

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2025-26

In 2020 Buckden Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan was approved by referendum. As part of that planning process the Council also developed a Community Action Plan (CAP) 2020-2025 which outlined the aspirations the council had for the village, which by definition, could not form part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Each year since then the Council has sought to put in place the actions prioritised in the CAP through an Operational Plan.

This years Plan includes achievements from the previous year and this year's targets.



Operational Plan 2023-24 Approved 11 July 2023

Minute number 07-64

Date for review – February 2024

Buckden Parish Council

Community Action Plan

June 2020 – 2025

Update April 2025

COMPLIANCE (Compliance Advisory Group CAG) to ensure that the Council is legally compliant	
Achievements this year 24-25	Targets for 25-26
Unable to attain quality Council status as we do not have enough elected Councillors Adding information on land ownership as it is discovered Safeguarding refresher training held Risk management document revised	Target 1 Maintenance of policies and procedures and respond in a timely way to audit recommendations and revision of required policies Target 2 Review training on Social Media Target 3 Revise schedule for Operational Planning to fit in with Budget setting
FINANCE (Finance Advisory Group FAG) to ensure that the Council budgets prudently and responds to the changing needs of the village	
Achievements this year 24-25	Targets 25-26
Targets 1 and 2 achieved Induction of new Finance lead and identification of key priorities. In addition the following has been achieved : • Reviewed utility of existing financial software. • Produce clearer financial analysis reporting to Council. • Delivered a balanced and credible 25/26 budget submission. • Precept request accepted by HDC without modification.	1) Implement use of new General, Reserve and Restricted Fund definitions. 2) Introduce quarterly Management Account reporting to Council. 3) Deliver a balanced, credible 26/27 budget submission for approval by Council. 4) Consider whether existing finance software is adequate and, if not, identify a suitable alternative and make preparations for implementation.
PLANNING Committee (P Comm) to ensure that all planning applications are scrutinised for adherence to planning requirements and NP policies	
Achievements this year 24-25	Targets 25-26
Planning The Committee has continued to respond in a timely and effective way. Continuing to develop relationships with Planning officers.	Planning TARGET 1 Engage with HDC to develop relationships and contribute to development of Local Plan

Have developed policies as required the first being the Solar Farm Policy	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.
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LARGE SCALE PLANNING Advisory Group (LSPAG) work with District and County Council to ensure due weight given to NP

Achievements this year 24-25	Targets for 25-26
Responded in detail to further planning application for flats at Buckden marina.	TARGET 1 Carry forward business as usual priorities TARGET 2 Recruit additional members.

HIGHWAYS and SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT (H&STAG) work to make Buckden safer and more accessible for walkers, cyclists and those with mobility issues and to promote public transport

Achievements this year 24-25	Targets for 25-26
Targets 1 and 2 are in progress and will carry over into the coming year these are: 1. Install 'Speedwatch Village' signs and continue to support Speedwatch volunteers to monitor speeding traffic within the village. 2. Install more road safety features MVAS units in Lucks Lane via LHFI. Apply for dropped kerbs and yellow lines via PFI We did not carry out any more surveys A full survey of roads and pavements carried out and recorded in a format that will be helpful for comparison in future years.	Target 1 Use the road and pavement survey to make comparisons and highlight inaction to CCC Target 2 Complete all projects bid for in 2024-25 Target 3 Continuing Speedwatch with volunteers in the police identified locations Target 4 Stay engaged with CCH on works due for the coming year example Mill Road Buffer zone speed limits which KB CC has been pushing.

Continued attendance at SAG/NH Teams meetings throughout the year and circulate notes to HASTAG members reporting back to full Parish Council of changes and issues regarding to the village	Continue Teams meetings with SAG group through NH reporting back to HASTAG members and Parish Council and continue to push on subway issues including the decoration that has been looked into for a few years now
Climate Change Mitigation Advisory Group (CCMAG) to develop strategies for the village to mitigate Climate Change and its effects	
Achievements this year 24-25	Targets for 25-26
Target 3 has been fully met with two Repair Cafés having taken place. We have also secured a WEEE (waste electronic and electrical equipment) recycling bin for the village. Target 1: Establish a working group to draw up action plan to discharge biodiversity duty. Ongoing. Working alongside GIBAG, there is now an effective group of councillors and a few volunteers which is undertaking work on various projects aimed at increasing biodiversity. These include the Churchyard Award and Lucks Lane wall planting scheme. Target 2: Promote Great Collaboration Toolkit across the village. Deferred: this has proved not to be viable. Despite advertising its existence, only two households have logged in. Also: Links established with Buckden CofE Primary School and the Repair Café through delivery of an Assembly to the whole school in January.	TARGET 1 Aim to hold 3-4 Repair Cafés during the year and introduce Clothing Swap Events either held concurrently or as a separate venture. This will further the drive to reduce the per household carbon footprint for “Consumables”. TARGET 2 Improve collaboration with other groups within the village who are working on “Green” issues: E.g. Working with GIBAG to put on events during Great Big Green Week to promote ways to increase biodiversity within the village, to include: Buckden B-lines project, spring bulb planting pledges, Eco Fair event. Working with BVH on their SUDS and other projects. TARGET 3 Work with the allotments group to promote and further the existing donation of excess produce to Diamond Hampers. Consider how to promote sharing surplus vegetables Also Continue to promote the availability of the TI camera to Buckden householders and its benefits for surveying homes for potential insulation and other heat loss problems.

Replacement of the TI camera; two councillors have undergone training with Cambridge Carbon Footprint. A new system for borrowing the camera has been established and to date, it has been used by 6 householders.	Continue to work with the School to increase children's knowledge of the Repair Café movement and Buckden PC's role in working to reduce the village's collective carbon footprint.
Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Group (GI&BDIAG) to maintain and develop the biodiversity in the village	
Achievements this year 24-25	Targets for 25-26
Target 1 Information for children and families Produced 16 x Spotter's guide sheets to accompany walks around Buckden. Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter versions of "Birds", "Wildflowers", "Trees and Hedgerows" and "Insects". These are all available on the Buckden PC website. Target 2: develop wildlife areas Lucks Lane planting started with bulbs in late autumn. Planting scheme devised and further planting to be completed late Feb/early March. Churchyard Award pre-judging meeting held in October. Plans completed and agreed with Church wardens and Father David, subsequently it was agreed that we would not pursue Churchyard award . Tree planting, orchard, dead hedge at the allotments Target 3 Friends group disbanded action group formed.	Target 1 Support Nature Recovery Year 2025 • Buckden B-lines project encouraging households to plant a small area of nectar-rich flowers in their gardens /pots / planters to provide routes for insects through the village. • Questionnaire to find out what Buckden households are doing to provide homes for nature then celebrate this through producing a map of the village on which people can highlight their efforts. • Hold an Eco-Fair during Great Big Green Week to celebrate what is going on to increase biodiversity in the village and to promote ideas for further work. Target 2 Continue to develop wildlife areas in the village. • Add spring flower planting areas planting on the edge of the village. • Establish allotment orchard and hedge • Continue to develop biodiversity opportunities in the Churchyard Target 3 improve information on what is being done • Install information boards at sites where planting has taken place Target 4 • Incorporate biodiversity actions into work schedules and on going Operational plan targets

COMMUNICATIONS Advisory Group Coms AG) to ensure the Council's communications are accessible to all and inform and involve residents.	
Achievements this year 24-25	Targets for 25-26
Maintained engagement with Hub Group and provided communications support. Improved FB and Instagram presence.	TARGET 1 Review status of data protection training for councillors. TARGET 2 Consider Central, shared repository for documents TARGET 3 Consider creation of Advisory Group FB pages.

Village Maintenance Committee to maintain and improve the village infra structure advise on staffing issues related to this	
Achievements this year 24-25	Targets for 25-26
Converted Village Maintenance Advisory Group to Committee to enable timely decision making. Reduced cost and improved quality by in sourcing cemetery grass cutting. The churchyard mapping is in beta phase and will be finished by year end. A new Handyman has been recruited and this together with proactive management of the Handymen has improved the quality of general maintenance in the village. Stability testing has not been carried out.	TARGET 1 Maintain a high-quality and responsive maintenance service. TARGET 2 Support the implementation of green infrastructure, biodiversity and climate change mitigation activities where delivered by the Handymen and outsourced contractors. TARGET 3 Upgrade quality of play equipment for younger children and support the introduction on equipment for older children by VHT TARGET 4 Maintain Cemetery Stability testing programme and initiate Stability Testing programme for St Mary's Churchyard TARGET 5 Consider ways to add greater sense of community to the village. For example: • More information notices e.g plaques on historic properties • Artwork, murals, Identify funding opportunities to enable this.

Allotments Manage allotments to ensure plots are well maintained and full occupancy sought. Develop community aspect of the Allotments	
Achievements this year 24-25	Targets for 25-26
Poly tunnel was installed The wildlife area has been started Plots well tended	Target 1 Revise awards for allotment holders to make it more inclusive Target 2 Plant hedge along half of boundary fence Target 3 Develop a small orchard Target 4 Put together plan for raised bed to allow for more accessible areas.

Flooding Group The purpose of the Flood Group is to develop, manage and communicate a Flood Plan for the village to include an action plan for the event of a flooding incident.	
Achievements this year 24-25	Targets for 25-26
Flooding Group Flood risk hot spots identified Ongoing mitigation actions, including deployment of flood pumps No household flooding Ongoing communication on flooding events Transfer of Flood Group Chai	Flooding Group TARGET 1 Complete local risk and action survey with LLFA TARGET 2 Prepare Flood Management Plan TARGET 3 Communicate effectively on flooding issues.

As a result of last year's meeting two further advisory groups were formed:

- A Hub and Youth engagement Advisory Group
- Reformation of the Neighbourhood plan group to respond the HDC Local Plan consultation

These groups produced a review of their work and targets for the forthcoming year.

Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group (NPAG) work with District and County Council to ensure due weight given to NP	
Achievements this year 24-25	Targets for 25-26
Group formed Responded in detail to District Council Consultations on proposed new Local Plan	TARGET 1 Recruit additional members, including non-Councillor residents if possible. Target 2. Respond to further consultations by District Council as appropriate.

Buckden PC Hub and Youth Engagement Advisory Group the purpose of the group is to facilitate hub health and well being initiatives and develop activities for the younger residents of the village.	
Achievements this year 24-25	Targets for 25-26
No targets were set for last year as the group had not been formed but the following was achieved - Youth engagement survey sent out and action plan created in response - Youth engagement event held in Spring (sports, pizza, focus group feedback on village provision) - Free school holiday multi sports events (5-11 year olds) booked and held regularly - Yoga sloths (11-18 year olds) one course run - Stay and Play (baby and toddler group) established	Target 1 Develop activities for 11-18 year olds: - Offer multi-sports for 11-18 starting in Summer Term - Performing Arts provision through Shakespeare at the Towers Target 2 Continue to provide activities for pre-school and 5-11 year olds - Stay and Play (baby and toddler group) - School holiday multi sports events (5-11 year olds) - Yoga sloths (11-18 year olds) in Summer term Target 3 - Support development of Youth membership to Village Club to provide indoor and outdoor social space for young people Target 4 Organise an annual youth engagement event in Spring/Summer (sports, activities, pizza, focus group feedback on village provision)