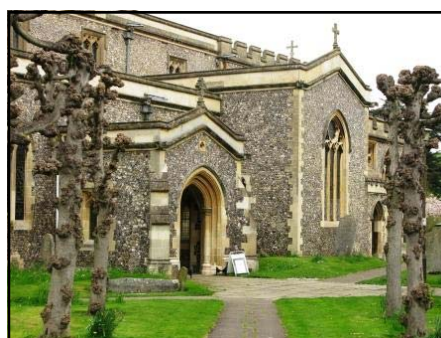


Amersham

Local Area Forum



• Local Area Plan •



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The purpose of the Area Plan

The purpose of the Amersham Area Plan is to set out a clear list of local priorities that need to be addressed in order to improve the social, economic and environmental conditions within the Amersham local area over the next three years.

In some instances, the Amersham Local Area Forum will be able to directly impact on actions to address one or more of the priority themes through allocation of its delegated budgets. For most of the priorities within the area plan, it is likely that the main role of the Local Area Forum (LAF) will be to act as a coordinating body and catalyst for action, with the LAF taking an investigative, supportive, developmental, championing and monitoring role.

The area plan should be regarded as an initial set of commitments, which can be added to in the light of emerging opportunities, rather than a fixed agenda that must be adhered to rigidly

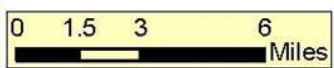
Over the next three years. The LAF will work closely with partner organisations to seek progress on the priority themes within the area plan.

Local Community Areas April 2007



- Local Community Areas (19 off)
- Aylesbury Vale District
- Chiltern District
- South Bucks District
- Wycombe District

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The Amersham Local Area Forum membership

The Amersham local area covers three divisions of the County Council. The County Councillors take the role of Chairman at the LAF meetings:

County Councillors in the Amersham local area		
Steve Adams	Amersham	Mobile: 07894 497723 Email: sadams@buckscc.gov.uk
Noel Brown	Chess Valley	Phone: 01494 783164 Email: nbrown@buckscc.gov.uk
Martin Phillips	Amersham	Phone: 01494 433634 Email: mphillips@buckscc.gov.uk
David Schofield	Penn, Coleshill & Holmer Green	Phone: 01494 676440 Email: dschofield@buckscc.gov.uk

The local area falls within the Chiltern District. The Vice-Chairman for each meeting is taken from one of the following district councillors:

District Councillors in the Amersham local area		
David Allen	Amersham Town	Phone: 01494 721085 Fax: as above Email: dallen@chiltern.gov.uk
Pam Appleby	Amersham Common	Phone: 01494 726312 Email: pappleby@chiltern.gov.uk
Alan Dibbo	Penn & Coleshill	Phone: 01494 675718 Email: adibbo@chiltern.gov.uk
Mimi Harker	Chesham Bois & Weedon Hill	Email: mharker@chiltern.gov.uk
Vera Head	Amersham-on-the-Hill	Phone: 01494 727254 Email: vhead@chiltern.gov.uk
St John Horsbrugh-Porter	Penn & Coleshill	Phone: 01494 724596 Email: jhorsbrugh-porter@chiltern.gov.uk

District Councillors in the Amersham local area

Martin King	Amersham Town	Email: mking@chiltern.gov.uk Bus. Phone: 01494 722758
Philip Priestley	Chesham Bois & Weedon Hill	Phone: 01494 873521 Fax: 01494 583079 Email: ppriestley@chiltern.gov.uk
Nigel Shepherd	Amersham-on-the-Hill	Phone : 01494 433340 Email : nshepher@chiltern.gov.uk
Graham Sussum	Ashley Green, Latimer & Chenies	Phone: 01494 771708 Email: gsussum@chiltern.gov.uk

The Amersham LAF also comprises the following parishes which, in addition to the County and District Councillors, are also voting members. The LAF currently uses a voting

system that allocates one vote per organisation with a casting vote for the Chairman in the case of deadlock

Parish council	Chairman/Clerk	Nominated representative(s)
Amersham Town Council	Janet Wheeler, Clerk	Mrs R Aitken
Chenies CP	Kathryn Le Neve Foster, Clerk	David Betts
Chesham Bois CP	June Gossling, Clerk	Richard Thorndike
Coleshill CP	Susan Smith, Clerk	David Smith
Penn CP	Mr M S Green, Clerk	M Bailey David Baker

The LAF welcomes memberships from other partners/local groups and resident attendance. The following organisations are members of the Local Area Forum:

- Amersham Action Group

The Amersham Local Area Forum

The Amersham local area is covered by five parishes. In each of the local areas, a Local Area Forum (LAF) is being implemented.

Local Area Forums are meetings where local county, district and parish councillors, along with representatives of the police, fire and rescue, other public and voluntary/community sector partners, meet to discuss local residents' needs and priorities.

One of the first tasks for each Local Area Forum was to determine priorities for the local area plan. To this end, the Amersham LAF held a local area planning workshop in November 2009.

The Amersham LAF has been running since April 2009

Previous meetings have looked at:

- Local hospital provision and provision of transport
- Winter maintenance and emergency planning by and in communities
- Out of hours health care needs and NHS dental provision
- Delegated budgets for Transportation, Early Years and youth diversion projects

Future meetings will look at ways of developing actions to meet the LAF's priorities. The priorities are shown on page 15 and the subsequent section describes the progress so far in addressing these.

Meetings are held throughout the area, with previous meetings in various locations in Amersham and in Penn Street. The meetings are open to the public.

The Forum times and dates can be located at www.buckscc.gov.uk. Click on 'Committees' and

then 'Amersham Local Area Forum'.

Local Area Forum representatives

There are a number of representatives from the County and District Council at the Aylesbury Local Area Forum. These are:

Representative	Name	Contact
<p>Chairman A local County Councillor agreed by the LAF membership</p>	Martin Phillips	
<p>Vice-Chairman A District Council nominated by the District Council and agreed by the LAF membership</p>	Martin King	
<p>Lead Area Officer (County) The Lead Area Officer is a County Council senior manager who works with the Locality Services Area Coordinator to provide senior management support to the LAF.</p>	Paula Buck	Tel: 01296 382986 Email: pbuck@buckscc.gov.uk
<p>Lead Area Officer (District) N/A in this LAF area</p>		
<p>Locality Services Area Coordinator The Locality Services Area Coordinator organises the LAF meetings/agendas and progresses issues raised. The coordinator also works with local parishes and a wide range of partners on projects to benefit local communities.</p>	Alison Derrick	Tel: 01494 586635 Email: aderrick@buckscc.gov.uk
<p>Democratic Services Officer The Democratic Services Officer is responsible for the meeting administration and note taking.</p>	Helen Wailing	Tel: 01296 383614 Email: hwailing@buckscc.gov.uk

Service area representatives

The following County Council service areas have local representatives working in your local area, who will be in regular attendance at the LAF drop-in sessions:

Service	Contact	
Adult Social Care	Karen Adamson	Tel: 01296 383847 Email: kadamson@buckscc.gov.uk
Transportation	Transport for Buckinghamshire Main number for reporting highways issues, etc.:	Tel: 0845 230 2882
	Local area technician:	Colin Jenkins
	Transport localities team leader :	Chris Schwier Tel: 01494 586622
Youth Service	Senior practitioner:	Maureen Bruce mbruce@buckscc.gov.uk

Representatives from the Police will also attend the LAF meetings if requested or if there is a specific issue that affects them



The drop-in sessions will involve representatives from Adult Social Care, Transportation and the Police

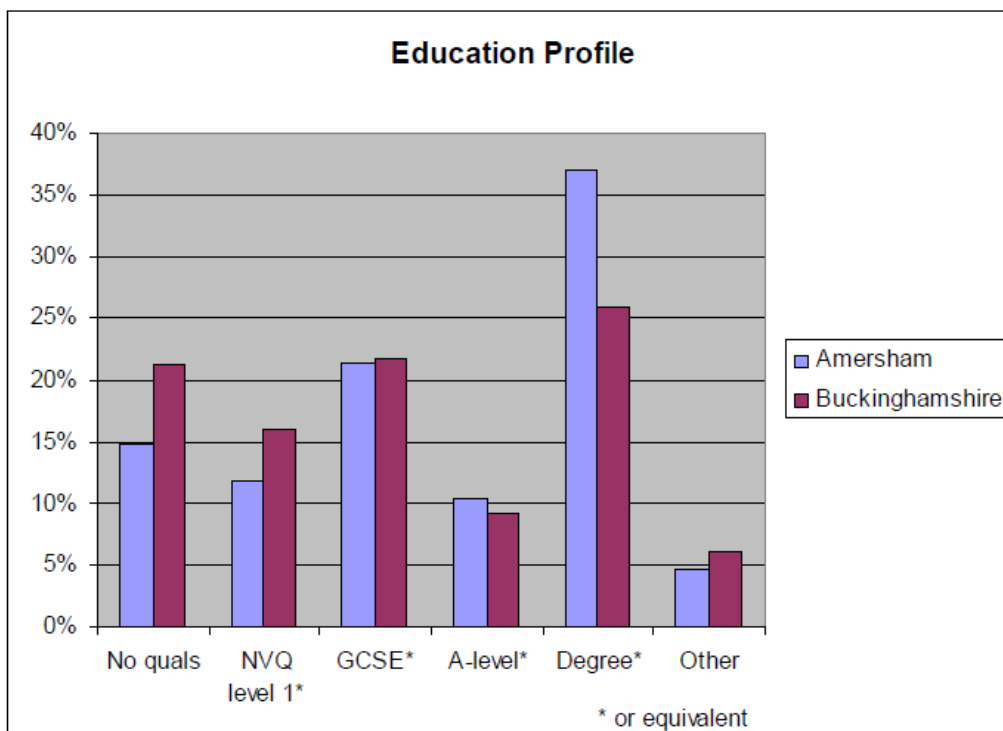
About the Amersham local area

The information set out below is taken from the Amersham local area profile (2008).

Population and household characteristics

25,300 people live in this Local Area in 10,300 households. The size of Amersham is similar to the average Local Area which is 25,200. The population in each Local Area varies from 7,900 to 69,300.

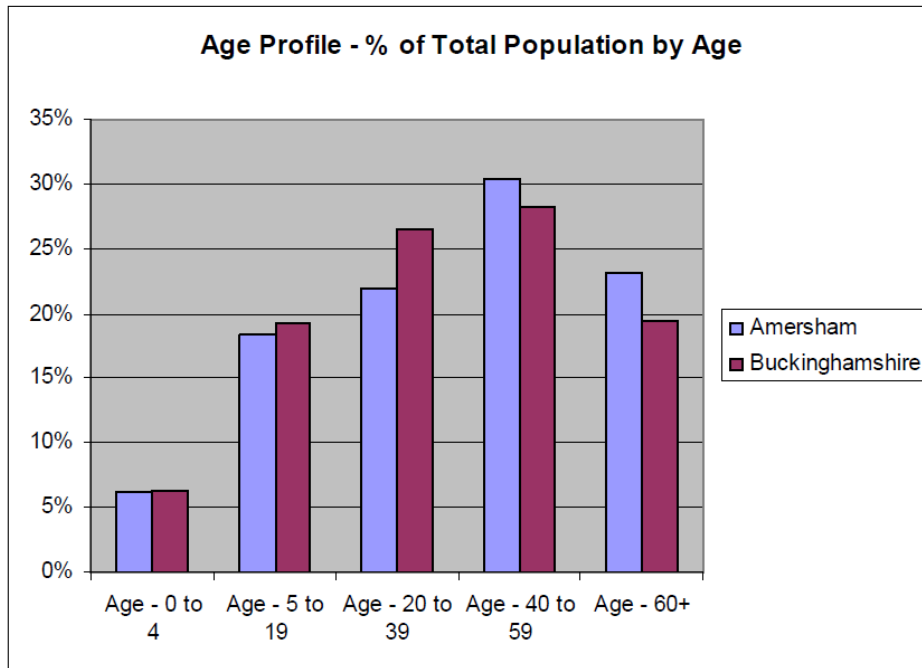
The age profile of Amersham is slightly older than average and is more urban as most of its population, 92%, lives in urban areas, although over half the land area is rural.



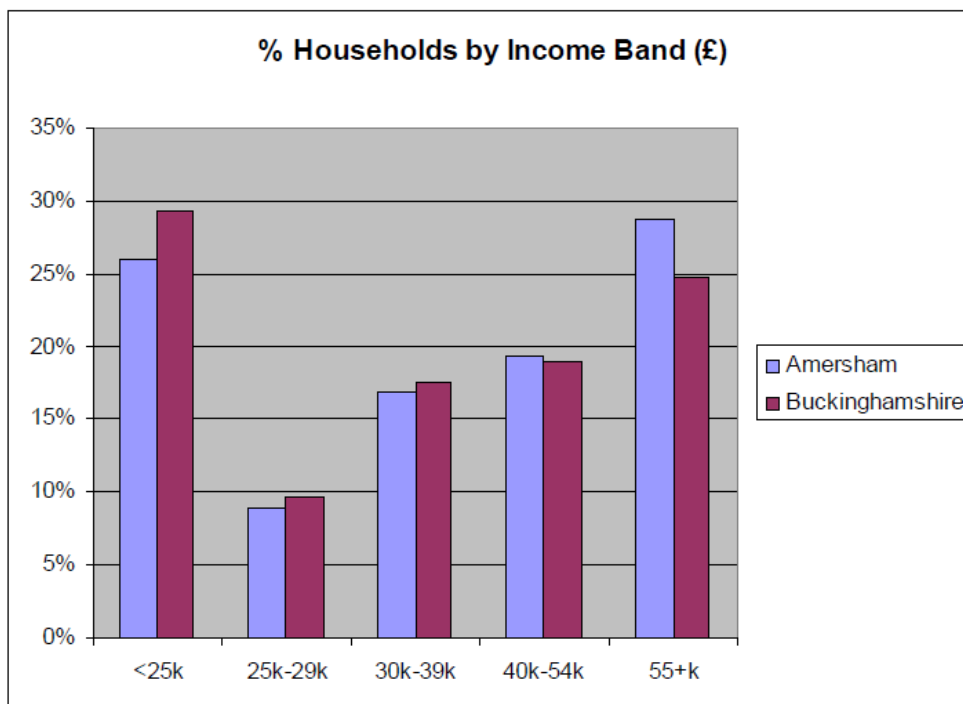
Amersham's population has a slightly greater proportion of people from the white ethnic group (96%) and those of Christian religious faith (75%).

The health of Amersham's population reflects the average with 87% of people reporting no long-term limiting illness and 2% being permanently sick or disabled.

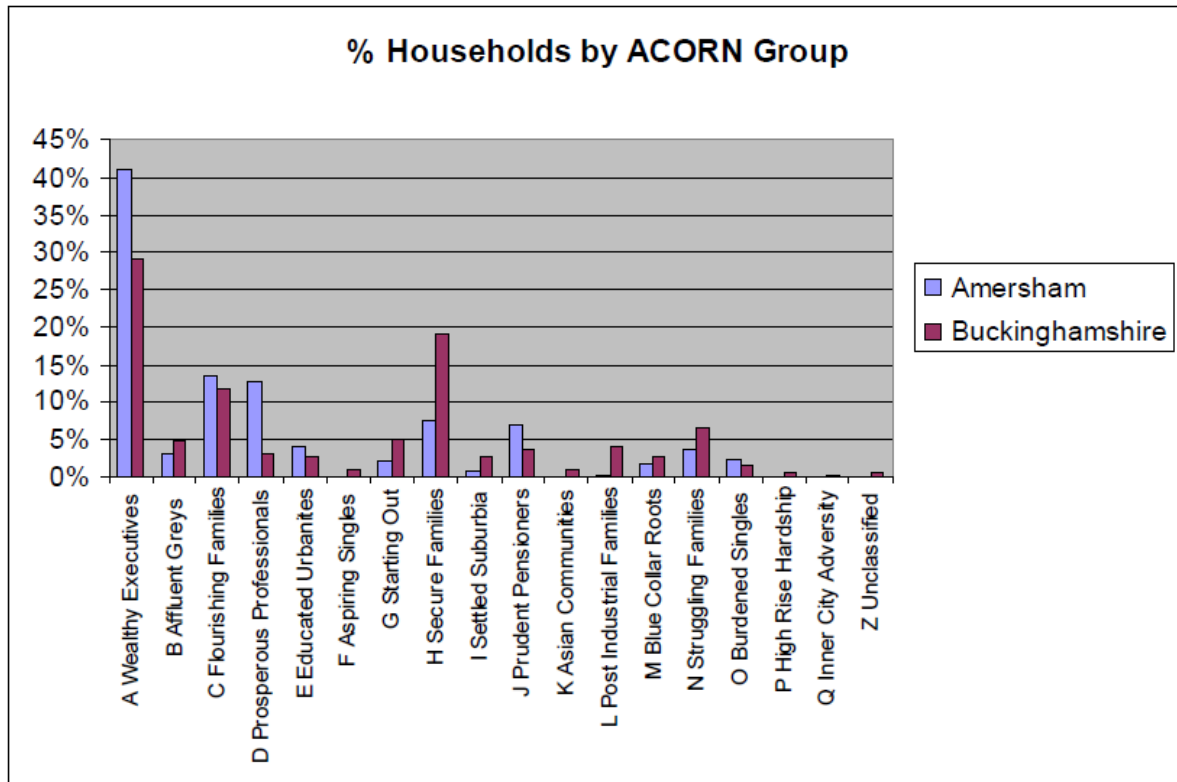
The education profile of Amersham is high with 37% of its population qualified to degree level, the highest of all Local Areas. The proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grade GCSEs is also high, 78% compared to the average of 68%.



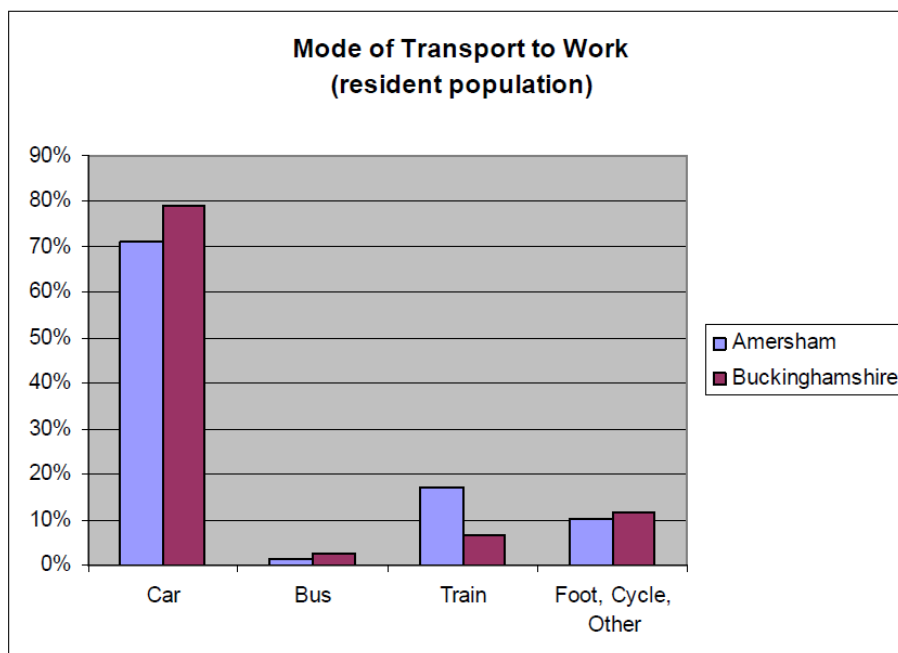
The occupational status of Amersham is also reflected in the income and acorn profiles. Amersham's average household income is over £45k which is above the Buckinghamshire average of £42k and is near the upper end of the range by Local Area, £38k to £47k. The graph below shows the proportion of households in each income band and compares these to the county average.



A large proportion, 41%, of its households are classified by ACORN as 'wealthy executives', well above the Buckinghamshire average of 29%. Amersham also has an above average proportion of households in the acorn groups 'flourishing families', 'prosperous professionals' and 'educated urbanites'. Together these groups account for almost three quarters of all households. However Amersham also has a small proportion of 'prudent pensioners' (7%) and 'burdened singles' (2%), both are above the average proportions expected in Buckinghamshire.



The car ownership levels in Amersham are slightly above average with 88% of households owning 1 or more cars, compared to the average of 87%. One might expect a greater car ownership rate having looked at Amersham's income and acorn characteristics, however the mainline rail links mean that an above average proportion of Amersham's residents (17%) travel to work by train, the largest proportion of all Local Areas.

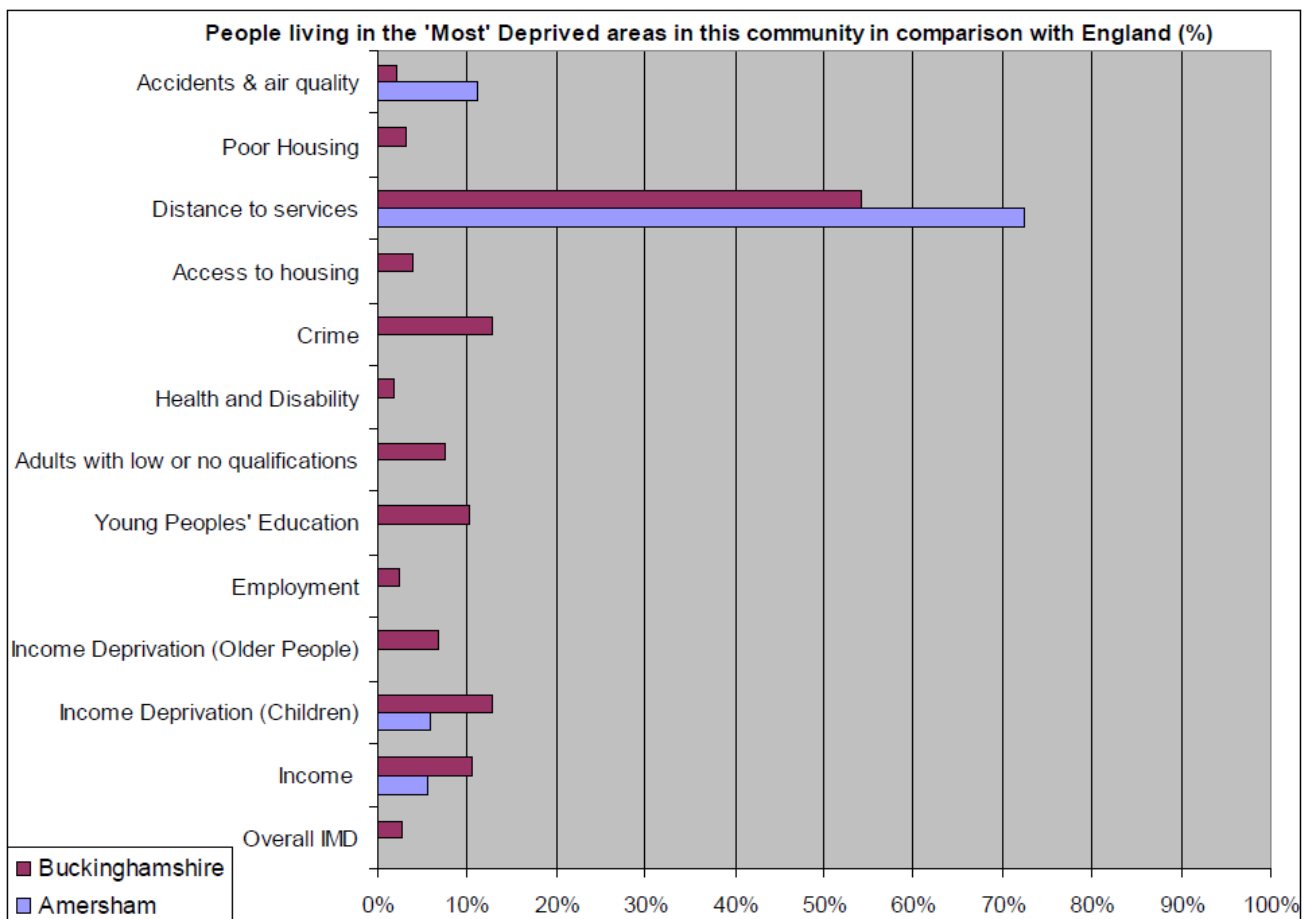


Amersham’s household composition is similar to the Buckinghamshire average with 60% of all households occupied by couples, split in half by those with and those without dependent children. Amersham does have a slightly greater proportion of pensioner households than average, 26% compared to 22%. Home ownership levels are also slightly higher than the county average.

The graph below shows the proportion of people living in the ‘most’ deprived areas of this community². A number of types of deprivation are shown along with an overall measure of deprivation.

Amersham has the highest proportion of people out of all 19 local communities living in the ‘most’ comparatively deprived areas for ‘road traffic accidents and air quality’.

As this is a fairly rural area people have to travel further to reach primary services like schools and GP practices which is reflected in the ‘distance to services’ deprivation measure.



² Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2007). All lower level super output areas (LLSOAs) in England are ranked on a scale of 1-10 (1 = most deprived). The Buckinghamshire LLSOA’s have then been extracted for this analysis.

The proportion of people living in the ‘Most’ deprived areas (ranked 1-3) within this area shown above. Please note that relevant age groups may be used for specific indicators. Please see the accompanying excel documents for more details.

The Amersham area priorities

The priorities for the area were identified at a workshop held in November 2009. The priorities were taken from parish plans, Service Excellence events, LTP2 and other relevant information, before additional priorities were added by the parishes.

These priorities were assessed during the workshop and the following priorities were identified. The following pages describe progress so far in addressing the priorities. This will be updated on a regular basis as the priorities are taken forward.

Sustainable Community Strategy

The priorities are linked to the five broad themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). The links to each theme are shown by the following colour coding:

- Sustainable environment
- Health and wellbeing
- Cohesive communities
- Thriving economies
- Safe communities

Amersham Local Area priorities identified	Additional information (see Appendix A for more detailed information on original issues)
There is a lack of affordable decent housing	There is a lack of affordable decent housing and starter homes / smaller units for first time buyers or downsizing
High property costs causes difficulties for employment and local area	Strong job market with low unemployment but high percentage of employment in the Town is not paid enough to allow employees to live locally. Cost of property driving young people away leading in increasingly ageing population
Sustainable transport required	Need to encourage alternatives to driving to reduce congestion and air pollution and increase pedestrian safety e.g. responsive public transport and School/ Work Travel Plans
Road and footway improvements. Footpath maintenance	
Police presence and responsiveness considered patchy and needs improvement	
Anti social behaviour by young people across all parishes	Anti-social behaviour is often drink related
Speeding on roads throughout the area	
Access to services is an issue	Concerns about remoteness of major services e.g. hospitals and high cost of accessing health services in Wycombe and Stoke Mandeville
More support for elderly people	Many elderly people are housebound and forgotten by their community
More facilities and activities for young people	Need for more and improved youth facilities, play facilities, green and open spaces including during holidays when youth clubs are shut. In particular youth club, sports pavilion and community centre for Old Town are needed and there is a need for organised youth activities in rural areas
More support for local businesses	Limited variety of retail outlets and loss of local services e.g. post offices, village shops
Address issues relating to links in service provision and information for young people	Lack of information about what community activities are available for children and young people and lack of networking between providers of youth activities

Issue	Initial service/partner response	Contact	Work taken forward	Actions completed/achievements
<p>Limited support for local businesses – need to establish business network to support them</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Answers from CDC needed The LAF area itself is characterised by a high level of “out commuting” as its residents tend to work elsewhere,</p>			
	<p>Answer: Bucks Economic and Learning Partnership (BELP) has undertaken two Summits aimed at addressing the recession where speakers have provided advice and support. The Bucks Challenge Fund was established at the first Summit when BCC provided a pot of £100,000 for businesses to bid up to £5,000 for projects which would help them through the recession. During the last Summit a new Challenge fund was launched again with a pot of £100,000.</p> <p>BELP is not currently actively involved in any initiatives for business support in the Amersham area but it does support CDC in it's business initiatives, namely the annual business conference. BELP is also aware of the work Gary Grant has done in bringing some businesses together. Resurrection of a Business Association/Chamber would be seen as a positive move in Amersham-on-the-Hill.</p>	<p>BELP</p>		
	<p>Answer:</p> <p>Vital villages grants scheme: Grants of up to £5,000 are available for businesses and community groups to improve the economic and social viability of community life. Village stores, pubs, post offices and community groups which are at the heart of community life may be eligible for funding under this scheme to provide and improve services. A wide range of projects could be eligible for grant funding. For more information on criteria and eligibility, please see the attached sheet.</p> <p>The Leader Programme offers a new source of funding for farmers, foresters, rural businesses and community organisations. The funding is part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE)* with the money coming from Europe via the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA). For more information go to www.ngagesolutions.co.uk/leaderprogramme</p> <p>A booklet outlining available grants is available</p>	<p>BCA/BCC grants information</p>	<p>Answer A Derrick—Discussion with CIB lead for Social Enterprises (Bridget Wythe) re a possible presentation to LAF or Clerks meeting). Idea suggested to A Goodrum 3/8/10. More info sought from Bridget re Chiltern relevance</p>	

Issue	Initial service/partner response		Contact	Work taken forward	Actions completed/achievements
<p>Limited variety of retail outlets and loss of local services e.g. post offices and village shops</p> <p>■ ■</p>	<p>Malcolm Godwin, Rural Towns Co-ordinator is working with Amersham Action group in commissioning a Town Centre study to establish an Action Plan for the regeneration of the town centre. This will hopefully result in the town being more welcoming, which in turn will create greater footfall and attract more retailers</p> <p>Loss of village shops is generally down to the Economic climate and lack of use. To resurrect these shops the only likely solution is for the village to create their own using the social enterprise model.</p> <p>Malcolm would be more than happy to attend a future Forum meeting to offer help and support.</p>		Malcolm Godwin	Malcolm Godwin to be invited to speak at a future LAF meeting	
	<p>Response given by Bucks Community Action (BCA):</p> <p>Parish liaison advisers at the Post Office should be contacted, as the parish needs to prove there is a need (even if there has previously been a post office within the village – not closed by the Post Office).</p> <p>Other considerations include sub-post offices in community halls, etc. Some villages have sub-post masters from main branches who come to operate two-hourly sessions in the village hall. The community can consider other options to take forward. One community in Aylesbury Vale reopened its post office as a sub-post office in the local pub.</p> <p>BCA may be able to facilitate a consultation with the local community to identify need and advise on ways forward.</p> <p>There is the possibility of installing a kiosk in specific locations – to enable villagers to purchase postage and access other services.</p>		Community Impact Bucks (to be checked)		

Issue	Initial service/partner response		Work taken forward	Actions completed/achievements
<p>Strong job market with low unemployment but high percentage of employment in the Town is not paid enough to allow employees to live locally.</p> <p>■</p>				
<p>Cost of property is driving young people away so population is increasingly ageing</p> <p>■</p>				
<p>There is a lack of affordable decent housing and starter homes.</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Inevitably, given its location in or close to the Chilterns AONB & Green Belt, its highly attractive character and relatively good road and rail connections, house prices in the LAF area are high. This is unlikely to change in the future, and indeed, any such change in the relative pricing in the area would, no doubt, be unwelcome to existing residents. .</p> <p>The District Council's planning policies have for some years now sought a proportion of affordable housing on all larger schemes.</p> <p>Recognising the continuing needs for affordable housing the Core Strategy policies propose a lower threshold for contributions or provision to be made as well as seeking (subject to viability issues) a greater proportion of affordable housing on the largest schemes. A mix of housing types and sizes is also sought on larger schemes.</p>	<p>CDC</p>		
	<p>The Parish Councils who are interested in investigating the possibility of providing affordable housing would be required to contact the Rural Housing Enabler in the first instance. The first stage of the process would be to establish the level of demand and a 'housing needs survey' would be circulated to all households within the parish. Based on the responses received from the surveys the second stage of the process would be to establish if there was any land suitable for development in and around the village.</p> <p>More needed in terms of local specifics</p> <p>For information, please email Jean@bucks-comm-action.org.uk</p>		<p>Jean Fox (Rural Housing Enabler), Community Impact Bucks</p>	


Issue	Initial service/partner response	Contact	Work taken forward	Actions completed/achievements
<p>Review of parking situation in Amersham on the Hill and Old Town needed Excessive traffic, indiscriminate parking and lack parking for residents and shoppers</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Comments from CDC and BCC sought</p> <p>Following the Consultation for the Amersham on the Hill and Chesham parking review, the Decision was made not to implement the proposed Pay and Display machines. The Decision is available on our website and the outcome is likely to be implemented on the ground in the next few weeks.</p>	CDC		
	<p>Answer:</p> <p>There are two issues relating to the lack of parking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing additional physical space to park. - managing the existing space. <p>There are many factors that need to be considered when addressing parking issues. It is often nearby attractions that cause problems to others. A common example of this is around railway stations. The station charges for parking and consequently the motorist look elsewhere to park. Such parking is often a problem that annoys residents with not only inappropriate parking, but also by early and late door slamming noise and the environmental impact. This is perhaps not such an issue in the areas not adjacent to the station, but certain aspects may be similar, for example the demand for parking space for shoppers and parking around schools. The fact that many modern households have often multi-car ownership is also a factor that needs consideration and is not easily managed.</p> <p>When considering introducing waiting restrictions, we need to be mindful of the effects of parking migration, the cost of providing a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and the signing and lining works can be prohibitive. TROs are usually used to make waiting permissive or prohibitive, depending on your objective.</p> <p>Regarding restrictions: it is often an issue finding an agreeable solution - as many residents object to charges such as resident permit parking and many find that yellow lines are too obstructive. It depends on the area and the level of local support. It is worth bearing in mind that yellow lines are less effective near shops where quick purchases can be made, so motorists often tend to ignore restrictions. This is also the case around schools where, for 20 minutes at each end of the day, congestion is experienced. Compounding the issue, is the burden of enforcement - isolated areas are less likely to see regular enforcement for obvious reasons.</p>	Steve Kenton, BCC		
	<p>Business Travel Planning</p> <p>Businesses across the county are encouraged to develop Travel Plans to encourage their staff to access their work sites by sustainable modes of transport (with the overall aim of reducing single occupancy car use). The Travel Planning Team endeavour to work with new businesses to develop their Travel Plans on a voluntary basis but also support those with existing Travel Plans. All businesses are offered <i>itrace</i>, a travel monitoring software, which enables staff travel surveys to be carried out easily via an online form and all analysis of the data is automatic. Staff travel surveys are a starting point for every Travel Plan. The results of the surveys will give employers the starting point for encouraging sustainable modes of transport based on where their employees are travelling from and their reasons for making those choices. Business Travel Plan are promoted as a staff and employer benefit.</p>			

Issue	Initial service/partner response	Contact	Work taken forward	Actions completed/achievements
	<p>Staff benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Cost savings o Improved travel choices o Quicker journey to work o Reduction in carbon footprint <p>Employer benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Reduced requirement for car parking provision o Faster access to the site o Employer of choice o Viewed as a good neighbour <p>The Travel Planning Team support these businesses with at least 8 annual campaigns including promotional and marketing material on walking and cycling to work, using public transport and car sharing.</p> <p>Sustainable Routes Sustainable Routes is a new project aimed at Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and promoted by ngage solutions and ourselves. The project has European Regional Development Funding and enables businesses to claim up to £1,000, which must be match funded by themselves, on anything to reduce their business mileage and therefore CO2 emissions. As an example this grant could be spent on a laptop to enable an employee to work from home or telephone conferencing equipment to enable meetings to be carried out without the need to travel. Ngage start this process with the business and once their plan is in place to reduce their business mileage Transport for Buckinghamshire are sent their contact details to help them to develop their Commuter Travel Plan aimed at reducing single occupancy car use on the journey to and from work. This is available to all SMEs in Buckinghamshire.</p> <p>Bucks CarShare Bucks CarShare is promoted to staff working in businesses around Buckinghamshire and to the general public through a series of campaigns and events. It is a free of charge, on-line car share matching service. The new member registers their details and journey , they can then view a map to see if others are making a similar journey to them. It is down to the individual to email the existing member that has a matching journey in order to make arrangements with them to meet and potentially share their journey. The Travel Planning Team promote the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You don't need to share every day but once you are in touch with your car share partner you can share as little or often as you wish. · there are huge cost and CO2 savings associated with car sharing · You don't need to own a car to join Bucks Car Share - you can offer the driver money towards the running costs. · Bucks CarShare offers another form of transport to those in rural areas without access to a car and widens the potential employment pool for businesses. 	Rebecca Dengler		
	<p>Developer Travel Planning</p> <p>The Travel Planning Team also offer advice to developers and their consultants to ensure that a robust Travel Plan accompanies every new development over a certain size (the threshold sizes can be found in the Developer Guidelines which are available online).</p>			

Issue	Initial service/partner response	Work taken forward	Actions completed/achievements																																														
	<p><u>Metropolitan Line Changes</u></p> <p>Buckinghamshire County Council and Chiltern District Council recently met with London Underground and received updates as follows:</p> <p>Chesham branch all day through service to be introduced in December 2010 which should provide a better balance of services for the urban area and reduce railheading to Amersham station</p> <p>Amersham Station step free access – funding for the new footbridge/lifts has been withdrawn due to LU cash constraints</p> <p>Met Line new trains expected to start entering service late 2010</p> <p>Met Line re-signalling contract to be let 2011 with expected completion of work in 2018</p> <p>The Met Line upgrade should also benefit Chiltern Railways’ services which run on the same tracks between Amersham and Harrow on the Hill</p>																																																
<p>Need to encourage alternatives to driving to reduce congestion and air pollution and increase pedestrian safety e.g. responsive public transport and School or Work Travel plans</p> <p>Sustainable transport options, including cycle routes and cycle parking</p> <p>■ ■</p>	<p>School Travel Planning</p> <p>The Travel Planning Team work closely with the majority of schools across the county with the overall aim of reducing car use on the school journey. This in turn will help to reduce congestion, improve health and fitness, and have a positive impact on the environment. The Team has a number of initiatives and projects available that schools can take part in to help encourage sustainable travel (such as walking, cycling, Park & Walk, and public transport) and also to help improve safety (including pedestrian, scooter, and cycle training). Currently, work is taking place with the following schools in the Amersham Local Community Area:</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>STP Level</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Bell Lane Combined School</td><td>Level 3</td></tr> <tr><td>Chenies School</td><td>engaged</td></tr> <tr><td>Chesham Bois C E Combined School</td><td>Level 3</td></tr> <tr><td>Chestnut Lane School</td><td>Level 3</td></tr> <tr><td>Coleshill Church of England Infant School</td><td>Level 3</td></tr> <tr><td>Curzon C E Combined School</td><td>engaged</td></tr> <tr><td>Dr Challoner's Grammar School</td><td>Level 3</td></tr> <tr><td>Elangeni School</td><td>Level 3</td></tr> <tr><td>Heatherton House School (Independent)</td><td>Level 3</td></tr> <tr><td>Henry Allen Nursery School</td><td>Level 3</td></tr> <tr><td>Holmer Green Infant School</td><td>Level 3</td></tr> <tr><td>Holmer Green Junior School</td><td>Level 3</td></tr> <tr><td>Holmer Green Senior School</td><td>Level 3</td></tr> <tr><td>Lindfields Nursery School</td><td>engaged</td></tr> <tr><td>Our Lady's Catholic Primary School</td><td>Level 3</td></tr> <tr><td>St George's C E Infant School</td><td>Level 3</td></tr> <tr><td>St Mary's Amersham CE Aided School</td><td>Level 3</td></tr> <tr><td>Stony Dean School (Day/Week)</td><td>engaged</td></tr> <tr><td>The Amersham School</td><td>Level 3</td></tr> <tr><td>The Beacon School (Independent)</td><td>Level 3</td></tr> <tr><td>The Oaks (PRU)</td><td>engaged</td></tr> <tr><td>Woodside Junior School</td><td>Level 3</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Key: Level 3 = schools with an active, approved Travel Plan engaged = schools that don't have a Level 3 Travel Plan in place, but are engaged in some initiatives to encourage sustainable travel.</p> <p>Rebecca Dengler, Team Leader for Travel Planning, can provide more on specific targets and detail if required.</p>	School	STP Level	Bell Lane Combined School	Level 3	Chenies School	engaged	Chesham Bois C E Combined School	Level 3	Chestnut Lane School	Level 3	Coleshill Church of England Infant School	Level 3	Curzon C E Combined School	engaged	Dr Challoner's Grammar School	Level 3	Elangeni School	Level 3	Heatherton House School (Independent)	Level 3	Henry Allen Nursery School	Level 3	Holmer Green Infant School	Level 3	Holmer Green Junior School	Level 3	Holmer Green Senior School	Level 3	Lindfields Nursery School	engaged	Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	Level 3	St George's C E Infant School	Level 3	St Mary's Amersham CE Aided School	Level 3	Stony Dean School (Day/Week)	engaged	The Amersham School	Level 3	The Beacon School (Independent)	Level 3	The Oaks (PRU)	engaged	Woodside Junior School	Level 3	
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<p>Rural transport</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Acknowledging that rural transport is a key issue for many residents, Transport for Buckinghamshire is undertaking a review of rural transport services as part of the development of Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3). We held a workshop in December 2009 and this was followed by a conference on 2 March 2010. This looks at how we provide rural transport in an increasingly challenging financial climate, reviewing policy and considering alternative ways to deliver rural transport services. Invitations were sent to all County Councillors and chairmen / vice chairmen of the LAFs. Work continues with regard to how rural transport can best be provided.</p>																																																

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer benefits include: • Reduced requirement for car parking provision • Faster access to the site • Employer of choice • Viewed as a good neighbour <p>The Commuter and Developer Travel Planning team support these businesses with at least 8 annual campaigns including promotional and marketing material on walking and cycling to work, car sharing, using public transport and car sharing. RAF Halton are supporting these campaigns.</p> <p>Sustainable Routes Sustainable Routes is a new project aimed at Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and promoted by Ngage solutions and ourselves. The project has European Regional Development Funding and enables businesses to claim up to £1,000 which must be match funded by themselves on anything to reduce their business mileage and therefore CO2 emissions. As an example this grant could be spent on a laptop to enable an employee to work from home or telephone conferencing equipment. Ngage start this process with the business and once their plan is in place to reduce their business mileage</p> <p>Transport for Buckinghamshire are sent their contact details to help them to develop their commuter travel plan aimed at reducing single occupancy car use on the journey to and from work. This is available to all SMEs in Wendover.</p> <p>Bucks CarShare</p> <p>Bucks CarShare is promoted to staff working in businesses and the general public through a series of campaigns and events. It is a free of charge, on-line car share matching service. The new member registers their details and journey and then can view a map to see if others are making a similar journey. It is down to the individual to email the existing member to make arrangements to meet and potentially share the journey. We promote the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You don't need to share every day but once you are in touch with your car share partner you can share as little or often as you wish. • There are huge cost and CO2 savings associated with car sharing • You don't need to own a car to join Bucks Car Share - you can offer the driver money towards the running costs. • Bucks CarShare offers another form of transport to those in rural areas without access to a car and widens the potential employment pool for businesses. <p>Developer Travel Planning The Commuter and Media team also offer advice to developers and their consultants to ensure that a robust travel plan accompanies every new development over a certain size.</p>		


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	<p>Metropolitan Line Changes</p> <p>Buckinghamshire County Council and Chiltern District Council recently met with London Underground and received updates as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chesham branch all day through service to be introduced in December 2010 which should provide a better balance of services for the urban area and reduce railheading to Amersham station • Amersham Station step free access – funding for the new footbridge/lifts has been withdrawn due to LU cash constraints • Met Line new trains expected to start entering service late 2010 <p>Met Line re-signalling contract to be let 2011 with expected completion of work in 2018</p> <p>The Met Line upgrade should also benefit Chiltern Railways' services which run on the same tracks between Amersham and Harrow on the Hill.</p>	Richard Ward, BCC		
	<p>Cycle routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o With very limited capital funding available, cycling improvements across the County are largely introduced as a result of funding negotiated through the building of new developments and is therefore more prevalent in areas such as Aylesbury where large housing growth is taking place. Work to promote cycling to residents is largely through schools and businesses, where both are encouraged to adopt travel plans and carry out initiatives to increase cycling. <p>Buckinghamshire County Council is fortunate to have access to a large pool of professional cycle trainers who carry out training to residents on our behalf. A number of schools in Amersham take up the offer of free cycle training for years 5 and 6 children, providing them with the skills to cycle safely and confidently on the roads where cycleways aren't available. Buckinghamshire CC also supports the Sustrans Bike It project, which is an initiative that works intensively with a small number of schools to increase cycling levels. This programme is due to extend to the Amersham area this year.</p>	Lee Stevens		
<p>Road and footways improvements needed as is footpath maintenance</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Answer:</p> <p>For financial year 2010/11, Transport for Buckinghamshire has allocated approximately £2m for plane and patch as part of the We're Working On It programme. The programme is designed to improve the county's roads and pavements.</p> <p>Fortunately we have come to the end of the excessive levels of pothole repairs we experienced during the winter period and we are now able to re-allocate resources to under take other maintenance repairs. We have instigated 'road fixer' gangs which are self contained units which are capable of carrying out small areas of patching works and will be moving around the Local Area Technicians areas on a four weekly basis for a week at a time.</p> <p>Local Area Community Gangs are undertaking small maintenance issues, which primarily have been brought to our attention by Parish Council's and please continue to contact your Local Area Technician with any works so that forthcoming programmed can be compiled.</p> <p>The annual surface dressing programme started on 7th June and hopefully weather permitting will be completed by the end of June.</p>	Colin Perrottet, Transport for Buckinghamshire		

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	<p>Community Gang are scheduled for 12 July 16 August 20 September.</p> <p>Plane & Patch is due to take place in :- Plantation Way, Amersham on 7 July Copperkins Lane, Amersham on 2 Aug Village Road, Chenies 4 Aug.</p> <p>Amersham Local Area Forum meetings can keep track of progress made against the schedule of maintenance work(s). This is the process that should be followed.</p> <p>TfB have a programme of drainage problem areas which will be addressed during the next couple of months.</p> <p>All Category I defects that are reported to us, will be repaired with within 24 hours, except in exceptional circumstances and times of prolonged adverse weather conditions, when our resource is fully employed in keeping the road network in a safe and usable condition.</p> <p>Those roads and pavements which have been identified as being in poor condition need to be brought to the attention of the BCC Members that represent Amersham Local Area Forum area (i.e. Martin Phillips and Steve Adams – Amersham; Noel Brown – Chess Valley; David Schofield – Penn, Coleshill & Holmer Green). The BCC Member(s) can then undertake a site visit with the relevant Local Area Technician for the area and agree which site(s) should be programmed into a schedule of maintenance work(s).</p>				
<p>Need for more and improved youth facilities, play facilities, play facilities, green and open spaces including during the holidays when clubs are shut.</p> <p>In particular youth club, sports pavilion and community centre for Old Town are needed.</p> <p>Need for organised youth activities in rural areas</p> 	<p>The youth facilities and activities are supported by Buckinghamshire Integrated Youth Services who maintain the Youth Centre and provide staff to coordinate activities in the locality. The delivery of youth work is changing and the service would look to develop relationships within the community and work in partnership with them as appropriate to provide as wide a service as possible. We would endeavour to work with young people to identify which facilities they think should be improved, and develop an action plan from there.</p> <p>The Youth Centre is used</p> <p>A wider range of activities might be provide by working in partnership with other agencies particularly in the school holidays. Young people are able to apply for Youth Opportunity Funding which, alongside other funding could improve facilities to provide teenage play parks, kick walls and other outside facilities such as a multi-use games area.</p> <p>The development of a youth forum would enable the community to ensure that the facilities and activities would be appropriate and relevant to the young people of the Amersham Local Community area (see below): A Youth forum would built on current work with Parish and Town Councils, CDC, Bucks cc, community and voluntary organisations to represent the young people of the area. This would include assessing what youth provisions young people would like, then working with other organisations to implement these provisions. The analysis of results from a youth participation consultation on behalf of the Youth Service is currently ongoing. The headline however is that young people are prioritising “clean streets” above all other issues.</p>		<p>CDC Y&C Grant net See Jackie W Playbuilder Landfill tax credot BCA</p>		

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<p>Lack of information about what community activities are available for children and young people and there is a lack of networking between providers of youth activities</p>	<p>The LAF has agreed funds for “Amersham Summer Festival (ASF)” an event planned to be held during the same weekend as the Amersham Town Carnival (ATC). The two events are separately organised, but they both support each other with a shared infrastructure, facilities and publicity. (ASF now delayed until September)</p> <p>ASF specifically fills a gap for the 13 – 23 year old demographic gap by delivering an event formed through direct action and consultation with the target audience themselves. If successful, ASF should become the annual highlight of the Amersham Town council’s programme delivering Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP). Importantly the organisers have been the young people themselves under the mentorship of several community leaders.</p> <p>ASF will be a “market stall” event which enables local organisations connected with young people to showcase their services. By directly engaging young people in activities that might interest them, it may encourage greater participation and remove the excuse that “there’s nothing to do” locally. The hook is the musical content of the event, which has also been brought together by young people with an interest in music.</p> <p>The organising committee consists of 5 Amersham community leaders overseeing two committees of young people. The Music committee organises the bands and performers in several venues, and the events committee organises activities and local organisations wanting to participate in the Festival. A team of 8 young people have run the events team (mentored by 2 youth workers and Duncan Dyason) and have generated all the ideas of appealing activities for ASF. Another team of 5 young people (overseen by David Burton) have organised all the music performers and publicised this in Facebook.</p> <p>Young people are able to apply for Youth Opportunity Funding which, alongside other funding could improve facilities to provide teenage play parks, kick walls and other outside facilities such as a multi-use games area.</p> <p>The development of a youth council would enable the community to ensure that the facilities and activities would be appropriate and relevant to the young people</p> <p>A Youth Council would work together with Parish Councils to represent the young people . This would include assessing what youth provisions young people would like , then working with the Parish Council to implement these provisions.</p>	<p>CDC and Y&C / website Youth friendly language Face book / text / Twitter etc</p>	

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<p>Police presence and responsiveness considered patchy and needs improvement Update for Amersham</p> <p>■</p>			TVP		
<p>Speeding on roads throughout the area</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Comment sought for Amersham area</p> <p>Speeding remains a high priority locally. The Neighbourhood Action Group is working on specific locations of concern. These can then be targeted for speed enforcement work or options for longer term changes. If members of the LAF have concerns about specific roads these need to be fed into the local neighbourhood team.</p> <p>NAG priorities for Amersham are in the process of being updated but still include an emphasis on combating speeding</p>				

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<p>Speeding on roads throughout the area</p> <p>■ ■</p>	<p>Answer:</p> <p>Speed limit review Area 4: The report was submitted for Cabinet Member Valerie Letheren's approval in June. and Copperkins Lane gateway)</p> <p>The Report recommended that all proposed speed limits as advertised in Spring 2009 should go ahead, except that:-</p> <p>Proposal C. Weedon Hill/ Copperkins Lane (from Hyde Heath to Fullers Hill and Copperkins Lane gateway): should remain at National speed limit (proposal was 40mph)</p> <p>Proposal I. A355 London Road West/A413 London Road East, Amersham: Proposed 40mph limit should be extended eastwards by about 150 metres on A413 London Road East to include the accesses to the last few properties along this section of the road, and link in with the Town name</p> <p>Proposal N. B474 Penn Road, Knotty Green/Beaconsfield: current 40mph limit to be retained (not 30mph)</p> <p>Proposal O. A416 Chesham Bois: Current 30mph limit to be retained (not proposed 40mph)</p> <p>Area 10 speed limits including Amersham (north of A404) and Chenies legally came into force from 17th April and should be fully signed by early June. Speed limit roundels on the road surface will be installed this summer and vehicle activated signs will be temporarily located for one or two weeks during the summer on most of the roads with new 30 or 40mph limits.</p>	<p>Via Chris Schwier</p>		
<p>Anti-social behaviour by young people across all parishes – often drink related</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Seeking comments from services and organisations</p> <p>Martin Holt keen to know where problem are so that action can be taken if appropriate</p> <p>Conversations with DAAT re investigation</p>	<p>TVP CDC Schools Trading standards</p>		
<p>Vandalism and graffiti issues</p> <p>Litter and flytipping in Penn</p> <p>■</p>	<p>The presence of graffiti causes concern among the residents and traders alike. Chiltern District Council has no obligation or responsibility to remove graffiti. However, we want to deter this kind of criminal damage and maintain the attractive appearance of our area.</p> <p>The Council has procedures & conditions in place for removing graffiti, which are: For graffiti on Paradigm Housing property contact Paradigm directly (01494 830991). Private business are responsible for cleaning their own properties The removal of graffiti from Parish Council property will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will be dependent on funds available</p>			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private business are responsible for cleaning their own properties <p>The removal of graffiti from Parish Council property will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will be dependent on funds available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Railway bridges are the responsibility of RailTrack/London Underground to clean We will not remove graffiti off any utility boxes (electric, phone etc.). The company who owns them should be contacted directly and not via the District Council <p>Buckinghamshire County Council have a project for removing graffiti from their bridges If racist or offensive graffiti is reported, all attempts will be made to remove it as soon as possible.</p> <p>The District Council did have an allocated budget for graffiti removal but unfortunately that has now been spent, therefore the Council can no longer remove graffiti unless in certain circumstances where an assessment will be made and if warranted all efforts will be made to allocate some emergency funding.</p> <p>The Highway Structures team has a long standing policy to remove graffiti from subways on a quarterly basis. Graffiti to other highway structures is only undertaken when the content is offensive. Where this is reported to us we aim to remove within 48 hours where possible.</p>	Nicola Head, BCC		
		CDC / BCC		
Weekday health care needs met but out of hours and weekend care is limited 	<p>Answer from Debbie Breen (Assistant Director, Urgent Care, NHS Buckinghamshire)</p> <p>Who attended Amersham LAF in April 2019. She told members the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended hours = the provision of pre-booked appointments outside normal surgery opening hours. Out-of-hours = provision of Primary Care Trust (PCT) services outside normal opening hours (i.e. evenings and weekends). All GP practices had signed up to the Extended Hours scheme, but the format differed between practices, and was dependent on the results of local patient surveys. A list of extended hours for each practice would be sent out with the Minutes. The previous provider of out-of-hours services had been Harmoni. The PCT had carried out a procurement process in 2009 for a new provider. The new contract would incorporate a GP-led health centre. The contract had been awarded to a partnership between Harmoni, Chiltern Health and Vale Health, and would therefore be a locally owned and delivered service. <p>There was a new requirement by the Government that each PCT area should have at least one GP-led health centre open 8am-8pm, seven days a week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A GP-led health centre had opened in High Wycombe – the first part had opened on 1 November 2009, with the full service operational from March 2010. The Centre offered a walk-in service, and did not require a patient to be registered. <p>High Wycombe had been chosen as the location, as the aim of GP-led health centres was to reach hard-to-reach groups. Wycombe had the highest urban population in Buckinghamshire, as well as the highest BME population and the highest levels of health needs.</p>	Debbie Breen (Assistant Director, Urgent Care, NHS Buckinghamshire)		

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<p>NHS dental care is limited</p>	<p>Answer from Michelle Campbell (Dental and Optometry Manager, NHS Buckinghamshire) who attended the Amersham LAF in April 2010</p> <p>A national contract had been introduced in 2006 for Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to be responsible for NHS dental services.</p> <p>NHS dentists had three charge bands (diagnostic work; fillings etc; dentures etc.)</p> <p>In Buckinghamshire the changes had only brought about a 4% reduction in the number of NHS dentists. This was much less of a reduction than had been portrayed in the media at the time.</p> <p>In the Buckinghamshire PCT area there were 76 NHS dental practices and eight orthodontic practices. In total there were 99 contracts, including out-of-hours dental services and prison dental services.</p> <p>In the Amersham Local Area there were four dental practices which took NHS patients (not all of these took adult patients). As of March 2010, none of these were taking new patients, but this could change over the next few months.</p> <p>More provision of NHS dentistry services was needed. A telephone survey of 1700 patients had been carried out to find out the perceived need for NHS dentistry.</p> <p>A procurement process had begun in December 2009 for 13 new contracts. There would also be a new NHS dental new practice in Amersham (8500 new patients) and a new NHS dental practice in Chesham (8500 patients). It was hoped that the contracts would be awarded in July 2010 and that the new services would start in September 2010. In the meantime, the provision in the current contracts had been increased until the end of September 2010.</p> <p>The PCT was assessed on the number of patients who accessed NHS dentistry services. Buckinghamshire had previously not performed well for this indicator, but was now ranked third in the Strategic Health Authority.</p> <p>An advertising and social marketing campaign was being initiated.</p> <p>A member asked how tenders for dentistry services were assessed. Michelle Campbell said that the assessment process was very rigorous. A pre-qualification questionnaire established whether the resources and finances were adequate. Short-listing was carried out using a long list of criteria. If invited to tender, an organisation would then need to complete a 79-page tender document, which covered every aspect of the service.</p> <p>A member asked about budget limitations for the PCT in providing dentistry services. Michelle Campbell said that services were provided according to need. It was the decision of each contract holder to undertake forward planning to see if they had the capacity to take on new patients. If a contractor was going to under-deliver, the PCT would work with them to support them.</p> <p>A member asked how they should go about finding an NHS dentist in the Amersham Local Area. Michelle Campbell said that information was available on the website. There was also a patient advice and liaison telephone service.</p> <p>The member said that more publicity was needed about the increased capacity of NHS dentists. Michelle Campbell said other ways of advertising would be looked at (e.g. digital screens in libraries).</p>	<p>Michelle Campbell (Dental and Optometry Manager, NHS Buckinghamshire)</p>		

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<p>Concerns about changes to Hospital provision</p>	<p>Answer from Juliet Brown (Joint Director of Strategy and System Reform, Buckinghamshire Hospitals Trust)</p> <p>Juliet and Lee Jones (Assistant Director of Communications, Buckinghamshire Hospitals Trust) attended the Amersham LAF meeting in April 2010</p> <p>Buckinghamshire Hospitals Trust (BHT) manage Amersham, Wycombe and Stoke Mandeville Hospitals.</p> <p>BHT had maintained its status as a well-performing organisation despite the last year having been busy and challenging. BHT would break-even financially for 2009/10.</p> <p>BHT had met the national standard of a maximum four hour wait in A&E, and was ranked second for this indicator in the South Central Health Authority.</p> <p>The Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspected BHT. A few years previously BHT had been assessed as a 'weak' organisation. However the most recent inspection had assessed BHT as 'good.' Infection rates at BHT were some of the lowest in the UK.</p> <p>There was a national emphasis on moving care closer to patient's homes and away from acute hospitals. BHT was working with the Primary Care Trust to promote services external to the Hospitals (e.g. to prevent unnecessary visits to A&E). GPs now provided a much wider range of services (e.g. ophthalmology and gynaecology).</p> <p>Between October 2009 and March 2010 there had been a 10% decrease in out-patient referrals, and clinics had not been running at full capacity.</p> <p>16% of out-patient activity was based at Amersham Hospital. There was a 5.8% non-attendance rate at Amersham Hospital. 50% of patients attending services at Amersham Hospital lived closer to Stoke Mandeville or Wycombe.</p> <p>Some clinics at Amersham Hospital had been removed, but 60% of the clinics at Amersham Hospital were still running, including cardiology, dermatology, urology and older people's services.</p> <p>The Amersham area had a higher proportion of older people than other parts of the County, and services at Amersham Hospital would target this user-group (including diabetic screening and audiology). Medicine for older people would be developed further at Amersham Hospital. Neuro-rehabilitation services would also be provided at Amersham Hospital in the future.</p> <p>BHT had recently merged with the PCT provider arm (community services), which would make services simpler for patients. There was a lot to be gained from the merger, and a key benefit was that there would be a strong future for local community hospitals (e.g. Chalfont St Peter and Amersham Hospitals). The merger would also enable greater provision of local follow-up care.</p> <p>the diabetic clinic would be remaining at Amersham Hospital.</p> <p>assisted transport was available for local residents. In specific circumstances as well as transport issues, hospital car park charges were also of concern to many residents. Juliet Brown said that BHT was working with the PCT to provide as much care as possible on a local basis, to reduce travel.</p> <p>A member referred to dial-a-ride services and said that residents could use these to travel to clinics. However it was noted that not all residents would want to do this, and also that dial-a-ride operated within specific boundaries.</p>	<p>Juliet Brown (Joint Director of Strategy and System Reform, Buckinghamshire Hospitals Trust)</p>		

Issue	Initial service/partner response	Contact	Work taken forward	Actions completed/achievements
<p>Lack of home carers for elderly in the community</p> <p>Lack of facilities for elderly for social activities</p> <p>(NB Changes to Day care services)</p> <p>■</p>	<p>Updated/ tailored information requested</p> <p>There are variety of services available to support older people to live in their own homes. These include home care, day care, hot/frozen meal delivery and short-term breaks. The breakdown for numbers of people receiving these services in the Amersham Local Community is as follows</p> <p>Figures awaited</p> <p>Home care Day care Meals Short-term break Direct payments</p> <p>The eligibility criteria is assessed in four bands: critical, substantial, low and moderate. The services above are offered to those with critical and substantial needs.</p> <p>There are service users in the Amersham local community area accessing the In-Touch service, which incorporates a quarterly telephone support call, or the In-Touch Plus service (weekly telephone support call). Other prevention projects for service users with low and moderate needs also include Falls' prevention classes</p> <p>“Telecare”, also known as “assistive technology”, is a term for home safety equipment that links to a monitoring centre. If an incident occurs, a message is sent to the monitoring centre using the home telephone line and help can be called quickly. The simplest form of Telecare is a care alarm and pendant.</p> <p>There are also other pieces of equipment which are not linked to a monitoring centre. This is referred to as “stand alone technology”. They are simple solutions which can be of enormous help to vulnerable people and their carers. For example, a Magi-plug is a simple device that can replace the traditional bath or sink plug and if the taps are left running, it will automatically release the water before it over-flows.</p> <p>We have provided both forms of equipment to nearly 1000 Buckinghamshire residents in the last year of which about are from the Amersham area. Our system-based equipment are monitored (24/7) by Invicta Telecare Call centre and over 99% of the alarms are answered under 60 seconds.</p> <p>Our clients raised 3,129 alarms within the last 8 months (up to April 2010). Some of these alarms prevented serious incidents such as fire, and remaining on the floor for hours after having had a fall (70 falls and 17 fire-related incidents). Also on 41 occasions medical help or emergency ambulance services visited our clients. Moreover, on 178 occasions clients felt scared as a result of being alone/noises outside their houses and consequently raised an alarm. In such occasions, they were given assurances by call centre staff.</p> <p>The plan for 2010/11 is to provide Telecare to 600 new people and also keep support the 1000 service users who are already on the system. Currently Telecare (both equipment and monitoring) is free-of-charge. However, around August 2010 a charge will be introduced, although it will be means-tested and free to those who cannot afford to pay.</p> <p>There is a wide-range of other prevention projects available. For more information on the services available to support older people to live in their own homes, please telephone Karen Adamson on 01296 383847.</p>			

Additional information relating to the local area priorities

NHS Dental provision

Out of hours GP Health care

Hospital transport

Page Information from Partnership Manager Bucks Hospitals Trust

attended the Local Area Forum on 1 October 2009 to discuss hospital transport, to outline the transport that a hospital patient is entitled to.

The patient's basic entitlement to transport is:

- If they have a medical need or disability they are entitled to free NHS transport to non-primary care.
- If they fulfil certain means-related criteria, they are entitled to reimbursement of certain travel costs to non-primary care

What is definitely excluded?

- Provision of funding of transport to the GP surgery or other primary care
- Provision of transport for the able-bodied unless emergency (though some costs may be reimbursed)
- Any transport for relatives or other visitors (unless patient fulfils criteria for medical escorts)

The definition of medical need is if the patient meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Requires continuous oxygen or intravenous support
- Is unable to stand or walk more than a few steps and cannot use public transport or manage in a car
- Requires medical equipment or aids that cannot be accommodated by private or general public transport

Has clearly recognised disability or illness and is genuinely unable to make the requisite

- journey.
- Treatment may debilitate the patient in such a way that they cannot be accommodated by public or private transport.

Concern was expressed on behalf of elderly residents in rural areas living alone about the difficulties associated with reaching hospital.

Lesley Mallinder recognised the concerns but explained that the NHS had extremely limited resources. In response to a question it was noted that an assessment takes account of savings.

Payment of Travel Costs Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme (HTCS)

Under the HTCS, eligibility depends on three conditions being met:

1. The patient must be receiving one of the qualifying benefits* or have an NHS Low Income Scheme certificate
2. The journey must NOT be for primary medical or dental care
3. A separate journey must have been made (i.e. care must not be provided on same premises and at same time as the referral is made).

* Qualifying benefits: Income support, Jobseekers Allowance, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and Pension Credit Guarantee Credit.

How Are People Reimbursed

Eligible patients attending Buckinghamshire Hospital Hospitals Trust hospital (Amersham, Stoke Mandeville and Wycombe) can receive reimbursement from the Cashier's Office, after obtaining a form confirming their attendance from the ward or outpatient department

Additional Transport Provided

There is a free shuttle bus between Stoke Mandeville and Wycombe hospitals. A timetable was tabled (email jwesley@buckscc.gov.uk for this information).

Other options for Transport to and from Healthcare Facilities:

British Red Cross Buckinghamshire
Tel: 01908 270726
Email: lmcgee@redcross.org.uk

Aylesbury Vale Dial-a-Ride
Tel: 01296 330088
Email: enquiries@dialaride.org.uk
Web: www.dialaride.org.uk

Bucks Rural Transport Partnership
Tel: 01296 421036
Tel: enquiry@alt-transport.org.uk
Web: www.alt-transport.org.uk/schemes

The Amersham area priorities

The priorities for the area were identified at a workshop held in March 2009. The priorities were taken from parish plans, Service Excellence events, LTP2 and other relevant information, before additional priorities were added by the parishes.

These priorities were assessed during the workshop and the following priorities were identified. The following pages describe progress so far in addressing the priorities. This will be updated on a regular basis as the priorities are taken forward.

Sustainable Community Strategy

The priorities are linked to the five broad themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). The links to each theme are shown by the following colour coding:

- Sustainable environment
- Health and wellbeing
- Cohesive communities
- Thriving economies
- Safe communities

Amersham Local Area priorities identified	Additional information (see Appendix A for more detailed information on original issues)
There is a lack of affordable decent housing	There is a lack of affordable decent housing and starter homes / smaller units for first time buyers or downsizing
High property costs causes difficulties for employment and local area	Strong job market with low unemployment but high percentage of employment in the Town is not paid enough to allow employees to live locally. Cost of property driving young people away leading in increasingly ageing population
Sustainable transport required	Need to encourage alternatives to driving to reduce congestion and air pollution and increase pedestrian safety e.g. responsive public transport and School/ Work Travel Plans
Road and footway improvements. Footpath maintenance	
Police presence and responsiveness considered patchy and needs improvement	
Anti social behaviour by young people across all parishes	Anti-social behaviour is often drink related

Speeding on roads throughout the area	
Access to services is an issue	Concerns about remoteness of major services e.g. hospitals and high cost of accessing health services in Wycombe and Stoke Mandeville
More support for elderly people	Many elderly people are housebound and forgotten by their community
More facilities and activities for young people	Need for more and improved youth facilities, play facilities, green and open spaces including during holidays when youth clubs are shut. In particular youth club, sports pavilion and community centre for Old Town are needed and there is a need for organised youth activities in rural areas
More support for local businesses	Limited variety of retail outlets and loss of local services e.g. post offices, village shops
Address issues relating to links in service provision and information for young people	Lack of information about what community activities are available for children and young people and lack of networking between providers of youth activities

	Sustainable Environment										
	Public transport	Roads and pavement maintenance	Traffic management	Tips and household waste	Parks and open spaces		Access to nature	Country foot-paths & rights of way	Town planning	Levels of pollution	Access to services and facilities by public transport
Amersham MTHC			Amersham On the Hill - excessive traffic and some indiscriminate parking. Main issue in	Recycling improving enormously. Need for more flexibility in methods by Local authority esp in Old Town	Despite access to Green Belt beyond boundaries there is a lack of open space in the Town. King George V field, Hevines Park, Barn Meadow vital and other spaces need to be protected		Woodland and wildlife well maintained within constraints of equipment and staff available. Improved maintenance would improve the situation				high cost of accessing health facilities in Wycombe and Stoke M
MTHC											
MTHC			Development of one way system sought to improve safety for pedestrians, enhance town centre and create more controlled short term parking		smaller spaces would benefit from landscaping (Britain in Bloom) particularly entrance to Old Town from Shardeloes dn roundabouts						
MTHC			Parking limitations a very significant issue in old town and to lesser extent in Amersham on the hill. Need for additional parking in both. Need to encourage alternatives to driving								Need to encourage alternatives to driving. Need for more responsive public transport to enhance current rural and two bus services and prove a service where no conventional service is financially sustainably and access to essential services/ locations is difficult
MTHC			Prime focus for transport improvements is for congestion management on A416 from Station Road,} Amersham to Berkhamsted Rd, Chesham						commission streetscape design for Amersham on Hill. Support study to review and propose revision/upgrade of street furniture, parking, lighting etc. Include Old Town we here project underway for Market Square		A taxi / bus service to feed railway station would be of value as would a service connecting Little Chalfont, Amersham Old Town and Amersham on the hill
MTHC			need to emphasise importance of Scholl Travel Plans/ Workplace Travel Plans and installation of cycles stands - reduce congestion, air pollution and increase safety of pedestrians esp children						Town Centre redevelopment - Amersham on Hill - integration of studies of Streetscape and traffic with close involvement of developers and property owners aimed at long term improvement	need to emphasise importance of Scholl Travel Plans/ Workplace Travel Plans and installation of cycles stands - reduce congestion, air pollution and increase safety of pedestrians esp children	Ensure that train service are maintained esp the link to Little Chalfont/ Chesham - t increase use of public transport and reduce road congestion

	Sustainable Environment										
	Public transport	Roads and pavement maintenance	Traffic management	Tips and household waste	Parks and open spaces		Access to nature	Country foot-paths & rights of way	Town planning	Levels of pollution	Access to services and facilities by public transport
Residents survey 2007		50% of people surveyed said this was what most needed improving									
ATC clerk					"grotty" state of roundabouts and entry point to Old Town						
57 conversations											
Service Excellence			parking in the Old Town								
Service Excellence			Object to Parking charges should not be levied in King Geroge V road car park								withdrawal of bus service though Winchmore Hill and Penn Street. Perception of community being isolated
Service Excellence			object to parking charges in old town								Lack of provision in outlying villages for transport and health e.g. young families and youth groups
Service Excellence			Safety of roads and pathways for people with young children getting to/from school. Specifically areas around junction of South Road and Copperkins Lane, crossing the main Chesham/ Amersham Road, pavements not safe/ too narrow from Boot & Slipper pub to Copperkins Lane								Lack of advance warning of withdrawal local bus service and poor advertising of what will happen next. What other facilities available?
Service Excellence			Car parking on Bois Lane, near Chesham Bois C of E School – Total and utter chaos at school drop off and collection times, despite School Travel plans. This desperately needs attention Chestnut Lane is congested around school time with appalling parking at entrance, exit and across feeder roads.		play areas for young need constant maintenance when they exist but not enough of them overall						
Service Excellence			Too many parking restrictions on public roads make it difficult for District Nurses to park to visit patients								
Area profile										24% of people in this community rated as living in areas classified as having an 'average' level of this type of deprivation in comparison to the rest of England (road traffic accidents and air quality - Outdoors Living Environment). 19% for Bucks as a whole	72% of people in this community are rated as living in the 'most' deprived areas for distance to primary services in comparison to the rest of England (54% for Bucks) (Distance to Services).

	Health and wellbeing							
	Facilities for young children	Support for older people to live in their own homes	Support for people with disabilities to live independently	Support for children and families		Support for carers	Health services	Healthy lifestyles
MTHC							weekday needs met but out of hours and weekend care is limited. Concern about remoteness of major services - relocation to Stoke M. Cost of travelling in order to attend or visit is considerable.	
MTHC							Promote and increase capacity of "Harmoni" service	
MTHC							Dental care provided by adequate number of practitioners but NHS services limited	secure future of Chiltern pools via ongoing contractual maintenance. Changing rooms and reception refurbished. Improvements to pool hall needed to secure long tem life of pool
MTHC							Ambulance service effective and respected	Signage on historical buildings; link to promoting walks. Review signage and option of signage for heritage trail. Signage to publicise Heritage Associated with enhancement of Museum leaflet " A walk Around ..." should be pursued
MTHC							parking issues at Health Centre - consider possibility of free short term parking at Amer-sham multi storey.	Develop safe cycling plan - identify cycle ways, provision of cycle racks at key point etc - under review by BCC Cycling officer
Service Excellence		Many elderly people housebound and forgotten in the community				Lack of home carers for the elderly in the community		School Travel Plans encourage walking/cycling, but unsafe pavements do not encourage this. Cop-perkins Lane used as a 'cut through' by HGVs/coaches etc, making narrow pavements unsafe
Service Excellence							Too many parking restrictions on public roads make it difficult for District Nurses to park to visit patients	Leisure facilities expensive esp for young people
Service Excellence								Lack of facilities for the elderly for social activities
Area profile		Amersham has higher % of residents aged 40-59 (30% against 28%) and 60 plus than Bucks average (23% against 19%)						

	Cohesive Communities									
	Sports and Leisure activities	Cultural facilities	Shopping facilities	Community facilities		Volunteering opportunities/ support for voluntary & community	Activities for young people	Community cohesion	Libraries	communications
MTHC		vibrant cultural and heritage life. Need for sizeable modern hall is and issue	Limited variety in retail outlets	Development of large scale community facility for Amersham. Initial review of need, potential economic benefit and viability. Subsequent action depends on whether facility can/ should be incorporated in changes to Community Centre in Amersham on the hill		CAB funding an issue	need for youth facilities, play facilities green and open space. Raans field, Community Centre and Chiltern pools must be supported		integration of library into CDC building. Need to ensure that if current building freed up that this remains part of coherent plan for a community centre or youth club redevelopment for Amersham on the Hill	
MTHC			AoH -generally shabby appearance does not enhance community and pride. Not so true in Old Town due to conservation area				Improvements to existing and development of youth facilities at King George V Road field - all weather pitch installed. More needed			
MTHC							Develop youth club, sports pavilion and community centre for Amersham Old Town (Barn Meadow). Ongoing ATC project			
Residents survey 2007							26% of those surveyed said this most needed improving			Residents in Amersham feel that Buckinghamshire County Council do not keep them as well informed as the rest of the county feels (76% for county compared to 67% for Amersham)
Service Excellence				Loss of local services e.g. post offices, village shops					Poor condition of buildings	Confusion of boundaries and priorities toes esp NAG and Local Community areas
Service Excellence									Opening hours of building and lack of info on Mobile library visiting hours	confusion about which council provides what. Confusing boundaries between councils
Service Excellence							Need for organised youth activities in rural areas – provided in partnership with parishes and community groups			Lack of access to info for the elderly

Cohesive Communities

	Cohesive Communities									
	Sports and Leisure activities	Cultural facilities	Shopping facilities	Community facilities		Volunteering opportunities/ support for voluntary & community	Activities for young people	Community cohesion	Libraries	communications
Service Excellence							Lack of knowledge of community activities for school, parents and children and young people			
Service Excellence	Expensive						Nothing for young people of Amersham to do in holidays when youth club shut			
Service Excellence							Have to travel out of Amersham for careers advice			
Service Excellence							Lack of networking between providers of youth activities			
Service Excellence							Lack of places for young people just to meet			

	Thriving Economies								
	Support for local businesses	Local job prospects	Education provision		Learning programmes for adults	Affordable decent housing	Trading standards	general comments	Tourism
Amersham Market Town Health Check (MTHC)	support to businesses limited. Greater communication with Local Govt needed and greater understanding of collection and allocation of business rates	strong job market with low unemployment but large % of employment in the town is not remunerated well enough to allow employees to live in the town. Cost of property drives young people away	Good level of education and training but not taken up by businesses due to cost and reluctance to release staff		Good level of education and training but not taken up by businesses due to cost and reluctance to release staff	need for affordable housing and smaller units e.g. for elderly people downsizing		generally shabby appearance	Underplayed despite attractiveness of area. No overarching strategy and limited information. Signs adequate but shabby. More attention to street furniture and building facades needed
MTHC	Lack of large premises but there is expansion/redevelopment space suitable for further commercial / industrial use								
MTHC									Signage on historical buildings. Review signage and option of signage for heritage trail. Need to progress survey re refurbishment / replacement of finger posts, then review town identity signage and sites of visitor interest
Residents survey 2007						16% of those surveyed said this most needed improvement			
57 conversations									
Service Excellence						over development			
Service Excellence						green belt sacrificed for large houses			
Service Excellence						lack of affordable or starter homes			
Service Excellence						Ageing population with younger generations moving away as they cannot afford housing here			

	Safe Communities						
	Levels of crime	Levels of anti-social behaviour		Street & environmental cleanliness			
MTHC		Promote reporting mechanism for anti social behaviour and support of probation officers. Work with Police to enforce ASB orders. Liaison with NAG. Actions could be focused in more visible police presence, improved use of CCTV, faster advice to retailers of incidents. (complete or ongoing?). AAG and OACRG attend NAG. improved NAG focus. CDC advertised reporting mechanism for ASB		Litter problems on main roads minimal but more problems on other routes. Railway station, supermarkets and fast food outlets cause big litter problems. Sporadic graffiti on walls and road signs	police presence and response considered patchy and improvements needed	need to emphasise importance of Scholl Travel Plans/ Workplace Travel Plans and installation of cycles stands - reduce congestion, air pollution and increase safety of pedestrians esp children	
MTHC				Support ATC effort and equipmentgraffiti on public areas. Support Enforce ASB orders . CDC to advises reporting mechanism for graffiti removal			
MTHC				Litter - review litter collection mechanisms and different councils responsibilities. Possible hit squads for problem area, develop community litter picks. Requires positive effort from all 3 levels of local govt working together.			
ATC clerk				"grotty" state of roundabouts and of entry to Old Town			
NAG - Old Town and Chesham Bois		Anti-social behaviour as it has been established that some young people congregate on the streets making members of the public feel intimidated. The young people sometimes engage themselves in underage drinking resulting into being noisy and irresponsible.					
NAG - Old Town and Chesham Bois		Speeding due to some motorists' failure to adhere to the speed limits around the town. Main areas affected are in Bell lane, Plantation Road, Grimsdells Lane, Sycamore Road, Bois Lane, Woodside Close Rectory Hill, Stanley Hill and Elizabeth Avenue.					

	Safe Communities						
	Levels of crime	Levels of anti-social behaviour		Street & environmental cleanliness			
NAG - Amersham on Hill and Chenies		Anti-social behaviour as it has been established that some young people congregate on the streets making members of the public feel intimidated. The young people sometimes engage themselves in underage drinking resulting in being noisy and irresponsible.					
NAG - Amersham on Hill and Chenies		Speeding due to some motorists' failure to adhere to the speed limits around the town. Main areas affected are in Bell lane, Plantation Road, Grimsdells Lane, Sycamore Road, Bois Lane, Woodside Close Rectory Hill, Stanley Hill and Elizabeth Avenue.					
NAG- Penn and Coleshill		Speeding as some motorists exceed speed limits causing a concern on the following roads: Coleshill Lane, Winchmore Hill, Whielden Lane, Manor Way, Village Road, Penn, School Lane, High St. Deanway, Narcot Lane, Nightingales Lane, Kings Road, A413 Amersham, Magpie Lane, Village Lane, A355 and A404, Coleshill. Penn B474.					
NAG- Penn and Coleshill		Anti-social behaviour. Groups of young people congregating in public areas such as playing fields and streets causing damage, making loud noise, swearing, drinking and their presence in groups could be intimidating to some members of the public. They also engage themselves in anti-social use of cars: speeding, displaying like wheel spinning and engine revving.		Litter & fly tipping in the neighbourhood is believed to take place in evenings or overnight. A few incidents have been recorded and some members of the community are on the look out.			
Service Excellence		Speed of traffic in Copperkins Lane – a real concern for residents and users of Heatherton House School			Not enough Police presence in the area, especially late at night and in the early hours Not enough Police 'on the beat"		
Service Excellence		Dangerous speeding, particularly in the centre of village and at schools					
Service Excellence		Speeding motorists in Village Road, Coleshill, Whielden Lane, Penn Street, Penn Bottom, Church Road					
Service Excellence		Speed of traffic on B474, Forty Green Road, Whielden Lane, Winchmore Hill					
Service Excellence		Under age drinking in King George V car park, train station and Hervines Park					
Residents survey 2007	41% of people in this community rated as living in areas classified as having an 'average' level of crime deprivation in comparison to the rest of England (Crime) as opposed to average for Bucks of 29%			51% of those surveyed said feeling safe was their most important issue	48% of those surveyed said feeling safe was their most important issue		
57 conversations							