

## CHAIR'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2024

### **Liaison with other Parish Councils**

At the July meeting of the Council it was agreed that I should invite our neighbouring Parish Councils to a meet to discuss common interests. That meeting took place in Buckden Village Hall on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and was attended by Brampton, Grafham, Little Paxton, Perry, The Offords and Southoe and Midloe Parish Councils. We were represented by Councillor Anne Howell-Jones, The Clerk and me.

A number of topics were discussed, including planning and footpaths, and each Council gave a brief report of its activities. The meeting was considered a success by all the Councils and a further meeting is being arranged for the last week in October to discuss the Call for Sites in relation to the District Local Plan. Anne will be drafting a proposed way forward for BPC in order that we can discuss it with the other Parishes before submitting our response and, hopefully, a joint response on many of the issues.

### **Proposals by Cambridgeshire County Council for a new pilot Quietway on the Grafham to Brampton Road**

We received on 27 August an email from CCC setting out proposals for a pilot Quietway on the Grafham to Brampton Road which would exclude motor vehicles and would continue for 18 months. There has been considerable concern in Grafham and I was invited to attend an Extraordinary Meeting of Grafham Parish Council on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Before the meeting I was able to establish from CCC that although they have not decided the timing of the process, I was assured that consultation and engagement would take place first and that this “will very much inform whether the trial goes ahead at all”.

The meeting was exceptionally well attended with over 200 people and all those who spoke were strongly against any closure of the road. I made it clear that rumours that Buckden were behind or supportive of these proposals to close the road to vehicles were inaccurate, and briefly said what our policy was, as established in 2019.

This was set out in our Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and refers to ‘second priority’ ‘mostly recreational’ routes , firstly along this road with a 20mph speed limit, secondly via the former railway line and thirdly a new cycleway along Perry Road.

We need to ensure that we are properly consulted and that we liaise with Grafham, Brampton and Ellington Parish Councils. The Council may or may not change its views.

### **Mill Road**

County Councillor Ken Billington was eventually able to arrange a meeting with Simon Dixon of County Highways. We discussed a number of items, including:

Potential buffering speed limit on Mill Road of 30mph before the 20 mph limit.

Possible rumble strips at the Marina end of Mill Road and an extension of the 30 mph zone.

Better HGV restriction signs in High Street and Mill Road

We have now received an email from County Highways stating that if the Parish Council wishes to proceed with the implementation of the 30mph buffer zone that Cambridgeshire County Council can fund it. I feel that we should welcome this and continue to press for further improvements whenever an opportunity arises.

**Proposal:** That Buckden Parish Council welcomes the offer by Cambridgeshire County Council to install and fund a 30mph Buffer Zone at the top of Mill Road and asks that consideration be given to removing the chicane.

It also agrees to press for further improvements whenever the opportunity arises

We have also been advised that the yellow lines in Station Lane, although just over the Parish Boundary in Offord, are to be refreshed.

### **Christmas Market**

The Parish Council has been asked by the Buckden Community Events team to cover the cost of the road closure for the Christmas Market and Event in The High Street on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November. I have received the details of the BCE team's Income and Expenditure for 2023 which shows a very small surplus even after we met nearly half of the costs. They expect many more stalls this year which will boost their income. The cost of managing the road closure is £350 and we should meet this cost.

**Proposal:** To agree to meet the cost of £350 to manage the road closure for the Christmas Market

### **Committees and Advisory Groups**

The Council is expected, at its Annual Meeting, to

- (a) review the delegation arrangements to committees, Advisory groups and staff
- (b) review the terms of reference for committees and Advisory groups
- (c) appoint members to existing committees and Advisory groups
- (d) consider the need for any new committees or Advisory groups

As we did not do this at the Annual Meeting it is being brought to this meeting.

The report from the Compliance Advisory Group, which is being considered as the next item, also deals with the Terms of Reference, the reinstatement of the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group and the establishment of the Buckden Integrated Hub and Youth Advisory Group.

The Council is asked to consider any other changes it wishes to make and to appoint Councillors and co-opted members to Committees and Advisory Groups.