

New Buckenham to 2036
Neighbourhood plan working party

Report to New Buckenham Parish Council, September 2016

1. The parish council endorsed the proposal to develop a neighbourhood plan and established a working party in July.
2. Since then, work has been done to understand the process of such a project and a project plan has been drawn up (attached).
3. The first stage of developing New Buckenham's neighbourhood plan is to establish its boundary. We wish to include not only our usual parish area but also the castle and its immediate surroundings as these are important features of the village's heritage. Archaeological evidence supports the plan's boundary extending west from the castle up to (but not including) the buildings of High London Farm and the meadows towards the Dam Brigg crossroads. We are pleased to say that the relevant land owners have no objection. A map is attached for clarification. We will need to put this on a large scale Ordnance Survey map but have no access to one as yet.
4. We need to seek consent from Old Buckenham Parish Council which, if in agreement, will reduce its own neighbourhood plan boundary accordingly.
5. At this stage we do not know the scope of the project because we have had no consultation with villagers to identify issues that are important to them. We cannot therefore set a budget. Neighbourhood plans elsewhere have cost anything from £200 to £20,000 depending on the size of the community and the technical expertise needed from consultants for complex issues. Government grants are available up to £9,000 for producing a plan, with more funding for technical support. Government financial support cannot be guaranteed indefinitely. A modest allocation of funds from the parish council would be useful for incidental expenses such as hall hire and stationery.
6. The working party recommends that the parish council:
 - Agrees the proposed boundary for New Buckenham's neighbourhood plan
 - Seeks agreement from Old Buckenham Parish Council that the castle and its surroundings (Old Buckenham parish) is included in New Buckenham's plan

and, given Old Buckenham's agreement to the boundary,
 - Sends its formal "statement" and declaration of boundary to Breckland.