



# **Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board Report**

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## **What we have been doing**

Since our first Board meeting two months ago, a lot has been achieved in this relatively short space of time, which inspires us as to what can be accomplished in 6 to 9 months or a year from now.

Once our initial board priorities were agreed, we wasted no time in recruiting to 5 Sub Groups and now have Councillors, community groups and residents working together and it's not too late to join in.

## **Update on our Sub Group priorities**

The priorities which we agreed were: Covid Recovery, Environment and Green Spaces, Highways and Road Safety and Travel and Transport

The following sub groups have now met and have established some initial actions. More information will be provided on these at our September Board meeting.

## **Addressing social isolation and the needs of the most vulnerable (Covid Recovery)**

We appreciate that with social distancing still firmly in place, we are limited to how we can reach out safely to those who are isolated so the group had to look to non-contact support and two schemes which have demonstrated their effectiveness at reducing social isolation and supporting our most vulnerable are Street Associations and telephone befriending schemes.

There are currently only two [Street Associations](#) in our area: Ashendon and Westcott. The link provides more information about Street Associations.

We would love to hear from any individuals or organisations who might be interested in starting up or joining a current scheme in their area. We will be providing the opportunity to learn more about either scheme so please contact me if you are interested.

## **Highways and Road Safety**

By far the most common issue appears to be that of speeding traffic or in some cases the perception of it. The first action of this group will be to conduct an audit of all parish councils on the issues they have and what interventions they are applying and their success rates. The findings of this audit will help inform discussion with key partners on what interventions work best in each situation and what realistic support parishes can expect from partners such as Thames Valley Police to enforce those measures.

## **Environment and Green Spaces**

Although there were no single immediate issues to address, there was a collective agreement on the need to provide more opportunity to access a green space in walking distance from home.

We are fortunate in Bucks to have a number of specialist organisations such as [Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust](#), [Lindengate Social and Horticultural Therapy Charity](#) and the local [Nature Partnership for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes](#) to offer support and expertise so we have contacted them with a view to providing a workshop to help identify some of the projects which could be explored such as Pocket parks, better recycling, planting wildlife corridors and attracting more insects and bees into our gardens. We are probably all aware by now about the strong connection between our mental health and access to nature and with more of us working from home, and connecting to this green resource on our own doorstep, we need to protect and enhance it wherever possible.

## **Cycling and Walking**

Two schemes which have been ongoing for some considerable time are the Haddenham to Thame Greenway, which is an aspirational off-road walking and cycling route between Haddenham and Thame Parkway Station and Thame and the Haddenham to Aylesbury Greenway, building on the success of the Waddesdon Greenway. The first section of this Greenway was delivered in 2018.

The group first want to obtain a more detailed update on progress on both schemes. The group would also like to review Haddenham's Emergency Active Travel Scheme in due course.

## **Freight Steering Group (Travel and Transport)**

Buckinghamshire Council has a countywide Freight Strategy and is applying its objectives to the Waddesdon area. Freight featured highly on the list of concerns for residents, particularly in small rural villages where drivers unfamiliar with local roads and keen to make up time appear to take to the most inappropriate routes causing damage to the environment and footpaths. In some instances, they are unable to manoeuvre out of the tight spot they have got into causing severe damage to trees and buildings.

The Steering Group recommendations will feed into the wider discussions around freight. With the county facing unprecedented levels of growth, there is a need to effectively manage the movement of freight in a way which supports the economy whilst protecting the local environment and communities.

The first objective of the Freight Steering Group is to provide some recommendations on alternative routes for HGVs within the 3 zones within the Waddesdon area and which cover most of our villages and rural routes. Some of this freight is also provided by HS2 and East-

West Rail and a further working group has been set up to deal specifically with issues relating to these two infrastructure schemes.

## **Funding**

A press release went out on 8<sup>th</sup> September, launching our Community Board funding.

We have three funds:

**Community Area priorities** = £91,647. This will support local projects that will help improve outcomes for residents and that addresses our board priorities. We can allocate a maximum of 50% of this budget (£45,824) towards transport/highways projects.

### *Transport Schemes:*

We have two schemes: Haddenham Parish Council and Marsh Gibbon Parish Council, who were put forward for consideration from the previous Local Area Forum. Details of these will be circulated for the Board to consider for funding. Schemes wishing to apply for funding for the 2021/22 financial year will need to apply for funding by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and will be considered at the 5<sup>th</sup> November Board meeting.

Applications for the following funds can be made at any time throughout the year and decisions will be taken at the following community board meeting.

### **A Health and Wellbeing Fund = £26,310**

This will support local projects that improve the health and wellbeing of residents.

### **Local Infrastructure fund = £78,681**

This will support community infrastructure needs such as to support the upgrade of existing and/or physical and/or social amenities.

To find out how to get involved, to see the criteria for applying for funds or to put in an application visit [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-boards](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-boards)

The link to the online funding application is:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/improving-your-local-community/>

## **Attachments to follow:**

Funding reports for:

Haddenham Parish Council – Waiting Restrictions

Marsh Gibbon Parish Council – Blackthorn Road Speed Reduction

