



# Buckinghamshire Council Buckingham & Villages Community Board

## Minutes

**Minutes of the meeting of the Buckingham & Villages Community Board held on Wednesday 5 October 2022 in , commencing at 6.30 pm and concluding at 8.30 pm**

### **Members present**

H Mordue, P Fealey A Macpherson, F Mahon, M Rand, A Osibogun, R Stuchbury and C Cornell

### **Others in attendance**

L Donoghue, A Lane, J Riches, P Wright, R Sloan, J Taylor, T Guest, J Harvey, I Haest, M Taylor, M White C Martin, A Decent and P Hardcastle, D Child and L Burt.

### **Officers Present**

A Williams, S Turnbull, A Jenner, C Martin, I Malik

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

On behalf of the Vice Chairman (Cllr Fealey) and himself, the Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting of the Board, highlighting that the next one would take place in person

### **2 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from: Ms Scott, Mr Edwards, Mr Jenkins, Ms Wilkinson and Mr Whyte.

### **3 Minutes/Actions from Previous Meeting**

It was reported that the previous minutes had requested it would be advisable to sign up to the Leader's Newsletter. It was confirmed that the link for this had now been sent and circulated.

The Board had also wished to establish the status regards TFB. Members were informed that the query had been raised but that the Board Manager was still awaiting clarification on the matter. The Board would be kept informed.

At the previous meeting, members had wished to establish the status of the new Skate Park. This question was as yet still unresolved. Mr Harvey agreed to share a link from the Environment Agency explaining why the situation had not progressed a great deal further.

**RESOLVED:** That

- (i) Board Manager to circulate the link to Board Members which outlined the reasons as to why work was ongoing but slow;
- (ii) TFB update be provided when received;
- (iii) The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 July be confirmed as a true record.

#### **4 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **5 Pop Up Repair Café**

A presentation was conducted which provided information regarding Pop Up Repair Cafes. These were community events which helped repair broken items thereby saving money and reducing the impact of waste disposal, further building skills and confidence.

It was proposed that a one off event could be run in Buckingham serving as a catalyst for a regular cafe run by the community. The first event would be coordinated by the Waste Prevention Team who would provide organisational support and work with a team of local volunteers.

A number of questions and suggestions followed the presentations mainly with regards to appropriate venues for the project. It was agreed that the information would be reported back to A Jenkins, Waste Prevention Team Leader.

**RESOLVED:** That

- (i) the information be noted,
- (ii) The Community Board Manager would liaise with Mr Jenkins to organise/arrange an expressions of interest meeting for Board Members.

#### **6 Corporate Update**

S Turnbull, Service Director for Transport presented the corporate update and highlighted the following:

Cost of living Crisis

Members were informed that the council was undertaking a range of actions to help residents with the cost of living including the provision of support that would continue to develop over the coming months. It was emphasised that the community boards had a critical role to play in helping to identify areas of need and supporting the provision of help. An emphasis was placed on the

role of the Helping Hands team and the new Welcoming Spaces initiative designed to provide assistance both financially and in terms of specialist advice and support.

## Highways

Reference was made to Buckinghamshire Council commencing with the new highways contracts April 2023 which would have an impact on community board projects currently in the pipeline. It was also an opportunity to build in a delivery model with community boards in mind.

## Ukraine

It was reported that arrivals from Ukraine were still ongoing with 700 hosts now offering accommodation to over 1,200 Ukrainian guests. The Council continued to work hard to ensure that families could access schooling, work, finance, practical items, English language lessons and emotional support through the Helping Hand for Ukraine. Reference was also made to a recent Home Office decision to house Asylum Seekers within a local hotel in Buckingham. Ongoing discussions around the practical arrangements surrounding this were taking place with the Corporate Management Team. Local churches also had a contribution to make in this regard in terms of donations of clothing and footwear. It was also reported that the Council was not in receipt of any financial support in providing the extra assistance to the refugees totalling 140 people.

Members emphasised that it was imperative that all issues in regards to health and social care, child protection accessibility to services etc were adequately supported. Moreover, it was imperative that a coordinated response was provided by all agencies involved and the community be made aware of developments, which in turn would provide the opportunity to be more welcoming of the changes.

**RESOLVED:** That

- (i) All efforts be coordinated regards initiatives and developments in light of the decision of the Home Office in the past 7 days.
- (ii) A briefing note be prepared and distributed to the Board providing an update on the situation regarding asylum seekers being housed in the Best Western Hotel, Bucks.

## **7 Community Board Updates**

### Action Plan

The action plan circulated with the agenda laid out how the Board would work with the community to address community priorities and take action on local issues.

**RESOLVED:** That the action plan be noted.

### Funding Report

A Williams, Community Board Manager reported that the total budget for the Board for 2022/23 was £117,026 leaving a remaining budget as of 5 October at £69,922. Members of the board were encouraged to come forward with any ideas and suggestions of suitable projects.

**RESOLVED:** Board Members liaise directly with Board Manager with regards to the allocation of the remaining budget.

## **8 Community Matters**

### Board Priorities

#### Economic Recovery

It was reported that a permanent location for the banking hub was being explored with the results of the survey indicating that a hub was required. Results of the survey established that indeed needed. It was also reported that careers fair would be developed and delivered in collaboration with Buckingham University. A meeting with the University was scheduled to take place in order to establish the full project scope.

#### Road Safety

The first meeting had taken place and had proved to be positive with solutions and measures for implementation currently under consideration.

#### Youth

A youth Café was to be established in Buckinghamshire. Cllr Fealey stated that a survey was scheduled to be conducted following the results of which the work could progress through the creation of a project scoping document.

It was emphasised strongly by a Member that when re-evaluation of priorities took place should be in the light of the cost of living crisis. It was crucial to have in place a fund accessed in order to support the most vulnerable people in the community. She raised the question as to whether this could/would be put into place.

It was confirmed by the Board Manager that discussions to develop a streamlined approach to support the cost of living crisis was indeed in progress, and that this would be implemented shortly. This would ensure that measures were in place to support those most in need.

## **9 Date of Future Meetings/Community Board Events**

**RESOLVED:** That the next meeting of the Buckinghamshire & Villages Community Board be held on 2 February 2023 at Bucks New University preceded by a Community Engagement Event.

The Bucks Christmas Parade was to take place on the 10 December.