



## Community Boards

# North West Chilterns Community Board agenda

Date: Thursday 22 February 2024

Time: 6.30 pm - please arrive 10 minutes earlier for registration

Venue: Church Hall, St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden, HP14 4LA

### **BC Councillors:**

M Walsh (Chairman), C Etholen (Vice-Chairman), S Adoh, M Angell, S Broadbent, R Carington, D Carroll, G Hall, C Harriss, D Hayday, O Hayday, Maz Hussain, M Smith, A Turner and P Turner

### **Town/Parish Councils and other organisations:**

Bledlow-cum-Saunderton, Bradenham, Downley, Ellesborough, Great and Little Hampden, Great and Little Kimble, Hughenden, Lacey Green, Longwick-cum-Ilmer, Piddington and Wheeler End, Princes Risborough, Radnage, Stokenchurch and West Wycombe

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.

**This meeting will be recorded:** The information that will be collected will be your name and your comments. They will only be used to assist in producing the meeting notes.

If you do not wish to take part in the meeting, you may submit written representation of up to 500 words which can be read out on your behalf, or liaise with your Councillor. If you cannot do either of these, please advise us and we will consider if there is anything we can do to assist. Written representation must be submitted to Jackie Binning, community board manager – contact details below. For details on how we use your personal information, please see our Privacy Notice – <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/privacy/privacy-policy/>

For further information please contact: Jackie Binning as detailed below.

### **Questions for the Chairman**

If you have any questions, please email Jackie Binning on [jackie.binning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:jackie.binning@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) or telephone 07816 118011 by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024. This will allow our Chairman, Matthew Walsh, time to prepare.

I look forward to seeing you at our Community Board meeting.

Item No	Item	Time	Page No
1	<b>Chairman's Welcome</b>	<b>18:30</b>	
2	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>		
3	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>		
4	<b>Notes of the last meeting</b> To agree the minutes held on 23 November 2023.	<b>18:35</b>	<b>5 - 12</b>
5	<b>Presentation - St Mary's Church, Princes Risborough</b> To present the success of the play equipment project, funded by the NWC Community Board in 2021. To be presented by Reverend David Williams.	<b>18:40</b>	
6	<b>Action Groups</b> (reports for each group included in the agenda pack) To provide an update on the key activities of the action groups.  To be presented by Councillor Matthew Walsh.	<b>18:55</b>	<b>13 - 20</b>
7	<b>NWC Community Board - Priorities for 2024/25</b> To agree the Community Board's Priorities for 2024/25.  To be led by Councillor Matthew Walsh.	<b>19:05</b>	
8	<b>Funding Update</b> To provide an update on applications received and the budget for 2023/24.  To provide an update on the Board's engagement during 2023/24.  To be presented by Jackie Binning, Community Board Manager.	<b>19:30</b>	
9	<b>Community Matters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Buckinghamshire Council Update:</b> to be presented by Sophie Payne, Service Director, Culture, Sport and Leisure, Buckinghamshire Council (included in the agenda pack).</li> </ul>	<b>19:45</b>	<b>21 - 24</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Question Time:</b> to respond to questions received – to be presented by the Chairman.</li></ul>		
<b>10</b>	<b>Date of the next meeting</b> July 2024 – date and venue to be agreed.	<b>20:00</b>	

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# North West Chilterns Community Board minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the North West Chilterns Community Board held on Thursday 23 November 2023 in The Princes Centre, Clifford Road, Princes Risborough, HP27 ODP, commencing at 6.30 pm.

### **BC Councillors present**

M Walsh (Chairman), C Etholen (Vice-Chairman), S Broadbent, D Carroll, G Hall, C Harriss and A Turner

### **Town/Parish Councils and other organisations present**

Cllr S Breese, Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council; Cllr C Davies, Lacey Green Parish Council; Cllr V McPherson and Cllr J Rogers, Longwick-cum-Ilmer Parish Council; Cllr S Cope, West Wycombe Parish Council; G Smith, MP; J Stevens, Lead of the Transport and Road Issues Action Group; N Marriner, Chilterns Conservation Board; P Spence, Hughenden Valley Residents Association and J Binning, M Devlin, W Morgan-Brown, P Thomas and S Payne (Buckinghamshire Council).

## Agenda Item

### **1 Chairman's Welcome**

A warm welcome was given by the Chair - Matthew Walsh (MW).

The Community Board remembered Councillor Ron Gaffney who was a resident of Saunderton and attended our Transport and Road Issues Action Group. A moments silence was given in his memory.

### **2 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors Arif Hussain, Melanie Smith, Paul Turner, Darren Hayday, Orsolya Hayday and Shade Adoh; Councillor Helen Holman, Ellesborough Parish Council; Councillor Stan Jones, Hughenden Parish Council; Giles Tandy, Parish Clerk for Downley Parish Council; and Nicola Surman, Funding and Support Manager.

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **4 Notes of the last meeting**

Jackie Binning (JB) confirmed the progress made on all actions raised from the meetings held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023:

### **27<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**NWC Active Travel Aspirations Document:** Sophie Payne (SP) asked if reductions in traffic flow or what people could do as a result of some of the proposals included in this document, so for example, children travelling to school safely and active travel routes to school. SP asked if these existed in the document. Although these did exist, Jim Stevens make it clearer.

A separate meeting was requested to take a formal vote on the NWC Active Travel Aspirations Document. This was carried out on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

### **14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – Meeting to review the NWC Travel Aspirations Document:**

It was requested that Section 7 be amended as it was felt that concerns should be referenced when issues were raised, instead of suggesting a different policy should be in place. The document was re-worded.

The NWC Active Travel Aspirations Document was approved during the meeting. Since the meeting, the approved document has been sent to the Transport Strategy Team and to the Community Board for information purposes.

### **7<sup>th</sup> September – Meeting to review e-Petitions**

#### **e-Petition, Traffic Calming in Lacey Green:**

**Lacey Green Parish Council** - recommendations progressing well.

#### **e-Petition, Radnage School Safety:**

**Radnage Parish Council** – a review of the recommendations started earlier this week (w/c 20.11.23).

#### **e-Petition, Bledlow Ridge Traffic Calming:**

**Bledlow cum Saunderton Parish Council:** As agreed during the meeting, Stephen Reading requested a site visit from Buckinghamshire Highways. To date, this has not been arranged so Robert Carington (RC) is following up.

The minutes of the meetings dated 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were approved by the NWC Community Board.

**Action: RC/JB:** Site visit to be arranged for Bledlow Ridge e-Petition (carried forward from meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September).

### **5 e-Petition - School Bus for Lord Williams School, Thame**

Neil Beswick (NB), Head of Client Transport, Buckinghamshire Council, referred to the petition report included in the Agenda pack.

A petition was submitted by the parents of students from the Princes Risborough area attending Lord Williams School in Thame.

The petition requested that the council arrange transport for students to school

after the withdrawal of a commercially operated local bus service that students previously travelled on. This service was partially funded by Oxfordshire County Council to Lord Williams School.

The students concerned are not eligible for council funded transport as described under Buckinghamshire Council's [Home to School Transport Policy](#) as they are not attending their nearest suitable school.

However, in early October 2023, Oxfordshire County Council informed the Buckinghamshire Council (BC) that the transport operator who had originally won their tender had decided that they didn't wish to continue after the half term break, and the contract would be awarded to Redline, the previous operator who had provided the commercial extension of the route from Princes Risborough.

**Question:** A parent asked for clarification in that BC had managed to get an extension for the same group of children within this area to board on the existing route. NB said that the operator who had taken up the contract had now reinstated what was previously there because BC made them aware of the interest and that this was a commercial opportunity for them.

Residents believed this was not correct because the previous solution that was in place was that there were several buses which collected the children from Chinnor, they come through the Aylesbury area, onto Princes Risborough, through Longwick and then go to Chinnor to pick up those children. This was the bus route that local children boarded. This was not the service that was working now. Currently, there was a single bus for the local children alone and residents wanted to talk about that because there was a concern over sustainability from an environment point of view and funding. This was the third time this situation had happened where the bus had been terminated, so assurances were required that this would not happen again. There was added stress not knowing if the service would continue and how their children would get to Lord Williams. It was felt that all pupils should be treated as eligible and considered as important. If there was transport in Longwick it would not be an issue.

**Question:** Are there any regulations to put a cap on the cost of school transport as the operator increased the cost to another £100 per term. Parents were being charged £1,000 per year, but parents were technically paying more because the service started mid half term and was £200 to £300 more than other routes when their route was the shortest. Parents understood that it came down to commercial viability but would like BC to review this.

**Answer:** NB advised that he was aware that for routes in the South of County, parents were paying £1,400 per annum. Operators were struggling with a shortage of bus drivers and fuel costs had gone up, so BC try to assist in placing eligible students on the bus, but where there's a commercial offer, the operator will set his own price.

**Question:** This was understood by parents but they wondered if there were other options where other buses could divert, just in case there were any future problems with Redline. The service was working well at the moment, but were there other options where other buses could divert, as parents were concerned that the service would be pulled again and parents would find themselves in the same position again.

**Answer:** NB advised that BC liaised with Redline buses on a regular basis and had a working relationship with them. He would know if and when any problems arose.

**Question:** Why is there not a bus route from Risborough to Thame? Why is there nothing that comes through Longwick?

**Answer:** MW confirmed that he spoken to James Loader. He also said that Longwick had received half a million due to housing re-development, but in bus terms, this was not alot of money. There was an agreement that there would be a meeting between the three Ward Members (MW, Gary Hall and Alan Turner), James and NB to see if other schemes could be enhanced. MW thanked NB for his involvement in helping to resolve this, and thought a good job had been done by the parents and the action group in making sure something happened. MW acknowledged that parents needed to be reassured that they would not find themselves in this situation in the future. This petition had highlighted the difficulties being experienced and MW said we would work together to look at solutions/options. **Action: MW:** To review future bus options and solutions.

Jim Stevens introduced himself as the Chair for the Transport and Road Issues Action Group. JS advised that the group empathised with the issues raised in the petition and said that he also spoke to NB about it. He also appreciated that further concerns had been raised and that these would be reviewed by Ward Members and others. He also thanked NB for adhering to the Home to School Transport Policy, and more importantly, went over and above to look at a way forward, which didn't undermine this policy, but tried to achieve something for residents which he succeeded in doing.

## **6 Action Groups**

See reports detailed in the Agenda Pack.

MW stated that he and CE met with the Action Group Chairs on a regular basis and said there had been some great work. The Community Resilience Action Group were working well on the Community Garden at Orchard View Farm, the Economic Regeneration & Development group were organising a Business Network event at Orchard View Farm in conjunction with BC's Film Office and Economic Development team. MW confirmed that he would be at Pinewood Studios tomorrow with Greg Smith to try and lobby them to use the excellent outdoor space in the North West Chilterns. MW added that the action groups were not replicated across all Community Boards and we were one of the few to have so many. He believed the groups were doing sterling work. There were no matters arising.



## 7 Energy Doctor Service

Paul Thomas (PT), Domestic Resource Efficiency Officer, Buckinghamshire Council provided an overview of the Energy Doctor Service, it's aims and the qualifying criteria for an Energy Doctor visit. The presentation is appended to the minutes.

**Question:** How long is the scheme in place for? PT confirmed that it would be fund for 18 months or until the funds had exhausted. This was open to all residents in Buckinghamshire and could include areas outside of Opportunity Bucks, but there was a focus to assist in those areas. MW confirmed that Opportunity Bucks areas were High Wycombe, Aylesbury and Chesham. PT added that in Princes Risborough he recently visited the Arms Houses in the Retreat and that the visit was well received.

**Question:** Solar panels.

i) Can they be installed in the back garden?

**Answer:** Yes - they require some maintenance and need to be angled properly and moved around to follow the sun.

ii) Are the solar panels carbon neutral?

**Answer:** Yes as producing energy from the sun. Panels can be charged from your vehicle via a 12v socket, but this could affect your floor consumption.

iii) What are the costs for the panels?

**Answer:** The Council secured a number of units at a good price, but the cost was approximately £200.

**Question:** Simon Breese (SB) asked if PT was in contact with Bledlow Consolidated Charities. PT said no so SB agreed to put him touch.

**Question:** Is this scheme about batch cooking and the sensible use of appliances in terms of saving money?

**Answer:** It was difficult to give advice on this as the service may not extend to all appliances, but if something was clearly not correct, some guidance would be given. Sophie Payne stated there was alot of work being done, with many courses being developed in the Opportunity Bucks areas in particular, with cookery courses, budgeting in terms of food, and there were good networks in operation with food banks and other community organisations etc. This however was open to those outside of Opportunity Bucks. MW thought a comms piece from our Corporate team would be helpful because these services were available to all - if someone met the criteria, help was at hand for residents in the North West Chilterns.

**Question:** Is it better to fill the kettle up and fill a flask or just boil what you need at a time?

**Answer:** Only fill the kettle with the water you need, and if you choose to put it in a flask, then that it is down to the individual.

## 8 Hedgerow Project

Nick Marriner (NM), Chiltern Conservation Board (CCB) provided a presentation –

appended to the minutes.

The key highlights from the presentation were as follows:

- NM thanked the Community Board for their support given to the project.
- The CCB were four years into a five year Lottery Heritage supported project.
- CCB had worked with local farms across the area and had identified how to support them with wildlife, plants and trees.
- More habitat and bigger habitat needed to make the connections between habitats and create islands for birds and butterflies.
- Farmland is the connecting piece between woodland and grass areas. A great deal of work had taken place to build up relationships with the farmers.
- There were 18 farms in the cluster.
- Advice had been given to farmers on how to improve their land to encourage the habitats.
- Hedgerows were a key point and this was the project supported by the Community Board.
- Approximately 25km of hedgerow had been created. A combination of planting, coppicing and fencing.
- There were three local farms in the North West Chilterns - Little Horsenden, Old Callowdown and Beachdown Farm had benefitted from this project.
- Hedgerows were a successful way of capturing carbon.
- Callowdown Farm – Lodge Hill, a triple SI (Sites of Special, Scientific Interest). CCB worked with farmers in clearing the scrubland. This took approximately eight weeks to achieve a manageable state. Cattle grazing back on site to keep the scrubland under control. Site had been monitored for four years and CCB were now starting to see the ground improve and wild flowers growing. This was part of a 20 year project. Every area of the farm had improved it's connectivity.
- Had been working with other organisations such as Chiltern Rangers, providing opportunities for volunteers to work on local projects aiding mental health.
- Worked with the Rothchilds Foundation on a project to help each farm to understand their carbon footprint.
- Survey work – approximately 250 volunteers had been trained to carry out volunteer wildlife surveys. Areas had been broken down into squares and each volunteer looked at species of plants and wildlife. This was carried out over a period of time to track changes.
- New Shoots was a group of young volunteers between 15 to 18 years of age, who were encouraged into conservation and carrying out basic surveys.

**Question:** Looking to the next five to 10 years, how integrated is the CCB with the SFI (Sustainable Farming Interest) to work directly with the farmers to help them plan?

**Answer:** Advice is given to turn farmers into studious SFI's. Providing the evidence to the farmers proves that there is success through the Cluster group. An application

had been submitted for landscape recovery, working across landowners which would allow a foundation to build on.

**Question:** Lodge Hill prevented a woodland from developing to allow cows to graze. Are woodlands a good thing?

**Answer:** Woodlands are great in the right place. From a biodiversity perspective it was good to have a mixed habitat. A scrubby edge and combined environment was good, not a mono culture.

## **9 Funding Update**

Jackie Binning (JB), Community Board Manager asked that, in addition to the information presented, if anyone knew of any project ideas, they should contact her. There were many pre-application conversations being had and were highlighted on the slides. Presentation appended to the minutes.

**Comment:** Thank you from the Village Hall in Hughenden Valley for the new car park surface.

**Question:** Whiteleaf Cross – this was looking green and tired and the car park was pot holed. It was believed that the Chiltern Society were looking at renovating the cross and the car park and would still like to look at this project.

**Answer:** JB confirmed that two meetings had taken place this year with the Chiltern Society. They had however decided to put an application in during the next budget year.

## **10 Community Matters**

Sophie Payne – Service Director, Culture, Sport and Leisure provided the meeting with the Corporate update. See the Corporate Update included in the Agenda pack.

## **11 Date of the next meeting**

22 February 2024 – Church Hall, St Michael and All Angels, Hughenden, HP14 4LA

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**North West Chilterns Community Board  
Community Resilience Action Group  
Briefing Report for Community Board Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

**Purpose:** This report provides a brief overview of the work undertaken by the Action Group since the Community Board Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023.

**Priority Objectives:** The group continue to look at the viewpoints of young and older people and crime and anti-social behaviour themes and maintain their focus on the objectives detailed below:

- To consider issues around health and wellbeing, including social isolation and loneliness.
- To improve quality of life and community cohesion between socially isolated/lonely and deprived young and older people
- To consider areas of crime and anti-social behaviour to create safer and connected communities.
- To consider any application regarding community resilience.

**Action Group:** Meetings are held every two to three months. The last one was held on 17<sup>th</sup> January and the next is planned for 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**The group continue to work on:**

- **Projects around disability:** The Community Board approved the “Walk with Us Bucks” initiative with the National Trust – Hughenden. This is a walking project, which will involve young and older people, especially those who suffer with loneliness or vulnerability.

Walks will begin in March/April 2024 during the week and there will be six different graded walks to suit every ability. The walks will start at 10.30am.

There are 14 Walking volunteers (2 per walk) who have been trained in first aid awareness.

- **Community Garden:** This has been named as the “Orchard View Farm Community Garden” and will be led by Valerie McPherson with several keen volunteers. The Community Board will though continue to be linked with the garden.

We have received interest from other disabled groups as we already have a group ready to start when the garden opens.

We are waiting for a week of dry weather to rotavate the ground., then the eight small plots can be marked out. The delivery of posts and wire that is being donated by Briants and Penns Nursery are donating seeds and plants once all the groundwork has been completed. Hoping to open the garden in Spring.

- **Horse Therapy:** As mentioned in previous reports, the Horses Trusts in Speen would like to partner with the Community Board on a project which works with young and older people with slight disabilities, and/or in need of therapy with horses but it is difficult to find a Facilitator for this project.
- **Singing/ Music Initiative -Bucks Music:** Application received but this project will be for 2024/25.

The project is called “Harmony across the Generations: Bridging the Gap through Music.” The aim of the project is to create a vibrant and inclusive community music project bringing together primary children, isolated individuals, and the older generation, to sing or play simple instruments and enjoy working in harmony whilst having fun.

The project will comprise of a series of six interactive music workshops in the local area led by Bucks Music, a group of teachers and musicians.

#### **Project Ideas:**

- **Building with Lego:** The aim would be to hire several venues to build a famous or historic place with Lego bricks where anyone can join in by purchasing a brick for £1. Further information to follow.

**Health and Wellbeing event:** Different organisations related to this theme to join in an event along with interested departments of Buckinghamshire Council. Looking at a framework from another Community Board.

**Travelling Culture Cafes:** The Culture Team at Bucks Council approached the Community Board Manager to initiate this across North West Chilterns where residents and families could meet to participate in a variety of activities. Further details to follow.

**Chairman: Cllr Valerie McPherson BEM**

**North West Chilterns Community Board**  
**Environmental and Climate Change Action Group**  
**Briefing Report for Community Board Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

**Purpose:** This report provides a brief overview of the work undertaken by the Action Group since the Community Board Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023.

**Priority Objectives:** The Action Group continue to focus on the following:

- 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.

**Action Group:** The Action Group aim to meet bi-monthly; a meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and the next is planned for 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Its agendas cover a mix of policy, strategic and fundraising related matters, many of which have been delegated to the group by the Community Board or raised by local councils, the public or by members of the group.

**The group continue to work on:**

- Identifying suitable locations with Town and Parish Council's for tree planting in streets and public spaces. The group however were recently advised that residents may apply direct to Buckinghamshire Highways for trees
- Encouraging schemes looking at Wildflower planting.
- Looking at options to install Electric Vehicle charging points in public areas.

**Project since the last meeting which has been approved by the Community Board.**

- St Michael & All Angels on an Eco Quiet Nature Garden. The Church want to maximize the use of the churchyard by making a 'Quiet Garden' behind it for people to enjoy and contemplate the beauty and nature around them. This will include a bench to relax on, a small water feature, Buddliea and a variety of wildflowers and other plants.

**Pre-applications – the following continue to be discussed and have been moved as proposals for 2024/25:**

- Stokenchurch Scouts on a proposed pond renovation project.
- Working with the Environment team at Buckinghamshire Council on Carbon Literacy training for Town and Parish Council's, groups and organisations (this is an action group initiative in conjunction with the High Wycombe and Denham & Gerrards Cross Community Boards). This training will provide an awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis.

- Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Council on a Wildflower project on Chipps Hill.
- Chiltern Society on a Cycling Signage proposal.
- Great Kingshill Village Hall on an energy efficiency lighting project.

The Action Group continue to pursue their spreadsheet which highlights potential areas and objectives where it is felt the group could encourage further applications.

**Chairman: Cllr Robert Carington**



**North West Chilterns Community Board**  
**Economic Regeneration & Development Action Group**  
**Briefing Report for Community Board Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

**Purpose:** This report provides a brief overview of the work undertaken by the Action Group since the Community Board Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023.

**Priority Objectives:** The Action Group continue to focus on the following:

- 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 adhoc application in regards to Economic Regeneration & Development.

**Action Group:** The last meeting was held in 2023. The next meeting is planned for 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Progress on actions since the last Community Board meeting are as follows:

- **Business Networking Event** (for those businesses in the tourism, hospitality and leisure sectors). The event will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Orchard View Farm, Little Meadle.

Since the last Community Board meeting, the presentation content has been amended to the following:

- The Economic Growth and Regeneration team will present how Buckinghamshire Council can support local businesses and funding opportunities going forward including the Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural Grants programme.
- The owner of Orchard View Farm will talk about diversification and collaboration.
- The Film Office will present the opportunities available and how the film industry is a blockbuster economic driver pumping millions into the local economy.

There will also be time during the event for businesses to network.

The event has been widely been promoted on Facebook, the Community Board (including Town and Parish Council's and Parish/Buckinghamshire Councillors), Visit Bucks, Libraries and other local venues.

- **Reducing Energy Consumption** – The Action Group are currently focusing its efforts on helping local businesses reduce their energy usage. Discussions are ongoing.

- **Carbon Footprinting for Local Businesses** - The action group have discussed how they could make local businesses more aware of their own carbon footprint and understand how to reduce it.

In addition, an initiative in providing local businesses with practical information about what actions are possible (including adaptation) and what the risks and opportunities are, is something the group will consider after they have investigated the idea around reducing energy consumption for organisations.

- The action group will continue to explore other sources of data that evidence the needs of local business, organisations and individuals and research other possible project opportunities.

**Chairman: Cllr Matthew Walsh**

**Community Board – North West Chilterns  
Transport and Road Issues Action Group  
Briefing Report for the Community Board – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

**Purpose:** This report provides a brief overview of the work undertaken by the Transport and Road Issues Action Group (TRIAG) since the Community Board Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023.

**Priority Objectives:**

TRIAG has 4 Priority Objectives. These were described in detail in the last briefing report and in summary they are:

1. 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.
2. Improve road safety for all road users.
3. Improve the environment.
4. 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.

**Action Group:** The last meeting was held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The next meeting is planned for April 2024 (date to be agreed).

Progress on actions since the last Community Board meeting are as follows:

- The action group have been authorised to contact Bucks Highways on adhoc items so the outstanding items on our action plan will now be progressed. There were concerns raised at the February meeting on the lack of response from the Highways Authority and other Buckinghamshire Council departments, so it is hoped that future communications will improve.
- We will be inviting Chiltern Railways to our next meeting in April to discuss, for example, timetables and how we can achieve more promotion of the Chilterns as we would like to encourage people to take the train from London to Princes Risborough as this is the gateway to the Chilterns. We would also like to review the current ticketing system which at times feels alittle complicated.
- The action group are thinking about new initiatives to undertake going forward.

**Chairman:** Cllr Carl Etholen.

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## Community Boards – Corporate Update – January 2024

### Could you or someone you know foster?

With a national and local shortage of Foster Carers, coupled with an increase in demand, Buckinghamshire Council has set up a dedicated task force to look into how we can improve our support to Foster Carers as well as review our processes and procedures to increase the number of people applying, being approved and staying as a Buckinghamshire Council Foster Carer.

The task force are looking into all options and are working on a package of incentives which will make fostering for Buckinghamshire Council a unique and favourable option in a very competitive market. Following feedback from our current Foster Carers one quick win before Christmas was the issuing of larger size wheely bins to all current foster carers which was a welcomed support for fostering families.

We will also be reaching out to our local community partners and would welcome your insight and help too, to ensure we are reaching more of the right people who could care for our children.

With over 500 Buckinghamshire children needing; caring, supportive and loving homes on long and short term basis we're committed to building our fostering community and taking good care of our fostering families. As our unique offer is developed we will keep you updated and seek your support in reaching your local residents and communities.

If you, or someone you know would like to find out more about Fostering, please visit: [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/foster](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/foster)

### Our Local Plan: what, why and how

Local plans are at the heart of the planning system and are the main consideration used in deciding planning applications. A local plan sets out the long-term vision and framework for future development of an area – the Local Plan for Buckinghamshire will go up to 2045.

It will look at future needs for housing and employment across the county, identifying where development should take place and protected places where it needs to be carefully controlled.

The Local Plan is our opportunity to set out how we intend to manage and accommodate future growth, meet our local social, economic and environmental needs and get the right infrastructure in place. We have already started preparatory work with two recent public consultations covering an [Attitudes Survey](#) and our [draft vision and objectives](#).

Our next consultation will invite people to have their say on a selection of different strategic growth scenarios for how we can accommodate new homes and jobs throughout Buckinghamshire. This will help establish the guiding principles which will help to shape where and how we will plan to deliver new housing in the next Local Plan. This is likely to take place in spring this year.

[The Local Plan for Buckinghamshire | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

## Housing Strategy – vision for future housing supply

We have recently completed a public consultation on our first Housing Strategy. The strategy sets out how all the partners involved in delivering housing in Buckinghamshire will work together to ensure that the housing offer delivers the housing our residents need. It focuses on three main priorities:

- Responding to the needs of our diverse population
- Better homes which are good quality, sustainable and matched to need
- New homes which are affordable, accessible and appropriate

It sets out the challenges we face, the opportunities we can use and how we are responding to these.

## Buckinghamshire all-age autism strategy

Buckinghamshire Council is launching its first autism strategy, bringing together an all-age plan of lifelong support for autistic people in Buckinghamshire. The strategy has been co-produced with autistic people, their families and professionals in Health and Social Care.

Our vision is to help autistic people live as independently as possible and have the same life opportunities and experiences as everyone else. We want to ensure autistic people can access the right support whenever they need it and contribute to shaping how the council works.

The all-age autism strategy focuses on the following areas:

- Improving awareness and understanding of autism
- Tackling health and social care inequalities
- Developing a needs-based approach so that autistic children and young people get the best start in life
- Developing better support for employment and meaningful activities
- Ensuring more adults with autism maintain their independence

The strategy has been consulted on and is looking to be adopted in March – subject to Cabinet approval.

## Consultations

### Happening soon

Activity name	Start date	End date	Community Board
All Age Carers Strategy engagement	End of Jan/ Early Feb	TBC	County-wide

### Looking ahead

We have a number of county-wide activities currently scheduled for Spring/Summer 2024:

- Local Plan growth scenarios
- Local Transport Plan 5

- Buckinghamshire Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan
- Housing Allocations Policy
- All Age Carers Strategy consultation
- Leisure Strategy
- Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy
- Street Trading Policy

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