**Introduction:**

*The Amersham & Villages Community Board covers the areas of Amersham, Chesham Bois, Coleshill, and Little Chalfont.*

*The Community Board will work with the community to address local priorities and take action on local issues.*

*The Board will support the Council’s corporate priorities and engage with Community Groups and Organisations, Businesses, Residents, Town, and Parish Councils etc. to understand locally driven priorities.*

**Aims:**

* *To develop good working relationships with the community to understand and address local issues*
* *To understand what is important in the community board area*
* *To work collaboratively to explore key areas of focus and identify how to take action together as a community*
* *To identify opportunities for new projects that meet the community board priorities*
* *To promote the community board to the local community and encourage engagement and participation*
* *To support the council in delivering strategic priorities at a local level*

**Actions:**

*The aims and actions set out in this plan are high level and will be monitored and updated by the Community Board manager.*

*To get involved or find out about progress being made in each area, contact* *Amersham@Buckinghamshire.gov.uk*

**Community Board Areas of Focus**

**Health and Wellbeing**

*We have a diverse community, and there are many ways in which our health and wellbeing can be impacted upon. We want to support projects that target some of the key issues highlighted in our Public Health profile. This could include supporting our ageing population with physical health or social isolation and loneliness, as well as projects targeted towards mental and physical health.*

**Improving the Environment**

*Climate Change is everyone’s business, and we need to encourage more people to take ownership and responsibility of their own actions. As a group we will support projects in the local area which promote education and awareness of climate change issues and encourage a behaviour change of residents, businesses, community groups and organisations.*

**Community Resilience**

*The community have overcome many challenges in the last few years, such as Covid-19 Pandemic, welcoming Ukrainian guests into our community following the outbreak of war in their country, and the ongoing cost of living pressures. The community board are keen to strengthen the community spirit and provide opportunities for local people and groups to come together and support one another.*

**Opportunities for Young People**

*Supporting the next generation of our community is hugely important and we want to ensure that all young people – whether that be early years or those heading towards further education or employment – are able to access opportunities that will help them develop vital skills and experiences that will stand them in good stead in the future.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Overall aim**  | **Actions to explore** |
| **Theme**: **Health and Wellbeing** |
| To improve accessibility | Explore community hubs – to provide a sense of belonging and reduce social isolation |
| Safe places scheme and rebrand of the warm spaces idea to reduce stigma; |
| Work with organisations to provide digital skills |
| Consider transport as a key means to accessibility in new initiatives |
| To promote better health  | Support for those with Autism |
| Healthy eating support |
| To encourage physical activity | More accessible and varied sport/fitness, evening/weekend walking groups; |
| To tackle financial insecurity | Work collaboratively with food banks |
| **Theme**: **Improving the Environment** |
| Education | Stands at local markets |
| Better awareness of what can be recycled and where |
| Promote water Refill Scheme |
| Reduce single use plastic and cups |
| To promoting sustainable travel | Encourage cycling, bus routes, school run (car-pooling) |
| Support skills for life, bike-ability, bike repair |
| To enhance nature and biodiversity | Improve accessibility to and management of green spaces |
| Tree planting – looking after new trees/watering etc. |
| Chalkstream - Better management with water companies |
| To provide direct support to enable residents to reduce waste and carbon footprint | Energy proofing advice / energy doctor |
| Community Fridges |
| Library of things |
| Litter picking |
| **Theme**: **Community Resilience** |
| To promote opportunities for the local community to engage with activities | Fundraisers, fairs and activities to bring people together |
| Promote volunteering opportunities to the wider community and team building |
| Better signposting, engagement, promotion and awareness - a local organogram flow |
| To encourage cohesion | Intergenerational/intercultural activities - Reach more diverse groups |
| Engage more with working age adults |
| **Theme: Opportunities for Young People** |
| To raise awareness and promote opportunities | Pop up stands / posters for promoting activities for young people |
| Work experience placements and mentoring schemes |
| Increase connection with school networks |
| Provide more social opportunities | Sports groups tailored to more people and more accessible |
| Indoor hubs / warm spaces for young people |
| Youth spaces in Old Amersham |
| To support health & wellbeing | Mental health support  |
| Reduce vaping |
| Support around school avoidance |
| To develop new skills | Mission employable |

**General actions for the board:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Overall Aim**  | **Actions to explore** |
| Understand local issues & identify projects to address them | Promote the Community Board, invite new ideas and identify project solutions |
| Increase the awareness of the board locally through engagement activity and comms to promote inclusive and active participation from a wide range of local partners and residents | Develop and monitor the Board’s communications and engagement plan. |
| Develop content for the next scheduled newsletter and increase signup to the newsletter. |
| Continue to post on Facebook, Instagram and Next Door and increase the reach on social media for the board. |
| Engage with local media and publications to promote the work of the boards |
| Develop good working relationships with the community to understand local issues and develop projects to address local needs | Formal meeting agenda items on Community Matters and use of engagement tools in meetings to increase participation. |
| Attend local events and activities to engage with the local community and help to identify the priority areas of focus for the board area |