- <u>Buckinghamshire Online Directory</u> (Community groups)
- Help for Households Campaign (Gov.uk)
- Healthy Start Vouchers –

(If you're pregnant or have a child under 4, the Healthy Start scheme can help you buy basic foods like milk or fruit – check eligibility)

Contact Us

■ Helping Hand team – 01296 531151

Via online form - buckinghamshire.gov.uk/helping-hand

Cost of Living Campaign

- Buckinghamshire Council have launched a Cost of Living Campaign to support residents that are struggling financially. There is a dedicated website for residents to access support - Help with the cost of living (Helping Hand) | Buckinghamshire Council
- Roundtable meeting has taken place which included a number of key stakeholders that are involved in supporting residents with the cost of living
- Follow up meetings will take place to focus on key workstreams including:
- Helping Others (volunteering and supporting communities)
- Helping Hand Crisis Support
- > Food and essentials
- > Fuel and energy
- Warmth (welcoming spaces)
- Money and debt
- Community Activity (community toolkits)
- Support for BC staff

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Don't struggle with the cold, visit one of our

Welcoming Spaces

Opportunity Bucks

We want to ensure that all residents in the county have the opportunity to succeed, that nobody gets left behind and we reduce inequality within our communities.

We also recognise that our ambitions of developing the local economy and reducing inequalities are linked – we're aiming to break the cycle of disadvantage, improve health outcomes and grow our economy.

- The programme will focus on 10 wards where there are significant challenges and people are facing hardship. The 10 wards are in parts of Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Chesham.
- Launch event 7th December, will bring together key stakeholders and discuss next steps of the project.
- 5 themes: health and wellbeing, standard of living, quality of public realm, jobs and education. Initial action plans are being developed.
- Developing Ward Partnership approach to ensure we take a locallyfocused approach, and will be led by the local Community Boards
- Further data analysis to inform the programme and development of a Making Every Adult Matter approach.

OPPORTUNITY BUCKS - SUCCEEDING FOR ALL

A local response to Levelling Up























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SUPPORTING CHARITIES, VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY GROUPS AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

- Improving access to funding: we offer a <u>range of funding support</u> including roundtables with funders, signposting to latest funds, access to funding directories (Bucks Funding Search and Grantway), tips on writing a successful grant and information on other sources of funding.
- **Providing resources and tailored support**: we offer guidance and advice to help local charities run their group or get started. You can <u>request support</u> or find lots of <u>online guidance and resources</u> on our website.
- Training and advice: we facilitate <u>training to groups</u> in Buckinghamshire covering topics such as safeguarding, funding and governance and how to recruit and manage volunteers, as well as expert coaching.
- **Finding volunteers**: we support groups with volunteer recruitment, developing volunteering policies, role descriptions and volunteering strategies. We also promote general and expert volunteer vacancies, including trustee roles. The <u>Buckinghamshire Volunteer Matching Service</u> has been placing volunteers with groups and organisations since Spring 2020.
- Connecting the voluntary sector and facilitating cross-sector partnerships: through both place-based and interest-specific peer support networks. We are part of a number of policy groups in Buckinghamshire and neighbouring counties to ensure cross sector collaboration in areas such as healthcare and community led housing, making sure that the voice of the voluntary sector is heard and taken into account.

For more information about these services for not-for-profit organisations, visit our website at www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk/charities-groups/

KNOW A CHARITY OR VOLUNTARY GROUP THAT NEEDS OUR HELP?

Our VCSE Support Service - funded by Buckinghamshire Council - can help with all aspects of running a charity or voluntary group including leadership, funding, governance and volunteer recruitment and management, with priority given to those with income of less than £100,000. <u>Complete our simple form</u> to let us know at <u>www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk/charities-groups/request-for-support/</u>

HELP WITH SECURING VOLUNTEERING ROLES

We signpost potential volunteers to new opportunities, including through the Volunteer Matching Service and our I want to volunteer resources.

HELPING TO BUILD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

- Helping people without access to transport: we answer calls on our <u>Community Transport Hub</u> <u>hotline</u>, connecting people with volunteer-run transport schemes in their area. 73% of callers need help to attend medical appointments.
- Helping people stay connected and live independently:
 - Our <u>Handy Helpers</u> team has completed thousands of tasks in the homes of vulnerable Buckinghamshire residents, including general maintenance, preventive measures and practical tasks.
 - As well as providing our established cohort of clients with a garden clearance & maintenance service, our <u>Gardening and Wellbeing</u> project supports them to be active participants in their wellbeing by empowering them to explore what they 'can do' for themselves/ others in their community.
 - The <u>Community Growing project</u> supports communities to develop sustainable community food growing projects. We have established a site in Wycombe and are due to set up a site in Iver in 2022.
 - Our <u>Pub Lunch Club project</u> helps address social isolation for our older residents. We are working with a number of communities to relaunch Pub Lunch Clubs that were suspended during lockdown and to launch new clubs.
 - Our <u>Ukraine Community Support project</u> provides networking, information and support to dozens of community groups across Buckinghamshire which are working to welcome Ukrainians and enable them to thrive with in Buckinghamshire's communities.
 - We use our expertise and local knowledge to champion Buckinghamshire's communities; in 2022 the Bucks Rural Life project will use data and community research to provide insights into the needs and experiences of the county's rural communities.
- Supporting key community assets: volunteer-run community buildings, such as village halls, community centres, sports pavilions and church halls are a vital part of community life and very often at the heart of rural communities. As the Rural Community Council for Buckinghamshire and member of Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), we offer a Community Buildings
 Service providing light touch advice and information to community building management committees.

For more information about these services, visit our website at www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk/community/community-projects/

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- To find out more about our work supporting the voluntary sector and communities in Buckinghamshire, visit www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk
- If you know of a charity or community group that needs our help please let us know complete our simple form at www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk/charities-groups/request-for-support/
- Book on our workshops and training sessions for not-for-profit organisations at https://communityimpactbucks.org.uk/events/
- Sign up to be notified by email about latest advice and guidance for the voluntary sector, funding opportunities and future events at www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk/membership/
- Call or email us: 0300 111 1250 / info@communityimpactbucks.org.uk
- Community Board Co-ordinators have a designated point of contact at Community Impact Bucks:
 - North Frankie Hockham <u>frankie@communityimpactbucks.org.uk</u>
 - South Lew Headley lew@communityimpactbucks.org.uk



Funding Report Beeches Community Board – November 2022

The table below provides a summary of the funding awards made by Beeches Community Board during the current financial year.

Community Board Fund		Funding	Remaining budget
2022/23	Project	Allocated	as at 15.11.22
£100,388	Farnham Common Girl Guides Storage Shed	£2,675.99	
	Royal British Legion PRIDE	£2,925.00	
	Dorney Parish Council – Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs	£6,950	
	Taplow Parish Council – Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs	£13,740	
	Community Youth Ventures – Youth Outreach Project	£900.00	
	Blackpond Lane Footway Extension (extra contribution)	£21,329.61	
	Burnham Parish Council – Eco Audit	£2,625	
	Taplow Parish Council – Eco Audit	£1,550	
Total Allocated		£52,695.60	
Budget Remaining			£47,692.40

The following projects are currently with the Board for comment ahead of Member voting:

Applicant	Project	Funding Request
Burnham Parish Council	Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs	£8,334.14
Burnham Beeches	Christmas Parcels	£5,000
Rotary		

The following Community applications are before the Community Board for comment:

Applicant	Project	Funding Request
Farnham Royal Parish	Festive Fun & Carols	£2,055
Council		

The following projects are before the Highways action group:

Applicant	Project	Funding Request
Lent Rise School	Lights and road markings	Feasibility study:
		£3,091.05; Total
		Delivery Cost:
		£19,785.33
Stoke Poges Parish	Rogers Lane – cyclist and	Feasibility study:
Council	pedestrian safety	£4,915.64
Councillors	Taplow Common	Feasibility study and
	Road/Cliveden Road	road safety audit:
	junction	£5,838.65