

Buckden Parish Council Chair's Report January 2021

1) Flooding

The village was subject to some severe flooding on Wednesday 23rd December. This resulted in a number of residents having to leave their homes. In addition the exit from the village via the level crossing was closed. Members of the Council were contacted in relation to individuals requiring particular support.

We hope to meet with the Huntingdonshire District Council lead for emergency planning Jon Illingworth via Zoom on Tuesday 12th at 10.00am. At this meeting we will discuss a number of key issues which arose during this emergency, including:

- Key contacts
- Accommodation for residents
- Pre-emptive measures e.g. sandbags

The Parish Council wishes to thank all those residents that rallied round to help those in need and also our Handymen who came in to work on Christmas Eve to help with clearing the roads which were affected, thank you too to our Clerk who came to the village to support the work.

2) Purchase of equipment

The Parish Council and the Village Hall Trust have agreed on the equipment to be purchased to enable remote meetings to be supported in the Hall and these will be purchased in the next month. These are being funded from a Covid-support Grants.

3) Vaccinations

There has been some concern in the village about the lack of information in relation to the roll out of the Covid Vaccine. The surgery posted the following information on 21st December <https://www.bandlp.co.uk/News/da694ec0-7b5c-4972-9b64-b56f1f47e62a>

As a practice we very much hope to be able to offer Covid vaccination in the near future. There are significant complexities with the current vaccination, and this coupled with the requirements to maintain our normal services and to agree that we carry out vaccination in conjunction with a group of Practices means that unfortunately we are not able to carry out Covid vaccination at present.

We will let you know via the Surgery website as soon as this situation changes. In the meantime you can help us by following NHS England advice and await to be contacted rather than contact the Surgery at this difficult time for all.

We will put a link to the NHS England website on the website and recommend residents look for the latest information there for the latest information about vaccinations.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

4) Cycle way bid for funding

This was submitted by the due date, further information was then requested and a follow up Business plan and drawings of the scheme were submitted by 4th January. John Morris, a District Councillor has kindly written in support of our bid.

5) School

The school has had to be closed to all but vulnerable children and children of workers regarded as critical. The school does not have the room to adhere to the requirements for bubbles and spacing for all those children of critical workers. I have been involved in 5 Governing meetings over the last few days seeking to decide on which children can be prioritised for admission.

6) Phone Box

The young people who are hoping to develop the phone box as a community project have consulted on Facebook, they had over 70 comments, over 30 of those comments were in favour of a book swap, other suggestions were a seed swap, information point, coffee point, toy swap, produce point and colour therapy!

Based on this, they recommend having it as a location for book swap + some other information such as a map of the village, bus timetables, social media links (e.g. vintage Buckden photos, Roundabout, walk routes etc).

There have been volunteers from the Facebook consultation to build in shelves. Books and information will be collected and signs made. Hand sanitiser will be provided as a Covid precaution. It has been agreed that the girls will tidy the box on a weekly basis. We wish them well with this action on behalf of the community.