

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2026-27

In 2020 Buckden Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan was approved by referendum. As part of that planning process the Council also developed a Community Action Plan (CAP) 2020-2025 which outlined the aspirations the council had for the village, which by definition, could not form part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Each year since then the Council has sought to put in place the actions prioritised in the CAP through an Operational Plan.



This year's plan includes achievements from the previous year and this year's targets.

Operational Plan 2026-27 Approved *****

Date for review – October 2026

ALLOTMENTS Finance requirements all the ongoing costs plus £100 for raptor posts	
Targets 25-26	Targets 26-27
Target 1 Revise awards for allotment holders to make it more inclusive Completed Target 2 Plant hedge along half of boundary fence Completed Target 3 Develop a small orchard Completed Target 4 Put together plan for raised bed to allow for more accessible areas. Completed	Target 1 The plan is to consolidate all recent initiatives. Target 2 Maximise utilisation of the raised beds. Opportunities for care home residents. Target 3 Installation of a raptor post approximately £100 Target 4 Liaise with Large Scale AG on purchase of allotments and negotiations with developers.
Buckden PC Hub and Youth Engagement Advisory Group Finance requirements all costs from this year's activities plus 15-20% and £1,000 for summer event	
Targets 25-26	Targets 26-27
Target1 Develop activities for 11-18 year olds: • Offer multi-sports for 11-18 starting in Summer • Performing Arts provision through Shakespeare at the Towers Sports activities and Performing arts offered as part of annual event Target 2 • Continue to provide activities for pre-school & 5-11 year olds • Stay and Play (baby and toddler group) • School holiday multi sports events (5-11 year olds) • Yoga sloths (11-18 year olds) in Summer term All completed except Yoga sloths insufficient take up	Target 1 Continue to provide activities for pre-school and 5-11 year olds • Stay and Play (baby and toddler group) • School holiday multi sports events (5-11 year olds) Target 2 Support Youth membership to Village Club to provide indoor and outdoor social space for young people Target 3 Liaise with VMC and VHT on developing facilities for young people

Target 3 Support development of Youth membership to Village Club to provide indoor and outdoor social space for young people Completed Target 4 Organise an annual youth engagement event in Spring/Summer (sports, activities, pizza, focus group feedback on village provision) Completed	Target 4 Organise an annual youth engagement event in Spring/Summer sports, activities, pizza, focus group feedback on village provision.
FINANCE (Finance Advisory Group FAG) to ensure that the Council budgets prudently and responds to the changing needs of the village	
Targets 25-26	Targets 26-27
Target 1 Implement use of new General, Reserve and Restricted Fund definitions. Completed Target 2 Introduce quarterly Management Account reporting to Council. Completed Target 3 Deliver a balanced, credible 25/26 budget submission for approval by Council. Completed Target 4 Consider whether existing finance software is adequate and, if not, identify a suitable alternative and make preparations for implementation. Planning to fit in with Budget setting Not taken forward	Target 1 Monitor allocation and use of reserve funds Target 2 Continue to develop reporting and improve forecasting Target 3 Deliver a balanced, credible 27/28 budget submission for approval by Council. Target 4 Continue with existing software and utilise information to produce clear excel spreadsheets

FLOODING GROUP Finance requirements £1,000 in reserves	
Targets 25-26	Targets 26-27
Target 1 Complete local risk and action survey with LLFA Completed	Target 1 Maintain Flood Management Plan with updates as required.
Target 2 Prepare Flood Management Plan Completed	Target 2 Liaise with Local Lead Flood Authority Cambridgeshire County Council, AWA and Environment Agency to ensure awareness and action on local flood related issues. Liaison to include coordination with Huntingdon District Councillor.
Target 3 Communicate effectively on flooding issues. Ongoing	Target 3 Communicate effectively on flooding issues.
	Target 4 Establish annual report on condition of local watercourses, particularly those which present flood risks.
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN Finance requirements reserve for cost of public consultation £3,000	
Targets 25-26	Targets 26-27
Target 1 Recruit additional members, including non-Councillor residents if possible. Recruitment made	Target 1 Monitoring Local plan as it develops
Target 2 Respond to further consultations by District Council as appropriate. Always ongoing	

HIGHWAYS AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT Finance requirements all outstanding payments for PFI and LHI projects, Solar lights 12k	
Targets 25-26	Targets 26-27
Target 1 Use the road and pavement survey to make comparisons and highlight inaction to CCC In progress Target 2 Complete all projects bid for in 2024-25 In progress Target 3 Continuing Speedwatch with volunteers in identified locations Paused due to lack of co-ordinator Target 4 Stay engaged with CCH on works due for the coming year eg Mill Road Buffer zone speed limits and continue meetings with SAG group through NH continue to push on subway issues In progress	Target 1 Finalise all projects approx. £20k Target 2 Solar lights Buckden Brampton Cycleway £12k Target 3 Continued engagement with • Brampton Cross Development • Mill Road residents Target 4 Plan for continuation of Speed watch Target 5 Continue to raise the issue of roundabout and shortcomings of A1 with NH
LARGE SCALE PLANNING Finance requirements £10,000 legal costs Reserve for shed (already in budget?)	
Targets 25-26	Targets 26-27
Target 1 Carry forward business as usual priorities Completed Target 2 Recruit additional members Completed	Target 1 Seek to achieve a compromise between Developers, District Council and Parish Council re Silver Street Target 2 Agree Heads of Terms with the Church Commissioners and Morris Homes for the acquisition of the freehold of the Parish allotments and ancillary rights.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND BIODIVERSITY GROUP (GI&BDIAG) Finance requirements all the ongoing costs plus £2000 for leaflet. Net biodiversity gain unlikely to incur costs in the next financial year.	
Targets 25-26	Targets 26-27
Target 1 Support Nature Recovery Year 2025 - Buckden B-lines project encouraging households to plant a small area of nectar rich flowers in their gardens /pots/ planters to provide routes for insects through the village - Questionnaire to find out what Buckden households are doing to provide home for nature then celebrate this through producing a map of the village where people can highlight their efforts. - Hold an Eco-Fair in Great Big Green Week to celebrate what is going on to increase biodiversity and to promote ideas for further work. Completed Target 2 Continue to develop wildlife areas in the village. - Add spring flower planting areas on the edge of the village. - Establish allotment orchard and hedge - Continue to develop biodiversity in the Churchyard All completed except Church yard project dropped Target 3 Improve information on what is being done Install information boards at sites where planting has taken place In progress Target 4 Incorporate biodiversity actions into work schedules and on going Operational plan targets Completed	Target 1 Produce new footpath map Budget £2k Target 2 Work with Large Scale Planning and developers on fully utilising the opportunities for net biodiversity gain afforded by the provision of a 15 metre biodiversity strip and attenuation basins Target 3 Consider establishing new woodland

VILLAGE MAINTENANCE Finance requirements details given separately check it includes £15k contribution to grant	
Targets 25-26	Targets 26-27
Target 1 Maintain a high-quality and responsive maintenance service. Ongoing. Target 2 Support the implementation of green infrastructure, biodiversity and climate change mitigation activities where delivered by the Handymen and outsourced contractors Ongoing. Target 3 Upgrade quality of play equipment for younger children and support the introduction on equipment for older children by VHT. Carried forward Target 4 Maintain Cemetery Stability testing programme and initiate Stability Testing programme for St Mary's Churchyard Ongoing. Target 5 Consider ways to add greater sense of community to the village. For example: • More information notices e.g. plaques on historic properties • Artwork, murals, Identify funding opportunities to enable this. Considered and agreed not to move forward with it.	Target 1 Maintain a high-quality and responsive maintenance service. Target 2 Continue to develop the new Churchyard native planting programme with support from the Green Infrastructure group Target 3 Achieve funding (circa grant £150K) for a New Playground on the current site and work closely with VHT to increase space for play equipment (could include MUGA) BPC contribution to Grants approx. £15K Target 4 Work with Youth Hub and VHT to provide infrastructure for facilities for older children 11-18 Target 5 Review Christmas Lighting options now the current contract enters its last year - consider how to bring more of the village in to the scheme, and whether we bring lighting in-house again or go with a new contractor. Ongoing Budget.

CLIMATE CHANGE Finance requirements Repair cafes £900, Green Fair costs £200	
Targets 25-26	Targets 26-27
Target 1 Aim to hold 3-4 Repair Cafés during the year and introduce Clothing Swap Events either held concurrently or as a separate venture. This will further the drive to reduce the per household carbon footprint for “Consumables”. Completed Target 2 Improve collaboration with other groups within the village who are working on “Green” issues: E.g. Working with GIBAG to put on events during Great Big Green Week to promote ways to increase biodiversity within the village, to include: Buckden B-lines project, spring bulb planting pledges, Eco Fair event. Working with BVH on their SUDS Completed Target 3 Work with the allotments group to promote and further the existing donation of excess produce to Diamond Hampers. Consider how to promote sharing surplus vegetables Considered and not taken forward. Also Continue to promote the availability of the TI camera to Buckden householders and its benefits for surveying homes for potential insulation and other heat loss problems. Continue to work with the School to increase children’s knowledge of the Repair Café movement and Buckden PC’s role in working to reduce the village’s collective carbon footprint Continued Ongoing	The chair of the group has resigned but the plan is to pursue the following targets through GI&BDAG and VMC where possible Target1 To continue promotion of environmental awareness 3 times a year to coincide with repair cafes £150. Plus Projects events 3 times a year May/June October/November February/March £900 Target 2 Work to establish an annual Green Fair Target 3 Alongside TI camera loans, publicise the work of Cambridge Eco Homes for retrofitting and as a source of info about heat pump installation. Target 4 Work with AJ and flood group to promote water-savvy projects to increase flood and drought resilience for householders in the village.

COMMUNICATIONS Finance requirements £500 website change of emails costs TBC	
Targets 25-26	Targets 26-27
Target 1 Review status of data protection training for councillors - In progress Target 2 Consider Central, shared repository for documents - In progress Target 3 Consider creation of Advisory Group FB pages Considered and not taken forward.	Target 1 Review and upgrade website, new annual fee of circa £500 Target 2 Consider moving to <u>gov.uk</u> emails, still in discussion (associated cost would apply).
COMPLIANCE Finance requirements Training budget goes under this heading.	
Targets 25-26	Targets 26-27
Target 1 Maintenance of policies and procedures and respond in a timely way to audit recommendations and revision of required policies - In progress Target 2 Review training on Social Media - In progress, link with Coms Target 3 Revise schedule for Operational Planning to fit in with Budget setting - Completed	Target 1 Maintenance of policies and procedures and respond in a timely way to audit recommendations and revision of required policies Target 2 Review training on Social Media Target 3 Consider Quality Council application following election
PLANNING COMPLIANCE Finance requirements as last year possible legal advice in reserves	
Targets 25-26	Targets 26-27

Target 1 Engage with HDC to develop relationships and contribute to development of Local Plan Taregt 2 Monitor enforcement of planning conditions and contact enforcement in the event of a breach. Target 3 Produce policies as required when planning applications or government initiatives identify areas where a policy would be helpful All on going	Targets as last year
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