



Community
Boards

Community Boards
Annual Report
April 2022

Introduction from Cabinet Member for Communities



Cllr Steve Bowles

Cabinet Member for
Communities

The Community Boards have come to the end of a successful second year despite still living with the effects of Covid, they have continued to make their mark in Buckinghamshire's communities. The Boards have made great progress in the Council's ambition to strengthen local connections and work with our communities on local issues. We have continued to build a passionate and committed team around each Board with a Chairman, Vice Chairman and dedicated Community Board Co-ordinator as the driving force behind knowing our communities well. The real success has been in these improved and new relationships bringing together local people, town and parish councils, communities, organisations and businesses with a shared ambition to improve where they live or work.

Our priorities this year were focused on supporting the Council and community to improve the environment and support economic recovery as a result of the pandemic. Alongside this the priorities across the 16 Boards included supporting young people, improving health and wellbeing, improving roads and paths and improving community spaces and places.

Community Boards proactively collaborated with local partners to develop project ideas and initiatives to address key priorities spanning multiple boards to achieve impact at scale. This included support for individuals wanting to set up their own business, dementia awareness training, mental health first aid for schools, counselling for victims of domestic abuse, environment projects and mentoring for young people. They have also made funding available to communities for creative and cultural projects - supporting the commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee through the Queen's Green Canopy and local celebrations, the Big Bucks Tidy Up and promoting community vaccination pop up clinics.

Creative conversations and local engagement has been a critical focus for the Boards, and with the relaxing of Covid-19 restrictions towards the end of the year, we have embraced the opportunity for face-to-face engagement, events and activities - which have been well received and well attended in the community.

The value of the Community Boards is being able to listen and respond to local needs and as a Council we are committed to working with partners and communities, having community conversations on what's important, providing opportunities to listen, feedback and identify local action and community initiatives that will improve the lives of everyone who lives and works in Buckinghamshire. This year we have begun to see the impact of these community partnerships with some 415 community projects supported through £3.8m funding. The effort, dedication and passion from all involved is inspiring and it's our collective efforts that have made this possible.

Some 500 nominations were received across the Boards for the Proud of Bucks Awards; presentations and events have and are being held celebrating these achievements.

The Council's dedication to Community Boards remains exemplar with strong support from services across the Council to provide resource and guidance helping the Boards deliver on their priorities. My thanks go to all the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, Board Members, Community Board Co-ordinators and the many others who have helped the Boards for their hard work and dedication which has ensured we have had such a successful year.



Community Boards

Community Boards 2021-2022

415 total number of projects supported

Key themes 2021-2022:



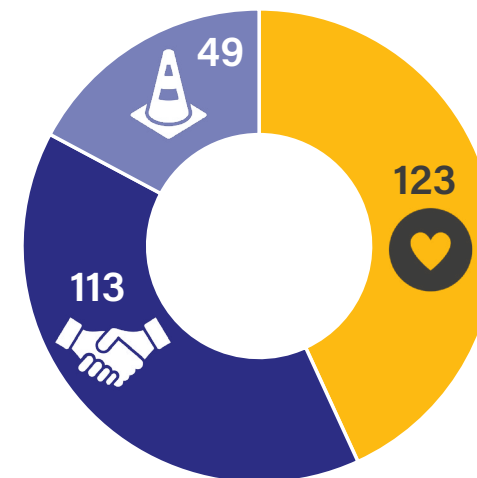
£3.8m

Total budget allocated to projects 2021-2022

71%

Of projects had contributory funding (totalling £2.1m)

Projects with strategic partners:



£702,872

Voluntary and Community Sector

£716,945

Town and Parish Council

£813,131

Transport for Buckinghamshire

Community Board Chairmen 2021-2022



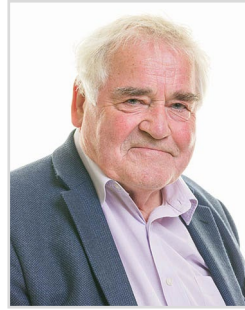
Mark Dormer
Amersham
& Villages



Mark Winn
Aylesbury



Jonathan Waters
Beaconsfield &
Chepping Wye



David Anthony
Beeches



Howard Mordue
Buckingham
& Villages



Patricia Birchley
Chesham
& Villages



Santokh Chhokar
Denham,
Gerrards Cross,
& Chalfonts



Ashley Waite
Haddenham
& Waddesdon



Arif Hussain
High Wycombe



Peter Martin
Missendens



Gary Hall
North West
Chilterns



Dominic Barnes
South West
Chilterns



Mike Collins
Wendover
& Villages



Wendy Matthews
Wexham &
The Ivers



Ashley Bond
Wing & Ivinghoe



Jilly Jordan
Winslow &
Villages

Improving the Environment

112

Projects supported improving the environment

£683k

Was allocated to environment projects...

18%

Of the total **Community Boards** 2021-2022 budget



£181k
in North Boards

£250k
in Central Boards

£252k
in South Boards

Featured projects

- The Greener Padbury project, supported by the **Winslow and Villages Community Board**, improved biodiversity in Padbury through a woodland management plan, forest school activities, and village engagement.
- **The Buckingham Community Board** provided funding to Buckingham Canal Society for the installation of wi-fi enabled, solar powered wildlife cameras to live stream wildlife at Bourton Meadow.
- Youth Concern and Chiltern Rangers received funding support from **Aylesbury Community Board** for their "Greening Up" project, to improve the area outside Youth Concern's building for the community.
- In partnership with Lindengate Horticultural Mental Health charity and Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT), micro grants were given for "Wild Aylesbury Vale", local community projects that enhance the local environment and encourage wildlife in the **Haddenham and Waddesdon** area.

Improving the Environment

Featured projects

- Trinity Road Quietway installation of decorative planters to allow pedestrians and cyclists to commute safely through this area. Initially implemented through Active Travel initiative, and fully supported by the **South West Chilterns Community Board**.
- Supported by the **Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye Community Board**, seven residents of Sandelswood End and Howe Drive, Beaconsfield, were constituted in July 2021 as The Knotty Greening Team to facilitate the planting of 70 trees along both roads to improve air quality, reduce pollution and help locally mitigate climate change by drawing down atmospheric carbon.
- The Refresh project was supported by **multiple boards in the South Bucks** region to create a 'reduce, re-use, repair' upcycling hub in High Wycombe.
- Chiltern Rangers were awarded funding by the **Beaconsfield & Chepping Wye Community Board** to support local schools and young people to encourage and educate supporting the local environment. Hazlemere CofE School created a sensory and prayer garden.



Trinity Road Quietway

Improving the Environment

Featured projects

- £15,000 was awarded from the **Amersham and Villages Board** to improve the Little Chalfont Nature Park.
- **Chesham and Villages Board** supported a local primary school's Green Week, linking in local environment groups and hosting a COP26-style conference for the primary school children!
- **Missendens Board** funded a Bee Garden Competition, encouraging school children to design bee and bug friendly gardens.
- **North West Chilterns Board** have funded solar panels for Princes Centre and Stokenchurch Guide and Scout HQ.
- **Wendover Board** has supported Leaky Homes Roadshow where a thermal-camera can detect heat loss in a home and offer recommendations to be more energy efficient.



Sensory and prayer garden, Hazlemere CofE School

Supporting Economic Recovery

29

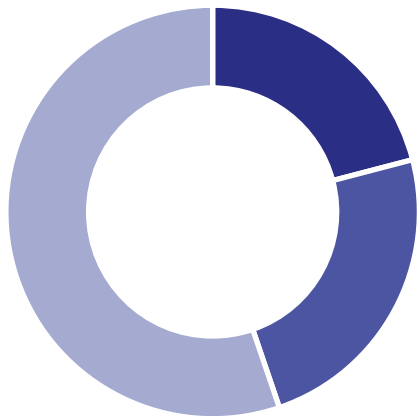
Projects supported economic recovery

£172k

Was allocated to economic recovery projects...

5%

Of the total **Community Boards** 2021-2022 budget



£36k

in North Boards

£41k

in Central Boards

£95k

in South Boards

Featured projects

- In March, the Buckinghamshire Council Jobs and Apprenticeships Fair was held at the Elgiva Theatre in Chesham, organised with support from Chesham Town Council with funding support from **Chesham and Villages Community Board**. This event was open to anyone looking for new career opportunities, and featured many local employers.
- **Amersham and Villages Board** and Old Amersham Revitalisation Group supported Cooper's Markets this year to bring a monthly Artisan Food and Drink market to the town, bringing footfall to the high street and supporting local businesses.
- Funding was allocated by numerous boards for the Bucks Business First Be Your Own Boss Project to support individuals to start up new small businesses in the local community.

Supporting Economic Recovery

Featured projects

- **Buckingham and Villages Board** supported improvements to Buckingham Town Centre by allocating funding towards a digital notice board.
- **Wexham and The Ivers Board** allocated funding to The Ivers Training Hub - a facility where residents and local businesses can gain access to the internet and training and learning resources to support them build skillsets. This has been particularly helpful to those who are looking for employment.
- In **Denham, Gerrards Cross and Chalfonts Board** the purchase of a Community Fridge was made possible. Local supermarkets donate surplus food, which will then be redistributed to the public - benefitting local people who are struggling financially to access nutritious healthy food.



Jobs and apprenticeships fair, Elgiva Theatre

Old Amersham, Artisan Market



Improving highways and transport

63

Projects funded improving highways and transport

£931k

Was allocated to projects to improve highways and transport

25%

Of the total **Community Boards** 2021-2022 budget



£371k
in North Boards

£151k
in Central Boards

£409k
in South Boards

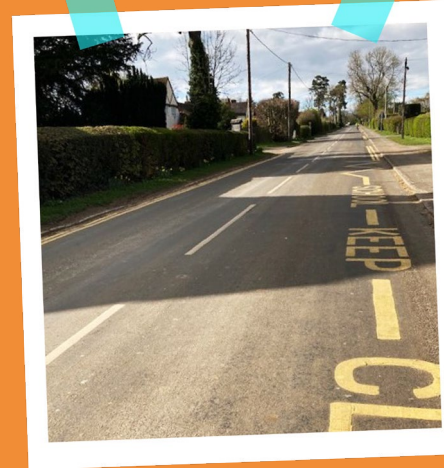
Project spotlight projects

- The Aylesbury North Parking Scheme, supported by the **Aylesbury Community Board**, seeks to address parking issues on residential roads in the north of Aylesbury.
- The **Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board** supported the Kingswood Traffic Calming project to address concerns with speeding traffic on the A41 through Kingswood through the introduction of road surfacing, markings and signage.
- The **Wendover and Villages Community Board** allocated funding towards the Buckland Wharf Chevron Sign and Bollards project, to slow approaching traffic and prevent verge parking on Buckland Road, Wendover.
- The Blackpond Lane Footway Extension project seeks to provide a safe walking route to Farnham Common village centre and was supported by the **Beeches Community Board**.

Improving highways and transport

Featured projects

- The **Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board** collaborated with several Parish Councils to buy 12 Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) to encourage drivers to keep to the 30-mph speed limit on village roads. A training event for parishes was also held with the manufacturer, Truvelo, in March 2022.
- Rumble strips were installed in Weston Turville in Turville Brook End with funding from the **Wendover and Villages Community Board**. The aim of the project is to address concerns with speeding and slow traffic on the entrance to the village.
- **Denham, Gerrards Cross and Chalfonts Community Board** partnered with Denham Parish Council to fund a new parking layby adjacent to King George's Field.
- The **High Wycombe Community Board** has agreed to fund the installation of bollards in Hillview Road, Leas Close/Hollis Road, Sheraton Drive/Arnison Avenue and Chippendale Close to address issues with antisocial and unsafe parking.
- **North West Chilterns Community Board** supported Lacey Green Parish Council to fund new lining work on Main Road, Lacey Green.



Supporting young people

32

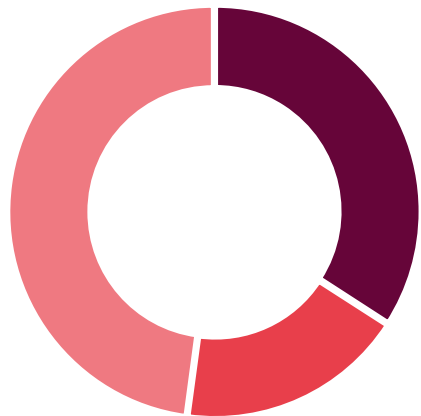
Projects were created for young people

£211k

Was allocated to projects with young people

6%

Of the total **Community Boards** 2021-2022 budget



£72k
in North Boards

£38k
in Central Boards

£101k
in South Boards

Featured projects

- Lindengate's 'Planted' programme for 13-15 year olds was supported by the **Wendover and Villages Community Board**, which is offered to young people aged between 13-15 years who are facing mental health challenges and feel like they have nowhere to go. The course helps them connect with nature and creativity, to gain a sense of achievement, purpose, and resilience.
- The Aylesbury Youth Views Project was designed to involve young people directly in a research project to inform **Aylesbury Community Board's** work supporting young people, and to better understand their concerns and needs. The project offered the opportunity to engage with a wide range of young people, including those from vulnerable groups. The project was born out of the Board's 'Enhancing the Lives of our Youth' action subgroup, designed to help young people thrive in their community.

Improving health and wellbeing

72

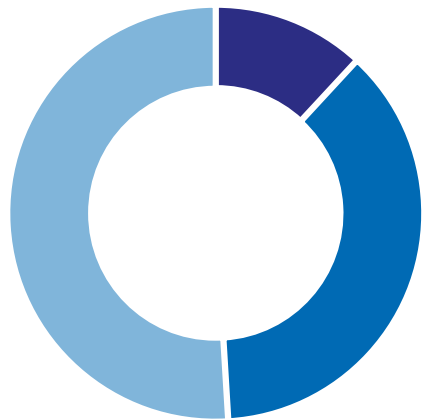
Projects supported health and wellbeing

£261k

Was allocated to projects to improve health and wellbeing

7%

Of the total **Community Boards** 2021-2022 budget



£31k

in North Boards

£97k

in Central Boards

£133k

in South Boards

Featured projects

- In November the Community Engagement Development team and Aylesbury Community Board, Aylesbury Town Council and The Grange School delivered a Health and Wellbeing day for students in years 11, 12, and 13 of The Grange School.
- 24 partners attended on the day to talk to students about the services they offer, and how to get involved, including Lindengate, Thames Valley Police, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Oxford Health, Samaritans, LEAP, Active Communities, Sustainable Aylesbury, Switch Bucks, Women's Aid and lots more.

Featured projects

The **High Wycombe Community Board** Health and Wellbeing working group supported numerous local projects including:

- The Junction is a multi service drop-in youth centre delivered by Action4Youth at High Wycombe Library. Working in partnership with ten other organisations The Junction offers free sessions and activities for young people aged 12-18 years (up to 25 SEND).
- Youth Enquiry Service (YES) is a signposting and support service for young homeless people. YES volunteers are trained to support young people and partner organisations navigate their way through information and support services.
- In partnership with Chilterns Samaritans Suicide Prevention Awareness advertising wraps have been installed on the gate lines at High Wycombe train station, with Samaritan's messages and contact information.

- In partnership with Transitions UK and other local partners, including local housing associations Paradigm and Red Kite, a pilot was launched for mentoring and support for young people who are either at risk of offending or exploitation, or who want to change direction following offending.



advertising wraps at High Wycombe train station

Health and wellbeing

Featured projects

- The Winslow Wheelchair Car Service supports any person, adult or child using a wheelchair, living in **Winslow and surrounding villages**, with transportation needs in a specialised vehicle.
- The Defibrillator project is a collaborative effort between Amersham Youth, the Tree House Project, Dr Challoner's schools, the Amersham School, and **Amersham Community Board** to install defibrillators in public spaces as well as providing training to volunteers
- **Beeches, South West Chilterns, and Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye Boards** ran a dementia awareness tour in partnership with Training 2 Care, which simulates an experience of what dementia is like, as well as tips to make their work or environment really improve the lives of people with dementia.
- The Emergency Winter Accommodation provided drop-in sessions and accommodation to rough sleepers in the **High Wycombe, South West Chilterns, North West Chilterns, Missendens, Beeches, Wexham and The Ivers, Amersham, and Chesham** board areas.



Dementia awareness tour

The Defibrillator project, Amersham



Emergency Winter Accommodation



Community facilities and assets

107

Projects improved community facilities and assets

£817k

Was allocated to improve **community facilities and assets**

22%

Of the total **Community Boards** 2021-2022 budget



£335k
in North Boards

£246k
in Central Boards

£236k
in South Boards

Featured projects

- **Amersham Community Board**
Supporting the development of the Scout Hut in Amersham. The facility will increase provision for young people and provide an excellent space for community groups and other activities.
- Funding was provided by **Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board** to replace the playground equipment at Ashendon Playing Fields. The old equipment, installed in 1999, had reached the end of its useful life and has no provision for children with disabilities. The funding will pay for new, specially designed, fully accessible equipment.

Community facilities and assets

Featured projects

- Funding was provided by the **North West Chilterns Community Board** for additional outdoor gym equipment in St Dunstan's Park, Monks Risborough. The new hydraulic gym units, which basically replicate the type of resistant equipment you would find in an indoor gym, is a great way for residents to stay fit in the great outdoors.
- The **Wexham and The Ivers Community Board** provided funding to Richings Players to purchase items for staging, a new floor cloth to go on the stage, and new tools to be used during set building. The improvements will help the Players build up their workshops with new younger members, boosting their confidence and inspiring them to get involved in the arts.
- **Winslow and Villages Community Board** funded work to complete and restore the rear area of the Scout Guide Headquarters at Great Horwood, providing proper paving, fencing, and raising the crown of the ash tree to provide a free and safe open space for young people and storage space for activity equipment.

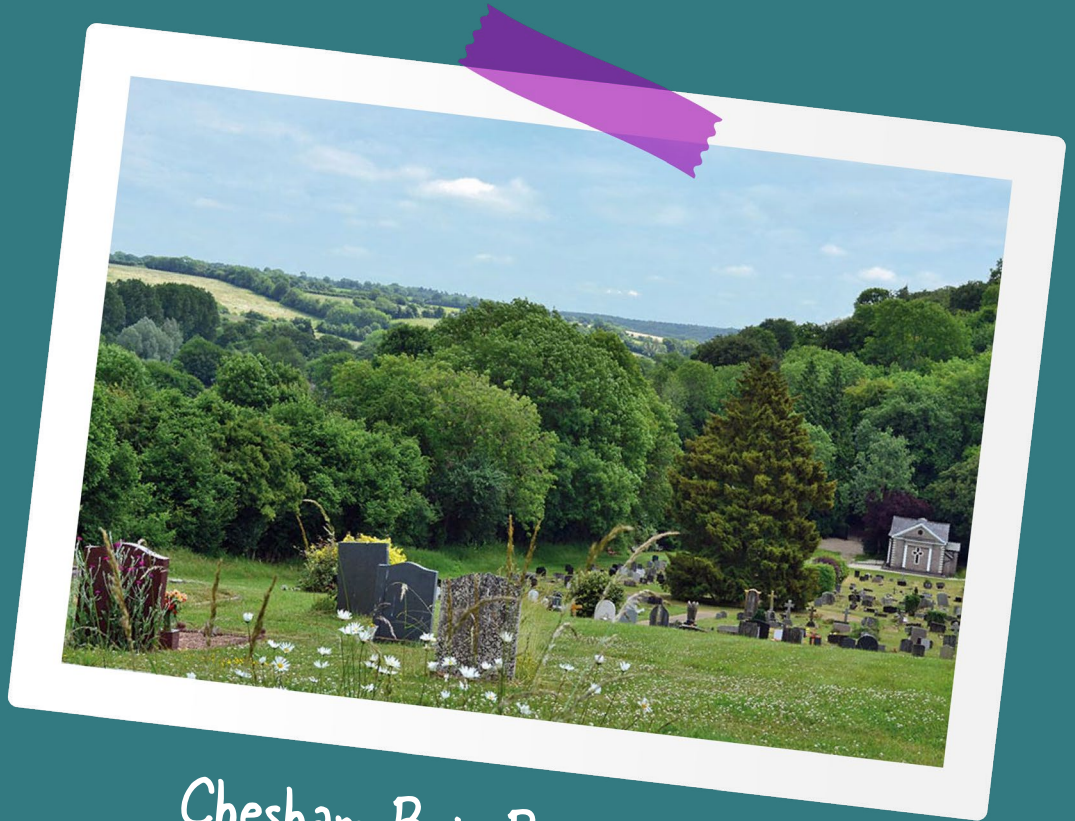


St Dunstan's Park, Monks Risborough

Community facilities and assets

Featured projects

- **High Wycombe Community Board** has provided funding to Empower to Cook CIC to open and kit out a community kitchen. The organisation seeks out positive ways to address food poverty, working in schools, with community groups, and individuals. The community kitchen will provide a space for High Wycombe residents to learn and develop their cooking skills affordably and sustainably.
- **Chesham and Villages Community Board** provided funding to Chesham Bois Burial Ground to support ongoing work to expand the community's knowledge of, and pride in, the site's heritage and the wildlife it supports. They hope to encourage more visitors of all ages, widening access to green space, and promote physical activity with mental health benefits for all.



Chesham Bois Burial Ground

The Proud of Bucks Awards



500

Nominations

43

Winners

48

Commended

Categories 2021-2022

- Best Adult Contribution
- Best Young Person Contribution
- Best Community Group Contribution

The Proud of Bucks Community Awards 2021, sponsored by The Clare Foundation, took a more local focus in their second year, providing the opportunity for each Community Board to celebrate those who go the extra mile for their community.

The Awards recognise and applaud the people in Buckinghamshire's communities who have made a positive impact in their local area. Over 500 nominations were received from across the county, all shining a light on amazing individuals, groups and organisations.

The judging of these awards was tough with such inspirational accounts of how people continue to go above and beyond in each of the categories. It was fantastic to celebrate the carefully selected local individuals, groups and organisations across the county for their outstanding community contribution.

The Proud of Bucks Awards



WINNER
Dementia Action, Marlow



WINNER
Daniel and Margriet Crump
Beaconsfield



HIGHLY COMMENDED
Simon Parry, Amersham



Highly Commended
Linda Fedoriv, Winslow



WINNER
Good Neighbour Scheme, Beeches



WINNER
Chiltern New Shoots

As the Community Boards continue to make a positive impact locally by being well known and regarded as the place to take action on local issues, it is important to build on this success, maintain momentum, build on good practice and their positive reputations.

A Member Task and Finish Group and Select Committee reviews have helped identify areas of improvement and been placed into an improvement plan for the next 12 months and beyond. Advances have already been made to the funding process and revised funding criteria has been introduced to allow Boards to deliver projects which meet both the Council and local Board priorities. A new Community Board structure, giving dedicated Community Board leadership and support, will come into effect in June.

Projects will need to deliver value for money and it is right and proper that contributory funding is a mandatory requirement for all projects over £1000. For small organisations there will be a discretionary small grants process available which will be determined by each Board. It is important projects are evaluated to understand the benefits they bring to the communities, but also for learning and improvements across all areas of funding.

Board Chairmen will have the flexibility to determine how their Board operates, their meeting frequency and agendas and how to tackle specific pieces of work – such as using task & finish/action groups. Council services will move to support those local priorities and better use will be made of all available Council resources to support the Boards and their priorities. There will also be a focus on achievements of the Boards through improved communications, social media and branding of projects.

The ambition is for each Community Board to drive and deliver for their local communities, to become the place shapers, working with partners, local organisations and groups; to deliver what is right for their communities, but within a framework which is flexible and agile. Next year will see a bigger focus on community engagement, local participation and developing community initiatives from the ground up supported by Board funding.

2022-2023 will further build and improve on the excellent Community Board work undertaken so far, really making sure they are the local face of the Council and delivering for the people of Buckinghamshire.

Appendix 1 – Funding Summary 2021-2022

| Community Board | 2021-2022 Budget allocation | Committed funds 31 Mar' 2022 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Aylesbury | £403,897 | £403,123 |
| Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye | £217,822 | £217,653 |
| Denham, Gerrards Cross and Chalfonts | £222,702 | £214,467 |
| Haddenham and Waddesdon | £270,347 | £264,610 |
| High Wycombe | £463,813 | £462,394 |
| Chesham and Villages | £216,699 | £216,501 |
| Beeches | £195,757 | £141,229 |
| North West Chilterns | £244,096 | £244,096 |
| Wing and Ivinghoe | £193,128 | £193,091 |

| Community Board | 2021-2022 Budget allocation | Committed funds 31 Mar' 2022 |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Wexham and the Ivers | £176,427 | £175,688 |
| Winslow and Villages | £211,482 | £210,258 |
| Missendens | £151,328 | £151,302 |
| Amersham and Villages | £174,907 | £174,831 |
| South West Chilterns | £238,930 | £203,763 |
| Wendover and Villages | £290,466 | £290,435 |
| Buckingham and Villages | £228,200 | £226,072 |
| Community Boards marketing and communications | £32,000 | £19,000 |
| Totals | £3,900,001 | £3,789,513 |

**List of Community Board projects delivered
or committed to in 2021-2022**