

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL
LARGE SCALE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting 12.3.2021

Present:

Martin Hassall (Chair), Ramune Mimiene (Clerk), Hamish Masson, Allan Jones, John Thelwall, Stan Studd, Anne Howell-Jones.

Apologies: Mark Ward

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

2. Actions

All actions from the previous meeting were completed except actions:

a. Network Rail and Offords Crossing

- i. It was agreed the Buckden and the Offords should try to work together on the traffic issues associated with the Offord Crossing. **ACTION: AHJ/MH to set up a meeting with the Offords Parish Council to agree a way forward following the making of the Buckden Neighbourhood Plan**

3. A1 Roundabout discussion next steps:

a. Submission request: Response to HDC re: latest Pell Frischman local roads assessment

- i. It was agreed that a submission be made based upon SS's work that highlighted a number of issues with the assessment. **ACTION: MH to review, enhance, share and submit via Clerk**

b. Meeting with HDC Jon Neish

- i. The Committee discussed the general concern about the road safety aspects of the Buckden Roundabout from a Huntingdon perspective. The Highways England perspective, considering the safety concerns and impact to the A1, seems a disproportionate response to the proposal to build 290 houses. A meeting with Jon Neish was

proposed to see if a more 'holistic' view of the development can be taken of the Silver Street development considering its other issues, which include viability.

- c. It was noted that following the release of the BPC Roundabout Safety Audit to Highways England (HE) that HE have conceded the safety risk of increased speed through the southbound carriageway of the roundabout. They are proposing to put a 30 mph speed limit on the southbound approach to the roundabout to address this.
 - i. The Committee challenged that such a change would require Parliamentary approval, which may not be forthcoming. **ACTION: HM to confirm that the assertion is correct, whether a speed limit can be put in place on the Roundabout and what the position of the Police would be if asked to opine**
- d. Approach following, HE and CCC removing holds:
 - i. The Committee agreed that the approach, on the grounds that the Neighbourhood Plan Transport Policies have been ignored by HE and CCC that BPC meet with HDC to get clarity on why 'significant weight' has not yet been given to the NP – **ACTION: AJH and MH to raise with HDC**
- e. Roundabout Plans - Ref 18/02753/OUT - Parish Council to detail any contributions they might seek from the development:
 - i. AJH reported that she had sent details to HDC and was awaiting a response from HDC
- f. Pollution measurement and impact:
 - i. The Committee noted that the introduction of traffic lights is likely to increase the level of pollution in the village due to the increased 'start and stop' of traffic. It was agreed that where insufficient data for Buckden Roundabout is available that the similar Sandy Roundabout data could be used. **ACTION: MH to raise issue of pollution with HDC**
- 4. Stirtloe Lane junction complaint to Highways England:
 - a. This complaint has not progressed. The Committee noted that the Vectio Road Safety reports have been received and that the Committee will review and decide next steps on any complaint to Highways England in due course.
- 5. Neighbourhood Plan update

- a. The Committee noted that, to date, following the HDC cabinet approval of the Buckden NP, no indication has yet been given that the NP has been considered with regards to the Silver Street or Mill Road planning applications. In particular, HE and CCC Highways have ignored the Transport Policies included in the plan. JT alerted the Committee on the potential for 'Calling In'. **ACTION: AHJ to organise a meeting with HDC to better understand on how they are going to give 'Significant Weight' to the Neighbourhood Plan following inadequate written response from HDC.**
- 6. Flooding update
 - a. MH reported that the CCC Flood Agency have currently put the Silver Street development on hold pending a 'groundwater flood' assessment. This follows continued groundwater flooding issues on the Lucks Lane development site.
- 7. Letter to Anglian Water re: sewage
 - a. MH sent a letter to Anglian Water asking if there was sufficient capacity in the Buckden Sewage System to cope with the additional dwellings associated with the current planning applications. Anglian Water have responded, saying that there is sufficient capacity in the system – reports from residents suggest that the empirical opinion from AW engineers is to the contrary. It was agreed that a meeting with Anglian Water to discuss the above would be helpful. **ACTION: MH to contact Anglian Water to set up a meeting.**
- 8. Press Coverage
 - a. No further update
- 9. AOB
 - a. There was no AOB.