



South West Chilterns Community Board minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the South West Chilterns Community Board held on Wednesday 16 February 2022 commencing at 6.32 pm and concluding at 8.34 pm.

BC Councillors present

D Barnes (Chairman), P Drayton, C Heap, D Johncock, S Kayani, N Marshall (Vice-Chairman), Z Mohammed, J Towns, M Turner, D Watson and S Wilson

Town/Parish Councils and other organisations present

Hambleden Parish Council, Hedsor Meeting, Ibstone Parish Council, Lane End Parish Council, Little Marlow Parish Council, Marlow Town Council, Medmenham Parish Council, Turville Parish Council and Wooburn and Bourne End Parish Council

Others in attendance

I Blazey, M Blunkell, R Butler, A Cobden, L Cowley, M Devlin, S Garwood, L Jeffries, J Laker, G Lawrence, Dr P MacDonald, N Rowcliffe, R Scott, S Taylor (Buckinghamshire Council), M Devlin (Buckinghamshire Council) and L Jeffries A Turner and V West

Agenda Item

1 The Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Cllr Dominic Barnes, welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the theme of the meeting was on the environment.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Geoff Pegg, Neighbourhood Watch; Lindon Porter and Cllr Alex Collingwood.

Note 1: Cllr Jocelyn Towns joined the meeting at 18.47 hours

Note 2: Cllr Jodie Cavaye, Hedsor Meeting joined the meeting at 19.00 hours

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest at the start of the meeting. However, Ian Blazey declared an interest during Item 5 as he was a teacher at the Bourne End Academy.

4 Notes of the last meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2021 were **agreed** as an accurate record.

5 Bourne End Academy - (Environment Group, Dyson Project)

Cllr Sophie Kayani introduced Louise Cowley, Head Teacher, Bourne End Academy (BEA). L Cowley stated that the Dyson project fitted really well with a couple of BEA's programmes/societies and that some of the students had elected to be part of the Dyson project. A couple of students attended the meeting and a video was shown (available on YouTube - <https://youtu.be/8g8wLA3nAVI>) which provided an overview of the project and emphasised that air pollution was not only a problem in low income countries but was also a problem in the local area and was a major threat to everyone's health. The students from BEA believed the next generation would become the future leaders of the global economy and must be advocates for the future. One of the students stated that, on a local scale, local authorities could direct more funding towards public transport and an increased number of safe cycle paths. There could also be vouchers towards bicycles and accessories so that students from less fortunate backgrounds could access the scheme.

The following key points were raised during discussion:

- It was noted that it was a very interesting project and in response to a query on how the air sampling device would be implemented in engineering terms, L Cowley explained that it had been a six week project with an engineering focus; Dyson had provided the equipment to build the monitoring devices and then the measuring of the air pollution would be carried out. The students had been working on the prototype and it was agreed that they would present the results to the Community Board (CB) at a later date.

Action: Makyla Devlin

- In response to being asked how the CB could help with encouraging walking or cycling to school to create a safer and cleaner environment; one of the students explained that walking or cycling was a good alternative for those who lived locally but it was not possible for those who lived further away. One of the members added that the possibility of using Wakeman Road car park was being looked into so that parents did not drop children off so close to the school.
- Councillor Wilson asked if the CB could help with a campaign for active travel; Cllr Kayani stated that there was also an eco-society which could work together with the Dyson project. Cllr Kayani also highlighted the poor bus links to Bourne End which often resulted in students arriving late.
- Cllr Marshall mentioned the Air Quality Assessment (AQA) project that was being carried out in Marlow and suggested working together with the consultant from Marlow Town Council.
- John Laker, Marlow Energy Group, added that the cycle route should be extended to run from the centre of Marlow to the centre of Bourne End.
- J Laker also asked if Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) levels would be measured. Cllr Kayani stated she would check with Miss Ali, the project lead, and put Miss Ali in touch Cllr Marshall and J Laker.

Action: Cllr Kayani

- The road from the Wooburn Green side was also highlighted as being

hazardous for cycling and Ian Blazey, one of the teachers from BEA, added that it would be useful to gauge how many students would like to cycle if there was a safe cycle route and asked what could be done to encourage cycling on the main roads and how could the traffic be reduced? The Chairman advised that the extension of the cycle paths would be challenging and that the CB had looked at the feasibility in the area; however, the Chairman encouraged the students to become involved with the Community Board Transport and Highways action group as people of any age were welcome.

- Dr Penny Macdonald, a GP from the Marlow Medical Group, commented that the Council's population health management data showed a spike in respiratory complaints which were caused by poor air quality in the CB area and highlighted that the students had picked up a pertinent issue. Dr Macdonald asked if the Buckinghamshire Council Public Health team could provide some before and after data to show the impact on people's health which could be used as a lever to influence more people to use more environmentally friendly methods of transport.

Action: Makyla Devlin

The Chairman thanked the students and L Cowley for joining the meeting and emphasised that he welcomed them being involved. The Chairman also thanked Cllr Kayani for co-ordinating BEA's attendance; Cllr Kayani invited any interested parties to visit the BEA societies and advised that they would be starting again at the beginning of the summer term.

6 Thermal Image Camera Project - Marlow Energy Group

John Laker, Marlow Energy Group, provided a presentation, appended to the minutes, which he also recommended may be of interest to the BEA students. J Laker highlighted the following points:

- An A5 leaflet had been produced to publicise the thermal imaging project.
- A publicity event had been held on 5 February 2022 at the Marlow town market.
- A booking form was available.
- A camera took images which showed where heat was lost from a property e.g., areas without cavity wall insulation.
- Information leaflets were sent out with the report providing details of organisations where advice could be sought.
- Grants and discounts were available and the organisations were listed on the leaflet.
- Recommended installers were included in the information.
- £161.19 remained from the grant of £1,000.
- More people were required to conduct the surveys – if anyone could spare some time contact marlowenergygroup@gmail.com

J Laker thanked the CB for the grant and the following key points were raised in discussion:

- The thermal imaging could only be carried out until the end of March as a

differentiation in temperature was required between the inside of the house and the outside temperature.

- Five 'trainee' surveys and a further five 'actual' surveys had been carried out and a number of surveys were booked. The Marlow Energy Group (MEG) was likely to receive further enquiries at the next market and it was anticipated that 30-50 surveys would be completed by the end of March 2022.
- Cllr Marshall advised he was keen on the institutional buildings being surveyed and asked about the process. J Laker advised that the form should be completed but stated that the MEG was concentrating on householders this winter and could do institutional buildings next year due to lack of time.
- It was confirmed that there was no charge for the survey; donations were welcome but not compulsory.
- Cllr Wilson commended the MEG and asked whether parish councils could take up the offer wherever feasible. J Laker advised that Great Marlow Parish Council had asked to borrow the camera but the MEG was too busy at the moment; however, it was a perfect example of another organisation who could invest in a camera and would be money well spent. If the MEG had two cameras, they would need more volunteers. The Chairman suggested advertising in local magazines for volunteers as he felt the MEG should have a second camera.
- Cllr David Johncock advised that the legacy Wycombe District Council camera was still available and J Laker agreed to advertise for volunteers in the Marlow Bottom News.
- Nick Rowcliffe suggested that a loan scheme could be implemented for additional cameras; Cllr Marshall agreed to liaise with N Rowcliffe and J Laker to discuss the logistics e.g., insurance.

Action: Cllr Marshall

The Chairman thanked J Laker for his attendance and advised he would support the use of extra cameras for the re-start of the programme in October/November, depending on the weather, and asked J Laker to attend a future meeting to provide an update.

7 Formal Community Board Updates

Community Engagement and Health and Wellbeing Action Group

Cllr Carol Heap, Chairman, provided an update since the last meeting in November. Cllr Heap reported that attendance had grown steadily and the reach had been extended to include additional voluntary organisations and individuals. Funding applications for a wide variety of events across the areas continued to be received and Cllr Heap stressed that it was not just about funding projects, it was also about building community resilience. Community organisations were invited to the action group meetings to raise awareness of their work; the sessions were well received and sometimes resulted in a funding application but generally had great value. Members of the Communities Team at Buckinghamshire Council occasionally attended to talk about Council initiatives and services that might be of interest to residents e.g., community safety, crime prevention. The action group also

promoted services such as the Helping Hands School holiday programme activities and vouchers for eligible children and other initiatives supported by the Council. Cllr Heap highlighted that several of the organisations would be in attendance at the event in Higginson Park on 2 April 2022.

Highways and Transport Action Group

Cllr Mark Turner reported that a number of project initiation documents (PIDs) were awaited and would be discussed with the CB members to agree on what could be afforded and programmed into the 2023 Transport for Bucks schedule. Several other projects had been discussed; the cycle path project had progressed and a quote was being obtained from Sustrans which would help formulate the cycle path route. Cllr Turner added it would not work for school travel specifically but the group would consider more involvement with Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs). Cllr Turner advised that the Trinity Road Quietway consultation had been extended to the end of May 2022. The 'park and stride' project was not viable as it would cost approximately £52,000 for the Dean Street car park in Marlow and half that amount for the Wakeman Road car park and it might be better to engage with the PTAs. The group had also debated verge parking, the Marlow Bridge weight restrictions, the petition on Terrington Hill and cycle gullies on the Volvo Bridge. A meeting had been held with Cllr Steve Broadbent to discuss the Westhorpe inter-change project. Progress had been made on the broadband application in Freith. Unfortunately, Open Reach would be ceasing the gigabit voucher scheme on 31 May 2022.

The following key points were raised in discussion:

- Following a query on why the Trinity Road Quietway consultation had been extended, Cllr Turner explained that it was going to full consultation as there were a number of issues and it was important to get it right. Makyla Devlin, Community Board Co-ordinator, confirmed that it had been agreed by Buckinghamshire Council (BC) cabinet members that the **duration of the trial** be extended until May 2022 in order to facilitate the undertaking of a formal statutory consultation. The consultation had closed on 19 January 2022 and the consultation responses were being reviewed prior to any decision being undertaken on the future of the scheme and this would be communicated with the local community once the responses had been reviewed and the decision made.
- Cllr Turner explained that the cost of the park and stride scheme was the estimated loss of revenue for providing half an hour's free parking at any time during the day.
- It was suggested that a sign be placed in GP surgeries encouraging people to walk or cycle in areas of high NO₂ levels.

Environment and Climate Change Action Group

Cllr Neil Marshall reported that the approval process for partial funding for solar panels at Spinfield School in Marlow was almost complete and should save approximately £10,500 over ten years and 7 tonnes of carbon. Similar requests from other schools could be considered during 2022/2023. BC had commissioned a study

on the low emission zone for Marlow which had been disappointingly inconclusive. Nick Rowcliffe, Sustainability Action Consultant to Marlow Town Council, had collected data post-covid and two charts were presented, appended to the minutes. The first chart showed the timeline NO₂ levels in Marlow which had been measured at 15 different monitoring stations. The level was above the legal limit until 2020. However, there had been a surprisingly small increase in 2021 and there were two possibilities; 2021 was still affected by covid and traffic levels had not returned or it due to a step change in working patterns. The second chart showed the raw data and the pre-pandemic lines were all higher, with particularly higher levels in the winter. The average level for 2021 had not climbed back up which suggested a larger change and that there may not be a rapid return to pre-pandemic levels which were above the legal limit.

The following key points were raised in discussion:

- The air pollution in Chapel Street, Marlow, has been exacerbated by the temporary traffic lights; it was noted that levels were high during peak time but were heading in the right direction.
- In response to whether the impact of electric car usage was being monitored: N Rowcliffe advised that the Marlow Environmental Performance Index data was being finalised and would show an increase in electric car ownership and would have contributed to the lower levels of pollution.
- Cllr N Marshall suggested requesting a scattergram which plotted the location of patients with respiratory illnesses to see if they collided with areas of high pollution. Dr Macdonald advised that the Public Health team at BC could provide the information. The Chairman recommended that this item be added to the topics to be discussed at a future meeting.

Action: Makyla Devlin

- It was also suggested that the data on pollution levels from the Little Marlow Sewage Works should also be analysed and discussed at a future meeting.

Action: Makyla Devlin

- Concern was also raised over the future levels of particulates in the atmosphere, particularly in the river valley, if more people were to switch to wood burning stoves.
- Cllr Michael Detsiny, Lane End Parish Council, highlighted that an improved bus service between Lane End and Marlow would result in enormous environmental advantages. The Chairman agreed that this was a good suggestion and that it be discussed within the Transport Action Group.

Action: Cllr Turner

Economic Development and Regeneration Action Group

Cllr Zahir Mohammed reported that the group had received a presentation on the business parks within the CB area; some of which were looking for new tenants. The Liston Court Garden project had been discussed and a revised design would be presented to group. One of Bucks Business First's applications had been declined but their application for a 'Visit Bucks Plan for Tourism' had been approved but needed to incorporate the villages as it was Marlow centric. The application for a

Hambleden Valley visitor guide had been approved. Marlow Film Studio had provided their plans in terms of economy, infrastructure and the environment etc and an application was expected in March. Some progress had been made on the rural economy side and work was being carried out with farmers and the NFU. The Marlow Lights event was a success. An application had been received from Transition Town Marlow for a bi-monthly market; this had been approved subject to review after six months.

8 Community Matters

Proud of Bucks Awards

Makyla Devlin, Community Board Co-ordinator, advised that the Proud of Bucks applications closed on 31 December 2021; the South West Chilterns Community Board had received 11 nominations and the winners and highly commended would be mentioned on the BC social media posts. M Devlin would be contacting all the nominees to invite them to the Community Engagement event in Higginson Park in Marlow where they would be presented with their certificates and prizes.

Buckinghamshire Council Update

Lloyd Jeffries, Service Director and Community Board Champion, provided a presentation, appended to the minutes, and highlighted the following:

- A consultation for residents to provide information on local areas to help the Local Government Boundary Commission complete proposals for new ward boundaries would be open until 4 April 2022 - consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/29857
- A new Local Plan was being prepared for Buckinghamshire and views were being sought from residents/communities - <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/planning/local-plan-2021/>
- A 'helping hand' was available for those struggling financially this winter and was available until 31 March 2022. <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/planning/local-plan-2021/>
- The Buckinghamshire Online Directory provided information on activities, groups, organisations and services for adults in Buckinghamshire and now featured the ability for organisations to update their own information.
- Jubilee Celebrations – there were a number of ways in which the Jubilee could be marked e.g., The Queen's Green Canopy - 70 trees for 70 years. [After the meeting it was confirmed that the deadline for applying to plant a tree was midnight on 1 May 2022.

Public Questions – no public questions had been received and none were raised during the meeting.

The Trinity Road Quietway Consultation – this was covered under the previous item.

Petitions

Terrington Hill/Barnards Hill – M Devlin advised that data was being captured by a

motor vehicle activated sign and the results would form a recommendation to the lead petitioner and a report would be compiled.

Marlow Bridge – As Stuart Dawson was unable to attend the meeting the Chairman read out the petition which had 396 signatories but it was not known if they were local residents. The next step would be for the petition to go to the officer for comment who would provide a detailed report, appended to the minutes.

9 Topics for future consideration

A couple of topics relating to pollution/respiratory problems had been raised earlier in the meeting. Any other suggestions should be emailed to Makyla Devlin or the Chairman.

10 Date of the next meetings

- Saturday 2 April 2022 – Community Engagement event, Higginson Park, Marlow from 10.00 am until 2.00 pm
- Wednesday 13 July 2022 at 6.30 pm