

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND TREE ADVISORY GROUP MEETING RECORD 2 NOVEMBER 2020

Attendees

Caroline Underwood CU , Chair	Amy Burbidge AB
Sue Ashwell SA	Melanie Storey MS , Secretary

Apologies: Pauline Steel **PS**

Item 1 Record of the Last Meeting

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved
- Action review:

No	Action Description	Status/Update
16.16	MS to contact the District Council in respect of obtaining definitive location information on the tree preservation orders in operation	Email sent, awaiting reply Follow up email sent by CU also awaiting reply
19.8	CU to place an addendum to the footpath map on the website in recognition of the creation of the footpath B15	Meeting digital group w/c 9 Nov 20
20.4	All to identify people who could be approached to join the Footpath Working Party	CU will follow this up
20.10	AB to ask Mark Ward if he has any suggestions as to where planting of trees would create most environmental benefit	Closed, see item 3 for response
20.11	AB to report to the Group at the next meeting the outcome of resolution of the contradictory advice as to the level of tree canopy cover in the village	Closed, see item 3 for response
21.1	CU to raise the possibility of creating a QR code, to allow access to information on the Parish Council website by users of the Round About Buckden walk, at the next meeting of the Digital and Communications Group	Meeting digital group w/c 9 Nov 20
21.3	CU to create a petition to seek official agreement to designation of a new footpath via the moat at Top Farm	Now route clarified this will be taken forward
21.7	CU to circulate information on mapping technology and to draft a proposal to be put to the Parish Council on how to map land ownership in the Parish	Completed
21.20	All to review the information circulated by AB on saving historic footpaths	Completed
22.1	MS to progress the identification of a contractor to deal with the overgrown vegetation in Manor Close with the Parish Clerk	Completed
22.2	CU to contact a hedge cutting contractor to undertake work on the Ouse Valley Way (OVW)	Awaiting outcome of OVW check before commissioning
22.3	CU to contact Cambridgeshire County Council's Public Rights of Way Officer again regarding any proposed action on footpath B7 along the side of Paddocks Farm	Outstanding

22.4	MS to collect the donated trees ready so the handymen can plant them this autumn	Awaiting go ahead from donor
22.5	MS to add an item to the next meeting's agenda on drafting an advisory leaflet on tree planting for distribution to village residents	Completed
22.6	CU to draft a budget proposal for next financial year	Completed
	Actions to be Monitored	
16.2	MS to distribute Round About Buckden leaflets and to record their take-up	66 leaflets taken by the public so far; need to include geocache website activity See Item 2 for update

Item 2 Footpaths

- Work is progressing on designation of new footpath west of the A1
The historic walking leaflets have been delivered and it was decided to request a quote for a print re-run and to investigate a mechanism for delivering one to every house in the village
- Ouse Valley Way path review was conducted with 2 Parish Councillors from Offord and a report submitted with the overall finding that the path is in a poor condition and its repair should be a matter of priority when funds are allocated. Report is on website
<https://buckdenpc.org.uk/update-on-the-ouse-valley-way/#more-2254>
- At the last Quarry Meeting it was confirmed that the restoration of the pits will take 4 to 5 years but the paths should be walkable by mid 2021; it was noted that Thornhills is allowing the inclusion of its Diddington Pits land to become part of the nature reserve
- It was noted that CU will be present when Offord Parish Councillors meet a structural engineer to discuss the creation of a footbridge that would provide a direct link between Offord and the Ouse Valley Way; the landowner is aware of the proposal
- AB confirmed that she has made a submission under the Ramblers' Association project to identify lost paths
- Update on Action 16.2: there was an increase in the number of people joining the Round-About-Buckden Facebook page during the Covid-19 lockdown and the Hunts Walking and Cycling Group has advertised the walk on their Facebook page; AB has been monitoring this and has the information if we are asked for it

23.1 MS to obtain a quote for a print re-run of the historic walking leaflet

23.2 CU to check with the Village Hall Trust the cost for Royal Mail to deliver leaflets

23.3 MS to check whether cyclists have the right to use the Ouse Valley Way as it is a national path

Item 3 Trees

- In accordance with the Tree Strategy's action plan a contractor is being sought to conduct the annual check on the top priority trees
- Tree Council Conference summary:
 - Consultation on an England Tree Strategy closed on 11 September 20; will lead to a revision of the TPO process
 - DEFRA is using satellite imagery to identify disease in ash and oak
 - Tree Health and Diagnosis Service operates an online tool to report problems such as ash dieback
 - National Schools Programme: become a force for nature, orchards for schools (opened 1 October), young tree champions (opened November)
 - Ecoschools webinar in December
 - Plant health management standard; children's activity called 'Izzy the inspector'

- Microchips on trees so can use your phone to get the tree to tell you about itself and the area around it
 - Available funds: branching out fund, tree futures grant programme, Network Rail community tree planting
 - The tree specialist at Huntingdonshire District Council has been approached to advise the Group on its ideas for future work on trees(see Annex A for details); no response as yet from her and SA agreed to follow up
 - It was agreed an advisory leaflet on tree planting for distribution to village residents should be drafted; it was noted the RHS and Barchams Trees in Ely have relevant online information available
 - It was noted that a tree survey was conducted at Buckden Marina on 27 October
 - Action 20.10 update:
 - Care needs to be taken with choice of location and species eg a meadow planted with trees results in the original plants being shaded out with a resultant loss of wildlife
 - Advice available at <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/large-scale-planting/> includes information about grants and reduced rates for the purchase of trees
 - Need to plant species not well represented but also ensure replicating the current mix eg elms recently lost in the village as they were providing a habitat for the white-letter hairstreak butterflies
 - Action 20.11 update:
 - Forestry Commission has not replied to request for information
 - The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Climate Change Commission is looking at tree canopy across the county; public input to the survey is open until 16 November
 - Huntingdonshire District Council is looking at tree canopy; see Annex A, point 1
- Action 23.4 MS** to provide CU with information on initiatives for tree planting in Schools
- Action 23.5 MS** to create an initial draft leaflet on tree planting for distribution to village residents
- Action 23.6 SA** to follow up on communication with HDC arboriculturalist about the Group's ideas for future work on trees

Item 4 Budget

- The following budget proposal for 2021-22 is to go to full council on 10 November 20
 - Tree maintenance £500
 - Full tree survey £1,880
 - Tree walk £500
 - Footpath maintenance £500
 - Tree planting £500
 - Ouse Valley Way work (with CCC) £500
 - Emergency tree work, transfer from 2020-21 balance to be earmarked reserve £500
 - Total £4,380
 - Footpath round valley area to support Village Hall Trust with grant – manpower only
 - Grant for Hunts End wildflower area maintenance and addition of a bench – from reserve
- It was agreed a request for budget provision for the reprinting of the walking leaflets be added to the budget proposal to take into account the new rights of way created in the Diddington pits area

Item 5 AOB

- AB raised the issue of the issue of inputting into the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Climate Change Commission Survey
- The next meeting will be held on Monday 18 January 2021 at 1930 hours

Action 23.7 CU to raise of inputting into the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Climate Change Commission Survey at the next meeting of the Parish Council

ANNEX A Letter to Huntingdonshire District Council

Dear Tamsin, I am Chair of the Buckden Rights of Way and Tree Group. Buckden has just approved its first tree strategy (copy attached for your information) and we have some exciting ideas about what we want to do in the village, and we would appreciate both your advice and support in developing these ideas.

- 1) This year, as I'm sure you know, is the celebration of 30 years of the tree warden scheme, to mark this we are keen to do something positive in our Parish about our tree cover. It is our understanding that HDC is going to be undertaking a Tree canopy survey. We know there is a lack of trees in Cambridgeshire and we want to do our bit to address this by planning a tree planting scheme across the village. We have several ideas and would really appreciate your guidance, especially given your greater depth of knowledge and overview of neighbouring initiatives. The last thing we want to do is to end up planting the wrong trees in the wrong place through our lack of understanding.
- 2) Involving young people. We would like to work with our school and other community groups perhaps through such initiatives as the 'Orchards for Schools', 'Your Tree Champions', 'Izzy the Inspector' and the 'Branching Out' fund. We hope this will create enthusiasm that will spread throughout the community.
- 3) Actively encouraging residents to plant trees in their gardens, providing them with a guide as to what, when and how to plant. We are already in discussion with local landowners to try and identify an area where we can plant a significant set of trees.
- 4) Creation of a tree walk so that through the use of chips and mobile phones a tree can tell you its own tale and about the area in which it is sited.
- 5) Tree preservation. We do not want to forget though our responsibilities to our current trees. We recently completed a check of our Tree Preservation Orders (TPO), as listed on your website. (Document attached) We did send you our findings and it would be really helpful if you could confirm which TPOs are current. Following on from this we would like to identify any other trees that should receive this level of protection and your guidance on this would be really appreciated.

We understand you work closely with Sue Ashwell Sue.ashwell@yahoo.co.uk at the Marina, on tree issues and she speaks very highly of the help and support you have given her. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you personally or virtually to discuss our ideas with you and hopefully for you to offer us some thoughts on the best way to achieve our aims.

Please let me know when you will be able to meet with us.

Caroline Underwood

Chair of Rights of Way and Tree Advisory Group and Chair of Parish Council