

Buckland Village Plan

Final Report, December 2003



Buckland by Hannah Moore 2002

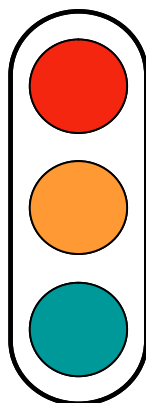
Buckland Parish Council

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1 Introduction

Buckland Parish Council issued a survey questionnaire to all village households in June 2002, as the starting point in aligning the actions of the Council to the priority needs of the residents. In December 2002, an Interim Report was published to all households to advise residents of the results of the survey, and an action plan was agreed to help meet the needs of village residents. (The Interim Report is still available on the village website at www.bucklandsurrey.net). The interim report listed 16 actions, prioritised by a traffic light code:



RED – actions for urgent attention in 2003

AMBER – actions for 2003 & 2004

GREEN – ‘watching briefs’ where no additional action was needed unless circumstances change

Now, one year later, we report on the results of the Village Plan that have given added impetus and energy to the activities of the Buckland Parish Council. The structure of the Interim report is retained using the following headings:

1 Introduction	
2 Public Services ? Utilities ? Security ? Council Services ? Health ? Information	3 Transport and Traffic ? Buses ? Trains ? Road Traffic
4 Environment ? Countryside ? Recycling ? Pollution ? Village Shop	5 Leisure ? Attractions ? Activities ? Park Pit
6 Conclusion	

Under each heading, the following format is used:

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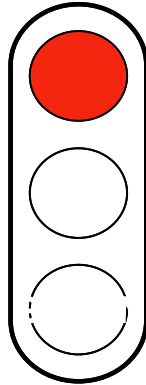
- ? Actions from the Interim Report are in italics in the left-hand-column
- ? Traffic lights highlight the priority status of the actions
- ? Selected quotes from the Interim Report are included in italics in the right hand column – to help tell the story...
- ? Reports on actions are in normal text in the main right-hand column.

We trust that you will find our Village Plan Report interesting and helpful.

2 Public Services

Security

'Work with Police and take measures to improve the perception of a safe and secure environment'



The village survey said that an increased police presence would be favoured by 47%, and a significant minority (34%) thought that better consultation between local police and villagers was needed. 63% considered that Buckland would benefit from neighbourhood watch schemes, but only 48% said they would join!

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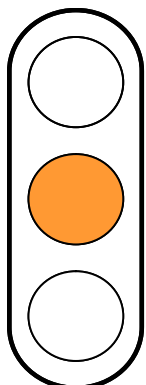
This first recommendation has not progressed too far, despite the best intent of the Parish Council. Villagers must co-ordinate on their own roads in order to set up Neighbourhood Watch schemes, and despite some prompting, there has – at least for the moment – been only one willing road co-ordinators for the Neighbourhood

8

Watch schemes. Everett Leeds did canvass the East End of the village and got a positive response, though this is a fairly sparsely populated area and represents only a small part of the village. The more densely populated areas of Old Road, the Village Green and Tranquil Dale have not yet shown interest. If someone would like to volunteer and break the mould, please contact one of the Parish Councillors.

Council Services

'Liase with MVDC on how to improve the planning process, so that fewer residents are dissatisfied with the results'



The opinion of 'the way the planning system works in Mole Valley district Council (MVDC)' was mixed. 50% had no opinion, but of those who had, only 13 were totally satisfied, 108 quite satisfied, and 67 left dissatisfied.

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MVDC do send out a customer satisfaction surveys following planning applications, noting – and we trust, acting – on the comments they receive on their service.

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Buckland Parish Council will continue to monitor the planning process as a watching brief, and are happy to hear from villagers about both good and bad experiences.

11

Health

Only 22 people had difficulties in getting to a doctor or hospital, and 13 a problem with collecting prescriptions. Although a small problem, this is significant for the individuals involved. Although facilities are only available in nearby villages and towns, the car and good neighbourliness seems to keep this problem down to a minimum.

12

'Free wheels' – formerly Buckland Volunteer Transport – was established by Tina Gilbert in 1995, and is now co-ordinated by Lesley Fletcher (Phone 842875) and Lesley Standen (Phone 844005). If you need help getting to hospital or collecting prescriptions you can call a co-ordinator and she will co-ordinate the transport you need. If other 'good neighbours' identify those too shy to come forward and ask for help, please also contact a co-ordinator, and an open offer of help can be made which can be taken up when needed.

13

Information

The Buckland Parish Magazine gained the vote for the best communications channel of village events, with 86% (308 people) considering it good or reasonable. Notice boards gained a 66% vote and the Dorking Advertiser a 37% vote as good means of communication about Buckland village events. The Buckland Village website had 62 people voice an opinion, of which 82% (53) considered it good or reasonable. Of the 364 respondents to the question, this indicates that 17% of villagers are 'logged on'. 14

The Parish Magazine goes from strength to strength, having combined with the Betchworth Parish Magazine during 2002, and gaining a national award for Parish Magazines in December 2003. 15

The Buckland Village Website managed by the Parish Council, was complimentary to a second web site concerning the local village history, windmill and bell-ringers. We have now combined these into a larger, single web site at www.bucklandsurrey.net – laid out with the following contents: 16

WINDMILL 17
 ? Latest information on restoration & open days
 ? Photos, history, restoration

HISTORY 18
 ? The village history book Buckland 1000-2000 (sample photos, content, ordering)
 ? Census information (Full transcripts from 1841 to 1901 censuses)

EVENTS 19
 ? Calendar of future village and local events (1-2 months ahead)
 ? Photo reports of recent events (e.g. BBQ, Jubilee Day, Hanson Pit Open Day, May fair, Morris Dancing)

ACTIVITIES 20
 ? Listing of local activity groups, church offices, with contact numbers
 ? Pages for specialist groups: Bell-ringers, Church, Toddler Group

PARISH COUNCIL 21
 ? Minutes of recent Parish Council Meetings
 ? Reports on Traffic Surveys
 ? Pond and Village Green information
 ? Local Walks
 ? Waste & Recycling facilities

VILLAGE PLAN 22
 ? Interim Report & Final Report (this document)
 ? Poster competition & Time capsule
 ? Questionnaire

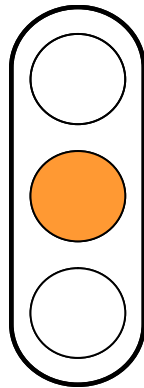
PARISH MAGAZINE 23
 ? Every magazine since January 2003, updated with the latest issue each month

WHAT'S NEW 24
 ? Recent changes to the website, useful for regular visitors

The Site has many links to other websites of interest. The website is made up of over 40 pages, illustrated with over 60 photos and supported by about 500 pages of reference material (mainly Census records, Parish Magazines and Village Plan reports). Each month the Parish Magazine and Events calendar will be routinely updated, and other updates will be made as supplied by the interested groups. 25

We trust that the improvements to the website will mean that even more villagers and visitors 'log-on'. 26

'Lobby the providers of transmitters in the region to improve the reception and coverage of TV, radio, cable and mobile telephones within the parish boundaries'



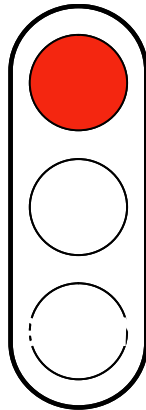
Transmitter reception quality has been a problem for a number of people in Buckland. 185 people would like action to improve the quality of TV reception, and 124 people radio reception. Cable TV was of interest to 96 people, and improved mobile reception to 68 people. 27

As a follow-up to the Interim Report, the BBC was contacted, though little comfort was offered. The hills and trees form pockets of poor reception in Buckland. Taller masts and better installations are the 'Beeps' answer to our problems, although the advent of digital radio and TV may in time provide the solution. 28

3 Transport & Traffic

Road Traffic

'Lobby MVDC for speed restriction signs and traffic calming measures, to reduce risk of accidents and noise pollution annoyance from traffic and motor-bikes'



What should the Council do about the problems of traffic? Of the various speed control measures available, the simple application of reduced speed limits was most favoured (66%), with 47% requesting more road warning signs and 43% supporting traffic calming ramps.

29

The survey highlighted that the 'number one issue' for villagers was the number of speeding cars and motorbikes on the A25, and other traffic dangers for both road users and pedestrians. At the instigation of Buckland Parish Council, Everett Leeds formed a subgroup to deal with the key issue of safety on our roads. This group has applied significant effort to this issue, liaising with the Mole Valley District Council.

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The Parish Council has conducted sample surveys to provide evidence to the Mole Valley District Council. The surveys have thoroughly vindicated the concern that villagers have:

31

- ? At the crossing point between the top of Old Road and the telephone box – a car has a 'line-of-sight' of between 52 and 122 yards. For a car travelling at 40 mph – the legal speed limit – this gives a gap of only between 2.6 and 6.2 seconds from the car driver being able to see the pedestrian – and hitting them.
- ? Crossing the road at an average pace took 5.9 seconds, and at 'simulated OAP pace', 7.8 seconds. Thus it is clear that there is a very high chance of getting hit – especially when 'driver thinking time', braking time and vehicles exceeding the speed limit are concerned.

When crossing the A25 in the village, the safest point is between the top of Rectory Lane and the small gate in the wall of the church yard, where the statistics show that it is over 100% safer than the crossing point above – based on the 'line-of sight' calculations. Bear this in mind – and cross safely!

32

A further A25 survey of vehicles speeding above the 40 mph limit by the Jolly Farmers was conducted on Saturday 4 October 2003. In a one-hour period, 20 vehicles were clocked speeding, of which 12 were motorcycles – three doing a speed of over 80 mph, and a further 4 over 70 mph.

33

These survey results and Parish Council discussions have resulted in the following proposals, presented to the Mole Valley District Council and Surrey County Council (SCC).

34

Buckland Parish Council has recommended a combination of advisory signs and speed enforcement, in favour of imposing penalties by way of speed cameras. 35

The Council Proposals are centred upon the following: 36

(1) Continuing the cycle path markings on the A25 from Buckland Bends to the Betchworth round-a-bout. This will reduce the centre hatching markings to much less than the car's width (as at present) and will channel opposing traffic nearer to one another thereby reducing the opportunity for overtaking. Presently the hatchings are viewed as an overtaking lane by cars and motorcycles. 37

(2) Improving the signs to reinforce the speed limit: 38

? Attach reminder phrases to the repeater signs, such as 'HAD YOU FORGOTTEN' 'WATCH YOUR SPEED' 'IT'S STILL 40' as seen in the village of Welford on Avon and commissioned by Warwickshire County Council.

? Install interactive fibre optic signing" triggered by speeding traffic, positioned just outside the village centre on both east and west approaches. This could be solar powered if necessary.

? Paint repeater (40) signs on the road surface starting just west of the Buckland bends through to the Shell garage where 50 mph reduces to 40 mph for eastbound traffic.

(3) Local timed surveys have confirmed the short amount of time pedestrians have to cross the road in the vicinity of the junction with Old Road. It has highlighted the safest place to cross but it is not necessarily the shortest route to the north side of the village. However, pedestrians living on the eastern side of the village green do use this safer crossing point but have to walk in the roadway of Rectory Lane as there is no pavement on its west side. We recommend a short pavement northwards from the A25 at the side of Rectory Lane to act as a refuge from vehicles turning from A25 into Rectory Lane. 39

(4) Presently vehicles travelling west along A25 and turning into Old Road can (and do) so too quickly as the mouth of the junction on that side is quite wide. We recommend the southeast entrance to Old Road be made at more of a sharp angle to slow turning traffic at this busy part of the village centre. 40

(5) The positioning of the telephone box on the north footway opposite Old Road is potentially very dangerous, especially when vehicles are parked outside it, normally with two wheels on the footway. 41

(6) To slow approaching vehicles and to assist pedestrians (mainly children from the Buckland village bus stop) it is suggested a central refuge be sited just down the hill and west of the village centre, similar to the one near the Shell garage. If it was slightly off-centre with a bias towards the north kerb line it would effectively slow east bound traffic before it reached the blind brow of the hill. It is recognised the road on the 42

east side of the village is narrower and it may not be possible to install a similar structure but this should be investigated.

(7) We have demonstrated the extremely short time pedestrians have to cross the road in the village centre with the present statutory speed limit in force. We believe there is scope to reduce the statutory speed limit through the centre of the village to 30 mph. A possible area would be from just east of Park Cottage (before the sharp bend) through the village to where the 50 mph begins for westbound traffic. 43

(8) The sight line for vehicles turning right out of Rectory Lane on to the A25 could be improved. Eastbound A25 traffic cannot easily be seen because of the hedge/shrubs on the northeast corner of the junction. 44

Enforcement

We believe a case has been made out for attention to be given by the police to the specific problem of speeding motorcycles. We are of the view the criteria for grounds for enforcement presently put forward involving the 85 percentile of all traffic does nothing to cure specific problems. When applied to specific groups (such as motorcycles) there is an obvious problem that should be dealt with and not passed over. 45

On 1 December 2003 a meeting was held between the Roads Sub-group and the Surrey Police Casualty Reduction Officer for Mole Valley, PC Ken Wheeler. He has promised his assistance in a variety of ways such as: 46

? Arranging for a speed enforcement van to be used at various locations along our stretch of the A25

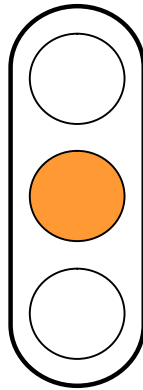
? Exploring the possibility of loaning speed detection equipment to Sub-group members to gain more accurate speed statistics

? Obtaining the use of a mobile multi-legend fibre optic sign that will be back up by enforcement on a part-time basis by Surrey Police. Its location will be changed regularly so that it has maximum impact.

The sub-group would like to stress that it is up to every Buckland resident to set a good example and abide by the speed restrictions. It is a well known fact that some residents fall foul of local enforcement in their area – don't let it be you! 47

Surrey County Council is conducting a wider survey on the A25 route. The Tandridge to Reigate section has been completed, and the Buckland to Abinger Hammer section is being evaluated this year, with implementation of solutions in 2004. The Buckland Parish Council inputs are therefore highly likely to result in some real improvements next year. 48

'Promote increased car-sharing amongst village residents for school-runs and commuting-station/work-runs to support the reduction of traffic in the village'



Car sharing is most popular for social events, such as going to the pub. Only 5% car share for work and 8% for the school run. 49

Mrs Kim Husband (Phone 842310) has agreed to the voluntary appointment of co-ordinating school runs to local schools. This often happens by friends within the village 'by default', but now we can provide a contact for newcomers, and those not sure who 'commutes' to a particular school. In addition to The Acorns and Ashcombe, several village children attend Reigate Grammar, Dunottar, Chintshurst in Tadworth, Downsends in Leatherhead, and The Hawthorns in Bletchingley 50

Buses & Trains

'Lobby for improvement to the bus and rail services, and monitor the impact on usage to determine the success of the actions'

Whilst only 33 people use the bus as a main means of transport to work or study, 263 use their car or van, and a gallant 3 people use their bicycle. 62 people use the bus 'sometimes', mainly for school, shopping and social visits – but 200 people considered that improvements to the buses are needed. In order of importance, improvements in the timetable, reliability, costs and routes would help to attract more bus passengers. 51

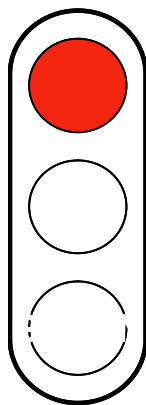
290 respondents considered that trains could be improved through reliability, timetable, service and cost. Leaves on the line continue to be a frustration. 52

Trains are a national problem and beyond the remit of the Parish Council. Buses are however an issue that is influenced by local politics and this is an area of concern for the local Parish. County Council funding for buses has more than doubled from £3.26m to £6.62m in the last three years. It is not the bus companies that are profiting from this increase – Tillingbourne Buses and Surrey Buses went into receivership in 2001 and Arriva withdrew services from East Surrey in 2002. Bus services in rural areas are not cost effective but they are vital for non-car owners – mainly children and the elderly. We can expect to lose services in the evening and at weekends. The Parish Council are part of the Area Passenger Transport Consultative Group and will defend the needs of Buckland residents. We are currently looking at taxi vouchers or Dial-a-Ride as compensation for fewer buses. 53

4 Environment

Recycling

'Improve publicity of recycling facilities currently available, and lobby MVDC to provide more recycling facilities'



An impressive 84% (321 people) are prepared to separate refuse for recycling. Roughly half of respondents thought that local waste disposal sites were not adequately publicised, and the majority would use recycling banks (in rank order) for bottles, newspaper, cans, clothing, public bulk rubbish, and garden rubbish. We can infer that the majority would also recycle plastics if facilities were made available.

54

The Parish Council has researched and published a list of all the local recycling facilities – which is particularly useful as we are surrounded by three councils who have focussed their facilities in local towns of Dorking, Leatherhead, Reigate and Redhill. This is reproduced below:

55

Recycling Sites	Glass	Cans	Newspapers & Magazines	Textiles	Foil
Betchworth Wellhouse Lane	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Brockham Kiln Lane	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Dorking Council Offices	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Dorking Reigate Road Car Park	Yes	Yes	Yes Mixed paper & card	Yes	Yes
Dorking Sainsbury's Car Park	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Hookwood Tesco Superstore	Yes	Yes	Yes Mixed paper & card	Yes	Yes
Waitrose, Consort Way East, Horley	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trehaven Parade Woodhatch	Yes	Yes	Yes Mixed paper & card	Yes	Yes
Safeways Reigate	Yes	Yes	Yes Mixed paper & card	Yes	Yes

56

Upper West Street Reigate	Yes	Yes	Yes Mixed paper & card	Yes	No
Town Hall Reigate	Yes	Yes	Yes Mixed paper & card	No	No
Law Courts Hatchlands Rd Redhill	Yes	Yes	Yes Mixed paper & card	Yes	No
Linkfield Corner Redhill	Yes	Yes	Yes Mixed paper & card	No	No
Marketfield Car Park Redhill	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Gloucester Rd Car Park Redhill	Yes	Yes	Yes Mixed paper & card	Yes	Yes
Asda Reigate Rd. Burgh Heath	Yes	Yes	Yes Mixed paper & card	Yes	No

Composting

The Parish Council is concerned that there is no real provision for recycling our 'green waste' – and given our smart gardens many of us both do our own composting, but also have 'overflow' to local waste disposal sites or bonfires. Discussions have been held with Mole Valley District Council and several options are currently being evaluated:

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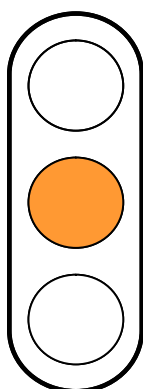
- ? Green bags provided by MVDC @ £1 per bag for collection from home
- ? Black bags, for weekly collection (by MVDC) from a single village site, no charge (if a benefactor offers a site)
- ? Green waste skips at the local Council tips, for which you need to load up your car and drive a round journey of 6-8 miles – a rather dubious recycling solution to promote!
- ? Provide demonstrations of how to make good garden compost for recycling on individual gardens. A demonstration was held on Buckland Green in November – it was however unfortunate that this clashed with England's brilliant performance against Australia. Given Johnny Wilkinson or a compost demonstration – which would you choose?
- ? Subsidised compost bins for small gardens (£10 for a 220 litre bin or £15 for a 280 litre bin)

- ? A Parish composting area for the use of the village – and a source of free mature compost for contributing villagers – again requiring a benefactor with a site to offer. This is also being evaluated.

Councillor Howard Longstaff is an enthusiastic supporter of composting and the Parish Council, fired by his enthusiasm, has taken it up as a priority project. Local action can make a difference; so expect a composting area to be up and running in 2004. 58

Countryside

‘Lead and Co-ordinate conservation action events that bring together volunteers for wildlife habitat preservation, footpath maintenance and pond clearing’

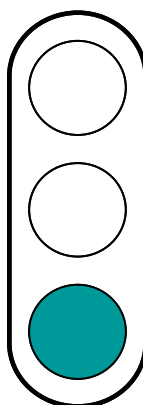


On the plus side, 30% of all respondents (146 people) claim that they are prepared to help with practical conservation measures. Protecting wildlife habitat came out with 102 ‘volunteers’, whilst footpath maintenance getting 69, pond clearance 50 people and tree surveys 44 people. If this team is mobilised, we will have one very smart village! 59

Village Green & Pond

The pond on the Green continues to be of concern. Rehabilitation has started but more work will be required in the years to come. The Australian Stonecrop weed that is at the edges of the pond will be sprayed this winter. The Parrots Feather weed will continue to be cleared by hand but the programme will be stepped up with a twice-yearly removal. In 2003 the autumn clearance proved inadequate, so next year it is planned to have a clearance in June and again in September. The Bulrushes will also be kept under control by hand clearance. 60

‘Maintain pond clearance’



With the removal of the terrapins it is hoped that wildlife in the form of frogs and newts will return. Moorhens, ducks, and an occasional visit from a kingfisher have made a welcome appearance. The heron that comes to the pond for its breakfast is less welcome. 61

The effect of the autumn drought and the heron on the fish Stock cannot be monitored until the spring but we expect to find the stock depleted. 62

‘Maintain Litter control’

A majority of 56% did not consider litter to be a problem, though a significant minority (30%) thought that it was. The efforts of the Council already include litter-picking days. 63

We are grateful to Peter Farror for regularly removing litter and rubbish from the pond. Hanson, the sandpit operator, has kindly provided top up water from the sand pit in times of drought at no charge, and we anticipate that this goodwill gesture will continue. 64

Village Green Maintenance

The maintenance of the Buckland Village Green and Pond takes up the major part of the Parish Councils budget. This is justified by the prominent position it has in the centre of the Village, providing a distinct identity for the Village. 65

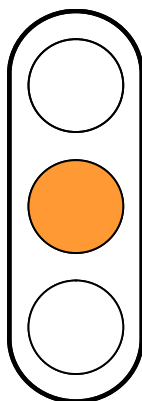
J.R. Morris carries out cutting of the grass at a cost in the current year of £1075. The price is considered to be competitive and the work satisfactory. 66

The maintenance of the trees on the Green has been neglected in recent years, and a plan of action has been agreed. 67

The self seeded hawthorn and sycamore trees at the eastern end of the pond are to be removed, to bring more light to the pond and improve the view. A free replacement hawthorn will be planted to take the place of the sampling that died outside Meadowsweet. Three new trees will be selected by Mrs Gaynor Day and planted on the Green from funds provided by the Jubilee Fund. It is planned that the British Conservation Volunteers together with volunteers from the Village will take care of the tree removal and planting. 68

Village Shop

'Approach the village shop with constructive recommendations'



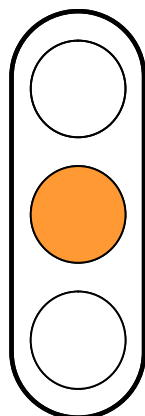
The village shop is a focal point of our village, though many of us have more 'good intent' than 'practical custom'. When asked 'what would encourage you to use the shop more often?', 68% (200 people) requested longer opening hours and 50% (142) local produce. 69

The recommendations of the Interim Report were discussed with Sue Ingram – who runs the shop and Post office – and she took up the challenges presented in a positive manner. The conflicting responsibilities of shop and family are a problem that Sue has to juggle with. We still have the Village Shop and Post Office, amenities that many villages have lost. It is a case of “if you don't use it, you lose it”, so please support your shop and Post Office. 70

5 Leisure

Attractions

'Co-ordinate the production of maps of local village walks and maps'

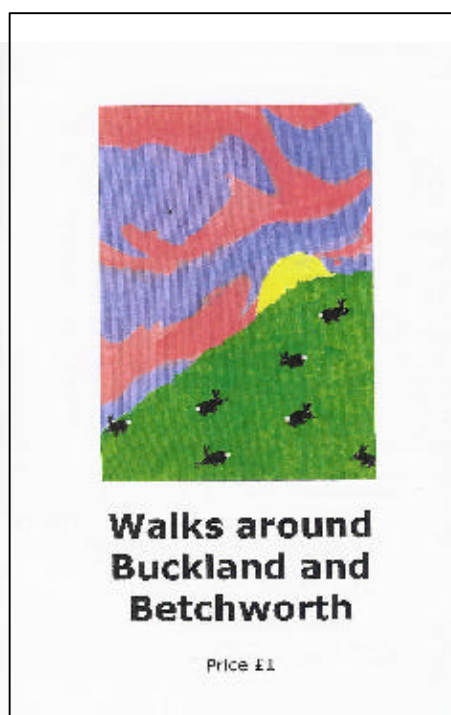


Our residents consider the most favoured attractions for 'visitors' to Buckland to be walking (88%)....Maps of local footpaths would be appreciated by 68% (235 people), together with leaflets of local walks (49%) – and presumably larger numbers that live outside the village would also appreciate such maps.

71

A very positive outcome here, thanks to the voluntary efforts of a small team. Jim Docking and John Lane produced a booklet comprising 7 local walks, with well-illustrated maps by Joan Gregory and the historic walk contributed by Duncan Ferns. Available for only £1, the booklet has been selling well in the Buckland and Betchworth village shops, The Ancient House Bookshop and Dorking Information Centre. Have you got yours yet?

72



73

'Work with footpath wardens to design and install at least 3 new footpath signposts per annum for the next 5 years'

The recommendation to install so many new signposts was perhaps an over eager goal set in the interim report – which on reflection was our error - as this volume of work is not necessary. Despite this pull-back on the next 5 years, we have already achieved the target improvement of 3 new signs in 2003:

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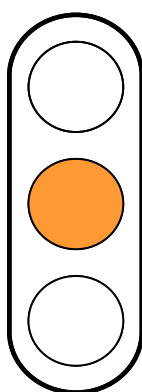
- ? Volunteers have carried out very good work in repairing the steps known as 'Jacob's Ladder' on the path close to the junction of Old Road and Sandy Lane, including a new wooden signpost. This is part of the long-distance 'Greensand Way;' path.
- ? The most northerly bridleway in the Parish on the crest of the north Downs now has better waymarks, a new wooden signpost indicating the steep narrow path to the North Downs above Underhill Farm.
- ? A three-way wooden signpost has been erected near the Red Lion, indicating the diagonal path across the field that joins Old Road.

Joan Gregory, Buckland's volunteer 'Footpaths Warden' liaises with Mole Valley District Council's 'Rights of Way Officer' on a regular basis and they are aware of the problems with certain stiles that are uncomfortably high (e.g. Rectory Lane, near Stonecrop), and where vegetation grows over paths (e.g. Lawrence Lane to the railway near Dowdes Farm). The Rights-of-Way Officer is sympathetic to our needs but has a limited budget – there are an amazing 671 kilometres of Rights of Way in the Mole Valley! 75

The work on the steps known as Jacob's Ladder was carried out by the Mole Valley branch of the British Conservation Volunteers. The stiles were replaced with kits supplied by Mole Valley District Council and erected by the Buckland Estate. The stiles are high to keep in cattle, a two-step stile is required together with dog gates. This type of stile is not supplied by Mole Valley and would have to be specially made. Consideration is being given to setting up a fund to carry out this work. 76

'Organise bonfire and fireworks for village children in 2003'

Given suggestions for new activities, a children's village bonfire got the top vote (71 people), ahead of a babysitting circle, disco and creative arts. 48% (148) of respondents supported the construction of a village playground, with only 18% (64) against, so this maybe a positive action that the Council might follow through. 77



The idea of a Buckland village bonfire was discussed by BPC, but can we really compete with neighbouring Brockham? Their organisation is just so professional that we thought that we would have to bow down. Many social groups in Buckland do actually get together for fireworks, but an 'open invitation' bonfire and fireworks display was considered out of scope for 2003. 78

'Evaluate possible sites, costs and funding for a children's playground in Buckland, and secure funding to build in 2005'

The possibility of a village playground has also been discussed – not for the first time – by the Buckland Parish Council. There is strong opposition to having a playground on the main village green itself, for both aesthetic reasons and to maintain the privacy of the many houses on the Green. If another site could be found close to the Green, it may be possible to establish a playground for young children, but the Parish Council would look to landowners for permission to use a corner of their land - as the Parish Council does not own any suitable site. Are any volunteers able to come forward? A benefactor's help is needed to fulfil this recommendation. 79

6 Summary

This report is the 'end-point' in the 'Village Appraisal Project' that aimed to bridge the gap between the elected Parish Councillors and all those who live in the village. 80

The Village Appraisal Project began with a detailed village survey, which we were delighted to get such a strong response to, with over 85% of people and 76% of households completing the questionnaires. The interim report of December 2002 analysed the survey results and provided a prioritised action list from the questionnaire responses. This 'Final Report' has detailed what the Buckland Parish Council and their supportive network of volunteers have now done in the 12 months since the Interim report, and wraps-up the work of the 'Village Appraisal Project'. 81

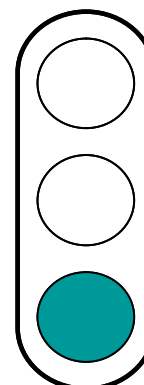
We have demonstrated that both your elected Parish Councillors and a wider circle of volunteers are busy on your behalf to improve local conditions. We aim to represent the views and concerns of those who live in Buckland and act on your behalf. 82

Although the 'Village Appraisal Project' now draws to a close, our democracy enables any Parishioner to approach a Parish Councillor and put forward their views, complaints or opinions for tabling at Parish Council meetings. This avenue remains open to everyone. A list of your Parish Councillors is provided below. Please talk to us – tell us your concerns, what you would like to happen, what really annoys you... and within the realm of our influence we will try our very best to represent your views and act upon them. 83

Iain Laurensen 84
Clerk to Buckland Parish Council 85

Your Parish Councillors are:

- ? Les Elson (Chairman)
- ? Iain Laurensen (Clerk)
- ? Amanda Allen
- ? Doreen Dart
- ? James Day
- ? Dr. Anthony Eisinger
- ? Howard Longstaff
- ? Nigel Husband.



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