



Amersham Community Board

10th September 2020



Community Board Funding

The overall budget for Community Boards across Buckinghamshire is £3.9m which is made up of three elements, broken down as follows for the Amersham Board:

- **Community Area Priorities Fund (£84,704)**
- **Health & Wellbeing Fund (£22,693)**
- **Local Infrastructure Fund (£38,512)**

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

Funding process:

- **Pre – Application**
- Community board sets Area Priorities & Funding opportunities promoted centrally and locally to the not-for-profit sector.
- Applicant contacts Community Board Coordinator to discuss the project and application & Community Board Coordinator discusses potential applications with Community Board Chairmen, and local members as appropriate

- **Submission**
- Applications completed using online form
- Community Board Coordinator consults relevant service area and secures any internal service assessments needed e.g. all applications requesting transportation works will be assessed by Transport for Bucks (TfB) Network Improvement Team (NIT) for assessment and budget estimate (PID) ready for the following year's budget.
- For transport specific schemes the applicant and local members will be sent the PID to review & confirm desire to go ahead with application.
- Community Board Coordinator carries out an initial assessment and writes a report for the members of the community board
- Reports discussed with Chairmen, and local members as appropriate & shared with relevant sub groups or work streams

- **Decision**
- Reports go forward to Community Board meeting & Applicants invited to attend the meeting.
- Community board discuss and agrees to fund project & Recommendations sent to relevant senior officer for ratification.

- **Implementation**
- Applicants notified & award letters issued.
- Promotions as required.
- Invoices processed.
- Recipients complete evaluation form at end of project.

Priorities

- Coronavirus recovery and ongoing support
- Village and Town Centre revival
- Green issues and the Environment
- The Health and Wellbeing of Young People

Sub-Groups

- Coronavirus
- Village and Town Centre revival
- The Health and Wellbeing of Young People
- Communications

Coronavirus – key themes

- To understand more about the impacts on debt/financial insecurity.
- To understand more about the impacts on Mental Health
- To understand more about future step up plans for Foodbanks.
- To investigate the role of Social Prescribing and link with local surgeries.
- To promote Neighbourhood Watch and similar schemes more widely – sharing any information across the network to help raise awareness of support services available
- To promote the Bucks Volunteer Matching Service to community groups
- To support elderly/vulnerable people with physical activity

Village & Town Centre – Key themes

- To discuss and agree the purpose of the group, i.e. short term vs long term actions, timescales and what does success look like?
- To collate existing data about shopping habits and footfall and to identify where there are gaps/trends/opportunities
- To encourage people to ‘shop local’, working with local businesses and retailers
- To encourage people to visit the towns & villages as a destination, making them an attractive place to visit. Learn from success in other towns.
- To gather more information about success in other towns e.g. small market towns.

Shop Local Workshop



Health & Wellbeing of Young People – key themes

- To promote opportunities for young people leaving school and finding work
- To understand the needs of young people e.g. working with partners to develop surveys
- To work closely with schools and other youth clubs/groups to understand where support is required
- To support youth organisations with recruiting volunteers

Communications

- The aim of the comms initially will be to let people know what the Community Board is and provide them a way of contacting the board to discuss the priorities and needs of the local area. The group would need to gather dates of publications and provide a schedule of regular Community Board Content.
- The future aims will be to provide relevant messages and news stories which will draw people's attention and increase engagement with the board, working with partners to share information widely and targeting comms to different groups.

Next Steps

- An **action plan** is in development following the first meetings of the sub-groups
- If anyone has an interest in these areas and would like to get involved, contact Lizzie.Wright@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- Transport Sub-Group