

Buckden Parish Council Annual Report May 2022



What have we achieved this year?
What didn't work so well?
Future priorities?

Highways & Sustainable transport



Achievements

Installed speed cameras on Mill Road and Perry Rd.

Commissioned improvements to Cycle Way from Buckden to Hinchbrook by March 2023

Sought agreement from Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) to fund:

- Bollards on pavement to north of Church St outside The Hoo.
- Maintenance of footway on south side of Church Street opposite The Hoo
- Double yellow lines at Hunts End/School Lane.
- Reinstated double yellow lines in several places around the village.

Cut-back vegetation at the end of Silver Street

Problems

School Streets didn't work due to lack of volunteers.

There remains a serious parking problem at the school

Priorities 2022-23

Installing cycle racks by the telephone box and at the village hall

Complete Cycle path to Hinchbrook

General Purposes & Cemetery



Achievements

Installed a Zip Wire and Bouldering Wall at the Village Hall

Created a digital map of the cemetery which is nearly complete. An information board will be installed for use of those searching for graves.

Improved the Village Green – Including an insect hotel, seat and new litter bins.

Created a beautiful wildflower/meadow area in the Churchyard and with St Mary's church enlarged internment of ashes plot.

Commissioned the refurbishment of the Village sign

Continued to work on replacement and refurbishment of playground and bought a new mower.

Problems

The Christmas lights have not been very reliable last year or the year before, we are looking to improve this

Priorities 2022-23

Continue to maintain infrastructure and equipment owned by BPC, and develop the amenities in the village

Large Scale Planning



Achievements

Silver Street -PC have ensured that a significant number of conditions have been imposed on the development. These include provision of funding to improve the cycleway to Hinchbrook. It is also interesting to note that there are no 4 bedroom houses proposed on the new development which evidences the impact of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Buckden Roundabout -BPC meet regularly with National Highways on the plans for the A1 roundabout. There are still many concerns about the proposal that we are asking the contractors to address.

Drainage - This continues to be a priority for the village. BPC meet regularly with the flood authority to highlight the concerns. BPC continue to lobby for additional safety measures for the Lucks Lane attenuation ponds

Problems

Despite several neighbourhood plan policies not being met, HDC gave outline approval to the development in September.

Priorities 2022-23

Continue to challenge large scale developments in line with NP Policies, and monitor the cumulative impact on Buckden of all large-scale developments

Planning



Achievements

The Planning committee has reviewed 41 planning consultations for development of individual residential properties, 8 on protected trees and 3 business park applications.

We have commented on:

- Diddington and Buckden solar farms' pre-application consultations and first documentation on potential environmental impact
- London Luton Airport Arrivals changes to air space
- OxCam development (Oxford to Cambridge routes)
- HDC landscape & Townscape SPD

Commissioned planning lawyers and specialist planning consultants to support us to challenge planning applications that we judge are potentially a significant detriment to the village.

All applications are assessed against the policies in the NP

Problems

HDC has not always taken account of our recommendations in the way that we judged best met the needs of the parish and its residents

Priorities 2022-23

Increase our skills in local and national planning policy to make BPC interventions more effective.

Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity



Achievements

Produced a Biodiversity Strategy to support the Council and its staff in maintaining and improving the biodiversity in the village.

Implemented “No Mow May” to help butterflies and insects

Commissioned our triennial tree survey and carried out all recommended work

Completed the work on Hunts End and have a beautiful wildflower area developing

Produced a leaflet on Tree planting and there will be another leaflet later in the year.

Together with the Friends of Buckden Towers planted one of two oak trees to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

Created a footpath working group to help maintain paths

Problems

Have not as yet managed to get a new footpath designated

Priorities 2022-23

Establish a tree walk, work to get a new footpath designated and Implement the Biodiversity strategy.

Allotments



Achievements

New shelter built and seat installed to commemorate Stan Studd a keen allotment holder and Parish Councillor

A regular newsletter goes out with news and seasonal tips for working the allotments

We are installing new fencing to ensure we are compliant with our lease for the allotments.

Created an Buckden Community Allotments Facebook group.

All plots will be cultivated this year, 50 in total, and reduced waiting list

Set up a seed bank

Problems

Haven't been able to organise social events

Priorities 2022-23

Increase Social activities.

Plant some community fruit trees.

Maintain and enhance the allotments area to a high standard.

Climate Change



Achievements

Supported residents to use thermal imaging camera to identify opportunities for reducing heat loss from homes

Ran a Greening Buckden afternoon on the Village Green

Funded the purchase of two water pumps for use by those in the village most at risk of flooding.

Problems

Unable to install on-street charging points for electric vehicles as grants for that are no longer available.

Priorities 2022-23

Continue to promote energy conservation in the village.

.

Flooding



Achievements

.
Drew together information about flooding in the village both now and in the past. This information is on our website.

Worked with the Flood Authority and pressured them to come up with solutions for the High Street. (now complete).

Lobbied CCC Flood Authority about the serious concerns in relation to the water levels in the attenuation basins on the Lucks Lane development.

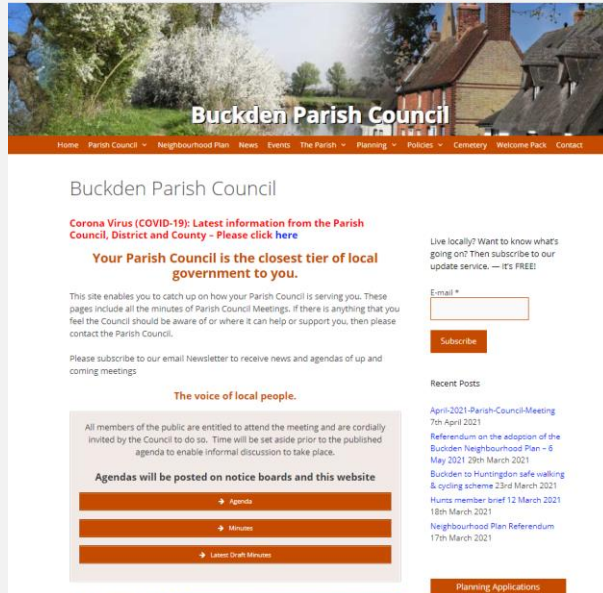
Problems

Need to be sure the drainage work is effective

Priorities 2022-23

Continue to maintain pressure on the authorities regarding flooding risks.

Resident Communications



Achievements

Consulted with residents to agree priorities for spending funds from housing developments via a questionnaire and at the Annual Assembly. We are now funding the priorities that were highlighted e.g. cycle way to Brampton, more facilities for young people (Zip wire and Bouldering Walls)

Developed an annual Council Operating Plan

Made more active use of Facebook to help keep residents informed

Started to put regular supplements in the Roundabout highlighting our work.

Ensured Welcome Packs are posted to all new residents.

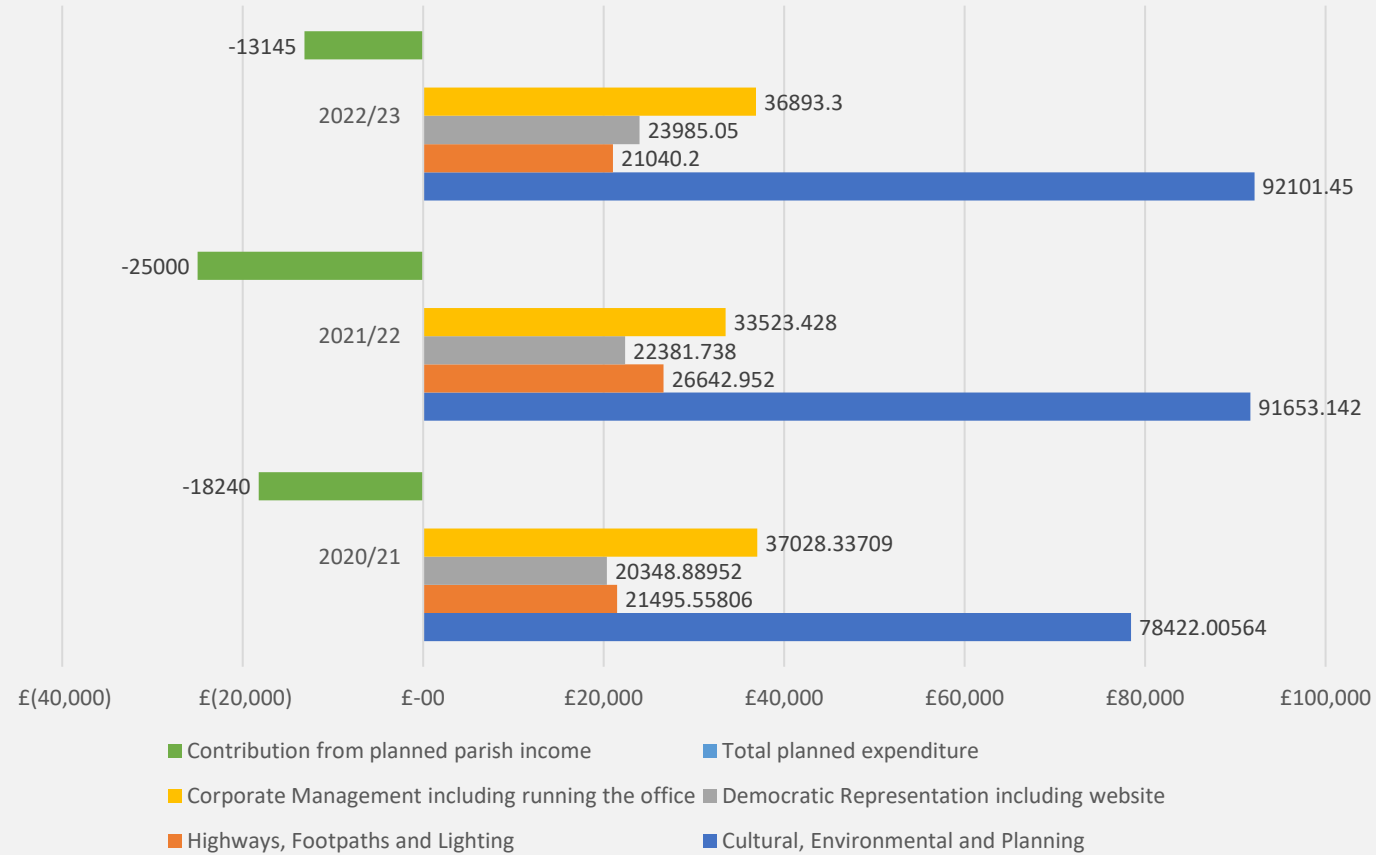
Problems

We haven't yet been able to install the equipment to enable residents to link into our meetings remotely.

Priorities 2022-23

Continue to improve communication via all media

Buckden Parish Council Budget comparison



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