



Beeches Community Board Action Plan

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Introduction

The Beeches Community Board covers the parishes of Burnham, Dorney, Farnham Royal, Stoke Poges and Taplow. The aim of the Board is to improve outcomes for residents through ensuring strong connections between Buckinghamshire Council and the local community. This will be achieved by ensuring that Board members are able to make recommendations on local issues, and that they can influence the Council's service design and delivery in the local area. The Board will also work in partnership with a range of local stakeholders to find solutions to local concerns.

Funding

The 16 Community Boards across Buckinghamshire have been given a collective budget of £3.9 million. The budget is split into three funding streams:

- Community Area Priorities Fund
- Health and Wellbeing Fund
- Local Infrastructure Fund

The Community Area Priorities Fund is to be used to support local projects which will help improve outcomes for residents that address the area priorities determined by each Community Board, as well as support the delivery of Buckinghamshire Council's Corporate Plan. The overall budget is split between the 16 Boards with a top-up based on population.

The Health and Wellbeing Fund is to be used to support local projects which will help improve the health and wellbeing of residents. The overall budget is split between the 16 Boards with a top-up based on deprivation.

The Local Infrastructure Fund is to support community infrastructure needs. It can be used to support the upgrading of existing and/or new physical and/or social infrastructure. The overall budget is allocated based on the number of new homes proposed for each Board area according to the draft or published Local Plans.

For the Beeches Community Board, the levels of funding for 2020/21 are as follows:

Community Area Priorities Fund	Health & Wellbeing Fund	Infrastructure Fund	Total
£86, 513	£27,506	£0	£114,019

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a portion of the Health and Wellbeing Fund was allocated to the new Councillor Crisis Fund, which provided a source of funding for organisations and groups responding urgently to the pandemic. Once the Health and Wellbeing Fund is

opened, any applications for funding to support Covid-19 projects will need to be made to the Community Board. Any unspent funding from the Councillor Crisis fund will be reallocated to the Health and Wellbeing Fund budget for 2020/21.

There is no funding allocated to the Beeches Community Board for 2020/21 from the Infrastructure Fund. This is due to the funding being allocated to Boards based on the number of houses proposed in the Draft Local Plan. Allocations to this fund will be reviewed in future years.

Local Priorities

The Community Board has identified some initial broad priority areas which will form part of the criteria for assessing applications to the Local Area Priorities Fund and Health and Wellbeing Fund. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Board has not been able to consult with a wide range of partners and members of the public in setting its local priorities. The priorities can be reviewed by the Board at any time and it is expected that a review of these initial priorities, including engagement with stakeholders, community groups and residents, will take place within a year.

Infrastructure and Highways

The Board has identified infrastructure and highways as key priorities for the local area. This includes the provision of infrastructure to support increased development and the maintenance and improvement of the highway network. It also includes road safety and improvements of footpaths and pedestrian accesses.

Although major infrastructure projects and highways schemes are out of scope as the Board can only spend up to 50% of its Community Area Priorities Fund (£43,256.50 for 2020/21) on highways, the Board can still play a major role in influencing decisions in these areas.

Supporting Older and Vulnerable People

The Beeches area has a higher proportion of residents aged 65 or older than the Buckinghamshire average. There are also a significant number of residents suffering from long term illnesses which make them more vulnerable and in need of support. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the needs of older vulnerable people, and it is clear that they will need ongoing community support whilst the recovery from Covid-19 is underway and possibly beyond.

The Board has therefore identified supporting older and vulnerable people as a key priority for the local area. This will include issues such as addressing social isolation for older and vulnerable people, helping to support residents who have been shielding and may still not be going out, and increasing the confidence of vulnerable people to leave their homes when they feel able to. The public health profile for the Community Board has identified tackling loneliness in people over 65 as a key priority for the area. Other issues may include engaging

with care homes to ensure that their residents feel part of the community, and supporting elderly residents who may be suffering from degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's or Dementia of which the Beeches area has a higher proportion than the county average.

Young People

The Board has also highlighted supporting younger people (aged 25 and below) as a key priority for the local area. Employment and debt are likely to be issues affecting this group, as a larger percentage of young people work in industries which are more adversely affected by Covid-19 such as the hospitality sector. There will also be issues with children who have fallen behind at school due to the pandemic and may need extra support going forward.

The public health profile for the Beeches Board showed that there are a higher percentage of overweight and obese primary school children in the area than the Buckinghamshire average. Projects which focus on healthy eating and promoting physical activity in young people may be encouraged in order to address this issue. The Board area also has a higher proportion of physically inactive adults than the county average, and intervention in childhood could be an effective way to prevent a new generation from following this trend.

Actions for 2020/21

In order to address the priorities identified above and achieve the aims of the Board, the following actions will be undertaken:

- Establish sub-groups for each of the priority areas and identify volunteers to attend sub-group meetings. Sub-groups will discuss the issues relating to each priority area in greater detail and report back to the wider Community Board membership. Sub-groups may also consider and discuss applications for funding, and make recommendations to the Board on which applications should be supported. They may also discuss more strategic issues relating to their priority area in order to influence decisions which affect the local community, and they may work with groups from other Board areas where appropriate.
- Build and develop connections with stakeholders and partners in the Beeches area. This can be through the Community Board Coordinator or any of the Board members. Local stakeholders and partners should be invited to relevant sub-group meetings.
- Advertise the Community Area Priorities Fund and the Health and Wellbeing Fund through local channels and encourage applications. Work with applicants to ensure that bids are strong and look for alternative sources of funding where possible to facilitate match funding.
- Assess applications and agree recommendations for funding allocation.
- Support applicants to get projects up and running, and promote them within the local community.