



# **Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board Report**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November  
2020**

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## **What we have been doing**

At the present time we are entering a second lockdown and the Board's focus is turning more towards supporting our community during this time.

Unlike the last lockdown, there are now established structures in place within the Council to help communities, such as the Support Hub. The Support Hub team have carried out an in-depth analysis of how the Council responded during the first lockdown and how they supported local communities. This has resulted in a large amount of work to establish a comprehensive emergency plan that covers all aspects of the local support hub response to an increase in demand.

At the November meeting we will be having the following two presentations:

The [Buckinghamshire Online Directory](#), which was set up during the last lockdown and is a community mapped based resource listing all the activities and services available in Buckinghamshire.

[Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trusts](#) (BBOWT)

BBOWT is our local wildlife charity and is partnering with us in our Environment and Green Spaces working group.

A number of consultations are currently in circulation and I provide a list of those, which either fall within our Community Board area or are relevant across the county.

## **Update on our working Group priorities**

Just to recap for those who may be joining the Community Board meeting for the first time, the priorities which our Community Board are focussing on are: Covid Recovery, Environment and Green Spaces, Highways and Road Safety and Travel and Transport. Covid recovery forms an intrinsic part of most, if not all our working group conversations.

The following working groups have all met at least twice now and working groups members will give a brief update at the meeting on developments since the last board meeting.

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

Since our last meeting, when we explored what we could do whilst maintaining social distancing and ever mindful that restrictions can be tightened as well as eased, we discussed the merits of promoting [Street Associations](#).

Berryfields and Westcott Parish Councils have gone away to see how they can promote these within their respective communities.

A DIY toolkit is available to any parish, resident or community group, who would like to explore this option.

I also heard about a What's App group formed after the last lockdown by a couple of neighbours, who wanted to unite their village. Eight months on, it has a distribution group of 70+ residents – linking residents in the village's new development with those in the older part of the village. Sometimes the simplest ideas work the best.

If you have started an initiative locally or would like to, then please do get in contact with your local Community Board. We may be able to help with seed funding to get an idea off the ground or promote what you are doing as a good news story to inspire others.

A quote which comes to mind is "Just because it's never been done, doesn't mean it can't be done"

## **Highways and Road Safety**

Since the last meeting, the group sent out a survey to all parishes within our Board requesting details of their top three Highways and Road Safety issues and speeding traffic was prevalent in most of the responses received.

From this we have compiled a list of questions to put to partners including Thames Valley Police to see how we can better work together to address some of these issues.

At the time of writing, [Community Speedwatch](#), like many volunteer activities, has been suspended due to Covid restrictions, but it is hoped this can be resumed soon and TVP have confirmed that they will let us know as soon as this takes place. We appreciate that TVP resources cannot be everywhere and their focus is on enforcing Covid compliance in addition to business as usual. However, dedicated community volunteers are keen to act as a local presence to support the Police in monitoring and capturing speeds of vehicles driving at inappropriate speeds through our villages and hamlets.

## **Environment and Green Spaces**

At our last meeting, we had a presentation from [Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust](#) and [Heart of Bucks](#), who are the community foundation for Buckinghamshire, a funding organisation awarding grants and loans to local charities and community groups.

We are also partnering with [Chiltern Rangers](#), who work with communities to provide practical habitat management in Bucks and the wider Chilterns.

At this time when winter is approaching and the activities and plans we would normally associate with this time of year seem to be in suspense, we want to encourage you that spring is just around the corner and with it is the opportunity to enjoy all that it offers. We will be providing parish councils and residents with ideas to turn bland green spaces into

thriving habitats for wildlife and provide projects that families can work on together in any space.

There has been a lot of discussion in the media on how our environment has helped us to cope with the challenges we have all been facing this year, so this topic is close to the heart of our Community Board.

We are working with our partners to provide information packs and practical help to parishes, residents and community groups and signpost organisations to funders such as [Heart of Bucks](#) who have a Green Futures programme to support projects that enhance our natural environment.

### **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.

Both schemes are at the stage of negotiations with landowners to secure long term use of land to progress the routes. The Community Board and working group, together with the Council are exploring options that might help to see these much longed for projects become a reality, which so many people would benefit from.

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

The Steering Group is working alongside officers from the Council to feed into a countywide Freight Strategy.

Among the responses received to the Highways and Road Safety survey, were those from parishes experiencing issues with HGV traffic. A further HGV survey was then sent out by the Steering Group and the results compiled.

The Chair of the Steering Group – John Lewis, plotted the results from these responses onto the Community Board map and this has helped the group identify parishes where the main HGV routes travel. The Group wants to work with the freight industry to gain a better understanding of their practices and to resolve the issues identified by parishes to achieve the best outcome for all those concerned.

### **HS2 East West Rail Working Group**

This working group is chaired by Cllr John Chilver and is represented by interested parties from not only this Community Board but Winslow and Villages and Buckingham and Villages. In all over 30 interested parties have joined this group.

The working group has met twice with representatives from both HS2 and East West Rail, Thames Valley Police and officers from the Council's HS2 East West Rail Programme Team.

The working group offers an opportunity for open and constructive dialogue at a time when both organisations are escalating their operations.

A dedicated web page has been set up on the Buckinghamshire Council website and the link is <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/improving-your-local-community/hs2-ewr-working-group/>

## **Funding**

At the time of writing, we are two weeks into a second lockdown, although not quite as restrictive as the first, and our Community Board is responding by dedicating £13,000 of our current funds towards supporting community groups or parishes who are helping their communities in some way during this time. This includes bringing some cheer to those who are particularly vulnerable during lockdown and those who are disadvantaged in some way due to it, maybe through social isolation or financial hardship. This is a quick turnaround fund to enable some short-term projects happening over the coming weeks to get off the ground. Do email me if you wish to chat through any projects you think might meet these criteria.

We are in the process of awarding funding to several organisations and an update will be provided at the November meeting.

Just to recap on the other 3 Community Board funds available:

**Community Area priorities** This will support local projects that will help improve outcomes for residents and that addresses our board priorities.

### *Transport Schemes:*

The funding applications deadline for transport schemes for 2021-22 which require costing from Transport for Bucks has been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 to allow more time for applications to be submitted.

## **A Health and Wellbeing Fund**

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

## **Local Infrastructure fund**

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 for any of these funding pots please 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/>

### **Funding request**

The following Area Priorities funding request is attached for formal ratification at the 25<sup>th</sup> November meeting.

Ashendon Parish Council – provision of footway. Scheme total cost £22,000. Parish Council to match fund, requesting £11,000 from the Community Board.

### **Attachments:**

- Consultation Engagement Update – November 2020
- Ashendon Parish Council – funding request.