

# BUSHEY COMMUNITY HUB WEBSITE

Please read on - this is



## Why is it needed?

How much easier would it have been to write the Bushey Festival's newsletter recently and advertise what other community groups in Bushey were doing if I could have referred to a single source?

How much easier would it have been for the Bushey Forum to safeguard and enhance the Bushey environment and amenities by listening to and representing the views of its residents if there were another platform to reach many more people?

As with most of our Charity, Faith groups and Youth associations, we are both keen to engage people and promote what is available locally, to celebrate the many talented people who live and work here, offer support or encourage people to try something new.

A Community Website would enable all of us to share resources, plan and dovetail events and showcase what a great place Bushey is to live if we work together. Such a community resource should be the first place that anyone new to the area should go to, to find out what is available locally. It would support and share information about the work that we all do.

## Why is it important?

Referring to the demise of the high street and communities in general, George Monbiot, (writer, environmentalist & political activist) writes;

*'A study commissioned by the London borough of Lambeth sought to identify how these thick networks (linked social networks) are most likely to develop. The process typically begins with projects that are "lean and live": they start with very little money, and evolve rapidly through trial and error. They are developed not by community heroes working alone, but by collaborations between local people. These projects create opportunities for "micro-participation": people can dip in and out of them without much commitment.*

*When enough of such projects have been launched, they catalyse a deeper involvement, generating community businesses, co-operatives and hybrid ventures, which start employing people and generating income. A tipping point is reached when 10 to 15% of local residents are engaging regularly. Community then begins to gel, triggering an explosion of social enterprise and new activities, that start to draw in the rest of the population. The mutual aid these communities develop functions as a second social safety net.*

*The result is communities that are vibrant and attractive to live in, that generate employment, that are environmentally sustainable and socially cohesive, in which large numbers of people are involved in decision-making. Which sounds to me like where we need to be.'*

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/feb/08/take-back-control-bottom-up-communities>

I've read articles that suggest the magic figure can be as low as 6 - 8%. Either way, with a population of 24,000, it would only take a few thousand people being connected and networking to make a huge difference.

## How will it be funded?

Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in obtaining LNWR community funding because they were overwhelmed with applications, but our local councillors fully recognise the need for the project and have pledged their support. We would hope that local businesses would play their part and, if necessary, we will seek other funding streams. The idea is that it is mutually beneficial and community building.

So, if you are a local charity, community group, faith group, sports club...and would like to be a part of this venture, we invite you or a representative to an initial meeting:

on  
Tuesday 10th March  
at  
Par 3 Café, Bushey Country Club, High St, Bushey WD23 1TT  
from  
6pm to 8pm  
(fully licensed bar, snacks and meals available)  
RSVP  
Steve Francis ([stevef524@gmail.com](mailto:stevef524@gmail.com))

Or, if you are a community minded local business and would like to support this initiative, please email [bushey.festival@outlook.com](mailto:bushey.festival@outlook.com) or contact Steve on 020 8386 0132 or 07946 576521 should you require more information.

