

Notes from Operational Plan Evening
Tuesday 20th February 2024

Introduction

The purpose of meeting was twofold. Firstly, to look at what we have achieved in the past twelve months. Secondly, to consider our main objectives/priorities for the coming year. This will enable us to develop the Operational Plan and report back to the Village on what we have achieved in the last year.

What have we achieved?	What do we want to achieve next year?
HASTAG The Buckden Brampton Cycle way is completed and opened. Speed watch up and running with regular sessions taking place. These have been well received in the village. Good relations and communication maintained with regional lead for National Highways	HASTAG TARGET 1 Install 'Speed watch Village' signs and continue to support Speed watch volunteers to monitor speeding traffic within the village. TARGET 2 Install more road safety features MVAS units in Lucks Lane via LHFI Apply for dropped kerbs and yellow lines via PFI TARGET 3 Conduct a series of surveys to gather views of residents on traffic and transport issues
Communications AG Facebook and Instagram accounts up and running and being well used. Supported Buckden events planning. Lessons learnt from that and management would be different in future . Started to use technology to allow people to participate/observe meetings.	Communications AG TARGET 1 Continue to engage in development of Community Hub TARGET 2 Develop links with younger age group use community questionnaire to identify youth specific issues – set up communications sub group for youth . See notes

	TARGET 3 Continue to encourage Advisory Groups and Committee to create regular updates for the village
Allotments Improvements to boundary fencing completed Seating area at A1 end in place Community plot was a great success with produce going to Diamond Hampers	Allotments TARGET 1 Install Poly tunnel TARGET 2 Develop wildlife area by growing wildflowers and plants that attract birds, bees, and insects to help pollinate the plants on the allotment. TARGET 3 Create a dedicated part of the area for wildlife homes for birds, bees, bugs and hedgehogs by placing hedgehog huts / birdboxes / bat boxes and bug hotels in and around the area. Also very happy to support any BPC biodiversity initiatives.
Planning The Committee has continued to respond in a timely and effective way. Continuing to develop relationships with Planning officers. Have developed policies as required the first being the Solar Farm Policy	Planning TARGET 1 Engage with HDC to develop relationships and contribute to development of Local Plan TARGET 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.

Large Scale Planning AG Responded in detail to the Planning application for flats at the marina. Responded to the group who applied for Asset of Community Value Engaged in positive dialogue with Morris Homes re Silver Street development	Large Scale Planning AG TARGET 1 Carry forward business as usual priorities TARGET 2 Recruit additional members.
GI&BDAG Promoted activities for children and families through Tree and Bee walk and photo competition. Continued to produce wildlife/biodiversity leaflets this year's was "Water in the garden" Continued to develop hedge planting in High Street. Played a key role in Great Ouse Valley trust meetings	GI&BDAG More of the same TARGET 1 Continue promoting information to children and families about biodiversity and walking in Buckden TARGET 2 Continue to develop wildlife areas in the village: Lucks Lane, Church yard & Morris Close TARGET 3 Change the Friends of Buckden footpaths into an action group who identify and work on areas that require improvement.
Flooding Group Terms of Reference in place 4 village residents on the group, plus District Councillor Storage erected and equipment purchased Conducted regular, useful meetings with FLA and AA Provided practical assistance in recent flooding	Flooding Group TARGET 1 Agree list of flood risk hot spots TARGET 2 Plan for mitigation action. TARGET 3 Communicate effectively on flooding issues.

VMAG Implemented Cemetery Safety testing and management policy Successfully concluded negotiations re Christmas lights issues and ensured Christmas lights were in place for this year Increased play equipment for children with special needs Completed healthy aging project.	VMAG TARGET 1 Maintain Cemetery Stability testing programme and initiate Stability Testing programme for St Mary's Churchyard TARGET 2 Complete mapping of St Mary's Churchyard & publish this on-line TARGET 3 Seek to install adult/teenage fitness equipment and increase play equipment for children with special needs when suitable and available locations are identified.
Climate Change AG Completed the restructure of the AG. This has now been superseded by new arrangements for the A G. This is being developed. Terms of Reference are drafted and climate change champions identified.	Climate Change AG TARGET 1 Establish a working group to draw up action plan to discharge biodiversity duty. TARGET 2 Promote Great Collaboration Toolkit across the village. TARGET 3 Establish Repair Café
Compliance AG Did not achieve specific tasks but now reports monthly to Council on Annual Plan actions and review of Policies. Continued with Compliance work, Risk Management Plan and Operational Planning	Compliance AG TARGET 1 Consider Quality Council TARGET 2 Develop land ownership mapping through Parish on Line

Finance AG Managed overall CIL Funding and Project budgets and any other projects with external funding. Provided information and support for new Councillors to enable them to effectively and confidently discharge their responsibilities in relation to BPC expenditure.	Finance AG TARGET 1 Induct new Finance lead. TARGET 2 Finance lead to identify key priorities.
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Other proposals from Operational Planning discussions

Proposal 1 to institute a Neighbourhood Plan Review group, to review current plan and identify areas that need to be revised or policies that need to be added. Proposed membership Anne Howell Jones, Peter Clarke, Madeline Fraser and possibly John Thelwall. NB Martin Hassall has said he will be happy to join the group

Proposal 2 to institute a sub-group of the Communications Advisory Group to focus on engagement with young people in the village. Proposed membership Aiden Joy, Abi Bodede, Anita Pancholi-McCann.

CIL Priorities

Although the costs for the Cycle way have still not been confirmed. The forecast for the CIL funds available is in the region of £80,000. It was agreed that in principle the funds should be used to address the priorities identified by VHT BPC liaison group, in particular, provision of facilities for younger people. All proposals to be brought to PC for discussion before approval.

VHT Liaison Group It was noted that this group has worked well and that there was good liaison over the application for energy saving measures. With the resignation of Sue Ashwell from the council another Councillor is required for the liaison group, Peter Clarke has offered to join the group.

Parish Council Membership

Recruitment and roles

AHJ reminded all Councillors that she would not continue as Chair beyond April 24. Anyone interested in becoming Chair or Vice Chair should contact either her or CU