

Buckden Parish Council Chair's Report

Buckden Volunteer Scheme

This was set up as a joint scheme between the Parish Council, Friends Indeed and the Church. It began around the 17th March when we leafleted then whole village giving them information about the scheme. We had nearly 60 volunteers and around 200 requests for help and support. In the beginning the spreadsheet giving information about requests was updated daily, it then moved to weekly and now we have decided to formally close down the scheme. Obviously if anyone phones us, we will respond. We have emailed all the volunteers to thank them for their support, and to say if they wish to be removed from our data base then they should let us know but otherwise we will keep their details in case of further lockdowns. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered. I think the speed with which this was set up was remarkable and particular thanks to Elaine Scott for being the prime mover in establishing the scheme and Angie Bruce from Friends in Deed for fielding the majority of the calls. .

Issues in the village

We have had a number of issues raised by residents about, overhanging, trees and hedges, the emptying of bins and footpaths being blocked. We have tried to deal with these as quickly as possible. These issues have put a lot of pressure on both the Clerk and the handymen in both responding to and carrying out the work .

Men's' Sheds

I have been in discussion with Peter Menczer who leads on the Brampton Hub and is planning to set up a Men's Shed in Brampton. They have identified a site for it on the playing field in Brampton. We discussed in principle the possibility of Buckden being involved but with a contribution of 10k plus the need to apply for capital grant my view was that with all the other pressures on the PC at the moment this was not the right time to take this forward. If anyone wishes to volunteer to investigate and take this further, please contact me.

Audit

Mrs Jacqui Wilson Director Canalbs Ltd carried out the annual audit This is the first time she has undertaken an audit for Buckden Parish Council she would have completed a detailed check list inspecting all aspects of the practices, procedure and policies of the Council but this was not possible due to the COVID restrictions. For our information she attached a blank copy of the areas normally covered. She reviewed numerous documents sent by the Clerk and she has also spent time reviewing information available on the Council web site. It would be prudent for the Council to consider asking her to undertake a mid-year audit of principally procedures and policy once the temporary legislation has been cancelled. You will note when we come to the Finance report that the Clerk has worked extremely hard to take the PC successfully through the audit process. I would like to formally thank her for all her hard work.