

Buckland Community Led Plan. Update September 2025

The successful launch meeting of Buckland CLP in February produced loads of good ideas about how what might improve life in Buckland. Since then, the steering group has been spreading the word about these ideas, and engaging people in further discussion. We have done this by talking to individuals and seeking the views of village organisations and groups. We have also given updates at parish council meetings and last month started to put a regular update in the Buckland section of Village Voices. You can find meeting notes and updates on the main notice board by the village hall.

Here is a summary of all the ideas that have been put forward:

Community spaces for all age groups to enjoy

For village fetes, children's play, ball games, boules, a multi-use games area, an area for dogs to run, places for people to meet and talk, an outdoor gym,

Awareness, care and use of community assets

Flower planting, better care of the spaces we have, care of our historic buildings, understanding of the history of the Parish, community awareness of ways that the character of Buckland can be preserved, a well-researched conservation area appraisal. bringing the old swimming pool area into use as a community asset. More use of the church as a community facility. Community support for a thriving pub in Buckland. Community support for a thriving school.

Valuing access to the countryside

Well-kept footpaths, access to the other side of the Thames over 10 ft bridge. Good relationships with local landowners

Safe roads

Safer access to the A420 from the village, consideration for all road users and control of speeding, adequate parking for parents bringing children to school (or a school bus?). Central delivery point for deliveries to the village. Pavements which are good for walkers and for wheelchair users

Awareness and care of wildlife and the natural environment

Awareness of our natural surroundings and of neighbouring protected areas. Protection of wild animals from harm: nesting birds, deer. tree planting, a community orchard, increase green areas and support the re wilding of areas

Social activities

An annual village fete, social outings, more events at the village hall, community shop/café. Village activities for older people, for children and young people. A youth club. A local history group. Open gardens. Dances. Singing. Safari style car boot. Community support for valued group activities in the village

Ways in which we can help one another

Transport sharing scheme, more use of the village minibus by the community, a volunteer car scheme, a shared electric vehicle for use by villagers. Volunteer hub. Skill swap.

Doing our bit for the environment

Support and advice for transition to renewable energy, a community composting scheme, making our sewage disposal more environmentally friendly. EV charging point at the village hall powered by solar.

Communication

Easily accessible web-based information about the village and what's on. A welcome pack for new arrivals giving details of village groups and organisations and other useful information.

The top ideas so far are:

- A play area for children
- A fenced tennis court area for community use
- Commissioning a conservation area appraisal to protect our heritage
- A welcome pack for people new to the village

In response to the need expressed for more community space and a play area for children, the Buckland Estate has offered to lease to the community Summerside Paddock (behind the village hall and going down to the stream) for community use. There is potential for developing a green space attractive to all ages which could include a play space for children, tree and shrub planting, a nature area and paths and benches and a green gym.

There is also the possibility of a separate lease on the old swimming pool building for community use if there is a feasible proposal for the development of that building.

It is for the community to decide whether it makes sense to take the paddock on, what the vision for it would be and what features would be included in its development to make it an enjoyable place for all to use. Our aim in the next two months is to help that discussion to take place and then facilitate a village meeting on Tuesday 4th November (5 to 7) to discuss the pros and cons.

We need your help!

We need the help of a group of people prepared to work on a vision for community use of the paddock to help help discussion at the meeting in November. We are approaching some people who we think would have a particular contribution to make to this task but would also like to hear from anybody who would like to get involved.

If you are excited by the Summerside Paddock proposal and would like to contribute to the work of the 'vision for the Paddock' group, please get in touch with Jim Douglas. (jim@jsdouglas.org.uk or via Whatsapp 07876 563856)

There are at the moment no proposals for community use of the old swimming pool area next to the village hall. If you would like to suggest something that could be discussed at the village meeting, please outline your idea and send it to clpbuckland@gmail.com

Village meeting Tuesday 4th November from 5 to 7 The Lamb Tavern Buckland
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Mannie Barber, Jim Douglas, Nesta Pugh, Mike Sheil, Louise Wellesley

Email: clpbuckland@gmail.com

Post on the online forum: <https://www.bucklandclp.org.uk/>