



Community
Boards



Community Board Newsletter August 2026



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Welcome to the August edition of our Community Board Newsletter.

Summer has been exciting for Community Boards as priorities continue to be delivered collaboratively. We are particularly proud of the events we've co-produced and delivered with local partners, including our East Chilterns Health in the High Street event in Chesham which is featured in this edition.

This newsletter also highlights some great examples of delivery of local priorities which cover a wide breadth of subjects and topics from Volunteer Fairs to Listening Benches.

We continue to work with our communities to design bespoke initiatives that communities have told us would help improve outcomes across a range of areas including reducing social isolation, improving health & wellbeing and improving community resilience.

Community Boards have continued to support the transition of local service listings for adults from Bucks Online Directory (BOD) to Joy Marketplace to ensure that local services for adults continue to be accessible to our communities.

If your group or organisation is listed on BOD, we encourage you to add a new listing on Joy Marketplace as existing listings cannot be transferred automatically. Online support to help get you started can be found [here](#).

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and welcome you to get in touch with the relevant boards if you'd like to get involved.

Scroll your mouse to navigate left to right or click the direction buttons at the bottom right of your screen.



South East Bucks Community Board

Chalfont St Peter: Deliver targeted youth provision through outreach, mentoring, and safe spaces — meeting young people where they are and offering consistent, trusted support that promotes wellbeing, positive choices, and community connection.

The new skate park at Mill Meadow, Chalfont St Peter, is an outstanding example of what can be achieved when the community comes together. Shaped through local support and partnership working, the project helps deliver the Community Board's priority of creating safe, welcoming spaces where young people can be active, build friendships and feel connected to their community.

The park officially opened with a lively skate jam, with [skaters, scooter riders and BMX enthusiasts putting the new facility through its paces](#). It was fantastic to see residents of all ages coming together to enjoy the event and celebrate the new space. The hard work and

effort of everyone who helped secure the funding and bring the project to life was recognised at the opening event on the 11th July.

Chalfont St Giles & Little Chalfont: To work with partners to harness local heritage and environment, and to highlight natural features such as chalk streams to build pride in the community and promote the villages as vibrant destinations.

The South East Bucks Community Board is supporting the development of a new partnership with Old Hanging Wood Community Interest Company (CIC) to help local people connect with the heritage and natural environment of the Misbourne Valley.

The initiative is currently being developed by the CIC alongside residents and partners, with the aim of launching in Autumn 2026. It is expected to provide opportunities for people to spend time outdoors, improve physical and mental wellbeing, develop photography skills and explore local landscapes, whilst learning more about the natural environment on their doorstep.

This work directly supports the Community Board priority to "work with partners to harness local heritage and the environment, and to highlight natural features to build pride in the community and promote the villages as vibrant destinations". It will help people discover, celebrate and share the unique stories of the local area.

Further information will be shared as plans progress towards the Autumn 2026 launch. To find out more or express an interest in getting involved, please email southeastbucks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.





East Chilterns Community Board

Chesham North & Chesham South: Celebrating Community and Culture.

The East Chilterns Community Board held the Health in the High Street event, alongside [Opportunity Bucks' Community Activity Day](#) on Saturday 8 August. Held in Chesham High Street, the event was a fantastic success, bringing together residents, partners and community organisations for a day focused on health, wellbeing and community connection.

The event brought together a complementary network of health care, Council and local community partners offering a wide range of free and accessible activities for residents. These included health information and advice, opportunities to speak with health care professionals, blood pressure checks, guest speakers and performers, family-friendly activities and guidance on accessing local services.

Thousands of people attended throughout the day, and Chesham High Street was filled with activity and engagement, creating valuable opportunities for residents to connect with local services and one another. It was encouraging to see so many charities, community groups, organisations and residents coming together to support this important community event.

Stephen Whelan, from Buckinghamshire Council Public Health said *“The Chesham community were very welcoming and positive about the opportunity to talk about the services that the Public Health team were promoting. It was great to chat to so many people and signpost them to services that could improve their health and wellbeing. We spoke to over 40 residents and performed more than 20 blood pressure checks.”*

A short video of the day can be viewed [here](#).



1 - Exhibition, High Street, Chesham.



2 - Martin Fagan, CEO of The Live is Life Foundation talks to residents about CPR and defibrillators.



West Chilterns Community Board

Penn, Tylers Green & Loudwater: Improve social community connectedness by working with stakeholders to address community needs, focusing on young people in Loudwater.

The Community Board was pleased to support the Loudwater Village Residents Association (LVRA) in organising its first community litter pick on 13 June 2026. The Community Board assisted with producing communication material and arranged a loan of litter picking equipment from the Council's Waste Prevention Team to use on the day.

More than 60 residents of all ages took part, helping to keep the village clean while strengthening local connections. Participants gathered at the Loudwater Centre before enjoying cake and refreshments together afterwards.

LVRA members highlighted the positive impact the association is already having on the local community with feedback as follows:

Margaret said 'the group has helped bring neighbours together, strengthened community spirit and provided a collective voice to address local issues and achieve positive outcomes for the village'

Enesa described the association as 'an inclusive and welcoming group where every voice matters'. Reflecting on the litter pick, she said residents worked side by side and felt genuinely listened to, adding that she believes the community can make Loudwater brighter, kinder and more connected.

Ron also praised the association's growing influence, noting that residents can achieve more by working together than individually. He highlighted the success of both the litter pick and a recent quiz night, saying these events demonstrated the strong sense of community and shared values among members.

The LVRA is open to all Loudwater residents. Members can get involved in project teams or receive updates on upcoming events and activities. For more information, contact westchilternscb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



3 - Loudwater residents of all ages at the first community litter pick event, June 2026.

Chiltern Villages: Explore how to support the River Partnership.

We are pleased to announce that the new River Partnership website is now live:

Through Community Conversations and collaboration with the Ward Member the Community Board have assisted in supporting the creating of the website which provides the newly established River Partnership with a dedicated digital presence, creating a central

hub for information, news, resources, and community engagement activities. Alongside a custom domain and official email address, the platform will support the Partnership's mission of increasing public awareness, promoting environmental stewardship, and encouraging greater community involvement in protecting our local waterways.

Residents are encouraged to visit the website to learn more about the Partnership's work and opportunities to get involved. You can visit the website by clicking [here](#).



4 - An image showing how the River Partnership website looks.

Flackwell Heath & The Wooburns: Maintain the current volunteer base and attract the next generation of volunteers to keep the community strong and vibrant.

To support delivery of our ward priority, the Community Board is working in partnership with Wooburn and Bourne End Parish Council and Bourne End Community Association to host a Volunteer Fair on Saturday 26th September, 10:00–14:00, at Bourne End Community Centre.

This will be the second event of its kind, following the success of our first Volunteer Fair held in February 2026. The aim of the event is to give local organisations the opportunity to showcase the valuable work they do, and to help residents discover volunteering opportunities that match their interests and skills. In addition, the Board are keen to highlight opportunities that can support young people completing their Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) and are currently reaching out to organisations taking part to see if they have suitable opportunities available.

Flackwell Heath and The Wooburns Volunteer Fair

Saturday 26th September 2026

From 10:00am - 2:00pm

Bourne End Community Centre

Wakeman Road, SL8 5SX



Students

Discover local
Duke of Edinburgh
volunteering
opportunities

Adults

Make a difference in
your community,
giving as much or as
little time as you can
afford.

- ✓ Free entry
- ✓ Free refreshments
- ✓ Everyone welcome

For more information please contact westchilternscb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



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East Bucks Community Board

BiertonFest: Connected Communities.

The East Bucks Community Board was pleased to support [BiertonFest](#), a brand new community summer festival. Supporting the event aligned with the Bierton, Kingsbrook and Wing ward's Connected Communities priority.

Held on 20th June 2026 at the Bierton Recreation Ground, the festival brought the community together for a fantastic day of entertainment, food and fun. The event aimed to create an inclusive space where families, young people, and older residents could come together to enjoy a wide range of activities, live entertainment, and local offerings. It provided a meaningful opportunity for residents to connect with others, participate in community activities, and create memories together.

It was fantastic to see many local businesses involved in the event. [Dan's Community Group](#) played an important role in helping to keep the site clean throughout the day, demonstrating the value of partnership working and community spirit. This is exactly the type of collaboration the Community Board is keen to encourage and support.

Following the festival, the organising team met to reflect on the event and identify lessons learned. Discussions are already underway about future festivals, with a focus on enhancing the experience and ensuring it remains sustainable for years to come, becoming part of the annual calendar of events for the Bierton community. The Community Board look forward to hearing more about their plans and seeing the event continue to grow.



5 - Live music performance at BiertonFest

Dog Day Event: Responsible Dog Ownership.

The Community Board has an ongoing [Responsible Dog Owner](#) priority, which is all about raising awareness for dog owners to understand their legal responsibilities to keep their dogs safe and happy. After highlighting the progress of the campaign so far and future ambitions at March's Community Board meeting, Aston Clinton Parish Council came forward to host an event for Dog Day 2026.

On Sunday 20th September, 'All About Dogs 2026' will be taking place at Aston Clinton Park, from 2-5pm. It will provide a fun and informative event bringing together a range of local dog-related services, including vets, groomers, training specialists, rescue organisations and more. The aim of the event is to provide an opportunity to get expert advice, discover local services and learn what it takes to be a responsible dog owner. Look out for more information on the event soon via the [East Bucks Community Board](#) and [Aston Clinton Parish Council Facebook Pages](#), as well as in local venues.

Aston Clinton All About Dogs 2026

Thinking About Getting a Dog? Already Have One?

Join us for a fun, and informative day out attended by:

- Dog training specialists
- Rescue organisations
- Dog groomers & pet care
- Your local Vet
- Thames Valley Police
- Dog licencing teams

**FREE event.
Everyone welcome!**



When: Sunday 20 September - 2pm to 5pm

Where: Aston Clinton Park, London Road HP22 5HL



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West Bucks Community Board

Board-wide: Empower young people to connect, collaborate and influence local decision-making by creating opportunities for them to build relationships across communities, develop a shared voice, and help shape the future of their area.

The West Buckinghamshire Community Board is developing a new youth initiative to bring together young people from across our towns and parishes. The aim is to create opportunities for young people to meet others from different communities, learn about local activities and assets, and develop a better understanding of the wider Board area. The Board want to give young people a stronger voice in shaping their local places, helping to identify challenges, opportunities and ideas for the future. We hope parish councils will support this initiative and help us engage a diverse group of young people, including those involved in sports clubs, youth organisations, farming communities and other local groups. If

you are a parish council, parent or know a young person who may be interested in getting involved, please get in touch with the West Bucks Community Board by emailing westbucks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



6 - Young people skateboarding for social interaction.

Board-wide: Engagement and Networking

The West Bucks Community Board is building on the relationships and insights developed across the area. Through visits and ongoing engagement, the Community Board Manager has met with parish councils, community groups and local organisations to gain a deeper

understanding of local priorities, hear about successes and identify opportunities to strengthen collaboration across West Bucks.

There is growing interest in creating more opportunities for local partners to connect, share best practice and learn from one another. Building on this, the March Community Board meeting will include a dedicated networking session, bringing together parish councils, community groups and other local organisations to exchange ideas, strengthen relationships and explore opportunities to work together on shared priorities across West Bucks.





North Bucks Community Board

Boardwide: Ageing Well.

The Board's Health & Wellbeing event is now taking place in March 2027, with support from Winslow Town Council, health services, local voluntary groups and Council teams. In the meantime, there will be an opportunity at the Community Board meeting on 29 September to hear from several of our health partners about work that is taking place across North Bucks to support older and vulnerable residents. Public Health will give an overview of the Ageing Well Strategy, with a focus on the North; a local GP will reflect on the first months of the new frailty clinics; colleagues from Swan Practice and 3W Health will update on the work of the social prescribing teams; Age UK Bucks will introduce the new Age Better Bucks programme, and there will be an update on the Swan Practice's move to Lace Hill. Please get in touch at northbucks@buckinghamshire.gov.uk if you would like to find out more.

Boardwide: Community Transport.

As part of the Board's collaboration with the North Bucks Integrated Neighbourhood Team it partnered with the 3W Patient Participation Group, Winslow Big Society and Community Impact Bucks to produce a pilot guide to local community transport options to help residents access medical appointments. The guide was published in the 3W Health patient newsletter and feedback has been very positive, with Volunteer Driver Service reporting an increase in calls from the area. The guides for the other parts of North Bucks will be available shortly.

Board-wide: Environment and Community Cohesion.

The Community Board was invited to be part of the full house at The Film Place for a showing of the People's Emergency Briefing organised by Buckingham Town Council and Buckingham Environmental Action Network. The event included an opportunity for residents to discuss their environmental concerns and hopes across a range of local and national themes. The Board also attended the follow up community discussion at a packed Chantry Chapel and is looking forward to supporting the local conversations that have begun which will further support the board's Environment and Community Cohesion priorities. Further showings of the film are coming soon to Stewkley and Winslow – see the map at [National Emergency Briefing](#)



7 - Residents attended the People's Emergency Briefing



High Wycombe Community Board

Board-wide: Information Sharing & Community Connectedness.

Listening Bench coming to Wycombe.

A new Listening Bench is set to be installed in High Wycombe as part of a partnership project promoting mental wellbeing, connection and suicide prevention.

Led by Buckinghamshire Council's Public Health Team and funded by Legend on the Bench in partnership with Chiltern Samaritans, the initiative encourages people to take time to listen, connect and support one another. The benches carry the message 'Someone is always listening' and feature built-in lighting, support information and QR codes linking directly to organisations such as Samaritans, CALM and other wellbeing services.

Following the successful installation of a Listening Bench in Chesham, partners are now working to bring one to High Wycombe. Buckinghamshire New University has been highly supportive and is helping identify a location on the public walkway between Lily's Walk and Alexandra Road, ensuring the bench is accessible to students, staff and the wider community. The Community Board has helped bring partners together to develop the project, demonstrating how local collaboration can support residents' wellbeing and create positive change across our communities.



8 - A plaque on a bench showing some listening tips.

Board-wide: Litter and Fly Tipping

Litter picking network takes a broader look at improving our streets.

Members of the Litter Picking Network met on 21 July to share ideas, resources and plans for improving local neighbourhoods. A key discussion focused on a new Street Audit Template which encourages volunteers to look beyond litter and take a more holistic view of their local environment.

The template covers a range of issues, including graffiti, fly-tipping, overflowing bins, damaged signage, blocked drains, street lighting, pavements, bus shelters and green spaces. The Network agreed to enhance the template with links to reporting tools, including Buckinghamshire Council's Fix My Street service, making it easier for residents and community groups to report issues.

The template has been shared with local litter picking groups and volunteers to trial and provide feedback. Members are also keen to hear about people's experiences of using Fix My Street, including the updates they receive and how long issues take to be resolved. This will help identify any barriers to reporting and encourage continued community action.

The meeting also heard from Patch, based at The Old Library, which is coordinating local activities for Zero Waste Week (1 to 8 September). To mark the start of the week, the Community Board and Patch will host an informal thank you event for litter picking groups and volunteers on 1 September, 6:00pm to 7:30pm.

The next online Litter Picking Network meeting will take place on **Tuesday 8 September, 6:30pm to 7:30pm**. To join the network, please contact: hwcb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Aylesbury Community Board

Aylesbury East: Focus on building positive intergenerational relationships and improving social perception between different age cohorts in the Bedgrove area.

The Community Board is continuing to work closely with Buckinghamshire Council's Community Youth Team and other local partners to develop plans for a youth-led Christmas market in Jansel Square later this year.

The project aims to provide young people with a valuable opportunity to develop new skills by creating, marketing and selling their own crafts, products and festive gifts. As well as encouraging entrepreneurship and creativity, the initiative will help young people gain confidence and experience in planning and running a community event.

The Community Board has supported the development of this project by bringing together local partners and securing opportunities for young people to be involved in the event. Ruby Lane Hairdressers, the event owners in Jansel Square, have offered to provide space for up to five market stalls to be run by young people, creating a vibrant and welcoming marketplace at the heart of the community.

Ruby Lane has also expressed an interest in launching a poster design competition to promote the Winter Market, creating another exciting opportunity for young people to showcase their artistic talents and play a key role in shaping the event's identity.

This collaborative project highlights the positive impact that can be achieved when local organisations, businesses and community partners work together to create meaningful opportunities for young people. The Community Board looks forward to sharing further updates as plans for the festive market continue to develop.

Aylesbury South West: Gain a deeper understanding as to what is affecting residents' participation in movement and physical activity, and identify practical, community-informed solutions to increase local opportunities for being physically active.

The Aylesbury Community Board is proud to be supporting the work of LEAP, the Active Partnership for Buckinghamshire. LEAP works with local communities, partner organisations and public services to reduce inequalities and create more opportunities for people to lead active, healthy lives through movement, physical activity and sport.

Through Sport England's Place Universal investment, LEAP is leading a long-term, community-led programme focused on Aylesbury South-West, bringing together local organisations and residents to better understand and address the barriers that prevent people from being active. The programme aims to create lasting change through collaboration, shared leadership and evidence-based decision making. The Aylesbury Community Board is one of the partners involved in supporting this work.

As part of the programme's baseline evaluation, the Community Board recently took part in two important research activities: the System Maturity Matrix (SMM) and Social Network Analysis (SNA).

The System Maturity Matrix helps assess how effectively local organisations, services and community groups are working together to achieve shared outcomes. The Social Network

Analysis maps relationships and connections across the local system, providing insight into the strength of partnerships, collaboration and information sharing between organisations.

Taking part in these exercises will help establish a clear baseline of how the current system operates and identify opportunities to strengthen partnership working in the future. The findings will inform LEAP's ongoing work and help measure progress as the programme develops. By contributing local knowledge and experience, the Community Board is helping to ensure that the voices of residents and community organisations are reflected in the programme's aims and outcomes.

Aylesbury North West: Understand the reasons why there is a higher than average rate of unemployment and explore potential barriers, opportunities and solutions.

The Aylesbury Community Board was approached by Buckinghamshire Council's Bucks Woodland Creation team regarding plans to create a new woodland area at Meadowcroft, featuring around 1,450 trees and shrubs. Recognising the opportunity to support one of its key priorities, the Board worked with Chiltern Rangers and other local partners to explore how the project could deliver not only environmental benefits, but also meaningful skills and volunteering opportunities for local residents.

As discussions developed, partners identified the project as a valuable way to engage young people, including those who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs), as well as others looking to gain work experience, build confidence and develop practical skills.

Through volunteering, participants will gain hands-on experience, work as part of a team and contribute positively to their local community.

The project will create a greener, healthier environment for residents while also helping to raise awareness of environmental and land-based career opportunities. By working closely with schools and community partners, the initiative will encourage greater participation in outdoor learning and provide opportunities for individuals to develop transferable skills that can support future education, training and employment pathways.



9 - Partners are currently finalising plans for volunteer sessions, school engagement opportunities and ongoing maintenance arrangements. The Community Board is pleased to have helped bring partners together to shape a project that supports both environmental improvement and opportunities for local people.

Thank you for reading this newsletter. Past editions of the Community Board newsletter can be found on our [webpages](#). We will continue to share updates via this newsletter, our social media channels, and directly with those who are signed up to receive updates by email from their community board. If you'd like to learn more about what you've read today or sign up to your local board network, please visit our [webpages](#) for more information.