

Buckden Parish Council Chair's Report July 2021

1) Councillor recruitment

We have had more interest than usual in the vacancy for the Parish Council, which is good, so we do not need to advertise currently.

2) Flooding

This has continued to cause much concern. Cllr Hassall continues to engage with the Flood Authority in relation to both Lucks Lane and the Silver Street development. The heavy rains on 23rd June led to further flooding in the High Street. Residents have mounted a well organised and effective media campaign. I have continued to pursue the issue with HDC, our County Councillor, Cambridgeshire County Council and our MP. The latest information is that:

Cambridgeshire Highways have raised a works order to clean the culvert and survey the Highway surface water drains in High Street, Buckden.

This will include the gullies in High street Buckden, between Taylors Lane and Charles Court, which will be cleaned as part of the programmed works to survey the surface water drainage and clean the culvert under the High Street. This will also include all the highways drains where flooding issues have recently materialised. Although the contractual arrangement/service level agreement is such that the work has been requested on a 13 week turnaround, we are liaising with the relevant contractor for this to be carried out sooner than that. We are happy to advise you of a confirmed start date, once we are made aware of it.

In any event, a cleansing programme is due in Buckden between January and March 2022

I had a virtual meeting with Jonathan Djanogly 7th July 21

He recommended:

- We liaised with Alconbury PC as they are experienced in these matters and have set up a flood group
- If we choose to have a public meeting to ensure that all relevant parties attend and that the intended outcomes are clear

He committed to:

- Passing on the minutes of the meetings of the water authorities who have held combined meetings to address the issues and concerns.
- Ensure we are given the information on the mapping and ownership of drains
- Specific support in relation to the Neighbourhood plan if we contact him about that specifically with key issues.

3) Cycleway Buckden to Brampton

A meeting was held Wednesday 7th July to discuss the options for the cycleway. Progress has been delayed as alternative schemes have been suggested. It was agreed that we could not continue to delay a decision. A further 6 weeks would be given to look at alternative routes and if they were not possible, we would progress with the original scheme. The meeting to make the final decision will be held 27th August.

4) Access to the land behind Bishops Way

A resident alerted us to the fact that Tarmac had instructed Savills to put in an access point into the land behind Bishops Way. Both the resident and the Council immediately applied for TPOs to be put on the site and the application was successful. The resident wrote thanking us for our support and quick action. The TPO is in place for 6 months we will need to follow up to ensure it is made permanent.

5) Biodiversity Strategy

We are in the process of commissioning an overarching biodiversity strategy for the Parish Council. The plan is that the strategy will provide guidance for each of the advisory groups on protecting, improving and developing biodiversity. There also be guidance provided for handymen and residents.

Proposal: to commission Mr M Ward to develop a full biodiversity strategy for the council. Costs attached

6) Hunts End

The work on the Hunts End paths will begin on Monday. I will be meeting with the reviewer from the Community Fund at the end of July. He will be assessing our compliance with the grant agreement.

7) School Liaison

School Governor - I am the community representative on the Governing Body of the school and the governor responsible for Special Educational Needs. I meet about once every half term with the Special Educational Needs co-ordinator . We have just drawn up the Annual SEN Governor Report to Governors which will be presented to the Governing Body on Monday 12th July. If any one wants to know more about the work of the school and how it operated over lock down do contact me.

Hunts End – to ensure that the children at the school were aware of the purpose of the alterations to Hunts End I visited presented to the Year 6 pupils something of the history of the green and the plans to make it a wildlife area. The pupils have produced maps, posters and leaflets promoting the changes being made.

8) Church liaison

I have quarterly catch-up meetings with Church representatives, the Vicar Jes Salt left in April and the new incumbent Rev David Shepard is going to be licensed on 27th July at 7.00pm. I have been invited to be part of the event.

Quote for services

From: Mark Ward

Address: 27 Greenway, Buckden Cambs PE19 5TU

Tel: 07974 432 460

Email: goldenbins@hotmail.co.uk

Date: 8th July 2021

Quote number 1

Customer: Buckden Parish Council

Valid until: 30th July 2021

Description of work

To research, write and deliver a Biodiversity Strategy and associated Wildlife Management and Action Plan for the Parish of Buckden in Cambridgeshire to the precise spec supplied by Buckden Parish Council. This will be delivered in word document format, with full colour photography throughout.

Quote for delivering the above

Hourly rate £26/p/h

Estimated time for research and writing, plus photography: 38 hours

Total, fixed-price cost – £988

Notes

An extensive biodiversity database of all known wildlife species for the Parish would also be supplied, at no cost, and delivered at the same time as the Management Action Plan. Please also see my notes on the original brief supplied that provide more information on what I can supply to meet the brief and add extra value as part of the initial commission.