



Denham, Gerrards Cross & Chalfonts Community Board minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Denham, Gerrards Cross & Chalfonts Community Board held on Thursday 16 November 2023 in MS Teams, commencing at 18:30 and concluding at 20:00

Members present

Cllr Santokh Chokar, Cllr John Hatton, Cllr Isobel Darby, Cllr Jonathan Rush, Cllr Michael Bracken, Cllr Thoman Boom, Cllr Carl Jackson, Cllr Linda Smith, Cllr Jaspal Chhokar, Cllr Guy Hollis, Liz Charter, Jacqui Gellman, Kathleen Martin, Caroline Green, Marilyn Heath, Tiffany Adonis-French, , Sharon Williams, Julia Walsh, Mandy Thomas, Sharad Kumar Jha, Debbie Hulme, Matthew Locke, Tony Shinner, Makyla Devlin.

Others in attendance

Lloyd Little, Senior Programme Officer, (Digital) BC; Jacqui Gellman, Outreach, Chiltern Open Air Museum

Apologies

Cllr Andrew Wood, Cllr Brian Peck, Cllr Grant Kirkby, Cllr Tim Butcher, Trapdoor Performing Arts, NI James Ellis (TVP), James Boulton, Bob Ghataura.

1 CHAIRMAN`S WELCOME

Chairman Santokh Chhokar welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

Liz Charter read out those who sent apologies

3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were approved

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest arose

5 BUCKS COUNCIL UPDATES

Cllr Santokh Chhokar welcomed Tiffany Adonis-French as the new service director for Adult Social Care and Health and is our new Community Board Champion.

TA-F gave a background to herself: been in post since July, began as a Social Worker and has worked across care and health settings mainly in London. Specialist areas include learning disability, mental health and experience in older peoples' services and integrated cares settings. Role this evening is to act as a conduit between the CB and BC. Presented Bucks Council update ***Refer to pack***

6 COMMUNITY MATTERS

No questions were received.

7 PROJECT GIGABIT

Cllr Chhokar introduced Lloyd Little, Snr Programme Officer (Digital) BC. LL introduced himself, his role sits in Economic Growth & Regeneration area of BC, areas of focus is digital infrastructure, connecting people through mobile, broadband and satellite. Key purpose to explore maximise broadband, as seen as another utility as now considered essential. Today it was announced that BC have received £4m mobile funding for 5G innovation in partnership with neighbouring authorities. This is to boost connectivity in rural areas for eg. 5G masts. He presented Project Gigabit that included their key areas of focus, an outline of broadband in Buckinghamshire, DGXC – digital infrastructure overview (NB. Contract information has been embargoed, so somewhat limited and note that data is given at postcode level). ***Refer to pack***

A question on what the definition of 'good coverage' means as that doesn't seem to be the experience for a lot of residents. LL fed back that it is interesting to hear as it means that the data is given isn't always accurate and will be fed back and look at how to maximise coverage.

Councillor J Walsh mentioned that Virgin Media were keen to bring in superfast fibre to higher Denham as it was an enclosed element of Denham Parish; however, once it was realised, they needed 100 signatures it caused a problem. Alongside this, it was mentioned that perhaps an audit across the parish would be a good idea.

Cllr Hollis asked what proof would be required from those claiming that they have bad coverage. LL replied that they have access to a speed checker and LL suggested that having a digital champion for the board as a whole / areas within that, to understand what people could do with better connectivity would help to make the case. Made a plea to have the help of the board and their representatives. Cllr Hollis suggested Unitary Councillors working with Town & Parish Councillors could do this, so asked for LL to follow up with this.

CG suggested that Lloyd have meetings with the community board managers to understand each area need in greater depth. Cllr Chhokar explained that Denham, Gerrards Cross and the Chalfont's would be the pilot project and would take lessons learned away to then roll out to all Community Boards. Recognised level of interest and suggested that we follow up with a workshop, LL to work with LC on this. LC requested LL put together a form that councillors can use. GH requested a system to use for BCllrs to use. Cllr Chhokar noted has had discussions with Parish Councils and is an opportunity to provide input to help frame solutions.

Matthew Locke requested that mobile phone signal is not overlooked, for example, signal in CSP is terrible, requested that the focus is not just on broadband and fibre. JW added that it is also terrible in Denham.

Cllr Hollis mentioned that planning permission is not necessary to put up a mast.

ACTION: LL to create a table of information that he may need for Liz to disseminate to Councillors in the Parishes and Bucks. Cllr Chhokar suggested a follow-up workshop.

ACTION: Cllr Chhokar suggested a follow-up workshop / meeting – LL & LC to arrange.

ACTION: LL to put together a preliminary survey for the first workshop, to refer to lessons learned from Cambridgeshire.

8 COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE

Liz gave an update on the Community Board and local events that have happened since the last board meeting. Cllr Chhokar emphasized that would like to support events across the Board area, please keep informing the Board of your community activities. ***Refer to pack***

Cllr Chhokar introduced Jacqui Gellman of the Chiltern Open Air Museum. DGXC partnered with Amersham & Villages CB on a social prescribing project. Cllrs Chhokar and Rush attended a day along with CBMs of DGXC and Amersham & Villages board.

Jacqui Gellman gave a presentation on Summer Wellbeing Socials as well as a background on the museum as the county's 'best kept secret'. Is a multi-generational welcoming place, that has 35 rescued historic buildings that can be walked into and explored on 45 acres of land, with allotments and livestock. Successful project with many positive outcomes (eg. increased confidence, combatting loneliness etc.) ***Refer to pack***

JG also encouraged any organisations that would like to be a part of their Festive Weekend running from the 2nd – 3rd December to get in touch and they will find a spot for them.

Cllr Darby asked if there was an issue with transportation due to the remote location, JG replied that there was but they were allocated funds to help people travel there. Possible to explore links with CDAR.

Cllr Chhokar thanked JG, an inspiring project, and noted Health & Wellbeing a priority for the board and would continue to try to support COAM.

The presentation received positive feedback from the group.

JG would like to connect with TA-F, Cllr Chhokar noted that TA-F would be invited to work closer with the board, especially in the Health & Wellbeing priority.

9 ACTION GROUP UPDATES

Cllr Chhokar thanked the Chairs and Vice Chairs for all the work that they do.

Cllr Rush gave an update on Community Safety and that it is to combine with Highways and Infrastructure Action Groups. He went on to give an update on Highways and Infrastructure, have met twice and at recent meeting, focus was Parking and had Head of Parking at BC present. Continue to discuss current application and issues and continue to make recommendations to the board in line with new Highways toolkit. All welcome to next meeting on Nov 30th
Refer to pack

Liz presented an update for the Sustainability action group on behalf of Councillor Chamberlain. Councillor Jha commented how positive the group is and commented on the proposal for a conference for the group to organise, as well as the benefit of sharing information. *Refer to pack*

Cllr Darby gave an update on the Health and Wellbeing action group; she made a plea for those in the areas that do not have representatives to join the group. At most recent meeting had Social Prescribers join the group, both identified high levels of loneliness and social isolation. Barrier is transport (and particularly cost of) and flagged as an area to review. Next meeting to review CSG Wellness Day and to explore facilitating in another area. *Refer to pack*

Cllr Chhokar asked for more volunteers to help in the action groups where possible as issues of common concern. Cllr Darby noted it can be anyone from the community, do not have to be councillors.

Cllr Chhokar thanked all for the hard work and for attending and special thanks to our guests for their presentations. Please keep CB informed of any events/activities in your areas.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

February 28th, 2024 6.30pm via Teams.