

Buckland CLP Steering Group Meeting Notes 17 June 2025

Jim Douglas, Louise Wellesley Mike Sheil, Nesta Pugh. Apologies: Mannie Barber

In attendance: Drummond Gilbert

Stakeholder consultation

Jim summarised feedback from a conversation with Rev Talisker MacLeod. Talisker is keen for the church to develop closer ties with the community and for the church and surrounding area to be used more by the community and welcomes discussion about this. Lesley Kinch, the editor of Village Voices, was supportive and happy for us to submit copy about the CLP. Village Voices is available as a PDF which can be posted on websites, as Longworth Parish Council does.

Jim will meet with a group of Buckland WI members on 19th June and is arranging meetings with the Headteacher at Buckland School, Gary Franks of RWMT (minibus) and the Village Hall Committee. So far responses have been positive but with no particular views relating to the topics that we have already identified.

Childrens Play Area

Drummond gave a presentation on the proposed children's play area. Louise outlined the Estate's position: the Estate is prepared to lease the whole (but not part) of the field behind the village hall for community use, subject to the approval of a business plan for the set up and maintenance of a children's play area and possibly other features which would enhance the amenity for all in the village (for instance tree planting, walks). The proposed location of the play area is next to the boundary between the village hall and the field. The Estate would also consider proposals for the repurposing of the old swimming pool building for community use.

We discussed the next steps for this proposal:

- We thought Drummond and Jade's group should continue to focus on the children's play area.
- We need to consider how we consult with the parish on other ideas for the field and also the swimming pool building. A phased approach to development as used by Hanney was suggested by Nesta.

- A credible business plan would be needed before a lease could be let. This would have to include sources of funding and Parish Council approval, as well as a decision about governance and management of the development.

There was a brief discussion about the entity that would need to be formed for governance and management or whether it could be the Parish Council or some other existing entity. Forming a new entity was another possibility.

Possible funding sources suggested:

- Southby Trust
- National Lottery
- Building Merchants like Wickes and our local firm Webbs
- Earthline and gravel extraction company funds

We agreed that the sort of development now envisaged would provide a new focus for many of the ideas already put forward: wildlife and nature, space for all ages to enjoy, opportunities for exercise for instance , and that we should now encourage ideas for this location.

We agreed that the steering group should put out an update and find the best way of gauging parish opinion

Tennis Court Proposal

The proposal from Craig Thompson and Steve Houston was presented, for a tennis court to be located either in the field behind the village hall, or on the site of the swimming pool building. We agreed that a tennis court that could be used for other games would be a good addition but Louise expressed concerns about the location; proximity to overhead cables that would require netting over the top of the area if the court was in the field and reducing the size of the garden behind the village hall if it was partly located in the swimming pool building. Jim will contact Craig and Steve and encourage them to continue to develop the proposal but to consider where else it could be situated.

Online

Nesta suggested that the idea of a means of advertising village events online should be considered. This was raised by someone at the launch meeting. Jim will circulate the web address of the new Buckland Parish Council website as a

possible host. For this idea to be developed we would need to identify an individual or a group who were prepared to develop a proposal.

Date of steering group meeting : Tuesday 26 August at 6pm . Venue TBC.