

Local Area Bulletin – Chesham and Chiltern Villages

February 2011

This bulletin gives you the latest news from Locality Services about community projects and initiatives in your local area, which you might like to include in your local newsletters.

- The Youth Service is consulting on the future of youth provision in the county, and both Chesham and Ashley Green Youth Centres are included within the consultation. Due to budget reductions it will not be possible to maintain staffing or funding for the current network of universal youth centres. Discussions are taking place with the management committees for Chesham and Ashley Green and other local groups to identify possible community solutions to take forward this provision. A formal workshop will be held on the 1st March 5.45-7.45pm at Chesham Park Community College for key stakeholders to come together to review potential solutions. Anyone interested in attending who has not received an invitation, should contact Christine Gardner (details below).
- The Youth Service consultation forms part of the county council's overall consultation on budget proposals. This also includes specific consultation on Transport. For more information, visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/budget
- The County Council has commissioned Chiltern District Council Community Team & Nexus to provide diversionary youth activities through to the end of March 2011. One activity that has been set up at Chesham Leisure Centre using the gym-pit has been particularly successful – Parkour, and up to 20 young people are attending the Friday late night sessions. Also using Chesham Leisure Centre's outside flood-lit facilities, football sessions on Thursdays are attracting 20 to 25 young people aged 16 to 24. Weekly break-dancing takes place every Friday night at Chesham Youth Club.
- We are working with existing Community Car schemes in the Chesham area to expand the number of volunteers and thereby the coverage of the schemes. If anyone is interested in joining the schemes as a volunteer driver, please let me know – petrol costs are covered and an hour of your time can be a life-line to someone who finds it difficult to get around, including to GP and hospital appointments. There is an opportunity to find out more at two information sessions taking place on the 8th March 6pm-7pm and 17th March 1pm-2pm, both at Chesham Town Hall.
- We are continuing to promote the development of Local Community Contingency Plans so that communities are better prepared for the “out-of-the-normal” event such as heavy snow. Chesham town is covered by ChAV but we would like the surrounding villages to be covered too. If you are interested in being part of this work and would like a copy of our simple toolkit, then please get in touch.
- Many people have great ideas to improve their neighbourhood, but red tape, rules and regulations can get in the way. Some of these barriers are real and some are myths, but the Locality Services Team is here to help. If you have a barrier you want to bust then email cgardner@buckscc.gov.uk

The Localities and Communities Manager for your local area is Christine Gardner. You can contact her for more information on items in this bulletin, or any other issue connected to your local area. Contact her on cgardner@buckscc.gov.uk or 01296 383645.

The Chesham and Chiltern Villages Local Area includes the parishes of Ashley Green, Chartridge, Chesham, Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards, Latimer, and The Lee. Local Area Bulletins are issued quarterly in February, May, August and November.

