



North West Chilterns Community Board minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the North West Chilterns Community Board held on Thursday 22 February 2024 in Church Hall, St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden, HP14 4LA, commencing at 6.30 pm and concluding at 8.00 pm.

BC Councillors present

M Walsh (Chairman), C Etholen (Vice-Chairman), S Broadbent and A Turner

Town/Parish Councils and other organisations present

C Davies (Lacey Green Parish Council), J Rogers (Longwick-cum-Ilmer Parish Council), S Breese (Bledlow Cum Saunderson Parish Council), V McPherson (Longwick-cum-Ilmer Parish Council) and S Jones (Hughenden Parish Council)

Others in attendance

J Binning (Buckinghamshire Council), S Payne (Buckinghamshire Council) and M Devlin (Buckinghamshire Council) and Revd David Williams (Guest).

Agenda Item

1 Chairman's Welcome

Matthew Walsh (MW) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Carl Etholen (CE) the Vice Chair, and Jackie Binning (JB) the Community Board Manager.

MW advised that due to the weather and other events being held in the patch, attendance was low, so appreciated those that were able to attend.

A thank you was received from Steven Broadbent on the funding opportunities given in the ward of Hughenden.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors Gary Hall, Maz Hussain, Robert Carrington, David Carroll, Darren Hayday, Orsolya Hayday, Paul Turner, Shade Adoh; Councillor Helen Holman, Ellesborough Parish Council, Councillor Simon Cope, West Wycombe Parish Council, Sharon Henson, Parish Clerk, West Wycombe Parish Council and Colin Courtney (Resident).

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Notes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting, dated 23 November 2023, were approved by the North West Chilterns (NWC) Community Board.

5 Presentation - St Mary's Church, Princes Risborough

See report attached to the meeting minutes.

Revd David Williams (DW) thanked the NWC Community Board for the funding received for St Mary's Play Café, which was now approaching its second anniversary. DW confirmed that the project was to meet the needs of young families to allow them the opportunity to meet and make friends and connections.

Between six and eight volunteers ran the Play Café during term time on a Tuesday between 0930-1100 hours. DW said that all the activities were free and currently running to capacity. St Mary's were looking to expand to opening a further day in the week and to seek further volunteers.

Question (MW): Have you looked at replacement and longevity of the equipment?

Answer: St Mary's are looking to replace some of the items and invest long term as some of the soft play items have slightly tired after two years of use.

Question (MW): Is this one of the most successful initiative's the church has started?

Answer: DW advised that this activity was a valuable asset for Princes Risborough. MW confirmed that this scheme was also supporting local businesses after the sessions in terms of coffee shops and further networking.

CE said that the Play Café was ideal for those parents moving to the area to start a network of friends in a safe environment.

Question (CE): Could the Play Café accommodate families from outside of Princes Risborough?

Answer – DW stated that this was the reason they were looking for a second day for the Café to run.

Question (Steve Broadbent): Were single fathers welcome to attend?

Answer: The majority were mums but there were some Dad's and grandparents or childminders who benefitted from the activities on offer.

Question (MW): If we were to share across the County, would DW be happy to share the model?

Answer: DW said he was more than happy to share.

6 Action Groups

See reports detailed in the Agenda Pack.

MW asked Valerie McPherson (VM) for an update on the work of the **Community Resilience Action Group**. VM confirmed:

Orchard View Farm Community Garden: Once the weather improved, the fences and ground would be sorted. There was enormous interest, which included two disability groups. Eight plots would initially be available.

Walk with us Bucks: There would be varying levels of ability and approximately 14 volunteers were ready to start. The comms was being produced by the National Trust (NT), Hughenden, and would be promoted by the NT and the Community Board. Social Prescribers and various groups had been approached and hope to refer appropriate clients.

Environment and Climate Change: MW highlighted that discussions were being had with Stokenchurch Scouts on a proposed pond renovation, the Environment team at Buckinghamshire Council on Carbon Literacy training for Town and Parish Council's, groups and organisations to attend, a wildflower project on Chipps Hill with Piddington and Wheeler End Parish Council, a Cycling Signage proposal with the Chiltern Society and an energy efficiency lighting project with Great Kingshill Village Hall.

Economic Regeneration and Development: MW advised that the Business Networking event was on 29 February 2024. JB confirmed that 40 individuals had booked to attend, which included Buckinghamshire Councillors from the North West Chilterns and South West Chilterns Community Board's. One of the attendees was part of a camper van business which would be parked outside to promote.

Transport and Road Issues: CE said he was now chairing this group as Jim Stevens (JS) had decided to step down. CE said thank you to JS, who was the lead for several years, whose expertise was second to none. CE believed we were very fortunate to have him on board. For example he wrote the A4010 strategy, which the Community Board were still progressing. CE advised that there was a lack of funding and it would take many years to improve the A4010 (which was a strategic north-south route) as we would require government funding to complete the various elements of work.

CE stated that the group were progressing the three petitions (from Radnage Parish Council, Lacey Green Parish Council and Bledlow cum Saunderton Parish Council) for improving road safety. The group were also looking to engage with Buckinghamshire Highways (BH) as they were one year into their contract, and as we can now contact BH more freely, the group would like to discuss some of the recommendations generated at our meetings. On the rail front, the group would be inviting representatives from Chiltern Railways to an action group meeting in April, because Princes Risborough did not appear to be a main stopping point. Trains stopped at Thame and Haddenham Parkway, and the group wanted to encourage them to stop more frequently at Princes Risborough station, the gateway to The Chilterns. Also, from an economic regeneration perspective, if we could encourage more tourism from London to spend a weekend in the Chilterns, (which had so much offer), it would boost our economy.

MW echoed his thanks to JS and said he appreciated the work that he did for the Community Board.

7 NWC Community Board - Priorities for 2024/25

See attached to the meeting minutes.

MW presented our existing priorities which provided the framework for our Action Groups. MW confirmed that the viewpoint between him and JB was that these remained consistent with what we were trying to achieve and that they didn't require any substantial changes.

MW opened it up to the Community Board and asked if there was anything we had not addressed. MW confirmed that we had reviewed our priorities in much detail last year and the year before, and thought we were in the right direction and were meeting the work of the action groups and funding we had provided for various organisations.

MW advised that if the Community Board were satisfied, he recommended that our existing priorities remain the same. CE supported this. All approved for the forthcoming year (2024/25).

8 Funding Update

See report attached to the meeting minutes.

JB stressed that although we were not grant givers, it was beneficial to the various groups and organisations in our Board area, to be able to contribute to a wide range of projects which met our local and corporate priorities, demonstrated an evidence of need and were sustainable.

JB highlighted there were two projects which were still being progressed through the Community Board's funding team. One of those was a "New Shoots" project with the Chiltern Conservation Board. JB stated that this was a project for young people who would be taught about the environment, the wildlife and plants etc. and would learn useful new skills. CE said that one previous young person that attended a New Shoots initiative won a Proud of Bucks award.

The update comprised the organisations the NWC Community Board had collaborated with. This included partnership working with Thames Valley Police and St John's School in Lacey Green where the children spoke to parents with the local PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) who were parked inappropriately outside the school and/or had their vehicle engines running. Another anti idling campaign was held at Princes Risborough (PR) School and air quality monitors had been placed outside PR School and Stokenchurch Primary school, with another planned outside St John's School.

JB added that a site visit took place at South Bucks Hospice with the manager of the High Wycombe Community Board. It was appreciated that this organisation was

located in High Wycombe, but residents in the North West Chilterns still benefitted.

Further engagement had been had with The Rotary Club in Princes Risborough and Hughenden Street Association, who for example, hold regular lunch clubs and do some amazing work with their residents around crime prevention. As detailed earlier in the meeting, the Community Board was still very much involved in the Orchard View Farm Community Garden.

In terms of events, JB tabled the “Party in the Party” event which was organised by the Community Resilience Action Group. The Community Board also had a presence at Longwick Village Fete and the Christmas Light Switch-On in Princes Risborough.

MW and CE thanked JB for all her hard work in building up relationships and reviewing the various projects. MW agreed that the Community Board was not just about grants, although these were an important element. In previous years we had managed to do more with a little less, but as we move forward into the next year, it would be very much about building partnerships.

Sophie Payne (SP) said it was useful to see the types of projects funded and the spread across the Board area.

9 **Community Matters**

Corporate update: see report detailed in the Agenda Pack.

SP presented the report – she confirmed the following:

Fostering: This was currently a strong focus from Buckinghamshire Council (BC) due to the national and local shortage of Foster Carers. SP advised there was a task force reviewing all options to attract new Foster Carers for the Council. There was a massive benefit to the children in remaining locally as well as the advantages to the Council. BC were reviewing incentives that could be offered to show that they were committed to looking after Carers. For example, providing opportunities at Leisure Centres and Country Parks. BC would like to use the connections the Community Board had to offer to help engage with those people that would like to be a Foster Carer.

Local Plan: The consultation on our draft vision and objectives had been referred to at previous meetings. The next stages are for the Council to agree how it intends to manage and accommodate future growth and on how consultations would be carried out over the next couple of years.

Housing Strategy: Lots of works had been done on the Strategy in agreeing the vision for this. We know the challenges in Buckinghamshire for affordable quality housing, which was sustainable and accessible.

Buckinghamshire all- age autism strategy: Consultation carried out. The Strategy brings together an all-age plan of lifelong support for autistic people.

SP confirmed there were a number of other consultations planned, for example the Buckinghamshire Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan and Housing Allocations Policy – see the update for further information.

Questions received by the NWC Community Board: No questions had been received.

10 Date of the next meeting

July 2024 – date and venue to be confirmed.



The Play Café is now approaching its second birthday and it is safe to say that it has had a tremendous impact in our community for families with young children.

It began as a response to the isolation suffered by young families during the pandemic when we realised that both parents and children needed a safe space to connect with others. Parents and carers were keen for the opportunity to share experiences of parenthood and just to socialise with others in the same situation. The babies and toddlers needed to interact with others and in some cases learn how to play & share in a lively, child-friendly environment. Our vision was to provide a first-class facility with top quality toys but to offer it at no cost to those attending, so that there were no barriers to entry – the Play Café is here for everyone who needs it, no matter their personal circumstances. With the cost of living crisis hitting some families hard, some would be unable to afford an entry fee and the stigma of being unable to pay is taken away – everyone is equal.

The Play Café operates every Tuesday morning during Term Time with a capacity of 40 children and their parents and carers. Word has spread and each session is full - parents and carers regularly have to be turned away when we reach capacity. The session is run by 6-8 volunteers each week on a rota, and they cover a number of roles: refreshments; talking to parents & carers; running crafts & activities (themed around the story for the week); and playing with the children and babies. All our volunteers are DBS checked and as you would expect, safeguarding is paramount.

The Play Café is a venture supported by the whole church – as you can see, the church is transformed after morning services every Sunday by volunteers from the congregation into the perfect playground for little ones. This is quite a big operation as 120



chairs need to be moved aside and the play mats, soft play equipment, toys, dressing-up clothes, craft tables and quiet space for babies all laid out ready for the Tuesday morning sessions. In the future, dependent on when we can recruit more volunteers – and a full-time Children’s & Families Worker - we are hoping to add another session on Monday mornings to meet the need that we can see in our community.



The families attending vary from week to week and we connect with them via Facebook to keep them updated on ‘what’s happening’ at the sessions and letting them know about other child-focused events run by St Mary’s such as Messy Church. Talking to the parents and carers each week, the Play Café appeals to a great cross-section of our community. Parents bring along their children, but also primary carers such as grandparents and professional child carers. We recognise that Grandparents are playing an increasing role in childcare enabling the parents to resume full-time work, and they are grateful for the opportunity to access great child play facilities. We have also seen an increase in the number of refugee families attending with families from Ukraine, Poland and Russia. These families welcome the chance to integrate further into the community they find themselves in and have said how much they appreciate the warm welcome they receive.



The mats and play equipment is so well used that we are now considering how we will replace them over time, particularly if we begin a second session as the ‘wear & tear’ will increase.

We are very grateful that the North West Chilterns Community Board gave us the initial grant which enabled us to set up the Play Café. David appreciates the opportunity to talk to you today and is happy to answer your questions.

Revd David Williams, Rector, St Mary’s

parishoffice@stmarysrisborough.org.uk



Community Board Priorities - current

<p>Community Resilience</p> <p>Our action group aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to improve public health and wellbeing, mental health, social isolation, loneliness and deprivation for young and older people • to consider areas of crime and anti-social behaviour to create safer and connected communities • to consider any application in regards to community resilience 	<p>Economic Regeneration & Development</p> <p>Our action group aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to seek schemes and initiatives that support new and existing local businesses (urban and rural) • to prioritise schemes and initiatives that help achieve the council's Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy • to consider any application in regards to economic regeneration & development
<p>Environment & Climate Change</p> <p>Our action group aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to prioritise schemes and initiatives that help achieve and inform the Council's Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy • to seek and support schemes that have a sustainable and lasting effect on the North West Chilterns area, improve the built or rural environment, reduce the impacts and increase awareness of climate change, and reverse environmental damage • to consider any application in regards to the environment and climate change 	<p>Transport and Road Issues (TRIAG)</p> <p>Our action group aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide informed, local input into applications, consultations and petitions, in regard to transport and road issues. Ensure correct procedures are followed and an appropriate response obtained. • Improve road safety for all road users. • Improve the environment. • Continue to feedback TRIAG's work on delivering these objectives to Buckinghamshire Council to inform their decision makers and secure appropriate responses, remedies and actions.

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North West Chilterns Community Board Meeting Funding / Board Update for 2023/24

Chairman Cllr Matthew Walsh / Vice Chairman Cllr Carl Etholen

22nd February 2024

St Michael & All Angels



Budget Overview

The current budget position for the NWC CB as at 21st February 2024

Community Board Fund 2023/24	Total Project Costs (includes pending)	Total Contributory Funding (includes pending)	Funding allocated to date	Remaining budget
£118,918	£533,816	£117,119	£113,699	£5,219

Page 12

Pending applications Unallocated CB Contribution	Pending applications (if approved) Remaining budget
£3,420	£1,799

- **Funding applications received** 25 (2 pending)
- **Small Grants** 5
- **Multi board's** 2 (1 pending)
- **CB initiated projects** 5 (1 pending)

Organisation	Project Title/Description	Total Project Cost	Contributory Funding	Contributory Funding requested from CB
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Pending applications

Chiltern Conservation Board (Multi Board)	New Shoots (CB initiative)	£11,900	£5,490	£2,136
Ellesborough Parish Council	New Playground Surface	2,568	£1,284	£1,284

Applications - Approved by the NWC CB

Piddington Village Hall Small Grant	New Smart TV	£951	£0	£951
NWC CB Community Resilience Action Group	Party in the Park –CB Annual Event (CB initiative)	£3,174	£1,811 (in donations)	£1,363
Risborough Area Community Bus	Replacement bus	£115,000	£102,000	£13,000
Hughenden Village Hall	New Village Car Park	£46,881	£39,852	£7,029
Princes Risborough Town Council	Installation of solar panels at the Wades Centre	£27,548	£17,548	£10,000
Babies 1 st	Babies 1 st – NWC	£19,260	£9,540	£9,720

Organisation	Project Title/Description	Total Project Cost	Contributory Funding	Contributory Funding requested from CB
Applications - Approved by the NWC CB				
Bledlow Ridge Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis Club Floodlights	£27,294	£19,294	£8,000
Monks Risborough C of E Primary School	Community Playground	£22,465	£14,465	£8,000
National Trust - Hughenden, West Wycombe and Central Chilterns Portfolio	Walk with us Bucks – Guided Group Walking Pilot (CB initiative)	£5,330	£3,925	£1,405
Community Centre, Studley Green Small Grant	Ambient Mood Lighting	£765	£0	£765
The Rural Community Defibrillator Group	Cabinet renewal	£4,950	£2,475	£2,475
NWCCB - Economic Regeneration & Development Action Group Small Grant	Business Networking Event (CB initiative)	£640	£0	£640
The Chilterns Dial-a-Ride (Multi Board)	New Minibus	£128,018	£113,078	£1,650

Organisation	Project Title/Description	Total Project Cost	Contributory Funding	Contributory Funding requested from CB
Applications - Approved by the NWC CB				
St Michaels & All Angels	Defib and Cabinet	£2,320	£1,500	£1,500
Naphill Football Club Small Grant	New Shed	£974.40	£0	£974.40
Princes Risborough & District Neighbourhood Watch Association Small Grant	Website development	£750	£0	£750
St Michael & All Angels Small Grant	Eco Quiet Nature Garden	£973.09	£0	£973.09
Chiltern Society	Lacey Green Windmill Renovation	£53,691	£38,691	£15,000
Bledlow Ridge Village Hall	Resurfacing of the Village Hall Car Park	£17,880	£8,940	£8,940
Lacey Green Parish Council	Speed Survey and Assessment	£1,684	£500	£1,184
Hughenden Valley Community Shop	New Air Conditioning and Tables/Chairs	£3,029	£1,514.63	154.63

Organisation	Project Title/Description	Total Project Cost	Contributory Funding	Contributory Funding requested from CB
Applications - Approved by the NWC CB				
Bledlow Village Hall	Bledlow Village Playground	£28,448	£14,224	£14,224
Khepera	Cooking Skills for life (CB initiative)	£7323	£3662	£3662

Some of the organisations
we have worked with...

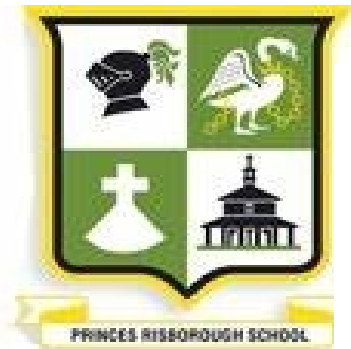


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Collaboration/Events....



Page 18



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL



Business Networking
Event 29.02.24....



Community Board
North West
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Community Board Action Plan

North West Chilterns Working Groups | Buckinghamshire Council



Dates – Future NWC CB Meetings

Dates and venues for 2024/25 to be agreed.

