



## North West Chilterns Community Board minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the North West Chilterns Community Board held on Tuesday 20 July 2021 in , commencing at 6.30 pm and concluding at 8.13 pm.

### **Committee members present**

G Hall - Chairman (Buckinghamshire Council), S Adoh (Buckinghamshire Council), S Broadbent (Buckinghamshire Council), R Carington (Buckinghamshire Council), D Carroll (Buckinghamshire Council), C Etholen - Vice Chairman (Buckinghamshire Council), D Hayday (Buckinghamshire Council), O Hayday (Buckinghamshire Council), M Smith (Buckinghamshire Council), P Turner (Buckinghamshire Council), M Walsh (Buckinghamshire Council), R Thomas (Stokenchurch Parish Council), J Cripps (Great and Little Kimble Parish Council), C Davies (Lacey Green Parish Council), M Lazenby (Downley Parish Council), P Nichols (Hughenden Parish Council), S Breese (Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council), S Henson (West Wycombe Parish Council) and S Marshall (Princes Risborough Town Council)

### **Others in attendance**

J Stevens, J McKeown, G King, L Dowson, P Batting, K Shanahan, H Stearn, J Grover, R Stevens, L O'Rourke, C Courtney, R Coleman, J Farley, S Westwood, S Jones

### **Officers in attendance**

J Binning, S Taylor, S Payne, K Walker

### **Agenda Item**

#### **1 Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly the new members of the Board and Sophie Payne. Sophie introduced herself and advised she was the Service Director for Culture, Sport and Leisure at Buckinghamshire Council, which included library services, country parks, the cultural strategy and leisure facilities.

#### **2 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Kama Wager, Localism Manager; Alan Ball, Chairman of Princes Risborough Town Council (TC); Alan Frost, Princes Risborough TC Valerie McPherson, Longwick-cum-Ilmer Parish Council (PC); Jane Rogers, Longwick-cum-Ilmer PC; Simon Digby, Piddington and Wheeler End PC; Teif Jones, Bradenham PC; Wendy Monroe-West, Downley PC; Simon Cope, West Wycombe PC; Sophie Phillips, Red Kite Housing Association and Clare Coates. Sharon Henson attended in place of Simon Cope for West Wycombe PC and Surinder Marshall attended in place of Andy

Ball for Princes Risborough TC.

**Notes:**

Cllr Carl Etholen left the meeting at 19.45 hrs.

Cllr Robert Carrington left the meeting at 20.00 hrs.

Simon Westwood left the meeting at 18.48 hrs.

Hilda Stearn left the meeting at 19.18 hrs.

The Chairman agreed to a change in the agenda item order; item 10, Community Matters, was discussed after the standing items (1, 2, 3 and 4).

**3 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Paul Nicholls, Hughenden PC and Cllr David Carroll, Buckinghamshire Council (BC) both declared an interest in that they lived on Cockpit Road, Great Kingshill.

**4 Notes of the last meeting**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2021 were **agreed** as an accurate record.

**5 Look back at North West Chilterns Community Board 2020/21**

The Chairman advised that the previous year had been a steep learning curve for the Community Board (CB) and explained that the CB would now be run slightly differently as the action groups had been standardised across all the CBs. Changes had also been made to the funding formula and Jackie Binning, Community Board Co-ordinator, would provide guidance when required.

**6 Looking forward to 2021/22**

The Chairman advised that anyone who wished to be involved in an action group should contact Jackie Binning, Community Board Co-ordinator. The first meeting of each action group would consider the new objectives for the Council.

**Resolved:** The following action group leads were **agreed** by the members of the CB:

Environment and Climate Change – Robert Carington

Economic Regeneration - Mathew Walsh

Traffic and Road Issues – Jim Stevens

Community Resilience – Val Macpherson.

**7 Economic Regeneration**

A presentation, appended to the minutes, was provided by Philippa Batting, Managing Director, Bucks Business First, on the 'Be Your Own Boss' programme which was funded by the Board last year and was a good example of supporting the priority on Economic Regeneration. The economic statistics were available on the slides and Philippa reminded the Board that £3,000 had been invested which enabled 12 residents to participate in a two day short course, a named business adviser and mentoring support from a start-up champion. Anyone based in the seven CB areas which had taken up the initiative could apply and there were two

places available in the North West Chilterns CB area. Philippa highlighted that there had been a noticeable increase in uptake during the last month and pointed out the testimonials provided by some of the participants.

## **8 Environmental and Climate Change**

Kirsty Shanahan, Buckinghamshire Community Energy, provided an overview of the funding provided for environmental and climate change projects in the North West Chilterns Community Board area:

**Studley Green Community Centre** – grant for solar panels. An application had been made for lottery funding/other funding for the shortfall of £2,500 to upgrade the electrical system. The Centre would also consider replacing the oil fired heating in the autumn. Confirmation was awaited on the rapid EV chargers which would provide funding to the Centre.

**West Wycombe Village Hall/Community Centre** – consideration was being given to the installation of solar panels and upgrading from storage heaters to air conditioning which would reduce energy consumption and save approximately £5,000 per annum. There were also plans for mechanical ventilation with heat recovery and double glazing/draft insulation but planning permission needed to be checked.

**Speen Village Hall** – consideration was being given to solar panels; no data was available, but an application would be made to the CB. The Speen Environmental Action Group was running an event at Speen Festival in September 2021.

**Wycombe Solar Streets** – the group was working with the High Wycombe CB but was also open for villages in the area. The scheme enabled people to get together ‘en masse’ to make cost savings of scale. For more information see [Solar Streets.co.uk](http://SolarStreets.co.uk).

**Princes Risborough TC and Risborough Community Bus** – thanked the CB for their support, particularly from Jackie Binning, Community Board Co-ordinator.

The following key points were raised:

Sharon Henson, West Wycombe PC clerk, advised that the biggest concern was over planning and how the National Trust would view the ideas as West Wycombe Community Centre/Village Hall was a heritage building in a conservation area. Kirsty stated she was aware of the situation and that plans would be in keeping with the building.

Robin Thomas, Stokenchurch PC, asked for a report on Studley Green Community Centre/Village Hall as the PC was the landlord, with a view to inviting Kirsty to a PC meeting.

**ACTION: Kirsty Shanahan**

Cllr Matthew Walsh stated that Princes Day Care Centre would be investing in solar

panels and invited Kirsty to view the centre.

The chairman thanked the presenters and reiterated that if anyone had a project or idea that they should approach Jackie Binning, Community Board Co-ordinator.

## 9 Community Board Updates

Jackie Binning, Community Board Co-ordinator introduced Lucy Dowson from [Visit Buckinghamshire](#) and advised that Lucy would be able to help from a tourism and environmental prospective to reduce carbon footprint and help tourism businesses to become greener and more sustainable.

Jackie provided a high level funding update slide, which was part of the agenda pack. The amount carried forward from 2020/21 was £109,228 and the budget for 2021/22 was £244,096 making a total of £353,324. Jackie asked the CB to make use of the funding to make an impact on the area and asked for members to promote the CB and contact Jackie for information/support. Each CB would make funding allocations for 2021-22 and must spend a minimum of 15% on projects to improve the environment, a minimum of 15% on projects supporting economic recovery; however, it was noted that there was a 25% cap on funding for transport projects.

Clear funding procedures were in place and Jackie explained that she would send out a monthly funding email asking CB Members to support the funding applications received. Jackie emphasised the importance of Members responding with their comments in order for the process to work and provide the funding to those who needed it.

One funding application had been received since the last meeting which was for £5,000 for the Buckinghamshire Open Weekend (22-25 July 2021). This application had been supported by the CB and a detailed breakdown would be provided at the next meeting.

A high level, live, action plan would be created and available from September 2021, to show the activities and priorities of each action group.

A query was raised as to whether the TC could apply for a pot of money to respond to requests from smaller, community organisations, who did not have the structure to apply through the CB; Jackie explained that this used to be possible but the updated procedures now allowed for smaller groups to apply for funding. Help was also available from Community Impact Bucks and the small grants pot. Jackie to discuss with Surinder Marshall.

**ACTION: Jackie Binning**

The Chairman thanked Jackie for her engagement with community groups and emphasised that North West Chilterns CB was one of the most successful community boards.

## 10 Community Matters

### Great Kingshill Petitions

Jim Stevens, Chairman of the North West Chilterns CB Traffic and Road Issues Action Group, provided a presentation, appended to the minutes, on the traffic issues in Great Kingshill. Two Petitions had been submitted to the Council in April 2021 by Great Kingshill residents, setting out their concerns with traffic on specific roads in the village – and specifically the impact of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and the narrowness of a section of Cockpit Road where HGV's mount the pavement to pass each other.

Jim stated that he was not employed by BC; he was a volunteer and local resident in the North West Chiltern area with experience of dealing with transport and road issues similar to those raised by Great Kingshill residents. Jim stated that his role was to take an independent approach.

Jim described the residents' concerns and the petitions, which sought to ban HGVs on a number of roads in the Great Kingshill area (shown on the map). There was also a current planning application in for Binders Yard, but this petition response did not deal with the planning application as it was a separate matter and was being dealt with through the Council's statutory planning procedures.

Various data had been used by Council officers to assess the traffic conditions and this helped inform a comprehensive initial assessment of the issues raised by residents. Council officers had produced a report setting out their findings and this was appended to the minutes.

In summary, the following points were made:

- A classified traffic turning count was carried out every two years and the data was provided for the years 2016, 2018 and 2021. The roads carrying the highest number of HGVs were Copes Road and Cockpit Road. The traffic increase was shown in red fill on the slide showing daily traffic volumes. There had been a small increase in the number of HGVs using Cockpit Road and a significant increase in light goods vehicles e.g. online shopping delivery vehicles. Stag Lane had seen the highest increase. Across Buckinghamshire, HGVs expressed as a percentage of daily traffic was 3-5%, nationally 5%; in Great Kingshill it was 1.1-2.6%.
- Traffic speed had been measured in Cockpit Road which had resulted in speed enforcement discussions with Thames Valley Police and the possibility for local community speedwatch interventions.
- BC had a Crash Analysis Policy; the 5-year collision record for Great Kingshill had been checked in line with this policy and this showed that the thresholds for intervention by the Council, as the Highway Authority, had not been exceeded. Many other locations across Buckinghamshire exceeded the thresholds and this determined where interventions were being prioritised by the Council.

- The air quality in Prestwood on the A4128 was measured annually and the data showed that air quality had been largely static during the past 5 years and c.50% below the national threshold. The Prestwood data could be a reasonable proxy for air quality on the A4128 through Gt Kingshill.

The initial view of the petition request to ban HGVs from the roads in Gt Kingshill was that this would displace HGV traffic onto the A4128 and Peterley Lane/Nags Head Lane between Great Kingshill and Great Missenden and this would be unacceptable due to the physical constraints of these roads. The A4128 had a weak railway bridge / weight restriction in Great Missenden and would mean not all displaced HGVs would be able to use the A4128. Peterley Lane/Nags Head Lane were unsuitable due to their width, alignment, lack of footways and topography.

For these reasons, Jim advised that it would not be possible to ban HGVs from all of the roads in Great Kingshill as requested in the petition. However, in recognising the resident's concerns, two feasibility studies had been suggested for Cockpit Road and these could potentially be funded jointly between the Community Board and Hughenden Parish Council:

1. **Traffic management measures in Cockpit Road** (To address safety concerns with the narrow length of the road).
2. **A 7.5 tonne weight restriction in Cockpit Road** (With an exemption for access to properties).

Jim indicated these feasibility studies this would be a next step given the conclusions reached by Council highway officers in their assessment of the issues as set out in their report.

Other issues raised by the residents were highlighted along with the possible next steps. Jim thanked all those who had worked on the issues to date and the following key points were raised in discussion:

- In response to the timeline for the feasibility studies to be carried out; Jackie advised that Hughenden PC would need to apply for the feasibility studies and Transport for Bucks (TfB) would put together a Project Initiation Document; the deadline for TfB applications was 30 September 2021.
- A resident raised concern over the Cockpit Road pinch point and requested that action be taken immediately to stop HGVs using the road due to the accident risk. Jim stated that he fully understood that residents wanted action now, but a measured approach was important; it needed to be appropriate and pass safety audit and be technically feasible. In the interim, community speedwatch and the Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs could be used and Thames Valley Police would be asked to consider carrying out speed enforcement .
- The Chairman agreed it was a comprehensive report, and he understood the residents' concerns, but it was not possible to stop the HGVs immediately.
- A resident raised a number of issues e.g. breaches at Binders Yard which

were not being dealt with; a report from Jacobs Babbie in 2005 which had identified major safety issues on the A4128 but no action had been taken; the skewed traffic figures for 2021; the deaths as a result of speeding which were not mentioned in the petition report or investigated at the time; the inadequate pathway and the trees/hedge had not been cut back on Cockpit Road. The situation was another 'accident waiting to happen' and the liability sat with the Council. The Chairman pointed out that Jim Stevens was not part of the Council, he was Chairman of the Action Group and was highly qualified. The action group had looked in detail and fed back the concerns to the officers at the Council but there were other roads in the county which were considered a higher priority and that no immediate intervention was required.

- In response to a comment that the traffic was diverted from Cockpit Road when the count was in place and therefore did not provide an accurate view, Jim acknowledged that there was a possibility that some of the HGV traffic may have diverted from Cockpit Road onto Stag Lane as this road had seen the greatest increase in HGVs between the two traffic counts taken in 2018 and 2021. However, even if the number of HGV's measured in Cockpit Road had been greater without possible diversion onto Stag Lane, the recommendations of the report would have remained unchanged. HGVs could not be banned on all roads in the Great Kingshill area due to the unsuitable nature of the routes this traffic would have to take between Great Kingshill and Great Missenden.
- Volunteers were requested to carry out community speedwatch sessions.
- Confirmation was requested as to whether any member of the PC, BC or CB had notified Binders Yard that a road survey was being carried out; however, no one had any knowledge of any notification being issued.
- It was agreed that the residents should contact Jackie Binning if they required a further meeting.

**Proposal for Average Speed Camera's on rural lengths of the A40** – this would be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Question Time – HS2 and hedge cutting**

Geoff King showed a map of the area of concern. John McKeown and Geoff were both residents and stated that the traffic had increased on North Lee Lane, particularly HGVs, since Marsh Lane had been closed. The likelihood of a fatality was raised as there was four times as much traffic on the road, which was narrow, had blind corners and was a popular cycle route. A speed survey had been carried out in October; some cars were recorded as travelling at 80 mph and there was an average speed of 40 mph. The road was often icy in the winter and school children walked along the road; there was no pavement and there had been a number of incidents already. A new dual carriageway would be built but would not fix the problem as satellite navigation systems took cars down North Lee Lane. John McKeown advised that the issue was that the speed limit was 60 mph on a country lane, however, other roads in the area had a 40 mph limit. The new Stoke Mandeville road would

also have a 40 mph limit. Traffic calming measures were required on the road along with confirmation as to whether there would be a junction from the new Stoke Mandeville road to North Lee Lane.

The Chairman suggested this be passed to the action group for investigation. James Cripps, Great and Little PC, backed up the concerns and stated the increase in traffic volume had been spread around the parish, HS2 had cut off half of the traffic going to Aylesbury and he hoped a way forward could be found.

Jim Stevens outlined a possible way forward and advised that the officers at BC were in communication with HS2 to discuss the issues. Jim invited Geoff and John to write a list of the issues outlined and send to Jackie Binning for discussion in the action group.

**School Transport update** – Jackie highlighted the school transport presentation in the agenda pack and reminded the CB that there were county-wide and local consultations on [Your Voice Bucks](#).

- 11**     **Date of the next meeting**  
Wednesday 3 November 2021 at 6.30 pm.