



Community Board South West Chilterns

2022/2023 Annual
Report

Makyla Devlin

Senior Community
Board Manager



Introduction

The South West Chilterns Community Board (SWCCB) was created following Unitary and along with the other 15 Boards, it is pinnacle to linking the local communities with Buckinghamshire Council through engagement, networking and a wrath of opportunity.

SWCCB creates local priorities by identifying what is important where it counts, within the heart of the community board area. By using local data and insight, developing conversation through active action groups and engaging with residents, local groups and organisations, opportunities are created based on areas of particular interest and focus.

This annual report covers the financial year, 2022-2023 and provides an overview of the South West Chilterns Community Board, including its priorities, projects and engagement activities.

Aims of the SWCCB are:

- To link the Board priorities to those agreed by Buckinghamshire Council and provide a platform for local delivery.
- Create opportunity for conversation within the working action groups exploring identified areas of focus.
- To promote the Community Board through local engagement opportunity.
- To identify project opportunities that meet the Board priorities and work with other organisations as delivery partners
- To provide financial and/or networking support to applicants.

Aim of this report

This annual report covers the financial year for 2022-23 and provides an overview of the South West Chilterns Community Board, including its priorities, projects, and engagement activities.

The Community Board has looked at what matters most within its area covering both urban and rural needs.

This report looks at how, through both financial support and community engagement, projects have been established, designed and completed meeting the priorities set by the Board.



SWCCB Chairman, Vice Chairman and Senior Community Board Manager.



Cllr Dominic Barnes



Makyla Devlin



Cllr Neil Marshall

Buckinghamshire Council Elected Members



Cllr Mark Turner



Cllr Carol Heap



Cllr Stuart Wilson



Cllr Sophie Kayani



Cllr Zahir Mohammed



Cllr Penny Drayton



Cllr Alex Collingwood



Cllr David Johncock



Cllr David Watson
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL



Community Board
South West
Chilterns



Cllr Jocelyn Towns

Service Director Champion

Steve Bambrick

This year Steve (Service Director for Highways & Technical Services) became the Corporate Director for the Community Board taking over from Lloyd Jeffries

Not only has Steve represented the Board from a corporate perspective, he also attends the Board meetings to deliver our 'Corporate Updates' and take questions.



Within our Board



The South West Chilterns is mainly rural with urban areas and has some bustling and vibrant High Streets. The main town of Marlow has a bustling High Street and attracts visitors from far and wide to help the local economy.

The Community Board is proud to have 12 parishes within its area all of which are key to the smooth running of the Board. There is one Town Council in Marlow, 9 Parish Councils and 2 Parish Meetings.



Town and Parish Councils

- Fawley (meeting)
- Great Marlow
- Hambleden
- Hedsor (Meeting)
- Ibstone
- Lane End
- Little Marlow
- Marlow
- Marlow Bottom
- Medmenham
- Turville
- Wooburn and Bourne End



Some of the organisations
we have worked with...



British
RedCross



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

Community Board at a glance...

There are 37,198 people living in the South West Chilterns Community Board Area

7.5% of children are living in poverty compared with 9.5% across Buckinghamshire

There are lower levels of crime compared with the Buckinghamshire average.

There is a higher life expectancy for both men (81.7 years) and women (85.9 years) compared to the Buckinghamshire average of 83.1 years

Population



Vulnerable groups



Crime and safety



Health and wellbeing



Continued...

1.4% of households lack central heating which equals the Buckinghamshire average

15.6% of people have not qualifications compared with 16.8% across Buckinghamshire

2.3% of people are in receipt of unemployment benefit compared with 2.7% across Buckinghamshire

10.2% of households in the Board do not have a car compared with a Buckinghamshire average of 12.6%

The profiles were taken into account when setting the Board priorities and the formulation of the action groups providing areas of focus and direction.

Housing



Education and skills



Economy



Access and transport





22/23 Priorities

SWCCB looked to continue its focus by supporting the community looking at projects and establishing delivery partners. The budget of £122,528 was allocated to the board and along with the inclusion of contributory funding to significantly make a difference where it counts...

- Environment and Climate Change
- Community Engagement
- Transport and Highways (including rural broadband)
- Economic Development and Regeneration

The above priorities provided solid foundations for our action groups.



Community Board

South West Chilterns

The South West Chilterns Community Board is not just for funding....it is so much more

The Community Board is more than just a funding opportunity for organisations. It works with organisations to make vital community engagement connections.

The South West Chilterns has 4 vibrant action groups which are well attended by a cross section of residents, businesses, Town and Parish Councils, voluntary and statutory organisation.

We play a critical role in promoting community engagement and work closely with local organisations, charities, and communities to build a stronger and more connected community.

The action groups are truly local and have many residents, local groups and Town/Parish Councillors participating. The board and it's action groups are very committed in understanding the needs and priorities of the community, and to developing programmes and initiatives that respond to those needs, be it by supporting local charities, or providing resources, schemes and support where help is necessary.

It hasn't all been about financial support. The Community Board has worked tirelessly ensuring local engagement through conversation and signposting via every possible means including collaborating with other Community Boards.

Community Engagement action group



- ❑ Looking at Older and younger people, anti social behaviour, preventing social isolation and health and wellbeing. We have achieved this in the following ways:-
- ❑ Attending and hosting community events
- ❑ Improving community cohesion by identifying local projects
- ❑ Partnership working both internally and externally of the Council
- ❑ Engaging with local schools
- ❑ Collaborate with local businesses, organisations and voluntary groups.



Environment and Climate Change action group

- Looked at ways the Community Board could make a difference by looking at behaviours, working with partners and investigating ways to improve our environment.
- Solar energy became a priority focus including solar compacting bins.
- Thermal imaging was highlighted as a means to provide information to residents on how they could save money.
- Car sharing clubs, air quality, quietways and active travel were successfully discussed within the vibrant action group.
- Linking in with the farming community
- Air Quality
- Walking and cycleways



Highways and Transport action group

- Areas of focus included working with partnership organisations looking at what affected them locally.
- Looking at transport schemes including traffic calming and parking and their infrastructure across the Board area.
- Worked with Transport for Bucks to progress and achieve viable projects.
- Partnership working with our Town and Parish Councils delivering priorities.
- Actively signposting within the action group.
- Active travel and how this can be improved through local walking and cycling options.
- Linking and collaborating with neighbourhood Boards to look at joined up improvements and approaches.



Economic Development

Economic Development and Regeneration action group

- SWCCB looked at ways the rural economy could be supported following the diversification many farms have had to adopt following the pandemic.
- Regeneration and place shaping and working with our internal services on how this could be achieved.
- Enhance tourism strategies within our communities.
- Collaborate on how footfall could be improved within our area.



Interactive Dementia and Autism Awareness experience

SWCCB have worked with local Dementia groups and have an understanding on just how important awareness is of this disease affecting over 850,000 people in the UK. That equates to 1 in 14 people over the age of 65.

An interactive Dementia awareness experience was hosted within the board in May 2022 and an autism awareness experience took place in March 2023. Again, something that affects around 1 in 100 children and many more yet to be diagnosed. This event was held at Longridge Activity Centre in Marlow who contributed to the project costs by donating their venue and staff. There were activity taster sessions available for youngsters to undertake. Despite the very wet weather, spirits were not dampened and we hope to repeat this in the future for both Autism and Dementia awareness... ***(hover over the zorbing picture to press play)***



Cluster Hedgerow project

The Chilterns Conservation Board (CCB) are delivering specific hedgerow projects within South West Chilterns Community Board area on Kensham Farm and Lacey's Family Farm.

Each farm involved has had a Whole Farm Plan produced that recommends specific planting, gapping up, coppicing, fencing and standard tree planting which will include

- ❑ *Plant 0.9 km of new hedgerow (inc 30 new hedgerow trees)*
- ❑ *Gap up 1.3 km of existing hedgerow*
- ❑ *Coppice 1.1 km of existing hedgerow*
- ❑ *Install 2.3 km of stock fencing to better protect hedgerows from livestock grazing pressure.*

This equates to the planting of 13,200 hedgerow whips and 30 new hedgerow trees (oak or hornbeam)

The aim is to create a larger and more resilient landscape scale hedgerow network on and between farms locally.

This project was fully supported by all Members of the Board



Safe Introduction to water activities

SWCCB were delighted to work with Longridge Activity Centre in Marlow on a project enabling young children to have access to water activities.

Longridge is an activity centre for both young and older people with specially trained members of staff attracting 80,000 young people every year, with the majority coming from Bucks schools, youth groups and families. They pride themselves on being fully inclusive and welcoming young people from all backgrounds and of all abilities.

Activities are designed to build confidence, teach about risk and the benefits of working together and team building from a very early age.

This project was to purchase a bell boat, pictured above are ideal boats for those with lower body mobility issues.

Asides funding the above project, the engagement connections made have enabled SWCCB to hold an Autism Awareness day there and have linked in with Marlow FM and working on future projects. Vital core activity for the Community Board.

Community Projects supported 22/23

Organisation	Project Detail	Total Project Cost	Funded	Contributory Funding
Longridge Activity Centre	Safe introduction to water – bell boat	£2,500	£2,000	£500
Bourne End Junior Sports Club	Hall lighting replacement	£22,250	£5,000	£17,250
Marlow Lighthouse	Holiday Club	£15,015	£1,500	£13,515
Bonkers for the Planet	Sustainable Me Poster – phase 2	£909	£909	N/A – small grant
Marlow Energy Group	Thermal Imaging Project	£545	£545	N/A – small grant
Action4Youth	Breakout	£11,970	£10,970	£1,000
Dementia Action Marlow	Singing Therapy	£900	£900	N/A – small grant
Chilterns Conservation Board	Cluster hedgerow project	£71,113	£15,000	£56,113
Relatable Role Models	The Secret Place	£20,390	£14,990	£5,400
Lady Ryder Memorial Garden	New Teaching Space	£124,036	£15,000	£109,036.00
Lane End Community Hub	Cost of living	£1,000	£1,000	N/A – small grant
Community Board	Autism Awareness Day	£980	£980	N/A – small grant
Sandygate School	Solar Panels and outdoor education	£44,993	£15,000	£29,993
Harmony Belles	Website Creation	£50	£50	N/A – small grant
SWCCB	Parking Scheme – Wethered Road, Marlow	£16,345	£0	£16,345
Totals		£332,996	£83,844	£249,152

Proud of Bucks Awards - 2022

The South West Chilterns Proud of Bucks Awards took place on Thursday 22 June at The Library, Bourne End.

The evening showcased the nominees for the 3 award categories, Local Community Champion, Young Community Champion and Community Group Contribution which included winners and highly commended.

Proving collaboration, vocal entertainment was provided by Michelle Bewley who is the Senior Social Prescriber in the Board area.

(hover over the bottom of the picture to press play)



Local Community Champion – Winner

Robert Rendal - The winner is a volunteer with a dedicated heart of gold who tirelessly coordinates, volunteers, fundraises and champions the ethos that is behind the Lady Ryder Memorial Gardens in Parmoor near Frieth. For anyone who hasn't visited there, you really should to have an understanding on the impact this amazing walled garden has amongst the communities of South West Chilterns and attracts others from further afield.

This is a walled garden of tranquillity providing a haven of peace, thought and space to reflect on life, learn new skills within the garden and above all relax.

This individual is deserving as his selfless pursuit of securing this facility for the disadvantaged and people suffering and living with mental health and other issues



Local Community Champion – Highly Commended

Phil Laybourne - recognised for going out in all weathers both during and post covered with his camera taking photographs to show people who could not get out who live in the Bourne End and Wooburn Green whilst raising money for Thames Hospice to a total of well over £10,000 in memory of his late wife who had a short stay at the hospice. Three words used to describe this individual were amazing, fantastic and resilient.

Corrine Hinch - has been making poppies for charity during the remembrance time. 5,000 were attached to park and church railings in Marlow and encourages others to join her putting them up and taking them down. Her inspiration to do this came from a visit to Auschwitz concentration camp where the horrors felt real. Monies raised from this ingenious activity was donated to the Royal British Legion but it also brought awareness of animals at war by creating a purple poppy. The joy of seeing the knitted and crocheted creations has delighted the community and provided a focal point for remembrance. Three words used to describe this individual were caring, determined and believes.



Young Community Champion – Winner

Chloe has supported the Marlow Wombles at many events litter picking and so conscientious that she likes to stay until the job is done!

She cares about the local environment and really wants to make the area she lives in better for everyone.

Chloe is an inspiration who is keen to get involved and is joined by her family who also help at local litter picking events.

Despite her challenges, Chloe has shown dedication to the cause of tackling the growing litter issues by setting up a group at her school.

Three words used to describe Chloe are caring, tenacious and enthusiastic.



Young Community Champion – Highly Commended

There are many unsung heroes within our community and many of them are of the younger generation. Out of the nomination received, this individual demonstrated that.....highly commended young community Champion for 2022 Proud of Bucks Awards goes to Ryan Benlembarek

Ryan began volunteering at the Ark Café in Marlow about a year ago and he is always seen to have a smile on his face and goes the extra mile to help serve the community by getting to know lots of local residents.

Although initially shy, Ryan's confidence has grown during his time volunteering and he provides much help and support to his other colleagues at The Ark Café

Three words used to describe Ryan....Happy, Hard working and Determined.



Community Group Contribution – Winner

Here have been some challenges since the war broke out in the Ukraine and the UK received many refugees seeking safety, security and sanctuary from the war-torn country they called home.

South West Chilterns hosted more families than any other area of Buckinghamshire which is something to be proud of.

One group became very active, engaging and working alongside Buckinghamshire Council to provide a link between the refugees and society by.....

I am delighted to announce that the winner of Community Group Contribution for 2022 is...The Marlow Ukraine Collective.



Community Group Contribution – Highly Commended

WyeValley Volunteers are based in Bourne End and operate out of a portakabin next to the Community Centre every day from 10am until 12. They deal with requests for Drs appointments, hospital appointments, collecting people to attend coffee mornings and luncheons. They helped during covid collecting prescriptions ensuring help for the elderly and isolated and befriending the lonely.

They have been in existence for over 40 years quietly helping and has a very proven formula. The helped are willingly matched with a willing helper and the volunteers enjoy being able to help the many and varied people, some can be challenging but it is rare that no help is found.

Wye Valley Volunteers have made a huge difference to the community life in Bourne End for those who are unable to attend appointments alone.

Three words used to describe them are Magnificent, selfless and competent.



Future Vision

The South West Chilterns Community Board has had a change of Chairman and Vice Chairman who are equally committed and determined to take the Board forward and look ahead to the exciting opportunities 2023/2024 may bring.

Cllr Mark Turner and Cllr Carol Heap each have shown a passion to deliver on the priorities that have been identified for the local community.

In the coming year, SWCCB is eager to explore new initiatives and project ideas through its action groups and continue to review its priorities with those published of Buckinghamshire Council.



Looking ahead – priorities for 23/24

- Community Health and Wellbeing
- Transport and Infrastructure
- Environment and Climate Change
- Economic Development

For more information about the South West Chilterns Community Board, go to the webpage

[South West Chilterns Community Board | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

The action groups and the main board meetings are open to everyone to get involved and we encourage participation at all meetings. Should you wish to find out more, please contact Makyla Devlin, Senior Community Board Manager

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