

Sandy Town Council

2018/19

Annual Report



Introduction

The Annual Report informs readers what Sandy Town Council has done over the past year, a summary of its budgets, details of Council Members and the wards they represent. The report is based on the financial year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019; however, it may also include information based on the Civic year which covers the period May 2018 to April 2019.

The Council welcomes any views on this report and on the services provided by the Town Council. Members of the public are also invited to attend every Council meeting to ask questions, make comments and raise matters of local interest during the public session.

Mayor's Report

On behalf of Sandy Town Council, it is my pleasure to introduce the Annual report for residents of Sandy and Beeston after another very busy and challenging year.

2018 was a particularly poignant year as it marked 100 years since the end of WW1 and Sandy Town Council marked this significant date in a number of ways. In November the community came together to pay its respects and commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1. A series of WW1 talks organised by the Town Council proved popular and residents of Sandy showed their support by donating towards the Town Council's lamppost Poppy appeal, which raised over £500 for the poppy appeal charity. The lamppost poppies were so well received that the Council has agreed to repeat these in 2019. These commemorative events were the result of hard work by a number of organisations and I strongly believe that partnerships are key to the future success of our town. Going forward Sandy Town Council shall continue to build relationships at local and national levels to ensure Sandy's interests are clearly heard.



Regular quarterly meetings continue -- attended by me as Mayor, the Deputy Mayor -- Cllr Martin Pettitt, and the Town Clerk -- with our three CBC Councillors so that we are all working together for the benefit of our community. It has been particularly pleasing to see the advancement of improvements to the Winchester Road area following the joined-up work of Central Bedfordshire Council and Grand Union Housing, which the Council is pleased to actively support.

In 2017/18 the Council spent a lot of time inputting into Central Bedfordshire Council's Local Plan process and developing its own Community Plan. During the last year the Council has been faced with several other strategic decisions by different organisations which it has sought to influence on behalf of Sandy. Recently the Council engaged with the East West Rail Link consultations and stressed the importance of keeping a station in Sandy and prioritising improvements that could be brought to our existing station. The Town Council will continue to make sure Sandy's voice is heard on this important matter.

The lack of action on issues around the A1 continues to frustrate Members of the Council and this has been a matter we have continued to push for action on from our M.P Rt Hon. Alistair Burt, Highways England and the Department for Transport. As a Council we are currently focusing on the proposed average speed camera scheme and pushing for this and other safety measures to be implemented.

In last year's Annual Report, we reported on the community stand which was to come forward as part of Central Bedfordshire Council's High Street improvement scheme. Work on the stand has now started and is due to be finished by the end of June 2019. The stand, which will have electricity, will be available for use by community groups, musicians, entertainers, charities and can be utilised to support events in the town centre. The Town Council's Events Working Group will be looking at the best way of utilising this facility to help add more buzz to Sandy's town centre.

The Mayor's charity fund this year has been to support organisations in the town who do splendid work. Over £2,000 has been raised and may I personally thank all those who have attended the Mayor's Charity events or made donations or supported the events in any way – it is truly appreciated. The Mayor's charity has funded the installation of a new defibrillator located at Beeston Green.

During 2018 the Council Sadly lost Cllr David Sharman, who passed away in August. Cllr Sharman was a dedicated Councillor who cared passionately about Sandy and its future, he had a particular interest in nature and conservation, particularly in relation to the Riddy Nature Reserve. Councillor Sharman's advice and approach to Council matters will be greatly missed.

Three Councillors did not seek re-election in the May 2019 elections, their hard work and effort over the 2018/19 Council year and the life of the last Council was greatly appreciated and helped progress many matters.

I would like to finish by expressing my thanks, to all the organisations for the warm welcome that myself and my wife have received when we visited them, and we thank each organisation for their kind invitations and hospitality.

Councillor Michael Scott
Mayor of Sandy Town Council (2018-2019)

On 11 November 2018 the Sandy Community commemorated the end of WW1, in an event organised by the Town Council, Royal British Legion and the Sandy Parish Church, as part of the nation's tribute. The service included hymns, WW1 Poems, Soldier's letters, Beacon Lighting and Community Singing.



In 2018/19 Sandy Town Council hosted a number of talks on WW1 at the Council offices that were well attended. Talks included stories about the Bedfordshire Regiment, the story of Lieutenant Walter Graves of Sandye Place and some of the stories hidden in the Sandy War Memorial. The talks formed part of Sandy Town Council's efforts to mark the 'Battle's Over' event.

Sandy Town Council commemorated 100 years since the end of WW1 by displaying poppies through the town centre as an act of community remembrance of those who fought in the war.

Many residents and businesses supported this act of remembrance by sponsoring poppies. Their messages of remembrance were available to view on the Council website.



The walking route of the Sandy Green Wheel was launched on 16 September 2018. The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Martin Pettitt, cut the ribbon to mark the official opening of the new route. The Green Wheel forms a linked loop of publicly-accessible green spaces and paths. The 'wheel' is formed of a 'rim' of connected paths supported by 'spokes' of linear paths and sections leading from the towns and villages out to the 'rim' and the wider surrounding countryside.

In 2018 The Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights group became separate from the Council and registered as a charity. Sandy Town Council worked closely with the group to ensure the 2018 Christmas Lights event was a success and will continue to work closely with them in the future to make sure this popular annual event continues and that its success grows each year. The Town Council provides the town's lights and will be bringing in a new light scheme for Christmas 2019.



In January 2019 the East West Rail company launched its consultation about proposed routes for the Bedford to Cambridge section of the East West Rail Line. Sandy Town Council engaged with the consultation and supports the line coming through Sandy as it will bring opportunities for the Town, however, the Council will not support a route that leads to the closure of the current station.

Community use of leisure facilities at Sandy Secondary School came under threat of closure this year, causing much concern and worry for residents of Sandy. Sandy Town Council has worked closely with, and will continue to work closely with, the various parties involved to keep the facility open. CBC have stated that there are no imminent changes to the services offered for the foreseeable future.





Sandy Town Council were saddened to hear of the proposed closure of Sandye Place Academy due to a recent re-organisation of the education system in Sandy. Sandy Town Council do not wish that this historically and strategically important site be lost and strongly believe it can be of large benefit to the community. The Council will continue to work with and put pressure on Central Bedfordshire Council to secure the future of this facility.

The Town Council supported and assisted with the Sandy Historical Research Groups successful application to have Sandye Place recognised as an asset of community value (ACV). An ACV is land or property of importance to a local community which is subject to additional protection under the Localism Act 2011.



Exciting new play opportunities have come to Sandy's play parks following a review by Central Bedfordshire Council and Sandy Town Council. A survey of the town's play areas identified missing play elements or equipment that needed to be updated or changed. The Town Council has worked with a play park provider to bring forward new equipment to improve and enhance play for children. The Council secured approximately £150,000 in funding from Section 106 to support the project. The new play equipment has now been installed.

During the last year the Council helped secure much needed grant funding for the replacement of the Sandy Scout hut roof. The funds were sourced from Section 106 held by Central Bedfordshire Council and provided for the roof of the hut to be replacement for the benefit of numerous community groups that use the facility.



The Council have been pleased to support the work of Central Bedfordshire Ward Councillors and have a representative work alongside them and officers of Central Bedfordshire Council on the proposed improvements to parking around the Winchester Road area.



The Mayor of Sandy worked with Trustees of the Sandy Chamber of Trade to install a new town centre flag pole at Faynes corner. The flag pole was generously funded by the Sandy Chamber of Trade, ensuring the town can visibly mark important dates of local and national significance.

Sandy Town Council supported the annual Great British Spring Clean again in 2019. This year several community groups came forward to borrow litter picks from the Council so they could help keep areas of our town litter free. The Council has invested in more litter picks so we can continue to support this worthwhile national campaign.



The Council

Sandy Town Council exists to serve and represent the interests of the whole community of Sandy and to work for provision of services for its residents. Sandy Town Council will work with organisations or people willing to improve the well-being and prospects of the community.

The Council has had a full schedule of meetings including:

11 Full Council Meetings

16 Development Scrutiny Committee Meetings

9 Policy, Finance and Resources Committee Meetings

6 Community Services and Environment Committee Meetings

5 Human Resources Committee Meetings

These meetings were the forum for detailed discussion and strategic decision making. Members of the public attended many meetings and this is always welcome and leads to much more informed decisions being taken.

Members have acted as representatives on a number of outside bodies:

Talk of the Town Transport Committee

Sandy Walkers are Welcome

Sandy Village Hall Management Committee

Sandy Carnival Committee

Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights

Sandy Twinning Association

Sandy Chamber of Trade

Sandy Sports and Leisure Association

SG19 Road Safety Group

Sandy Green Wheel Group

22 Squadron Air Training Corps Civilian Committee

Sandy Community Children's Centre

Sandy Charities

The Council Chamber



Policy, Finance and Resources Committee

Chaired by Councillor C Osborne

The Town Council's Policy, Finance and Resources Committee is authorised by the Full Council to take responsibility for the preparation of the Council's annual budget and precept, ensuring the Council has sufficiently budgeted for its operations, the implementation of an annual grants system, review of the longer term financial strategy of the Council, the review and approval of Council policy and procedures, and monitoring and scrutinising of the budget.

Policy, Finance and Resources Chairman's Report

Budget and Precept

In common with many other Town and Parish Councils in England, Sandy Town Councillors had to make the difficult decision to raise the local precept by 3.1% for the 2019/20 financial year. This is equivalent to £4.36p (or less than 9p per week) per Band D property. The increase continues to be less than previous years as the Council works hard towards achieving best value and making effective savings.

All aspects of the Council's budget were scrutinised over three meetings to reduce costs and make efficiency savings where possible whilst ensuring that its core functions are adequately resourced.

The major issues which account for a growth in spending included increases linked to leases, service contracts and utilities to which the Council was committed. In addition, the Council has had to increase its streetlight repairs and maintenance budgets again due to costs resulting from damaged lighting and to continue its gradual conversion to LED streetlighting. The Council agreed to continue to maintain its CCTV cameras coverage for the benefit of residents and businesses in the town.

Grants and Donations

The Council has maintained its grants budget and allowed for a small increase in 2019/20 for community events to ensure that these continue to run. During the year the Committee has approved grants totalling £3,941 to a variety of worthwhile organisations and community groups, all of which carry out valuable and important work within and around Sandy. A list of those bodies who received grants or donations can be found on page 18 of the Annual Report. As well as awarding a series of grants, the committee worked with the Scouts and the Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights to help support the Fireworks and Christmas Lights Switch on Event.

Cost Savings

The Council has continued to review its service contracts and renegotiate contracts where appropriate to ensure best value, while seeking reduced costs where possible. During this financial year, the Council has entered into new human resources and health and safety provider contracts, making a large saving in the current financial year and new IT and phone provision contracts will see a cost saving of 29% in the next financial year. Savings from previously renegotiated photocopier and printing contracts have resulted in a 18% budget reduction for the 2019/20 financial year.

During the next financial year, the committee will continue to look at other service contracts to seek further reductions in costs where possible.

Section 106

Section 106 (S106) is a planning obligation, a legal agreement between the planning authority, the developer and other interested parties. By law they must be: necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms, directly related to the development, fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development. The agreement can include the contribution of funds for use within the community. The Council recognises the importance of making sure Section 106 funds received from developers are invested back into Sandy and its community.

Last year the Council secured over £147,148 of funds for the improvement of play parks within the town. This work has been taking place on four sites during 2018/19. In addition, the Council worked with the Sandy Scouts to secure a further £40,000 of funds for urgent work required to the Scout hut roof. This work was completed during the summer of 2018.

Policies and Procedures

The Committee has continued to review its policies and procedures to ensure they are effective and up to date. This year the Council adopted new policies, with a focus on meeting requirements under the General Data Protection Regulations, including a data protection policy, privacy notice, internal controls procedure, information protection policy and information security incident policy.

The Council's policies are available to view on the Town Council website.



Community Services and Environment Committee

Chaired by Councillor S Sutton

The Community Services and Environment Committee has a wide remit to discuss issues related to open spaces, allotments, and the cemetery. The committee also reviews work required to footpaths, pavements, cycle-ways, roads, waterways, horticultural and arboriculture works, street furniture (seats, planters, waste bins), play areas, and play equipment.

Community Services and Environment Committee Report

Beeston Community Orchard and Allotment Land

We continue to work with officers at CBC to agree the Heads of Terms document as the first step to taking over the land that has been allocated for this project. We are disappointed that it has taken over a year to get to this step with long periods of delay in CBC progressing matters. We will continue to push for a resolution on signing over the land to STC in advance of the proposed housing development so that we can make a start on setting up the orchard/allotments. The Council have now approved the Heads of Terms and asked that a legal agreement be drawn up.

Cemetery Extension and Council Depot Building

The archaeological excavation was completed during the year and members of the public enjoyed a sunny weekend seeing the finds in-situ for themselves including the significant find of the northern wall of Roman Sandy being uncovered and a Saxon building in the bed of a long since dried up river running east/west across the site. All the finds and discoveries will be catalogued so we now have a fuller picture of the history of this area. Planning permission was granted for the new cemetery layout, car parking for visitors, public toilets and a new depot building which will be more in keeping with the surrounding area. The archaeological excavation was a required condition of the new cemetery planning permission and a full write up from the archaeological contractor will be forthcoming over the next year.

The building of the much-needed council depot building has begun and will be completed in the summer of 2019.

The Pinnacle Open Space

The 99-year lease for the land known as The Pinnacle and the Pinnacle Field came to an end during the last year. The Council leases this land from the landowner for the benefit of the community to ensure that this wonderful part of Sandy can be enjoyed by all. Following negotiations with the landowner a new 99-year lease has been agreed to secure ongoing community use of this valuable area.

Over the past two years the area has seen issues with damage following unauthorised encampments. An unauthorised encampment in July 2018 cost £1,848 as a result of enforcement action and clear up work. Councillors discussed greater protection of the area with the landowner and installed secure bollards with the help of local contractors. Going forward representatives of the Council will be working with the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, who warden the area, to review and develop the management plan for the Pinnacle.

Sandy Green Wheel

The 6-mile Green Wheel walking route around Sandy was officially opened in September and over 70 residents enjoyed a guided walk along the route. Sandy Town Council has pledged funds to support its further development for 2019/20 and actively take part in the planning and development of the route, via representatives on a joint working group with the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and Central Bedfordshire Council. Future works are to focus on upgrades of some sections and the creation of a joined-up cycle route. We expect works to take place to improve the path adjacent to the A603 following the installation of dropped kerbs and improvements to the riverside path to enable more cyclists to gain easy access.

It is likely that a Friends of Sandy Green Wheel Group will be established in 2019 to carry out regular audits and arrange local events and activities. Maps for the walk can be obtained from the Information Centre.

Public spaces and Play Areas

The new play equipment purchased with £147,000 S106 monies held by CBC has now been installed at Bedford Road, Sunderland Road, Beeston Green, the Limes Play area and Fallowfield Recreation Grounds. A much larger multi-play unit was installed at Bedford Road to replace an old unit, along with additional equipment and printed games. Some traditional swings were installed in Fallowfield and a new multi-play unit and additional items at Sunderland Road to replace the aging equipment which was becoming beyond economical repair.

Sandy WWI commemoration

November 2018 saw the last events of the commemorations which started in August 2014 with a 'Lights Out' commemoration at the War Memorial. A series of talks were organised about the Bedfordshire Regiment to commemorate the centenary of the Great War. The talks were given by Steve Fuller (local Bedfordshire Regiment Historian and Author) and ranged from "Operation Michael", The 1918 Spring Offensives, The seven Victoria Cross stories and the 100 Days Offensives. The last talk "We will



Cllr M Scott viewing a display by the Sandy RBL to commemorate those lost during WW1

remember them", featured every person listed on the Sandy War Memorial. Members of the public were given the opportunity to sponsor Lamppost poppies and due to the success of this initiative we were able to install these through the town along Bedford Road, Market Square and the High Street. The personal messages remembering the sacrifice of relatives and servicemen were published on the STC website. Due to public demand we will repeat this again in 2019. Many shops in the town centre created WW1 window displays and their efforts were acknowledged by the presentation of Certificates of Appreciation given out by the Mayor Cllr Michael Scott and Chairman of the Sandy Branch of the RBL Mr Roger Sparkes. The last events on 11th November 2018 were the Remembrance Parade and an open-air service on the Market Square set around the national activities of playing the Last Post, lighting a beacon and ringing of church bells signifying Battles Over. Letters and poems from soldiers were read by members of the 22nd (Sandy) Air Training Cadets and Sandy Detachment, Beds and Herts Cadet Force.

Community Events

As Chair of the Community Services committee I was delighted to be able to take the lead on the Council's Roman coin themed entry to St Swithun's Christmas Tree festival, alongside the Mayor Cllr Michael Scott and the Mayoress, his wife Lynda.

The committee has also tried to get specialised markets into the town. Although this has proved difficult, with some markets cancelling at late notice, we were pleased to grant permission for a monthly street food festival to run from April to September. The committee will continue to look for other ways in which to get more regular specialised markets into the town.

The Council again worked alongside the Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights group to arrange yet another successful Christmas light switch on event, an event which improves year on year.

Finally, in March and April 2019 the Council supported the national Great British Spring Clean and was delighted to work with several community groups to arrange local litter picking events, as well as the Council's own event.

Community Litter Picking



New Council Depot



New Play Equipment



Development Scrutiny Committee

Chaired by Councillor P Sharman

This committee has three key roles: it reviews every planning application, considers tree applications, and takes part in various district and regional consultations where they may impact on Sandy. The Town Council is a statutory consultee and reviews all planning applications and advises CBC should they not meet local requirements and aspirations. However, it should be noted that Central Bedfordshire Council makes the final decision on all planning applications and does not always agree with the Town Council's comments.

Development Scrutiny Committee Report

Sandy Town Council Planning Process

Sandy Town Council (STC) is not a planning authority and has no direct powers to control the development of the town. Planning applications in Sandy are decided by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) which is the local authority empowered by law to exercise statutory town planning functions as well as the Local Development Framework and the key local planning policy documents which affect Sandy.

STC is entitled to see almost all planning applications received by CBC which pertain to Sandy Parish and to make comments on them which CBC should take into consideration when deciding whether to grant planning permission. There are a very few exceptions to this including for example applications which relate to agricultural buildings. This role is the responsibility of the Development Scrutiny (DS) Committee which consists of 10 members appointed annually at the Sandy Town Council Annual Meeting held each May and which has met on 16 occasions in the past year to respond to and comment upon around 80 planning applications. To effectively fulfil their role, to assist their understanding of particular applications and to aid decision making, members have made a number of important site visits during the past 12 months.

Members of the public with an interest in a particular application are encouraged to contact the Town Council to make their views known either in writing or to attend the DS Committee meeting when the matter is on the agenda to express them in person. In advance of any meeting of the DS Committee, both members and interested members of the public can and should try to make use of the wealth of information which can be accessed on the Planning section of the CBC website starting at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk and then following the links.

The members of DS also rely to a considerable extent on the background work undertaken by the administration team at STC in advance of each meeting of the committee for which they are always extremely grateful.

Working with other agencies

On other occasions during the year and along with the Town Clerk, members of DS have, met with agents and representatives of developers and applicants themselves in advance of and following formal meetings with a view to clarifying and seeking resolution to other outstanding issues.

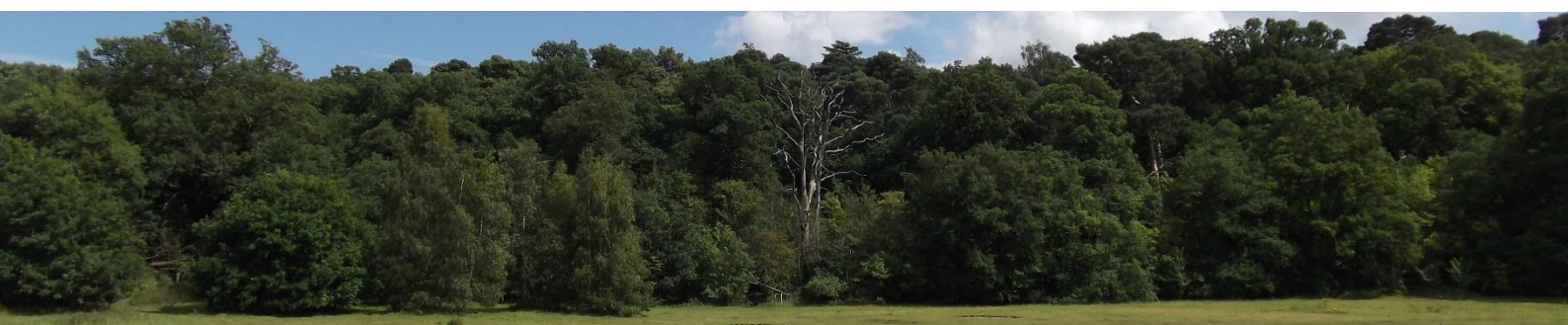
Planning Issues in Sandy & Beeston

Planning issues in and around Beeston have continued to figure regularly in the work of the DS Committee over the past twelve months and seem destined to do so for the foreseeable future. Last year the Council objected to a large residential development to the north of Fallowfield. While the Council recognises the value new developments and the financial contributions (S106) that result from them can bring to the town, it is important that developments are well planned, correctly located and contribute to an overall sustainable and well-planned future for the town. The development to the north of Fallowfield was rejected by CBC and is to be reviewed by the Secretary of State on appeal later in 2019.

Strategic Development

There continue to be several important and significant broader strategic issues which members of the DS Committee have continued to consider during the past year. Following CBC's launch of its new Local Plan, pressures keep growing for land to be made available for future development not only around Sandy but in the wider area. The plan is due to be examined by external inspectors in the summer 2019.

In addition therefore to its role set out above, with news still awaited regarding the precise route of the proposed new East West Rail link following the recent consultation, studies are still ongoing regarding the future of the A1 and the timetable for future proposed improvements regarding the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet it will be vital for this committee and indeed the Town Council as a whole, to remain diligent and to try to ensure there is co-ordinated planning to help influence the way Sandy develops during the decades to come.



Human Resources Committee

Chaired by Councillor M Hill

The Human Resources committee, which meets about four times a year, has the major responsibility of trying to ensure the smooth and effective running of the Council through its paid staff, who operate as the office and outdoor teams. The committee is responsible for performance management, team-building and training as well as opening hours and work schedules. We must also do what we can to ensure the work-life balance of all the staff is maintained.

Human Resources Committee Report

New Appointments

The past twelve months have again been a period of attempted consolidation and teambuilding, halted to some degree by unexpected staff changeover. The Council was sad to lose two employees during the year, who moved on to pursue opportunities elsewhere and closer to home. While it was disappointing to lose both members of staff in a relatively short period, they did make an impact at the Council, one by organising in particular the series of talks on World War 1 and the WW1 Battles Over event, which proved highly popular, and the other with his wide range of carpentry skills. However, the Council was pleased to welcome two new colleagues during the year, with Gavin Elliott-Turner joining the outdoor team and Katie Barker joining the administration team. Both members of staff have settled in well and importantly have brought new skills which complement the existing teams.

In recruiting for the new member of administration staff the Human Resources Committee deliberately delayed the advertisement until after the Christmas period and this appeared to pay dividends as we received over 20 applications from an array of impressive candidates. Following the interview process Miss Katie Barker, who lives in Sandy was appointed to the role. Katie comes to the council with a strong set of administration and people skills established in the private and university sectors.

Recruitment for the grounds staff role attracted fewer applicants, but those who applied for the role were extremely well qualified for what we were seeking, although not specifically in the fields we need. Mr Gavin Elliott-Turner was appointed and took up position in February 2019 and has settled down well into the position, already completing several important training courses.

Training and Qualifications

The committee has continued to monitor training for both staff and councillors and a sufficient training budget remains in place for the next financial year to ensure training can be available to all members of the Council team.

The Town Clerk, Mr Chris Robson attained the Certificate in Local Council Administration qualification, while two members of the Council administration team, Mrs Anne Elliott-Flockhart and Mrs Val McFarlane achieved certification in the Introduction to Local Council Administration course.

Staff have attended other training including on topics around the use of social media, planning regulations, General Data Protection Regulations and health and safety matters. The outdoor staff have had specialist equipment training which is required by their role and the office staff are increasingly being encouraged to take responsibility for projects and a more prominent role in Council sub-committees.

A number of training courses have been accessed by councillors, including on Charity Law, Village Greens and VAT. The committee has also spent time discussing the management of council meetings and the effectiveness of the current structure.

Future Developments

With the two latest pieces of the jigsaw now in place the overall staffing structure and office roles can continue to evolve in line with the skills and aptitudes of the individual staff. Office opening hours seem to be generally acceptable at present and we are putting more effort into improving the image of the Council through regular news features and better use of the Facebook page. Day-to-day efficiency is now of a high order and the paperwork for meetings likewise. We will continue to assess manageability of roles and the seemingly ever-increasing number of projects arriving on the doorstep.

It is frustrating for staff and councillors alike, as well as sections of the public, that so many important issues are held up with other authorities or organisations and there is little we can do about that. It is however pleasing to report that projects solely or largely under the Town Council's control such as tree maintenance, the play areas, street-lighting and the Beeston Green Management Plan have moved forward meaningfully.

The years ahead will present many challenges for Sandy as a town and its council staff in particular. East-West rail, the future of the A1, new housing developments, the future of leisure provision in the town and in particular the Sandye Place site. The Council's responsibilities may well grow, and the new Town Council may have to start considering, sooner rather than later, whether the structure we have in place at the moment is the right one to deliver on future developments, goals and ambitions.

View of Sandy High Street from St Swithuns Churchyard



Sandy Information Point



The Council's Reception and Information Point continues to provide information regarding local attractions, local walks, travel information, and also assistance and information about the locality to local residents.

The Council remains agents for Safford's Coaches, thus allowing local people to book day excursions within the office. A 'What's On' section is kept up to date on the Town Council webpage and posters are displayed in the Centre.

The Centre holds a supply of Central Bedfordshire Council's green garden bags, orange recycling bags, food bins and food waste bags for household waste, thus allowing residents to collect these locally. Recent figures show this is our most popular enquiry at the Information Point.

The Town Council continues to host visits from local schools to the Roman Sandy exhibition in the council offices as well as welcoming individual visitors to view the exhibits on display.

Town Council Services

Cemetery Management	Town Centre & Bedford Road Public Conveniences
Church Yard Maintenance	The Riddy Nature Reserve
Jenkins Pavilion & Sports Pitches	The Pinnacle Hill & Field
Floral Displays	Local Information Point
War Memorial	Roman Sandy Exhibition
Beeston Green	Public Open Spaces
Some Street Lighting and Furniture	Play Areas, including Fallowfield, Bedford Road, Sunderland Road, Beeston and the Limes
Christmas Lights	
CCTV	
Town Centre Car Park	

Sandy High Street



Community Grants and Donations

Every year the Town Council provides some funding for community groups and projects in the town. The Council has adopted a set of criteria which successful applications must meet and aims to support sustainable local projects that improve the quality of life for the residents of Sandy. The Council also makes donations to groups where appropriate.

In the financial year 2018/19 Sandy Town Council awarded grants or donations to:

Link a Ride Community Transport	£200.00
Keech Hospice Care	£200.00
CAB Bedfordshire	£250.00
Sandy Secondary School	£25.00
Sandy Good Neighbours	£390.00
Biggles FM	£300.00
St Johns Hospice	£100.00
The Poppy Appeal (<i>Result of lamppost poppy fundraising</i>)	£560.00
Total	£2,025.00
<i>Contributions to local events</i>	
Sandy Twinning Association	£250.00
Sandy & District Horticultural Association	£600.00
Total	£2,775.00



Financial Statements

A view of Sandye Place and St Swithuns Church from The Pinnacle Hill

Financial Summary 31 March 2019

31 March 2018	Income Summary	31 March 2019
538,809	Precept on Principal Authority	562,607
4,973	Capital Grants and Sale of Assets	90,433
1,543	Interest and Investment Income	3,260
5,621	Recreation Grounds and Open Spaces	5,074
19,323	Cemetery	27,672
186	Tourist Information Centre	980
2,325	Car Park and Market	380
2,150	Establishment/General Administration	1,723
-	Civic and Democratic	1,026
5,180	Christmas Lights	1,236
10,540	Outside Services	737
590,650	Total Income	695,128

	Expenditure	
325,443	Establishment/General Administration	322,596
2,509	S137 Expenditure	1,775
37,883	Capital Expenditure	220,558
609	Loan Interest and Capital Repayments	608
	Operational Expenditure:	
57,668	Recreation Grounds and Open Spaces	54,677
11,625	Cemetery	9,847
-	Tourist Information	415
3,643	Public Toilets	3,430
15,549	Car Park and Market	11,683
23,244	Lighting and Street Furniture	21,988
2,557	Civic and Democratic Costs	5,670
1,000	Grants and Donations	2,216
18,139	Christmas Lights	19,811
15,713	CCTV Fees	14,293
38,195	Outside Services	34,960
554,019	Total Expenditure	724,527

Financial Statements

Financial Summary 31 March 2019
31 March 2018

31 March 2019

General Fund		
185,664	Balance at 01 April 2018	227,396
<u>590,650</u>	Add: Total Income	<u>695,128</u>
776,314		922,524
<u>554,019</u>	Deduct: Total Expenditure	<u>724,527</u>
222,295		197,997
4,708	Transfer (to)/from Capital Receipts Reserve	(2,320)
<u>393</u>	Transfer from/(to) Earmarked Reserves	<u>88,366</u>
<u>227,396</u>	General Reserve Balance at 31 March 2019	<u>284,043</u>
Current Assets		
17,994	Debtors and prepayments	22,355
<u>676,136</u>	Cash at bank and in hand	<u>660,653</u>
694,130		683,008
Current Liabilities		
(8,443)	Creditors and income in advance	(26,720)
685,687	Net Current Assets	656,288
685,687	Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	656,288
<u>685,687</u>	Total Assets Less Liabilities	<u>656,288</u>
Capital and Reserves		
53,004	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	55,324
405,287	Earmarked Reserves	316,921
<u>227,396</u>	General Reserve	<u>284,043</u>
685,687		656,288

Sandy Town Councillors

Beeston Ward

Cllr M P Scott
 "The Gowans"
 Seddington Nursery
 Great North Road
 Seddington
 Sandy
 SG19 1NZ

Home 01767 681457
scott729@btinternet.com



Ivel Ward

Cllr P Blaine
 19 Poplar Close
 Sandy
 SG19 1HH

01767 692619
peterblaine.blaine@gmail.com



Cllr M Hill
 21 The Green
 Beeston
 SG19 1PE

01767 681469
amaxhill@outlook.com



Cllr W Jackson
 14 Westfield Gardens
 Sandy
 SG19 1HF

01767 682549
will.jackson662@btinternet.com



Cllr M J Pettitt
 42 Swansholme Gardens
 Sandy
 SG19 1HL

01767 680082
martin.pettitt@virginmedia.com



Cllr S J Sutton
 33 Bedford Road
 Sandy
 SG19 1EP

01767 227589
admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk



Sandy Town Councillors

Fallowfield Ward

Cllr T Cole
C/o Sandy Town Council
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy
SG19 1JE

C/o 01767 681491
admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr G Leach
C/o Sandy Town Council
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy
SG19 1JE

C/o 01767 681491
admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr P Sharman
3 Swallow Crest
Sandy
SG19 2SN

07889 599556
admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk



Pinnacle Ward

Cllr P N Aldis
7 Mayfield Court
Sandy
SG19 1NF

01767 691333
nigel.aldis1@gmail.com



Cllr A Gibson
1 Allhallows
Sandy
SG19 1HS

01767 699517
amandafage@hotmail.com



Cllr T Knagg
3 Jubilee Close
Sandy
SG19 1RR

01767 223165
b.knagg@outlook.com



Cllr C Osborne
Summercourt
2 Leeds Smith Drive
Sandy
SG19 1LU

01767 682032
admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr J Sparrow
C/o Sandy Town Council
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy
SG19 1JE

01767 682693
admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk

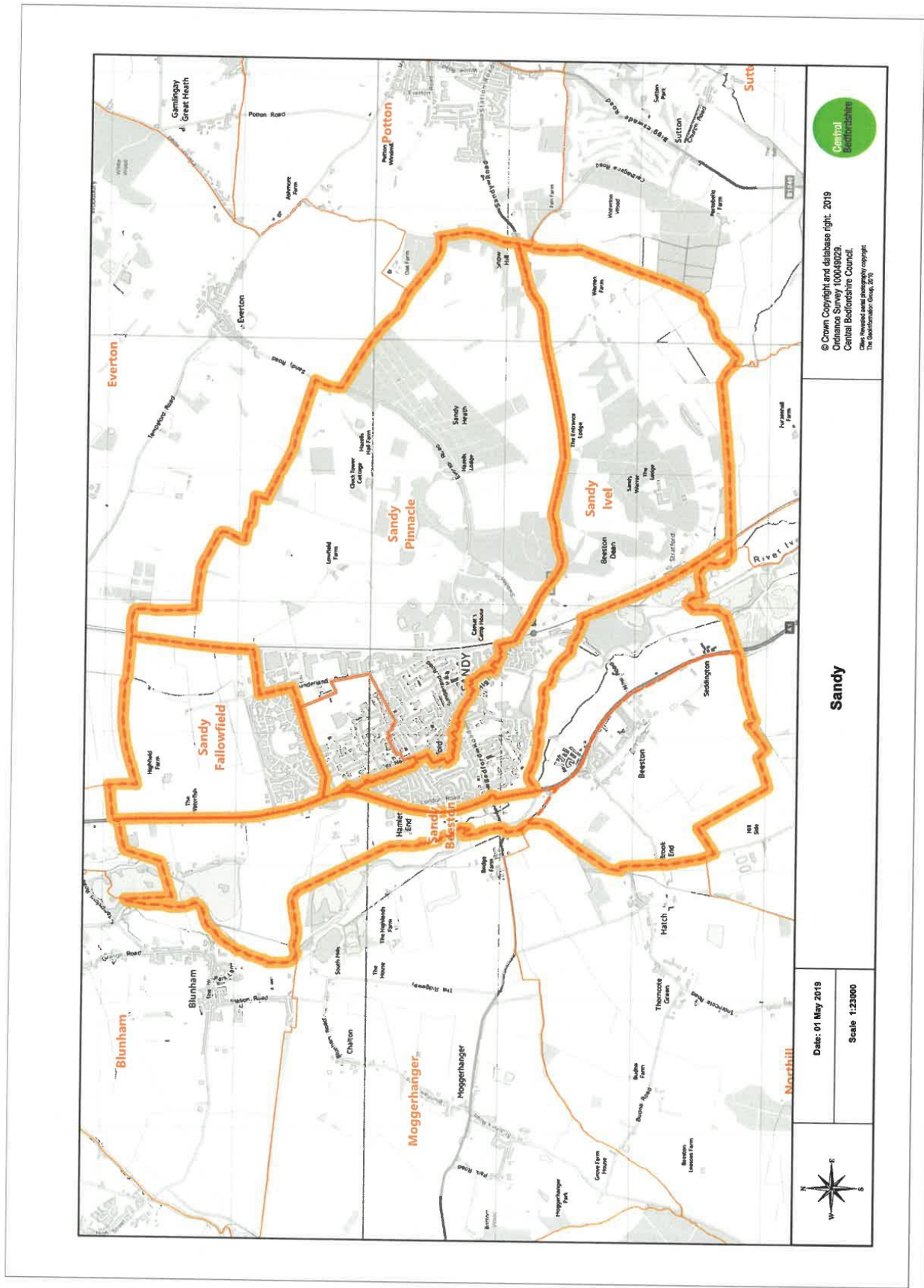


Cllr Dr N Thompson
46 Kestrel Way
Sandy
SG19 2TE

01767 683137
admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk



Electoral Wards



Members Meeting Attendance 2018/19

Town Council			
Councillor	Total No. Attended	Total No. of Meetings	% Attendance
Cllr Aldis	11	11	100%
Cllr Blaine	11	11	100%
Cllr Cole	6	11	54%
Cllr Gibson ¹	6	6	100%
Cllr Hill	11	11	100%
Cllr Jackson	11	11	100%
Cllr Knagg	8	11	72%
Cllr Leach	2	11	18%
Cllr Osborne	9	11	81%
Cllr Pettitt	10	11	90%
Cllr Scott	10	11	90%
Cllr D Sharman ²	2	4	50%
Cllr P Sharman	11	11	100%
Cllr Sparrow	10	11	90%
Cllr Sutton	6	11	54%
Cllr Thompson	6	11	54%
Development Scrutiny Committee			
Councillor	Total No. Attended	Total No. of Meetings	% Attendance
Cllr Aldis	16	16	100%
Cllr Blaine	15	16	100%
Cllr Gibson ³	9	9	100%
Cllr Jackson	16	16	100%
Cllr Knagg	16	16	100%
Cllr Leach	0	0	0%
Cllr Pettitt	12	16	75%
Cllr D Sharman ⁴	1	4	25%
Cllr P Sharman	16	16	100%
Cllr Sutton	14	16	87%
Cllr Thompson	7	16	43%

¹ Co-opted 29.10.18

² Deceased August 2018

³ Co-opted 29.10.18

⁴ Deceased August 2018

Members Meeting Attendance 2018/19

Policy, Finance & Resources Committee			
Councillor	Total No. Attended	Total No. of Meetings	% Attendance
Cllr Blaine	8	9	88%
Cllr Cole	5	9	55%
Cllr Gibson ⁵	5	5	100%
Cllr Hill	7	9	77%
Cllr Jackson	9	9	100%
Cllr Osborne	7	9	77%
Cllr Pettitt	7	9	77%
Cllr Scott	9	9	100%
Cllr D Sharman ⁶	0	2	0%
Cllr P Sharman	9	9	100%
Cllr Sparrow	3	9	33%
Community Services & Environment Committee			
Councillor	Total No. Attended	Total No. of Meetings	% Attendance
Cllr Aldis	5	6	83%
Cllr Cole	4	6	66%
Cllr Hill	5	6	83%
Cllr Knagg	5	6	83%
Cllr Leach	0	6	0%
Cllr Osborne	4	6	66%
Cllr Scott	5	6	83%
Cllr Sparrow	5	6	83%
Cllr Sutton	6	6	100%
Cllr Thompson	3	6	50%
Human Resources Committee			
Councillor	Total No. Attended	Total No. of Meetings	% Attendance
Cllr Aldis	4	5	80%
Cllr Hill	5	5	100%
Cllr Jackson	5	5	100%
Cllr Osborne	4	5	80%
Cllr Pettitt	5	5	100%
Cllr Sparrow	3	5	60%
Cllr Sutton	4	5	80%

⁵ Co-Opted 29.10.18

⁶ Deceased August 2018

Council Contact Details and Addresses

Town Council and Information Office

10 Cambridge Road, Sandy SG19 1JE

Tel: 01767 681491

General Email: admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Council Staff:

Town Clerk

Chris Robson

Administration Team

Carol Baker-Smith – Administration Team Leader

Katie Barker – Administrator

Anne Elliott-Flockhart - Administrator

Brian Leonard - Caretaker

Val McFarlane - Administrator

Karon Sizer – Office Cleaner

Grounds Team

Richard Gilbert – Grounds Team Leader

Colin Eaton - Groundsman

Gavin Elliott-Turner – Groundsman

Richard Loake - Groundsman

Stratford Road Depot

Stratford Road, Sandy SG19 2DH

Cemetery and Former Allotment Site

Potton Road, Sandy SG19 2DH

Sandy Churchyard, High Street, Sandy, SG19 1AQ

Play Areas

Bedford Road Recreation Ground, Bedford Road, Sandy SG19 1EY

Beeston Green, The Green, Beeston, Sandy SG19 1PY

Sunderland Road Recreation Ground, Sunderland Road, Sandy SG19 1RQ

The Limes, Elder Close, Beeston, Sandy SG19 1GF

Merlin Drive, Fallowfield, Sandy SG19 2UN

Jenkins Pavilion

Sunderland Road Recreation Ground, Off Medusa Way, Sandy SG19 1BN

Public Conveniences

Bedford Road Recreation Ground, Bedford Road, Sandy SG19 1EY

Town Centre Car Park, High Street, Sandy SG19 1AG

Open Spaces

The Riddy, Mill Lane, Sandy, SG19 1NL

The Pinnacle, Sand Lane, Sandy, SG19 2AD