



Buckingham & Villages Community Board – Summary of Activity 2023-24

Engagement

Buckingham & Villages Community Board Engagement & Partnerships Event



- ❖ Held on 4 May in the University of Buckingham
- ❖ Partner organisations were invited to hold their own stalls
- ❖ Attendees had the opportunity to vote on the Community Board Priorities for 2023-24 via ballot box
- ❖ Proud of Bucks Awards 2022 presentation





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Events Attended / Supported

- ❖ Launch of Steeple Claydon Recreation Ground Smoke Free Playground – 21 April 2023
- ❖ Official opening of Maids Moreton Playground – 4 August 2023
- ❖ Bucks County Show – 31 August 2023
- ❖ Heritage Open Day, Stowe Gardens – 17 September 2023
- ❖ Silver Sunday, Westbury Village Hall – 1 October 2023
- ❖ Head Gardener Event, Buckingham Library – 21 February (Upcoming)





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Community Board Led Projects

Buckingham Youth Café



The project idea was originally suggested by local young resident Hannah. She approached the community board as she felt there was a gap in services for young people for people to spend time in a casual environment directly after school. She felt that young people could only visit local shops or cafes in the town centre if they had disposable income to spend, which many of them do not. As a result, young people were congregating outside Mcdonalds and in other public spaces after school leading to an increase in anti-social behaviour incidences.

Over the last eighteen months, the community board has partnered with Youth engagement officers in Buckinghamshire Council to carry out engagement sessions with students from the Royal Latin and Buckingham Schools, to find out if there was a wider appetite for the provision of a free space specifically for secondary aged pupils where they could spend time without necessarily having to engage in organised activities. The feedback we received from the pupils was positive, with all of them enthusiastic about the idea of a designated “Youth Cafe.” They felt that they weren’t always welcome in the town centre due to the stigma surrounding teenagers and that they couldn’t spend time in local cafes unless they were in a position to spend money. They agreed that it would be most appealing for teenagers to establish a space where they could feel like young adults as opposed to children and where they could “hang out” together without feeling pressure to spend money.



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The last few months have been focused on securing our delivery partners for the project. Buckingham Youth Club have agreed to take on the operations of the youth cafe, and will act as the main delivery partner, taking over the project facilitation on an ongoing basis after the cafe has been established. We have also partnered with the National Trust on the project, who have offered the Chantry Chapel as the venue for the youth cafe free of charge. An application has been submitted to the Buckingham & Villages Community Board for funding to cover the initial set up costs and running costs for the first year of the project. The next steps for the project over the next few months will commence upon securing the funding, with the Community Board Manager, Krissie Hutton, Youth Engagement Officer and Buckingham Youth Club will set up a regular working group made up of students from both secondary schools to oversee the set - up of the youth cafe with the aim of opening in Spring / Summer 2024. Our vision for the Buckingham Youth Cafe is very much focused on setting up a space “designed by young people for young people” with involvement from our target demographic along the way. Please see our blog for regular updates:

[Setting up a Youth Café for Buckingham - Youth Voice Bucks](#)

Buckingham Repair Café

Fix it, Don't Bin it
...and have a drink while you wait

BUCKINGHAM
REPAIR CAFE

When: 2nd Saturday each month, from 10am - 1pm
Where: The Centre, Verney Close, Buckingham,
MK18 1JP

Visit us on Facebook and at: www.buckinghamrepaircafe.org

The aim of a Repair Cafe is to serve as community space where members of the public can take broken items to be repaired by volunteers, as a way of providing volunteering opportunities, reducing waste and learning new skills. The idea for the Buckingham Repair



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Cafe was initially suggested by our Waste Strategy Team, as the concept had proven to be very popular in surrounding areas, and the opinion was that Buckingham would be an ideal location, with an opportunity to attract residents to the town centre.

The Buckingham & Villages Community Board approached Buckingham Men In Sheds to see if they would be interested in helping us to coordinate the cafe as well as utilising their skills and volunteering to do repairs. Chris Gardener agreed to take a leading role in the set up and establishment of the Buckingham Repair Cafe and has successfully recruited a coordination team and a small group of volunteers to carry out the repairs.

The Buckingham Repair Cafe will operate in the Centre on Verney Close, on the second Saturday of the month from 10am-1pm, starting on Saturday 10th February. The Buckingham Women's Institute will be supplying and operating the refreshments. There will be no charge for the repairs, but users will be invited to make donations for items repaired. The set up costs have been funded by the Buckinghamshire Council Waste Management team and the Buckingham Repair Cafe have applied to the Buckingham & Villages Community Board for funding to cover the remainder of the costs for year one. Based on other repair cafe models, the cafe should become self-sustaining after this time through donations. [Home \(buckinghamrepaircafe.org\)](http://buckinghamrepaircafe.org)
