

Buckden Parish Council

Buckden Parish Assembly

District Councillors Highlights of the Year

With the Elections over, it is time to welcome some new faces, congratulate long term colleagues who were re-elected and to thank some who stood down for their service.

Firstly, Ken Billington was elected as the Conservative County Councillor for Brampton and Buckden and I look forward to working with him over future joint issues.

Darryl Preston was elected as a Conservative to be Police and Crime Commissioner. This is important for us in this area. Darryl is a career Policeman, who migrated to Westminster in a supervisory role, and has sensible and practical ideas on local policing. I continue to be involved in the Police and Crime Commission, our County Supervisory body.

Our County Councillor, Peter Downes stood down after a long career in local politics.

Mayor

James Palmer, Conservative Combined Authority Mayor lost his seat very unexpectedly to Nik Johnson Labour on the second count. Commenting on this Ryan Fuller, Leader at Huntingdonshire District Council said that most issues at Combined Authority level worked on a consensus of many interests and that he looked forward to working with Nik over the coming period. We wish Nik well in his new role.

James Palmer was a controversial Mayor with his plan for the Cambridge Metro, but he still championed some very good causes that will continue to benefit our area. The high-tech training and education centre at Alconbury and his support for the expansion of Peterborough University are both projects of his which will benefit Buckden.

County Council

The Conservative led administration at Cambridgeshire County Council, while losing overall control at the elections leave a long list of positive achievements:

Roads, £29m pledged for roads in 2021-2026

Flooding, £24.37m was already allocated and an extra £2.73m was allocated recently.

Health Visiting an extra £9.0m allocated.

Infection Control an extra £400,000 for Care and Nursing Homes

Falls prevention an extra £800,000.

Libraries an extra £3.6m for services and an additional ££3.0m for conversion to self-service after hours.

Schools £10.0m for Energy and Sustainability.

Huntingdonshire District Council

The operational teams at HDC provided a full range of services for the very difficult Covid 19 period and deserve our thanks. HDC have also assumed responsibility for Grass cutting in key areas which had been abandoned by the County Council due to cuts, as HDC considered there safety and social reasons that were important.

Flooding issues were improved, and specialist teams and response centres were set up.

Buckden related.

I have worked with many Buckden Residents on Planning and Flooding issues, Roads and Signage, etc. Developing relationships with Stakeholders like Oxford University (Big local Landowner), or RSPB (possible new Bird Sanctuary at Diddington) is becoming more important as we enter the new age of influencing. Some of it works and some of it does not, but progress for Buckden has been made.

HDC approved a CIL bid for Buckden for the upgrade of the Cycle Path to Brampton/Hinchingbrooke, in collaboration with funding from the County Council.

HDC also approved a CIL bid from Buckden Village Hall Trust for the restoration of the Valley.

Highways England accepted responsibility for both Buckden Underpasses and has undertaken useful remedial work in both tunnels.

Highways England has undertaken scrub and visibility clearance in the area around Buckden, and they are also repairing the pedestrian footpath on the A1.

Hamish Masson District Councillor

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