

LITTLE CHALFONT PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter - Autumn 2019



New community access points How this affects Little Chalfont

When the new Buckinghamshire Council comes into being on 1 April 2020, among the many proposals are plans for residents to be able to access information, advice and support on a range of topics in their local area through community access points.

In addition, community boards will be established to give local people a voice in their community.

Community access points (CAPs)

Residents will be able to drop in to existing council buildings, such as council offices and libraries across the county for face-to-face advice and information about all council services.

The locations of these will be confirmed and promoted as part of the launch of the new council in April 2020. For Little Chalfont the nearest CAP will be the district council offices at King George V Road in Amersham.

Once the CAPs are up and running, the new council will start work on the next phase. The ambition is to evolve the access points to create wider one-stop community hubs based in multi-purpose buildings at the heart of community life.

Residents will be able to access information about a wide range of topics and get support from different services such as the police, town and parish councils, visitor services and community groups all in one place. The new council will ask residents and communities to help codesign these facilities to meet local needs.

The five current council main offices in High Wycombe, Capswood, Amersham, Aylesbury (2), will become 'access plus' centres, offering extra services from Monday to Friday to handle more complex enquiries.

Community boards

Community boards would bring together the new council councillors and local communities to help solve local issues.

A public consultation on their set up closed on 30 September 2019. Results are currently being analysed and a consultation response anticipated from the shadow executive in December 2019.

The new council's preferred option is for 14 community boards across the county, shown in our map inset, but this is open for discussion and there may be more or fewer.

You will see from the map that Little Chalfont will be included in the Amersham board, but if there were 11 boards (one of the proposals) Little Chalfont and Amersham would be included with Chesham.

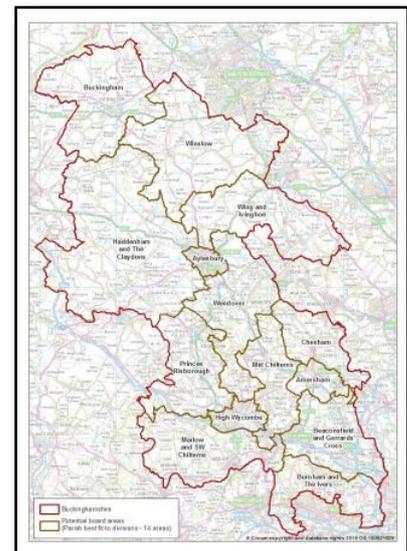
The aim of the new community boards will be to:

- Enable the new council councillors to take decisions on local issues, alongside other community representatives.
- Empower the new council councillors and communities to influence service design and delivery on local issues.
- Bring communities together with Bucks Council councillors to find local solutions to local issues.

Who will be on the boards?

The council wants community boards to involve everyone in the local area who wants to make a difference and work with the new council to do this.

It is proposed that county councillors from the local area would sit on their local board. To



Map showing the preferred Buckinghamshire Council option of 14 community boards

be effective community boards would also need to include people and organisations from the local community.

This is expected to include town and parish councils, but could also include other public services such as fire services, police and health, residents, parish and town councils and young people.

Decisions will normally be reached by consensus. There will sometimes be a need for a vote for example on community grant applications.

Further information about the new proposals can be found at unitarycomms@buckscc.gov.uk. We will keep residents informed as and when we get more information. ■