

*Sandy & Beeston*  
Town Plan  
2011 - 2020



# CONTENTS

3	Introduction, Map of Sandy
4	Foreword
5	History of Sandy
6-12	Summary
13	Housing and Development
14	Youth and Leisure
15	Community Facilities
16-18	Environment
19	Retail and Services
20	Work and Education
21-23	Traffic and Transport
24	Crime and Safety
25	Health
26	Contacts
27	Acknowledgements

## SANDY FACTS

Population: 11,620  
Unemployment rate: 7.9%  
Homes: 4,910  
Bedford: 7 miles  
Cambridge: 24 miles  
London: 54 miles  
Peterborough: 35 miles



▲ *Sandy viewed from the top of the Pinnacle*  
- Photo by Barry Groom

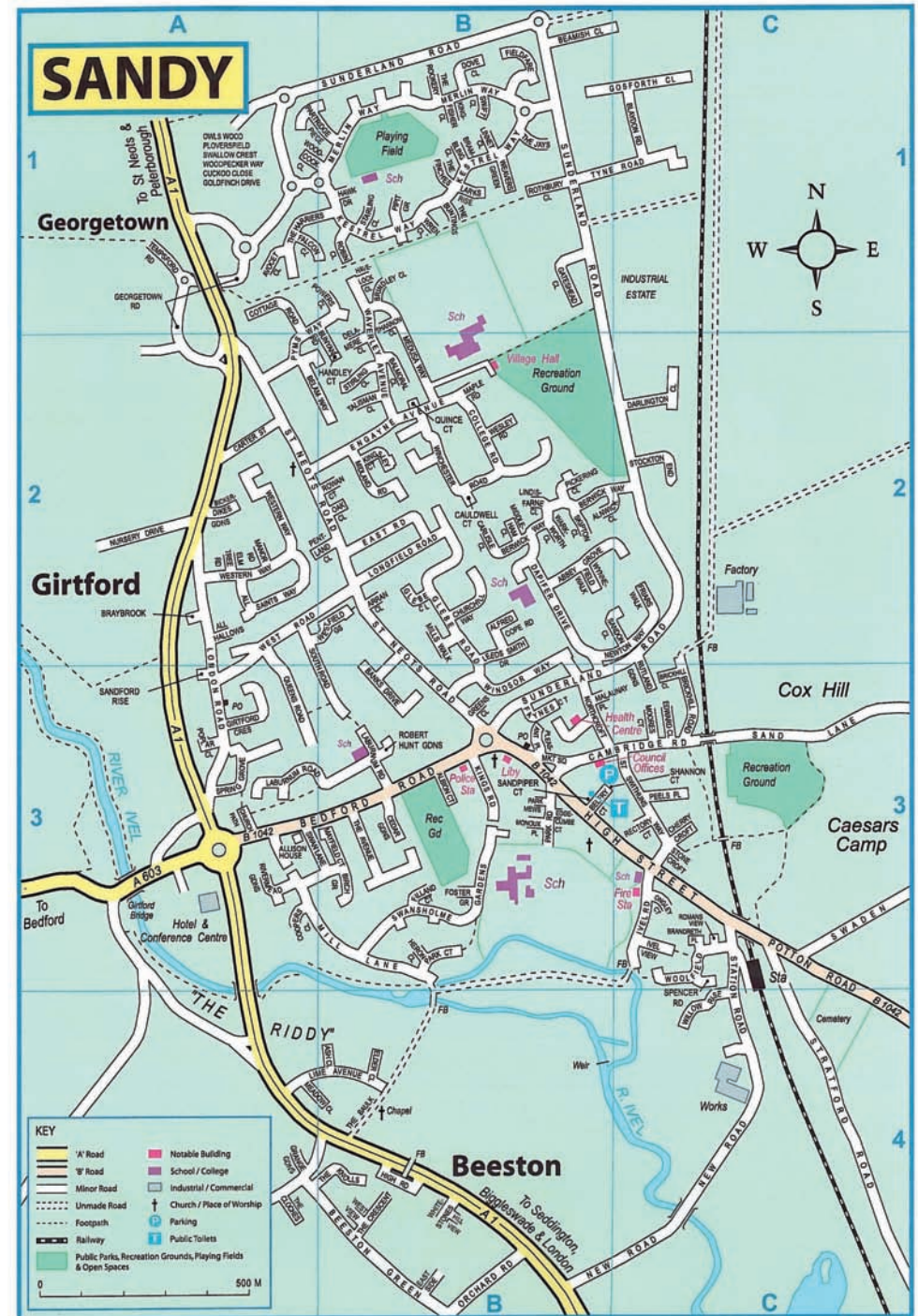
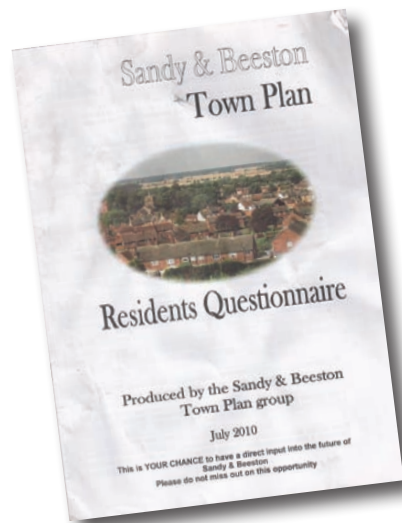


# INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 2009 the Sandy & Beeston Town Plan Steering Group (TPSG) was formed from residents of Sandy and Beeston. This group is independent of, but supported by Sandy Town Council. Our aim was to find out what local people think about their community and write a plan based on these views which would influence the future development of Sandy and Beeston.

The steering group then began a series of consultation events in the community which included contact with individuals, groups and organisations as well as displays and drop-in sessions for everyone who lives and works in the area. This consultation led to production of a self-completion questionnaire which was delivered to every residence in Sandy and Beeston in September 2010 and over 1000 completed questionnaires were returned.

The results are now complete. The analysis of the questionnaires and the action plans that were generated have been published in the final Town Plan.



## Foreword from the Mayor - Cllr Mrs Susan Sutton



From the first formation of the Steering Group back in 2009, Sandy Town Council was keen to support the production of a Sandy & Beeston Town Plan. The Town Council felt that it would provide an excellent opportunity for the whole community to express its views about the way the Sandy area should develop in the future.

The completed Town Plan describes how people who live and work here would like the community

to develop, it identifies key facilities and services and it sets out the issues which need to be tackled if the town is to be improved for all residents according to the priorities they have chosen.

The plan will be a useful tool for the Town Council because it represents the collective voice of our electors. The Plan can also be used to influence other local authorities, service providers and funders. The Town Council was pleased to adopt the Plan at a Council meeting in March 2011 and we will use its conclusions to inform the decision-making we undertake on behalf of our community. We would like to congratulate the Steering Group and all those who contributed to the plan.

We already knew that the people of Sandy value a sense of community and care about the environment, the community, the history and the future of their Town. It is encouraging to note that so many residents of Sandy and Beeston participated in the various consultation processes which informed the plan. We know that like any vibrant local community Sandy must evolve.

The value of the Plan is that it will help us to work for the future whilst preserving the essential character of the Town.

## Chairman Sandy & Beeston (TPSG)

Over the past two years Sandy Town Plan Steering Group (TPSG) which is made up of volunteers from Sandy and Beeston has been working on your behalf. We have attended various events, activities and schools here in Sandy and have also had active members of the Beeston community to add ideas and thoughts to the group.

This plan is a representation of our communities' thoughts and responses to our locally held meetings and consultations. Our community as a whole has provided the input which has determined the findings of the final document.

We hope that this plan is an inspiration to both Sandy and Beeston and that it provides the means for various authorities to improve our area for the benefit of all.

My final thought is to say thank you to everyone who took the time to fill in the questionnaire and return it to us. Our returns were well over 1000 responses which delighted and encouraged us.

Also I would like to thank the Sandy Town Council for their help with funding of this plan and for adopting it on 14 March 2011.

**Carl H. Devitt**



# A Brief History Of Sandy

The Market Town and Civil Parish of Sandy is in Bedfordshire and has been inhabited since the Iron Age. It grew from 40 AD when Romans settled and traded with Godmanchester and St Albans. Recent excavations, on the site of the cemetery, found Roman coins and artefacts from 45 AD to around 1850 when the Great Northern Railway came here.

The 14th Century Church of St Swithun's has many memorials including those to Sir William Peel VC, who built his own railway between Sandy and Potton to transport dinosaur dung, a valuable fertiliser. The most famous locomotive on the railway was the Shannon. The railway and the Great North Road permitted much quicker transport to London and its markets for the local market gardening trade.

Sandy today is known best as the headquarters of the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) which came to the Town in 1961 taking over The Lodge. The charity now has over one million members. The building housing the Headquarters was built by Arthur Wellesley Peel, the brother of Captain William Peel VC. The Lodge was taken over in the 1930's by Sir Malcolm Stewart, Chairman of London Brick Company, who built Stewartby in the 1930's as a model village with houses for the workers and a school.

In 1982 Sandy twinned with Malaunay in France. In 1998 the town of Skarszewy in Poland became a 'twin'. There have been sporting and cultural visits both to and from both communities. Sandy has grown over more than two centuries. In 1801 Sandy's population was 1,115 residents and 3,110 in 1901.

In the last 50 years the London overspill development of 900 homes was built to the north of Sandy as was Fallowfield, The Berwick Way estate, St Ivel Park and many small housing developments have been added since them. The population of Sandy is nearly 12,000 residents in 2011.



## SUMMARY

# Welcome to the Sandy & Beeston Town Plan

### Action Plan Aspirations

This plan will enable the whole community to have a voice on future developments.

It is intended to:

- Support all of our residents
- Maintain and improve economic health
- Adapt to changing times
- Protect and enhance the local environment.



**“You’ve had  
your say -  
These are the  
results”**





## SUMMARY

# Housing & Development



- You would like the views of the Community on future development in Sandy to be represented

*'We plan to ensure that Central Bedfordshire Council and developers are aware of residents' preferences regarding type and tenure of housing'*

- Residents are concerned about the impact of housing development on the infrastructure and character of the Town

*'We plan to establish effective liaison between Sandy Town Council & Central Bedfordshire Council'*

- Your views on where any future development, if proposed in the future, were mixed

*'We plan to ensure that further detailed consultation is carried out if further development is proposed'*

## Youth & Leisure

- You wanted improvements and extra lighting at the Skate Park
- You wanted more facilities for young people

*'We plan to carry out additional consultations with Skate Park users and liaise with Central Bedfordshire Council and Sandy Town Council about any necessary improvements'*

*'We plan to liaise with providers of youth activities and to review the current provisions to see if there is potential to increase facilities available. We plan to talk further to young people in the Town about the activities and facilities they would like to be available in the Town'*



## SUMMARY

# Community Facilities

- You would like more leisure facilities in the Town including a swimming pool, cinema, ten pin bowling and soft play centre

*'We plan to look into the feasibility of providing these facilities and approach suitable providers to assess the potential of attracting them to Sandy'*

- You would like to have a Town Museum

*'We plan to work with Central Bedfordshire Council, Sandy Town Council and Sandy Historical Research Group with regards to possible funding to cover the set up and long term funding of suitable premises'*

- You would like to see additional community groups and clubs

*'We plan to explore the possibilities and canvass for support'*

- You would like to retain existing leisure facilities in the Town and see additional sports facilities

*'We will seek to retain existing leisure facilities ensuring that they remain open and accessible and to conduct further research into additional sport facilities which residents would use'*

- You would like additional baby changing facilities in the Town Centre

*'We will look at the feasibility of providing additional facilities at a suitable location in the Town Centre'*





# SUMMARY

## Environment

- You would like to see the provision of more allotments

*‘We will continue to look for available land’*

- You would be keen to see litter, dog-fouling and fly tipping reduced

*‘We intend to increase community awareness and look to provide more bins and target the worst affected areas’*

- You would like to see improvements to bridleways and footpaths

*‘We will work with interest groups on priority areas; develop a network of volunteers to assist with footpath maintenance; identify footpaths that could be upgraded to cycleways, improve signage and provide information leaflets’*

- You would like to see improvements to/extension of community parkland facilities

*‘We will target the Sandhills, Sandcast Wood, Beeston Green and Fallowfield open spaces and fringe’*

- You would like to see improvements to the Green Infrastructure of the Town

*‘We will look to extend cycleways and bridleways, establish a community orchard in Beeston, and provide new green spaces’*

- You would like to see better access for wheelchairs/pushchairs

*‘We will identify problem areas and agree the best solutions (e.g. A1 footbridge)’*



## SUMMARY

# Retail & Services

- You indicated that there is an insufficient range of shops in Sandy

*'We plan to undertake research to assess what shops/retail outlets would be sustainable in Sandy. We will promote the Town to potential retailers'*

- There were mixed views with regard to the location of the weekly and monthly markets

*'We will carry out a review, seeking advice from experts'*

- You have been asking for another large store/supermarket for some time

*'There are plans for a supermarket to come to the Town. We will monitor progress and ensure that the store enhances the Town'*



# Work & Education

- You would like to see more employment/career advice on offer in the Town

*'We will seek to work with local schools to provide advice and look into the feasibility of the Library becoming a central base for advertising job vacancies'*

- You would like to see more employment opportunities in the Town provided through shops and small businesses

*'We will work with Central Bedfordshire Council and the Chamber of Trade, to encourage shops and small businesses to remain in the Town and on the industrial estate'*

- You would like to see more adult education provision in the Town

*'We will investigate what is currently available in the Town and surrounding areas and advertise these widely'*



## SUMMARY

# Traffic & Transport

- You would like to see improved facilities at Sandy train station including longer ticket office opening hours, toilet facilities, an enclosed waiting area and a more reliable ticket machine and also a more frequent rail service

*'We will work with Network Rail and First Capital Connect to provide facilities at the railway station and improve the level of service provision, particularly in the evenings and on Sundays'*

- You are concerned with car parking associated with users of Sandy railway station

*'We will work with First Capital Connect and Central Bedfordshire Council to look into potential solutions'*

- You would like to see improvements to the bus service and increased promotion of existing services

*'We will work with Central Bedfordshire Council, and the bus operators, to see that more information is made available about bus services, such as real-time information. We will conduct a transport needs survey to further investigate the demand for new destinations and the suitability of the current timings of the bus service'*

- You would be happy to use new cycle routes

*'We will look into the feasibility of providing additional and enhanced cycle routes to Biggleswade, Beeston, Potton, Gamlingay and Everton'*

- You are concerned about pavement and road surface conditions and overgrown vegetation in areas of the Town

*'We will make sure that residents are aware of how to report problems and carry out a survey to assess and prioritise where work is, if it is needed'*

- You are concerned about the volume of HGV traffic passing through the Town

*'We will conduct a survey of HGV traffic and encourage HGVs to avoid the Town Centre where possible by using appropriate restrictions and signage'*

- You raised some issues about street lighting in the Town

*'We will investigate the feasibility of replacing street lights with low energy lights when required. We will ensure that you are aware of how to report problems with street lights'*

## SUMMARY

# Crime & Safety

- You would like your views on how the Police operate in the Town to be represented to them

*'We plan to ensure that partners are aware of residents' concerns'*

- You are concerned about the lack of visible Police presence and about incidences of Anti-Social Behaviour

*'We plan to establish effective liaison between Sandy Town Council, the Police and Community Safety Team at Central Bedfordshire Council. We will work with the Police to build confidence in residents so that Sandy is a safe place to live and work. We plan to increase awareness among residents of existing community safety initiatives operating in the Town. There is now an Alcohol Free Zone in the Town Centre.'*

- You have raised concerns about road safety

*'We will look to work with Central Bedfordshire Council to install a zebra crossing on the High Street near St Swithun's School. We will look into the feasibility of reducing the speed limit in St Neots Road to 20 mph. We will look to tackle occurrences of dangerous parking at junctions. We will lobby*

*Central Bedfordshire Council and the Highways Agency for a safe crossing point across the A1 near the A1 / Bedford Road roundabout.'*

## Health

- You told us about your experiences of using your doctors' surgeries and the dental practices, pharmacies and opticians in the Town

*'This information will be used to establish a dialogue with the practitioners and the Town Council with a view to making improvements in line with your views and suggestions'*

- You would like assistance in accessing local hospitals

*'We will assist those who have difficulty travelling to hospital, by setting up a Good Neighbour Scheme'*



## Housing & Development

Issue	Proposed Action	Priority	Timescales	Partners
Represent resident 'views regarding the types and tenure of housing they would prefer to see in any future development (retirement bungalows, starter homes, low cost housing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sandy Town Council to ensure that Central Bedfordshire Council and developers are aware of residents' preferences regarding the types and tenure of housing they would prefer to see in and around the Town</li> </ul>	Medium	Ongoing	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Aragon Housing Association Aldwyck Housing Association
The impact of housing development on the infrastructure of the Town, for example proposed parking issues, impact on public services (e.g. doctors), impact on Town's character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establish effective liaison between Sandy Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council regarding future development plans and infrastructure provision in and around Sandy</li> <li>● Sandy Town Council to liaise with Central Bedfordshire Council regarding how future development can be sensitive to the character of the Town</li> <li>● Ensure future Section 106 contributions from developers are secured for public services</li> </ul>	High	Ongoing	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council NHS Bedfordshire
Location of future development if there are plans to expand the Town in future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Town Council to carry out further detailed consultation if further development is proposed to establish whether residents favour development to the North of the Town or to the East side of the railway</li> </ul>	Medium	Long	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council

# Youth & Leisure

Issue	Proposed Action	Priority	Timescales	Partners
Skate park improvements and extra lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out additional consultation with users of the skate park regarding improvements they feel are needed</li> </ul>	Medium	Ongoing	Community Central Bedfordshire Council Sandy Town Council Sandy Skate Park 2000 Youth Parliament
Increased youth facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaise with providers of youth activities to review current youth provision and the potential for increasing the facilities available</li> <li>Conduct a feasibility study for the provision of a dedicated central drop-in venue for young people</li> <li>Carry out further consultation with young people about what activities and facilities they would like available in the Town</li> </ul>	High	Ongoing	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Community Youth Parliament Schools Aragon Housing Association





# Community Facilities

Issue	Proposed Action	Priority	Timescales	Partners
Provision of facilities to be considered in the Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the possibility of whether Sandy could support any of the following leisure facilities - swimming pool, cinema, ten-pin bowling alley, indoor soft play centre</li> <li>Approach potential providers to assess the potential of Sandy attracting these facilities</li> </ul>	High	Ongoing	Community Central Bedfordshire Council Sandy Town Council Sandy Chamber of Trade Schools
Provision of a Town Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look into the funding available for the initial set up and the long term sustainability of suitable premises</li> </ul>	High	Ongoing/Long	Community Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Sandy Historical Research Group Sandy History Society Sandy Transport Society
Demand for additional community groups or clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the need from Town Plan Survey and canvass support</li> <li>Identify volunteers from the community to lead groups</li> <li>Continue to publicise existing community groups and clubs</li> </ul>	High	Ongoing/Long	Community Sandy Town Council Schools
Additional sports facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct further research into the sports that residents would like to participate in</li> <li>Retain existing facilities ensuring that they remain open and accessible</li> </ul>	Low	Ongoing	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Sandy Upper School
Demand for additional baby changing facilities in the Town Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look into the feasibility of providing additional baby changing facilities in a suitable venue in the Town Centre</li> <li>Encourage services in the Town to provide baby changing facilities if they do not already do so</li> </ul>	Medium	Long	Community Central Bedfordshire Council Sandy Town Council Sandy Chamber of Trade

# Environment 1

Issue	Proposed Action	Priority	Timescales	Partners
Campaign to reduce general litter and dog fouling	Audit of worst affected areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review of current bin provision</li> <li>● More bins installed</li> <li>● Increase public awareness</li> </ul>	High	Ongoing	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Retail outlets and restaurants Local residents Schools
Improve maintenance of overgrown hedges	Develop a mechanism to enable residents to report issues to the Town Council through the web-site and through writing to the Town Clerk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Town Council to encourage responsible parties to improve maintenance</li> <li>● Special action to improve the state of the A1 roundabout</li> </ul>	Medium	Ongoing	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Local residents Interest groups Highways Agency
Flytipping	Inform residents about how to report incidences of fly tipping	Medium	Ongoing	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Environmental groups
Improvements to footpaths and bridleways	Identify priority areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Consult/recruit interest groups</li> <li>● Carry out a survey of footpaths and bridleways to identify where maintenance to clear overgrown footpaths, additional signage and improvements to access are required</li> <li>● Develop a network of volunteers to assist with ongoing maintenance of the rights of way network</li> <li>● Identify existing footpaths that could be upgraded to bridleways and cycle routes</li> <li>● Look at ways to improve the Sandhills as a public amenity</li> <li>● Produce an information leaflet / map on the routes currently available</li> </ul>	High	Ongoing	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Ramblers' Association British Horse Riders Association Local interest groups Local residents

## Environment 2

Issue	Proposed Action	Priority	Timescales	Partners
Provision of more allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ongoing search for available land</li> <li>● Approach local landowners regarding possible locations</li> <li>● Reduction of waiting lists</li> </ul>	High	Short	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Sandy & District Allotments & Leisure Gardens Society
Better access for wheelchairs / pushchairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify problem areas</li> <li>● Agree best options e.g. dropped kerbs or ramps</li> <li>● Prioritise costings</li> <li>● Special attention to A1 footbridge to enable access by cyclists, wheelchairs etc</li> </ul>	High	Ongoing	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Local retailers Highways Agency Sandy Chamber of Trade Wheelchair / pushchair users
Green Infrastructure issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Extend cycleways to Pottton, Gamlingay, Everton and Biggleswade</li> <li>● Improve bridleways in the areas of Biggleswade Common, the Riddy and Everton Road</li> <li>● Sandcast Wood</li> <li>● Creation of other community green spaces</li> </ul>	Medium	Medium	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Local landowners RSPB Beeston Wildlife Group Ivel Valley Cycle Forum Ramblers' Association
Extensions and improvements to community parklands	<p>Actions required in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sandcast Wood</li> <li>● Sandhills</li> <li>● Beeston Green</li> <li>● Fallowfield Open Spaces &amp; fringes</li> <li>● For all sites raise public awareness of responsibilities, access rights &amp; restrictions, damage, litter, signage etc</li> </ul>	Medium	Medium	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Local landowners RSPB Beeston Wildlife Group Schools Community groups Neighbourhood Watch Local interest groups



## Environment 3

Issue	Proposed Action	Priority	Timescales	Partners
Skate park improvements and extra lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out additional consultation with users of the skate park regarding improvements they feel are needed</li> </ul>	Medium	Ongoing	Community Central Bedfordshire Council Sandy Town Council Sandy Skate Park 2000 Youth Parliament
Increased youth facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaise with providers of youth activities to review current youth provision and the potential for increasing the facilities available</li> <li>Conduct a feasibility study for the provision of a dedicated central drop-in venue for young people</li> <li>Carry out further consultation with young people about what activities and facilities they would like available in the Town</li> </ul>	High	Ongoing	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Community Youth Parliament Schools Aragon Housing Association



# Retail & Services

Issue	Proposed Action	Priority	Timescales	Partners
Insufficient range of shops in Sandy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake research to assess what shops/ retail outlets would be sustainable in Sandy and advertise / market the Town to potential retailers</li> </ul>	High	Long	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Sandy Chamber of Trade
Location of weekly and Farmers' markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a review of the location of these markets</li> <li>Seek advice from other market towns and experts in stall holding management</li> </ul>	Medium	Medium	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Sandy Chamber of Trade
Demand for a large supermarket / food store in Sandy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively encourage a large supermarket / food store to come to Sandy. If a store comes to Sandy ensure there are good transport links between the store and the Town Centre so that the store enhances rather than damages Town Centre shopping</li> </ul>	High	Ongoing	Chamber of Trade Central Bedfordshire Council Sandy Town Council



## Work & Education

Issue	Proposed Action	Priority	Timescales	Partners
Employment / Career Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Encourage quality provision via Schools</li> <li>● Look into the feasibility of the Library being a central base for advertising job vacancies</li> </ul>	High	Ongoing	Job Centre Plus Pinnacle Schools Trust Central Bedfordshire Council
Need for further employment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Respondents showed a preference for employment opportunities to be provided through small shops and businesses therefore:</li> <li>● Encourage the planners to resist the conversion of shop premises to alternative uses</li> <li>● Ensure that there is adequate provision for small businesses in the Town Centre and on the industrial estate</li> </ul>	High	Ongoing	Central Bedfordshire Council Sandy Town Council Sandy Chamber of Trade
Childcare provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Promote existing childcare facilities in Sandy and the surrounding area</li> <li>● Seek further market data from providers and the local authority and seek to encourage further provision as necessary</li> </ul>	Low	Medium	Central Bedfordshire Council Sandy Town Council Churches Together
Demand for Adult Education Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Investigate what is already available in Sandy and surrounding areas eg through schools, commercial providers, further education colleges, Library and publicise current opportunities</li> </ul>	Low	Short	Central Bedfordshire Council Sandy Town Council Further Education Colleges Schools Sandy Library Commercial providers
Local Exchange Trading System (LETS) - bartering scheme with individuals swapping time & skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Research existing LETS / bartering schemes and learn from their experiences</li> <li>● Set up a committee of volunteers to pilot such a scheme in Sandy</li> </ul>	Medium	Medium	Sandy Town Council Community



# Traffic & Transport 1

Issue	Proposed Action	Priority	Timescales	Partners
Support for improved facilities at Sandy train station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss with First Capital Connect the possibility of improving facilities at Sandy station</li> <li>• Longer ticket office opening hours</li> <li>• Toilet facilities</li> <li>• Enclosed waiting area</li> <li>• User friendly ticket machine</li> </ul>	High	Medium	First Capital Connect Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council
Frequency of trains stopping and departing from Sandy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss with Network Rail the possibility of providing a more frequent train service in particular more trains stopping at Sandy in the evening</li> </ul>	Medium	Long	Network Rail First Capital Connect Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council
Parking at Sandy train station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look at additional areas near the station that could be used for extra car parking spaces</li> <li>• Pilot a scheme where individuals rent out their driveways to regular users of the station</li> <li>• Discuss the cost of car parking at the station for rail passengers</li> <li>• Consideration of whether there should be additional controls and locations for on-street parking</li> </ul>	Medium	Medium	Network Rail First Capital Connect Central Bedfordshire Council Sandy Town Council
Support for East - West Rail Link going through Sandy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage and support planners involved in the project to move it forward</li> </ul>	High	Long	East - West Consortium Local Economic Partnership Central Bedfordshire Council
Improvements to bus service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a transport needs survey to further investigate the demand for destinations and the current timings of the bus services</li> </ul>	Low	Medium	Stagecoach Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council

## Traffic & Transport 2

Issue	Proposed Action	Priority	Timescales	Partners
Increase promotion of existing bus services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased promotion of bus timetables and maps - display timetables at all bus stops and a map of routes in the Town Centre</li> <li>• Make information available on bus services at the Library, Tourist Information Centre and on the Town Council web-site</li> <li>• Display real time information at bus stops</li> </ul>	Medium	Medium	Tourist Information Centre Sandy Library Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Stagecoach Bus Company
Demand for cycle routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look at the feasibility of providing additional &amp; enhanced routes, particularly between Sandy and Biggleswade, Sandy and Pottton, Beeston and Sandy High Street, Pottton, Gamlingay and Everton</li> </ul>	High	Medium	Sandy Town Council Sustrans Ivel Valley Cycle Forum Central Bedfordshire Council
Pedestrian access across the A1 from Bedford Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby for a safe crossing point for walkers and cyclists across the A1 near the Sandy Bedford Road roundabout</li> </ul>	High	Long	Highways Agency Central Bedfordshire Council Sandy Town Council
Concerns regarding pavement and road surface condition and overgrown vegetation and hedges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure that residents are aware of how to report problems as and when they occur</li> <li>• Conduct a comprehensive survey of all roads and pavements to assess and prioritise areas where work may be needed</li> <li>• Ensure that residents are aware of how to report issues with overgrown hedges and vegetation</li> <li>• Encourage responsible parties to carry out regular maintenance of vegetation and hedges</li> </ul>	Medium	Short	Central Bedfordshire Council Sandy Town Council Highways Agency
Lack of available off-street parking in residential areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify locations where off-street parking is an issue and identify any possible solutions</li> </ul>	Low	Long	Sandy Town Council Aragon Housing Association Central Bedfordshire Council

## Traffic & Transport 3

Issue	Proposed Action	Priority	Timescales	Partners
Concern regarding dangerous parking near junctions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify &amp; prioritise locations and look into the feasibility of installing road markings &amp; signage to enable penalty notices to be issued</li> <li>• Publicise to residents what is considered dangerous parking, its effects and the penalties that it can incur</li> <li>• Encourage Bedfordshire Police to take action where dangerous parking is occurring</li> </ul>	Medium	Medium	Bedfordshire Police Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council
Increase reporting of any problems with street lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure that residents are aware of how to report problems as and when they occur</li> </ul>	Low	Short	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Highways Agency
Street Lights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate the possibility of replacing street lights with low energy lights as and when required</li> </ul>	High	Long	Central Bedfordshire Council Sandy Town Council Highways Agency
Demand for a zebra crossing near St Swithun's School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look to install a zebra crossing on the High Street near to St Swithun's School</li> </ul>	Medium	Long	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council
Concern about the volume of HGVs passing through the Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a survey of HGV traffic including information on operators.</li> <li>• Encourage HGV drivers to avoid the Town Centre where possible using appropriate restrictions, signage etc</li> </ul>	High	Short	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council
Speeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look into the feasibility of reducing the traffic speeds in target roads</li> </ul>	Medium	Medium	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council



# Crime & Safety

Issue	Proposed Action	Priority	Timescales	Partners
Anti-Social Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ensure residents are aware of how to report incidences of anti-social behaviour</li> <li>● Promote Neighbourhood Watch</li> <li>● Publish phone number &amp; web address of Safer Neighbourhood Team</li> <li>● Promote Let's Talk Together meetings</li> </ul>	High	Ongoing	Sandy Town Council Central Bedfordshire Council Bedfordshire Police Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
Varying levels of awareness of existing community safety initiatives operating in the Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Raise awareness of the Community Safety group, Let's Talk Together and Neighbourhood Watch</li> </ul>	Medium	Short	Community Safety Group Central Bedfordshire Council Bedfordshire Police Neighbourhood Watch
Demand for an Alcohol-Free Zone in the town centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduce an Alcohol-Free Zone in the Town Centre</li> <li>● Police to work with Chamber of Trade and local retailers to put together a strategy to improve control of alcohol sales in the Town</li> </ul>	High	Ongoing	Central Bedfordshire Council Bedfordshire Police Sandy Town Council Sandy Chamber of Trade
Demand for increased Police presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss with the Police the possibility of providing an increase in Police presence</li> <li>● Ensure that there is a clear process for passing on community feedback through the Town Council to the Police to assist them with allocating and directing resources</li> </ul>	High	Short	Central Bedfordshire Council Bedfordshire Police Sandy Town Council
Drug issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ask Police, Schools and Publicans to monitor situation and report on successes</li> </ul>	High	Ongoing	Bedfordshire Police Drug Action Team Central Bedfordshire Council Pub Watch Schools

# Health

Issue	Proposed Action	Priority	Timescales	Partners
Residents' experiences of using the doctors' surgeries in the Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Feed information regarding respondents' views on their experiences of using their doctors' surgery to the respective surgeries</li> </ul>	Medium	Ongoing	Sandy Town Council Doctors' Surgeries NHS Bedfordshire (& its successors)
Resident's experiences of using Dental Practices in the Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Feed information regarding respondents' views on their experience of using their respective practices in Sandy</li> <li>● Encourage dentists to promote their NHS services</li> </ul>	Medium	Ongoing	Town Council Dental Surgeries NHS Bedfordshire (& its successors)
Residents' experiences of using the pharmacies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss with the pharmacies the feasibility of extending the opening hours e.g. one late night opening a week and reinstating the repeat prescriptions service where required</li> </ul>	Medium	Ongoing	Sandy Town Council Pharmacies
Demand for Good Neighbour Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Approach BRCC for support in setting up a Good Neighbour Scheme</li> <li>● Encourage residents who struggle to access the hospital to use the scheme once established</li> </ul>	High/Medium	Short	Sandy Town Council Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity

# Contacts & Partners

## **Sandy Town Council**

01767 681491

## **Sandy Chamber of Trade**

01767 681531 (Sandra's Hair Salon)

## **Central Bedfordshire Council**

0300 300 8000

## **Aragon Housing Association**

01767 685800

## **Aldwyck Housing Association**

01582 869100

## **Maple Tree Lower School**

01767 699806

## **Laburnum Lower School**

01767 680691

## **Robert Peel Lower School**

01767 681185

## **St Swithun's Lower School**

01767 680692

## **Sandye Place Academy**

01767 680420

## **Sandy Upper School**

01767 680598

## **Sandy Children's Centre**

01767 699019

## **Sandy Health Centre**

01767 682525

## **Police Safer Neighbourhood Team**

01234 842549

## **Bedfordshire Police**

(non emergency number)

01234 841212 or 101

## **Sustrans**

0845 113065

## **Ivel Valley Cycle Forum**

0300 300 8503



**Sandy  
Town Council**  
S.T.C. - Serving the Community



**Central  
Bedfordshire  
Council**  
Working in **partnership**



**Bedfordshire Rural  
Communities Charity**  
Serving Communities Across Bedfordshire

# Acknowledgements

Carl Devitt (Chairman), Peter Blaine, Peter Stainton, Derrick Stock, Geoff White, Michael Bartlett, Anne Elliott, Max Hill, Nigel Aldis, John Parker, Katrina Bourne, Sue Foster, Delia Shephard

Zoe Ashby & Jemma McLean (Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity)

## **The Town Plan Steering Group thank the following for their assistance with this Plan:**

Zoe Ashby & Jemma McLean of Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity for their assistance and tolerance

Sandy Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council for their financial support

Our photographers: Ken Lynch, Derrick Stock, Jonathan Whitehurst, Barry Groom and Nigel Aldis

The residents of Sandy for their many inputs via the questionnaire and “Have Your Say” events





