

Buckden Parish Council

District Councillors Report 10 November 2020

Huntingdon District Council Update on Planning in Buckden

I have recently requested an update of all contacts between HDC Planning and Developers, their Agents and their Consultants.

Silver Street and Mill Road applications are on hold. The Developer has not been in contact with HDC and no further details have been sent or requested, apart from confirmation of contribution requests received earlier in the summer.

Mill Road will be kept on hold by HDC, until the impact of Silver Street is understood and they are able to make appropriate assessments. At this point there have been no further contacts with Gladman, since the last some months ago.

HDC believe Deloitte have been in contact with HE about the Roundabout, but have no direct details.

Godmanchester/Huntingdon Bridge

The proposed closure to vehicles has caused widespread concern in our area because of probable knock on traffic effects. Surprisingly, this is a decision by CCC and not HDC. At this point the decision is temporary to test the various impacts. Clearly at this point we now need the help from Peter Downes at CCC. We also need to lobby the team at CCC about our concerns. The Bridge is the Medieval one on the B1044/The Avenue. I understand the lead for the team working on the project is Jeremy Smith, who can be contacted via Jeremy.Smith@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Rail Digitisation and the Offord's Rail Crossing is a key associated issue.

Impact of Development and responsibility for Mitigation

I raised with HDC the probable environmental damage from car/exhaust pollution from traffic queuing. I made the point that existing sensors were probably located in historical locations, which given changed traffic patterns might need review. Based on these current locations, records show that pollution in Buckden has dropped and is within government standards.

Pollution monitoring is undertaken by a small HDC team, who are subject to government monitoring by the Department of Transport and also relevant EU regulations. Highways England is not responsible for exhaust pollution on the A1, even if it sinks into Buckden, because this pollution is the responsibility of vehicle owners and Fleet Operators.

To change the locations of an existing pollution monitoring network apparently requires an amended scheme, relevant assessments, input from statutory consultees who can provide technical advice on the details provided and the scope of the assessments. At that point it becomes necessary to consult the LPA for the area. Only after these procedures have been completed is it possible to specify what Mitigation is required and the timescales are required. At this stage it becomes possible to enter into negotiations with the relevant

Developers about the Mitigation they are responsible for and amended plans would be open to re-consultation, and an opportunity for comment including comments from statutory consultees.

As this is a complex regulatory matter no responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of the above, although I believe it represents the process that BPC will need to adopt in any future negotiations over Mitigation with Developers.

Shell Garage and Roundabout Access

Over the last week ground work has been completed for the new Electric Charge Site. Planning application 20/01992/FUL, proposing 4 x vehicle charging points and associated works.

It appears from the groundwork curb stones that are currently visible, that the working area of the Shell Petrol Forecourt site has been extended by approximately one third. While the application states 4 x charging units, I am concerned that the number of vehicles using these units may be substantial. This will increase entry and exit vehicles from an already busy site, and affect traffic flows which are already at over capacity levels.

The application does not appear to have been determined and the case officer is Kevin Simpson, and I will be contacting him over your concerns on its impacts.

Hamish Masson

District Councillor Buckden