

This newsletter has been produced to give a 'snapshot' of activities which have contributed to meeting the four priorities outlined in the Community Cohesion and Integration Strategy.

The overall aim of the strategy is to foster a community in which people feel they belong to the area; where the diversity of our community is valued, difference is appreciated and understood, and where people share a sense of fairness in the delivery of local services.

The strategy was adopted in 2010 following a review of cohesion and integration within Aylesbury Vale, conducted by the Institute of Community Cohesion (ICoCo). The review was commissioned by Aylesbury Vale District Council, Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust, Thames Valley Police, and Buckinghamshire County Council.

The four priorities as outlined in the Aylesbury Vale Community Cohesion and Integration Strategy are:

1. Building cohesion within and between new and existing communities to address projected population and housing growth
2. Tackling deprivation and disadvantage in the district and particularly amongst BME groups
3. Activities and facilities for young people which address intergenerational tensions
4. Empowering and modernising the voluntary and community sector

Priority 1: Building cohesion within and between new and existing communities to address projected population and housing growth

Kingsbrook Housing Project to begin next year

Subject to detailed planning consent, building work at Kingsbrook, near Berton and Broughton is set to begin in April next year with the first occupants expected to move into their new homes six months later.

When completed, the project will provide 2,450 new homes, two primary schools and a site for a secondary school. 50% of Kingsbrook will be green infrastructure.

There will also be strategic flood defences to enhance protection for the town centre, significant parkland and open space, including 250 acres of wildlife-rich open space, the size of 100 football pitches, accessible to all residents of Aylesbury Vale.

The project not only contributes to the economy by creating employment, but also improves health and wellbeing.

Apart from raising awareness of wildlife-friendly best practices with employees, a biodiversity expert from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) will provide advice to the project.

The properties will be built by Barratt Developments who are working in partnership with RSPB, Britain's largest nature conservation charity.

For more information about the development visit www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

Nigerian Community Association

A Nigerian Community Association Aylesbury (NCAA) has been formed to bring together Nigerians and people of West African descent, who live or work in Aylesbury.

As a registered charity founded in June 2014, NCAA aims to promote cultural values from around the world.

NCAA President, Dayo Olowosale said: 'Although our experiences stem from West Africa, we collectively believe that the learning we gain from being part of a multicultural Aylesbury community is much more enriched.'

'We would like to share our traditions and celebrate achievement within a community where everyone has a part to play'.

For more information [visit the NCAA website.](#)



A recent NCAA event

Priority 2: Tackling deprivation and disadvantage in the district and particularly amongst Black and Minority ethnic groups

Therapeutic gardening Wendover

A new service providing gardening opportunities to help people with mental health needs is now up and running in Wendover.



Lindengate is a registered charity that offers therapeutic gardening activities, located on the old allotment site, Worlds Ends Garden Centre, Aylesbury Rd, Wendover, HP22 6BD.

It aims to meet a growing need for such a resource where people can regain their mental strength and start to flourish.

Community Open afternoon Saturday 18th April :
Lindengate is opening its doors between 2pm and 5pm, for everyone to come and find out all about its work, and bring the family for fun and happy afternoon.

Lindengate's Trustees, staff and many volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions you may have. We hope that many of you from the surrounding community will join us and we look forward to welcome you amongst the community of Lindengate.

www.lindengate.org.uk Twitter: @lindengate
www.facebook.com/lindengategardening
Email: info@lindengate.org.uk, Phone 0208 1444291.

Could you volunteer to reduce loneliness?

Five million adults in the UK say that TV is their main form of company, with your help we can change this!

The Volunteer Hub at Community Impact Bucks is looking for volunteers to support local groups and clubs to provide social activities for older and vulnerable adults.

Volunteers are needed to help with lunches, fun activities, befriending, driving and more! So if you have an hour or two to spare, join a friendly group change your life, become a volunteer.

For information about volunteering opportunities in Bucks, please contact the Volunteer Hub on:

0300 1111 250

or email

gillian@communityimpactbucks.org.uk

The Volunteer Hub actively recruits volunteers for charities and groups in Buckinghamshire who support older and vulnerable adults as part of Buckinghamshire's County Council's Prevention Matters programme.

Free Disability Benefit Information Events

Buckinghamshire Disability Service (BuDS) will be holding a series of free disability benefit information events in libraries across Bucks from 22 April, 2015.

While the events are designed for disabled people and carers, they are open to all and many professionals who are not welfare specialists have found past events very useful.

The events are 2-3 hours long and they cover the Welfare Reform Act 2012, Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), The move from Disability Living Allowance (DLA) to Personal Independence Payment (PIP), The arrival of Universal Credit, The Benefit Cap, Bedroom Tax and Council Tax changes.

If you or the person you care for is affected by any of the above then come to any of the following venues for more information.

- Wed 22 April 6pm Aylesbury Library, Walton Road
- Sat 10 October 10am Buckingham Library, Verney Close
- Thurs 5 November 11am Wendover Library, High Street
- Thurs 14 January 2016 11am Winslow Library, Park Lane

For more information contact Andrew Clark at BuDS on 01494 568864.

Priority 3: Activities and facilities for young people which address intergenerational tensions

You have a voice, it's time to use it

Thursday 7 May will see people of all ages casting their vote in the local and parliamentary elections; some will be having their say for the very first time.

This year, Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) has worked with students from Aylesbury College to make a short film encouraging young people to register to vote.

The film, [Why young people should register to vote](#), is on YouTube.

AVDC is reaching out to local residents to ensure they play their part in the elections, particularly the young, first time voters.

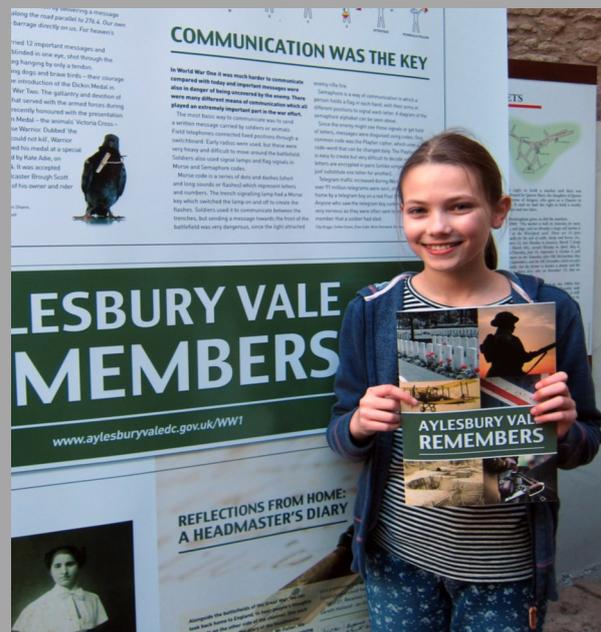
Chris Sheard, Electoral Services Manager, commented: "We didn't want to speak for young people; we wanted to give them the opportunity to explain for themselves why they believe it is important to vote. This film is a great example of how we are working with young people and we hope it will reach young and older voters – helping to spread the message of why everyone should have the opportunity to have their say in the upcoming elections."

For help and advice on registration, visit www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/elections or call 01296 585807.

Aylesbury Vale Remembers

The WW1 exhibition created by school children in Aylesbury Vale is on display in various prominent local venues.

Elsie (pictured below) from Buckingham Primary School, who attended a half-term children's activity at the Old Gaol Museum (February 2015) poses for a picture in front of the exhibition.



More information about the exhibition is available at www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/WW1

Buckingham Activities Group

The Buckingham Activities Group is a multi-agency group which plans activities in the Buckingham area, specifically focusing on young people likely to be involved in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

The current membership of the group includes Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC), Bucks County Council, the Police, Buckingham Town Council, Buckingham Youth Club, Project Street Life, Buckingham Youth Action and Young Addaction.

The group have provided a number of activities for young people in the area; and the District Council's ASB Co-ordinator and the police have issued Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) to a number of young people causing ASB.

The number of ASB complaints in Buckingham has dropped in the past three months, and since the ABC's were issued, we have also seen a reduction in the number of issues related to drug and alcohol misuse.

For more information about the group contact Deborah Bottomley at AVDC on 01296 585310.

Priority 4: Empowering and modernising the voluntary and community sector

Communities to benefit from devolution in Buckingham

Buckingham Town Council is set to work with residents, including young people in the area, to trim grass and clear pavements in the town.

A similar approach involving young people has been successful in Stewkley.

The initiative is part of the County Council's devolution programme where a set of transport services across the county are taken by local establishments.

Devolution enables communities to have greater control over service delivery and prioritisation, as well as creating capacity within communities.

Under the current arrangements the County Council's Devolution Programme will provide funding to Town and Parish Councils for four years from April 2015.

The programme is open to all parishes in the county and their models will vary depending on local needs.

Neil Gibson, Managing Director, Buckinghamshire County Council Transport, Economy and Environment said, "There were many things parishes and towns were better placed to do locally than principal authorities, such as the County Council. The partnerships so many towns and parishes are developing add value to their local communities.

"At a time all our budgets are under extreme pressure they're playing a crucial role in doing things more efficiently and more economically at neighbourhood level".

For information contact the [Buckinghamshire County Council](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk).

You decide! Choose 4 Greater Aylesbury

Six local projects have been shortlisted to receive a share of £17,500 given to the Greater Aylesbury Local Area Forum by Buckinghamshire County Council. Details at:

www.buckscc.gov.uk/choose4aylesbury

Choose your top 3 online at www.choose4greateraylesbury.com



Residents of the Greater Aylesbury area are invited to have their say on how £17,500 will be distributed between 6 local organisations.

Voting for your preferred projects is open up to the end of May 2015 at various venues including Aylesbury library, Tesco Tring Road, Buckingham Park Community Centre and Haydon Hill Community Centre. Last year some £4000 funding was provided to Bucks Play Association to support their much needed All Inclusive Play Scheme in Aylesbury.

Alan Dunham said: "We provide support for a range of families, including those from disadvantaged areas. Children that attend include those from mainstream schools and individuals with various Special Educational Needs including complex and profound needs requiring specialist support to autistic individuals as well as wheelchair users".

For information and to vote visit [Choose 4 Greater Aylesbury 2015](http://www.choose4greateraylesbury.com).



We welcome your contributions for articles. Please email your ideas to CommunityEngagement@aylesburyvalecdc.gov.uk giving a short description of your activity.

Please ensure your activity contributes to the delivery of one or more of the Cohesion and Integration priorities listed on page 1 of this newsletter.

If you would like more information about the Aylesbury Vale Community Cohesion and Integration Strategy, or about this newsletter, please contact Adam Cheyo at Aylesbury Vale District Council. Phone: 01296 585860 email: acheyo@aylesburyvalecdc.gov.uk