

Buckden Parish Council Chair's Report April 2021

1) CIL funding Bids

Our bid for CIL funding for improving the cycleway/walkway from Buckden to Brampton was approved by both Overview and Scrutiny Committee and subsequently by Cabinet. Full update from Highways and sustainable transport.

2) Flooding

We have not had any detailed follow up in relation to the Flooding in December; I will continue to press for information. We were informed that work on Manor Gardens had been scheduled and the water seems to have stopped running. The difficulty is finding out what caused it - I have emailed to try to get further information.

3) Annual report and Assembly

Thank you to those of you who responded to my requests for help with the information for the Annual Parish meeting. We have agreed to hold the meeting on Tuesday 25th May, the week before the half term break. The Annual report and the proposals for the format of the meeting will be circulated separately. Please let me have any further ideas about the content of the report and the plans for the meeting as soon as possible.

4) Remote meetings - call for evidence

NALC has reported the Government's decision not to extend the remote meeting powers. Please see below the information they shared

*We fully understand and share the levels of frustration and disappointment at the **government's decision last week not to extend remote meeting powers**. We're continuing to work with other stakeholders on this issue and earlier this week we submitted our written evidence to the court as part of the legal proceedings we are supporting for a legal declaration on the ability of councils to hold remote meetings. I will of course keep you updated on these proceedings and any other developments. But can I again strongly urge you to respond to the government's 12-week **call for evidence** about how remote meetings have been used.*

I am seeking the Parish Council's approval to respond to on your behalf to the call for evidence and also asking that all Councillors respond individually. Whilst remote meetings are not ideal, the idea that we would not be allowed to hold them seems to be a retrograde step and not a way of promoting dynamic local democracy in the 21st century.

5) Northern underpass

HE has met with contractors to agree the repair to the fencing around the entrance to the Northern underpass. Highways England hopes the work will be done within the next 8 weeks.

6) Village improvements

- 1) A resident has contacted me suggesting that we plant daffodils around the village, a number of villages do this and I wondered what the Councillors' views about this were and how we might take this forward.
- 2) Another resident has drawn attention to the fact that the underpasses are not very attractive, this is something I am sure we have all noted as we walk through them. I was wondering if anyone had any thoughts or ideas about what we might do in relation to improving these. Any suggestions would have to be approved by HE and/or HDC.