



Amersham & Villages Community Board minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Amersham & Villages Community Board held on Tuesday 26 April 2022 in MS Teams, commencing at 6.30 pm and concluding at 7.54 pm.

BC Councillors present

M Dormer (Chair) and M Flys, D King, J Waters, L Walsh, M Harker, R Matthews (Vice-Chair)

Town/Parish Councils and other organisations present

A Polding, A Greenhalgh, B Poole, C Morgan, D Hulme, D Pinkney, S Hill, J Gocher, J Barnes, J Herbert, L Daly, M Pegg, N Strain, R Kineen, O Johns, P Lawson, R Dineley, P Milliner, H Strudwick, P Hall, O O'Neill, S Sachdev, G Whitehead, R Funk, M Bergh , M Roberts, S Hamilton

Others in attendance

K Farooqi, A-M Kenward, L Wright,

Agenda Item

1 Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.

RESOLVED Minutes from the meeting held 30 September 2021 were AGREED as an accurate record.

2 Apologies/Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Cllr Tim Butcher (Buckinghamshire Council), Natalie Judson (Community Engagement), Peter Matza (ADRA), Ron Newall (AAG / Amersham & Chesham Lions), Clare Holloway (Paradigm), Graham Yellowley (Little Chalfont Community Library) and David Atkinson (Dr Challoner's Grammar School).

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Community Matters

The Community Board Manager provided an update on Community Board activities from the last year.

- In terms of engagement 150 people had signed up to the quarterly newsletter. The Community Board Facebook page had 600 followers and 135 followers on Instagram. The Board's Facebook posts had reached roughly 12,000 people since January 2022.

- There was a Community Board event at Chiltern Leisure Centre held on 12th February with over 100 attendees. The event also featured the Proud of Bucks awards which had proved successful.
- The 2021/22 funding summary highlighted over £170,000 had been allocated with some carry-over of spend from the previous financial year.
- Health and wellbeing projects accounted for 42% of the budget, Transport 18%, Environmental 12%, Economic regeneration 5% and a small amount for general spending. A large number of these projects were ongoing.

The Vice-Chair of the Community Board gave an update on the projects the Board had supported and delivered the previous financial year, the full list is appended to the minutes.

- Projects highlighted included Amersham Youth Club renovation, Amersham Memorial Gardens and Chiltern Open Air Museum wellbeing walks for autistic people.
- In addition, no parking signs were installed at Chesham Bois school, a vegetable garden was set up at Little Chalfont Primacy School and a Dementia Café was set up which was well attended.
- In Coleshill a picnic bench and notice board were funded and there would be a biodiversity blitz on 11th June to allow young people to explore natural spaces with talks from a wildlife expert.
- It was noted it had been a very busy and successful year for the Board in delivering these projects. It was hoped these projects would be supported and built on in the coming year.

The Chair advised 35 projects had been delivered by the Board which had exceeded expectations. The aim for the coming year was to deliver even more. An example of small funding making a big difference was the £250 allocated to signing for the Amersham Martyr's play which enabled the deaf community to watch the play which would be livestreamed on YouTube.

Alan Polding from Chiltern Food Bank provided an update the presentation slides are appended to the minutes.

- The food bank was currently operating from a venue in Chesham and were in talks with St John's Methodist Church about using those premises in the future. The Church would explore all redevelopment options with the food bank putting forward the case for a community hub.
- The community hub could house the food bank and provide a venue for various community activities including the existing users of the church. Community Board Members were requested to support this proposal from the Chiltern Food Bank.
- There would be an indication by the end of May if the proposal was likely to be adopted. If successful the project would commence at the end of 2022.

Helen Strudwick from Scannappeal which was based at Amersham hospital appealed to the Board for support for the charity.

- Scannappeal fundraised for state of the art medical equipment for Stoke

Mandeville, Wycombe and Amersham Hospitals. It was noted the NHS budget would not cover this specialist equipment. The charity worked closely with the Buckinghamshire NHS Trust.

- Work was underway with the community nursing team to provide hand held devices for patients with chronic illnesses such as asthma, cancer and heart failure to enable them to monitor oxygen levels at home without having to attend the hospital.
- Scannappeal volunteers were based at Amersham hospital bookshops, with volunteers promoting awareness of the charity and assisting with events and general administration.

Paige Hall from the Facebook page Acts of Kindness advised the Board on their work for the local community.

- The Facebook page was set up at the start of the Covid19 pandemic and currently had 11,000 followers.
- The main aim of the page was to provide Covid19 financial support, provide food parcels for struggling families, refer residents to citizen advice bureau and to provide any items or services those in need required.
- Recently the community Easter egg project provided 450 chocolate eggs to Stoke Mandeville Children's ward and Women's Aid.
- There would be a summer box activity project to provide toys and crafts for children to play with over the summer holidays.
- Charity status would be applied for once trustees had been appointed.
- There was a request for Members to sign up to the Facebook page.
- Acts of Kindness won an award in the Council's Proud of Bucks awards.

4 Updates from the previous year

This was covered in the previous item.

5 Forward planning

The Chair advised the minimum spending targets for Community Boards had been removed. In addition, there were no specific areas of focus allowing residents to decide where funding should be spent. Projects would not exceed £15,000 and requests for funds in excess of £1000 would need contributory funding at the discretion of the Board.

The Vice-Chair confirmed there were four areas of focus for the Community Board this coming year including, health wellbeing, supporting our young people, improving our environment and enabling a safe and thriving community.

The Community Board Manager advised projects and ideas relating to the areas of focus would be collated from the community, with help running the projects sought from volunteers and voluntary organisations. If members had any ideas or interests, they were advised to contact the Community Board Manager.

The Chair advised the working group meetings were to be replaced with Task and finish groups. These groups would liaise with the Community Board Manager to ensure projects are delivered more effectively. The groups would consist of a small number of people with key skills and interests to deliver specific projects and feedback to the Board.

The Community Board were looking for people who would like to be involved in a working group to assess the need for and identify locations for new cycle racks across the community area. Cycling was encouraged due to the health benefits of active travel and a reduction in carbon emissions. The volunteers would be required to commit limited time to liaise with land owners to install cycle racks, research equipment suppliers and decide on suitable locations. In addition, existing cycle racks could be maintained or fixed if damaged. Any interested parties were advised to contact the Community Board Manager.

The Chair suggested the setup of a task and finish group relating to speeding. The Board purchased MVAS machines under the Speedwatch programme last year. Areas with high numbers of speeding cars needed to be investigated. There was an opportunity to liaise with TVP for persistent problem areas in order for the Community Speedwatch team to attend. In the areas where MVAS was set up a schedule could be developed to monitor and respond to the data received. The group needed at least one person from each ward area to volunteer.

An update on projects was provided by the Vice-Chair.

- The commemorative benches project was underway and discussions had taken place at Parish meetings. Dr Challoner's High School students were providing research on materials, sustainability and durability of the benches.
- Oli O'Neill from Treehouse Amersham was working with local school pupils to determine locations for defibrillators. The Clare Foundation had also expressed an interest in the project.
- The first Artisan Market was held in Old Amersham on Easter Sunday. There were over 20 stalls and approx. 2500 people in attendance, it was noted the event had proved very successful. A debrief session had been scheduled to discuss any feedback before the next event in May.
- Dr Challoner's School was awaiting costs from Transport for Bucks for flashing speed signs outside the school. £6,500 had been set aside for the project and an application would be submitted to HS2 also.

6 Presentations

Mr Owain Johns, Service Co-ordinator from Live Well Stay Well provided an update on the services they provided for the community.

- Live Well Stay Well was a single point of access for healthy lifestyles referrals. Residents could self-refer for the service or GPs and health providers could provide referral.
- There was a broad range of services offered including stop smoking support, adult weight management, child weight management through family intervention services and outreach NHS health checks for over 40s.

- Free NHS Health checks had been conducted at Amersham Lifestyle Centre with 7 people attending. Further checks were available at the Oasis Partnership in Chesham and Chesham Library. If there were any suggestions for future locations that would benefit from holding NHS checks please get in contact.
- Exercise on referral would be available in the near future, this would entitle residents to a 12-week programme with free access to their local gym and swimming pool alongside 121 support by referral from their GP. Wycombe Leisure Centre was already running a GP referral service with free membership service alongside 121 support for £60.
- The Stop Smoking service was for residents over 12 years of age and foster homes and care homes were targeted for support. The service offered many benefits including free 121 support in neutral locations.
- Child weight management meetings would resume in person soon in Amersham and Chesham.
- The stop smoking service for adults provided free vaping devices, coils and e-liquids alongside behavioural support from practitioners.

For any further information contact Owain Johns, Service Coordinator, Live Well Stay Well, owain.johns@nhs.net

Rebecca Kineen from Public Health Bucks gave a presentation on Grow it, Cook it, Eat it, the slides are appended to these minutes.

- There were currently 4 community growing sites in Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe located in areas with higher levels of deprivation.
- The initiative featured a 5 week course teaching basic cookery skills to targeted groups including people who use food banks or suffer from food poverty.
- Tutors were allocated groups in the community they understand once they had completed a Train the Trainer course. There was no requirement for a professional cookery background and mental health and food hygiene training was provided.
- Once the training was completed tutors were given a comprehensive cookery kit to cook in any community venue including schools or church halls.
- The initiative looked at reducing food waste, cooking on a budget and no cook recipes. Participants were introduced to growing sites and their details were provided to gardeners.
- At the end of the course on week 5 there was a celebratory session for participants to cook their own food or from the grow to give recipe cards. Participants would be given the opportunity to complete the food hygiene level 2 certificate and were provided with a goody bag to continue cooking at home. There would also be the chance to share recipes on the online community.
- The next training session would be held at the Bagnall Centre in Chesham. It was reiterated no previous experience was needed to become a tutor just an understanding of the local community. There were currently 10 volunteer cookery tutors and any suggestions for community venues were welcomed.

For any further information contact Shanelle Akintomide or Rebecca Kineen at shanelle.akintomide1@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or rebecca.kineen@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

The Chair highlighted the cost of living crisis had affected some members of the community worse than others particularly the increasing cost of food. These initiatives were welcomed as it could be difficult to cook healthy on a budget.

The Community Board would create an initiative around excess food in particular fruit and vegetables which would formalise the work of volunteer groups. The Board's task and finish group would link allotments, local groups i.e. food banks and volunteers which would be open to suggestions from Board members.

Ms R Kineen advised work was being undertaken with Helping Hands and Hannah Tomlin from Buckinghamshire Council was the lead on food support. There had been an ideas around various methods of delivery of surplus fruit and vegetables to communities whilst advertising growing sites and training for healthy lifestyles. A Member suggested that supermarkets could be contacted to look at their surplus produce at the end of each day. Members involved in allotments were advised to get involved with this project.

The Community Board Manager gave a presentation on other matters including making every contact council, Dementia Champions, Council updates and the support for Ukraine project, the slides are appended to these minutes.

The Chair reiterated the Board would set up three task and finish groups with involvement from the members encouraged. The groups focused on cycle racks, speeding and community food support. Members were requested to contact the Community Board Manager if they were able to volunteer.

A Member of the board thanked the Chair, Vice Chair and the Community Board Manager for their work and for making the meetings accessible for the community.

7 Other matters

There were none.

8 Date of the next meeting

28th July 6:30pm MS Teams



Community Board Amersham and Villages



Updates from the previous year

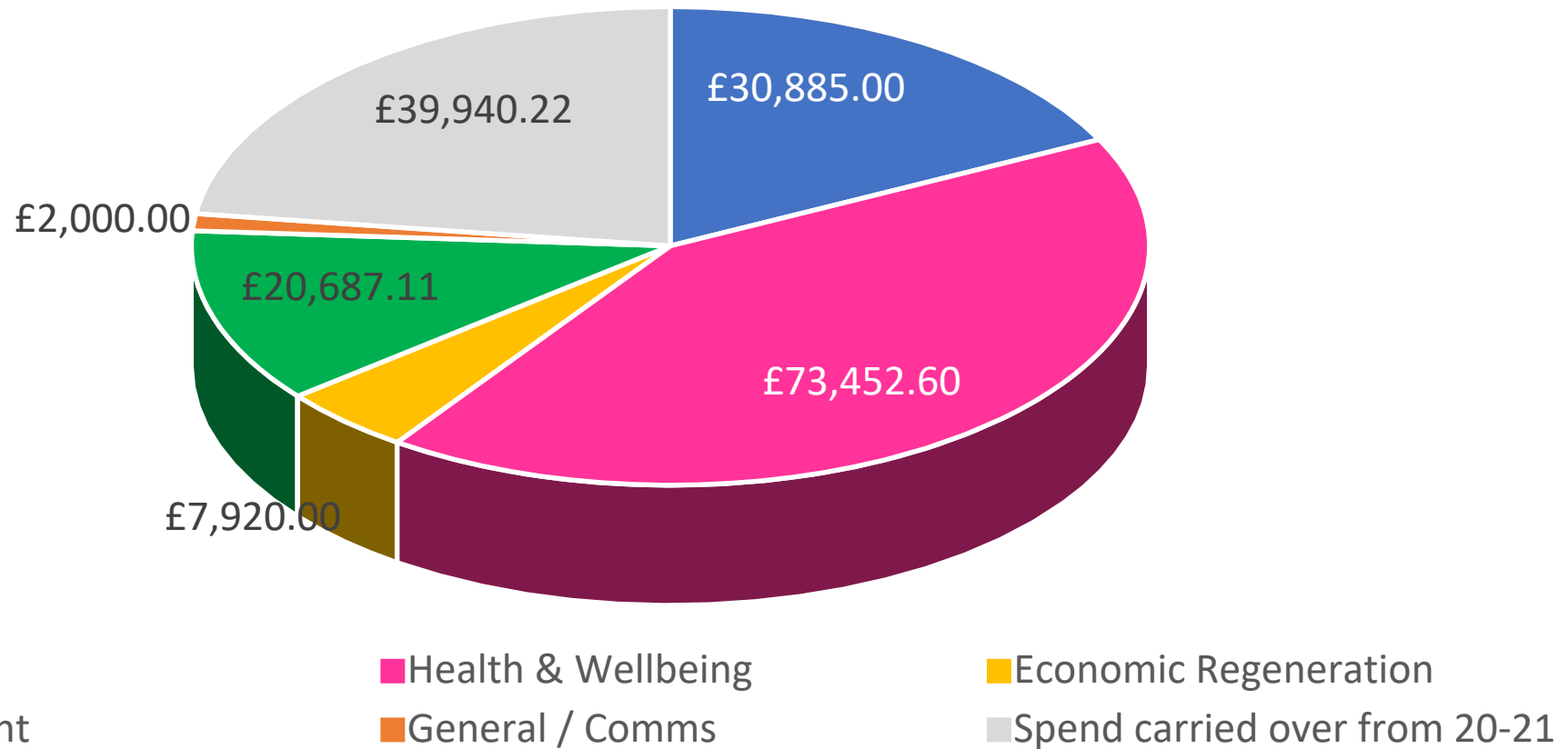
Engagement

- *150 people signed up to the quarterly newsletter*
- *Over 600 Facebook followers / 135 Instagram followers*
- *Post reach over 12,000 on Social Media since January*
- *105 people in attendance at the February event (photo)*

*First in person event:
Saturday 12th February
Amersham Community Centre*

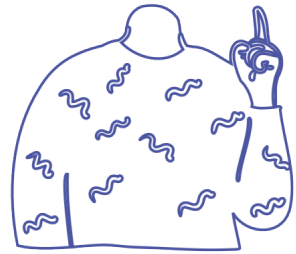


Spend by Area of Focus



Projects supported 2021-22

Amersham Town Council Seed for Bees	Little Chalfont Primary School Early Years Environment Area
Amersham Youth Summer Team	Chesham Bois School No Stopping Signs
Amersham Museum Shopping Before Plastic	Little Chalfont Dementia Café
Chesham Bois Burial Ground	Coleshill Village Noticeboard
Amersham Youth Club Renovations	Little Chalfont Nature Park Path
Wellbeing Walks for Young Adults with Autism	Commemorative Jubilee Benches
Bucks Mind KS1 Mental Health project	Coleshill Common Picnic Bench
Mental Health First Aid Training Project	Cue34 Theatre Project - In Tune
Stony Dean School Pond Restoration	Amersham Action Group Town Map
St Mary's Pond Restoration	Amersham Youth Thursday Sports Club
Radio Christmas	Amersham Martyrs Play
Santa's Grotto	Old Hanging Wood CIC Explore the Woods
CHAT Respite Charity	Old Amersham Artisan Market
MVAS for Little Chalfont	Tree House Health & Wellbeing & Defibrillators
Little Chalfont Primary School Edibles Garden	Coleshill Weight Restriction and Speed Limit
Coleshill Common Management Committee BioBlitz	Dr Challoner's Grammar - School Crossing
Old Amersham Revite Group Memorial Garden Water Fountain	St George's School Parking Bollards



An opportunity for individuals or community group representatives to ask questions, share updates, and suggest future discussion points...



Forward Planning

Areas of Focus

We asked for feedback on priorities at the Community Event in February - the suggested areas of focus for the Community Board in 2022-23 are:

- *Health & Wellbeing*
- *Supporting our Young People*
- *Improving the Environment*
- *Enabling a Safe and Thriving Community*



Project ideas/themes

Community
Growing
and Sharing

Charity park
runs and
walking groups

Family
cookery
sessions

Health and Wellbeing

Reducing
our carbon
footprint

Improving
local green
spaces

Rewilding
of verges

Improving the Environment

More litter
signage

More
activities for
young
people

Supporting our Young People

Support for
young people
with SEND

Youth worker
training &
development

DofE & UCAS
volunteering
projects

Enabling a Safe and Thriving Community

Economic
Regeneration
& supporting
the high street

Gain a bigger
presence on
Social Media

Engage
with hard
to reach
residents

Support
volunteer led
initiatives

Task & Finish Groups

Installation of new cycle racks in high footfall areas

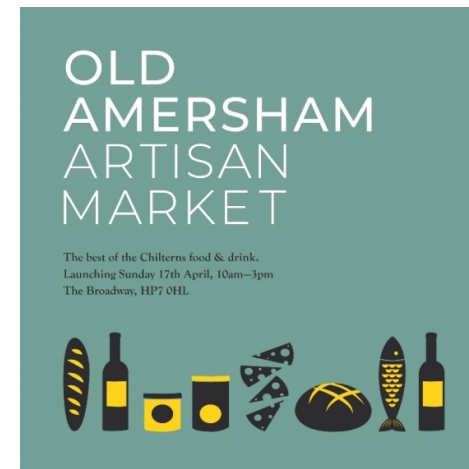
- Tasks to include:
 - Liaising with land owners (Parish Councils)
 - Discussing and agreeing locations
 - Sourcing best value for money
- To get involved email Lizzie.Wright@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Setup a group to monitor and respond to speeding queries

- Tasks to include
 - Liaising with the Parish Councils around situating MVAS
 - Liaising with Community Speedwatch at Thames Valley Police
 - Developing a schedule of areas to be monitored – following the Chesham model
- To get involved email Lizzie.Wright@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Project updates

- Commemorative Benches
- Defibrillators
- Artisan Market
- Dr Challoner's Grammar School



Presentations

Live Well Stay Well

- NHS Health Checks aim to help prevent heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. They help to identify early signs of poor health. Amersham & Villages Community Board has an uptake of 45.3% of those eligible.
- The Healthy Lifestyle Service provides effective and evidence-based support for people to stop smoking, lose weight and be active amongst other support and advice.



Grow It Cook It Eat It

- In the Amersham Community Board 2,969 residents are living in households at a higher risk of food poverty (12.5% of the population) and 25.4% of children in year 6 in the area are overweight or obese.
- Community gardens can benefit the health and wellbeing of the local community (this project has a wide range of benefits including reducing risk of heart disease and alleviating social isolation through promoting community spirit), as well as environmental and green priorities.



Project proposal

- The cost of living crisis is beginning to impact more and more people
- With the price of food going ever higher, it's harder to cook nutritional meals on a budget
- We would like to setup a new Task & Finish group to discuss and develop project ideas that will help to:
 - Identify local community growing sites
 - Providing training in cookery skills
 - Map local produce and collect/deliver it to those in need

Other matters

Making every contact count

- People who experience social isolation and loneliness are more likely to experience depression and anxiety, be physically inactive, smoke and drink alcohol, have an increased risk of heart disease and dementia, and die prematurely. Amersham has the 6th highest rate of emergency admissions for mental health in the county.
- MECC upskills people to have effective and informal healthy conversations around making positive changes to physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- A free 1hr online MECC training session is held on the first Tuesday of every month and can be booked here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-mecc-course-tickets-190219791517>
- It is available to everyone working or volunteering in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, council and health care partners who are in the Buckinghamshire area.



Dementia Champions

- Dementia Action Week takes place from 16-22 May
- The Amersham & Villages Community Board area ranks 7th in the County for dementia emergency admissions.
- Dementia Friends Awareness Sessions can be delivered to local communities and businesses. Local champions can be given training to deliver the sessions in their community. Sessions are 50 minutes.
- The Alzheimer's Society have been commissioned by Buckinghamshire Council and Bucks CCG to deliver a new Dementia Support Service in Buckinghamshire from 1st April 2022. It is available to anyone who is worried about their memory or affected by dementia.



- Homes for Ukraine – next slide
- Change of bin collection day from the week commencing Monday 9 May
- Jubilee Celebrations – activity packs and waived road closures for events
- Helping Hand – support for families and individuals in need
- £150 council tax rebate
- Care advice website
- Local plan consultation – 3,439 responses and results expected in the summer
- Consultations: yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/



- Public invited to 'sign up' if they are willing to host an individual or family for a minimum of six months (Homes for Ukraine scheme) – they should register their interest on the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine>
- Visa Scheme launched allowing Ukrainians to come to the UK for up to three years if they have a named sponsor under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. The council do not do the matching for sponsors, but do checks to help us understand key needs (these do not hold up the visa process).
- The Heart of Bucks donation page can be found here - <https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/helping-hand-ukraine>
- Community Impact Bucks set up an online resource for **individuals, charities and community groups** providing **support for Ukrainian refugees in Buckinghamshire** - <https://communityimpactbucks.org.uk/support-for-ukrainian-refugees-in-buckinghamshire/>
- Use the Bucks online directory to promote community groups in your area <https://directory.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>

Join Task & Finish Groups:

1. Cycle Racks
2. Speeding
3. Community Food Support

Submit a project idea:

<https://forms.office.com/r/Nuk90YR599>

Join our next Board Meeting:

28 July 2022 6:30pm

THANK YOU

We look forward to seeing you next time

Chiltern Foodbank New Premises Search & Potential Community Hub

- The Chiltern Foodbank and Amersham Action Group are working with St John's Methodist Church to try to create a community hub in Amersham
- The final service at St John's was held on Easter Sunday and the future of the building is under review
- We have made a proposal to develop the premises into a Community Hub. The other options potentially involve redevelopment
- The community hub would provide a home for the Chiltern Foodbank, Big Community Takeaway, 2nd AC Scouts, Community Garden and could be used by many other community organisations, including existing users and the Methodist church
- A community hub also provides opportunities for further initiatives to support local people
- We are looking to get an indication from St John's about preferred direction within the next month. If the community hub proposal is preferred there will be a period of planning to understand the lease, operational costs & funding requirements, initial hub activities and timetable.
- A community hub would be an exciting development for the Amersham and the Chilterns, so if opportunities arise, please lend your support

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Scannappeal

Working with and benefitting the local community in Amersham & Villages

Scannappeal is based at Amersham hospital and fundraises to provide state of the art medical equipment for local NHS hospitals, equipment which the NHS budget alone would not be able to fund.

Last year, Scannappeal funded a new DEXA scanner at Amersham hospital to help assess the risk of osteoporosis and heart disease, expanding the diagnostic capabilities of the Amersham Radiology service and benefitting local residents by allowing for earlier detection of disease.

Scannappeal is currently fundraising for £860.95 for a handheld Ear Pulse Oximeter for the community nursing team who care for respiratory patients in Amersham. This includes people with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), chronic Asthma, cancer patients and those with chronic heart failure where oxygen is a benefit to their symptom management.

The Scannappeal team includes many wonderful volunteers, 26 of whom live in Amersham and Little Chalfont. Our volunteers are crucial to the success of the charity and for many of them, helping Scannappeal provides a weekly opportunity to socialise with others - whether it be cutting stamps in the Amersham office, running the bookshop at Amersham hospital or helping at an event such as the annual Christmas Carol Concert at St Mary's Church.

Scannappeal is a charity which involves local people in Amersham, raising funds for medical equipment to benefit everyone in the community at their time of need. In 2022, the charity celebrates 35 years and the vision today, and for the future, is to provide local patients with access to the best possible diagnostic and medical equipment available.

April 2022

Scannappeal

Amersham hospital, Whielden Street, Amersham, Bucks HP7 0JD
 01494 734161 scannappeal.org.uk
 helen.strudwick1@nhs.net



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helen.strudwick1@nhs.net



Registered charity no. 296291

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Grow It Cook It Eat It

Page 37

Rebecca Kineen

Public Health Programme Officer

26th April 2022

Contact:

Shanelle Akintomide – Public Health Practitioner

Shanelle.Akintomide1@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Appendix

Grow it Cook it Eat it

There are two main elements to this project, the growing and the cooking

GROW IT

- Setting up community growing sites across the county
- Located in areas with higher levels of deprivation.
- 4 community growing sites active in Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe
- New site being developed in Iver and scoping a potential site in the Buckingham area.
- Sites will have a dedicated Expert Gardener assigned to set up the growing site
- Community will be supported to take ownership of the site in the long term



Grow it Cook it Eat it

Cook it

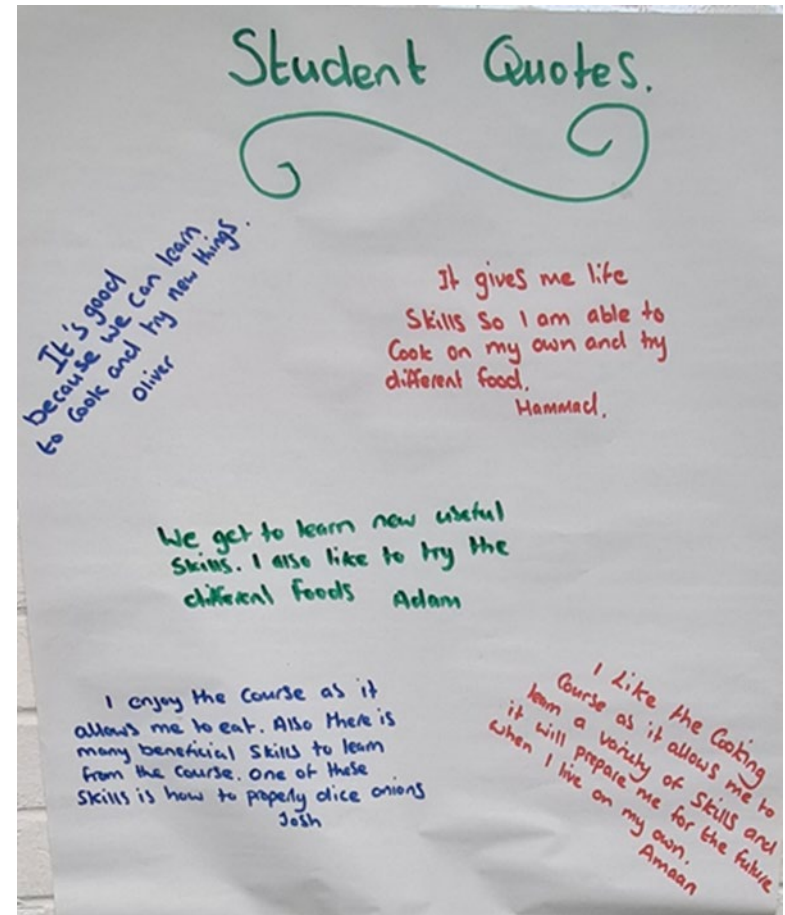
- Increase the cooking/food knowledge and skills of key target groups
- Utilising a train the trainer approach.
- Empower participants to make the best use of products
- Inspire and introduce participants to visit community growing sites and growing their own.
- Provide the participants with knowledge of how to use and access surplus food.
- Course to be offered in a number of community settings.



Grow it Cook it Eat it

Eat it

- The 5th week of the session is a celebratory session
- Participants make their own recipe/dish to be shared in the session – sit together to eat
- We encourage participants and volunteer cookery tutors to share their own/family recipes
- The recipes will be available and shared online via a community cookery book.
- Links/intros to community growing sites – to access surplus food





Grow it Cook it Eat it

Next Steps

- Next Train the Trainer session: 24th & 25th May 2022
- Trainers do not need to have previous experience
- Ideally volunteer cookery tutors will have links to a cohort or ideas of groups they can work with
- Scoping community Venues
- Launching the online cookery book & support resources
- Identify Community Champion Growers to lead the community growing sites

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An update for Community Boards from Buckinghamshire Council Spring (April to May 2022)

Homes for Ukraine scheme – what the council is doing to help

We have all been deeply moved by the plight of people in Ukraine – this is evident from the outpouring of support from our communities, alongside the work that we at the council are doing. We have committed to working with the British Government to welcome Ukrainian people to make new lives in Buckinghamshire over the coming months and years.

We have formed a local strategic partnership with representatives from across the community, education, health, safeguarding and other services, all aligned to support any arrivals as best we can.

We have produced welcome packs for both sponsors and guests which provide them with the information we think they will need – contact details, information about settling into life in the UK, support services and detailed information about the local area.

To support the Homes for Ukraine scheme, we have set up an internal team using existing staff who are handling the housing, safeguarding and the DBS checks for sponsors who have found guests they would like to come and stay with them. We do need to stress that we are not responsible for the visa application itself, or for matching sponsors with Ukrainian families. And we can also undertake housing checks for people who have matched with someone.

We have a lot of information about how we are supporting the Homes for Ukraine on our website at <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/helping-hand-for-ukraine/share-your-home-with-a-refugee/>

And we have a dedicated email address that people can use if they need to contact the Ukraine support team at the Council - ukrainesupport@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

A Helping Hand for Ukraine - what you can do to help Ukrainian refugees

We have a dedicated area on our website for anyone who would like to know more about how they can help/get involved – check out [‘Helping Hand for Ukraine’](#).

As part of this information, we have set up an online pledge form where people can offer supplies, translations and toys, among other things.

We'd also love your help with:

- promoting the Heart of Bucks campaign
<https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/helping-hand-ukraine> - the money raised through the Ukraine Crisis Fund will go directly towards helping people who've fled their homes and arrived here in Bucks.
- encouraging people to sign up on the [government website](#) to register interest, and again when they have matched with a Ukrainian.
- promoting the Bucks online directory to any community groups in your area
- <https://directory.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>
 - encouraging community groups to stagger support offer i.e. not all in first week but spread over number of months.
 - supporting any sponsors and refugee families in your area, where you can.

Waste and recycling collections – changes to bin collection schedule in the south of the county (Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks areas)

Most residents living in the former Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe district council areas of Buckinghamshire are likely to have a change of bin collection day from the week commencing **Monday 9 May**.

We are sending letters to all householders in these areas explaining the upcoming new bin collection schedules and the improvements to the recycling and waste service. The letter will also contain a new bin collection calendar to help illustrate the changes and provide further detail on the improved recycling and waste service. Letters are going out from w/c 19 April, so please expect to receive your letter, if you live in these affected areas, up to the end of April.

Some properties will experience an extended period between collections as the new bin day schedules are introduced. These properties have been provided with an additional one-off collection taking place w/c Monday 2 May.

More information is available on our website: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/bin-day

Jubilee celebrations

To help communities celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year, we have created activity packs filled with ideas and suggestions.

The packs have been sent to all schools and care homes in Buckinghamshire and are also available on our website to download. Our particular focus is on supporting The Queen's Green Canopy tree planting initiative, so some of the activities are based around celebrating veteran trees and our natural environment.

We'd love to hear how you are celebrating the Jubilee in Buckinghamshire. If you'd like to share photos and stories with them, you can do so via social media @BucksCouncil or by email to: PlatinumJubilee-activities@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

If you are holding a street party or Big Jubilee Lunch, please register your event on the [online events directory](#). We have waived the road closure fee for when a temporary road closure is requested for a Jubilee street party between Thursday 2 June and Sunday 5 June 2022.

More information is available on our website <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/the-queens-platinum-jubilee/>

Support with food, bills and finances – Helping Hand

Our Helping Hand team are available to help individuals or families in need, those on low incomes and those who are experiencing a financial emergency or crisis.

Our team can help if you – or someone you know:

- are struggling to afford food
- cannot keep on top of your bills
- are in debt
- are struggling to pay for essential goods in your home

Find out more about our Helping Hand team and how they can [support with food, bills and finances](#)

£150 council tax rebate for energy bills

The £150 rebate to every household in council tax bands A to D will be paid over the next few weeks to help offset rising fuel costs. There is also a discretionary rebate which Buckinghamshire Council is paying to help householders in other council tax bands who are on specific benefits.

If you [pay your council tax by direct debit](#) you will receive your rebate faster and direct into your bank account.

Our Council Tax team will be sending out details on how to provide your bank details if don't pay by direct debit to ensure you receive your payment.

Care advice Buckinghamshire website

We have a dedicated website that helps with finding information, support and care for adults, their families and carers.

Information includes:

- Supporting you to live independently
- Supporting you to regain your independence
- Living with support
- Paying for care
- Health and wellbeing
- Activities and things to do

Find out more online at <https://careadvice.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>

Buckinghamshire Local Plan

3,439 responses were received to the Attitudes Survey which closed on 11 February. A summary of findings will be published later in the summer.

330 brownfield sites have been submitted for assessment and the opportunity to submit new sites remains open. The submission form and details on the website are available on the council's website: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/call-for-brownfield-sites/>

The supply of housing from these brownfield sites is likely to fall short of what will be needed until 2040, the next step will be a call for greenfield sites to explore the other options for development.

The government has promised an update on its planning reforms in 'Spring 2022'.

Buckinghamshire Council consultations

A reminder that current consultations and surveys from Buckinghamshire Council are available to view on our website <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/>

Where appropriate, we also list NHS consultations and surveys as well.