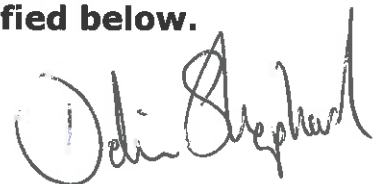


Sandy Town Council

To: Cllrs N Aldis, J Ali, C Butterfield, W Jackson, K Lynch, A Maycock, M Runchman, R Smith, S Sutton, and S Walsh

Cc: Cllrs C Osborne, M Pettitt, D Sharman, M Scott and G White

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council which will be held in the Council Chamber at 10, Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 4 November 2013 commencing at 7.30 pm. The items of business to be transacted are specified below.



Delia Shephard
Town Clerk
10 Cambridge Road, Sandy
SG19 1JE
01767 681491
30 October 2013

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for absence

2 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

Under the Localism Act 2011 members of Council are not required to make oral declarations of interest at meetings but may not participate in discussion or voting on any items of business in which they have a Declarable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) and under Sandy Town Council's Standing Orders must leave the room for the duration of all discussion on such items. (All members' register of interests are available on the Sandy Town Council website or on application to the Clerk.)

*This item is included on the agenda to enable members to declare new DPIs and also **those who wish to do so** may draw attention to their stated DPIs and also any non-declarable personal interests which they have declared under Sandy Town Council's adopted Code of Conduct and which may be relevant to items on the agenda.*

- i) Declarable Pecuniary Interests*
- ii) Personal Interests*

3 Minutes of previous meeting

To receive the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 23 September 2013 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

Sandy Town Council

- 4 Groundworks**
To receive a presentation from Diana Hedley of Groundworks about the work currently being undertaken by her organisation in the Sandy area.
- 5 CBC Leisure Services Strategy**
To consider making a response to Central Bedfordshire Council's Leisure Services Strategy consultation.
- 6 Trees at Bedford Road Recreation Ground**
To note further information about trees at Bedford Road Recreation Ground and to consider granting permission for work to be undertaken at the expense of a resident if Bedford Borough Council grants permission.
- 7 S106 Arts Funding**
To note that a working group of Cllrs Maycock, Sharman and White had been appointed to consider spending of funds designated for public art in the S106 agreement applying to the development of Tesco at New Road, Sandy and to receive any additional information available.
- 8 Community Orchard at Beeston**
To receive a report and consider next steps in the development of a community orchard at Beeston.
- 9 No Cold Calling Zone**
To receive and consider a report on the location of additional NCCZ signs within Sandy.
- 10 Sandy Enhancement Group**
To receive a report from Sandy Enhancement Group following a meeting on Thursday 31 October 2013 and to consider proposed location of hedging plants.
- 11 Winchester Road**
To receive a report and proposals for actions in the Winchester Road area of the town **(Cllr Aldis and Cllr Ali)**.
- 12 The Riddy and The Pinnacle**
To receive a report from the Deputy Clerk on maintenance plans for the Riddy Nature Reserve and the Pinnacle Hill and field.
- 13 Estimates Process**
To make any relevant recommendations to the Policy Finance and Resources committee with regard to the estimates process for 2014/15.

Sandy Town Council

14 News Release

Sandy Town Council

Community Services and Environment Committee 4 November 2013

R E P O R T S

5 CBC Leisure Services Strategy

It is intended that Central Bedfordshire Council's Leisure Facilities Strategy (chapter 1) and Recreation and Open Space Strategy (chapter 2) and Playing Pitch Strategy (chapter 3) will be adopted as Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) as part of the emerging Development Strategy. The chapters are currently published for consultation which will close on Friday 8 November 2013. Members are able to make individual responses on line and/or the Town Council may wish to comment as a corporate body.

The Executive Consultation Summary is reproduced with these papers but the three leisure strategy chapters are available on the CBC website as is the online questionnaire for individual comments.

Following this consultation CBC will consider the comments received and then produce a final Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which will be adopted by the Council's Executive in March 2014. The documents will be used to inform Development Management decisions on planning applications.

Members are invited to consider whether a corporate response should be made.



Leisure Strategy SPD Consultation

A summary of the Leisure Strategy
Supplementary Planning Documents for
consultation

Introduction

Central Bedfordshire Council is creating a single Leisure Strategy in order to ensure a holistic approach to the provision of sport, leisure, recreation and open space facilities across the area. The Leisure Strategy has assessed current facilities and services, forecast future demand and created a strategy to meet local needs for good quality, accessible and sustainable leisure facilities and services.

The Leisure Strategy comprises the following four chapters; three are facility-based and one is activity based:

- Chapter 1: Leisure Facilities Strategy – *indoor sport and leisure centres, comprising a range of sport and leisure activities*
- Chapter 2: Recreation and Open Space Strategy – *a defined range of green spaces, providing formal and informal recreational activity facilities and opportunities*
- Chapter 3: Playing Pitch Strategy – *outdoor formal, grass and artificially-surfaced sports playing pitches*
- Chapter 4: Physical Activity Strategy – *a defined range of physical activity classes, sports, exercises etc. undertaken indoors and outdoor*

Each strategy is based on a detailed and robust methodology and evidence base which has quantified the need for new or improved facilities by location and type of provision, with the aim of ensuring facilities are equally accessible to all Central Bedfordshire residents, are fit-for-purpose and promote physical activity.

Following this consultation and any amendments we need to make, Chapters 1, 2 and 3 of the Leisure Strategy will be adopted as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) in support of the Council's emerging Development Strategy, which is proposed for adoption in 2014. Until the Development Strategy is adopted, the adopted Leisure Strategy SPD will attract some weight in decisions reached on planning applications. The SPD provides planning policy guidance designed to ensure that the housing growth forecast for Central Bedfordshire makes appropriate provision of good quality, indoor and outdoor sports and leisure facilities which meet the needs of all sectors of the population.

Chapter 4: Physical Activity Strategy, will not be developed into a Supplementary Planning Document, but will provide a strategic approach to physical activity together with a detailed programme of activities. Therefore the Physical Activity Strategy is not part of this SPD consultation.

This document summarises the outcomes of the three chapters included in this consultation and tells you how you can have your say.

Chapter 1: Leisure Facilities Strategy

Chapter 1: the Leisure Facilities Strategy has already been agreed by Central Bedfordshire Council, however, this consultation process will enable the council to formally adopt this chapter as a Supplementary Planning Document. The Supplementary Planning Document will help us to deliver the facilities identified in the strategy through developers applying for planning permission, and the management of council-owned facilities.

The proposed new and improved facilities from this chapter are set out below:

- Provide a new leisure centre in Flitwick close to the site of the existing leisure centre, comprising a sports hall with four courts and an eight lane swimming pool.
- Refurbish Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre pool and sports hall.
- Refurbish Saxon Pool and Leisure Centre and provide a new sports hall with four courts in the east area of Central Bedfordshire.
- Refurbish Dunstable Leisure Centre to also incorporate additional health and fitness facilities and squash court facilities.
- Market-test the cost of re-opening Houghton Regis pool in the short term pending longer term development of a new leisure centre in Houghton Regis.
- Provide a new sports hall with four courts in the Leighton Linlade Growth Area in conjunction with proposed housing development.
- Replace the eight lane swimming pool at Tiddenfoot in conjunction with proposed housing development growth.
- Provide a new leisure centre for Houghton Regis close to the site of the existing leisure centre, comprising a sports hall with six courts, a six lane 25m swimming pool and a range of other facilities.
- Support the development of a joint use leisure facility incorporating a sports hall with four courts at Etonbury School in Arlesey.

Chapter 2: Recreation and Open Space Strategy

Chapter 2: the Recreation and Open Space Strategy has assessed the current provision of the identified types of recreation and open space facilities (listed below) across Central Bedfordshire in 2012/13, and evaluated the respective requirements which will result from the planned growth in Central Bedfordshire's population up to 2031.

- Country Parks
- Urban Parks
- Large Recreational areas
- Small Amenity Spaces (e.g. a small piece of green space with many informal uses)
- Equipped play areas for children and young people
- Allotments

The strategy has identified the following standards in terms of accessibility, quantity and quality for each type of open space:

Country Parks

Accessibility – to be accessible to all residents within a 20 minute drive time

Quantity – 4.07 hectares per 1,000 population

Quality criteria - a minimum of ten hectares in size, appropriately located for the local catchment, predominantly natural landscape, Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) access audit, toilets, café or visitors centre, play equipment, parking etc.

Urban Parks

Accessibility – to be accessible to all residents living in Major and Minor Settlements within a 15 minute walk time and a 20 minute drive time for residents living in Large and Small Villages

Quantity – 0.22 hectares per 1,000 population (Major Service Centres only) and 0.39 hectares per population (minor towns where required)

Quality criteria - a minimum of five hectares in size, appropriately located for the local catchment, offering a range of activities and events, landscaped with ornamental planting which reflects the character / history of the local area/town, toilets, refreshments, seating, play facilities and lighting etc.

Large Formal Recreation Areas

Accessibility – to be accessible to residents within a 10 minute walk time for major settlements or a 10 minute drive time for small villages

Quantity – 1.16 hectares per 1,000 population

Quality criteria - approximately one hectare in size, appropriately located for the local catchment, formal recreation area offering a variety of facilities for different age groups such as formal sports facilities, play provision, Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant access, parking etc.

Small Amenity Spaces

Accessibility – to be accessible to all residents within a 5 minute walk

Quantity – 0.58 hectares per 1,000 population

Quality criteria - a minimum of 0.2 hectares in size of functional recreation space, appropriately located for the local catchment, seating, signage, safe paths, no formal facilities.

Children's Play

Accessibility – to be accessible to all residents within a 10 minute walk

Quantity – 0.11 hectares per 1,000 population

Quality criteria - appropriately located for the local catchment, formal play facilities for a range of age groups to suit the location/size of site, seating, signage, fencing where appropriate, etc.

Facilities for Young People

Accessibility – to be accessible to all residents within a 10 minute walk

Quantity – 0.043 hectares per 1,000 population

Quality criteria - appropriately located for the local catchment, located to allow surveillance but not disturb residents, accessible by bicycle with storage, formal age-appropriate play/ recreation facilities, signage, Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) etc.

Allotments

Accessibility – to be accessible to all residents within a 10 minute walk

Quantity – 0.37 hectares per 1000 population / 15 plots per 1000 population

Quality criteria - approximately 0.25 hectares in size, (i.e. 10 standard sized plots) appropriately located for the local catchment, accessible via roads and paths, Disability

Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant access, parking, one shed per plot, mains water, toilet and washing facilities etc.

Informal Recreation Areas

Accessibility – to be accessible to residents within a 10 minute walk

Quantity – 2.36 hectares per 1,000 population

Quality criteria - appropriately located for the local catchment, predominantly natural space, links with rights of way network, Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant access, parking etc.

Chapter 3: Playing Pitch Strategy

Chapter 3 assessed the location, availability and quality of existing sports pitches and outdoor sports facilities (listed below) across Central Bedfordshire. It sought to identify all current users and potential users of pitches and sports facilities to understand their needs and aspirations, and it evaluated the respective requirements which will result from the planned growth in Central Bedfordshire's population.

- Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- Football
- Cricket
- Rugby
- Tennis
- Hockey
- Outdoor Bowls
- Athletics Tracks

The overarching priorities for the future delivery of sports pitch facilities across Central Bedfordshire are:

- Ensure that there are **enough facilities** to meet current and future demand
- Ensure that facilities are of **appropriate quality** to meet current and future demand
- Promote **increased participation and sustainable club development**

The conclusions and commitments for each type of pitch/playing field are summarised below.

Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)

While relative provision of artificial grass pitches (AGPs) in Central Bedfordshire is very low, most local residents can access a pitch within a reasonable time, often in adjacent local authority areas, consequently unmet demand is low. The forecast population increase will however, generate sufficient demand to justify one or two new AGPs to meet the needs of hockey and football in the future.

Football-specific AGPs: While modelling suggests that there is currently sufficient provision, there is justification for some additional provision to support the further development of the sport within large clubs, and growth may generate the need for additional AGPs.

The strategy proposes to:

- Protect all current AGPs
- Monitor growth and demand to identify future need

Football

Participation in football in Central Bedfordshire is above the national average for all types of football and many sites are at, or nearing capacity at peak times; there are also imbalances in the demand for junior and senior pitches. Population growth is predicted to significantly increase demand and generate an additional 6 adult teams, 47 junior teams and 41 mini teams.

The strategy proposes to:

- Protect all current playing fields
- Increase the amount of pitches available and support clubs to find home venues
- Secure formal agreements for the use of school sites
- Create new pitches linked with new developments
- Support football development
- Ensure clubs have access to good quality facilities (i.e. changing rooms, toilets)
- Maintain the existing football forums

Cricket

Analysis suggests that there are currently sufficient pitches overall, although supply and demand is particularly closely matched in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area.

This however, disguises site specific pressures and almost all clubs are at capacity on both Saturday and Sunday afternoon. In contrast, some other facilities are used much less frequently and have capacity for further clubs, however, these are largely of lower quality and may not be in locations where pressures are occurring.

The strategy proposes to:

- Protect all existing cricket grounds
- Ensure that the amount of cricket facilities does not restrict increased participation in the sport
- Encourage relationships between small and large clubs to maximise potential use of different sites
- Provide a new pitch for clubs at capacity where this represents a sustainable option for growth
- Develop links between schools and cricket clubs
- Any new facilities will be provided in conjunction with an existing club or in support of a new club
- Address quality issues to bring cricket grounds and pavilions up to standard
- Support cricket clubs to provide training nets
- Support long term sustainability of clubs by promoting succession planning

- Support initiatives which encourage participation (i.e. new forms of the game)

Rugby

Rugby League - existing participation in rugby league is limited with no teams based in Central Bedfordshire although there are several on the periphery. There is limited evidence of demand for rugby league pitches in Central Bedfordshire.

Rugby Union - participation in rugby is high in Central Bedfordshire. There are four clubs, all offering full transition between midi, junior and senior rugby. There have been clear increases in participation in recent years.

There are 44 rugby pitches across Central Bedfordshire and modelling reveals that when all pitches are considered, there are sufficient pitches to meet demand. The majority of pitches are however, at school sites and there is limited, if any, use of these by the clubs.

Club bases are particularly important for the growth and development of rugby. All four clubs in Central Bedfordshire own and manage their facilities and have security of tenure. Pitch usage analysis highlights that pitches are used between two and four times per week, taking into account training and matches, which is at the higher end of recommended levels.

The quality of pitches is high, although clubs identify some concerns and three of the four clubs identify the requirement to refurbish/ improve/ extend their club house facilities.

Population growth and the projected ageing population will impact on the number of additional teams that will be generated, however it is likely that population growth alone will see an increase of one adult rugby team, one junior rugby team and four midi rugby teams across Central Bedfordshire. Some clubs also have aspirations to increase their membership, generating further pressures on the existing facilities.

The strategy proposes to:

- Protect all existing rugby pitches
- Ensure that existing pitches can accommodate demand by addressing maintenance issues, improving social facilities and pavilions and providing floodlights
- Monitor rugby club growth and demand to identify increased use or participation requiring additional facilities
- Monitor demand for rugby league provision
- Support initiatives which encourage participation (i.e. new forms of the game)

Hockey

Hockey is almost exclusively played on artificial grass pitches (AGPs) and real grass pitches are largely obsolete for competitive forms of the game. There are currently 12 AGPs in Central Bedfordshire, but only two are suitable for hockey. The two hockey

clubs in Central Bedfordshire run a total of 18 adult teams, but clubs have to access pitches and training facilities outside Central Bedfordshire.

Despite significant recent increases in participation, the current and potential playing profile of the area is relatively limited, with hockey likely to attract less than 1% of residents of Central Bedfordshire. Total demand for hockey pitches is equivalent to 1.7 pitches across Central Bedfordshire, meaning that the current stock is sufficient.

The significant population growth predicted will have minimal impact on the demand for hockey with no additional teams being created.

The strategy proposes to:

- Ensure that the surfaces currently used are retained as APGs
- Maintain the quality of existing APGs, ensuring facilities are refurbished every ten years
- Monitor club activity and demand
- Work with providers of APGs to ensure access for hockey clubs is prioritised
- Support the provision of on-site club houses and changing rooms to encourage club development; this could involve sharing with other sports and use of school sites
- Support initiatives which encourage participation (i.e. new forms of the game)

Outdoor Bowls

There are currently 19 bowling greens across Central Bedfordshire. Provision is highest in the north (particularly to the east) and lowest in Leighton Buzzard and the Rural South of Central Bedfordshire.

Analysis of capacity of existing facilities suggests that all clubs are able to accommodate additional members, and there is scope to accommodate more teams on most greens.

The current membership of bowls clubs in Central Bedfordshire represents 2.3% of residents over 60 years. In contrast to pitch sports, bowls may become more popular in future years due to the ageing population. While overall provision is currently sufficient, regardless of current capacity, it should be noted that residents expect these facilities to be local to their home (on average, 55% of members live within one mile of their club) and many residents are outside of this distance to a current facility.

The strategy proposes to:

- Protect all current bowling greens
- Any new bowling greens will need to be further than 1 mile from an existing green
- Maintain and where necessary improve the quality and consistency of existing bowling greens
- Monitor club activity and demand
- Support clubs to proactively increase participation and membership, particularly junior players

Tennis

There are currently 15 tennis clubs in Central Bedfordshire, with a total of 75 courts located at 28 sites and approximately half of these are floodlit. With more than half of all courts in the major towns, most residents in larger settlements have access to at least one tennis court within a five mile radius. Provision in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area is however much lower.

There is currently a shortfall in provision. Despite this, there are sufficient courts at all clubs to meet the needs of current membership, with only Studham Tennis Club, Barton Le Clay Tennis Club and Langford Tennis Club approaching their capacity.

The quality of court surface and changing accommodation are the issues most in need of attention. Several clubs believe that the quality issues at both club and public facilities will inhibit the overall development of tennis in both the short and long term.

Population growth alone could be accommodated within existing club structures (where there is a total capacity for up to 1,000 more members) although some clubs are approaching capacity and may require additional courts if growth is focused in their area.

The strategy proposes to:

- Support the provision of new facilities at clubs where need can be identified. In the first instance, additional capacity should be created by adding floodlights to courts. Longer term and following population growth, new courts may be required at some clubs
- Support additional demand for tennis courts through a partnership approach with schools where there is demand for tennis courts in areas not currently within five miles of such facilities. Demand for pay and play tennis should be considered in line with the Beacon Tennis Scheme, established by the LTA
- Address quality issues (floodlights, court coverings, surfaces, pavilions and changing facilities) at club sites, prioritising areas where club development is limited by quality issues
- Support initiatives which encourage participation (i.e. new forms of the game)

Athletics Track

There is one athletics track in Central Bedfordshire at Sandy Sports and Community Centre. The track is floodlit and available on a pay and play basis and is of County standard. Within a 40 minute drive of Central Bedfordshire there are seven pay and play tracks, in addition to which a number of schools in the area mark out grass athletics tracks in the summer months. Evidence suggest that across Central Bedfordshire there are 5870 people who would like to participate in athletics but do not currently do so. This is a relatively high quantity and suggests that there are opportunities to increase the number of people participating. It also indicates that housing growth will likely increase demand.

The Playing Pitch Strategy identifies the current provision of athletics facilities in Central Bedfordshire and through emerging consultation the English Athletics Association, has identified the likely key issues for athletics in the area. Further investigations with England Athletics and local clubs are ongoing to determine future requirements.

Have your say

The Council is consulting on Chapters 1, 2 and 3 of the Leisure Strategy for six weeks between Tuesday 1st October 2013 and Friday 8th November 2013.

This document provides a summary of the Leisure Strategy chapters but you can read the full strategies, associated documents and have your say online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations. Alternatively, paper copies will be available in libraries and leisure centres across Central Bedfordshire.

After the consultation, once we have taken account of your feedback, a final Leisure Strategy will be prepared for consideration by the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2014, and then the council's Executive in March 2014.

Contact us...

by telephone: 0300 300 8000

by email: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

on the web: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations

Write to: Licensing, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

Sandy Town Council

6 **Trees at Bedford Road Recreation Ground Clerk's Report**

Following Sandy Town Council's decision on 23 September 2013 that the trees in Bedford Road Recreation Ground continue to be monitored by the Town Council staff and that the planning section of Central Bedfordshire Council is contacted in 2015 to ask them to arrange for an inspection of the trees, a resident of Bedford Road has now asked the Central Bedfordshire Tree and Landscape Officer, Pat Longland to further inspect one tree in particular which is blocking light to her garden and overhanging her property at 19 Albion Court. Following this inspection the officer has slightly modified his advice and in an email to the resident following the inspection the Tree and Landscape officer wrote:

"The trees are covered by Preservation Order and any work would require an application. The tree immediately behind the property is a Lime tree which is encroaching over your rear garden and causing shading issues.

I would suggest that as discussed it would be an acceptable level of work if all epicormic growth on the main stem and into the crown to a height of 5 metres was removed. The three or four limbs that encroach over the garden have been shortened back in the past and work to reduce these back to the previous reduction points would also be acceptable.

As this work is not all within your own property boundaries it would require the permission of the tree owners, Sandy Town Council. As we discussed it would not matter whether the application was put in by yourself or Sandy TC either would be acceptable."

As the Tree and Landscape Officer has advised that this reduced work would not be detrimental to the tree the Clerk recommends that members now consider giving permission for this work to be completed by a suitable contractor (three have been recommended by CBC) at the resident's own expense provided that a TPO application is made to CBC by her and approved in the usual way. This action is compatible with council's own tree maintenance policy and its previous decision.

Members are asked to consider granting permission in principle for this work as recommended.

Sandy Town Council

8 Community Orchard at Beeston Clerk's Report

On 31 July 2013 Sandy Town Council resolved to enter into negotiations with Central Bedfordshire Council to acquire land in Beeston, recognising that some costs will be incurred, with a view to subsequently devolving the management of the site to another group for a Community Orchard and other community purposes.

Progress with this project has been delayed but recently the Town Clerk attended a meeting in Beeston with representatives of Beeston Conservation and Wildlife P3 Group, Beeston Open Gardens, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, Bedfordshire And Luton Orchard Group and Central Bedfordshire Council with a view to progressing the project. A draft report statement is attached which is very much a work in progress. It is envisaged that the land would be leased by Sandy Town Council from Central Bedfordshire and management of the site would be entirely devolved to a "Friends of Beeston Orchard" Group with assistance from partners.

As in a previous report to Council (July 2013) members are reminded that the next steps in taking this project forward include:

- 1 STC to write a business case laying out the proposal and demonstrating viability
- 2 CBC carry out an Options Appraisal internally
- 3 CBC Executive Member approves one of the options

if the preferred option is to proceed with the lease to STC -

- 4 CBC Assets team and STC undertake lease negotiations
- 5 Legal representatives for each party draw up the lease for signature

The costs to the Town Council will consist primarily of legal fees and staff time in drawing up and agreeing the lease and assisting with the necessary community development work although it has been agreed that this will be led by Central Bedfordshire Council. A planning application will also be necessary. These costs should be included in the 2014/15 budget if the Council is still minded to proceed as previously indicated. It is difficult to be precise about the costs of negotiating the lease as a great deal depends on the complexity of the lease and the position of the two parties but a minimum sum of £1000 should be anticipated.

Members are asked to recommend to Town Council that the project is included in the 2014/15 budget and that officers are authorised to continue work on this project.

Beeston Orchard – A Community Space for All

A joint partnership project between:

Beeston Conservation and Wildlife P3 Group
Beeston Open Gardens
Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC)
Bedfordshire and Luton Orchard Group (BLOG)
Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC)
Sandy Town Council

The village of Beeston sits in east Bedfordshire adjacent to the A1 and is part of the Town Parish of Sandy. The village has a long history and was mentioned in the Domesday Book, currently there are . . . residents. Beeston Green forms a very distinct part of the village landscape being an area of Registered Common land and with a cluster of houses and cottages of differing ages and styles set around it.

Between the Green and the A1 is an area of land of approximately. . . ha (. . . acres) of rough grassland surrounded by mixed old hedgerows and trees (mainly ash, sycamore and hawthorn) and with a scattering of old varieties of apple and pear trees. This land is owned by CBC and it is proposed to develop this area into a community orchard with new plantings of local Bedfordshire fruit varieties, a wildflower meadow, an educational area for children and a place to sit for quiet enjoyment and relaxation (see map).

It is envisaged that the area will be managed for all to enjoy, learn from, manage and care for as it develops. The aim would be to encourage, not just the local village community, but people from Sandy and further afield to appreciate, understand and enjoy orchards, their history, heritage, biodiversity and conservation.

CONSULTATION

There will be consultation within Beeston (and Sandy?) with local communities, schools and special interest groups to ascertain the design, elements, tree/shrub species and layout of the orchard.

PLANTING

Trees will be selected for their appropriateness as native fruit trees specific to the locality, ascertained through historical research. Varieties will be sourced from a appropriate supplier (ie; EEAOP, CTT or Bernwode Fruit Trees). Planting could be done as a community event/ with local people/local schools and used as an educational activity to promote correct tree planting and aftercare (stakes/ties/watering/mulching etc). Trees will be labelled, using permanent labels, to identify varieties for visitors/users and others in the future.

As an integral component it is envisaged that a wildflower meadow, using native species (of preferable local provenance) will be planted on part of the site.

Pond constructed with dipping platform?

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

A series of training courses could be run on tree aftercare and pruning, as the trees develop. Courses on orchard biodiversity/management and increasing biodiversity. EEAOP and/or local people could run these.

Workshops making bird/bat boxes and insect houses.

As an additional project it is proposed that we develop an educational area within the orchard where visiting schools can learn about fruit trees and orchards in general; their management, biodiversity, heritage and production of produce.

Awareness of fruit tree diseases and pests, and their control, could also form a training element.

MANAGEMENT

The orchard in general will be managed by the local community with help and assistance from partners. Training and tools could be provided by CBC's P3 scheme. General management ie; mowing grassland, hedge trimming etc can be carried out by trained volunteers alongside more specialised tasks such as tree pruning and shaping.

Any collected fruit could be used locally for juicing or in cooking. Communal activities around sharing recipes.

Promotion of traditional orchard folklore ie; Morris dancing/Wassailing/Mummer's plays etc.

In future – could hold a regular, annual, 'Apple Day' at the site.

Steve Halton

October 2013

DRAFT

Sandy Town Council

9 No Cold Calling Zone

Clerk's Report

Earlier this year Sandy Neighbourhood Watch approached Central Bedfordshire's Trading Standards team with a view to purchasing additional No Cold Calling Zone signs to be introduced to Sandy within the existing NCCZ, predominantly around the area of St Neots Road and Engayne Avenue although exact locations are not known. Cllr Lynch was involved in the application and advised the Town Clerk that he was acting in his capacity as Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for the Pinnacle Ward not as a Town Councillor.

The cost of the signs is £30 per unit or £50 per unit installed. The signs are expensive because they are now made of metal and for this reason there is a genuine risk of metal theft. Sandy Neighbourhood Watch submitted an application to Sandy Community First for 10 signs at a total cost of £500. The Town Clerk attended the panel meeting to express concern firstly that the Town Council had not been consulted about the location or distribution of the signs and whether they were needed across the whole town rather than in just one ward, secondly that members of the public and members of council had expressed some mixed views about the value of the NCCZ and finally to suggest that alternative sources of funding could also be considered. The Town Clerk had also consulted CBC and been advised that signs would not be located in Sandy without prior consultation with the Town Council in any event. Sandy Community First voted not to fund the signs and the Town Clerk agreed to put forward the matter for consideration at Town Council. Bedfordshire Neighbourhood Watch has submitted a request to CBC Trading Standards to consider production of a cheaper plastic sign.

Since the application was made at Community First CBC has been advised that Cllr Lynch still wishes to purchase the signs and the Town Clerk has been asked to obtain Council's view about the appropriate location of the signs.

Members are asked to express their views about where additional NCCZ signs are most needed in Sandy.

Sandy Town Council

12 The Riddy and The Pinnacle

Attached are minutes and reports from officers following a meeting held on 9 October 2013.

Members are invited to approve the continuation of the Riddy Management agreement on the terms shown and to approve the estimates for the Pinnacle Management agreement for the year 2014/15. Once agreed these figures should be included in the estimates process for the coming year.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Riddy and Pinnacle meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 2013 at 9.30 am in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy.

PRESENT

Cllr D Sharman, Mr A Fleckney, Mr R Lawrence (Ivel and Ouse Countryside) Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk.

1. Apologies: Nancy Reed (Wildlife Trust) and Mr N Kiddy (Grazing Officer for the Wildlife Trust).

2. Minutes of the meeting of The Riddy and Pinnacle Management Sub-Committee held on 18th October 2012.

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Riddy and Pinnacle Management Sub-Committee held on the 18th October 2012 were a correct record.

3. Matters Arising, the Riddy

(a) Fence repairs

Mr Lawrence advised that fencing quotes are being obtained to repair the fence by the Riddy ditch, he also advised that the work to complete the fence repairs will be completed at no expense to the Town Council as funding had been gained.

4. Quarterly reports from Beds RCC concerning the Riddy

Copy attached.

5. Ragwort and Thistle problems

That the BRCC had pulled and burnt the ragwort earlier in the year to prevent harm to the cattle and seeding and that ragwort rosettes were present and these will need pulling next year.

6. Riddy Agreement – Six Month Review

The agreement was reviewed.

7. Riddy Agreement 2014/15

The agreement was discussed.

Copy of the proposed Riddy agreement for 2014/15 is attached.

8. Annual Estimates – 2014/15, Riddy

The Wildlife Trust has requested that the Riddy management agreement for 2014/15 be increased by 3.0% from £5863.25 to £6039.15.

The Wildlife Trust requested that £500 the same as last year be put forward to the Estimates process for contingency.

Andy Fleckney and the Town Clerk left the meeting.

9. Matters Arising, the Pinnacle

Included in the warden's report.

10. Warden's report

Copy of the warden's report attached.

11. Annual Estimates – 2014/15, Pinnacle

Mr Lawrence asked that the annual budget for the Management Agreement of £3,200 remains the same for 2014/15 as it was in 2013/14.

12. Date and time of next meeting

8th October 2014 at 9.45am.

Activities on the Riddy 2013. BRCC

Weekly site visits.

The site is visited weekly on random days (including occasional weekend and evening visits). Each visit takes about 2 hours and involves checking the site boundaries, structures and once a fortnight checking the mink raft. Any works requiring attention are attended to immediately if possible. Where this is not possible they are attended to as soon as possible if presenting a hazard to people, wildlife or livestock or on a subsequent site visit if non urgent.

Ragwort pulling.

In total 4 Ragwort pulling and burning tasks were held on site including one joint WT/BRCC task. We managed to get sufficiently on top of the species this year to allow the Girtford side to be grazed.

Himalayan Balsam was pulled on an ad-hoc basis during June, July and August.

The remnants of vegetation cut by the IDB (consisting of large branches from trees on the adjacent road verge) were burned during the combined WT/BRCC task.

Mink raft checking and mink trapping.

The mink raft is checked at least once a fortnight and on additional occasions by a volunteer from Beeston. There has been no evidence of mink on the Riddy this year but the raft has been much used by Water Voles. The raft is becoming worn out and may require replacing over the winter

Notwithstanding the lack of mink capture the Water Vole continue to be present.

Litter removal

Litter is removed as seen during site visits and in general is not a great problem over much of the site although some anglers leave some litter and abandoned tackle which is removed where possible safely.

The worst area for litter continues to be the ditch alongside the A1 slip road where it is once again slowly building up and is usually beyond the scope of the Warden to remove. The ditch was cleared out by the IDB but much of the litter was left on site between the fence and ditch and found its way back in.

Fence Maintenance

Fence repairs were undertaken by a contractor. The 2013 annual fence check is due now.

Grazing

This has continued using a mixed herd of Redpolls and other cattle from spring until late autumn with variable numbers of animals. The cattle were put on site earlier than expected and earlier than the HLS agreement specified. This may well have had a deleterious affect on some of the plants found on site but should not be too bad if it does not happen again.

Wildlife monitoring

A terrapin, probably a Yellow Bellied Slider was noted using the Ivel but seemed to stay firmly on the far side of the river. It will continue to be monitored but is not expected to persist on site over the winter.

Other

A large bank side Willow has partly collapsed into the river. This was one of the trees identified in the HLS for work by June 2014 and a contractor will be brought in to do the work over the winter.

The Wildlife Trust
The Visitor Centre
Priory Country Park
Barkers Lane
Bedford MK41 9DJ
Tel: 01234 364213
bedfordshire@wildlifebcnp.org

The Riddy Local Nature Reserve

One-Year Agreement with Sandy Town Council (To be reviewed after 6 months)

Wardening:

- Employing the Beds Rural Communities Charity to provide a part time warden on the basis of £4529.38 per annum. This equates to 18 days per year on reserve related work.
- Supervision and support by Wildlife Trust staff on the basis of £1509.77 per annum. This equates to 6 day per year.

Wardens role to include:

- Regular visits to inspect integrity of site and estate furniture.
- Liaison with fishing club
- Liaison with the grazier to ensure compliance with the grazing licence.
- Carry out work in the Higher Level Stewardship Agreement.
- Supervise groups of volunteers (paid or unpaid) carrying out work on The Riddy. Also to recruit and organise local volunteers.
- Supervise contractors, where appropriate.
- To organise, promote and run guided walks, give talks etc to interested parties to attract more visitors especially Schools and walks
- Litter removal to ensure that The Riddy remains in a wholesome state.
- Liaison with Town Clerk and local people.
- Produce a joint six monthly report with the Wildlife Trust for the Management Committee at the end of September and March and to attend Committee meetings.
- Biological monitoring, to feed back into management plan, to increase knowledge of the site.
- Work to management plan prescriptions and annual work plan under supervision of the Wildlife Trust Reserves Manager.

Role of Wildlife Trust:

- Mainly supervisory and support/training.
- Liaison with the grazier to ensure compliance with the grazing licence.
- In conjunction with the Warden, to ensure compliance with the Higher Level Stewardship Agreement.
- Site visits/maintenance as required.
- Produce a joint six monthly report with the Warden for the Management Committee at the end of September and March and to attend Committee meetings.

Role of Town Council:

- Call meetings of the Management Committee of the Town Council, Wildlife Trust, the Warden and other interested parties at least once per year in October, or more frequently if required.
- Call site meetings of the Management Committee of the Town Council, Wildlife Trust, the Warden and other interested parties at least once per year in June, or more frequently if required.

Summary Costs for The Riddy:

Employ BRCC	£4529.38
Supervision etc. by Wildlife Trust	£1509.77
TOTAL (YEAR 1) (1/4/14 31/3/15)	£6039.15

Signed on behalf of the Wildlife Trust: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

Signed on behalf of Sandy Town Council: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

Warden's Report. Sandy Pinnacle and Recreation Ground 2012/13

Safety

Hung up dead trees over paths were cut, pulled or winched down and made safe. Other hung up dead trees have been left in place if they do not present a risk to the paths. Contractors were brought in to deal with a particularly large oak branch.

Scrub and tree clearance

Elm saplings were removed from an area of re-growth adjacent to the open grassland area of the pinnacle. This grassland area is regenerating well.

Brambles have been controlled adjacent to paths on a regular basis to allow continued safe passage.

Rabbit infestation

Whilst there continues to be high numbers of rabbits present and they maintain a very short sward on site they are not currently at numbers that are causing damage.

Erosion Control

The check dams remain in place and have vegetated well consolidating them in place and adding to their effectiveness. One was burned during early 2012 but was quickly replaced and has vegetated over once again so remains functional.



A check dam that has re-grown following an arson attack



A check dam created in 2004



The same area in 2013

The areas that were filled with soil from the cemetery have vegetated well although digging dogs remain a problem.



Re-soiled area with dog diggings at the edge.

Steps continue to be repaired as and when they deteriorate and extra steps are periodically added to areas that appear to need them.



Oak Gully

The deep gully leading down past the old burned oak has begun to vegetate over now that the oak is no-longer providing a draw to people.

Sit users

Motorbike tracks were found throughout the site on a couple of occasions but no bikers were encountered. This is an on-going minor issue and will continue to be monitored.

Wood theft continues from the site and it seems to have escalated from removal of timber already cut by ourselves and placed near the entrance to people actively felling trees and removing branches. The police have been notified and signs erected. I spoke to one person seen carrying deadwood to his car which was parked next to the site entrance gate who claimed not to realise he was doing anything wrong but was actually collecting fallen wood from the track side and not on site so probably beyond our jurisdiction.

Several people praised the volunteers for their hard work whilst we were on site.

Ragwort

Whilst there was extensive Ragwort growth on the summit of the pinnacle and rather less on the recreation ground this year it was decided not to go to the time and expense of removing it as there is no grazing on site or within over 200m meaning that removal is unnecessary. (Ragwort provides an important nectar source for invertebrates.)