

Buckden Parish Council Chair's Report November 2021

1) Council Strategy

Following the workshop to discuss the strategy we will present the actions from this at the January Parish Council meeting together with an updated Community Action Plan

2) National Highways meeting

I met with two representatives from National Highways (NH) in relation to the Stage 4 Safety Audit of the Stirtloe Lane junction. Apparently, the information we received in our meeting with Martin Fellows from NH was not accurate; because a Stage 3 Audit had been carried out and no issues had been identified and there have been no incidents causing injury at the junction there will be no Stage 4 Audit.

We do however have a commitment from Alan Trill NH? Route Manager Cambridgeshire that a working group will be set up in relation to the Roundabout, he will be in touch about dates; the first meeting is likely to be end of November/ early December. He has also emailed NH structures team for an update on the southern subway wall condition, and the inspector for the graffiti. There are also plans to replace the subway lighting with LED lights and he keep us informed when he knows more about the subway lighting work from their electrical team.

3) Flooding

Following my email to the CCC flood authority and Highways I received the information that I sent to all Councillors and which is on the website which said we would hear something in 4-6 weeks. There has, as we all know, been more flooding on the High Street. I emailed Jonathan Djanogly MP and he met with me virtually. He has assured me that he intended to be in contact with the CEO of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to demand action. I have as yet heard no more.

4) Meeting with Chair of Brampton Parish Council

Mike Bainbridge Chair of Brampton Parish Council and I met to discuss issues that are of mutual importance. We are going to meet quarterly. It was no surprise to learn that both villages have very similar issues to deal with.

5) School Liaison

The school had the first full Governing Body meeting of the year at the end of October. As Special Educational Needs Governor, I and the SENDCo presented information on Special Educational Needs and Disability issues. The school has met with representatives from the Local Authority (LA) and LA says there is no case for expanding the school as the numbers of pupils in the catchment area is not sufficient to warrant expansion. I have been invited to a meeting about the Early years' numbers, this will be held on Friday 5th November. I will report any updates from that at the meeting.

6) Quarry Liaison meeting

I attended a Quarry Liaison meeting (virtually). They are progressing well with the restoration of the Paxton pits. The Company is working in accordance with the approved restoration plan and environmental management plan. When Phase 1 is completed the land will then be formally handed over to Hunts DC and will see the Nature Reserve expand in a northerly direction. Phase 2 - Diddington Pit will be completed Spring 2022; the conveyor system will be removed to complete the restoration of the southern field of Diddington Pit prior to the transfer to Hunts DC as part of the planning / s106 Legal Agreement

7) Liaison with Village Hall Trust

I met with the Chair of the Village Hall Trust and it has been agreed that a BPC-BVHT liaison meeting will be held in early December

8) TING on demand bus service

October 25th saw the start of demand response bus service trial in the western parts of Huntingdonshire. I have received a pack of promotional materials that I will share at the meeting

A reminder of what ting is and where it will operate. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority is trialling a new demand responsive transport service called **ting** – Instead of running to fixed timetables, residents can now book trips across the western part of Huntingdonshire using the **ting trips app**, or the booking line.

The trial will last for six months, and it will complement the current bus services already running in the area. More information is available at www.ting-trips.co.uk .