

Buckden District Councillors Report

Dear Residents,

As we emerge from another round of local elections, it's evident that our country seeks change and innovative solutions to address both national and global challenges. However, a growing cynicism towards politics has led to declining voter turnout and the rise of extremism—posing threats to our democratic processes.

Why Does It Matter? A high voter turn-out better reflects the wishes of the country. In particular, young voters will bear the consequences of today's decisions. Many students are currently preparing for A-Levels and university. Their voices matter, and their participation is crucial.

A Call to Action for new University Students: To Buckden's scholars, I wish you every success in your studies. Once your exams are over, please enjoy your summer, but when you have a spare moment please register for a postal vote so that you can vote in the forthcoming general election. Don't let this opportunity get lost amidst the excitement of freshers' week and the start of term. A postal vote ensures that you can cast your ballot, regardless of your location—whether you're studying on campus or away from home:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote>

Remember, your vote is your voice. Let's shape our democracy together.

CREATING A NEW BRIDLEWAY/CYCLEWAY IN PAXTON PITS NATURE RESERVE

In the Paxton Pits Nature Reserve, we're planning to establish a new bridleway/cycleway. Here are the key points:

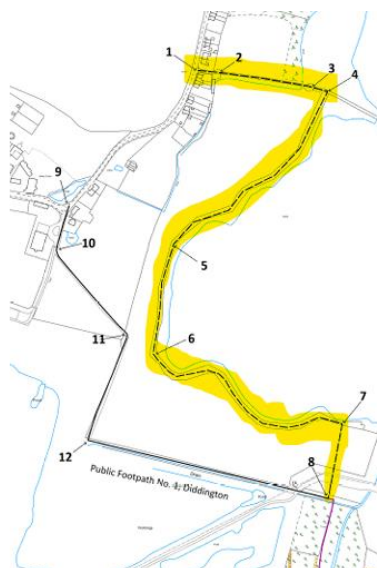
1. Footpath Diversion:

- Initially, we'll divert **Public Footpath No. 1, Diddington** to a new route along the edge of **Diddington Pit** (a lake).
- This diversion will happen under **Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980**.

2. Future Upgrade:

- Once the diversion order is complete, the newly diverted footpath will be upgraded to a **public bridleway**.
- This upgrade aligns with the **Restoration Proposals Plan**.
- The bridleway will eventually connect to a public bridleway heading southward across the Nature Reserve.

- Our goal is to have this new route open by the **end of summer**.



This project aims to enhance accessibility and enjoyment for both pedestrians and cyclists within the beautiful Paxton Pits Nature Reserve.

DISTRICT COUNCIL TO LAUNCH NEW GRANT SCHEME

Huntingdonshire District Council is pleased to announce that local organisations will be able to apply for grants of up to £2,500 for initiatives that support their communities and the Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy.

Huntingdonshire Futures sets out a vision to make Huntingdonshire a better place to live, work, and visit over the next 30 years. Over the last year, the council has started to work with local communities to bring the strategy to life.

The grants, which will open to applications from Wednesday 15 May, will provide funding of £500 to £2,500 to enable groups to put on events or activities that support the Huntingdonshire Futures vision, such as improving physical and mental health, protecting and supporting our environment and celebrating our sense of history and place.

For more information about the Huntingdonshire Futures grants, visit:
<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/grants>

Wishing you well,

Martin

Martin Hassall

District Councillor for Buckden, Diddington and Southoe

Phone: 07480 798 342 - Email: martin.hassall@huntingdonshire.gov.uk