

Buckden Parish Council Chair's Report February 2021

1) Flooding

I together with Cllr Howell-Jones and Cllr Hassall met with representatives from CCC on Thursday 28th January to look at the causes and responses to the flooding, the issues that they wished to discuss were circulated in advance. In order to be able to give them accurate feedback I visited a number of residents that had been affected by the flood and through Cllr Steel made email contact with others. They were very helpful and we put together a full report which I circulated to all Councillors on Friday 30.01.21. This report formed the basis of our discussions on Thursday.

I do not think we could have made it clearer that "something needed to be done" we raised, both issues related to the recent floods and the longer-term impact of more road building and developments in the area. We also discussed improving information on emergency procedures and responses.

We have got the following commitments from the meeting

- Representatives from CCC and HDC will come out to meet with Parish Council representative to identify key areas that are susceptible to flooding and need to be dealt with as a matter of urgency.
- They will provide mapping of water courses with details of the ownership so that we can identify who needs to undertake repair and maintenance
- Support to put together a Flood Group which is would be a key resource for the village in highlighting vulnerable areas and planning for any future threat of flood.
- We have also requested a follow up meeting so we can continue to keep the pressure on to ensure we have action not words.

We pressed very hard for early action rather than just discussing the issues. I believe there is a commitment from both CCC and HDC to try to address the grave concerns of residents but until we actually see some action it will still feel immensely frustrating.

The HDC have put together a working group focus on the issues raised by the floods, they will be meeting tomorrow and then monthly and aim to have a plan in place by April. We made the point that monthly meetings were too slow and should be weekly.

I also emailed our District Councillor, representatives from Highways England and our MP Jonathan Djanogly on behalf of residents. I will again happily circulate the responses I have received if you wish to see them.

2) Vaccinations

These are now well underway in the village and I was told that they are averaging 600 vaccinations a day. They are not able to vaccinate every day as they have to wait for supplies.

3) Cycle way bid for funding

We have been informed that our bid has been recommended for approval, this will go to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in early February, we hope that they will approve it then. We also understand that the bid for the work on the Valley has been recommended for approval.

4) Royal Observer Corps Orlit Type B visual observation post

I am pleased to report as you can see below that the two ROC Posts in Buckden are now Grade II Listed. It has taken a long time. This (second) application was started in April 2019. Both Buckden and Brampton Parish Councils supported the application and we have in principle, subject to full Council approval, said that together with Brampton we would contribute to erecting a sign at the site explaining the background to the structure.

List Entry Number: 1470473 *Following your application to add the above building to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, we have now considered all the representations made and completed our assessment of the building. I am delighted to inform you that having considered our recommendation, the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has decided to add Royal Observer Corps (ROC) Orlit Type B visual observation post and an ROC underground monitoring station, 604m west-north-west of Lodge Farm to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The building is now listed at Grade II.*

5) Short social media article from Census Team

Census 2021 will help shape your community for the next 10 years

- The census is coming. By taking part, you can help to inform decisions on services that shape your community, such as schools, doctors' surgeries and bike lanes.
- It's important you fill in your census questionnaire because the information you share affects the life of every single person living in England and Wales.
- Because these things matter to us all, everyone needs to complete the census. Do not worry, your information is protected by law. That means government officials dealing with payments or services you receive cannot see it.
- The ONS have reviewed the digital-first Census plans in light of COVID19 and they are confident that everyone will be able to provide their information safely and securely.
- Census Day is Sunday 21 March. You can fill yours in online as soon as you get your access code in the post. If your household circumstances change on Census Day, you can let The Office for National Statistics (ONS) know.
- If you need help, you can visit www.census.gov.uk where there's a wide range of support services available.

6) Northern underpass

There is still on-going discussions about responsibilities. I got two completely differing answers to my questions, these have yet to be resolved. I will report as and when there is a definitive answer. The good news is that HE has organised with their contractor, Ringway that they will come and jet wash and clean away the detritus in both subways sometime between Thursday 4th and Sunday 7th February during the day. They can't be more specific on which day Ringway will turn out but they have been promised that the cleaning will take place within those four days.

7) Training for Clerk

The staffing group have approved the Clerk undertaking the SLCC Organisational Governance Course. The cost of the training will be shared proportionally with the other Parish Councils that she Clerks for.

CU February 2021