



## Haddenham & Waddesdon Community Board minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Haddenham & Waddesdon Community Board held on Thursday 30 November 2023 in Waddesdon Community Centre, HP18 0LX (Frederick St, Waddesdon).

### **BC Councillors present**

A Waite (Chairman), S Lewin, M Rand and G Smith

### **Town/Parish Councils and other organisations present**

Aston Sandford Parish Council, Chearsley Parish Council, Edgcott Parish Council, Grendon Underwood Parish Council, Haddenham Parish Council, Stone with Bishopstone & Hartwell Parish Council and Waddesdon Parish Council

### **Others in attendance**

E Hassall (Buckinghamshire Council), A Jenner (Buckinghamshire Council), C Bloxham and R Ichim (Resident of Berryfields)

### **Apologies**

P Gomm, J Jordan, I Macpherson, Sue Pusey (Westcott Parish Council) and Alan Thawley (Haddenham Parish Council)

### **Agenda Item**

- 1 Chairman's Welcome and Introduction to the Community Board.**  
Cllr Ashley Waite welcomed everyone to the meeting. Elaine Hassell gave an overview of the meeting agenda and went through housekeeping.
- 2 Notes from the 14 September 2023 Meeting**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were approved as a correct record.
- 3 Declarations of Interest**  
None.
- 4 Workshop on Community Board Priorities**  
Members were asked to review a Community Board priority each and explore ideas about how to drive them forward focusing on what is important to each parish.

## Highlights

- **Road Safety**- focus on cycleways, improved buses, driving Community Speedwatch
- **Health & Wellbeing/Cost of Living**- focus on older people with specialist needs- concerns about pavements and risk of falls. Haddenham to Thame cycleway. Foodbank activity still taking place, Wednesday club in Haddenham- is there a need to do more of this type of activity? (including community transport). Cllr Ashley Waite highlighted that the Bernie Bus model can be expanded but volunteers are needed. Areas of poverty in board area- how to think about using greater resources to help people identify and get their homes insulated. Idea raised how streetlights could be run on solar power. Idea to do bike repair café.
- **Environment**- Community Orchard currently taking place in Waddesdon, Berryfields looking at reducing litter, prevention of graffiti (how to work with young people through workshops etc). Opportunity to ask young people what they would want.

**Action:** Elaine will collate the feedback and share with all.

**Action:** All who have highlighted road issues to report on Fix My Street- [FixMyStreet \(buckinghamshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/fixmystreet).

**Action:** All to contact Cllr Ashley Waite if interested in getting involved in an environment and cost of living/energy roadshow. The Buckinghamshire Railway Centre has offered its space free of charge at the end of February 2024.

**Action:** Elaine to speak to youth team re Youth Ambassadors project.

## 5 Community Board Update

Elaine showcased some of the Community Board activity since the September meeting.

She attended the Haddenham Community Fair on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September to promote the Community Board, this event was well attended and was a good way for the local community to publicise what it offers to new and existing residents. One comment about starting up Walking Cricket for the over 60's is currently being explored with a delivery partner.

Haddenham Community Greengrocers launched in October. The shop has paid and volunteer staff and moving forward is looking to source more local produce.

Haddenham Parish Council hosted the Bucks Community Energy event in October. Cllr Sue Lewis felt this event was valuable. The Community Board environment and cost of living event will look to take the best practice from various similar events being held around the county.

Brill Village Common herd of cows won a Kings Award for voluntary service!

At the September board meeting, it was raised that more support was needed to understand the needs of older people. A Task and Finish group meeting took place to look for local ideas and Elaine has been visiting older people groups in Haddenham, Brill and Waddesdon to chat with members and find out their needs and how they are getting back to normality since Covid. A pilot project is currently being scoped.

Digital inclusion has been a big issue with older people groups – some are confident and have family members to support them and others find it a challenge when they cannot navigate services online. Elaine is looking at how the Community Board can support this. Cllr Ashley Waite highlighted that the Communities Select Committee are also looking into this.

**Action:** all board members to suggest existing groups that may wish to take up digital inclusion sessions.

Elaine highlighted projects that the board has financially supported (see page 15 of presentation)

## **6 Community Matters (opportunity for residents and members to raise pre-submitted issues and public questions)**

Regina Ichim, Berryfields Resident, was asked to provide some comments on her first experience of attending her local parish council meeting.

Regina fed back that communication is important, and this can be challenging. The Parish Council (PC) are trying to promote themselves locally and reach out to all residents. Regina has a WhatsApp group with other members of her street and would like to expand this and then feedback comments to the parish council. She highlighted that a lot of Berryfields residents are new to the area and were not aware of the PC or what they were responsible for. She said Berryfields felt safe, but speeding traffic and lack of parking is an issue. The PC did investigate a welcome pack for new residents and are going to revisit how they promote what the responsibilities are of the PC and BC. She felt notice boards were useful as another means of knowing what was happening and currently there was only 1 notice board in the whole of Berryfields.

Berryfields is a young/new area. Berryfields PC have set up a speeding/parking/traffic group to look at problems and solutions. It enables residents to be heard and to share with residents what is realistic and achievable. Engagement has so far been positive.

Rural Business- Cllr Ashley Waite highlighted his passion to support rural businesses, pubs, garages but anyone that is operating a service (perhaps from home). Cllr Ashley Waite asked the board for their views on supporting local businesses. There were around 82 businesses on Westcott Venture Park alone.

Jane Perks from Waddesdon highlighted a business hub idea that is being developed for Waddesdon where local businesses are asked how they feel they can be supported locally. She is happy to offer support to other board members on the setting up of one.

Michael Heybrook supported the idea and its importance. Buckinghamshire exports graduates to other areas but wondered how Westcott is or could attract local graduates to retain our young people locally.

Cllr Ashley Waite highlighted that this would fit in to the Bucks Business First strategy.

The following questions were submitted in advance.

1. Nick Morgan – clerk to Aston Sandford Parish Council raised that the PC has received a notification that a single track, no through road into the village would be closed for 2 days in November for roadworks resulting in residents and businesses not being able to use their cars. The intended roadworks did not take place and the PC and residents were not informed.

Elaine had obtained an initial response from the Streetworks Team that the works were cancelled, to be rescheduled owing to the amount of rainfall and that updates are provided on [One Network](#) which is the UK cloud-based map that all local authorities use to alert residents to roadworks, diversions and road closures. Nick felt this response was inadequate and that One. Network did not reflect the status of activity on the road.

**Action:** Elaine has gone back to the Highways Service for a further response. Cllr Michael supported the escalation of a response to this issue.

Nick also commented that Streetworks alerts do not have the location in the title, which would be useful for PCs to know if they are relevant or not before opening them.

**Action:** Elaine to feedback to Streetworks team.

Cllr Michael Rand fed back on the progress of the new Highways Contract and that following an injection of £5 the number of roadwork gangs had gone up from 5, 12 months ago to 12 gangs. Utility companies are permitted to close a road with an emergency application if they get the application in for a diversion within 2 hours of starting work. He however accepted that the online mapping side of things was still catching up with the amount of work taking place on the network.

2. Colin Bloxham from Thame Green living, asked about the state of maintenance of rural tarmacked footpaths between villages alongside roads. He felt many were overgrown and rutted and unusable for pedestrians, mobility scooters and bicycles and asked whether a tiny fraction of the roads' maintenance budget could be used to support walking, wheeling and cycling and whether an inventory of rural paths could lead to a monitored maintenance programme.

Elaine obtained the following response from the Highways Service prior to the meeting.

Tarmac in urban settings is inspected in line with our Highways Inspection Policy and we encourage any defects identified to be reported [on Fix My Street](#). We have no overall capital improvement programme for funding for improving the urban footway network and any resurfacing is carried out in line with Member decision on a four-year rolling programme that identifies the most required areas.

It was generally felt at the meeting that all the parishes present, had some issues with communication from the Highways service. They were advised that the service was reviewed by Councillors and asked if recommendations were implemented.

Cllr Ashley Waite advised that the challenge is that there isn't a budget for patching of footpaths. Defects are inspected and dealt with as part of a rolling programme. Cllr Ashley Waite was currently working with the Council at finding funding for the A418.

3. Cllr Greg Smith asked about Active Travel. His first question was regarding the Council's performance indicator for this, which he felt was inadequate. This question had been passed to the Strategic Transport Team to comment on.

Elaine responded by email prior to the meeting with what the Community Board was doing in this respect, which was:

- a. Launching a school road safety speed awareness poster competition in the Spring. Participating schools would be encouraged to work towards their school travel plan.
- b. Working with the Climate Change Team to provide idling monitors outside some of our schools. We are currently waiting for the results of this pilot.
- c. To hold an Environmental and Cost of living event in the Spring. A date of Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February at the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre had been booked. This would encompass active travel.

His second question was on progress with the Haddenham – Thame Greenway and asked when we could expect to have a decision on this.

The Transport Strategy Team is in the process of compiling data on which routes to take forward as part of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure plan. A public consultation would begin in Spring 2024.

**7 Topics for Future Consideration**

Not discussed due to time.

**8 Date of Next Meeting**

TBA