

Buckden Parish Council Chair's Report December 2021

1) National Highways Buckden PC working group

The first of the meetings of this group was held on 29th November. The notes of the meeting will be circulated with the agenda for BPC meeting. There is also a log of queries and the responses to those. The meeting agreed that the current priority is the working group which will focus on the roundabout and issues specific to Buckden and Southoe. It was therefore agreed that the A1 safety group would be put on hold and that members of Southoe PC would be invited to join the working group. The next meeting will be held on Monday 24th January 1.00pm. The decision that the PC needs to make is where the responsibility for this group sits.

2) School Liaison

The school has applied for the British Dyslexia Award the SENDCo and I met with the assessor. She was very impressed with the school.

3) Remote meetings

Please note the following information from NALC "We have been working with the LGA and others to lobby the government on remote council meetings. This included meeting officials this week to push them for an immediate response given the increased risks and tightening of restrictions, using examples of concerns raised by councils, including local councils, since the emergence of the Omnicron variant and the recent severe weather in some parts of the country. And I'm pleased that the author Emma Kennedy, who became a local councillor in May, is supporting the campaign and, as a local constituent of Michael Gove MP, met with him today to press the case. I will provide a further update on these meetings next week. However, in the meantime can I urge councils and councillors to consider using **two model letters for councillors and councils** to highlight the support of remote council meetings to your MP and ministers; these can be adapted and include examples of your own experiences"

Please do send supporting letters as outlined in the link .

4) Parish on-line

Thanks to the help of a willing resident the Council is now using Parish on line. This a mapping tool and it costs 1£160 per annum. We had a 30- day free trail and although it is not particularly sophisticated, we are currently using it to map our assets and we will then explore further how it can utilised.