ANNUAL REPORT
2018/2019

Connecting people who care with local causes that matter
**Our vision**
To create a culture of giving that strengthens and supports communities throughout Buckinghamshire.
Heart of Bucks is the community foundation for Buckinghamshire; a funding organisation awarding grants and loans to local charities and community groups.

We are part of a network of 46 community foundations across the UK, all striving to help people and organisations invest in their local communities.

We have a unique understanding of the needs of Buckinghamshire and provide the easiest way for local people and businesses to give right to the heart of their communities. Our expertise and experience in assessing local groups and projects ensures that funding reaches those who need it most and can use it effectively.

Heart of Bucks works in partnership with organisations across the whole of Buckinghamshire, to build a better quality of life for all.

About us

What is a community foundation?

Community foundations are grant-making charities that are dedicated to improving the lives of people in a defined local geographic area. They bring together the financial resources of individuals, families, and businesses to support effective non-profits in their communities.

Throughout the year Heart of Bucks has continued to target its grant making at those areas of greatest deprivation and need. Our extensive research has enabled us to be sure that our grant giving delivers the greatest impact, and thorough monitoring gives us the reassurance to report back to our donors with confidence.

It goes without saying that without our donors our work would not be possible and we are forever grateful for their faith in us and their extraordinary generosity.

The need in the county seems to be ever growing with mental health and wellbeing issues right at the top of our programmes. Demand always outstrips our resources which means that we are always looking for new sources of income.

Releasing dormant trust funds continues to be the priority of the Charity Commission and we are working with them to ensure that funds in Buckinghamshire are used for the benefit of our communities.

We know that we are able to demonstrate the ultimate efficacy of our grant making through our robust processes and my thanks go to our independent grants panel who work incredibly hard, in tandem with the office team, to ensure that due diligence is carried out, and grants are effectively allocated.

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to our chief executive Peter Costello in March, after three years with us. He decided that the time was right for him to relocate to Scotland where he has family ties. We are immensely grateful to him for his unstinting efforts to raise funds for our communities, for his commitment to raising the profile of the community foundation movement and for his leadership of our organisation. We wish him every success in the future.

I would like to give my warmest thanks to my team of trustees who have supported me and the organisation as a whole with wisdom and good humour. We are delighted to have recruited five new trustees all of whom bring a wealth of experience and expertise, and I look forward to working together to make even more of a difference to our beautiful county.

Finally, our organisation is richly rewarded by having an exceptional staff team, and I would like to thank them for their continued hard work on behalf of Heart of Bucks.

Elizabeth Howe

The Countess Elizabeth Howe
Heart of Bucks staff team at our annual reception celebrations which took place at the Dairy at Waddesdon Manor.

End of year figures

- £1.4m income this year
- £6.6m long-term investments
- £41,000 amount from Gift Aid
- £562,841 awarded in grants
- £40,000 awarded in loans
- 216 projects funded
- £2,642 average grant amount
- 29 new groups supported
- £8.1m awarded since 2000

Heart of Bucks Annual Report 2018/19
Achievements

- We completed our research report on the status of women and girls in Bucks and are in the process of launching a women’s fund.
- We relaunched our Winter Warmth campaign which helps vulnerable people who are at risk of harm as a result of winter weather.
- We worked in partnership for the first time with other community foundations to administer grant funds across different counties.
- We launched the Nic Willoughby fund, our first fund to award grants as a result of fundraising and crowdfunding donations.
- We increased our long-term investment funds by nearly £1 million.

Reach across the county

- Wycombe: 55 projects, totalling £117k
- South Bucks: 29 projects, totalling £56k
- Multiple districts: 31 projects, totalling £94k
- Chiltern: 22 projects, totalling £75k
- Aylesbury Vale: 79 projects, totalling £260k

Events

- **Kop Hill Climb**: A record-breaking year, generating £110,000 to be awarded in grants.
- **Summer Ball**: Over £23,000 in grant funding was raised on the night through generous donations.
- **BBF Awards**: We sponsored and assessed for the Bucks Business First CSR award.
- **Golf day**: We raised nearly £5,000 from the proceeds of our annual golf event.
- **Multiple districts**: 31 projects, totalling £94k
- **South Bucks**: 29 projects, totalling £56k
- **Chiltern**: 22 projects, totalling £75k
- **Aylesbury Vale**: 79 projects, totalling £260k
Projects completed 2018-2019

The data below is taken from projects that have been completed and end of grant monitoring submitted between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2019.

Breakdown of projects by impact category

- Physical & mental health, wellbeing & safety: 42%
- Arts, culture & heritage: 4%
- Improving life skills, education & employability: 17%
- Strengthening community cohesion: 13%
- Reducing isolation & disadvantage: 15%
- The environment & public spaces: 9%

Amount awarded & number of beneficiaries by impact category

- The environment & public spaces: Beneficiaries: 250,000, Amount awarded (£): 200,000
- Reducing isolation & disadvantage: Beneficiaries: 150,000, Amount awarded (£): 120,000
- Strengthening community cohesion: Beneficiaries: 100,000, Amount awarded (£): 80,000
- Improving life skills, education & employability: Beneficiaries: 120,000, Amount awarded (£): 90,000
- Arts, culture & heritage: Beneficiaries: 80,000, Amount awarded (£): 60,000
- Physical & mental health, wellbeing & safety: Beneficiaries: 50,000, Amount awarded (£): 50,000

Bucks Uniformed Youth at our annual reception celebrations where they won the guest's vote and were awarded a grant of £1,500.
Lacey Green & Loosley Row Tennis Club
Project: Contribution towards floodlights for two courts
Grant: £2,000

The installation of floodlights has enabled the club to move their junior coaching to an evening. This means it no longer clashes with other sessions and has resulted in an increase in numbers.

They have also been able to hold a new men's night and a new club night, allowing members to play more tennis, as well as play league matches during weekdays.

Chilterns MS Centre
Project: Specialist yoga classes
Grant: £1,000

This grant has enabled Chilterns MS Centre to start up a new yoga class for people with Multiple Sclerosis. By using instructors who understood MS the classes could be adapted to suit each individual's needs and as a result were suitable for people with a range of physical restrictions.

"I found the relaxation going through the body joint by joint really helpful - you don't realise where you're holding tension until someone tells you to let it go! Before I was diagnosed with MS I went to yoga classes but I couldn't do anything because they were moving too quickly and I couldn't balance, then I came here and it was brilliant!"
- Jevon, from Aylesbury

Bucks Mind
Project: Peer mentor support programme
Grant: £4,660

This grant has trained 21 volunteer mentors and in turn helped 129 young people by bringing mental health and the importance of this into their schools. Bucks Mind have been able to 'make a dent' in the stigma and discrimination surrounding this subject and promote early intervention to schools.

"It's nice to talk to people who are not involved with what I'm going through and who I can trust and is not going to tell everyone."
- Anonymous service user

Horatio's Garden
Project: Garden at Stoke Mandeville Hospital
Grant: £4,396

Horatio's Garden is a fully accessible garden at the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

This grant contributed towards volunteer costs and garden supplies as well as running costs for events held by the charity including musical events, art therapy, and family days.

"Upon arriving at Stoke Mandeville, it was a complete joy to discover Horatio's Garden through the doors at the end of my day. I would often pop into the garden to eat my lunch, to read in the evenings after physio and to meet my visitors."
- Patient feedback

Denham Utd Ladies FC
Project: Contribution towards new lawn mower
Grant: £1,500

Denham United Ladies Football Club desperately needed a mower for their football pitches after their old mower had become irreparable.

The club has over 200 members and without a mower they would be unable to play football. As a temporary measure their groundsman was using his own garden mower to cut the grass and on one occasion with the help of five other committee members they spent six hours getting the pitches in a good enough state after the winter.

With their new mower the pitches can be cut in an hour or so.

"The groundsman is very grateful, as he gives up all his time for free and now rather than cutting grass late into the night, he can get it all done with a very quick and efficient piece of equipment."
- Alex Gaffney, sponsorship manager

Chilterns MS Centre

Projects completed: 60
Amount awarded: £222,056
Beneficiaries: 22,536

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The arts, culture & heritage

Projects completed: 13
Amount awarded: £27,954
Beneficiaries: 90,437

Richings Players
Project: Contribution to non-show expenses
Grant: £702

Richings Players put on three productions during the period of the grant; Plaza Suite, Panto in the Stone Age, and Wind in the Willows. Their cast members ranged in age from 14 to 65 and people of all ages were involved in supporting activities such as the set build, costumes and band.

This grant was used for costs such as scenery and costume storage, insurance and National Operatic and Dramatic Association membership.

The Richings Players’ productions are one of the biggest community activities in Iver and attract audiences of almost 600 people, representing more than 5% of the village’s population. Their audience is made up primarily of elderly residents and families, which helps to encourage community cohesion and reduce isolation and loneliness.

Bucks County Museum Trust
Project: Community hands-on archaeology
Grant: £4,200

This grant has contributed towards a whole day workshop for schools to learn about four prehistory topic areas and a community archaeology day for community members from charities and support organisations in Aylesbury.

The event brought together families from a range of different backgrounds and benefitted approximately 280 people from the local Aylesbury community, including at least 120 of whom are school children from two of the most deprived wards in Aylesbury.

“Engaging with real, hands-on artefacts and replica objects brought the curriculum to life, especially when they were linked to the Museum’s historic buildings and houses in the local area from different eras.” - School feedback

Chiltern Open Air Museum
Project: School learning programme
Grant: £900

This grant enabled Chiltern Open Air Museum to deliver their innovative learning programme to 130 disadvantaged children. The workshops took place at three local schools which have a significant proportion of children with special education needs or are from low income families.

The three workshops; orienteering, the Romans, and the history of lighting, were all linked to the National Curriculum and included an interactive and hands-on approach to learning.

“Engaging with real, hands-on artefacts and replica objects brought the curriculum to life, especially when they were linked to the Museum’s historic buildings and houses in the local area from different eras.” - School feedback

SV2G
Project: Steelpan community outreach
Grant: £4,800

SV2G is a charity that delivers a range of arts and heritage projects for young people of various diverse backgrounds.

With this funding they were able to purchase additional instruments and increase outreach into the local community through extending their weekly workshops and providing taster sessions. This has given young people space to explore and develop their creativity whilst taking part in a lively and fun experience.

Bucks Area Education Alliance
Project: Energize music, dance and drama festival
Grant: £4,200

Energize brings together schools, pupils and teachers from all spheres of education to work together to produce a performance at the Waterside Theatre for the local community.

In addition to providing an opportunity for the pupils to collaborate on a project and perform on stage, Energize also helps to engage parents and increase their school involvement.

This grant was used to cover the cost of coaches to and from rehearsals, ensuring that no school was restricted from taking part.
Improving life skills, education & employability

Projects completed: 22  
Amount awarded: £73,871  
Beneficiaries: 5,164

**Action 4 Youth**  
Project: The Inspiration Programme  
Grant: £5,000

This grant helped fund the development and delivery of The Inspiration Programme; designed to broaden the horizons, thinking and experiences of young people in our community. The programme aims to increase awareness of how our society works and help young people to understand their place in it.

The funding awarded enabled the programme to be delivered to year 12 students (aged 16-17 years) at Aylesbury College.

Due to the programme’s success Bucks County Council commissioned the programme for the current academic year for six of its schools and, convinced of its value Aylesbury College have continued to run the programme.

**Families of Children United Support**  
Project: Contribution to running costs  
Grant: £4,000

Families of Children United Support (FOCUS) were actively involved at Saunderton Lodge which offered emergency accommodation for homeless families and individuals.

FOCUS worked with residents to develop their personal life skills and help prepare them for a return to independent living. Vulnerable and homeless parents were supported by trained ‘Parents as First Teachers’ project workers to build the confidence and knowledge they need to be great parents.

“FOCUS give people the chance and opportunities they need. Through our non-judgemental support, suggestions and praise we gave them the tools they needed to look forward to a better future.”  
- Denys Williams, chairman

**Wycombe Orpheus Male Voice Choir**  
Project: Festival of Young Musicians  
Grant: £700

The Festival of Young Musicians takes place annually and offers talented school-aged musicians the opportunity to perform publicly and receive constructive feedback to further their musical education. This grant was used to cover the cost of the adjudicator at the event.

“The funding for the adjudicator was key for the success of this year’s festival. The presence of a professional adjudicator allowed us to maintain the high standards of the festival expected in the Buckinghamshire musical community, namely the quality of the informed scrutiny and objective judging of the event.”  
- Julian Grigg, fundraising coordinator

**Burnham Youth Centre**  
Project: Summer youth club  
Grant: £750

Burnham Youth Centre organised a number of themed weeks for their youth club, particularly aimed at young people whose families are unable to go away or take part in holiday clubs due to financial constraints.

This grant was used to fund staffing costs associated with running the club, new sports equipment, and fun activities such as face-painting.

“By having this funding throughout the summer it has allowed the young people to get involved in different sports and recreation activities and to express themselves within a safe environment.”  
- Suzanne Readman, treasurer

**Restore Hope**  
Project: ‘Counting the Dough’ wellbeing course  
Grant: £3,060

‘Counting the Dough’ is a 12-week course aimed at improving the wellbeing of families, particularly those who are unemployed.

Through this funding the participants learnt key skills including cooking from scratch, how to involve children in cooking, understanding portion sizes, using leftovers, and the importance of meal planning. They also completed a food hygiene course, enabling them to volunteer at Hope Café and gain work experience.

One mother who wanted a part-time job was able to secure work as a school catering assistant as a result of taking part in this project.
**Strengthening community cohesion**

Projects completed: 18  
Amount awarded: £58,766  
Beneficiaries: 20,992

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**Trailblazers Mentoring**

Project: Mentoring young offenders 'through the gate'  
Grant: £5,000

Trailblazers Mentoring was awarded a grant of £5,000 to carry out their 'through the gate' mentoring project at Her Majesty's Young Offender Institution Aylesbury. The project aims to build a relationship of trust with a young adult prior to release; the offender will then be better equipped to face any challenges following release and to lead a life free from crime.

*Case study*

The prospects for Tom* were not good; he was known to be quite disruptive to the prison regime and really quite a troubled young man, but he was also influential amongst his peers. Through the course of the mentoring he progressively transformed, securing a job within the prison which subsequently helped him to find a job following release.

16 months on, Tom is now married and has moved into his own apartment. The extent of his journey from May 2017 to January 2019 has been enormous and is testament to his resilience, his burgeoning self-belief (from a low base) and the outstanding work of his mentor.

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**Aylesbury Youth Action**

Project: Beams - engaging young people in volunteering  
Grant: £3,000

The aim of Beams is to support partner organisations by involving young volunteers in the delivery of their service to the most disadvantaged and deprived members of our community.

This grant has enabled 180 young people to volunteer for 601 hours across five different community organisations and projects, which in turn has enabled disadvantaged children, young people and families to access food, activities and independence.

“I think many people believe that volunteering is a waste of time, but if they saw the benefits they might be persuaded to get involved. Not only do I feel as though I’m making a difference, I’ve also grown in confidence. Voluntary work can equip people with skills for life, but also make them more employable too.” – Volunteer feedback

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**Denham Bowls Club**

Project: Maintenance of the bowling green  
Grant: £5,000

The green at Denham Bowls Club is maintained all year round by a paid greenkeeper. They are a long established club but found their finances were depleting.

This grant has contributed towards the cost of the greenkeeper, helping the management committee to prioritise their regular bills.

In order to sustain themselves for future years, the club is actively raising additional funds through recruiting new players and fundraising activities.

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**Lions Club of Burnham**

Project: Christmas fayre and children's parade  
Grant: £1,500

This grant enabled the Lions Club of Burnham to secure street entertainers for their Christmas fayre and children's parade.

The festive event included charity and commercial stalls for the public to enjoy. The children's parade involved local junior schools and other groups, including Brownies, Guides and Scouts.

In addition to the street entertainers, there was music from a steel band, jazz band, Morris dancers, a concert band and bell ringers, all followed by Father Christmas in his sleigh!

The event was a huge success with many members of the public commenting on how good the evening was and how much they enjoyed it.

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**Princes Risborough Youth Club**

Project: Contribution towards staff costs  
Grant: £2,000

The youth club's weekly sessions have become very popular with increasing numbers of young people attending, making it one of the busiest clubs in Bucks.

This grant was used to support their staff costs, enabling the club to continue providing its services and helping the young people to grow into community-minded adults.
Wycombe Talking Newspaper
Project: Contribution towards the production costs of the newspaper
Grant: £650
The Wycombe Talking Newspaper is a free service for people who are blind, visually impaired, or have other reading disabilities which make it difficult to keep up to date with what is going on in the local area. The charity, which is run entirely by volunteers, gives those with limited or no sight independent access to the news.

This grant has contributed to the running costs of the charity and also contributed towards the equipment needed for the service to run efficiently.

Head2Head Theatre
Project: Theatre activity days for children with special needs
Grant: £1,605
This grant funding has enabled Head2Head Theatre to provide four half-day theatre sessions that included an interactive performance of Peter Pan in a Pickle.

During the 75 minute walkabout show of Peter Pan in a Pickle, the children were able to play freely, picking up sensory toys. They were encouraged by the actors to interact as they travelled with Peter Pan and Wendy to Neverland where they dressed up as pirates and mermaids and met the dreaded Captain Hook!

The programme also offers some young people with disabilities the chance to join the professionals as a volunteer actor for the day. This provides an unforgettable experience for many as they perform in front of their peers, developing confidence and raising self-esteem.

AV & MK Sexual Assault and Abuse Support Service
Project: Volunteer coordinator
Grant: £4,183
The funding was used to employ a volunteer coordinator who works with local colleges to advertise volunteer vacancies and recruit to a range of volunteer roles including counselling, administrative duties and helpline operators.

As a result of the appointment of the coordinator, a number of new volunteers were recruited, including an additional 17 counsellors enabling the waiting time for service users to be reduced significantly. At the end of the funding period, the organisation was providing weekly support to 57 women living in Aylesbury Vale.

“This service has helped me through one of the most difficult stages in my life” – anonymous service user

Aylesbury Homeless Action Group
Project: Caseworkers and outreach work
Grant: £5,000
As a result of this funding, Aylesbury Homeless Action Group have been able to produce posters, leaflets and business cards to promote their drop-in services following a reorganisation, in order to reach a greater number of people.

The grant also contributed towards staffing costs associated with their outreach drop-in services and other activities such as engaging with the general public to discuss issues around homelessness in Aylesbury.

During 2018, 237 local people attended one of their drop-in sessions to access housing support and advice.

Black Park Shed
Project: Shed renovation
Grant: £4,830
Black Park Shed were set-up to meet the needs of the local area at the request and with the assistance of Bucks County Council. They required funding to purchase furniture, equipment and tools, prior to opening the shed to members of the public.

The shed aims to combat the negative impact of loneliness and isolation on a person’s health and wellbeing. Shed members are often unemployed or retired and welcome the opportunity to share experiences, knowledge and skills in a safe and enjoyable environment.

This funding has enabled the shed to create a meeting place that is fit for purpose and safe, and has been central to the successful establishment of Black Park Shed.

Reducing isolation & disadvantage
Projects completed: 25
Amount awarded: £103,918
Beneficiaries: 5,177

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The environment & public spaces

Projects completed: 6
Amount awarded: £14,359
Beneficiaries: 14,200

Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council
Project: Pavilion furniture
Grant: £1,000

The pavilion building is used by a variety of groups including football clubs, cricket clubs, junior carer respite groups, pre-school groups, the Rotary Club, and for parish activities including the village fête.

This grant enabled the parish council to replace the pavilion’s aging, non-folding tables with robust folding ones. This has resulted in a more efficient use of the space available as the tables can be easily cleared away when not required and can be used outside when the weather permits.

“The caretaker, who is 80 years old, is delighted because the folding tables are much easier to manoeuvre and are lighter in weight. The new tables and storage trolley enable him to gain access and clean the pavilion much more easily.” - Alan White, parish clerk

Saye and Sele Foundation
Project: Village hall restoration
Grant: £5,000

The Saye and Sele Hall has been used as a community facility in the village of Quainton for over 100 years. However, over the years the hall had slowly become dilapidated which had led to the discontinuation of its full use. In particular, the local pre-school had to close following a poor Ofsted report, with the condition of the hall a major contributing factor.

This grant has contributed towards the refurbishment of the hall, enabling it to be restored and to operate once again as a valuable meeting place for groups such as the Brownies, Guides, Scouts, table tennis and art groups. It is also now available for social functions such as children’s parties and private functions. Most importantly the refurbishment has allowed for the return of the much missed pre-school.

“Now that the hall is restored it will continue to act as a vibrant and busy space to serve the needs of the Quainton community for many years to come. The joy reflected in one small four year old boy’s face as he saw the new venue for his birthday party, fully decorated in a Harry Potter theme was heart-warming to see.”
- Tim Friedlander, trustee

Little Horwood Memorial Hall
Project: Floor replacement for hall
Grant: £2,469

The village hall is used for numerous events including dances, meetings and the village show, as well as private hirings for activities such as table tennis, tai chi and body balance. However, the floor in the main hall had suffered as a result of damp and was uneven and hazardous for certain activities, resulting in lost hirings. This grant contributed towards the cost of replacing the floor which has allowed a wider range of activities to take place in the hall and also improved the facilities for existing users.

“Many of the villagers have enthused about the new floor and have a renewed pride in this established village facility.” - Jeremy Bull, chairman

Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council
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Loans: Bucks Big Society Bank

Since 2011, Heart of Bucks has administered the Bucks Big Society Bank, awarding loans which are generally between £1,000 and £25,000.

Since 2011:

- Utilising £215,000 in donations
- Over £400,000 awarded in loans
- Supporting 24 community projects

Loan funding is often suitable for organisations that need a larger sum of money for a project that, once completed, will improve their revenue stream. For instance, sports clubs or community facilities such as village halls.

Richings Park Sports Club

Project: Children's playground
Loan: £12,000

Due to a lack of children’s playing facilities in Richings Park, the sports club set-up a petition to see if there was any support from residents to build a playground and received 200 signatures in less than a week.

With the knowledge that there was a need locally, the sports club agreed to set aside part of their playing fields to accommodate a playground and, in collaboration with the residents’ association, began fundraising.

The club applied to Heart of Bucks for a loan of £12,000 to bridge the gap between the funds required by the contractor and the payment schedule for the approved grants, allowing the playground to be built.

Summer fundraising ball

Our summer ball was a celebration involving our friends, donors and new supporters. The aim of the event was to raise funds to continue supporting great charities and community groups here in Buckinghamshire.

For one night only our guests were transported to Venice, as the sun shone down on us at the spectacular Hall Barn Estate in Old Beaconsfield.

We’re delighted to report that the event raised over £23,000 on the night. All the money raised was awarded in grants to local organisations doing great work and enabling our communities to thrive.

Special thank yous go to our ball committee; Linda Cannon Clegg, Gabby Harman and Sarah Vickers for making the event possible and to the many people and businesses that supported the event.
Get involved

If you want to get involved in charitable giving at a local level then we can help. One of the many strengths of Heart of Bucks is our ability to personalise the method by which people and businesses give.

We will help guide you through the options available and ensure your money is used effectively and reaches the organisations that can help those in need. With thousands of charities all doing great work in the county, giving through Heart of Bucks can enable you to support multiple causes and to see the impact of your giving by funding specific projects with defined outcomes.

Ways to give

- Named fund
- Become a friend
- Leave a legacy
- Family Angels
- Winter Warmth

Get in touch

If you’re ready to find out more then please contact us.

01296 330134

info@heartofbucks.org

Sunley House (4th floor), Oxford Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FQ

Thank you

Heart of Bucks would like to thank the many people who have contributed to the success of the foundation over the last year.

A special thank you to:

- All of our donors and supporters whose generosity makes our work possible
- Our board of trustees and the members of our expert panels and committees
- Our dedicated office staff
- Corporate suppliers, many of which share their services pro bono
- All of the voluntary and community groups that are working tirelessly to make Buckinghamshire a better place to live