

Community Board – North West Chilterns
Economic Regeneration
Briefing Report – 11th March 2021

Purpose of the report:

This report provides a brief update on the work undertaken by the Economic Regeneration subgroup since the last Community board meeting held on 19th November 2021. The last meeting was held on Monday 1st February.

Progress to date:

The subgroup has met twice since the last Community Board (CB) meeting. The following is a summary of the key matters arising:

The subgroup have considered how to best assist businesses in the towns and villages recover from Covid lockdown and build sustained business for the future. To this end a meeting was held with Jacqueline Ford in the Planning, Growth and Sustainability Directorate at Buckinghamshire Council. Jaqueline was able to offer a valuable insight into the strategy and ongoing actions in some towns in Bucks and the lessons learnt from them. It was clear from this discussion that the success of this initiative was due to the thorough knowledge and understanding of the businesses operating in the towns.

It was decided that the actions taken should be largely replicated in other towns and villages in the Community. A draft questionnaire has been produced, based on one used in Marlow and developed jointly by Buckinghamshire Council and the Marlow Chamber of Commerce and circulated to members of the subgroup for comment. The questionnaire and final related comments will be discussed at the next subgroup meeting (15th March) with a view to distributing it to businesses when they are able to resume working.

A meeting was held on the 13th January with members of the CB, other CBs and Bucks Business First (BBF), to consider a proposal from SW Chilterns CB of a program to inform people residing in the participating communities on how to set up in business for themselves. The program would be formulated and presented by BBF, financed by a contribution of £3,000 per participating CB. During the Covid pandemic many businesses have closed with consequent loss of jobs and many residents may feel that they could set up on their own. Six CBs (including NW Chilterns) have agreed to join this initiative. Publicity concerning this initiative has begun with the posting of notices, leaflet production and digital media has begun. To date three candidates from NW Chilterns have registered.

A contribution to the Stokenchurch Covid transport bus for disabled citizens was approved.

Subgroup meetings:

The next meeting on Monday 15th March.

Teif Jones

Chair of the Subgroup

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