



Community Board Haddenham and Waddesdon

Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board Report

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Introduction

Welcome to our September 2023 Community Board meeting update.

At our Proud of Bucks awards and Building a Community Vision meeting on 7th June at Waddesdon Community Centre, we handed round a short survey asking people to revisit our current priorities and let us know if these should still be relevant. From responses received at that event and at events attended elsewhere (such as the Platinum Jubilee cycleway launch and a community safety event held at Hartwell Nurseries), the result was to keep with our existing broad priorities of:

Health and Wellbeing, The Environment and Road Safety.

With Health and Wellbeing, it was commented that we should incorporate cost of living. It was felt that the Environment should encompass ideas around cost savings as well as environmental impact and benefits and that Road Safety should look at active travel as well road safety concerns.

Our emphasis this year has been around collaboration and working with communities and partners to identify needs that align with our CB priorities and working together to achieve them. By close working with partners internally and externally, we can also signpost communities to solutions already out there rather than reinventing the wheel!

Here's just some examples of interactions that the Community Board Manager has had:

Road safety: Meeting up with the local Member and representatives from Worminghall Parish Council to consider how to enhance verge entrances to the village to alert drivers that they were entering a village. Rather than resort to costly and evasive hard landscaping which can spoil the very nature of what the intervention is intended to safeguard, low-cost solutions like adding seasonal interest like wildflowers and bulbs can make drivers slow down and realise they are entering a residential area.

Health & Wellbeing and cost of living: Chatting to residents of the Quainton Alms Houses about life in one of these historical dwellings meant they were able to refer the Winwood Almshouses Trust to the Council's Energy Doctor scheme. Now retrofit insulation measures will enable those tenants to enjoy much warmer homes this winter.

The Environment: Our Proud of Bucks awards and in person events provided opportunities for Zero Carbon Haddenham and the Quainton Wildlife and Heritage Orchard to promote their projects to the wider Community Board and encourage others to follow suit.

Parish Workshops

In response to our parishes requesting a dedicated workshop where they could discuss day to day topics of common interest, we put together Parish Workshops. Due to the size of the Community Board, we split the Board into two groups, aligning parishes with their neighbours as best as possible. We then invited the Parishes to put forward 3 topics of interest. We received the following topics and hope to provide an update at our Community Board meeting on 14th September:

- Grass Cutting protocol: to adopt whether to go wild or keep tidy.
- Discussion around the role of parishes and how we need more residents to get involved in parish life.
- Speeding – any new ideas to reduce speeding traffic in our villages.
- How we can help support rural GP surgeries.
- Warm hubs – feedback on those that have taken place.

Update on our Action Groups

Our action groups have taken a break during the summer, and we hope to reconvene in the autumn. We acknowledge that people live busy lives, but we would like to see if relevant groups might like to host these meetings either in person or via MS teams to showcase projects and pass on their knowledge and lessons learnt. It would be great to identify a Community Board led project and create a task and finish group to progress it.

Project update

Library of things

The library had a slow start but is gathering momentum quickly with our dedicated Co-ordinator Katie-Louise Collier. We now have a Facebook page and website and items are arriving at the store based at Quanton Railway Centre. A new repair café will also be on site to support the Library of Things. We have also linked in with the repair cafes and recycle shops around the county as we envisage the library as being county-wide where hives or hubs can be created around Bucks to hold and/or repair items. Cages will soon be appearing at household waste sites where items can be donated which are on the Library's wish list. We are focussing on event kits which small local groups or PTA's can use as well as home DIY tools.

The aim is that this will be a resource accessible to anyone in Bucks linking up all the repair cafes and recycle shops and where we can promote craft workshops and open days. The opportunities are endless.

Haddenham Community Shop

Cllr Greg Smith provided the following update:

The Community Board Grant awarded in January 2023 allowed the Haddenham Community the opportunity to develop a community ownership scheme for the much-loved local greengrocer, 'Blooming Fruity'. The Community Board is aware that when the current owner decided to sell, the Community expressed a strong interest in maintaining the shop as a community owned business if a private enterprise did not come forward.

A broad-based team of residents came together to work on the project. Additional funding has been secured from the Haddenham Beer Festival Committee and considerable progress has been made over the last seven months.

The community Board grant funded membership of The Plunket Foundation, who provide professional advice and support to community ownership schemes. This support has been invaluable. A Community Benefit Society (CBS) was registered, a type of cooperative society regulated by the FCA. Some considerable time, professional expertise and legal advice was secured to ensure that a reasonable valuation of the business was established. This provided assurance for the business going forward.

The CBS conducted a few surveys of the community to gauge the real level of support. This included Radio interviews (which credited the CB) and house to house delivery of over 2000 leaflets, also crediting the Community Board. In addition, a number of community engagement events were run to raise awareness of the project and promote the CBS.

This activity enabled the business, formally known as Haddenham Community Enterprise Ltd(HCEL), to Launch a share offer on 12th July 2023. The offer closed in August 2023 having raised around £120 000. An offer has been made for the shop and has been accepted. Solicitors are engaged in the transfer of ownership which is planned for 25th September 2023. Currently an advert is out for a full time (job share) manager and the shop will maintain two current part time staff members with the intention to recruit volunteers to help develop the shop further.

HCEL will arrange a launch gathering/ party around the transfer of ownership and will send an invitation to the Community Board. The real work starts at the end of September!

The following projects have been supported by the Community board so far this year:

Waddesdon and Westcott WIFI	St Michael and all Angels	Church	community grant	Health & wellbeing	Community asset
Ukrainian workshops	Stephen Spender charity	VCS	Community budget	health & wellbeing	Cultural enrichment

Worminghall Village Hall toilet block refurbishment	Worminghall Village Hall	parish	Community budget	health & wellbeing	Community asset
Brill Training Aids for Defibrillator	Brill PC	Parish	small grants	Health & wellbeing	Health
Quainton Pub	Community Action Group	VCS	community grant	Health & wellbeing	Community asset

If you have identified a need in your community which relates to one of our priorities, please email us at hadwadcb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk in the first instance. Elaine, our Community Board Manager, will arrange a meeting to discuss your proposal and suggest ways in which we may be able to help or link you in with resources and expertise.

One project we would love to set up in our Community Board area is a [Grow it, Cook it, Eat it project](#) – a community food growing and cooking project. We have resources and expertise on hand to help.

Communication

With a CB as large and diverse as ours, communication is always a challenge but as a reminder, we have the following communication points:

- Dedicated webpage [Haddenham & Waddesdon Community Board | Buckinghamshire Council](#).
- Our bi-monthly newsletters are on our webpage and the latest newsletter for July-August is [here](#).
- Our Facebook page has over 600 followers and the link is [here](#).
- BC Councillors receive a monthly update on Community Board progress.

Please let us know what you are doing, events you are putting on and invite us along. We want to capture community life and promote all the positive things that make up our Community Board area.

We can also bring a CB stand to community events and showcase some of the projects we've helped deliver as well as promote project ideas that are easy to get off the ground and help to enhance community life.

