



Community
Boards

Community Boards
Annual Report
April 2024

Introduction from the Cabinet Member for Communities



Cllr Arif Hussain

**Cabinet Member for
Communities**

The 2023/24 Community Board Annual Report provides a detailed overview of the work of the council's 16 Community Boards, highlighting how they have supported their local communities and worked in partnership to improve the local area.

The report showcases a broad range of activities and projects and which have brought change and improvement.

The Community Boards have developed a strong reputation as a key community partner and are often seen as the go to service for helping facilitate problem solving- using networks and signposting to drive community priorities forward.

This year's focus and drive has been on collaborative engagement and partnership working, with local organisations and with other council services.

This work has seen the boards maintain and grow a strong, well established and highly functioning network of local partners, through their relationships with the town and parish councils, the voluntary and community sector, residents and our many strategic partners.

In addition, the Aylesbury, Wycombe and Chesham boards have supported the Council's flagship levelling up programme Opportunity Bucks through the ward partnerships, sharing their knowledge and networks.

The community boards have again successfully used the funding provided to them to bring in significant matched funding and other resource ensuring their work delivers value for money for the local community and taxpayer.

A total of £1,002,064 of funding has been used to support the delivery of 270 projects through the boards. For every £1 of community board funding £1.80 in contributory funding has been achieved.

The community boards have also been able to recognise the many fantastic individuals and community groups that do so much good work for local communities through the Proud of Bucks Awards- with over 400 nominations being received. It remains a privilege for the Chairmen to give these awards to those who are committed to supporting their communities.

I hope you enjoy reading about the many outcomes the boards have delivered and how they continue to support their local communities to grow and flourish.

Cllr Arif Hussain
Cabinet Member for Communities

Community Board Chairmen 2023 - 2024



Mark Dormer
Amersham & Villages



Mark Winn
Aylesbury



Steven Barrett
Beaconsfield &
Chepping Wye



Dev Dhillon
Beeches



Howard Mordue
Buckingham & Villages



Emily Culverhouse
Chesham & Villages



Santokh Chhokar
Denham, Gerrards Cross,
& Chalfonts



Ashley Waite
Haddenham
& Waddesdon



Lesley Clarke OBE
High Wycombe



Peter Martin
Missendens



Matt Walsh
North West Chilterns



Mark Turner
South West Chilterns



Steve Bowles
Wendover & Villages



Trevor Egleton
Wexham & The Ivers



Ashley Bond
Wing & Ivinghoe



Phil Gomm
Winslow & Villages

Chairmen reflections

“ I feel our best achievement for this year was providing Dementia training for 70+ people across the area. This enabled the participants to have a greater understanding into the complexities of dementia and how this could be affecting their loved ones and provided support mechanisms to help those carers. I am also pleased to be hosting the Community Board meetings in person, I feel this provides a greater opportunity for us all to network, understand parish's priorities and where we can collaborate to provide projects for the benefit of the local residents.”

Ashley Bond, Wing and Ivinghoe

“ Bridging the gap between residents, parish councils and Buckinghamshire Council, the Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board serves as a vital platform for collaboration, driving growth and development within the community.”

Ashley Waite, Haddenham and Waddesdon

“ Community Boards are an intrinsic element in the link between the council and the local community, and that link is going from strength to strength in the Wendover and Villages Board. We have supported a variety of projects including dementia support groups, the regeneration of the canal towpath along and assisted many local community groups.”

Steve Bowles, Wendover and Villages

“ I am proud of all that we have achieved this year but in particular I was pleased with the pace with which we responded to police reports of assaults in the local area. The community had become increasingly anxious about the safety of women and girls, and so the self-defence classes we put on helped to give some much needed reassurance. These sessions also gave us the idea of responding to current, local issues and concerns. We then put on the speedwatch meeting with the PCC Mathew Barber as guest speaker to address residents' continual worries about local speeding vehicles. This meeting was also very successful. We will continue to seek to address key local issues with our work this year.”

Peter Martin, Missendens

Improving our Environment

Community Boards have supported the Council to achieve its priority to improve our environment through its aims to:

- address climate change, improve our environment and create economic opportunities for clean growth
- to reduce our county's environmental impact by promoting sustainability and reducing waste
- to improve air quality and people's health, by reducing emissions and encouraging green transport options



Improving our Environment

Featured projects

- **The Amersham and Villages Community Board** provided funding to support the set-up of Wild Amersham. The new group, under the Sustainable Amersham umbrella, was set up with the aim of making the Amersham community aware of its wonderful, local biodiversity and the threats it faces, and to encourage residents to appreciate and protect it. Over the past year Wild Amersham have delivered 11 events which included 5 nature education events (a dawn chorus walk, an online bird migration talk, two children's botany activities and a creatures of the night activity for children), 2 in-house training sessions (one on scything and one on plant identification), 4 work parties (3 scything and one raking and seeding) and attended external events to promote their work. All were well attended and enjoyed by the community. In just one year Wild Amersham now has 40 dedicated supporters with 20 regular volunteers.
- Through collaborative conversations and subsequent funding from the **Aylesbury Community Board**, BBOWT and Feedback Global delivered the Grow Wilder project. BBOWT and Feedback Global worked with three Year 5 classes, with the support of the teachers to look at three areas within in the school grounds and then create a design to improve each space for wildlife. The areas were designed with future use in mind to ensure that spaces could be used by pupils to continue to improve their understanding about the environment, food growing and the importance of nature to improve our health and wellbeing.

Wild Amersham



Oak Green School Go Wilder project



Improving our Environment

- **Beeches Community Board** provided funding to the Eco Audits for Taplow and Burnham Parish Councils with a view to identifying opportunities to make positive changes, both in reducing carbon emissions and reducing day to day costs, and to also highlight good practice. The contractor supplied detailed reports on their findings and recommendations which have been shared locally to assist others in their own net zero ambitions. Comments from the project evaluation in Taplow included *'The audit has been interesting and a real eye-opener'* and *'It has been encouraging to see changes that have already been made.'*
- The Buckingham Repair Café was initiated by the **Buckingham and Villages Community Board** and the Waste Management Strategy team, with the project taken on and delivered by a group of local volunteers. The purpose of the café is to encourage residents to bring broken items to be repaired by volunteer repairers instead of throwing them away. The project has had a positive environmental impact with a reduction in local waste and provides members of the community with an opportunity to socialise and develop new skills in repairing household items.
- **Chesham and Villages Community Board** allocated funding to support the Lowndes Park Masterplan. This Masterplan outlines a roadmap for enhancing Lowndes Park in Chesham, often referred to as the 'Lungs of Chesham'. The plan identifies areas for improvement while remaining sensitive to the environmental landscape. The Community Board played an active role in shaping the plan, participating in focus groups and consultations.

Buckingham Repair Café



Lowndes Park Masterplan



Improving our Environment

- The Wendover Wildbelt Community Orchard project embodies a multifaceted approach to environmental conservation, community engagement, and mental health support. The aim was to create a thriving ecosystem and recreational space by establishing a community orchard within the area. **The Wendover and Villages Community Board** supported this initiative by working with Climate Action Wendover, Chiltern Society, Wendover Parish Council, and the local community to come together to plant and care for fruit trees, native plants, and wildflowers.
- The Chiltern Rangers Wildflower Nursery cultivates native wildflowers for ecological restoration and community engagement. Operated by volunteers, it serves as a vital resource for biodiversity conservation, providing habitats for local wildlife and promoting pollinator populations. By propagating indigenous flora for local conservation projects and sites, the nursery aids in habitat restoration, combating habitat loss and fragmentation. Its educational programmes teach sustainable gardening practices and raise awareness about the importance of preserving native plant species. Through collaborative efforts with the **High Wycombe Community Board**, community groups and schools, the nursery fosters community stewardship, fostering a deeper connection to the natural world.
- The Holmer Green Sensory Garden is an inspiring example of how volunteers have transformed previously-unused land into a much loved, inclusive space for the benefit of the local community and wildlife. **The Missendens Community Board** took inspiration from the garden's volunteer team and provided some practical support by rolling up their sleeves and getting stuck in with some Autumn jobs, helping to prune the roses, replace some log borders and create a Hedgehog Den.

Wendover Wildbelt Community Orchard



Holmer Green Sensory Garden



Improving our Environment

- St Michael and All Angels, a beautiful church in a National Trust park, sought funding from the **North West Chilterns Community Board** for an Eco Quiet Garden to maximise the use of the churchyard for people to enjoy and contemplate the nature around them. The garden will be planted with specific plants to support the environment, nature and wildlife, such as Buddleia to attract the butterflies, and once they have grown will provide a secluded place for people to rest, think and reflect. Furthermore, visitors to this garden will encourage people to engage with the natural environment.
- Finings Wood in Lane End is a local area of importance for wildlife, walking and wellbeing. Recognised as a haven of biodiversity, a local group, Finings Wood Community Group, linking in with Lane End Parish Council and other contributory partners aim to protect and future-proof this area of natural woodland. **South West Chilterns Community Board** are delighted to share their vision to create trails for not only wildlife but also for fitness, education and learning for all ages and abilities.
- **The Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board's** environmental priority supports the restoration of community orchards to help reverse their national decline. Waddesdon Parish Council and Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust explored the biodiversity of a an area of disused land near the allotments. It is now the home to apple, cherry, plum and quince trees. A bench and interpretation boards were commissioned from the Lindengate Charity to add the finishing touches to enable residents to enjoy the orchard and learn about the fruit trees growing there.

St Michael and All Angels Eco Quiet Garden



Finings Wood project



Improving our Environment

- The Hedgerley Conservation Volunteers (HCV), a longstanding community group, aims to maintain the village's appearance through various tasks such as scrub clearance and woodland maintenance. They received funding from the **Denham, Gerrards Cross and Chalfonts Community Board** for equipment and training. Their work not only enhances the environment but also fosters community unity and pride. By tackling environmental issues like littering they create volunteering opportunities and promote healthy activities, contributing to biodiversity and connecting people with nature.
- **The Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye Community Board** allocated funds, and attended the launch day, to support the Alfriston School Forest School. Alfriston School is a special educational needs school for girls and is unique in their approach to nurturing and supporting girls with special needs to flourish. The Community Board were particularly proud to support the development of the Forest School at Alfriston and delighted to support two local key partners in the school and Chiltern Rangers.
- Local residents interested in growing fresh produce were invited to get involved in the **Wexham and The Ivers Community Board's** Grow it, Cook it, Eat it project, launched by Community Impact Bucks and supported by Public Health, at the 1st Iver Heath Scout Hut. Open to everyone from the local area, the Ivers' Community Growing Project was all about growing fresh produce for the community as well as helping to support healthy lifestyles and wellbeing.



Hedgerley Conservation
Volunteers



Ivers Community
Growing Project

Improving our Environment

- **Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board** supported the setup of a local repair café. This is hosted regularly, alternating in the villages of Ivinghoe and Pitstone. Each week volunteers, covering a breadth of skills, offer their time to repair items with the aim of preventing them going to landfill. In doing so this also supports residents to save costs, learn how things can be maintained and demonstrates community spirit. The café runs on donations from those who are seeking a repair. There are refreshments available too so people can stay and socialise. Textiles, tools, and electronics are just some examples of what can be fixed. The repair café regularly link in with Bucks Recycle to keep updated and network more widely with other repair café set ups. Since opening, the Ivinghoe and Pitstone repair café has saved the equivalent carbon emissions of one of the following activities: 22,896 driving miles, 3,446 showers or 33,618 air miles.
- **Winslow and Villages Community Board** provided a small grant to Granborough Parish Council to purchase specialist native wildflower seeds (including cornflower, musk mallow, poppies, fields scabious, and wild carrot) to sow in Coronation Meadow, a nature reserve in Granborough. Coordinated by volunteers, the project aimed to address climate change and improve the environment through planting wildflowers that will provide bees, butterflies, and other pollinators with food throughout the year. On a single day in summer one acre of wildflower meadow can contain 3 million flowers, producing 1kg of nectar sugar - enough to support nearly 96,000 honeybees per day.



Wing and Ivinghoe
Repair Café



Wildflowers in
Coronation Meadow

Improving our Environment

- The **Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board** identified a need to bring clarity to what can be a complex topic on how to reduce our carbon footprint and promote biodiversity. It partnered with the charity I'd Like to Borrow to hold a Green Living event on 29th February at the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre in Quainton. A range of partners from the Energy Doctor Scheme to the Waster Busters Service showcased what is on offer to residents and respond to questions. Those attending said they had come for ideas on how to do greener things and what they could do to reduce their energy bills and were happy to have received this information.
- Marlow Energy Group applied to the **South West Chilterns Community Board** for funding in respect of a Smart Energy Show. This was to provide an event open to the public, free of charge, where residents and businesses could look into potential improvements on the environmental impacts of their day-to-day lives for both residential and commercial. The aim of this one day event was to educate and demonstrate the opportunities and encourage investment in cleaner, greener and smarter energy, boost comfort and cut carbon emissions. The Community Board and many of the Members attended the event to highlight the collaborative working and strength of the action groups.
- The Environment Action Group organised a Walk and Talk event in Wingrave to encourage participation through action groups. A local resident and Community Board Manager arranged a walking meeting, inviting anyone with an interest in the environment to join. The meeting provided an opportunity to brainstorm and supported the development of a local learning project. With the backing of the **Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board**, residents will engage in activities to develop skills in hedge laying and wildflower management.



Quainton Green Living Event



Smart Energy Show



Wingrave walk & talk

Increasing Prosperity

Community Boards have supported the Council to achieve its priority to increase prosperity:

- to encourage sustainable economic growth, working with our partners to maximise opportunities and boost productivity
- to continue to attract high quality jobs and investment in skills, innovation, and connectivity, keeping Buckinghamshire one of the best places to do business
- growth to benefit both new and existing communities, preserving the character of our environment while delivering everything we need to prosper



Increasing Prosperity

Featured projects

- The Family Food Hub provide vital support to families in the local area who are struggling with the cost of living. Last year, **Amersham and Villages Community Board** connected the food hub with the local allotment who provided weekly fresh food donations throughout the summer months to help the families with healthy food provision. The Food Hub, based at St George's Church, had been managing with very limited storage facilities and a lack of private office space. Through facilitation from the board they have negotiated with the church to make some minor adjustments and are now able to plan future developments to support their operations.
- **Aylesbury Community Board** financially supported an outreach project for Florence Nightingale's 'The Wiz' production at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre in August 2023. Funding enabled young people from the most disadvantaged areas of Aylesbury to take part in a major children's youth production, enabling an extra 25 young people to take part through pupil premium places and closed auditions at Hayden Abbey and Thomas Hickman Junior schools. This provided opportunities to children who would not typically think about performing arts, and who could not afford the participation fee. A small selection of the children performed songs from the show in the garden for the patients and the nursing team at the Hospice. John, one of the patients said, *'I wasn't feeling too good this morning, but they brought both a ray of sunshine and a lift which is exactly the right kind of medicine.'*

Florence Nightingale's 'The Wiz' production



Increasing Prosperity

- The Lent Rise Intergenerational Project received funding from the **Beeches Community Board** to help it develop new resources to support expansion of its work bringing together local schoolchildren and older residents. As a result, seven monthly sessions at a community group and 13 fortnightly sessions in a local care home saw a total of 40 Year 5 children from Lent Rise School spend time with older people exploring topics such as local history, inventions and summer flowers, and sharing activities linked to the Coronation and Remembrance Day. Pleased with the project's success, the partners are continuing to develop the programme and are seeking extra volunteers to support its growth.
- Haddenham Greengrocer shop was looking for a new tenant to take it on and when no one came forward the local community stepped in with the setting up of a Community Benefit Society. With seed funding from the **Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board**, the shop is open for business and focusses on showcasing locally sourced vegetables and delicacies. You can even refill shampoos and deodorants! The shop has great plans for 2024 to ensure it's the window to all things great in Haddenham.

The Lent Rise Intergenerational Project



Haddenham Greengrocer Community Benefit Society



Increasing Prosperity

- Funded through the Opportunity Bucks Programme, the **Chesham and Villages Community Board** was involved in 'App-ortunity Bucks', delivered by The Cloudy Foundation. The Board and its manager effectively became the 'client' for a group of young people who came together to create an app with a real-life purpose: to develop a CRM and project management system exclusively for the Chesham and Villages Community Board. The project provided students with practical technical support in creating, designing, implementing, and embedding an app, and explored IT skills beyond what is typically gained through the school curriculum. The Board Manager attended the workshops to present to the young people and worked with the group to design and test the app, which is now in full use.
- On Sunday 7 May 2023, the **Denham, Gerrards Cross and The Chalfonts Community Board** supported the Chalfont St Giles Street Party & Coronation Big Lunch. Thousands attended, uniting the community and boosting local businesses. The presence of Princesses Eugenie and Beatrice added to the excitement, engaging with attendees. The Board was delighted to be able to fund the children's rides for the entire day. This project met the priority to "support the business community, especially SMEs, to grow and flourish including through promotion of high streets." The event took place in the town centre and along the High Street, with the aim for local businesses, shops and pubs to take advantage of the additional footfall and benefit from the party. Local businesses were also promoted through sponsorship of tables.

App-ortunity Bucks



Chalfont St Giles Street Party & Coronation Big Lunch



Increasing Prosperity

- Run 4 Cover is a collaborative music project to mentor up to 20 young people across the various creative aspects, concluding in live music events which are free for the public to attend in the Desborough area. The aim is to deliver four shows throughout the year with mentoring sessions between each event, preparing for the up-and-coming event. The project will give young creatives (18-23 years) an outlet for their art (music, design, videography, marketing, etc) and positive inspiration while developing the creative skills to a professional level, inspiring them to move on to their own projects in the High Wycombe area. Partners include the **High Wycombe Community Board**, Red Kite, BNU, Creative Control, Boombap Kings, MLN Ensemble and TKOK Agency, Wycombe Youth Action, BNU, Rothschild Foundation.
- The Ivers Hive received funding from **Wexham and The Ivers Community Board** for food parcels as part of their Christmas Appeal for local families struggling financially. Initially this was in the form of gifts and clothing items for all children in the family, but as the cost-of-living challenges escalated it became clear that finding money to buy food for over the Christmas period was going to be a real struggle for these families. The project helped over 100 families to ease some of the pressures over the holiday period.
- **Missendens Community Board** were pleased to provide funding to Plan-It Prestwood, an organisation made up of local residents, community leaders and business owners who are inspired and motivated to make Prestwood a better place to live by responding to the aspirations of those living in their community. The planters which use sustainable materials aim to create a more attractive and welcoming space within the Village centre, whilst regenerating the area outside the parade of independent businesses, enhancing visitor appeal and economic growth.
- Over the past 12 months, the **Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye Community Board** have worked closely with St Peter's Church, in particular with their dedicated youth worker, Mark, and their youth groups. The Community Board has provided funding and support for two youth groups that run each week, providing a safe and fun space to 'hang out'. Furthermore, the Community Board has provided funding towards their Holiday Lunch Club which supports over 80 families to have a fun time and a well-balanced hot meal during the school holidays.

Increasing Prosperity

- Working with Buckinghamshire Council's Economic Development team, the **South West Chilterns Community Board** are developing a website to showcase the Board area and its neighbours by offering a directory of local amenities, hospitality, retailers and places of historical interest. This will capture and promote local opportunities, increase footfall and promote everything that the Board stands for, from the main towns to the rural parishes. This links all of the action groups created by the Community Board and will enable greater collaboration throughout the varying demographic.
- **The Wendover and Villages Community Board** supported the Mobile Planetarium initiative, from UK Astronomy. This project offers a unique opportunity for young people to engage with astronomy and develop valuable skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including a portable dome and projection system, the mobile planetarium brings the wonders of the universe directly to schools and communities. Through immersive experiences such as virtual star gazing, interactive presentations, and hands-on activities, participants explore and learn about the solar system, and deepen their understanding of key scientific concepts.
- **The North West Chilterns Community Board** endeavoured to encourage sustainable economic growth within their Board area and to support partners and local businesses, particularly those in the Tourism, Hospitality, and Leisure sectors. A Business Networking Event was held on 29th February 2024, which brought people together to network and increase their visibility, and, at the same time, provide a platform to learn about the opportunities and support Buckinghamshire Council can offer. Economic Growth and Regeneration team and the Film office presented those business opportunities which in turn may help them to diversify and be more sustainable.

Mobile Planetarium initiative



North West Chilterns Business Networking Event



Increasing Prosperity

- The village of Wingrave, with the support of the **Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board**, developed a fitness trail with outdoor gym equipment. The aim was to improve the wellbeing for residents living in a rural area with limited access to fitness facilities. Welcomed by the community, the project has enjoyed positive health outcomes with the trail being used regularly and there are plans for engagement events to encourage even more participation. This project contributes to increasing prosperity by enhancing recreational spaces, promoting wellbeing, and fostering local engagement.
- Buckingham Town Council received funding from the **Buckingham and Villages Community Board** towards their Swan Trail Project. This involved asking local residents, community groups and schools to paint ten swan sculptures which were placed at points around the Buckingham Town Centre. Residents could pick up a free map at the Buckingham Old Gaol and complete the trail at their leisure. The project provided families with a free activity over the summer holiday period, whilst encouraging residents to visit the town centre. The swans were subsequently auctioned off to local businesses and residents to raise money for charity and provide funding towards other town centre initiatives. The project received a high amount of positive feedback locally as it gave parents the opportunity to arrange a physical activity for their children free of charge as well as encouraging residents to spend money in the local businesses.
- In December **Missendens Community Board** hosted a drop-in session at The Pantry Café in Prestwood. Members of the community were invited to come along to find out more about the Community Board, share ideas for a local projects and ask questions to the Community Board team. The event provided an opportunity to inspire footfall into the café which is an independently run local business and the only of its kind in the village centre.

Wingrave fitness trail



Buckingham Swan Trail



Strengthening our Communities

Community Boards have supported the Council to achieve its priority to strengthen communities:

- our residents to live independent, fulfilling lives, within strong, healthy, inclusive, and resilient communities
- to improve health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on reducing any gap in health outcomes



Strengthening our Communities

Featured projects

- With a dedicated task and finish group, **Amersham and Villages Community Board** have been working with Community Impact Bucks and local partners to explore ways to increase volunteer numbers locally. The aim of the group is to support those looking to volunteer to find suitable opportunities and to support local charities and community groups to increase and sustain their volunteer numbers to help them to thrive. Following exploration stages, community board funding was used to enable a campaign to be delivered.
- **Aylesbury Community Board** has worked with local councillors and Prebendal Farm Street Association helping to enable the Association to set up monthly meetings with the community. The attendees increased from 5 to 17 from the first meeting. The board is also working with the group to host a community event in Spring 2024 to bring the community together and listen to community needs.
- Burnham Rocks is a festival and music competition for under 21s to recognise and encourage local young talent in and around Burnham and takes place annually. The event, hosted by Burnham Parish Council, is facilitated by voluntary contributions of time and resources. In the lead up to the 2023 event, key elements of the PA equipment were suddenly unavailable, leaving Burnham Parish Council with a need to find and fund alternatives at very short notice. A small grant from the **Beeches Community Board** was able to meet the shortfall in funds and help the event to go ahead successfully.

Volunteer campaign



Prebendal Farm Street Association meetings

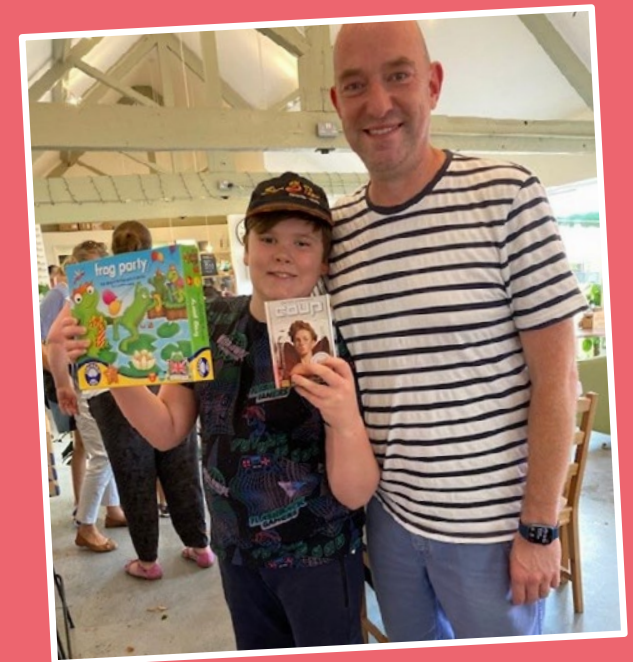


Strengthening our Communities

- **The Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye Community Board and Southwest Chilterns Community Board** funded The Secret Place project. In collaboration with Relatable Role Models and The Community Church, Wooburn Green the project has provided a safe place for young people, many of whom face adverse socio-economic struggles as well as being at risk of getting involved in anti-social behaviour. The project enabled and empowered young people to access professional recording equipment and to develop creatively, musically and enhance life skills and opportunities. The project is hosted at and by the Community Church who have been able to provide relevant and accessible weekly topics and themes for the Young People and invited external guests to run sessions where possible. Furthermore, this project has been able to counter food poverty by providing nutritious meals and additional learning about food preparation and cooking.
- **The Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board** was approached by families in Long Crendon and Haddenham who noticed that, since the pandemic, young people have struggled to engage socially. A board games club seemed the ideal activity. The Board funded a selection of games which offered individual and team challenges and the use of skillsets such as strategy and calculation. The club runs fortnightly for two hours, alternating between the two villages every month. One parent commented on how coming to a club has made a difference in bringing the family quality time together among new friends.



The Secret Place project



*Long Crendon and
Haddenham Board Games Club*

Strengthening our Communities

- **The Chesham and Villages Community Board** funded a project called Creative Hearts, delivered by The Elgiva Theatre in Chesham. The project offers free, engaging arts and crafts sessions to community groups who may not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in the Arts. The theme for the craft workshops is 'One World', and so far, the project has worked with Ukrainian refugees, care leavers, children with special educational needs, and many other community groups.
- The Chalfont St Giles community voiced concerns to the Parish Council about the old playground's lack of inclusivity. In response, the Council agreed to refurbish it, ensuring accessibility for children of all abilities and the **Denham, Gerrards Cross and The Chalfonts Community Board** was proud to support such a project. The new equipment includes features for wheelchair users and sensory play for children on the autism spectrum.
- Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council received funding from the **Buckingham and Villages Community Board** for a small grant to purchase a generated flood pump to assist their newly established community Flood Response Group. The purpose of the Flood Response Group is to assist residents who are affected by flooding and hopefully to minimise the damage caused to their properties. The pump works to move water away from properties quickly and will enable the group to minimise damage and reduce the stress and financial hardship upon the residents affected. As Gawcott is frequently affected by flooding, the small grant has helped the local community to become more self-sufficient when flooding occurs.



Creative hearts project



Chalfont St Giles
refurbished playground

Strengthening our Communities

- The WI recently celebrated their 100-year anniversary. A group which covers the villages of Weedon, Hardwick and Whitchurch were keen to host an event that marked the occasion whilst bringing the community together. They invited local groups and residents to join and used it as an opportunity to network, develop partnerships, and demonstrate how they can collectively support families and projects of interest. **The Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board** funded the event and the Board's Chairman, Cllr Bond attended the event to share information on the board and learn about residents' interests in the local area. The celebration provided an opportunity to learn about local heritage and give people an understanding of their area, its amenities and encouraged social interaction.
- The Wendover Shed project benefited from battery-powered solar panels funded by the **Wendover and Villages Community Board** and The Clare Foundation. These panels made it possible for the project to run for the local community because there was no electricity at the site. They also demonstrated a significant step towards sustainability and self-sufficiency. Furthermore, the use of solar power enhances the reliability of the project, guaranteeing steady access to power for workshops, tools, and lighting even in remote or off-grid locations. The project promotes mental health and wellbeing through community engagement and skill building activities. Through this initiative, participants, who are over 40, not only improve their shed skills but also contribute to a cleaner, greener future.



WI 100 year anniversary



Wendover Shed

Strengthening our Communities

- The 1st Iver Scouts received funding from the **Wexham and The Ivers Community Board** for the refurbishment of their toilets which was part of the hut refurbishment. The hut has served many generations of young people and was at a point where it was no longer fit for purpose. 1st Iver Scouts were making improvements to the facilities for the benefit of all. The toilets were improved which enabled them to expand on their income stream, making the hut more desirable to hirers. Having a welcoming and functioning scout hut is important, as it gives the young people a place to feel safe, welcome and secure.
- **The North West Chilterns Community Board** created a project called “Walk with us Bucks” with the National Trust Hughenden, West Wycombe and Central Chilterns. This is a Guided Group Walking pilot which offers accessible guided health and wellbeing walks that will appeal to diverse audiences, including entry level walks for new or inexperienced walkers. Walking is a great ‘entry level’ activity which can improve physical and mental wellbeing. Access to walking is often more than just physical; people often lack the confidence to walk in the countryside and the motivation to walk regularly. This is where walking groups can play an important role.
- Buckinghamshire Windrush 75 was a partnership project between SV2G, Buckinghamshire New University, The Clare Foundation, and the **High Wycombe Community Board** to deliver a fitting tribute to Buckinghamshire Windrush generations and their descendants. Activities were planned across 2023 in High Wycombe. On Windrush Day, 22nd June 2023, the Windrush Flag was raised at BNU. The project worked with 3 local partners and 4 sponsors to provide 33 workshops, 3 events, with 52 volunteers who engaged with 940 participants, including an educational event for children and young people, creative workshops and talks to highlight the impact and legacy of Windrush, celebrate the contributions of our Windrush Generation, reconnect communities to re-build resilience, trust and cohesion and provided a greater understanding of the achievements, contributions and challenges faced by Caribbean people in Buckinghamshire. During Black History Month several workshops and activities were delivered, extending a further reach into communities along with an exhibition with display panels which can be used for future events.
- In May, the **Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye Community Board** hosted an engagement event at The Dove Café, Beaconsfield. The first hour was a ‘meet and greet’ allowing local groups to display the work they do, and local membership, volunteering and activities people can enjoy. We then had presentations from two of our supported partners and nominees, before the Chairman and Vice Chair gave out awards in the three categories for Proud of Bucks.

Strengthening our Communities

- The Newton Longville Parish Council piloted a Warm Space initiative during the winter of 2022 which has been recognised as an outstanding success for the village. With over 40 attendees every week, the initiative has been supported by volunteers and cake donations from local villagers. The Warm Space has evolved to offer more than just warmth - it now provides on-site special advice and guidance for those experiencing financial or personal difficulties. A booklet with useful contacts has been produced and is freely available, and a professional health adviser is available at every session to discuss any health concerns. Building upon the success, the **Winslow and Villages Community Board** continued to support this initiative over the 2023 Winter.
- Within Bourne End and the local area, there is an ageing population that are still recovering from the pandemic. Communication is key and a local village publication, Target Magazine, provides a wealth of information including local stories, important contact numbers, credible adverts and local events. Recognising the Coronation, **The South West Chilterns Community Board** supported Target Magazine by enabling them to increase their publication with a special edition capturing the local Coronation events so locals unable to attend were still able to feel included. An edition that marked a monumental moment in history.
- Alongside the Chiltern and South Bucks Policing Issues Forum on 7th November, **Missendens Community Board** co-hosted Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber at a speeding themed event in Great Missenden. The evening was attended by over 60 residents, partners and stakeholders who had the opportunity to ask questions about policing matters and find out more about the relaunched Community Speed Watch, as method in which to help reduce speeding through the Missenden villages.

Newton Longville Warm Space



Target Magazine special edition

Strengthening our Communities

- **The Aylesbury Community Board** was pleased to have been part of the Friar's Square shopping centre's 30th Birthday celebrations. Utilising a vacant unit, the team spent time engaging with residents through games of 'Community Pong' table tennis- exploring what was important to residents about living and working in Aylesbury. The team showcased Bucks Online Directory and Family Information Service to help enable residents to find local activities. Aylesbury Community Board continue to take a similar approach with monthly engagement in Hale Leys shopping centre to listen to the needs of the local community.
- **The Beeches Community Board** continue to support local groups and activities by offering help at events and/or assisting with publicity, particularly those that are align to the Board's priorities. For example, with a focus on promoting health and wellbeing activities, the Community Board took part in the Southmead Surgery's Social Prescribers' Walk in Farnham Common. The route of the walk at Southmead Surgery meant that the walkers could use the new pavement on Blackpond Lane, which was funded by the Beeches Board and Burnham Parish Council, helping the walkers and those who access the surgery to do so in safety.
- In April, the **Chesham and Villages Community Board** hosted an engagement event at Chesham Town Hall. The first hour was dedicated to a presentation from the Board and panel discussions, where a panel of eight different partners, including Chesham Youth Council, Thames Valley Police, and The Oasis Partnership, gave updates about their organisations. The second hour was dedicated to networking for organisations to get to know each other better, improve working relationships, share good practices, and co-produce projects for the community. The event was hugely successful, as many discussions that took place were later converted into action in the community, such as Thames Valley Police's Inclusion Officer working with refugee communities in Chesham.



Aylesbury Community Pong



Southmead Surgery's
Social Prescribers' Walk



Chesham engagement event

Strengthening our Communities

- The **Buckingham and Villages Community Board** held a community engagement and partnerships event and Proud of Bucks awards ceremony on 4th May 2023 at the University of Buckingham. The event provided the opportunity for all members of the board and residents to come together, with local VCS groups and partners invited to hold information stalls to promote their services. Attendees were also invited to provide feedback on what worked well and what could be improved with the Board, as well as vote via ballot box on the community board priorities.
- In June, the **Denham, Gerrards Cross and The Chalfonts Community Board** collaborated with the Council's Ukraine team to host a stall at the Feast of St Peter in Chalfont St Peter. Dating back to 1229, the Feast of St Peter is an historic community event organised by dedicated volunteers. Donations, funds from sponsorships, and stall fees help cover the event's annual cost, with any surplus going to local charities. The same team also hosts the Christmas Fun Night in Market Place, Chalfont St Peter, fostering community spirit, supporting local businesses, and marking the start of the Christmas season for many residents.
- On September 11th, the **Winslow and Villages Community Board** held a Heritage Event at Winslow Library to coincide with Heritage Open Days. The Buckinghamshire Archives Team and Dr. David Noy were in attendance, sharing local historical pictures and information. The Community Board received such positive feedback that they are already planning a similar event for September 2024.



Buckingham and Villages engagement



Feast of St Peter



Winslow heritage event

Strengthening our Communities

- The Annual event for the **North West Chilterns Community Board**, called “Party in the Park”, was held on 24 June 2023 at Wades Park, Princes Risborough. The aim was to promote the Board to create an awareness of it and its position in the community. It was an enormous success with over 39 stalls, many craft and community groups, face painting, food/drink, a fun fair, entertainment from local singers, a Pop Choir, Princes Risborough Youth Theatre, Princes Risborough School Dance Team, and the Proud of Bucks Awards ceremony to round off the day.
- The Kingsbrook Community Event was held by Kingsbrook Parish Council in June 2023 for residents, providing a platform for them to come together, celebrate their community, and contribute to its vibrancy and wellbeing. The **Wendover and Villages Community Board** attended the event to engage with the residents and understand what their priorities were for their local area, as well as what they enjoyed about living in the parish, what was missing, and whether they had views on projects to be delivered. Their input was invaluable to discuss and develop the priorities that the Community Board agreed and adopted at their formal community board meeting in June. By enabling residents, the opportunity to have their voices heard it empowers residents to play an active role in shaping the future of their neighbourhood.



Princes Risborough
Party in the Park



Kingsbrook
Community event

Protecting the Vulnerable

Community Boards have supported the Council to achieve its priority to protect the vulnerable:

- children, adults, and families to feel safe and supported to live independent lives
- our older, disabled, and vulnerable people to receive the right support at the right time



Protecting the Vulnerable

Featured projects

- **The Amersham and Villages Community Board** provided funding for Feedback Global for the FED UP! project. A series of events running across Bucks to highlight the connection between good food and good mental health for Men's Mental Health Month, targeting men through food-based activities. The project welcomed a new group of men to the woods in Little Chalfont for a bushcraft themed session. The discussion delved deep into the connection between food and mood, questions relating to health and wellbeing, links between being active, fitness and mental health, the barriers to getting out in nature, and possible methods to help overcome anxiety or stress. The group chatted about subjects like alcohol, smoking, pressures around the cost of living and cooking from scratch, fitting self-care in amongst all the other daily tasks. Those who attended provided very positive feedback.
- With £750 of funding from **Aylesbury Community Board**, students at Bucks College Group put on a Christmas event for Home Instead clients and their carers. Organising such an event supported the students to develop many transferable skills to support them both in education/work and outside of the professional environment. The event had a dual purpose: bringing the residents together with the students to increase community spirit through meeting new people with very different backgrounds and physical and life skills. Residents had the opportunity to visit a memory table, decorate a photo frame and enjoy some delicious food as well as getting a small Christmas gift to take home!



FED UP! project



Bucks College Group
Student led Christmas event

Protecting the Vulnerable

- The Clare Foundation worked in partnership with Cancer Research UK to deliver “Talk Cancer”, a community cancer awareness programme. The aim of the project was to improve cancer awareness and in particular aid understanding of preventable cancers. This project enabled and promoted healthier lifestyles, wellbeing, and quality of life for people in Buckinghamshire, and was piloted at the **Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye Community Board**. Those who attended the training felt better equipped to keep residents informed on health risks relating to avoidable cancers, as well as tackling health inequalities by training a wide range of participants in cancer awareness, who then felt able to go on to share the message through a range of cultural, leisure and learning opportunities. The public facing awareness activities also directly engaged residents with the programme.
- **Beeches Community Board** supported the setting up of the Singing for Mental Health and Wellbeing for New Mothers project run by Sound and Song CIC and hosted by Burnham Park Hall. Sound and Song successfully organised and managed 12 weeks of singing sessions for mothers and their babies in and around Burnham, emphasising the physical and mental health benefits of communal singing for adults and children. A total of 26 participants registered for the programme, which was open to pregnant women and those with young children under 3 years old, with referrals accepted from local health practitioners. The organisers tracked participants’ responses to wellbeing and attitude surveys throughout the course, with improvements shown on all measures. At the start of the programme 50% reported being able to look forward to things they might enjoy – by the end of the course this had increased to 83%. The project was also successful in its aim of facilitating a supportive network for mothers to build relationships and establish ongoing peer support.
- Built in 1923 and unchanged for over 55 years, Great Horwood Village Hall is being refurbished to make it a safer, warmer, and more accessible. There are neither disabled toilets, nor baby changing facilities, so, with funding from the **Winslow and Villages Community Board**, these facilities can be installed. The Hall is due to reopen in late Spring 2024 to its many users, which include: the weekly Post Office, pilates classes, yoga classes, a craft group, a coffee group, dog training, the WI, the Great Horwood Silver Band, and the Parish Council.
- In 2022/23 Mama Bee delivered a youth detached work project in the community. The key recommendation was to establish a youth café for young people. In 2023/24 the **Chesham and Villages Community Board** and Mama Bee collaborated to devise a series of pop-up cafes in Lowndes Park, where youth workers offered advice and a safe space for young people while enjoying snacks. The project then developed further into a girls’ support group, which continues to run and provide support to young, vulnerable girls in Chesham.

Protecting the Vulnerable

- **The Buckingham and Villages Community Board** initiated the idea that local parish councils and voluntary groups could run their own events for the initiative "Silver Sunday" - the national day for older people on 1st October 2023. Westbury Parish Council ran their own event in their village hall, which was free to attend and aimed towards senior residents. The event included an afternoon tea, a Thai Chi demonstration and a performance from the local school choir. The event was delivered at almost no cost, with the refreshments provided by the community shop / café. Westbury Parish Council received great feedback about the event and how it brought older people together in the local community to make connections and help prevent social isolation. It also encouraged intergenerational connections with the volunteers.
- **The Wendover and Villages Community Board** along with Weston Turville Parish Council and Community Impact Bucks worked together to re-establish the Weston Turville Lunch Club at The Chandos Arms. The aim is to address social isolation for the older generation, and initiatives like a lunch club provide vital support and companionship. By offering a regular monthly gathering, it allows residents to enjoy conversation in a welcoming and inclusive environment and combats loneliness and isolation. Throughout this project the lunch club then morphed into a coffee morning for interested individuals to lessen the burden for volunteers.
- In April 2023, the **Amersham and Villages Community Board**, alongside colleagues from Community Engagement and Development, and Adult Social Care at Buckinghamshire Council, hosted a Health and Wellbeing event for adults at the Amersham Community Centre. The event was very well attended by residents who came to speak to over 20 local providers that hosted stalls, offering information about their services and activities that residents could get involved in.

Westbury Silver Sunday event



Weston Turville coffee morning



Amersham Adults health and wellbeing event



Protecting the Vulnerable

- In July, **Denham, Gerrards Cross and The Chalfonts Community Board** participated in a social prescribing activity group at Chiltern Open Air Museum, led by local Bushcraft expert David Willis, the session involved bread making on an open fire in the rural setting. The project aimed to utilise the Museum's resources for the benefit of vulnerable community members, particularly the elderly facing social isolation and other mental health challenges. It provided cognitive stimulation, fine motor skills practice, and social interaction opportunities, boosting mood, confidence, and sociability. Evaluation under the "positive wellbeing umbrella" revealed positive outcomes, including participants becoming COAM volunteers and forming a WhatsApp group for regular meetups.
- Sandrine and Joanna, both cancer survivors, founded the Meet & Mingle Cancer Support Group in September 2016 in High Wycombe, addressing the lack of local support groups. Serving as the sole peer support group in South Bucks for women with all types of cancer at any stage of their cancer journey, they offer emotional and practical assistance, camaraderie, and organised activities for members and their families. **The High Wycombe Community Board** funded publicity to raise awareness of the group and two activities to support members unable to take part due to increases in living costs. With bi-monthly meetings held at various venues and Wrights Meadow Centre, the group fosters social bonds and access to vital information and resources, reducing loneliness and the negative impact on mental and physical health. The group are becoming increasingly recognised with referrals from health professionals, and local Clinical Commissioning Group and participate in Macmillan hosted Bucks Support Group Networking events exploring opportunities for people living with cancer to use their experience to design future services.

Bread making on an open fire session



Meet & Mingle Cancer Support Group



Protecting the Vulnerable

- Babies 1st sought funding from the **North West Chilterns Community Board** to support struggling parents to bond with their babies and toddlers, by delivering Early Years therapeutic interventions at Baby Bonding groups and by means of individual 1-to-1 interventions. This program will help disadvantaged and potentially vulnerable children, parents, and families, with an identified need for extra support and protection. It will enhance the child's life chances by improving their emotional, social, physical and mental health and school readiness, which often reduces anti-social behaviour, truancy, substance abuse and drifting into criminality. It also encourages the parents to acquire better parenting skills.
- Parents in Oakley wanted to set up a youth club for children at secondary school to keep connected with each other and provide a safe space for them to meet. They approached the **Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board** and their local Parish Council with a request for help with seed funding. The club will support the Community Board's aim of providing an environment for those with autism and sensory challenges, who may find traditional youth club environments challenging. The club will run weekly and provide a tuck shop, games and activities.
- **Missendens Community Board** provided funding to Chiltern Dial-a-Ride to purchase a 9 seat electric minibus and a 13 seat/4 wheelchair diesel minibus in order to help the charity continue to provide an affordable, accessible and safe transport service for people who are unable to access public transport. Chiltern Dial-a-Ride is a valued local service with an average of 590 trips taken over a 3 month period for members living in the Missendens.
- **High Wycombe Community Board** funded the BOPAG Golden Years Free Dementia Information event at All Saints Church. As one of the 25+ information stalls plus dementia choir, entertainment, and Tai Chi demonstrations, the event provided support and signposting for over 150 residents and networking opportunities for community groups and health professionals. As a result of the event the Board is working up a project to raise awareness about Dementia support with Wycombe District Dementia Action group and visited the Tai Chi talking café in Totteridge to understand how the group supports positive physical and mental health and reduces social isolation. The Tai Chi group leader presented to the Board's action group about a potential project to train facilitators and create more groups in High Wycombe in response to demand.

Protecting the Vulnerable

- **Wexham and the Ivers Community Board** awarded funding to host a mobile virtual Dementia Awareness experience at The Orchards Residential Park, a mobile home estate for retired people. This was to help residents and carers understand what more they could do and how to interact in the best way and demonstrate what it is like for someone with Dementia.
- A variety of interactive Dementia training sessions were delivered by the **Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board** and Training2Care, with the aim of providing an insight to what it could be like to live with the effects of Dementia, and to provide a better understanding of the condition. Across three separate locations in the Board area, 65 people attended, including business owners, police officers, NHS workers, care home staff, and local families. The training received positive feedback from all the attendees who found the training useful, important, and highly recommended it. The project contributed to strengthening the communities and supporting the vulnerable by increasing awareness and understanding dementia and its effects.
- **The South West Chilterns Community Board** were instrumental in supporting a project relating to an interactive Dementia awareness experience. After two highly successful projects across the Board, a Board initiative relating to an Interactive Autism Awareness experience was developed with Longridge Activity Centre, Marlow. With a chance engagement conversation, complexities around Autism were aired, leading to a collaboration of the interactive experience and activity taster sessions at the Activity Centre who hosted the event on behalf of the Board. The event attracted many young people who were able to demonstrate their independence within a safe environment.

Dementia awareness experience



Working with our Town and Parish Councils

Town and Parish Councils are a key partner for Community Boards to support the delivery of local shared priorities. Collaboration includes:

- Invitations to attend each other's meetings to provide updates
- Mutual promotion of each other's organisation and their events
- Taking part in task and finish/action groups
- Sharing knowledge and networks

The recent Town & Parish survey reported relationships between the Board Managers and Clerks were strong with good, mutual engagement and discussion, and joint projects delivered to benefit their communities.

Once every quarter, the Chesham and Villages Community Board hosts a Villages Forum, where all Parishes are invited to come together and receive updates from the Board, listen to guest speakers (connecting with other services within the Council), and share updates amongst neighbouring parishes. These meetings are productive, as good practices are shared, and problems within parishes are addressed and resolved. To complement these meetings, the Board Manager organises 'Parish Walkabouts' with the Parish Chair to look at potential projects, any 'Parish pinch points', and generally catch up with local matters.

An Informal Clerks Forum for Wendover and Villages Community Board has been well established since the inception of Community Boards in 2020. The forum is a welcoming platform designed to foster engagement, support, and networking among clerks within the Community Board area. Through casual, bi-monthly, meetups clerks can connect with peers, share insights, and exchange best practices in a relaxed and informal setting. Whether it's discussing the latest challenges in administrative work, seeking advice on procedural matters, or simply building professional relationships, the forum provides a valuable space for clerks to support one another.

Working with our Town and Parish Councils

Community Boards work with Town and Parish Councils on shared priorities. Examples of collaboration in 2023/24 include:

- **Aylesbury Community Board** is working collaboratively with Aylesbury Town Council on its priority to reduce vape waste. A short survey has been distributed to local schools to explore the use of vape amnesty bins and a project is being developed to support residents with behavioural change to ensure that vapes end up in the correct bins and not on our streets.
- Following the closure of the last banking branch in Buckingham Town Centre, Cash Access UK approached the **Buckingham and Villages Community Board** to help with the community engagement around the establishment of a Banking Hub in the town centre, to enable residents to continue to be able to access cash facilities and receive in person banking support. The board partnered with Buckingham Town Council to help promote resident surveys and facilitate community discussions. Due to delays, the community board helped Cash Access UK to liaise with Buckingham Library set up a temporary banking hub. The permanent hub has now opened in its own building in Buckingham Town Centre and has received very positive feedback from local residents.
- **The Missenden Community Board** supports the communities of Great Missenden and Little Missenden parishes and works with both councils to deliver shared priorities and aspirations. Over the past 12 months this has included working together to find ways in which to make improvements to the villages, such as the installation of the bike racks and notice board in Holmer Green and Roald Dahl themed seating areas in Great Missenden.



Buckingham Banking Hub



Parish visits

Working collaboratively across the Council

Opportunity Bucks

The Aylesbury, Chesham and Villages and High Wycombe Community Boards work closely with the ward partnerships to support the programme through sharing local knowledge and networking, scoping and mapping and providing an additional platform to promote the work of the programme.

The Community Boards actively support the programme:

The Aylesbury Community Board are proud to have supported the Elmhurst, Town Centre and Quarrendon & Meadowcroft Community Safety Days of Action to engage with the local community to find out what's important to them. **The Aylesbury Community Board** have supported Opportunity Bucks priorities through engagement, including at Friars Square 30th Birthday celebration, Dairy Maid Christmas lunch celebration and through collaboration with the North-West ward partnership.

Over the past 12 months, the **Chesham and Villages Community Board** has been working closely with the Opportunity Bucks Programme. The Board is dedicated to the programme and has actively supported projects within the Ward of Chesham aimed at improving outcomes for residents and providing better opportunities.

Some examples include the Chesham Jobs' Fair and supporting primary schools to enhance their extra-curricular facilities, such as installing a Forest School.

The Ward Partnership is a newly formed collaborative that brings together different organisations to work together and deliver programmes in the Ward to support local communities, such as effective parenting groups and employability enhancement opportunities.

OPPORTUNITY
BUCKS | SUCCEEDING
FOR ALL



North-West ward
partnership meeting



Chesham Ward Partnership

Working collaboratively across the Council

- **The High Wycombe Community Board** supported Community Days of Action in collaboration with Opportunity Bucks and Community Safety. Tours allowed Buckinghamshire Council leaders, ward councillors, and partners to witness local issues firsthand and discuss priority needs. In the Abbey ward, the focus was on regeneration, rough sleeping, and tackling vermin and waste issues, leading to a ward partnership focus on housing and homelessness, a station adoption project steering group and collaborative efforts between environmental health teams, waste management, residents, and businesses. Meanwhile, the Terriers and Amersham Hill tour explored community spaces to foster a sense of community cohesion, pride, and heritage. Discussions on unemployment and public realm quality sparked new partnerships and an employability plan.

OPPORTUNITY | SUCCEEDING
BUCKS | FOR ALL



Local issue tours

Working collaboratively across the Council

- Following a visit from the **Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board** to the Sixty Plus Club in Haddenham, it was identified that those with children and grandchildren locally were more confident in navigating online services and using their phones to their full potential than others who did not have a younger generation to consult or learn from. Through discussion and collaboration with Bucks Adult Learning, a project to provide parity in this regard and provide digital inclusion sessions to rural groups has been developed and is in the process of being delivered.
- Following the successful **South West Chilterns Community Board** Highways project of installing WigWags at Wooburn Green Primary School, they linked in with the Headteacher to ascertain what school travel plans they had in place. It was apparent that they did not and they were successfully signposted to the Schools Sustainable Travel Team not only to work on a plan but to encourage them to sign up to Modeshift Stars which provides a framework for the implementation of sustainable and active school travel activities.
- **The Wendover and Villages Community Board** along with the Transport Strategy Team were able to provide and obtain funding for an On-Street EV Charing trial, it is supported by £70k funding from the 2022/3 Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure5 (LEVI) 'pilot' fund, as well as £23k from Wendover and Villages Community Board. A Wendover EV Working Group has been established which meets once per month, and includes local Members, Parish Council representatives and a local interest group 'Climate Action Wendover', who raised the initial request for Community Board funding in 2022. The Community Board championed this request, work has been happening within this working group and the trial went live in January 2024.
- The Buckinghamshire Family Information Service has been instrumental in assisting the **Buckingham and Villages Community Board** to identify the number of vulnerable families in rural areas and the gaps in support and provision. By working with local groups, they aim to enable these families. Additionally, the service has helped our children's teams to understand the challenges faced in areas with limited assets and suitable activities. In addition, the Environment team and Forestry England have collaborated to provide intelligence on the local area of Wing, where a large woodland is planned to be planted. This has facilitated conversations with concerned residents and offered a different approach to problem-solving. The team has gathered information on local businesses, roads, traffic, volunteer groups, and neighbouring projects to support the initiative.

Working collaboratively across the Council

- **The Amersham and Villages Community Board** delivered four Self Defence sessions in collaboration with the Community Safety team. All sessions were very well received by ladies and girls aged 12+ in the local community. The course was delivered by Bucks Pro Mai and lots of positive feedback was received- 1 attendee told us that they *'really enjoyed the course- very self explanatory, fun relaxed and professional.'* The Community Safety team have collated feedback about safety concerns and are taking action.
- By working with our Schools Active Travel team and local area technician, **Aylesbury Community Board** launched a poster campaign with local schools to improve road safety through behavioural change. 5 schools took part and the top 20 designs are being produced into roadside posters which will be displayed around the vicinity of the schools in Bedgrove and Broughton. Outcomes will be measured by way of qualitative feedback and it is anticipated that this project could be replicated in other areas.
- **The Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye Community Board's** Highways and Transport action group explored feedback regarding idling engines and problem parking, particularly around our schools. A poster competition was held at the school to highlight the dangers of parking on pavements. Juniper Hill School was selected for the placement of an air quality sensor to measure air data. The project showed great collaboration with local schools, Schools Active Travel team and the Climate Change team.

Amersham Self Defence sessions



Aylesbury road safety poster project



Working collaboratively across the Council

- From discussions with practitioners, parish councils and residents, the **Beeches Community Board's** Health & Wellbeing action group identified concerns about the level and range of engagement activities for local young people. After funding a brief outreach project, members of the group invited colleagues from the Family Support Service and Youth Services to join discussions on a plan to engage with local young people and those who provide services to them. Planning is now underway on a roundtable youth practitioners' event to bring together key local partners to develop a strategy to take forward.
- The **Buckingham and Villages Community Board** has collaborated with the Buckinghamshire Council Youth Team to engage effectively with young people to inform the project proposal for the Buckingham Youth Café. This has included a youth blog, engagement sessions with the local secondary schools and, going forwards, a working group of young people to help oversee the design and set up of the youth café project. This has enabled us to ensure that young people's voices are heard and that they feel a sense of pride and ownership of the project, which will be crucial for the project's success.
- The **North West Chilterns Community Board** worked with Transport and Regulatory Services at Buckinghamshire Council to install an Air Quality Monitor at Princes Risborough School. Using the monitoring equipment and campaign materials provided in a toolkit, the school held an anti-idling event. Children from the school encouraged parents collecting their children from school to turn off their engines. Students from the School Council also gave out information leaflets about the dangers of idling engines, and also gave some tips on changes that could be made to reduce emissions such as walking and cycling.



Digital inclusion
sessions



Princes Risborough School
anti-idling event

Working collaboratively across the Council

- The caring community of Chalfont St Peter and beyond have been supporting The Ukrainian Outreach Project in Mill Meadow. In collaboration with the **Denham, Gerrards Cross and The Chalfonts Community Board** and Asset Management, efforts were made to relocate a large container to a more suitable site near the Parish and Scout group offices, expanding the initiative's reach. Rebranded as The Kindness Club, the project now extends support beyond Ukraine, redistributing unwanted goods, especially mobility aids, within the local community. This sustainable approach reduces landfill waste while aiding others in need. Plans to secure more suitable premises involve collaboration with Asset Management, the Ukraine and Waste Prevention Teams.
- Following police reports of assaults in the local area the community had becoming increasingly anxious about the safety of women and girls. As a response and by working with our Community Safety team the **Missendens Community Board** were able to host 2 self-defence classes for women and girls aged 12+. The 2-hour long sessions were delivered in partnership with local martial arts instructors Bucks Pro Mai with the aim of helping to safeguard and empower women through self-protection and defence. The classes were fully subscribed and received excellent feedback.
- **The Winslow and Villages Community Board** received a funding request for litter-picking equipment from the North Marston, Granborough and Oving Wombles, a local group of volunteers who regularly participate in litter-picking. The Community Board Manager reached out to the Street Scene Team, who were able to provide the equipment for free and even offered to collect the black bin bags from the Wombles after their litter-picking sessions.



The Kindness Club



Bucks Pro Mai
Self defence classes for
Women and girls

The Proud of Bucks Awards 2023



400

Nominations

46

Winners

47

Commended

Categories 2022-2023

- **Local Community Champion**

For an individual (over age 21) who has made a clear and positive impact in their local community during 2023.

- **Young Community Champion**

For a young person (under age 21) who has made a clear and positive impact in their local community or towards their peers during 2023.

- **Community Group Contribution**

Recognises and celebrates a group in the community board area who has made a clear and positive impact on the community during 2023.

Celebration events for the Proud of Bucks Awards 2023, sponsored by The Clare Foundation, took place across the 16 Community Board areas this year and proved that community spirit and the positive impact of local volunteers, groups and organisations continues to thrive in the county.

400 nominations were received across the county.

The awards celebrated local volunteers who made a clear and positive impact in the community during 2022 in the following three categories:

- Local Community Champion
- Young Community Champion
- Community Group Contribution

The awards highlighted the huge number of diverse groups and individuals that give back to their community in many ways...

Supporting the older generation to thrive, award winners included volunteers of a Dementia Cafe in Amersham, bereavement support in Beaconsfield, a social club to tackle loneliness and support for groups to install defibrillators in the Beeches area, a choir group to support mental health and hospital car services in Buckingham, a weekly social club for older people in Wexham, and a warm space in Wing.

Other nominees were awarded for their **support of the wider community, through groups and activities that would improve health and wellbeing**, such as the Men's Shed in Amersham, foodbanks in Aylesbury and Wexham, Citizens Advice support in Chesham, Ukrainian support activities in Denham, Haddenham and SW Chilterns, a pet food bank and sports club for people with disabilities in Wycombe, village association activities in Missendens, a memorial garden in SW Chilterns, a local newspaper service providing key information in Wendover, and weekly social group and local cycling club in Winslow.

To **support young people**, award winners included a young brownie leader in Amersham, youth volunteers and young leaders in Aylesbury, Denham, NW Chilterns, Wing and Missendens, sports coaches and leaders in Beaconsfield and Wexham, a young entrepreneur fundraising in Beeches, youth voice participants in Buckingham and Wycombe, scout leaders in Chesham and Wendover, and raising awareness of incurable illness in Haddenham.

And finally, **groups raising awareness of climate change and improving their local environment**, included community litter picks in Aylesbury and SW Chilterns, tree planting in Beaconsfield, the zero carbon initiative in Haddenham and a young environment group chair in NW Chilterns.



The year ahead

Moving into their fifth year, the Community Boards will build on their successes of 2023-24 by continuing with their engagement and partnership working and utilising the talent and expertise prevalent across our local communities.

The boards will continue to build the local partnerships with a focus on supporting our local communities to thrive. Building on these existing relationships with our many key stakeholders, particularly town and parish councils and the VCSE, is key to their continued success.

Community Board funding will continue to help support local priorities within the council's wider strategic objectives. Driving contributory funding will continue to be a priority as so much more can be achieved when resources are brought together.

We are also looking at how the boards evolve following the outcome of the Boundary Review which will reduce the number of elected Buckinghamshire Council members from 147 to 97 as well as the financial challenges facing the council. The new model will be implemented following the local elections in May 2025.

In the meantime, we look forward to continuing to work together with our partners to deliver further improvements to local communities



**Community
Boards**