

Buckden Parish Council Chair's Report September 2021

1) Council Strategy

Cllrs AHJ, SA and CU met at the beginning of the month to review progress in implementing the Buckden Parish Council strategic plan. This strategy is not a single document but comprises the Neighbourhood Plan and the Community Action Plan. We believe that the Vision articulated in the NP and which was endorsed by 92% of those that voted for the NP is still current, as are the aims and objectives.

Vision

Buckden will remain a village where preservation of its rich environmental and historic heritage and rural character will be at the heart of providing a sustainable and high quality of life for present and future generations

We think that we need as a full Council to revisit how to continue to implement the vision and the aims and objectives. We are therefore proposing that we meet as a **whole Council on Tuesday 19th October at 7.00pm** to ensure that the work of the Advisory Groups and Committees is focused on delivering the vision, aims and objectives.

We also think it is important that we keep residents informed about the work we are undertaking on their behalf and so to that end we are proposing a quarterly insert into the Roundabout. We are hoping to get the first one of these into the magazine next month, and propose we cover: Learning from Lucks Lane; challenging the Silver Street development; flooding and biodiversity. Any further thoughts on the content of this report to residents would be very welcome.

2) Training

As reported at the July meeting the Council is well on its way to achieving the Local Council Award. However, the one area that we are less strong on is training. Very few Councillors have undertaken any training and it is important that we do. We do hope to arrange some whole Council training in Buckden but in the meantime please do look at the opportunities offered by CAPALC and **let Ramune know which courses you will sign up for.**

All new Councillors need to attend the training for new Councillors.

https://www.capalc.org.uk/Training_and_Events_19202.aspx

If you have any difficulties with this, please contact Ramune.

3) Biodiversity Strategy

Mark Ward is continuing to develop our biodiversity strategy. He and I looked at a couple of areas in the village that need to have some additional planting. Between the telephone box and the Green memorial he recommends removing some of the dead older stumps that are covered in ivy and supplementing the planting in the hedge with additional hawthorn, field maple and blackthorn and letting it grow a little higher. On the Morris Close verge he is recommending planting a perennial wildflower mix.

While we were walking round the village, he spotted a very rare fungi – the Sandy Stiltball. He has informed the Hunts fungi county recorder who has now been out and confirms these are the only Sandy Stiltballs in the whole of Huntingdonshire and only the second time it has been found in the county. Therefore, it becomes one of our most important and rare species we must ensure nothing happens to it at all costs! It is actually illegal to do anything to it. It is in a slightly vulnerable place but we have decided that if we protect it with any form of fencing it will only draw attention to it. I have informed the handymen so they do not clear it away by mistake. Here is the link to the webpage all about the species: <https://www.first-nature.com/fungi/battarrea-phalloides.php>

4) Hunts End

The work on this project is nearly complete. The bench to mark Terry Hayward's retirement is now installed. There will be a window put in the bus shelter and a bug hotel purchased. The project monitoring form will be returned by the end of the month. It is already beginning to look really good many thanks to Richard Salmon and David Bowman for their work on this. Please note we will all be gathering at Hunts End on 26th September to mark Betty Millard's retirement at 4.30. If you have not as yet contributed to the retirement gift, please let Anne or I have your contributions as soon as possible. WE have commissioned the person who originally created the village sign to mend and refurbish it. Hope fully this will be completed over the Autumn.

5) Church liaison

Rev David Shepard was licensed to the Parish on 27th July. I have had the first liaison meeting with him and the Churchwardens the following was discussed.

- The Parish Council that St Mary's will be linking in with the Great Big Green week through their Harvest Festival Service on 26th September and they will also make an introduction to it on 19th. This links well with the Church's push to support and pray for a successful outcome to the COP26 UN Climate talks.
- Carole Coram who leads the youth club was also at the meeting. The club which runs at the Towers has been very successful partly because it is run by young couple who are much closer to the children in age. Unfortunately they will be moving on, so Carol is looking for other young adults to help with this. If any councillors know any young adults who would be able and willing to help with this, please contact Carole carolecoram@btinternet.com
- The St Mary's Parish Carol Service will be held on Tuesday 21st December at 7.30 at the Church

6) Communication from our MP

I have had a letter from Jonathan Djanogly our MP who is launching COVID Communities champion award. He wants to highlight those people who went above and beyond over the last year and acknowledge those who have given so much to their local communities. He is therefore inviting nominations of local individuals to thank them for their work. Closing date 1st October. The winners will be announced in the Hunts post and will be invited to a parliamentary reception. If you wish to nominate someone will you please either let Ramune and I know or of course you can nominate directly jonathan.djanogly.mp@parliament.uk In either case please include the following information

You need to include:

Nominator's name

Nominator's address

Nominator's email

Name and contact email of COVID Community Champion Award nominee

A short summary of why you are nominating them.

7) Application for planting tree in Churchyard

An application to move the existing James Penny memorial stone and plant a new tree in St Mary's Buckden churchyard has been received. There is a memorial stone to James Penny in the St Mary's churchyard and the intention was for this to be next to a tree. However, both the original flowering cherry and replacement yew tree have died, despite being professionally installed and nurtured. It is assumed that there is something in the ground such as a lead casket that is poisoning the tree roots. Therefore, it is intended to move the memorial stone and plant a new yew tree next to it. The new location will be 25 feet (7.5 meters) from both the Church Street boundary wall and the boundary fence with the vicarage. This will give the new tree plenty of space from the existing lime trees along the vicarage boundary. All work will be undertaken professionally within the next few weeks and paid for by a resident. As Chair of the Green infrastructure and Biodiversity group I have approved this. If anyone wants more details Ramune has the full application document