



# Buckinghamshire Council

## Chesham Villages Forum

### Community Board Update

#### December 2020

#### Background

The establishment of the Chesham & Villages Community Board has provided a unique opportunity to involve residents, partners, local groups and organisations in looking at what matters to the local area most, using data and local intelligence to determine local priorities and projects for support and funding. With a large town council in Chesham to meet the needs of the urban area, the Village Forum has been established to focus specifically on the needs and priorities of the village parish councils that form a crucial part of the Board. They include:-

- Ashley Green
- Chartridge
- Chenies
- Cholesbury-cum-St Leonard
- Latimer & Ley Hill
- The Lee

#### Achievements

The Village Forum has provided a strong focus on local issues and the members have engaged in additional collaboration outside of the meeting to identify areas of common concern, which include:-

- Repairs & maintenance to rural roads
- Speeding on rural roads and use by HGVs
- Building relationships with Buckinghamshire Council
- Funding for local projects including cross parish initiatives
- Green Belt, AONB, Conservation Areas and planning & enforcement issues
- Control and maintenance of village assets
- Community health, well-being, isolation and public transport
- Supporting local businesses and home working

Recent meetings have addressed specific issues with guest speakers in attendance to offer third party advice on specialist issues.

**Neighbourhood Planning:** neighbourhood planning consultant Neil Homer of London planning consultancy O'Neill Homer imparted specialist knowledge on the development of neighbourhood plans with special reference to how smaller parishes are collaborating to develop 'multi-parish' plans. He also answered questions on the Local Plan, developments from the government white paper on planning and potential areas of exposure for rural communities.

**Rural Flytipping:** Officers from Buckinghamshire Council's flytipping team attended to answer questions on rural hotspots and the intricacies of identifying and prosecuting rural offenders. The team now have a list of rural hotspots and will support the parishes in reducing offences and improving specific locations.

**Buckinghamshire Freight Network:** an invite has been extended to Buckinghamshire Council's network freight manager to discuss what measures are available to protect rural roads from excessive and / or inappropriate freight movements.

Community safety and health and well-being as we move out of the Covid pandemic in Spring 2021 will be considered along with other rural priorities in the future.

## **Funding**

The Board has now received two applications from organisations with links to the rural parishes around supporting digital connectivity and village sporting activities, and discussions around further applications to support safety and well-being projects are ongoing.