

Buckden Parish Council Annual Report May 2023



What have we achieved this year?
Plans for next year

Highways & Sustainable transport



What we have done

Amongst many things

Speed watch

New cycle racks

Responded to residents

*Highways and pavement
Survey*

*Lobbying District and
County Council*

Future Plans 2023-24

Continue to raise the profile of the issues of road and pavement repairs.

Consider bidding for more MVAS units

Develop speed watch

General Purposes & Cemetery



What we have done

Amongst many things

Digital mapping system for cemetery.

New Christmas Lights.

Installed a new defibrillator at the Vine

Managed several clean ups e.g near war memorial.

Future Plans 2023-24

Expand cemetery ashes area/make several improvements at the Churchyard.

Increase play equipment at the VH for less able children.

Consider additional litter bins budget allowing

Resolve issues with Christmas Lights.

Seek to identify extra land for adult/teenage fitness equipment

Large Scale Planning



What we have done

Made a detailed response to the application for 20 Flats at Buckden Marina within the required time scale.

Future Plans 2023-24

Review any proposed changes in LP that are relevant to the NP and put forward its own suggestions

Take part in any consultation process organised by HDC about the LP

Suggest amendments to Neighbourhood Plan (NP) in response to LP changes once HDC LP is finalised

Highlight potential gaps identified in BPC NP through LSPG discussions e.g. on business developments, and put forward suggestions to BPC NP Advisory Group

Planning



What we have done

Amongst many things

- Reviewed 24 planning applications and 9 Tree applications (either Conservation Area or Protected trees).*
- Responded to 12 formal consultations from developers, Environment Agency, a mobile antennae provider, Hunts DC (3) and Cambs CC (1)*
- Produced a policy on pre-application consultation with developers*

Reviewed 24 planning applications and 9 Tree applications (either Conservation Area or Protected trees).

Responded to 12 formal consultations from developers, Environment Agency, a mobile antennae provider, Hunts DC (3) and Cambs CC (1)

Produced a policy on pre-application consultation with developers

Future Plans 2023-24

Working with Large Scale Planning as outlined above

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Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity



What we have done

Amongst many things

More wild flower areas

Friends of Buckden Footpaths is in place and new volunteers being recruited for this year.

*Leaflets
Trees and Bees and more!*

Future Plans 2023-24

Promote use of footpaths

Increase biodiversity

Establish one new wildflower area each year

Produce one or two new leaflets a year to support residents to improve the biodiversity of their gardens.

Allotments



What we have done Amongst many things

Improved communal area and added an additional seating area

Planted trees in memory to Fred Day.

Worked on maintenance and improvement of the site

Future Plans 2023-24

Continue to improve boundary fencing

Develop communal area for A1 end.

Share fruit from the fruit trees with plot holders, or donate to the local Food Bank.

Develop Community Plot produce will be donated to the local Food Bank. The plot will be tended by a team of volunteers from the allotment.

Grow wildflowers and flowers that attract birds, bees, and insects to help pollinate the plants on the allotment.

Develop homes for birds, bees, bugs and hedgehogs by placing hedgehog huts / birdboxes / bat boxes and bug hotels in and around the area.

Climate Change



What we have done

Amongst many things

Continued to assist residents with the thermal imaging camera loan system

Prevented flooding of two properties last year, with the purchase of 2 electric water pumps.

Represented the council at the 'Xmas lights switch on'

Raised awareness of climate issues in the Roundabout Magazine.

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Future Plans 2023-24

Seek to ensure that the Council's policies and practices reflect the need for Climate change mitigation measures

Support residents who have ambitions to improve their own environmental sustainability

Continue to raise awareness of climate change issues

Find out more about air and water quality in the village

Flooding



What we have done

Amongst many things

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Instituted a Flood Advisory Group

Begun recruitment of flood wardens.

Acquired further equipment for use in event of a flood

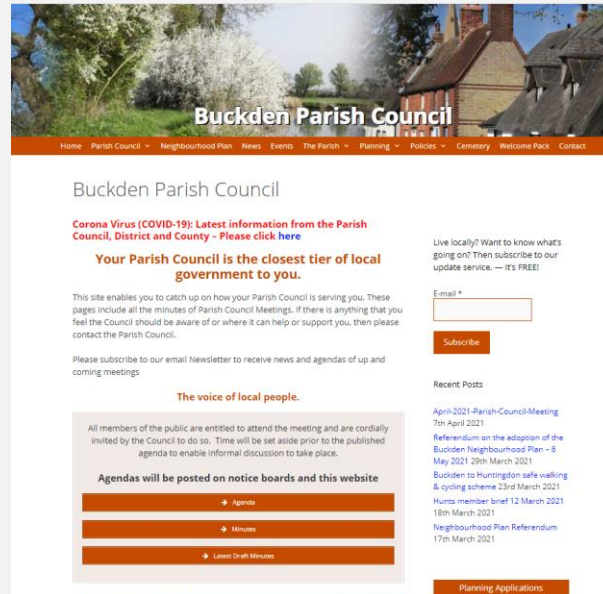
Future Plans 2023-24

Ensure that the village is well prepared for potential flood events e.g. ensure that flooding 'hot spots' have been identified, have been reported to and actioned by the appropriate authorities

Recruit more flood wardens

Agree a flood action plan

Resident Communications



What we have done Amongst many things

Increased focus on social media

Provided management and co-ordination of Jubilee events

Support for residents to self report

Future Plans 2023-24

Identify ways to access and work with younger residents

Encourage all advisory groups to communicate to residents their work

Promote remote access to meetings

Staffing



What we have done

Amongst many things

Promoted in-house skills

Developed the role of Assistant Clerk

Supported our Clerk to gain a higher Certificate in Governance

Future Plans 2023-24

Secure appropriate storage and workshop facilities for handymen

Optimise use of additional BPC-only space within Village Hall

Finance



What we have done

Amongst many things

Recommended amended banking to increase income on funds held as reserves.

Revised grant making policy to make it more accessible

Future Plans 2023-24

Provide information and support for new Councillors to enable them to discharge their responsibilities effectively and confidently in relation to BPC expenditure.

Develop plans with other Advisory Groups for spending of CIL.

We need you

The Council has achieved a lot BUT there is much more we could do and we could do more if we had more Councillors.

PLEASE THINK About becoming a Councillor

If you think you might be interested come and talk to us.

Call the Clerk on 07483333557