

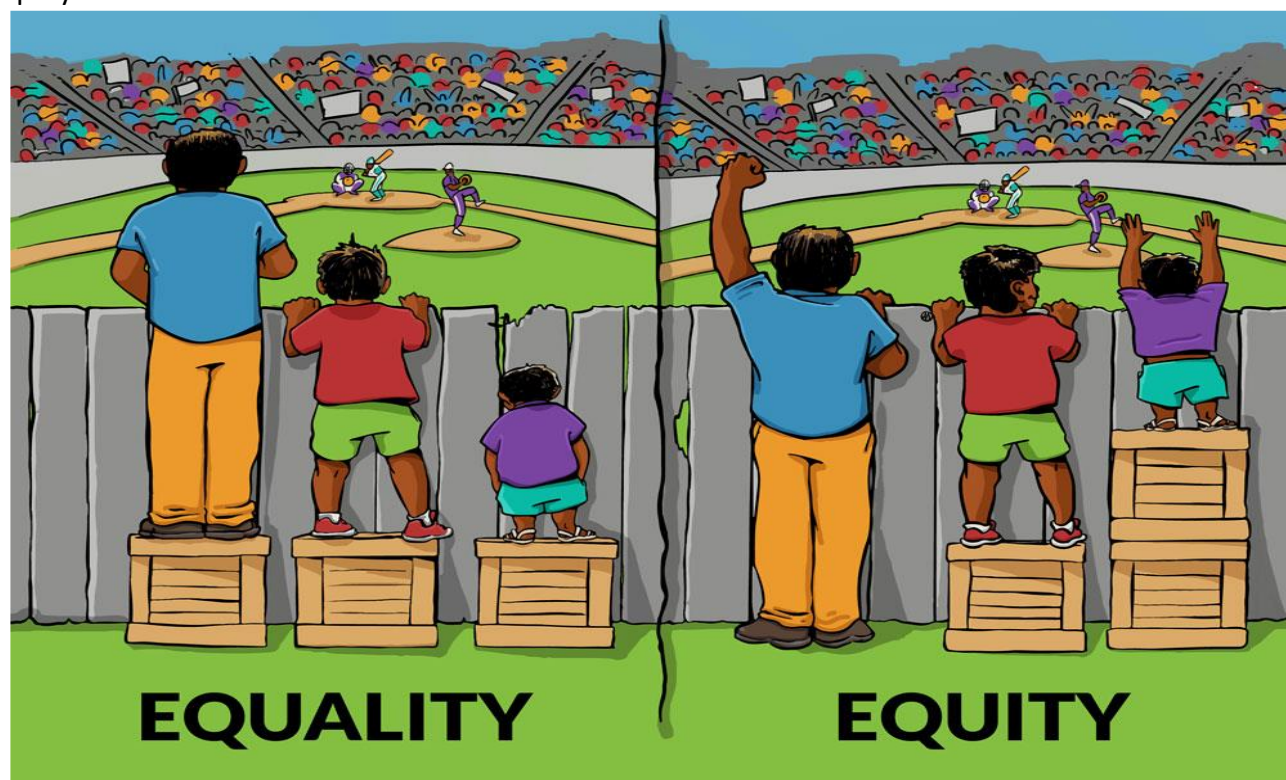
Buckden Parish Council Chair's Report April 2023

Engaging with Youth groups

We have begun the process of engaging with youth groups in order to bring their viewpoint into plans that the Parish Council make. I have met with the Church Youth group and hope to soon meet with the leaders of the scouts, guides etc.

Buckden Academy

I continue as a Governor of Buckden Primary Academy. I am the link Governor for special needs. I have recently worked with a group of children to present an assembly on the difference between equality and equity.



The assembly was held on Lots of Socks day which is a day promoted by the Downs Syndrome Association.

I have been asked if I will continue as a Governor as my term of office expires in October, as long as the Parish Council is happy for me to continue to represent them, I am happy to continue.

Annual Parish meeting

23rd May 2023 7.00pm Village Hall. We will be having presentations by Alan Trille from National Highways, Catherine Keating from Anglia water in relation to developments at Grafham and the police will be in attendance and report on crime in the area in the last year.

Feed back from our submission about the bus service

Thank you for passing on the recent feedback on the bus services in your patch. The consultation on the Huntingdonshire Transport Strategy closed last year, but I will pass your email on to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority as Transport Authority for information. I understand that early on when first contracts were awarded bus operators were experiencing driver shortages which caused service disruption, and although this has since improved the ongoing shortages and sickness absences do still cause issues.

Clerk's graduation

I attended the Clerk's graduation ceremony where she received her certificate for level 4 Community Governance. Congratulations to her for her hard work. She could in future years progress to level 5 and Level 6 which would result in a degree.

Swift boxes

I am pleased to say that we have found one site for swift boxes and the Parish Council will be purchasing callers to attract them to the site. We will be monitoring the rest of the village this year to identify other possible sites.

Neighbourhood Policing Community Meeting

Terry Hayward attended this meeting on behalf of the PC as it was on the same night as the Parish Council meeting. Unfortunately the next meetings which have been scheduled for each quarter, take place on the second Tuesday of the month so that precludes say Councillor attending. I asked Terry to represent us, which he kindly agreed to do. I have contacted the organiser to point out the difficulty with timings they have said that they will address this in the future. Many thanks to Terry for doing this for us. I attach his report

HUNTINGDON COMMUNITY MEETING (Zoom) Tuesday 14th March 19.00 report by Terry Hayward

At the request of Buckden Parish Council Chair I attended the above meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Sophie Terrill (Independent) and the presentation was given by Inspector Colin Norden (Hunts Police)

1. There were 24 members of public including our Neighbourhood Watch representative Richard West present.
2. The main theme of the meeting was that the police in Cambridgeshire are heavily loaded and badly undermanned and under resourced. The number of PCSO has been reduced from over 100 to around 40. It has proved impossible to recruit even that number.
3. Structure St Neots 1 Sgt, 4 Constables, 1 PCSO
Huntingdon 1 Sgt, 7 Constables, 3 PCSOs
4. Situation in the area is currently 'not bad' Reports on Drugs are down, Burglary is up, Robbery is down, Possession of Weapons is down, Racial Abuse is up (this is mainly in schools.
5. That said Stop and Search is above average and there is a worrying increase in weapons being carried by younger people.
6. Buckden crime figures are low when compared with rest of Huntingdonshire.
7. There were general questions about staffing, presence in community, visits to Council meetings.
8. As requested I raised the question about general communication and visits to Council Meetings. I was told that we shall have a representative at our May General Meeting.
9. Richard West asked about speeding and parking in the village and asked about control of parking near junctions. We were promised that there were be a day's 'attack' on the village.

The meeting closed at approximately 2000.

POST MEETING On Wednesday morning I happened to talking to Richard West by the village green and were greeted by Inspector Norden and a Sgt (he will be attending the May meeting. We had a general chat about parking, speeding etc. Apparently neither we nor Southoe appear to have the drug problem that we both experienced a few years' ago. (I'm not sure whether this was a happy co-incidence or planned!)

Terry Hayward

17th March 2023

C Underwood April 2023