

Minutes of the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** of Buckingham held in Buckingham Community Centre on Wednesday 22nd March 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Cllr. Ms. J. Bates
Cllr. T. Bloomfield
Cllr. M. Cole
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley
Cllr. P. Hirons
Cllr. D. Isham
Cllr. A. Mahi Mayor
Cllr. H. Mordue
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell
Cllr. M. Smith
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark
Cllr. R. Stuchbury

Also present:
Mr. Christopher Wayman Town Clerk
Mrs. N. Stockill Committee Clerk

Invited Guests:

Cllr. W. Whyte	District Councillor
Cllr. Mrs. J. Bloom	Vice Chairman, AVDC
PC D. Beglan	Thames Valley Police
PC S. Summers	Thames Valley Police
Station Commander T. Brandon	Bucks Fire & Rescue Service
Group Commander C. Bell	Bucks Fire & Rescue Service
Mr. J. Walton	Buckingham Summer Festival
Mr. C. Northey	Buckingham Tennis Club
Mr. D. Jones	Buckingham University
Mr. C. Stocker	Buckingham University
Mr. J. Barnett	Buckingham Youth Clubs
Mrs. J. Townsend	Buckingham Job Club
Mr. S. Townsend	Buckingham Job Club
Mrs. B. Farmer	Mace Bearer
Mr. E. McDade	Buckingham Town Cricket Club
Ms. H. Hill	Buckingham Old Goal
Ms. K. Meddows	Buckingham Old Gaol
Mr. N. Passmore	AVDC

Other residents:

Mrs. P. Boddy	
Mr. D. Child	Mr. A. Foster
Mrs G. Child	Mr. A Hall
Mr J. Fallows	Mrs. S. Taylor
Mrs. C. Ralph	Mrs. C. Mitchell
Mr. A. Ralph	Mr. B. Clarke
Ms. B. Heale	Mr. M. White
Ms. J. Savings	Mrs. M. Clarke
Mr. P. Armstrong	Ms. J. Jones
Mr. S. Thompson	Mr. C. Clare
Mr. P. Dosling	

1. Apologies for absence

RESOLVED to note that apologies were received from Town Cllrs. G. Collins, P. Collins, O'Donoghue, Strain-Clark and Try. Cllr. T. Mills (Buckingham North, AVDC), Cllr Valerie Letheren (BCC), Ms. Racheal Shimmin (BCC), Inspector Chris Young (TVP), Ms Janice Harding (Citizen Advice), Cllr. Martin Tett (BCC), Miss Angela Wells (Buckingham School) and Mr. D Hudson (Royal Latin School).

2. To receive a report by the Chairmen of the different Committees on the work of Buckingham Town Council

Resources – Cllr. Harvey

The Town Council Resources Committee oversees the Council's budgets and expenditure every meeting to ensure that the expenditure is adhering to the budgets set out at the beginning of the year. Elements of the Town Council's overall strategy, policy and personnel matters are also dealt with by the Resources Committee. It is this committee which discusses the annual grants and makes recommendations to the Precept meeting in January. This Committee takes an overview of the Town Council's communications with the specific detail delegated to the Communications Strategy Group which mainly coordinates the quarterly production & distribution of the Council's newsletter: Buckingham Town Matters. The Personnel sub-committee is also overseen by this committee and met this year too.

Both the Resources Committee and the Communications Strategy Group are Chaired by Cllr Jon Harvey during the last year. The Vice Chair of both is Cllr Lisa O'Donoghue. Both have held these roles from 15 June 2015. The Personnel Sub Committee is now Chaired by Cllr Jenny Bates, and the vice chair is Cllr Geraldine Collins.

Here are a few selected highlights of the Committee's work although readers are reminded that the full and agreed minutes of all meetings are available from the Town Council's website (or via written correspondence with the Town Clerk). The Resources Committee met seven times during the course of the year.

During April, beyond the usual matters of budgets etc. the Resources Committee spent time reviewing the staffing of the new Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre and the acquisition of a new depot for the Council's vehicles. We also reviewed progress towards achieving the objectives set by the Town Council's strategic plan.

At the June meeting, revised financial regulations and financial risk assessment were approved as was the audit report. A new telephone system and furniture for the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre were agreed. The results of the Town Action Commission were reviewed and it was recommended to Full Council that we should ask AVDC to add new parent/child parking spaces to Cornwalls Meadow Car Park.

The Personnel Sub Committee met in July for the first time in a while to review the grading structures of the Town Council staff (in confidential session). A process was initiated involving external expert advice that has just resulted in the regrading of some of the jobs some months later.

At the August meeting, it was agreed to widen the brief of the Communications Sub Committee to improve the impact of Town Council communications. The progress on DisabledGo was reviewed in advance of the launch on 13 September. The set of strategic performance indicators for the Town Council was refined.

In September, it was recommended that the Council website does not accept any commercial advertising as this was judged to be inappropriate. The progress of the staff regrading was reviewed.

Most of the November meeting was in private session discussing the staff regrading. It was also agreed that Shop Mobility (recently brought under the Town Council) should carry out a survey of users and others to help think about how to develop the service.

As usual, much of the January meeting was taken up with reviewing the grant applications made to the Town Council and making recommendations to the following

Precept meeting. In addition, it was agreed to arrange a strategic 'scenario planning' workshop for councillors on March 6. Members also voted in favour of pursuing the purchase of the Community Centre subject to various concerns and caveats. It was also agreed to move carefully towards making the Council a *paperless* council as far as reasonably practicable. A number of questions were raised about the future of the local library which were forwarded to the officers concerned.

The February meeting made two critical decisions (aside from the usual budget monitoring): to support s106 monies to be used to pay for new practice nets at the Cricket Club. And secondly to introduce a trial method for prioritising actions decided upon by the Council committees in order to assist the Clerk and his team manage their increasing workloads.

Overall the themes which have threaded their way through the meetings of the Resources Committee over the last year have been accessibility, transparency, public involvement and good husbandry of the Council's resources including the acquisition of new services and buildings. .

Environment Committee – Cllr. R. Newell

The Town Council's Environment Committee has responsibility for the town's environment and green spaces, property and health, this includes Chandos and Bourton Parks, Lace Hill Sport and Community Centre and pitches, Church Hill green, the Railway Walk, Cemetery including the lodge and chapels, play areas and equipment, seats, bins, and dog bins. Our Green Spaces Manager and his team make sure that our green spaces are maintained and suitable areas are protected and developed for wildlife conservation. The footpaths in the cemetery have been improved this year, and the new public toilets and shop mobility unit in Cornwall's Meadow car park should be completed in the next couple of months, together with the outdoor table tennis table in Bourton Park. Church Hill green has been protected from car parking with the planting of a traditional Yew hedge along the north side.

We work closely with local conservation groups to maintain and improve our valuable wildlife sites in the Town including the Railway Walk and parks, and we work with all the groups that make up the Buckingham Community Wildlife project, Maids Moreton Avenue, Canal Society, Buckingham Society and the AVDC Wildlife officers to discuss wildlife and conservation in Buckingham.

The Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre is up and running well, offering a range of activities from sports to exercise, fundraising events to childcare and private functions. We continue to improve sports facilities and increase the number of hirers, well supported by our Centre Coordinator.

Our grass cutting contract continues to save money and the enterprise project for grass cutting the verges around the town is a great success and into its 3rd year with many young people having the opportunity of being employed to cut the grass.

At last year's annual town meeting there was a lot of concerns from residents about the several areas of the Town where we had lost groups of valuable trees to developers, and indeed that was a great concern to the Town Council, Planning and Environment committees, so we set about recruiting more tree wardens and have more than doubled our numbers from 6 to 13. Our next step will be to divide up the areas of the town that we have covered by tree wardens and the areas where we need more. We plan that tree wardens will keep an eye on their local area and will get tree preservation orders on valuable trees so that they can be protected, and also to look out for trees requiring work, and to keep a protective eye out in their area so we can save our trees. We also set up a Town Action Commission on trees, hedges and green spaces, and the first meeting was very well attended by Council representative and officers, Nature Conservation groups, Green Space Managers, and Ecologists, and a steering group was formed who have involved the public and will be reporting back to the Environment committee in April.

We will be making plans for our new cemetery and allotments, seeking green flag status for key parks in the town, new interpretation boards in the parks, river bank re-instatement in Chandos Park and Bourton Park, and footpath designation of the Railway Walk.

As Chair I am grateful for the hard work of the Green Spaces Manager and the Deputy Town Clerk and their teams, and all the many people who voluntarily work for the benefit of Buckingham's green environment and help to make Buckingham a wonderful place to live. This includes the many conservation groups, Town Councillors, Tree Wardens, and all the environmental experts in the town, we are very lucky to have so many living in Buckingham, and I guess that our lovely town centred on our river, wildlife habitats and great walks attracts the right people, with a keen interest in the Environment, to live here.

Town Centre & Events Committee Committee – Cllr. M. Smith

The Town Centre & Events Committee is charged with arranging the Council's annual events and any one-off events in the town, promoting the town, and overseeing the Street Market, Flea Market, occasional other markets, Charter Fair and Visitor Information Centre.

During the year, we again brought a wide range of diverse events to residents and visitors alike. These can be listed as follows:

Spring Fair	May Pole Dancing	Music in the Market
Fringe Week (8 days)	Dog Show	Band Jam
River Rinse (x2)	Bonfire & Fireworks	Christmas Lights
Christmas Parade	Community Fair	Pancake Races
Comedy Nights	Food Fair	

Some of these are arranged in conjunction with others, and we also assist with some events put on by other organisations.

We also look to whatever new events may be attractive to townsfolk and visitors and, without giving too much away, have a couple in the pipeline for the future.

We also oversee the town centre planters and hanging baskets, and fund AVDC's Play Around the Parishes for our younger residents.

The day-to-day running and operation of the Street Market and Flea Market is co-ordinated by Claire Childs, our Deputy Town Clerk; and managed by our Market Manager, Stephen Staley. In addition to the short publicity video that we commissioned last year, which continues to be screened nightly at The Film Place, we continue to provide "invitation cards" to potential users of our markets, and to potential stall holders.

We also hold occasional artisan or continental markets, and support our younger people with their Teenage Markets.

We continue to make improvements to the overall layout for the Christmas Lights Switch-on which this year will be moved to a Sunday. As usual, we entered the Small Town section of the Best Kept Village competition, receiving another well-earned certificate of merit.

We also thoroughly audit the more costly events to ensure they provided good value for money - which they do with broadly decreasing year-on-year costs.

The Charter Fairs require liaison with the Showman's Guild, Thames Valley Police and Buckinghamshire County Council. In common with most of the annual events, they also require extensive road closures and letters to those residents who are most effected. Needless to say, we also need to satisfy a variety of public safety considerations.

Where events are subject to contracts with third parties, these contracts are regularly reviewed.

Civic Events are arranged in connection with our twin town, or our friends in Germany. To facilitate these, we work closely with Buckingham Twinning Association, thereby ensuring that our visitors from overseas receive an appropriate and enjoyable reception.

All events are overseen by a Lead Councillor, and many Councillors assist at most events, but the behind-the-scenes work is left in the capable hands of the Town Council's Events Co-ordinator, Amanda Brubaker, who does an excellent job. Finally, we continue to promote our town through appropriate media (including social media) and websites.

Planning Committee – Cllr. P. Hiron

The Planning Committee has the responsibility delegated to it for:-

1. Commenting on smaller planning applications (below 10 houses).
2. Enforcement of planning rules & approvals.
3. Monitoring S106 agreements.
4. Producing the Neighbourhood Plan and keeping it up to date & endeavouring to see that it is applied.
5. Looking at transport issues.

There were slightly more applications in 2006 than 2005 (156 from 147).

However there were more large developments &, for the first time for several years, some substantial commercial applications.

University

The University has applied for a new building (Vinson Centre) in the University Precinct and a large residential building over the Station Road car park.

Lace Hill Employment area

Two applications for the site opposite Tesco at Lace Hill are currently seeking approval for a Lidl, Premier Inn, Costa Coffee and Beefeater restaurant. It is hoped that a new doctor's surgery & treatment centre, planned for this site, will also materialise.

Since the end of 2016 we have been informed that Wipac, on the industrial area, wish to expand which will bring some much needed industrial jobs to Buckingham.

Housing Developments

Currently we await the results of an appeal for Moreton Road phase 3, a development in an area not designated for housing development in the BNDP (Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan).

A development of 9 flats & a large detached house, situated below the Latin School on Chandos Road has been approved despite BTC's opposition.

The riverbank behind the Tingewick Road development was completely cleared by the developer, despite the planning agreement that specified that it should be left as a wildlife corridor. Much effort was needed to get new planting to rectify this. Our thanks go to Mr. Tony Finnis for his considerable efforts to achieve this.

Old People's housing

So far we have had proposals for this type of housing at three locations, West End Farm on the Brackley Road, behind the Grand Junction Hotel & on the Lace Hill health development. None have yet come to fruition.

Trees

We are no longer consulted by AVDC on tree applications, however many Councillors are keen advocates of keeping Buckingham green, so comments continue to be made on tree applications.

Transport matters

The BTC's opposition to several of the developments hinge on transport issues. In particular those developments in Buckingham and Maids Moreton that feed traffic into the Old Gaol junction are opposed.

A partially paved footpath, along the river on the north side of Candleford Court, has been completed. A pleasant addition to the town.

BTC has been endeavouring all year to get the Cotton End steps that give access to the A413 from the Lace Hill estate for wheelchairs etc built. One of those frustrating things where everything is agreed & available, but it doesn't happen.

BTC is keen on easy access from Buckingham to the Oxford to Cambridge expressway that the government has now agreed will be built; of the three routes the North route roughly follows the A421, (the other two routes are around Winslow & Aylesbury).

Other issues.

Town Centre development this year sees the continued replacement of retail premises by food/drinking establishments. We are pleased to see the premises used but would prefer to have a more mixed development.

Many of the street lights were tested for safety this year, and unfortunately the old ones were removed months before the new ones were available for fitment, so many paths were dangerously dark through winter months.

We have managed to develop a regular report on the status of outstanding S106 agreements. We hope to get more consulted in future about the spending of this money, rather than it being left to AVDC & BCC.

I would like to thank all members of the Planning Committee for the work they have done this year (especially when I have been unwell), in particular Mark Cole, the deputy chair.

As ever Katharine McElligott, the Committee Clerk, has been a tower of strength without which the committee would not have functioned as well as it has.

3. Table Discussions on the work of Buckingham Town Council and its partner services over the past 12 months.

The following notes are comments and suggestions captured from the roundtable discussions.

Buckinghamshire County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council Over the last 12 months what could we have done more of?

- Safer pedestrian crossings
- Planning enforcement during development
- Communication – how to share local issues (Vale Times/My Bucks)
- Pavement improvements

Environment Committee

What are your priorities for the future?

- Parking on footpaths – *referred to TVP*
- More street lighting from Moorhens Way to Heartlands park and Waitrose Car Park – *referred to BCC*
- Flooding of Buckingham Tennis Club and potential funding for floodlights. *Referred to AVDC for Section 106 funding*
- Embleton Way greenspace – needs better drainage – *referred to AVDC*
- Riverside Walk – Extension behind Industrial Estate
- Parking on verges near schools creating a mess i.e. Cromwell Court, Page Hill – *referred to Planning and AVDC*
- Dog Mess – discussion on how to report dog fouling and overflowing bins
- Fencing in Bourton Park to exclude dogs from a children's play area.
- Field Maples in Partridge Close, Badgers – *report to AVDC*
- Sign broken on Chris Nichols Walk – *referred to AVDC*

Over the last 12 months what could we have done more of?

- More competitions and promotion of the Skate Park
- Photo and names of Councillors in Buckingham Town Matters and at Council run events.
- Mayors collection at Bonfire night

Planning Committee

Over the last 12 month what could we have more of?

- Keep a vibrant town centre
- More people to be encouraged to live in the town centre when commercial use is not possible
- Possible use of park land for development – possibly in exchange for letting currently developed land being used as park.
- Encouraging assisted living developments in town centre
- Need for a surgery treatment centre and a healthcare centre for students
- Need for a modern shopping centre with parking
- Need to sort out the parking issue with the University on Station Road
- Park and Ride for Buckingham?
- More local input on Section 106 funding
- One way system along Castle Street and West Street
- Footpath from Heartlands Bridge to the footpath alongside Waitrose Car park

Over the last 12 months what could we have done less of?

- Worried less about ground water drainage from Tingewick Triangle
- Parking restrictions in the town centre

Resources Committee

Over the last 12 month what could we have more of?

- Focussed on the lack of parking in Buckingham town centre
- Published complaints and comments and compliments
- Researched a Gala Concert for the town
- Need for assisted living in the town

4. Closing Remarks

The Mayor thanked everyone for participating in the evening’s discussions and explained that a copy of all the partner’s reports would be attached to the minutes.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

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Chairman of Buckingham Town Council

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Date

Appendix A Partner Reports

Buckinghamshire County Council activities in Buckingham 2016-17

Once again over the past year Buckinghamshire County Council has been busy in the Buckingham area, working closely with our partners and local communities on a range of projects to benefit residents and enhance the local area. These include:

- The completion of the Buckingham to Winslow cycleway took place early in the New Year. The 5.6 mile route creates an important connection between the two towns and will provide a valuable 'green' travel link direct to the new Winslow rail station once it opens.
- We recently celebrated the first year of Buckingham Library since its major refurbishment in 2015. The library benefited from a £120,000 investment which included extra meeting rooms, a new reception, refurbished children's area and new microfilm reader. The library has since transformed into a real hub for the local community with many other organisations using it and hiring rooms. Visitor numbers to the library have increased over the past 12 months and membership has risen by nearly 1,000 people, illustrating what a valuable local asset the library has become.
- We have been working closely with town and district councillors to plan improvements to parking in the centre of Buckingham. Key changes proposed include removing the loading bay by the Old Gaol and converting to additional short term parking, reducing the controlled parking hours from 8-6 to 9-5 to make on-street parking for residents easier at the start and end of the day, and an additional disabled bay near the central bus stand. Some new yellow lines will also be added to parts of Western Avenue, Tingewick Road and Stratford Road to ease pinch points from inconsiderate parking.
- A programme of work is currently ongoing to replace and upgrade street lighting in residential areas of Buckingham. The work is due to be completed at the end of this month with over 200 street lighting columns due to be replaced in total.
- After flooding in Buckingham and Leckhampstead last year we have been working closely with the town council in developing a new flood plan for the area to ensure we are as well prepared as possible should more issues arise in the future.
- In the past year over £440,000 has been invested by Transport for Bucks into road and footpath improvements. This work has included planing and patching on Buckingham bypass, resurfacing on Moreton Road, Bridge Street, Well Street and

Page Hill Avenue and York paving stone installation outside the Gaol on Market Hill in conjunction with English Heritage.

- On the same subject of transport, last week Buckinghamshire County Council approved the Buckingham Transport Strategy. The document is a blueprint for transport improvements and developments within Buckingham supporting growth of the town over the next 16 years, ensuring it continues to prosper and thrive. The plan has been developed in partnership with Aylesbury Vale District Council and other stakeholders. Following a formal consultation late last year comments and revisions have been taken on board ensuring that the needs of both residents and businesses are fully addressed.
- A number of local community groups and charities have benefited this year from our first ever Local Area Forum community budgeting project, otherwise known as Buckingham Decides. Local residents cast their votes and as a result Men in Sheds Buckingham and the Citizen's Advice Bureau home visiting service were both awarded £3,000 each, Generate, an organisation for young volunteers and Young Person's Activity Group shared £3000 between them and Skate Bucks was awarded £500.
- LAF funding has also helped with a range of traffic calming measures in the past year including a number of 'It's 30 for a reason' signs and a new sentinel device for the Buckingham Speed Watch Group to replace their previous camera.
- In the coming year local area priorities will continue to focus on activities for older people, supporting young people, community facilities and community transport. Schemes already agreed include a community transport project to support older and vulnerable adults, supporting projects to increase activities for young people and further traffic calming measures.
- A particular focus on support for older and vulnerable people has resulted in a new Dementia Action Alliance being set up that is supported and resourced by the County Council and the setting up of a new Good Neighbours Scheme is being explored.

Bucks Fire & Rescue Service

Subject: Report to Buckingham Town Council on work completed for year to April 2017

Author: Tom Brandon, Buckingham Station Commander.

Introduction

Buckingham Fire Station houses two fire engines, one predominantly crewed by full-time firefighters and the other by firefighters employed on an on-call (part-time) basis. A South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) Co-responder car is also based at the station.

The station's activities in Buckingham and surrounding area can be divided into three broad categories which will form the structure of the report:

1. Prevention, Community Safety & Engagement
2. Protection, Commercial Fire Safety
3. Emergency Response

Prevention, Community Safety & Engagement

- Crews from Buckingham station have visited more than 210 private homes in Buckingham and surrounding area to give bespoke home-safety advice and fit smoke detectors where needed. This is a targeted intervention and more than 40% of those visits were to 'high-risk' or vulnerable residents.
- Seven school visits were made by crews from the station with fire safety or bus safety presentations delivered
- Fire engines attended two school fetes to raise awareness of fire safety issues in the local community
- Red watch delivered the Team Fire HOSE project to encourage health and wellbeing for teenagers from Buckingham School.
- Kids' Story Time and Reminisce, both held in the local library were supported by firefighters from the station
- Dementia Friends initiative actively supported by the station:
- Christmas dinner provided for Reminisce group which is supported by the station on a monthly basis
- Roses delivered to residents of Hamilton House on Valentine's Day
- Social visits paid to Gracewell and Hamilton House
- Community Safety Talks delivered at North End Court, Chandos Court and Brooks Court (all supported housing accommodation)
- Parking Initiative – Signs and Fire Vehicle presence in problem areas to highlight sensible parking
- Safety Day at Claydon House – Offering Home Fire Risk Checks (HFRC), advice and a familiarisation of the Fire Engine for children
- Community Safety Day at The Old Gaol – Offering HFRC's and advice

- The River Rinse – collected rubbish and unwanted items discarded into the river, promoting the eco system
- Thames Valley Police Training Day hosted at the Fire Station – providing the station as a community facility
- Public Display at Claydon Christmas Tree Farm
- Remembrance Day Assembly at The Royal Latin School
- Remembrance Day Parade through town
- Christmas Parade through town
- Two days of public fire safety talk to F1 spectators who are camping out at Silverstone before the F1GP
- Public display for Cancer Research UK relay for life.
- Worked with Buckingham Town Council and the organisers from the Charter Fayre (Risk Assessments and other info discussed)
- Delivered the Restart-A- Heart Day, giving information to over 100 members of the public on how to perform CPR and how to use a defibrillator. Also answered many questions on home safety and gave out leaflets for a free HFRC
- Showed 100 year 1 students from Bourton Meadow Academy around the station. Gave them input into what to do in an emergency and stop/drop/roll. RTC demonstration talking about the dangers of road safety and finished in 3 groups with a talk around the equipment we carry and let them use the Hose Reels
- Duty crew showed 160 children from Buckingham Primary School, year 1 and 2 around the fire engines after giving them fire safety advice

Protection

- More than 60 local businesses have been visited as part of a rolling programme to ensure crews have up-to-date risk information and allow any fire safety concerns to be highlighted to the BFRS Protection department

Emergency Response

- Buckingham’s fire engines have attended more than 560 emergency incidents since March 2016, ranging from commercial and domestic property fires to chemical incidents, road traffic collisions (RTC) and aircraft incidents.
- An example of some of the larger incidents attended by the station include:
 - April 2016 Sugarich, Turweston Aerodrome. Factory fire
 - May 2016 Stony Stratford High Street fire, with building collapse
 - July 2016 Light Aircraft crash, including pilot fatality
 - August 2016 RTC, Horse Box and two large vehicles, Adstock
- As part of Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service’s (BFRS) continued collaboration with South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS), crews respond to medical emergencies in the wholetime fire engine and an ambulance co-responder car is also based at the station and crewed when staff are available to do so. Since March 2016, the station has attended more than 115 medical emergencies on behalf of SCAS.

Summary

Hopefully it is clear from the range of initiatives and interventions highlighted above that Buckingham Fire Station is fully committed to working in partnership with other agencies and local groups to make our communities safer – we do a lot more than just extinguish fires.

Thames Valley Police

Report to Buckingham Town Council March 2017

Thames Valley Police have, over the last year reviewed the way we respond to and investigate incidents and crime in our communities. Our aim has been to quantify if our structure and processes effectively manage the demand from and the needs of the public. In response to our findings we will, during the summer, be making changes to the way we are structured working within three key areas

- Investigation
- Response
- Neighbourhood

The structure has been designed to ensure that we can effectively and efficiently target our resources at the areas of greatest need and enabling us to have the flexibility to better prioritise the way we respond to crime.

The structure will ensure we are agile enough to allocate our resources within the local police areas and across the force area to meet the demand at the time.

The numbers of officers and staff in any area within Thames Valley will therefore vary according to demand.

The new three hub local structure means that NHP officers will not be taken from their communities and will continue to focus on working within the community identifying issues, problem solving and preventing crime.

Overall Crime

Overall Aylesbury Vale Local Police Area (LPA) has seen a minor increase in crime. The increase will be attributable to recent changes in crime recording standards and victim confidence to report on sensitive issues. Buckingham and District in comparison has seen a 14% decrease in overall crimes reported to Police and a 15% reduction in victim related crimes. We continue to build on the Community Safety Partnership. We have invested heavily in a partnership approach to solve community issues and offer preventative advice. This has including targeting audiences specific to patterns of crime we are seeing to prevent members of the community from being potential future victims. We have held property marking events and handed out crime prevention equipment as well as providing visibility at community functions locally. Investment of time and resources into the CSP will increase in the coming 12 months. The use of social media outlets and Thames Valley Alert to pass messages and information to the local community has proved very popular allowing us to communicate with a much wider audience.

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

As a local Policing team we work very closely with the CSP. This partnership approach has allowed us to effectively combat long term ASB and take action through a variety of different means. This has included evictions from properties owned by various housing trust and the implementation of Anti Social Behaviour powers on those individuals responsible in the local community.

This year has seen a further reduction in ASB in the Buckingham and District area. We have received approximately 25% fewer reports of ASB associated matters in the Buckingham and District area over a 12 month period.

Coupled with the drop in ASB we have seen a decrease in violence offences across the Buckingham and District wards. Recorded incidents of violence against the person has dropped by 6%.

Protecting the Vulnerable

The key focus for the NHPT is engaging with and protecting vulnerable members of our community. As a local Policing team we are responsible for engagement with repeat victims and vulnerable persons ensuring they are safeguarded and given access to long term help. We engage with victims suffering a variety of different offences or life events. Protecting vulnerable people is an area of our work which is growing and will remain a priority for us going forward.

We regularly review and adjust our patrol plans to focus our resource to be present in vulnerable or repeat locations at the right time. Although difficult to quantify the impact of preventative patrols our focus remains clear, reassurance to the local community, the prevention of crime and a reduction in demand on the Police Service.

Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC)

Buckingham and District has seen a change in this type of offending. Over 12 months we have seen reductions in Theft from Motor Vehicles and Burglary non dwelling (out buildings) of 44% and 21% respectively.

We have seen a minor increase in Burglary and Theft of Motor Vehicle relating to Op Vamoose offences where keys for luxury vehicles are targeted in Burglaries. The LPA implemented a high profile operation, setting up a joint operation between Neighbourhood Policing and CID. The operation has been successful in identifying those responsible and bringing them to justice

Drugs

We have seen a large drop in recorded drugs offences approximately 22% across Buckingham and District. Recorded drug possession offences have decreased by 37%.

The Coming 12 Months

The new operating model structure means that NHP officers will not be taken from their communities. The Neighbourhood Officers alongside the newly formed Problem Solving Team will continue to focus on working within the community identifying issues, problem solving and preventing crime.

We now have an established team dedicated to safeguarding on the Local Police Area. This has proved valuable in ensuring the ongoing protection to those at risk of harm. This includes the provision of support to victims and preventative measures to combat offences

such as child sex exploitation, domestic abuse, sexual assault, hate crime, honour based violence as well as missing persons and those suffering mental health problems.

We will continue to build on the work currently undertaken by the organisations forming the CSP in a joint effort to tackle and prevent crime and continue to reduce instances of ASB.

My Neighbourhood Team are also here to help our colleagues on response duties, Ambulance and Fire services to assist with emergency calls in the community and protect them from harm.

Chris Young

Rural Neighbourhood Inspector, Aylesbury Vale Local Police Area

Appendix B Grant Recipient Reports

Citizens Advice Buckingham Winslow & District Report for 2016/17

1. Background

Citizens Advice Buckingham, Winslow & district is a local charity which provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities. It values diversity, promotes equality and challenges discrimination.

Our service aims:

To provide the advice people need for the problems they face

To improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives.

2. How we used the Buckingham Town Grant

The grant was used as a very helpful contribution towards maintaining our core services. As a result we were able to:

Maintain our opening hours

Participate in a county-wide telephone advice service

Maintain our computer systems and hardware

Train 12 new advisers

3. Headline Statistics

- During the year in question the bureau dealt with approximately 5,300 different client contacts (either drop-ins, appointments, home visits or telephone advice), and we gave advice on about 7500 different issues.
- The breakdown of issues is as follows:

Part 1	Issues
Benefits & tax credits	2,962
Consumer goods & services	248
Debt	1,035
Education	53
Employment	484
Financial services & capability	134
Health & community care	254
Housing	617

Immigration & asylum	55
Legal	531
Other	94
Relationships & family	528
Tax	134
Travel & transport	172
Utilities & communications	111
Discrimination	9
Grand Total	7,421

Approximately one third of residents using our service are disabled or have a long term medical condition.

- In terms of benefit issues we helped local residents with claiming about £332,200 of benefit and tax credit (including state and occupational pensions).
- In terms of debt we helped local residents deal with approximately 187,000 worth of debt. By far the biggest debt issue we deal with is Credit and Store card debt.

4. Types of issues we help local residents deal with faced by local residents

- Helping residents complete paperwork and on line applications for disability benefits, tax credits, housing benefits etc.
- Sorting out issues when claims go wrong, overpayments/underpayments, appeals, preparing for tribunals.
- Helping clients negotiate with their creditors-mainly banks and debt collection agencies, but including bailiffs
- Helping clients access other services, such as Trading Standards, Environmental Health, Social Services, Pension Wise, food parcels, Hospital Transport, Carers Bucks.

Swan Credit Union

REPORT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON 22 MARCH 2017

We received a grant of £2,000 from the Town Council in June 2016 as a contribution to our marketing costs in Aylesbury Vale. We also received grants of £2,000 from Aylesbury Town Council and £500 from Winslow Town Council for the same purpose. We said that these grants would help us meet our business plan target to increase membership by 50% and loans by 80%, over the three years.

The number of members living in Aylesbury Vale increased from 280 in June 2016 to 335 in January 2017. The number living in MK18 also increased from 35 to 46. During this period we also issued 125 loans to a total value of £68,000 to Aylesbury Vale residents.

During the period from June 2016 to January 2017 we have spent a total of £3,800 on promotional activities in Aylesbury Vale of which £708 was spent on leaflets, videos and member mailings and the remainder on the salary and overheads of our Development and Expansion Officer – Diane Butler. We plan to spend the remainder of the money over the next 12 months.

Diane has provided the following summary of her recent activities in the Town of Buckingham:

- Monthly drop in session at Buckingham library,
- Regular articles to local Town and Parish newsletters including MK18 and Buckingham Town Matters,
- Attended a Prevention Matters event in Buckingham,
- Attended some stay and play sessions at Action for Children Children Centres in Buckingham.

Buckingham Youth Centre

From: John Barnett, Director/Trustee - Buckingham Youth Clubs Ltd

Amount of Grant from BTC in 20016/17: £5,000

Purpose of Grant: To support core costs to run 3-4 evening youth clubs each week for 50 weeks per year and to help Maintain the Youth Centre building as a public asset

What did the grant enable your organisation to do (what has been achieved)?

This grant has enabled us to provide youth clubs for four different groups of young people for much of the year with a paid staff team who provide continuity supported by volunteers who we either recruit from the community or from local schools. All staff and volunteers have access to training so we can develop a quality staff team to work with our members.

Over the past financial year (Sept – Aug) we have delivered three youth club weekly sessions and one fortnightly. We have attracted 250 different young people to the club from Buckingham and many of the surrounding villages with a weekly average attendance of 70. In addition we offered trips for Young People during in the school holidays.

This grant is a very welcome contribution to our core costs for staffing and has meant that we have been able to attract funding from other sources, ie. Aylesbury Vale Community Chest, Bucks County Council and a Family Trust. We manage the Buckingham Youth Centre building, which we lease from Bucks County Council for a peppercorn rent, and pay for the building running costs using rental Income. We hire the building at Commercial rates to groups such as: Academy of Performing Arts, Two separate Dance groups and a Karate Club and we also hire at more favourable rates to community groups such as Guides, Clearly Speaking and various Buckingham School Sports groups. We provide free space to Young Carers, the Youth Offending Service, Connexions and ACDC Disability Sports Group.

Young people in the area have few social activities that they can easily access at affordable

Costs and are short of places to go and things to do. Many come to the clubs just to socialise with their friends. We consult with them regularly to determine their needs and we provide a range of activities (pool, table football and hockey, Wii Game stations, computers/internet, music) and sports (football, basketball, dodgeball, badminton, table tennis) and other cooking and craft activities. We encourage them to take ownership of and to work for their club.

Funding sources:	£
Aylesbury Vale Community Chest	10,000
Buckingham Town Council	5,000
Family Trust	4,000
Rotary Club (self-help events: Santa Sleigh & Swimathon)	1,050

Swan Community Hub report

During the past year our main focus has been Job Club.

Job Club moved from the Woolpack to The Centre in Verney Close in June 2016. Almost instantly the number of people using our facility increased. The possible reasons for the increase are the greater number of people passing The Centre as well as the increased publicity which surrounded the move. Our A-frame outside The Centre catches attention and generates word of mouth spreading of the information. The Job Centre in Milton Keynes again seems to value Buckingham Job Club as a resource to help people to return to employment.

Who has benefitted? Here are just three out of many in the past year (names changed for confidentiality).

A newly qualified graduate seeking the first step in his career looked good on paper, had work experience and was eager to find a job. The one thing holding him back was his lack of self-confidence. His early rejections because of his lack of self-belief only served to decrease the value he saw in himself. Over a period of 6 weeks we met him weekly and saw his self-worth grow to the level which enabled him to present himself successfully at interview. We were the catalysts in his change.

Sally came with a variety of needs including a belief that because English is her 2nd language she is unemployable. In fact having lived in UK for 25 years her accent is only just noticeable. She hadn't been employed during the time she was bringing up her children so this was a return to work situation with self-confidence, little recent experience and personal issues all decreasing the possibility of her earning a living. We're still working with Sally and are hoping to see her take on a voluntary position to help her to overcome some of the barriers.

Although Sarah was well qualified in her career she came to Job Club suffering from anxiety. Over a period of months one of our volunteers worked with her helping to eradicate the negatives which came across at job interviews. The result was that Sarah has taken on a position which could well lead her back into the career for which she is qualified. She

maintains contact with us and we're looking forward to helping her regain her position in her chosen career.

The grant from Buckingham Town Council has been used exclusively for Job Club resources such as a replacement printer/scanner/copier, stationery and printing. There are no paid staff as Job Club is manned by volunteers who willingly give their time and skills. Our aim is that those people seeking employment are treated with respect and made to feel welcome, thus beginning the process of building self-esteem and acquiring practical tools such as a CV, encouragement with on-line applications and interview skills.

BUCKINGHAM SUMMER FESTIVAL

Buckingham Summer Festival has been bringing world class music to Buckingham for 29 years. To do this costs a lot of money, musicians of this standard are able to command substantial fees. We can only offer the good people of Buckingham music of this quality through the generous support of grant giving organisations and individual sponsors. It costs about £23,000 a year to put on a weeklong festival of music. Generous local businesses, grant giving bodies and private individuals supported us last year with over £11,000. For many years Buckingham Town Council has been one of our most generous donors. In 2016 Buckingham Town Council supported us with a grant of £1200. This enabled us to put on the final night's Gala Concert in the parish church. The Orchestra of Stowe Opera, under conductor Robert Secret, with soloists Julian Metzger and Julian Mann performed music by Handel, Elgar and Sibelius.

A large audience enjoyed the Handel organ concerto, the ever popular Elgar Cello concerto and the stunningly beautiful Sibelius 2nd Symphony.

Without the generous support of our town council none of this would have been possible. We are extremely grateful to the council and hope that they will be able to continue their support so that the Festival will be able to carry on for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of Buckingham.

This report is a final update report for Buckingham Town Council on improvement work to the club house, which it awarded a grant of £1,000 towards, in January 2016.

The club is pleased to report that all the work has now been carried out with two variations being made to the original plan.

The Club Committee decided that it would replace the two existing hand wash basins as they were discoloured and at the end of their useful life. The two old showers were decommissioned and the cubicles were converted to much needed storage cupboards. All electrical and plumbing services have been capped off to a safe standard.

Pictures of the work carried out are attached and we now consider that the new toilet facilities are of a good standard and meet health and safety standards. The club also took the opportunity to provide new soap dispensers and hand air dryers in both changing areas.

The other piece of work was the installation of an outside water tap. This was necessary in order to provide court cleaning contractors an accessible water supply in order to clean the courts twice annually or after the courts have been affected by flooding. This work revealed a major problem with the kitchen waste water pipe under the floor resulting in remedial work having to be carried out.