



Amersham & Villages Community Board agenda

Date: Thursday 20 July 2023

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: MS Teams

BC Councillors:

M Dormer (Chairman), T Butcher, M Flys (Vice-Chairman), G Harris, C Jones, D King, R Matthews, S Rouse, M Tett, L Walsh and J Waters

Town/Parish Councils and other organisations:

Amersham, Chesham Bois, Little Chalfont and Coleshill

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: Lizzie Wright (Community Board Co-ordinator) on 01296 382376, email amersham@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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Amersham & Villages Community Board minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Amersham & Villages Community Board held on Thursday 2 February 2023 in MS Teams, commencing at 7:30pm and concluding at 9:00pm.

Members present

M Dormer (Chair), M Flys (Vice-Chair), C Jones, R Matthews, C Jackson, M Tett and J Waters

Also in attendance

A Ford, C Beare, C Klyhn, Cllr M Roberts, Cllr R Dineley, D Hulme, D Winterburn, D Gabriel, D Caudery, G Weiner, J Lucas, M Bergh, M Johnson, N Davis, K Hutton, O O'Neill, P Lawson, P Milliner, R Funk, S Burn, S Sarkar, V Yadav, K Farooqi, L Charter, M Devlin, M Bosman, L Wright, Simon, Howard and Jan

Agenda Item

1 Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting

2 Apologies/Declarations of Interest/Minutes of the last meeting

Apologies were received from Cllr David King, Cllr Tim Butcher, Pat Clarke (Friends of Amersham Health), Nicki Whitticase (Coleshill Infant School), Peter Matza (ADRA) and Jane Barnes (Amersham Action Group / Town Council).

There were no declarations of interest.

The minutes of the meeting held 20th October 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

3 Community Matters

Lizzie Wright, Community Board Manager introduced the community matters item. The communications team at Buckinghamshire Council were looking to promote local events taking place this year on social media. Members were encouraged to contact Lizzie with details and pictures of past or future events.

Café 22 the dementia friendly café in Little Chalfont were celebrating their first birthday. The Amersham dementia café based at Amersham Free Church had recruited volunteers and were in the process of appointing a volunteer leader. Roger Funk from Café 22 Little Chalfont highlighted the first birthday party was successful

and existing volunteers were hoping to be part of the Amersham café.

Marieke welcomed interested parties to attend a meeting on 27th February 7pm-8:30pm to discuss increasing biodiversity in Amersham Old Town. The meeting would focus on how local people can work together to protect, encourage and learn about biodiversity. Members and residents were advised to contact Amersham@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk for further information.

Sandra Burns Deputy Head teacher at St Mary's C of E Primary School highlighted the school was celebrating their 150th anniversary this year. Further information on volunteering and the celebration plans were appended to these minutes. Interested parties were requested to contact the school at office@stmarysce.bucks.sch.uk.

Catherine Klyhn from Amersham West Guides advised the Guides were seeking volunteers to assist particularly with Tuesday evening Brownies sessions and Friday evening Guides sessions. There were over 200 girl Guides in the west district and activities were focused around serving the local community and fundraising. It was highlighted there was an increasing number of girls wishing to join Guides however, more volunteers were needed.

Lizzie Wright highlighted local bakery Nena were looking to share leftover surplus food to benefit the local community. There were suggestions for them to use food sharing sites TooGoodToGo and Olio which residents could sign up to. Any further suggestions of community groups who could benefit from the offer were advised to contact Lizzie. Further information was appended to these minutes.

Oli O'Neill from Treehouse Amersham updated the Board on the defibrillators installed in the area. The first defibrillator installed at Amersham Free Church went live today. The new and existing defibrillators had been plotted on a map and the information supplied to the British Heart Foundation Circuit. Posters were put up in Amersham asking residents if they understood how to use a defibrillator and to locate where their nearest one is. Defibrillators are automated and test the rhythm of the heart in order to administer the right level of shock. In addition, the emergency services can advise where the nearest defibrillator was located and how to use them. The next stage of the project was to deliver first aid and lifesaving skills training to be held at Amersham Museum, Amersham Free Church and a number of other venues. The Chair thanked Oli for his key work on this project and highlighted details of training sessions would be circulated once arranged.

The Proud of Bucks Awards nominations closed on 12th February. There were three categories which would recognise fantastic work and contributions in the community. The event will take place on Saturday 22nd April at Chiltern Lifestyle Centre. The event will host stalls with volunteer groups who have benefited from Board funding. The Bright Ideas grants winners would also be announced at the event.

The Bright Ideas school competition was inspired by a local child who wanted to install a bench locally for her grandmother to use during walks. The Board funded the installation of five benches in the area as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The deadline for applications was extended for six weeks and funding would be awarded for first and second place. The maximum grant for first place was £1,500 however, further funding could be awarded for projects which benefitted the wider community.

The updates from Buckinghamshire Council were highlighted, the information was included in the agenda pack and was appended to these minutes.

4 Presentations

Natalie Davis from The Wellbeing Generation gave a presentation on the youth project Next Gen. The slides were appended to these minutes and the following points were highlighted:

- The Board provided funding for youth project Next Gen which sought to empower young people. The Wellbeing Generation was a social enterprise founded in 2020 during the pandemic.
- The organisations aim was to empower and support young people to deal with mental health, anxiety and identity. Levels of anxiety had increased in young people since the pandemic and NHS CAMs had long waiting lists. The programme was a transition for people who needed support but were not on a clinical pathway. A successful programme had already been delivered in Oxfordshire.
- A project at Dr Challoner's School was starting soon which consisted of yoga and breath work during PSHE lessons. There were two other programmes which would ensure they could engage with young people in different ways. The organisation offered a variety of programmes from inspirational talks in assemblies, online coaching, in person group coaching and behavioural change journeys.
- The programme in Oxfordshire engaged with 35 young people and 65% reported an increase in wellbeing. The successes of the Amersham project would be reported back to the Board in the future.

The Chair praised the organisation for initiating conversations around mental health. A member of the Board highlighted the Oasis Partnership would be a useful contact as they run workshops and podcasts from Chesham for people referred by their GP.

Krissie Hutton, Youth Participation Co-ordinator, Buckinghamshire Council provided an update on Amersham Young Ambassadors. The following points were highlighted:

- The Youth Project Bucks was set up in response to the Council's strategy declaration to allocate resources to support young people.
- Young ambassadors were assigned to Community Boards to ensure young people could contribute to discussions and make their voice heard. Community Boards often supported projects for young people therefore, the ambassadors were key for collaboration.

- The two young ambassadors for the Amersham & Villages Community Board were Amber and Shreeyansh.
- As the ambassador role was new and a pilot project the role would be explored and shaped. Currently the ambassadors would assist judging the Proud of Bucks awards and Bright Ideas awards, attend award ceremonies and engage in discussions with schools and organisations that offer youth services.

Stuart Grosse from Bucks Fire and Rescue was unable to attend, therefore an update would be provided at the next meeting.

5 Community Board Updates

Lizzie Wright, Community Board Manager gave a presentation on Board updates appended to these minutes. The deadline for funding applications was 31st January. The funding team were reviewing applications and these would be put to the Board for approval soon.

The Chair highlighted the role of Community Boards in bringing community groups, volunteer groups, schools and residents together to share ideas and deliver projects. The Boards encouraged collaboration to help guide and provide funding where it was needed in the community. It was highlighted Boards did more than just provide funding, they also helped recruit volunteers, enabled discussions and hosted community events.

6 Priority setting (2023-24)

The Board had received useful feedback from residents about projects and values which were important. These had been grouped together into key categories; strengthening our communities, environment, sport and fitness and health and wellbeing.

Members and residents were encouraged to put forward project ideas which would be considered in the next financial year. The project form was appended to these minutes.

Lizzie Wright highlighted discussions were ongoing with Buckinghamshire Council parking department regarding various parking proposals in the area. The Council's highways contractor was changing in April 2023 therefore existing schemes would prioritised for completion. There would be further information about the parking proposals at a future meeting.

7 Date of the next meeting and close

Engagement Event- Saturday 22nd April 2-5pm, Amersham Community Centre



An update for Community Boards from Buckinghamshire Council (Issue 3 2023 – June 2023)

Play Streets launched

Play Streets gives children the opportunity to play safely outside on their doorstep through a new scheme where residents can apply for a Play Streets session to temporarily close their road.

Following successful pilots in Aylesbury and High Wycombe between October 2021 and May 2022, the council will be introducing Play Streets across Buckinghamshire, with a particular focus on the Opportunity Bucks wards.

[Play Streets](#) allows children to play, scoot and cycle on their streets, but also brings neighbours of all ages together to create new opportunities for socialising and friendships, reduce loneliness and prevent social isolation.

Residents can apply to see if their street is suitable for a Play Streets session on [Buckinghamshire Council's Play Streets webpage](#) and there is more information about the scheme on the national [Playing Out website](#). For more information, please contact Public Health Practitioner Layla Ravey at layla.ravey@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Ultrafast broadband boost for rural businesses

Working with Openreach and Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership, we have now completed Phase 3 of the Bucks Rural Business Broadband project. This project has successfully delivered ultrafast gigabit capable fibre connections to 723 rural business and residential premises in 38 towns and villages, including Prestwood, Iver and Quainton.

The initiative was funded by a £1.8m grant from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and managed by DEFRA. Without this scheme, premises in remote rural locations would likely be left facing connectivity issues and unable to access high-speed broadband.

Premises in the following towns and villages will have seen some impacts of the scheme, but we encourage residents to check their postcodes on Openreach's website to understand the speeds available to them www.openreach.com:



An update for Community Boards from Buckinghamshire Council (Issue 3 2023 – June 2023)

Town/ Village	
ADDINGTON	MARLOW
AMERSHAM	MARSWORTH
ASTON CLINTON	NORTH MARSTON
BEACHAMPTON	OAKLEY
BIERTON	OVING
CHARTRIDGE	PENN
CHESHAM	PITCHCOTT
CRYERS HILL	PRESTWOOD
DORNEY	QUAINTON
DORTON	RADNAGE
FOUR ASHES	SOUTH HEATH
GAWCOTT	STEWKLEY
HALTON	STOKENCHURCH
HAZLEMERE	SWANBOURNE
IVER	WESTON TURVILLE
KINGSHILL	WHITCHURCH
LENBOROUGH	WING
LITTLE HORWOOD	WOOBURN GREEN
LITTLE MARLOW	WOODHAM

Bucks Rural Business Grant – Rural England Prosperity Fund

The Bucks Rural Business Grant scheme launches on 21 June to provide financial support and help to create opportunities for rural businesses in Buckinghamshire. Funding in the form of capital grants ranging from £2,500 up to £300,000 is available for small-scale investment in micro and small enterprises employing fewer than 50 people in rural areas.

The grants are designed to encourage start up, expansion or scale up of rural businesses. Funding is available for a variety of projects such as investment in net zero infrastructure projects, as well as financial support for farm businesses diversifying outside of agriculture. The scheme will run until March 2025.

Businesses are invited to submit an initial expression of interest with outline details of their project. Eligible businesses will then be invited to make an application for funding. Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis. Buckinghamshire Business First are supporting us on this. For more information search for Bucks Rural Business Grant on our website

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk



An update for Community Boards from Buckinghamshire Council (Issue 3 2023 – June 2023)

The scheme is funded through the Rural England Prosperity Fund which is a capital fund run by DEFRA.

Spreading the word about the Bucks filming locations database

Buckinghamshire Film Office promotes locations, minimises impact on residents and business and maximises the economic and social benefits of filming. Did you know that feature films and high-end TV dramas are estimated to spend between £8,000 and £108,000 per day in the local area?

Buckinghamshire Film Office hosts a free database open to all land/property owners to offer their property as a shoot location. The film office acts as a sign-posting service, directing productions to the relevant contact to negotiate fees and terms direct. The key advantage is that we can create bespoke brochures to meet national and international briefs listing multiple locations to encourage productions to the area. Please share this with residents and business.

We minimise the impact of filming in the area by requesting that all productions adhere to the new code of practice when filming in Buckinghamshire. This includes guidance on consultation for those who may be impacted. If a production approaches you, please ask them to register with us so we can ensure best practice is followed, as well as enabling us to track the local economic impact of filming in Buckinghamshire.

Local Plan and Local Transport Plan

We have just completed consultation on our draft vision and objectives for the Local Plan for Buckinghamshire – to shape and manage future development across Buckinghamshire to 2040 and the Local Transport Plan 5 (LTP 5) – to set out the future priorities for all types of transport across Buckinghamshire.

Local plan – next steps

We will publish the final vision and objectives later this year once we have reviewed the feedback. In the winter we will launch a consultation to invite views on a series of possible growth scenarios. These will look at a range of potential options for Buckinghamshire to meet its future housing needs and provide quality employment opportunities.

Local transport plan – next steps



An update for Community Boards from Buckinghamshire Council (Issue 3 2023 – June 2023)

Using feedback and comments from the consultation, we will develop the policies and an implementation plan for the LTP5. We will hold a consultation on these in winter 2023 with the aim to adopt the Local Transport Plan in summer 2024.

Cost of Living funding and focus

Although we are now enjoying warmer weather, we continue to recognise that times may be hard for some residents. Our Cost of Living and Helping Hand programmes continue to strive to reduce the impact of increased financial hardship that residents may be experiencing.

Our Helping Hand team continue to provide emergency support and signposting to residents, and the council is preparing the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme for the summer holidays.

We continue the promotion of local initiatives such as Food Champions and the Community Food Chain and the social media campaign continues to signpost residents to support.

Libraries continue to welcome residents by providing a range of activities as well as launching Cosy Corners in some libraries to provide a safe and friendly environment for all who need one, from people with dementia to mums and babies. Details are available on participating libraries' social media pages.

The Get Around for £2 scheme has been extended until 31 October 2023. More information is available at [Using public and community transport | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

We are evaluating the impact of the initiatives delivered to date and will use this feedback to inform the autumn / winter campaign.

Going forwards we will be using this quarterly corporate update to keep you informed of highlights and things you need to know. If you have any questions relating to Cost of Living, Tim Weetman will now be the person to contact.

The full range of support available is detailed here:
<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living/>

Ward boundaries consultation



An update for Community Boards from Buckinghamshire Council (Issue 3 2023 – June 2023)

In the last update we mentioned that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's recommendations for the new Buckinghamshire Council ward boundaries were due to be published.

These recommendations were made public on 30 May and see a reduction in the number of councillors from 147 to 97. Wards will remain at 49, with the new boundaries coming into effect at the local elections in May 2025.

The report can be viewed at [Buckinghamshire | LGBCE](#).

Buckinghamshire Council consultations

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

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