



# **South West Chiltern Community Board Action Plan**

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## Introduction

The South West Chiltern Community Board covers the parishes of Fawley, Hedsor, Great Marlow, Hambleden, Ibstone, Lane End, Little Marlow, Marlow Town Council, Marlow Bottom, Medmenham, Turville, Wooburn and Bourne End. The aim of the Board is to improve outcomes for residents by establishing 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 influence the Council's service vision, design and delivery in the local area. The Board will also work in partnership with a range of local stakeholders, organisations and voluntary groups 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 South West Chiltern Community Board, the levels of funding for 2020/21 are as follows:

Community Area Priorities Fund	Health & Wellbeing Fund	Infrastructure Fund	Total
£97,130	£32,003	£36,104	£165,237

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a portion of the Health and Wellbeing Fund was allocated to the new Councillor Crisis Fund, which provided an immediate 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 and any unspent funding from the Councillor Crisis fund will be reallocated to the Health and Wellbeing Fund budget for 2020/21.

With the second lockdown now underway, it has been agreed that there will be a simpler application process to fund those key activities brought on by Covid19. This could include the distribution of food boxes to vulnerable individuals/families in the South West Chilterns Community Board area.

## **Local Priorities**

The South West Chiltern Community Board has identified some 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 be ongoing once the working groups are fully established.

## **Transport, Infrastructure, Re-opening of High Streets and Regeneration (TIRR)**

The Board has identified TIRR as key priorities for the local area. This includes the provision of infrastructure to support increased development activity and the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the highway network. It also includes road safety, improvements of footpaths and pedestrian accesses and increased cycle paths and accessibility. In addition, the re-opening of high streets will be looking at increasing local businesses within our board community encouraging additional footfall.

Although major infrastructure projects and highways schemes are out of scope for the Boards as they can only spend up to 50% of its Community Area Priorities Fund (£97,130 total for 2020/21) on highways, the Board can still play a major role in influencing decisions in these areas and look to include this as Community engagement. Very much a collaborative approach.

It has been identified that broadband is an issue affecting the Board area not only in the larger towns, but, in the more rural parishes and villages. A workstream in respect of broadband has been created with key identified individuals reporting back into the TIRR working group.

## **COVID19 Recovery, Young/Older People, Environment and Anti-Social Behaviour**

The South West Chiltern area has a higher proportion of residents aged 65 or older than the Buckinghamshire average thus highlighting the importance of promoting the flu vaccine. There are also a significant number of residents suffering from long term illnesses which make them more vulnerable and in need of support, although, the recent pandemic has meant that screening for some conditions has been put on hold. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the needs of both older and younger 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/younger including vulnerable people as a key priority for the local area. This will include issues such as addressing social isolation for that identified group, 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 five recommendations

- Reducing smoking, childhood obesity and physical inactivity
- Early screening/detection of cancer and other potential life changing conditions
- Exploration of local dementia friendly initiatives
- Promotion of NHS Health Checks
- Programmes to build community cohesion and encourage befriending.

The Board has also highlighted supporting younger people as a key priority for the local area. Employment and debt during the recovery phase when individual circumstances evolve following the cessation of furlough are likely to be issues identified by this group, as a larger percentage of young people work in industries which are more adversely affected by Covid-19 such as the hospitality/entertainment sector.

Environmental issues are also key priorities and the Board will be looking to implement and compliment schemes in line with the guidance being compiled by the Council and engaging with local groups and interested parties.

As a result of Covid19 activity, the board are mindful that there may be an increase in anti-social behaviour (ASB). Engaging with the ASB team within the Council, the Board are keen to promote the use of Street Wardens as an example of reducing such activity and linking in with the Police for any local issues that may arise. Thankfully to date, across the South West Chilterns Board area, the ASB activity has been minimal and dealt with promptly.

## **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:

- The working groups are now established and each have a Chair and Vice Chair along with the members of the group who are made up from Members, Town and Parish representatives and other local organisations and businesses. Working groups are discussing the issues relating to each priority area in greater detail and are reporting back to the wider Community Board membership. Working groups are also considering and discussing applications for funding, and making recommendations to the Board on which applications should be supported. There are some commonalities between boards and this lends itself to collaborative working on projects and identified key areas. They are also discussing more strategic issues relating to their priority area in order to influence decisions which affect the local community.
- Establishing partnership working with stakeholders and partners in the South West Chiltern area. Engagement will be through the Community Board Coordinator or any of the Board members. Working group meetings should have a diverse membership which is well underway, and developing as we move forward.
- The advertising of the Community Area Priorities Fund and the Health and Wellbeing Fund through local channels and encourage applications is in progress and we continue to look to our partner agencies to assist with this.
- We are working with potential applicants to ensure that bids fit the required criteria 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 initiated and established, and promote them within the local community.
- Recommendations from the working groups regarding applications will be forwarded to the main Community board for support and ratification in order to release the funding stream.

## ACTIONS FOR 2020/2021 – South West Chilterns Community Board

ACTION	DUE DATE	STATUS	NOTES
Board to identify the local priorities in SWC for 20/21	14/07/2020	Complete	Discussion on initial priorities took place and agreed. All members aware the priorities would be reviewed when applicable and updated. Outside of this, priorities would be reviewed annually.
Working groups to be established	28/07/2020	Complete	2 initial working groups in respect of Transport, Infrastructure, Re-opening of High Streets and Regeneration (TIRR) and Covid19 Recovery including Young/Older People, Environment and Anti-Social Behaviour.
Working Group Engagement	N/A	Ongoing	Each Working group has a Chair and Vice Chair and has a membership of Councillors, Town and Parish representatives, members of the Community and local groups, businesses, Council services and Blue light agencies. Working groups to meet monthly agreed in advance to discuss relevant issues in detail. Invited internal and external partners provide expertise. Working groups are the mechanism for discussion and recommendation ahead of a full Community Board Meeting.
Networking	N/A	Ongoing	Introductions between Coordinator and Members, Town and Parish Councils and other organisations underway to form basis of positive engagement. Initial conversations promoted via stakeholder sessions for Community Board Coordinators where links and contacts established.
Community Board Funding/projects/ideas	31/03/2021	Ongoing	Funding and criteria information shared with Members and Town and Parish Councils by email and promoted at full Community Board meetings. Information also available on the Council website and provided to groups/organisations prior to applications.

Applications	31/03/2021		Applications received into the working groups discussed in details for recommendations to be presented to the full Board Meetings for agreement and ratification on approach and funding. 2020/2021 budget to be allocated b 31/03/2021
Social Media and Community Engagement	October 2020	Ongoing	South West Chilterns Community Board page established and now active. Links to Town and Parish Council social media pages and local Community Groups and organisations. Newsletter to be created in line with Council guidelines – awaiting for template and preferred platform to be produced in collaboration with Communications Team.
Increased Work Streams	09/11/2020	Ongoing	Priorities revised with inclusion of Broadband workstream linking in to TIRR Working Group looking at broadband provision across the board area. Chair and Vice Chair appointed. Timely reporting back into TIRR.