

## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND BIODIVERSITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING RECORD

### 5 JULY 2021

#### Attendees

|                                      |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Caroline Underwood <b>CU</b> , Chair | Richard Salmon <b>RS</b>             |
| Sue Ashwell <b>SA</b>                | Lou O'Connor <b>LO</b>               |
| Amy Burbidge <b>AB</b>               | Melanie Storey <b>MS</b> , Secretary |

#### Apologies Pauline Steel **PS**

#### Item 1 Record of the Last Meeting

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved
- The Chair, CU, was re-elected
- Action review:

| No                             | Action Description                                                                                                 | Status/Update                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20.4                           | <b>All</b> to identify people who could be approached to join the Footpath Working Party                           | <b>CU</b> and <b>MS</b> will meet to take this forward                                                                                                |
| 24.2                           | <b>AB</b> to create a Facebook page so people can access the Group's leaflets                                      | Completed <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Buckden-Historic-Walk-107252691516463">https://www.facebook.com/Buckden-Historic-Walk-107252691516463</a> |
| 25.1                           | <b>MS</b> to seek advice from London Signs on how to add the Round About Buckden QR code to the information boards | Close, no longer required                                                                                                                             |
| 25.2                           | <b>All</b> to encourage residents to complete the petition seeking to establish a new footpath west of the A1      | Completed, 3 lists have been received and submitted                                                                                                   |
| 25.3                           | <b>RS</b> to bring a suggested list of safe cycle routes, along with potential walking routes to the next meeting  | Transferring to Highways and Sustainable Transport Group                                                                                              |
| 25.5                           | <b>LO</b> to continue to develop the tree planting leaflet for consideration at the next meeting                   | Superseded by Action 26.7                                                                                                                             |
| 25.7                           | <b>LO</b> to approach local nurseries with a view to supporting the Greening Buckden initiative                    | Outstanding                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Actions to be Monitored</b> |                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                       |
| 16.2                           | <b>MS</b> to distribute Round About Buckden leaflets and to record their take-up                                   | 1,000 leaflets taken by the public; need to include geocache website activity                                                                         |

#### Item 2 Footpaths

- Footpath Working Party: CU and MS will meet to take action 20.4 forward
- Leaflet printing: the Parish Clerk has ordered 250 copies of the Round About Buckden leaflet
- Slow Ways
  - It was noted that the Slow Ways project has acknowledged Buckden Parish Council's appointment of a Slow Ways Champion
  - It was agreed that a check of the Slow Ways route between Huntingdon and St Neots should be organised

- It was agreed a comment on the need for improvements to our area's path connectivity should be added to the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) consultation
- Round About Buckden: measuring success
  - 1,000 leaflets have been taken by residents
  - Interest in the route continues through the Facebook page
- Circular routes
  - When identifying circular cycle routes in the area it is difficult to avoid using footpaths and roads
  - It was agreed the identification of cycle routes would be transferred to the Highways and Sustainable Transport Group
- Connecting to Southoe
  - A resident has suggested the creation of a permissive path to connect our footpath network to Southoe
  - It was noted that the Environment Bill includes incentives for landowners to increase public access

**Action 26.1 MS** to organise a check of the Slow Ways route between Huntingdon and St Neots

**Action 26.2 AB** to include a comment on the need for improvements to our area's path connectivity in the County LCWIP consultation

**Action 26.3 MS** to contact the creator of the Round About Buckden geocache to ascertain take up figures

**Action 26.4 CU** to raise the possibility of creating a permissive path to Southoe, at her meeting with Thornhill Estates on 22 July

### Item 3 Trees

- In line with the Tree Strategy Action Plan the tree inspection contract has been awarded
- An update on the 'Talking Trees' project is awaited
- Greening Buckden leaflets
  - A draft version will be circulated for comment shortly
  - It was agreed a range of media options should be used to disseminate the information to encourage action by residents eg article in the Roundabout, Facebook, leaflets
  - It was suggested that the Parish Council should actively encourage allowing areas to become less manicured to enhance soil health and biodiversity with the added benefits of carbon sequestration and flood control
- As National Hedgerow Week has passed it was suggested that a calendar be created so the Group can participate in this and similar initiatives in the future

**Action 26.5 MS** to contact the tree inspection contractor to confirm the proposed pre meet on 3 August

**Action 26.6 MS** to contact the Duke of Edinburgh student who is undertaking the 'Talking Trees' project for an update

**Action 26.7 LO** to circulate the draft 'Greening Buckden' leaflet for comment

**Action 26.8 LO** to create a calendar of initiatives, such as National Hedgerow Week

### Item 4 Budget and Terms of Reference

- Current budget position and forecast remains unchanged
- The Group's Terms of Reference were approved

### Item 5 AOB

- It was noted the annual footpath check is due
- It was noted that the 2 new footpath signs need to be installed

- A resident has brought to the Group's attention that Tarmac asked Savills to widen access to the quarry area behind Bishop's Way meaning mature trees would be felled
  - At the request of the Parish Council Huntingdon District Council acted quickly to place temporary TPOs on the trees
  - The Parish Council intends to support the case for making the TPOs permanent
- Mark Ward has been commissioned to create a biodiversity strategy for the Parish Council
  - The strategy will provide guidance for each of the advisory groups on protecting, improving and developing biodiversity
  - It was agreed that the subsequent action plan should have public engagement as one of its priorities
  - It was noted that a useful resource is the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records that include species maps and it was suggested a link to these should be included in the strategy
- Village planting
  - It was noted that the work on planting in Hunts End had been delayed but is due to start shortly
  - Planting in the Churchyard has taken place but the brambles are re-emerging
  - It was noted that funds are available for the purchase of spring bulbs
  - It was noted that the Highways and Road Safety Group are putting a proposal to the next meeting of the Parish Council to fund the painting of double yellow lines at the drop kerb points on the green to enhance access
- A1 pedestrian and cycle route
  - Highways England has been in touch to seek views on the resurfacing of the route
  - It was agreed the route was too narrow and lacked protection from the traffic
  - It was suggested that the Southoe lay-by that represents a high risk point with vehicles entering at high speeds, should be highlighted
  - It was suggested that dips in the path where there is access to fields etc created a hazard that should be highlighted; accidents have already occurred at these points
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 September at 1930 hours

**Action 26.9 MS** to organise the annual footpath check

**Action 26.10 RS and CU** to arrange for instalment of the 2 new footpath signs

**Action 26.11 CU** to ask the Parish Clerk to arrange for the handymen to remove the brambles from the Churchyard