

Buckland Community Led Plan. Update December 2025.

At a successful meeting last month, attended by about 40 people, we heard more about proposals for Buckland's Community Led Plan.

Community Orchard

Jeremy Rogers described the benefits of a community orchard. A community orchard is a community space where people come together to plant and care for fruit trees. It can serve as a social hub, a way to promote biodiversity, outdoor education and a source for local seasonal fruit for all to enjoy.

Conservation Area Appraisal

Susan Ronald outlined the value of having a detailed independent assessment of the heritage of Buckland. The village is a Conservation Area but there is no definitive independent analysis of what we should be conserving. An appraisal would help to establish what is most valuable in Buckland's heritage.

Playground

Jade and Drummond Gilbert explained the need for a children's playground in Buckland and the benefits. They outlined the possibilities for siting a playground in the village.

Tennis Court

Buckland has no community space where people can play can tennis, basketball and other games. Craig Thompson spoke about how a multipurpose hard-court area would meet this need by providing a safe accessible space for people of all ages to be active, socialise and enjoy sport and recreation throughout the year.

Friends of Buckland Wildlife

Paul Stoner has been successful in giving Bucklanders the opportunity to volunteer under the auspices of Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust. Volunteers are working at Chimney Meadows National Nature Reserve. He talked about recruiting new volunteers and expanding the work of the group.

Richard Wellesley Memorial Transport

Fred Church, a Trustee, spoke about the challenges facing the charity and encouraged us to consider what options there might be for re-modelling the service to better meet community needs. (See later on for update on this.)

'Welcome to the village' booklet

Information was available about Mark Skipworth's proposal to develop a 'Welcome to the Village' booklet for people new to the village

After the presentations attendees were invited to have further discussions about proposals that interested them, and to complete a feedback form. The 23 responses showed that a majority were positive about all the proposals. All comments and offers of support have been passed to proposers. Thank you to all for your input.

THE SURVEY

The steering group would now like to consult more widely in the community before writing Buckland's Community Led Plan: A short questionnaire will be delivered to each household in January and this will enable everyone to give their views about what should be the priorities for the plan.

RICHARD WELESLEY MEMORIAL TRANSPORT

The last run of the scheduled minibus service will be on 6 February 2026.

The trustees are talking to a group in Buckland who are interested in taking on the hiring side of the operation.

The trustees are also talking to a neighbouring community bus group to see if their service could be extended to include Buckland and surrounding villages

THE COMMUNITY LED PLAN

Community led planning is a national initiative to enable communities to work together to improve the quality of life of those who live and work in their area. A community led plan (CLP) considers what works and what doesn't work so well in a community and mobilizes support for work towards achievable objectives for improvement.

Our plan will include:

- A short description of Buckland Parish
- The groups and organisations which currently support and enhance community life in Buckland
- All the ideas suggested by people at our meetings and through the online forum
- The results of our survey
- A short action plan outlining proposed actions to implement popular proposals.

We aim to distribute the completed plan in February 2026

The CLP steering group:

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