

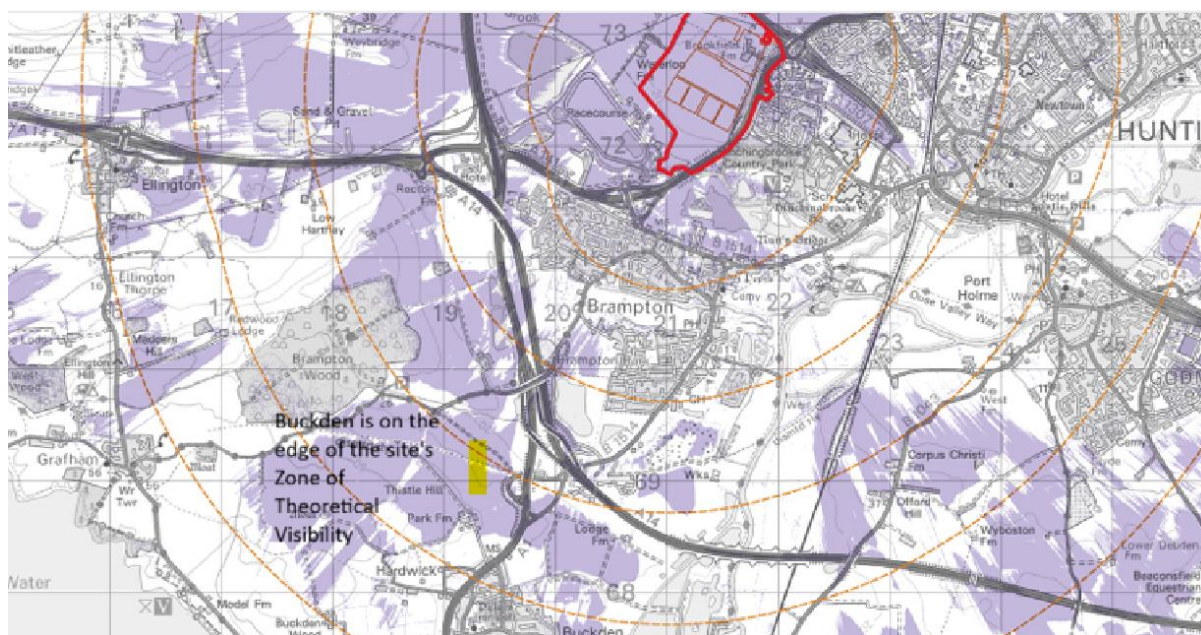
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – APRIL 2026

Dear Residents,

As the local elections approach this May, my current term as your District Councillor is drawing to a highly intense close. Rather than a quiet run up to the election, Huntingdonshire District Council appears to be pushing major planning decisions forward at full tilt, which is a matter of significant concern. It has been a true privilege to represent Buckden over these past years. While we have achieved a great deal together as a community, this relentless pace means there remains some vital unfinished business that will require ongoing care from whoever represents our village next.

Hinchingbrooke Logistics Park Application

I have always found that the devil is in the detail when looking at major planning applications. The proposed Hinchingbrooke Logistics Park is a clear example of why this careful scrutiny is so important.



As you can see from the map, parts of Buckden actually fall within the Theoretical Area of Visibility for this massive site. A development of this scale brings significant challenges, particularly regarding traffic. Working closely with local community groups, I have been questioning the technical data provided by the developers. **My main focus has been raising concerns about the complete lack of capacity modelling for the A1 Buckden Roundabout, alongside the unassessed impact on emergency routes to**

Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. Protecting our local ambulance response times is absolutely vital.

Despite our close proximity, the site falls just outside our ward boundaries. This administrative detail effectively silences our village, leaving only a shared three minutes of speaking time across multiple local representatives. I have therefore submitted our comprehensive objections in writing to the Development Management Committee ahead of their next meeting on 20 April 2026. Within this submission, I have strongly argued that determining such a highly controversial application during the pre-election period goes against local government best practice. I sincerely hope that the decision on the Logistics Park will be deferred until after the election has concluded. To ensure this is firmly on the official record, I have alerted the HDC Monitoring Officer, the HDC Chief Executive, County Highways, and National Highways to the flaws in the current application submission.

Tackling Our Sewage and Drainage Infrastructure

Closer to home, keeping our village infrastructure resilient remains a top priority, particularly regarding our local water systems. Villagers are likely fully aware that our water treatment centre regularly discharges diluted sewage into Diddington Brook. I recently coordinated a major community campaign to tackle this crisis, with over 115 local households submitting formal complaints to Anglian Water. This collective pressure achieved a monumental result from the national regulator. Ofwat has officially locked our catchment into a major legally binding enforcement investigation. Anglian Water is now legally mandated to develop a strict Remediation and Compliance Plan to address the specific failures at our centre.

Flood Resilience and Local Safety

Alongside this vital sewage campaign, everyday issues like traffic safety on Silver Street, Mill Lane, Perry Road and Lucks Lane along with surface water flooding continue to need careful management. Buckden has already shown great community spirit in this area. Our local Flood Plan is now acting as a wonderful template for other villages across the Great Ouse catchment area. Maintaining a strong dialogue with the Lead Local Flood Authority is essential to secure the upgrades our drainage networks so desperately need.

District Infrastructure Investments

On a very positive note, Huntingdonshire District Council has recently approved a significant round of infrastructure funding via the Community Infrastructure Levy. Over £31 million has been invested in the district to date. This latest allocation focuses on projects exceeding £100,000, specifically targeting leisure, education, as well as natural spaces.

Locally, the Paxton Pits Visitor Experience Project has been awarded £200,000. This funding will enhance the nature reserve by installing new pathways, play features, shelters, and seating. Up to £500,000 has also been earmarked in principle for a new Youth Centre in St Neots, which I expect to be open to Buckden's young people. Furthermore, a major redevelopment of the One Leisure facility in Huntingdon has been approved to create a modern health and wellbeing hub.

New Food Waste Collection Service

I hope that residents are getting on well with the newly introduced food waste service across our district. It is highly encouraging to know that our discarded food will now go directly towards generating renewable energy. Producing local, sustainable power is particularly important during these challenging times of energy shortage.

Looking Ahead to Polling Day

I plan to keep working hard on all these matters right up until the end of my term. Please remember that polling day is on Thursday 7 May, so do take the opportunity to cast your vote and have your say on the future of our local area. Thank you so much for your support, your kindness, and your dedication to our village.

Wishing you well,

Martin

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