



Wexham & The Ivers Community Board minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Wexham & The Ivers Community Board held on Tuesday 24 October 2023 in Evreham Sports Centre, Swallow Street, Iver, SL0 0HS, commencing at 6.30 pm and concluding at 9.00 pm.

BC Councillors present

Cllr. T Egleton (Chairman), Cllr. P Griffin, Cllr. W Matthews and Cllr. L Sullivan

Town/Parish Councils and other organisations present

Chloe Kraus, Cllr. Ciaran Beary, Cllr. Geoff Spring, Cllr. Graham Young, Jane Brown, Joyce Young, Cllr. Julie Cook, Kevin Brown, Laura Armstrong, Leigh Tugwood, Mark Russell, Matthew Bell, Cllr. Melvin Pearce, Oliver Kraus, Pat Leech, Paula Carter, Police Sergeant Shaunagh Hall and Tim L'Angellier

Agenda Item

1 Chair's Introductions and Welcome

Trevor welcomed everyone and stated that the focus today would be on speakers whose work came under the Board's Older & vulnerable people priority.

2 Apologies for Absence

Vishal Gupta, Ann Mayling

3 Declarations of Interest

Paul Griffin with Dwayne Mckenzie

4 Notes of the previous meeting - 15 June 2023

Agreed

5 Speakers –

Paula – Trustee of Evreham (notes provided)

- Evreham Youth Centre – Paula Carter

- Trustee and Youth Worker for Iver Youth and Community Services (IYCS), a charity that runs Evreham Youth Centre. IYCS was founded in 2018 by trustees who wanted to provide a safe and fun place for children to hang out with their friends
- We run the youth club on Fridays from 6:30pm to 8:30pm for ages 11-14, and on Tuesdays for over 14's: there are various games, activities, and snacks for the children to enjoy

- We also have a proposal for an engagement programme with Mama Bee, which has three parts:
- A 30-week targeted youth project that covers three locations in Iver and Iver Heath
- A training provision for volunteers – Introduction to Youth Work
- Then some centre-based health and wellbeing youth development sessions.
 - Assertive Behaviours (Self-defence providing physical and emotional resilience for building healthy relationships)
 - Foodie Friday sessions - Children prepare food, cook, and learn about food (2-hour sessions and then eat together)
- Sunday session funded by Dwayne's M4S project for SENS children and parents: Support network, socialization, and fun activities for SENS families
- Possible Friday session for under 11's with enough volunteers – the aim is to foster friendships and social skills
- Phone cases on lanyards and no phone night to reduce technology dependence
- Vision to educate and empower children to cope with life challenges

Questions/Comments

- A local resident praised the Youth Club for its excellent management and lack of noise or trouble.
- Shaunagh Hall, a police sergeant from TVP, offered to provide sessions for the Youth Club if needed. **AS to introduce.**

Matthew Bell – GLL at Evreham Centre.

- Centre open: gym, sports hall, astro turf, drop-in sessions, dementia-friendly classes
- Local groups use the centre, and Evreham Sponsor support young athletes
- Activities for all ages

Questions/Comments

- Facebook presence: Yes, connect with Community Board and share content <https://www.facebook.com/evrehamssportscentre>
- No reciprocal deal with Slough pool: They are a different operator
- Dementia-friendly activities: must promote variety and avoid overlap of days. This supports carers too. Discounted services in carers months.
- Unauthorised parking issue: **AS to contact enforcement team.**
- Roller boots funding application for youth club: **AS to explore options.**
- GLL contract status: Up for renewal. Non-profit operator, Buckinghamshire Council decides.

Laura Price 1st Iver Scout group and Tim L'angellier 1st Iver Heath Scouts

- Beavers, cubs and scouts are run from the hut.
- The young people grow up and work their way through, become proud to represent the organisation, learn life skills and can become young leaders. Many have used the volunteering for Duke of Edinburgh award.
- No barriers to joining, no-one will be excluded from joining, and financial assistance can be provided. Approx. 200 families are involved in the Scout

groups locally.

- Vulnerable youths are supported, and activities can be adapted to be accessible for everyone.
- Scouting gives back to the local community: there have been park events, providing cream teas, Beavers and Cubs carry out gardening work at local schools, and litter-picking activities.
- 1st Iver Scout Hut is an important part of the local community, but the hut needs to be modernised: will be asking CB for approx. £13k contribution to refurbish the current toilet facilities. This requires walls to be moved, and quite a bit of work to make them suitable from a safeguarding point of view, and for them to be accessible.

Questions

- Opportunity for local trades to volunteer their time and add to the contributory funding in kind? Yes, already looking into this.
- Is there a Facebook page? Only a closed group for parents.
- And national funding available? Have received grants towards experiences and camps. There is no funding available from the Scouts association.
- Perhaps the Langley construction college could assist as they are often on the lookout to assist with local projects and provide experience for the students.
- Suggest to contact the Baker trust for funding.
- Would Bob-a-job week ever be reinstated? Unlikely, due to safeguarding issues.

A heartfelt thank you from the Community Board Chair for all of the work that is carried out with the local Youths. The Scout groups are very proactive and successful.

Mark Russell – Age UK (add handout slides)

Background with older people in Bucks

- Age UK are champions of older people: ¼ of Bucks workforce is over 55, with average age of councillor being 60.
- 1 in 6 older adults volunteer at least once a week: e.g. grandparents are childminders for their families
- Age UK are a Bucks independent charity with 35 staff. They work with approx. 4000 adults every year and at least 150 in Wexham and the Ivers
- Fundraising is generated locally, with some funding received from commissioned services
- Shadow of covid is still very much a problem having an impact on older people and preventing them from engaging with services and many still have a lack of contact with anyone.
- Cost of living has provided a financial burden to older people with fixed incomes and low pensions. Welfare rights is a high-demand service right now, with some high levels of poverty. There is some support from CAB but would like to link in with Age UK Bucks.

Questions

- At what age do we make reference to older people? Starting at 55.
- Do you look at the holistic approach to Dementia? Work with those who

have early onset but don't offer direct services. Would signpost to local Dementia services. This a significant gap and one to be explored. There are approx. 10k dementia people in Bucks.

- Do you link to Age UK national campaigns? Yes, but no funding is received from them

Looking for more volunteers. Need befriending volunteers as there is currently a waiting list.

Dwayne McKenzie – Confidence through football.

- Brand new CiC
- Looking to provide funds for young, with a view to looking at, and improving mental health
- Raised over £16K in less than 18 months

Q. What is the referral route? Form can be found online for referrals. For those who cannot read and write, help can be given to complete the form with them.

6 Workshop on Priorities

Deferred to next meeting – looking at the priorities for the Board for 2024/2025 and the action groups.

7 Budget Update 2023/24

Budget Update

Total Budget: £85,941

Projects Approved

Applicant	Project	Contributory Funding	Board Funding	Total
Richings Park Residents Association	Centenary Celebration - World Food Festival	£500	£1000	£1500
The Orchards Residential Park	Dementia Awareness Experience	£0	£1000	£1000
St Mary's Parochial Church	Community Hub Equipment	£0	£998.37	£998.37
Iver Village Residents Association	Noticeboard	£0	£778.61	£778.61
			£3,777	

Upcoming Applications

Applicant	Project	Contributory Funding	Board Funding	Total
1 st Iver Scouts	Toilet Refurbishment	£13,371.52	£13,373.48	£26,745
Ivers Hive	Food Parcels for Local Families as part of Christmas Appeal	£2630	£2630	£5280
Colne Valley Park	Improvement Plan	£12667	£12667 – W&I board £12667 – Denham Board	£38000
Iver Heath Brownies	Community Friendship Bench	£0	£815.56	£815.56
Golden Oldies	Festive Season	£0	£1000	£1000
Iver District Countryside Association	Replacement equipment		£856.54	£856.54
NHS PCN, GLL& W&I Community Board	Falls Prevention Classes – Iver, Iver Heath & Wexham	Circa £500	Circa £750	Circa £1250
Richings Park Residents Association	Smartville Expansion	£6391	£6750	£13141
Evreham Youth Centre, Mama Bee & W&I Community Board	Detached Youth Work	Circa £10000	£5600	Circa £15600
Public Health & W&I Community Board	Grow It, Cook It, Eat It			
			£44,442.58	

8 Buckinghamshire Council Update (attached)

Luisa wanted to note that Ani is doing a great job.

Community Board Chair reiterated this comment, stating they have a weekly in-person catch-up and telephone catch-ups ad-hoc, working closely together to ensure they are both up to date.

9 Community Matters

Public Questions

Hybrid meetings – Leigh Tugwood: Could there be future arrangements for remote attendance to assist members that might have caring duties or who are isolating because of a positive Covid test? This is something I have raised before. Ivers Parish Council recently arranged this, via Zoom, for a Neighbourhood Plan meeting with the Chair's approval. It worked very well

- While we will take this back and look into it, the Community Boards aren't currently supporting a hybrid meeting.

Contributory funding – Oliver Krause & Leigh Tugwood asked where the 50%

contributory funding guidance came from.

- All Cabinet members have key performance indicators and targets which cover a number of key areas across their portfolio, these are review and agreed by Cabinet each year.
- Cllr Arif Hussain, the cabinet member for Communities which is where Community Boards sit has a contributory funding indicator for Community Board projects as one of his indicators. The target which Cabinet agreed this year was set based on the amount achieved by Community Boards in 2022/23 which was an average of £1.73, the £1 target therefore set for this year was not felt to be onerous or difficult having achieved £1.73 last year. It is important to note this is a target for contributory funding across all projects and isn't set as a target for individual projects.
- Each Community Board Chairman with their board can be flexible on how much contributory funding each project brings in. For some projects it may be appropriate to consider time-in-kind as contributory funding, but this will depend on the project scope and how wide the benefit is to the community.
- Key performance targets are reviewed on an annual basis and performance is measured through the performance targets which are reviewed on a quarterly basis by Cabinet. These provide a good measure of the council's performance across the many services it provides. A link to the latest report can be provided if required.
- Community Board Managers can help with information on funding sources to help with contributory funding.

10 Residents' Associations Updates

Iver Heath

- We are, in common with many community groups, now adapting to a post C-19 Lockdown social environment and the challenges that presents.
- We held a very successful AGM on the 14th October attended by 35+ members . At the meeting a new committee and importantly new committee structure was approved on behalf of our 200+ membership. This includes the inclusion of
- Area Stewards on the committee to encourage an increase and diversification in membership. Following the official business of the AGM much time was given over to contentious planning matters supported by Parish and BU councillors.
- Going forward we intent to build upon much closer collaboration with other RAs and community groups to ensure co-ordination and minimum duplication of time and effort in addressing matters of common concern. In particular representing our members interests to TIPC, BUC and W&ICB and involvement in local events that increase community engagement and to support and strengthen existing community capital and resilience.

- We share IVRA's concerns about the match funding requirement for grants from the board. We believe this is discriminatory and likely to favour established groups with their own revenue and income sources and is likely to enable a higher proportion of already limited funding allocation going to groups supported by local businesses.

Iver Village

Since the last Community Board meeting, the IVRA had an AGM where 11 Committee Members have been selected (up from 7 in the previous year). This growth will allow us to do much more for the residents, share the workload, hear more opinions, and therefore – represent the residents better. During the AGM and the following meetings, we showed our commitment to a different type of leadership by organising the chairs in a circle where everyone is equal. We also dedicated a large portion of the AGM to hearing what residents want us to focus on and we base this year's activities on the feedback we heard.

One of the main issues raised was the parking around Iver High Street. Many residents told us prior to the meeting that the plan produced by the Community Board was a bad one; mainly because it was produced without involving the residents during its creation.

A few weeks after the AGM, we arranged a meeting with the residents and heard what they liked and disliked about the previous plan. The result was a whole different plan, which included a mix of double-yellow lines and areas with time-limited parking. We also concluded that one of the side streets next to the High Street may be adversely affected and set up a separate meeting to discuss it with the residents of the said street. The result of this exercise is a much more robust plan that has a better chance of getting the majority's support. Unfortunately, we don't see how we'll be able to take this plan forward since we can't identify anyone who has enough interest in it to pay 50% of the cost.

We think that the requirement for 50% match funding is a bad practice that can inhibit the execution of crucial projects and can also breed corruption by encouraging the inclusion of groups with a financial interest in projects. We suggest that projects such as parking consultations should have 100% funding since they are the sole responsibility of the council.

Another subject that came up during the AGM was the path to Iver Station – the path is in a terrible state and we can't wait any longer for the council to reconstruct it since it's one of the only ways to get into Iver Station from the village (no reasonable bus service is available, no parking is allowed within 15 minutes' walk, no car park exists, and there is no bicycle path). We chased the council through all the local councillors and very little progress has been made – we are grateful for the hard work done by our councillors but our patience with the council is running low.

To finish this update on a positive note:

- We are also involved in the creation of a 2nd version of the Neighbourhood plan and will ensure that the residents of Iver Village are consulted through the different stages.
- We applied for a small grant from the Community Board to purchase a notice board that would help us reach more residents and keep them informed.
- We are assisting with IPC's Christmas event.
- We continue to work well with the other RA's of the Ivers, and have forged good working relationships with local businesses, organisations and councillors.

Richings Park

- SMARTVILLE: resolved to take on the responsibility for the project from the small team that kicked it off 4 years ago. September 26 held an update meeting for local residents.
- TREE PLANTING: The Woodland Trust have offered us 15 trees to be planted around Richings Park. Delivery expected soon.
- AIR QUALITY: Survey shows residents are in favour of reducing speed limits to improve air quality.
- KINGFISHER GARDENS: The water hemlock issue has still not been resolved with Bucks Council. Currently the garden is closed.
- SPORTS DAY: successfully staged on July 8 at the Sports Club
- WORLD FOOD DAY: successfully staged at the Sports Club on August 27.
- PLANNING: Attended and commented on numerous development applications.
- HEATHROW: attended and participated in their Noise & Air Space Forum and their Local Community Forum meetings.
- COLNE VALLEY PARK: worked with them in lobbying BC on issues connected with Green Belt development.
- CENTENARY QUILT: being created by a team and an unveiling ceremony planned for November 3rd.

11 Any Other Business

- The Buckinghamshire Council Complaints Procedure was discussed and can be found at <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/contact-and-complaints/>

- Community Board Guidance will be circulated with meeting notes

Wexham bird fencing has been flagged up as not being value for money. This is being taken back through the new process by CB Chair. CB Chair and Geoff to have a meeting with the LAT to see what appropriate solutions could be put in place.

12 Date of Next Meeting

29 February 2024 at 6.30pm