



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 | £21,873.00 | £135,892.00 |

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. £12,500 was given to various local organisations from the Councillor Crisis Fund.

In November 2020 £20,000 was made available as part of the Community Board Crisis Fund. This funding was opened in response to the second national lockdown to support local organisations providing assistance to vulnerable residents. Any unspent funding will be re-allocated to the overall budget.

Local Infrastructure Fund allocations were reviewed in October 2020 and Beeches was subsequently allocated £21,873 for 2020/21.

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.

Current areas of focus for the Infrastructure and Highways sub-group include:

- Drainage and flooding
- Identifying key local infrastructure needs
- Active travel

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.

Current areas of focus for the Supporting Older and Vulnerable People sub-group include:

- Setting up/expanding Street Associations and/or Neighbourhood Watch schemes
- Supporting isolated residents, including through technology
- Improving the local community for Dementia sufferers and their families
- Supporting isolated and vulnerable residents at Christmas

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.

Current areas of focus for the Young People sub-group include:

- Setting up a Youth Council for the Beeches area
- Commissioning Youth Outreach work, to identify the needs of Young People in the area and engage with young people who are not involved in existing clubs and activities.
- Improving mental health and wellbeing

Actions for 2020/21

| Action | Due Date | Status | Notes |
|---|----------|----------|--|
| Identify initial priorities for 2020/21 | 31.07.20 | Complete | Initial priorities agreed, noted that these would be reviewed within a year |
| Establish sub-groups for each priority area | 31.08.20 | Complete | Sub-groups established for Infrastructure & Highways, Supporting Older & Vulnerable People, and Young People |
| Develop and support sub-groups | 31.03.21 | Ongoing | Each sub-group has a Chairman and established membership, along with ad hoc attendees. Sub-groups meet at least once between each Community Board meeting, to discuss issues in detail and explore ideas for projects. They are attended by a range of internal and external partners to provide expertise on specific issues. Sub-groups will also discuss applications received ahead of a decision being made at full Community Board meetings. |
| Build and develop connections with partners in the local area | n/a | Ongoing | Initial introductions made with Parish Council clerks. Introductions made with a number of community organisations and VCS partners through Community Board Coordinator stakeholder sessions. Partners have been invited to attend sub-group meetings where relevant. Discussions ongoing and Community Board is open to conversations with any local stakeholders. |
| Advertise Community Board funding opportunities and encourage applications from local organisations | 31.03.21 | Ongoing | Funding presentation delivered at Board meeting on 17.09.20. Criteria and process information circulated to all Community Board members by email. Funding information, criteria and process published on Buckinghamshire Council website. Updates and information also discussed during sub-groups. |
| Assess applications as they are received and agree funding allocations | 31.03.21 | Ongoing | Highways/transport applications for 2020/21 assessed and agreed at September CB meeting. Coordinator has held several conversations with potential applicants for CA Priorities fund, and has offered |

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| | | | advice on criteria and process. 2020/21 budget must be allocated by 31.03.21. |
| Set up Facebook Page and Newsletter | 31.11.20 | Ongoing | Facebook page set up and active. Newsletter in development, waiting for template and platform to be provided by Communications Team. Newsletter will initially be published quarterly. |