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# TfB and Community Boards

Simon Garwood

Localism Manager

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Community boards will bring the council and community together to find creative ways of improving their local area

## TACKLING LOCAL ISSUES TOGETHER



Building strong connections with communities



Responding to local needs



Improving outcomes for residents

# Creating Community Conversations

This is an exciting new initiative backed by £3.9 million to make a real difference to local communities

16 Community Boards will:

- ❖ Enable local conversations about local priorities
- ❖ Identify needs within local communities and work to produce creative solutions
- ❖ Represent the voices of local people
- ❖ Be creative in how thoughts, ideas and suggestions are captured
- ❖ Take a collaborative approach
- ❖ Explore areas of interest
- ❖ Influence decision making and delivery of public services
- ❖ Support Covid-19 local recovery

## KEY BENEFITS



Stronger connections between Buckinghamshire Council councillors and communities.



Better and more responsive public services that meet the different needs of communities.



Greater resident and community involvement in decisions about how services are run locally.

# How Will Community Boards Work?

- We want them to be vibrant, creative and take action locally
- Mixture of core meetings and working groups
- Focused working groups will explore and deliver projects on specific issues
- Engage with the community in lots of different ways to collect ideas and focus on what matters to them the most
- Involve a wide membership that provides valuable intelligence, helping to understand and respond to local need
- Using technology and getting creative to be inclusive
- A tailored approach for each board
- Good links back into the council



# Who is Involved?

Anyone can support their community by getting involved with a Community Board



# Where Are We So Far...

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- Chairmen and coordinators in place
- Initial introduction meetings in July
  - Start of the conversation
  - Looking at a local area and health profiles
  - Identifying key areas of focus
- Co-ordinators engaging with local community, setting up action groups to explore areas of focus
- Wider public engagement and official launch to take place throughout September
- September meetings to be more inclusive and recorded

# New Highways Conversations

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- Highways and network improvement conversations will take place outside of the formal meetings
- Maintenance issues will be addressed through 3 new focused regional forums
- 2 meetings a year (Autumn and Spring) with senior highways officers providing a more strategic approach to maintenance concerns like pot holes, gullies, grass cutting, weeding and trees
- Community Board working groups will discuss local network improvement issues in the community board area like road safety, traffic calming, parking (waiting) restrictions
- Other elements of transport such as growth, strategy, sustainable transport and passenger services would still continue to interact with community boards

# The Benefits of a More Focused Approach

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- Town and Parish Councils and residents can report and track issues via fix my street
- Opportunities for Town and Parish Councils and Buckinghamshire councillors to meet 3 times a year (including the TfB conference) with senior highways officers to discuss issues more strategically
- Gives residents, community groups and local organisations the opportunity to discuss in detail with the right people
- Prevents community boards being dominated by highways issues
- More efficient use of LATs and Senior Managers time and ensures expertise in focused sessions
- Highways officers can still be invited to a formal Community Board or working group to address a specific issue



# Community Board Budgets

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- Overall budget for community boards is £3.9m:
  - £1.5m Community Area Priorities Fund
  - £500K Health & Wellbeing Fund
  - £1.9m Local Infrastructure Fund
- Budgets based on population, levels of deprivation and proposed housing growth
- Coronavirus Councillor Crisis Fund £250k and an additional £50k from Rothschild Foundation has been allocated to support local initiatives across the county
- Budgets will be allocated to projects that directly address agreed local priorities and represent good value for money
- Local organisations will be able to apply online for funds for projects that address the agreed local priorities

# Application Process for Highways Schemes

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- Discuss ideas for applications with Community Board Co-ordinators and community board highways sub groups
- Submit online application using the Highways / Transport application form for community boards
- Deadline for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 – the reason for the deadline is we often receive a large number of schemes and each scheme needs to be assessed, scoped and a budget estimate needs to be produced.
- Early November, there will be an initial meeting between the CB team and the Network Improvement Team to discuss all applications and make initial assessments on whether they can proceed or if more information is required.

# Application Process for Highways Schemes

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- Dec 2020 to March 2021: TfB (network Improvement Team produce Project Initiation Document (PID) confirming scope and costs
- March to May 2021 we will write to applicants to discuss PIDs, match funding etc. Schemes will be discussed at Community Board Highways sub groups who will make recommendations to the formal community boards.
- May / June 2021, schemes will go forward to community boards for a decision
- Once a decision is made on which projects will proceed wwe will raise a Works / Purchase Order with TfB
- TfB will then assign a project lead and provide a programme with key milestones

# Community Board Co-ordinators

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Will:

- Be dedicated to championing the local area
- Be the driving force for a new style of collaborative working which stretches far beyond traditional meetings
- Be creative at collating local voices and supporting informal discussions
- Develop a board action plan that helps tackle issues
- Support local devolution conversations
- Be the connector to engage local partners, groups and organisations
- Energise the boards and harness ideas
- Work closely with the Chairman

For more information on the 16 Community Board areas, chairmen and coordinators visit

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/improving-your-local-community/>