



Buckland Newton Parish Plan 2023

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1. Introduction

In 2022, Buckland Newton Parish Council decided to review the Buckland Parish Plan of 2013 and publish the actions that had been taken since the initial plan was written. It was agreed to consult parishioners and agree a future Parish Plan which would cover areas of concern. This would form the basis of the strategic planning for the next few years of the parish council.

2. Buckland Newton Parish

Buckland Newton is a rural parish situated in West Dorset, and lies approximately 10 miles equidistant from the county town of Dorchester and the small towns of Sherborne and Sturminster Newton. The southern edge of the parish lies on the North Dorset Escarpment, rising to over 800 feet above sea level with chalk downland, whilst the rest of the parish lies on clay and greensand in the south of the Blackmore Vale.

Buckland Newton civil parish covers an area of approximately 1,700 hectares, has a population of 661 with 314 houses.

The major settlement is the village of Buckland Newton with the parish church, primary school, pub, shop and other facilities. There are a number of hamlets within the parish, including Duntish, Henley, Cosmore, Bookham, Brockhampton Green, Sharnill Green, Beaulieu Wood and Tiley.

The major road, the B3143, connecting Stalbridge and Sturminster Newton to Dorchester, runs north/south dissecting the parish, whilst the C12 runs parallel to the west as a main route between Dorchester and Sherborne.

3. Buckland Newton Parish Council

The Parish council consists of 9 councillors, and a part time parish clerk to assist running the parish. All of the councillors are unpaid, many of whom are working and have families, and carry out the councillor work in their spare time.

The Parish Council has a limited precept to spend each year and very little money to spare. It will bid for grants and additional funding to top up the money available but these aren't always successful.

Parish councillors have to concentrate their time and resources on priority areas including their statutory duties. Many issues that are raised by parishioners, are beyond the scope and influence of the Parish council.

4. Public Consultation Process

A consultation exercise took place with parishioners and 314 questionnaires were sent out via the Lydden Vale magazine distribution, online via the Parish Council website, and additional hard copies were available via the parish clerk. The consultation took place in September 2022.

The questionnaire covered the following topics: employment and business, roads, traffic and transport, environment, community facilities, young person's interests, crime and safety as well as health and care. There was also a section to raise any other concerns or suggestions.

A total of 30 completed questionnaires were returned: approximately 9.5%.

Buckland Newton Parish Plan 2022 Consultation Results can be found on the Parish Council website.

Comments and feedback from the questionnaires will help inform the parish council on parishioner's concerns. The responses formed part of the discussion on drawing up the updated Parish Plan, as well as topics that have been raised throughout the year at Parish Council meetings.

5. Action Plans

The Parish Council have drawn up the following action plans for dealing with the major concerns and issues identified by the parishioners during the public consultation, as well topics that have been raised throughout the year at parish meetings. It is intending that these actions will not be solely carried out by councillors but include support from all parishioners.

Some of the concerns raised were outside the scope and remit of the parish council work, so have not been included in the actions included e.g. government policies on health and care.

It was agreed to limit the number of actions per topic in order to keep the plan to a manageable size and to enable efforts and resources to be concentrated on those actions. However, the Parish Plan is intended to be a 'living document' which will be reviewed at regular intervals; if specific issues and concerns have been dealt with, then fresh ones can be brought in and action plans amended accordingly.

These action plans may not be in great detail, but are to act as a guide for the organisations, groups or individuals who are dealing with the various points. Detailed actions will become clear or even liable to change as further research is carried out, actions have been dealt with, then fresh ones can be brought in and action plans amended accordingly.

5.1 Employment and Business

Top 3 topics of concern were a lack of employment, lack of public transport and supporting local businesses.

Issue/concern	Proposed Actions	Timescale	Responsibility	Partners	Cost/Resources	Actions to Date
Lack of employment	Support appropriate planning applications for local businesses and new businesses	Ongoing	Parish Council	Dorset Council	N/A	
Lack of Public Transport	See actions under Roads, Traffic and Transport					
Supporting local businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parish council to procure local businesses before going to outside companies. - Install signposts to community facilities e.g. – shop, pub, church etc. - Promote Buckland Newton Village Really Useful Directory - Continue to publicise local grants, information to local businesses - Consider how we publicise information to parishioners, email group, social media, newsletter etc 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Sept 2023</p> <p>Dec 2023</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Cllr J Baker</p> <p>Parish Clerk/J Marpole?</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Parish Clerk / Cllr C Manny</p>	<p>Dorset Council/AONB</p>	<p>TBC/ Possible use CIL £</p> <p>TBC</p>	<p>21/2/23 consulted with Dorset Council as to location of signs.</p>

5.2 Roads, Traffic and Transport

Top concerns were speeding, lack of public transport, road maintenance, pavements and hedges.

Issue/concern	Proposed Actions	Timescale	Responsibility	Partners	Cost/ Resources	Actions to Date
Speeding	- Promote what has already been done, criteria for changing speed limits	June 2023	CLlr M Ames	Dorset Council/Lydden Vale News	TBC	
	- Reports from SID to show change in behaviour	June 2023	CLlr M Ames	Dorset Council		
	- Investigate whether possible to have 20mph speed limit by school crossroads to end of Cranes Meadow	End of 2024	CLlr M Ames	Dorset Council/P Sales (BN School)	TBC	
	- Possible school competition for signs to be put up – e.g. I walk to school along this pavement (like have on motorways – my dad works here)	TBA	CLlr M Ames	P Sales (BN School)		
	- Investigate Quiet Lanes initiative – Suffolk, Essex and Gloucester council /THE QUIET LANES AND HOME ZONES (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2006. Work with Dorset Council	End 2023	CLlr S Crouch	Dorset Council/ Other authorities	TBC	
	- Liaise with Dorset Council Road Safety team – what more can we be doing?	End 2023	CLlr M Ames	Dorset Council		

Issue/concern	Proposed Actions	Timescale	Responsibility	Partners	Cost/ Resources	Actions to Date
Lack of public transport	- Investigate viability of Community mini bus	End 2024	CLlr S Crouch	Dorset Council/ Other community transport schemes Lydden Vale News / Social Media		
	- Promote national car share scheme - https://liftshare.com/uk	End 2024	CLlr S Crouch			
	- BN Community Car scheme – consider possibility of lifts for same day appts for surgery	Spring 2024	CLlr S Crouch	BN Community Car Scheme		1/3/2023 Trial starting.
	- Promote Nordcat Community Transport services to Stalbridge	Dec 2023	CLlr S Crouch	Nordcat		
	- Liaise with other Dorset Council re community transport trials	Spring 2024	CLlr S Crouch	Dorset Council		
	- Set up working group - Liaise with parishioners – what do they actually want and what may be feasible	End 2024	CLlr S Crouch	Other village groups		20/2/23 Discussed at BN Car Scheme AGM
	- Liaise with other local parishes to see if could work together	Spring 2024	CLlr S Crouch	Other local parish councils		
Road Maintenance (drains, potholes, surfacing)	- Keep reporting defects	Ongoing	Parish Council	Parishioners/Dorset Council (Highways)		
	- Promote how easy it is to report road defects – article in Lydden Vale magazine	Ongoing	Parish Council			

Issue/concern	Proposed Actions	Timescale	Responsibility	Partners	Cost/ Resources	Actions to Date
Road Maintenance (drains, potholes, surfacing) cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of how many defects been fixed in parish – how many repeat visits etc from Highways? - Continue to work with Dorset Council Highways team (Corinne our liaison officer) - 	Annually in Annual Parish mtg Ongoing	Parish Clerk Parish Council	Dorset Council (Highways) Dorset Council (Highways)		
Pavements (virtual pavements unsafe, lack of, vehicles parking on it)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigate legal status of virtual pavement with Dorset Council Highways - Educate on use of virtual pavements – can we park, who has priority, rights & responsibility – article in Lydden Vale - Consider putting up sign outside of village hall re virtual pavement - Work with Dorset Highways – is there more that can be done? - Investigate whether white lines on virtual pavement can be repainted 	End 2023 Ongoing Dec 2024 Ongoing Dec 2023	Parish Clerk TBC TBC Parish Council Parish Clerk	Dorset Council (Highways) Dorset Council (Highways)/ Parishioners Village hall committee Dorset Council (Highways) Dorset Council (Highways)		
Hedges (overgrown, large vehicles damaging them)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to report overgrown hedges to Dorset Council - Publish Dorset Council Hedge cutting leaflet at appropriate season to remind everyone their responsibilities 	Ongoing Sept 2023	Parish Clerk Parish Clerk	Dorset Council / Parishioners Dorset Council		

5.3 Environment

Top areas of concern: Fly tipping/litter, flooding including maintenance of River Lydden, dogs, Rights of way

Issue/concern	Proposed Actions	Timescale	Responsibility	Partners	Cost/ Resource s	Actions to Date
Fly tipping /Litter	- More regular litter pick up- if central village better, concentrate on key roads where litter dropped – publicise how much gets collected.	Ongoing Spring/Autumn	Cllr C Manny	Dorset Council/ Poss BN Environ. grp		
	- Promote everyone can report fly tipping on Dorset Council website	Ongoing	Parish Clerk	Dorset Council		
	- Report on number of fly tipping incidents at Annual Parish Meeting	Annually	Parish Clerk	Dorset Council		
	- Review amount of littering to see whether need to do more after implementing regular litter events	Mar 2024	Cllr C Manny			
	- Education – what we can do – not over fill rubbish bins, don't put bins out too early, reduce amount of rubbish we produce – recycle cups, hedges not overhanging so lorries don't get caught on them, consequences of littering. Don't challenge individuals.	Ongoing	Cllr C Manny	Poss BN Environmental Grp /Keep Britain Tidy		

Issue/concern	Proposed Actions	Timescale	Responsibility	Partners	Cost/ Resources	Actions to Date
Flooding including maintenance of River Lydden and pollution	- Promote what we have already done	Ongoing	Cllr M Needham	Lydden Vale News	TBA	
	- Continue to work with Dorset Council Flood risk team, Environment agency, Dorset council Highways team and FWAG to address ongoing issues	Ongoing	Cllr M Needham	Dorset Council /FWAG/BN Flood Warden		
	- Publicise that individuals can report blocked drains themselves	Ongoing	Cllr M Needham	Dorset Council /Parishioners		
	- Publicise figures from Highways about numbers of blocked drains reported and fixed for BN parish	Annually in Parish Mtg.	Parish Clerk	Dorset Council Highways		
	- Encourage homeowners to check drains clear of debris	Ongoing	Parish Council	Parishioners		
	- Encourage homeowners to report property flooding on FORT (Dorset Council Flood Reporting Tool) – possible flood risk team article what support is available to protect their property?	Ongoing	Cllr M Needham	Dorset Council /Parishioners		
	- Work with farmers to keep ditches clear to reduce incidents of flooding / work with FWAG re how they work land has impact on run off of water	Ongoing	Cllr M Needham	Local farmers/FWAG		

Issue/concern	Proposed Actions	Timescale	Responsibility	Partners	Cost/ Resources	Actions to Date
Dogs (Fouling, barking, location of bins, not under control)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor dog fouling and locations - Education – article about issues, include statistics from council/police - Raise awareness” Reporting Dog Fouling” on Dorset Council webpages – councils must keep records of dog fouling 	Ongoing Dec 2025 Dec 2025	Parish Council TBC TBC	Parishioners /Poss BN Environmental Grp		
Rights of Way (Overgrown, stiles broken, lively livestock, harmed by agricultural vehicles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue with funding opportunities for replacement gates - Encourage parishioners to report any footpath issues to Stephen White (BN Footpath Warden) - BN Footpath warden to liaise with Parish council to see whether needs possible working party to address any issues - Review link to PC website footpath page – reporting faults link not works - Continue to work with farmers to ensure public footpaths and bridleways are maintained 	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing April 2023 Ongoing	Cllr M Ames Parish Council BN Footpath warden/Parish Council Parish Clerk TBC	Footpath Warden/ AONB/Farmers Parishioners Dorset Council BN Footpath warden/Farmers	TBA	
Environmental & Ecology (wildlife diversity, preserving green spaces, education –engagement with new initiatives, agencies giving advice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider setting up Environment group (should it be a working grp attached to PC or separate?) - Consider whether part of MUGA area be used as wildlife area? - Wildflower verge on side of parish fields - Consider what else PC can do to encourage wildlife – bat & bird boxes around village 	Dec 2023 Dec 2023 Dec 2023 Dec 2025	Parish Council Parish Council Cllr M Needham TBC	Parishioners BN Environmental grp? BN Environmental grp? BN Environmental grp?		Feb 2023 – email sent out to those interested to meet and feedback to council

5.4 Community Facilities

Main topics of concern: poor mobile signal, poor broadband speed, , viability of shop, pub, post office etc, lack of public transport, running track, parish room toilets

Issue/concern	Proposed Actions	Timescale	Responsibility	Partners	Cost/ Resources	Actions to Date
Poor mobile signal /Poor broadband speed	- Consider whether technical person could write an independent article/advice on how to improve broadband/mobile signal. Possible Jake Scannel	Dec 2025	Cllr C Manny	Broadband/ Mobile providers		
	- write to local MP re issues?	Dec 2025	TBC	Telecoms providers		
	- Keep up to date with Digital Voice rollout (telephone system moving over to digital system from analogue	Ongoing	TBC			
	- Publicise actions taken – new mobile phone mast (Alton Pancras), Wessex cable in village)	Dec 2024	Cllr C Manny			
Viability of local businesses	- See actions under 4.1 Employment and Businesses					
Running Track	- Continue to investigate alternative surfaces to address issues	Ongoing	Parish Council/ Cllr M Needham		TBC	Feb 2023 trail surface laid.
Parish room toilets	- Communicate when open - Signpost facility (as well as please close the door)	June 2023 March 2024	Parish Clerk Cllr J Baker			
Signposts	- Ongoing restoration of fingerposts	Ongoing	Cllr J Baker	Possible Men's Shed/ Parishioners Dorset Council/ Parishioners Parishioners	TBA	
	- Continue to report broken/damaged signs to Dorset Council Highways team	Ongoing	Parish Council			
	- Consider working party to clean signs if required	Dec 2024	Parish Council			

Issue/concern	Proposed Actions	Timescale	Responsibility	Partners	Cost/Resources	Actions to Date
Provision of Sports /Community facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publicise of purchase of MUGA land - Consider how want to use MUGA land - Consider what additional facilities that PC could support – concrete table tennis table, outdoor gym, football nets, basketball hoops, boules court, portable BBQ stand 	May 2023 Dec 2025 Dec 2025	Parish Council Parish Council Parish Council / Cllr M Ames	Parishioners Parishioners/village groups	TBC / External grants	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phone box by pub which parish own - repaint, review use (book exchange, information point, seed exchange) 	June 2023	Cllr C Manny/Cllr M Ames	Parishioners		

5.5 Young Persons Interests

The main concerns were: lack of public transport, more sport for young, Few activities for children especially older ones,

Issue/concern	Proposed Actions	Timescale	Responsibility	Partners	Cost/Resources	Actions to Date
Lack of public transport (independence, not able to attend after school clubs)	See section 4.1 Roads, Traffic and Transport					
More sport for young	See actions under 5.4 – provision of sports facilities					
Not much for them to do especially older children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See actions under 4.7 Health and Care - See actions under 5.4 – provision of sports facilities - 					

5.6 Crime and Safety

Main concerns included: speeding, lack of police presence, neighbourhood watch,

Issue/concern	Proposed Actions	Timescale	Responsibility	Partners	Cost/Resources	Actions to Date
Speeding	See actions under 4.1 Roads, Traffic and Transport					
Lack of police presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publicise Cllr M Ames liaison officer with PCSO Alison Donnison 6500 - Publicise actual statistics for parish at Annual Parish Mtg - Investigate Neighbourhood Watch scheme - Consider running a security event – e.g., crime prevention, internet fraud, is there someone who could run this? - Disseminate Police information/Alerts – Communicate to parishioners (social media, email grp, PC website etc) 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Dec 2025</p> <p>Dec 2026</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Cllr M Ames</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>	<p>PCSO A Donnison 5600</p> <p>Parishioners /Police</p> <p>Police / Dorset Council/Parishioners</p> <p>Police/external specialist</p> <p>Parishioners/Police</p>		

5.7 Health and Care

Main concerns included: doctors' surgery (overworked, inability to book face to face appts, no house calls transport to get to medical appointments etc), ambulance response times, transport to get to medical appointments.

The parish council feels they are unable to influence general NHS concerns and ambulance response times as this is a national issue and affected by government policy. It was discussed whether the parish council had a role to signpost individuals to improve their own health but again was felt this was outside the remit of the parish council however they would support any groups who were interested in this area.

Issue/concern	Proposed Actions	Timescale	Responsibility	Partners	Cost/Resources	Actions to Date
Awareness of support in emergency	- Raise awareness of Minor Injuries units – location, opening hrs etc Put on website	Summer 2023	Parish Clerk	NHS		
	- Consider how lack of transport for same day appointments can be addressed?	Dec 2023	Cllr S Crouch	BN Community Car Scheme		Mar 2023- being trialled with car scheme clients
	- Investigate 1 st responder scheme	Dec 2024	TBC	South Western Ambulance Service/Parishioners	TBA	

5.8 Miscellaneous

Issue/concern	Proposed Actions	Timescale	Responsibility	Partners	Cost/ Resources	Actions to Date
Raise awareness of relevant topics in monthly information article	Articles to include: overgrown hedges, mobile signal, availability of toilets, parish crime figures, parish council powers, supporting local business, Community Transport – BN to Dikes Stalbridge, reporting potholes, Virtual pavements, broadband (Wessex putting into village) What's on in village – e.g., park run etc. Police statistics & Security, self-help groups – lifestyle prescription etc (Nora social prescriber surgery, littering, dog fouling), flooding – reporting drains, FORT), dogs (Fouling, reporting online, control, livestock), land purchased for MUGA	Ongoing	Parish Council	Lydden Vale Magazine/BN Village Website /social media		
Promote Parish council work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider possible email group to all parishioners if want updated on parish meetings - Review Parish council web site – e.g., from page – too much info who reads, should we have what's new page to put info on and possibly email out to parishioners. Should we have section for possible grants or help for businesses? - Article role and responsibilities of parish council what we can and cannot do - Investigate how other parish councils communicate to parishioners 	<p>June 2024</p> <p>Dec 2026</p> <p>Dec 2025</p> <p>Dec 2024</p>	<p>TBC</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>	<p>Parishioners</p> <p>BN Village Website editor</p> <p>DAPTC</p>		<p>Feb 2023 – parish clerk investigating social media training</p>

6. Conclusions

There were some comments included in the returned questionnaires saying that parishioners were well provided for, feel safe and enjoyed life in the parish, others thanked the parish council for keeping our village such a wonderful place to live and several felt that they had no concerns. The fact that only 9.5% of questionnaires were completed may also suggest that many others have no concerns or strong views on the work that the parish council does.

Parishioners nevertheless have identified a large range of issues that impact on their lives, many of them resulting from the fact we live in a rural area.

The aim of the Parish Plan is to try and address some of the major issues identified. The Plan is a living document; some of the actions may already have been completed by the time it is published. Some actions may even be rendered unnecessary by events. This Plan should be reviewed on a frequent basis by the Parish Council, and new actions may be added from time to time.

7. Acknowledgements

The preparation of the Parish Plan has involved a large number of people in the Parish. Many have given up a large amount of their time. In no particular order of merit, thanks must go to:

The Parish Council, which instigated the Parish Plan, organised the questionnaire and analysed the results.

All of those who delivered and sorted the questionnaires via the Lydden Vale Newsletters

The Gaggle of Geese

The Village Shop

Jeremy Collins – putting electronic questionnaires on website

All the Parishioners who completed the questionnaires