

North West Chilterns Community Board
Economic Regeneration & Development Action Group
Briefing Report for Community Board Meeting on 22nd February 2024

Purpose: This report provides a brief overview of the work undertaken by the Action Group since the Community Board Meeting on 23rd November 2023.

Priority Objectives: The Action Group continue to focus on the following:

- To seek schemes and initiatives that support new and existing local businesses (urban and rural).
- To prioritise schemes and initiatives that help achieve the Council's Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy.
- To consider any adhoc application in regards to Economic Regeneration & Development.

Action Group: The last meeting was held in 2023. The next meeting is planned for 14th March 2024.

Progress on actions since the last Community Board meeting are as follows:

- **Business Networking Event** (for those businesses in the tourism, hospitality and leisure sectors). The event will be held on 29th February 2024 at Orchard View Farm, Little Meadle.

Since the last Community Board meeting, the presentation content has been amended to the following:

- The Economic Growth and Regeneration team will present how Buckinghamshire Council can support local businesses and funding opportunities going forward including the Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural Grants programme.
- The owner of Orchard View Farm will talk about diversification and collaboration.
- The Film Office will present the opportunities available and how the film industry is a blockbuster economic driver pumping millions into the local economy.

There will also be time during the event for businesses to network.

The event has been widely promoted on Facebook, the Community Board (including Town and Parish Council's and Parish/Buckinghamshire Councillors), Visit Bucks, Libraries and other local venues.

- **Reducing Energy Consumption** – The Action Group are currently focusing its efforts on helping local businesses reduce their energy usage. Discussions are ongoing.

- **Carbon Footprinting for Local Businesses** - The action group have discussed how they could make local businesses more aware of their own carbon footprint and understand how to reduce it.

In addition, an initiative in providing local businesses with practical information about what actions are possible (including adaptation) and what the risks and opportunities are, is something the group will consider after they have investigated the idea around reducing energy consumption for organisations.

- The action group will continue to explore other sources of data that evidence the needs of local business, organisations and individuals and research other possible project opportunities.

Chairman: Cllr Matthew Walsh