



# High Wycombe Community Board minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the High Wycombe Community Board held on Wednesday 13 March 2024 in , commencing at Time Not Specified and concluding at Time Not Specified.

### **BC Councillors present**

L Clarke OBE (Chairman), M Hussain OBE JP (Vice-Chairman), K Bates, I Hussain, Maz Hussain, N Rana, N Thomas and J Wassell

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

Brian Lewis (Wycombe MultiCultural Organisation), Len Williams (Hope Community SDA Church), Sheena Dykes (Union Baptist Church), Michael Bowker (Wycombe Refuge Partnership), Mark Page (Empower to Cook), David Banes (Men in Machines CiC), Terence Williams (South Bucks Hospice), Sally Jay (Wycombe Environment Projects), Semper Azeez-Horns (Catch 22 Jams), Jean Peasley (Wycombe Marsh Community Environment Group), Bob Marsh (Men in Machines CiC), Ruth Lethem (Open House, Hills Café), Rajiv Gill (Hope Community Church), Steph Karageorgi (Catch 22 Jams), Colin Hington (High Wycombe Society), Dora Hargitai (Wycombe Environment Centre), Richard Andrews (Grow Together), Jeanne Steward (Youth Enquiry Service), Phoebe Durrant-Badger (Youth Enquiry Service), Sebert Graham (Wycombe MultiCultural Organisation), Sush Daleyshe (Wycombe District Dementia Action), Heather Stanley (Wycombe Homeless Connection), Judy McDowall (SV2G), Ali Irwin (Oakridge Baptist Church), Jacqueline Roberts (SV2G), Sue Stuart (Memory Partners), Jean Fisher (Memory Partners), S Gronbach (Memory Partners), Ian Gronbach (Memory Partners), Hayley McEvoy (Thames Valley Police), Rachel Brown (Marsh and Micklefield Big Local), Madeleine Howe (Wycombe Sound and Wycombe Environment Centre), Sue Granshaw (Wycombe District Dementia Action), David Winterburn (Totteridge and Terriers News), John Shaw (Chiltern Rangers), Penelope Tollitt (Wycombe Environment Centre), Paul Dyne (The Junction Action4Youth), Jeremy Hay (Talkback), Amber Preen (Mama Bee), Robyn Connelly (All Saints Parish Church), Chris Balkwill (Amersham Hill Residents Association), Suzie Buckley (Gods of War), Phil Else (Gods of War), Garin Christio (Buckinghamshire Council Community Safety), Ruth Obase (Jewins Women2Women), Nicky Cousin (Vibe Church), Jenny Ricketts (Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust), Jo Cooke (BHRS), William Reid (High Wycombe Society), Olivier Cousin (Vibe Church), Michael King (Wycombe for Fairtrade), J Ward (South Bucks Hospice), A Hetherington (South Bucks Hospice), N Terry (FSFR), Anna Moore (Wycombe Community Church), Selina Kydd-Sinclair (Cornerstone)

### **Others in attendance**

Fay Ewing – High Wycombe Community Board Manager (Officer), Jackie Binning (Officer), Makyla Devlin (Officer), Sheena Carman (Buckinghamshire Council Culture Team), Jo Fowler (Buckinghamshire Council Community Engagement & Development Team), Nick Adkins

(Buckinghamshire Council Community Safety), Amber Chinc (Resident), Luke Simcock (Resident), Heather Morley (Resident / HWCB), Chris Woodman (Resident / HWCB)

## **Apologies**

A Hussain, A Baughan, T Green, S Guy, D Hayday, O Hayday, M Knight and K Wood

## **Agenda Item**

### **1 NETWORKING**

### **2 CHAIRMAN`S WELCOME**

Cllr Lesley Clarke, Chairman of High Wycombe Community Board (HWCB), addressed the room with the aim of looking at the priorities for the board through a workshop session.

A presentation on the success of the Board over the last year was to follow where the projects and community engagement were showcased.

### **3 APOLOGIES /MINUTES OF LAST MEETING/ DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Andrea Baughan, Cllr Tony Green, Cllr Steve Guy, Cllr Darren Hayday, Cllr Orsolya Hayday, Cllr Arif Hussain ,Cllr Matt Knight, Cllr Katrina Wood, Helen Mee – The Clare Foundation, Ruth Wainman – Kings Church, Adam Cheyo – BC, Natalie Judson – BC, Matt Everett - BC

Minutes of the last meeting held on 13 September 2023 – agreed as a true record

Declarations of interest - none

### **4 COMMUNITY MATTERS**

Petition – Cllr Julia Wassell – to be noted that the online petition parking Nicholas Gardens has been presented to Cllr Lesley Clark, Chairman. To record the receipt of the petition and advice from the Parking Team to progress this through the parking control request form process.

Opening demonstration and activity from Sue Granshaw – Tai Chi- engaging activity for all attendees. Fay Ewing, Community Board Manager (CBM), explained how attending a BOPAG event at All Saints Church during September 2023 introduced her to a Tai Chi café. Looking to facilitate further connections and make introductions during Dementia Action week in May.

Fay provided a Community Board update for the past year and summarised 2023-24 engagement and projects. Promoted the Community Board Facebook page and encouraged new groups to follow it as there are regular posts.

Proud of Bucks – an opportunity to nominate and recognise the achievements from within the Community will be taking place once again in 2024. Further details to

follow and the awards will take place later in the year. Categories and timelines were outlined (see presentation)

The Community Board hold regular drop ins at the library in High Wycombe and open to suggestions of other possible drop in locations.

Opportunity Bucks programme was outlined and one of the key priorities relates to the Public Realm. Working with Wycome Wombles in the Town litter picking, volunteers taking pride in the area. Ward tours have taken place to look at key issues locally and how working with partners, improvements and awareness can take place.

Community Board funding has enabled many projects to get off the ground, Public access defibrillators – a project to be proud of. This was a Community Board initiated project. 14 defibs were purchased and engagement took place with residents and local organisation as to where they should be positioned. Working with South Central Ambulance Service identified suitable locations based on stats. Fay thanked all organisations that were part of the project. The project will be publicly launched and de-fib training will be available.

## **5 WORKSHOP /TABLE DISCUSSIONS**

Aim – to understand the gaps in provision in the High Wycombe CB area. 10 tables in the room

Priority themes – Environment and Climate Change, Health and Wellbeing, Recovery and Regeneration and Local Infrastructure and Transport.

Are the above the right priorities for the board?

15 minutes spent on each project covering what went well? Where are the gaps?

Are there potential projects and delivery partners.

See verbal feedback below and attached appendix for flipchart notes from all tables.

### **Environment and Climate Change**

Feedback from table 1 – Litter picking groups. Looking for the groups to link up and co-ordinate better. Education working with children on long term behaviour change. Look at target areas. Lots of local vibrant groups, Wycombe environment, Chiltern Rangers. Look at climate change and how people can look at habitats. Flooding – raising the profile of flooding. There is a connection with litter blocking ditches contributing to increase in surface groundwater. Question – what would happen if the river Wye burst its banks? Community Resilience. Solar panels on public realm buildings and fast car charging points.

Feedback from table 2 - looking at local environment and street hygiene to encourage people into the town. Litter bins missing in some areas. This could be a quick win with additional bins. Educating children for the generation to encourage pride in the town. Suggestion for people to look after their own neighbourhood, a

weekly litter pick in their area. Pot holes and improvement to roads to encourage walking and cycling. Green futures project encouraging people into climate friendly work.

### **Health and wellbeing**

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Feedback from table 3 - Motor vehicle projects in the area came together and realised that there wasn't too much around for older men in the area. A car club attracting any age, any gender at a local pub to socialise. Creating opportunities to meet to prevent social isolation. Working with Mind to identify coping mechanisms to prevent social issues and suicide prevention.

Feedback from table 4 - looking at services available and highlighting. Wycombe arts centre – therapy for adults and children. Self defence, first aid to empower residents. Wycombe district dementia action group have set up a website and looking to promote safe spaces in HWY and looking for more. Mens health and wellbeing through photography. Encouraging walking, movers and shakers. Community kitchens and various projects. Looking at schools to teach children to cook which needs encouraging. Empower to Cook and One Can Trust offering food programmes and cookery sessions to upskill residents.

### **Recovery and Regeneration**

Feedback from table 5 - Following on from covid recovery. Magazine project submitted through the community board. Shop fronts policy, trying to create a document working with High Wycombe society, looking at rules to improve shop fronts and conserve heritage.

Feedback from table 6 – looked at recovery, feel there is a gap for debt support. Regeneration – town centre focussing on discussions on wise investment, employment and upskilling. Focus on being proud of High Wycombe and resident. Encouraging artists and creativity in High Wycombe.

### **Local Infrastructure and Transport**

Feedback from table 7 - Pick me up bus – looking for confirmation on how well it has been received. Improve cycling and state of roads, pot holes. Parking on pavements a problem. Local garages with leaking oil from cars etc. Flooding is a problem

Feedback from table 8 – Improve bus service. Disconnect across the town. Would like the pick me up service to work in the evening. Urban footpaths need to be maintained. Tackle short car journeys and encourage walking and cycling. Educate schools, children and families on walking to walk.

Thank you to Hilltop community centre for hosting the event this evening. The venue is available for local community groups to hire.

**6 MEETING SUMMARY AND CLOSE**

Chairman, Cllr Lesley Clarke thanked everyone for attending and for their input and thanked Fay for organising the Community Board meeting and the workshop that took place. The ideas discussed would feed into an action plan for the year ahead and the board would explore the ideas with the action groups to develop them further in the coming months.

**7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (TBC)**

13 June 2024

13 November 2024 (POB)

19 March 2025