



## Beeches Community Board minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeches Community Board held on Tuesday 26 July 2022 in MS Teams, commencing at 6.02 pm and concluding at 7.47 pm.

### **BC Councillors present**

D Anthony (Chairman), D Dhillon, G Sandy, K Ashman, N Naylor (Vice Chairman), P Kelly and R Bagge

### **Town/Parish Councils and other organisations present**

H Baldwin (Homes for Ukraine Lead Officer), J Carey (Burnham Parish Council), J Dax (Dorney Parish Council), D Hulme (Community Coordinator, BC), C Linton (Burnham Parish Council), H Mee (Clare Foundation), M Rolfe (Farnham Royal Parish Council), R Worthington (Taplow Parish Council)

### **Others in attendance**

R Binstead (Democratic Services), A Chapman (Community Board Manager), C Lemon, R Venher, R Western-Kaye

### **Apologies**

E Brickley (Burnham Royal British Legion), T Egleton (Buckinghamshire Councillor), P Harper (Bucks & Surrey Trading Standards), S James (Service Director, Education), N Jeffries (Taplow for Ukraine), P Rowley (Farnham Royal Parish Council), R Senior (Dorney Parish Council and Taplow Parish Council), A Simone (Bucks & Surrey Trading Standards)

### **Agenda Item**

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

Councillor David Anthony, Chairman of the Beeches Community Board, welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Dev Dhillon for his service as Vice-Chairman of the Community Board and welcomed Councillor Nick Naylor as the new Vice-Chairman.

#### **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26 April 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

Matters arising:

Andy Chapman, Beeches Community Board Manager, informed participants that the tree planting guidance would be made available in the minutes [here](#). The document would include information regarding the process and fees.

It was noted that the Waste Team had been informed of the additional need for waste to be picked up around litter picking collections.

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **4 Guest Speaker**

Harriet Baldwin, Sponsor Liaison Area Lead Officer, was present to give an update on the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme. The presentation slides referred to in this meeting would be appended to these minutes, with some key points below:

- As of the 22 July 2022, the Beeches area had 26 sponsors and a total of 54 beneficiaries, 42 of which had already arrived.
- 10 Sponsor Liaison Officers were active within the Beeches Area, providing support to the hosts and beneficiaries on top of their usual full-time roles.
- Challenges included travel around Buckinghamshire and housing options after the initial 6 months. It was explained that the Council was looking at developing support for rented housing and had a “bank” of sponsors for rematching.

Cathy Lemon (Host for Homes for Ukraine Scheme) and Romanna Venher (Ukrainian guest) were invited to share their experiences.

### **5 Service Director Update**

Andy Chapman, Beeches Community Board Manager, presented the item. This included information on:

- The Helping Hand and Holiday Activity Fund, to support families and individuals with low income. For more information, please contact Andy Chapman on: [andy.chapman@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:andy.chapman@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
- Missed bin collections. It was explained that the Chair of Burnham Parish Council was still in correspondence with relevant parties on behalf of all affected residents. An issue was raised with incidents being reported as resolved when not in actuality, however it was noted that these were being addressed when escalated.
- Bucks Online Directory to publicise local services, activities, and support groups. It was agreed that Joanne Fowler, Active Communities Officer, would be invited to attend either the following Community Board or Wellbeing Group meeting to discuss how members could encourage local groups to register.

- Emails would be sent to residents regarding the annual canvas and entitlement to vote. Residents should look out for emails from [elections@canvas.buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:elections@canvas.buckinghamshire.gov.uk) with the subject “electoral registration response required”.

Councillor George Sandy reported an incident in Taplow whereby an unsuitable for large vehicles sign had been removed.

## 6 Action Group Updates

### a) Infrastructure & Highways

Councillor Ralph Bagge updated the Community Board on the Infrastructure and Highways action group. He thanked Councillor George Sandy for chairing the previous meeting on Wednesday 8 June 2022. Members were informed of the following points:

- Costings provided by Transport for Bucks (TfB) for schemes and recommendations proposed for next year. This included Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) for Dorney Parish Council and Taplow Parish Council, which has been recommended for funding and had been circulated to board members for decision.
- Transport for Bucks (TfB) had reported an increase in material costs and that it could not deliver some projects against its initial costing forecast. TfB had been in discussion with the board regarding covering additional expenditure so the projects can proceed.
- Changes to the scheme for highways projects next year. The contract with TfB was ending and a new framework would be in place from April 2023. As such, TfB would not be progressing pending schemes, as these would be delivered under a new contractor. New projects would not be started until the new contract is in place, however it was confirmed that the board was still able to approve projects but costings may be reviewed next year.

In the discussion that followed, the below points were raised:

- Councillor George Sandy recalled an initiative in the early 90s to collect funds from residents of Taplow village for traffic calming schemes. It was decided that 2 of the 3 speed bumps would not be installed and so residents were eligible for a partial refund. It was suggested that the remaining funds not issued in refunds could be used towards MVAS in Taplow.
- Members requested an update on the status of projects and an indication of projects that had gone over the initial costings. Councillor Dev Dhillon emphasised the importance of completing schemes within a timely manner to avoid cost increases.
- Members were informed of the implementation of a RAG (Red-Amber-Green) rating for projects, with green being projects TfB were confident in

completing in 2022. Projects categorised as green included the dropped curbs in Lincoln Hatched Lane, Burnham and Templewood Lane, Farnham Common. Both projects mentioned had increased costs, which were with Parish Councils for consideration. Amber projects included the Blackpond Lane, Farnham Common footway extension, due to additional costs of £31,000. Red projects included Rogers Lane, Stoke Poges waiting restrictions, indicating that TfB may not be able to deliver the project before April 2023 due to issues with traffic regulation orders.

- Concern was raised over the breakdown of costs. It was confirmed that the current supplier was endorsed by Buckinghamshire Council and had been checked to be competitive.
- Jill Dax, Chair of Dorney Parish Council, enquired into the installation of 2 posts. It was agreed that a breakdown of costs for the initial quote would be looked into and to explore an alternative supplier for installation.
- The possibility of a funding roll-over due to projects put on hold.
- Richard Western-Kaye, Snowball Farm, raised concerns of speeding on the southern end of Dropmore Road, connecting to Dorney Wood Road. It was advised that the issue be raised with the Parish Council, who could work with the Board to explore options. John Carey, Burnham Parish Council, highlighted the issue of enforcement. The matter would be passed to the Infrastructure and Highways action group for consideration.

#### b) Wellbeing

Councillor George Sandy presented the update for the Wellbeing action group. The following points were raised:

- How the Board could support partners and local groups to help improve the lives and life chances of young people, particularly those not already engaging with existing services and activities such as Scouts and Brownies. It was noted that the Community Youth Ventures mobile outreach unit would be available during the summer holidays on the 24th, 25th, and 26th of August.
- Carol Linton, Burnham Parish Council, expressed concern over the Burnham Health Promotion Trust being unable to lease the local community centre to relieve pressure on the health centre and support "Care & Share".

#### c) Improving Our Environment

Councillor Dev Dhillon presented an update for the Improving Our Environment action group. Members noted the following:

- The Burnham Parish Council application for water fountains had been withdrawn.

- The Eco Audit was expected to cost Burnham Parish Council roughly £4,340 and Taplow Parish Council £1,900. It was expected that combining the projects could help lower the cost.
- To encourage litter picking activities, equipment such as litter pickers and gloves would be donated to Burnham Parish Council and Lent Rise School from the Welcome Back Fund. These would be available for community use.
- Councillor Dev Dhillon encouraged members of the community to attend future meetings to help give feedback on how to improve the environment.

## **7 Funding and Applications Update**

Andy Chapman, Community Board Manager, presented the funding update. It was noted that there was £94,787.01 remaining in the budget, however there were 2 MVAS applications in the pipeline awaiting approval from members. It was explained that the board could continue to approve projects, which would then be granted to the new contractor.

The Board were informed that Stoke Poges Parish Council had reviewed the Hollybush Hill scheme. It was decided that the cost was disproportionate to the benefit and the application had been withdrawn.

Buckinghamshire Community Boards launched a small grants scheme to provide funding of up to £1000, suitable for community and voluntary groups. Timescales had been advertised as a 3-day turnaround, to ensure that small amounts of funding could reach communities quicker. Further information is available on the [Council website](#). This would be appropriate for a range of projects including but not limited to: equipment, training, project costs, community events, and activities.

## **8 Community Matters**

Members were reminded that live consultations can be viewed on the [Your Voice Bucks website](#). The Local Plan for Bucks consultation, looking at housing and economic development matters, would be open until 11 September. The Bucks Design Awards, allowing individuals to nominate their favourite new build or open space, would be open until 18 September. Feedback was given on a variety of previous community board funded projects including:

- Virtual Dementia Tour bus to understand what it's like to live with dementia, which received positive feedback. Andy Chapman thanked Sue Strange from Bluebell Memories for her support.
- Active in the Community project to upgrade the floodlights and equipment at Burnham Grammar School for community use in the evening, weekend and holidays. Bookings for January to March 2023 were up by 35% from last year.

- GLL organised dementia-friendly seated exercise classes in Stoke Poges. Attendance numbers had been steadily increasing.
- Refresh project opened beginning of June 2022 to open a recycling and reuse site in the Chilterns shopping centre, High Wycombe. They had employed a part time worker to help boost their service and were looking to move to a bigger premises. It was noted that the membership scheme was in the process of being implemented, which would give more accurate feedback on the benefits to Beeches residents.
- Councillor Paul Kelly requested an update on the Bucks Mind project.

Councillor David Anthony, Chairman, gave an update on the Neighbourhood Policing Forum. Communities were asked to submit priorities, identifying speeding and fly tipping as high priority. Home domestic burglaries were identified as a reduced priority to previous years.

Members reported traffic disruption issues in Farnham and Burnham was reported, with lorries not using approved routes from HS2 and Burnham Golf site.

## **9 Action Plan Update**

It was noted that a new Communications plan would be developed for Community Boards in the summer. Councillor David Anthony would liaise with the Chairmen of the action groups to finalise this.

## **10 Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 15 November 2022 at 6pm

# Ukraine Sponsorship scheme

- 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)
- Visa Scheme launched - allows Ukrainians to come to the UK for up to three years if they have a named sponsor under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme
- The visa scheme places requirements on the Council to provide coordinated support including education, housing checks and safeguarding. The Council will receive £10,500 per person
- The council does not match sponsors and guests, our checks are to help us understand key needs. The council checks do not hold up the visa process.

# Council response

- 21 team members working full time within the central project team
- 115 staff members undertaking the sponsor liaison role on top of their day job
- 650 home safety checks undertaken by Environmental Health
- 1,383 DBS checks requested by the business support team on adults within sponsor households
- Work being undertaken by a variety of teams across the council including education, Children's safeguarding, Adults, Housing, customer services, finance.
- [ukrainesupport@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:ukrainesupport@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) mailbox set up to answer queries on a daily basis



Community Board	Sponsors	Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries Arrived
Amersham	37	88	50
Aylesbury	27	60	31
Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye	61	148	107
<b>Beeches</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>42</b>
Buckingham and Villages	26	69	43
Chesham and Villages	36	88	64
Denham, Gerrards Cross and Chalfonts	65	164	118
Haddenham and Waddesdon	56	118	83
High Wycombe	41	116	52
Missendens	33	81	59
North West Chilterns	64	180	139
South West Chilterns	75	182	131
Wendover	32	92	56
Wexham and Ivers	8	23	7
Wing and Ivinghoe	22	65	36
Winslow and Villages	33	97	60
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>1634</b>	<b>1075</b>

# In the Beeches Community Board area

- Community welcome and support
- Good engagement with schools
- Better Connected Beaconsfield
  - Employment workshops
  - English conversation
  - Lifts schemes
- Support from Taplow 4 Ukraine

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## CAFÉ UKRAINE

Зустріч української громади  
у Беконсфілді  
з метою соціалізації і надання підтримки,  
особливо тим, хто приїхав нещодавно  
з України



Gathering of Ukrainian community  
in Beaconsfield

for socializing and providing support  
especially for newly arrived Ukrainians

Every Monday  
9:30-11:30 am  
at the Dove Café, St Thomas Church,  
Mayflower Way, Holtspur, HP9 1UF



*Photos used with  
parents permission*



# Welcome Cathy and Romanna



Photos used with  
parents permission

# Current challenges

- We are fast approaching the initial six months for our first guests and there are lots of questions about housing.
  - The council is looking at the various options available and talking to sponsors and community groups about the numbers expected to want to end their arrangement at six months.
- Difficulties with availability of school places in some parts of the county. Working closely with the school admissions and school transport teams to find solutions
- Travel around Buckinghamshire continues to be a challenge, particularly in the more rural areas

# Rematching

- Where hosts or guests want to end their agreement early, the council has a team working on rematching
- We are developing a bank of sponsors who have been through the relevant checks to enable us to rematch guests quickly where there have been breakdowns in their original relationship
- We know that rematching will increase as we near the end of the initial six months

# Helping Hand: Support for Ukraine

- The emergency appeal is administered by Heart of Bucks
- We advocate funding applications for guests, for up to £500 per family
- The types of things that have been funded are
  - Interpreter training courses
  - Exams for people to convert qualifications (e.g. nursing)
  - Clothes for children's school uniform
  - School trips
  - Conversion of qualifications

