

Sandy Town Council

To: Cllrs N Aldis, P Blaine, A Gibson, A M Hill, T Knagg, C Osborne, M Scott, S Sutton (Chairman), N Thompson
c.c. J Hewitt, W Jackson, R Lock, M Pettitt, P Sharman

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council to be held remotely via zoom Monday 24th August 2020 commencing at 7.30pm.



Chris Robson
Town Clerk
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy, SG19 1JE
01767 681491
18th August 2020

Notes:

(1) Due to the current Covid-19 Coronavirus situation, the Town Council will meet virtually via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/>) as permitted in The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations").

(2) Meeting ID: 878 6457 8848

Press and public are cordially invited to attend. Those wishing to join the meeting should contact the clerk on clerk@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk in advance for the meeting password.

(3) Members of the public wishing to address the Council during the public participation part of the formal meeting must make the Clerk aware of their intention before the meeting starts.

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for absence

2 Declarations of interest

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*

Sandy Town Council

under Sandy Town Council's adopted Code of Conduct and which may be relevant to items on the agenda.

- i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests*
- ii) Non-disclosable Interests*
- iii) Dispensations*

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

To consider the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 13th July 2020 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

4 Public Participation Session

Members of the public may ask questions or make representations to the committee about items of business which are on the agenda.

5 Central Bedfordshire Council – Transitional Housing

To hear from Central Bedfordshire Council officer Charlotte Gurney on homelessness and the use of transitional housing.

6 Action List

To receive the Action List and any updates.

Appendix I

7 Former Days Inn Conference Centre

To consider potential uses for the former Days Inn conference centre for submission to Central Bedfordshire Council as part of its consideration on future use.

Community Plan circulated to support discussions

8 Recreation Ground Bins

To receive and consider a request to look at updating old concrete bins in the Council recreation grounds.

Appendix II

9 Recreation Grounds

To consider a draft document on potential improvements to recreation grounds and consider how this can be developed and what improvements the committee would like to explore further.

Appendix III

10 Community Asset Fund

To consider if the Council wishes to make an application for match funding from the CBC community asset fund.

Appendix IV

11 Greensands Country

To receive and consider a report from Cllr Hill on the recent Greensands Country's Zoom meeting.

Appendix V

12 Events Working Group

To receive notes from a meeting of the Events Working Group.

Appendix VI

Sandy Town Council

13 Councillor Surgeries

- i) To receive a verbal report from Cllrs Aldis and Gibson on a Councillor surgery held on 22nd August 2020.

- ii) To consider holding further Councillor surgeries and agreeing a timetable and Councillor attendance.

14 Chairman's Items

15 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 5th October 2020

Agenda Item 6 - Community Services and Environment Committee - Action list

| Subject | Action to be taken | | Response /Status |
|---|--------------------|--|--|
| | Minute | Action | |
| Full Council Meeting 20/4/16 | | | |
| Allotments and Community Orchard At Beeston (CBC owned land) | (22-16/17) | Progress and update reports to go to the Community Services and Environment Committee | Heads of Terms agreed. Solicitor details provided to CBC. CBC legal drawing up lease. Some investigatory works have been carried out by CBC on the front part of the site in preparation to support a full planning application for the site. The front of the site does not form part of the area to be leased by STC. |
| Full Council Meeting 29/06/2020 | | | |
| Outdoor Gym Equipment Installation | TC | CSE Committee to agree finalised design, location and items of outdoor gym equipment to be installed by the preferred contractor approved by the Town Council. Decision delegated to Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk. | Meetings with contractor have taken place and an order has been issued. Delivery time anticipated in 5 weeks. Works to be completed within 10 days of starting. Location confirmed at Sunderland Road. |
| CSE Meeting 13/07/20 | | | |
| Town Entrance Signs | (7-20/21) | RESOLVED to delegate authority to Cllrs Gibson, Hewitt and Scott to finalise signage designs and locations. | Meeting held and proposed locations for signs finalised. Content of signs agreed and final decision on colours to be made. Sign maker to confirm final price and Clerk to liaise with CBC over locations and installation. |

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**COMMITTEE: Community, Services and Environment****DATE: 24th August 2020****AUTHOR: Town Clerk****SUBJECT: Recreation Ground Bins****1. Summary**

1.1 As part of a review of its recreation grounds and in preparation for a completed draft Recreation Ground Future Investment document, the replacement of the existing old concrete bins has been queried by Members. The follow report is provided for Members' information on potential costs of updating old concrete bins. It has been requested that 'dual' bins allowing for future splitting of recycled waste be considered.

2. Concrete Bins

2.1 Sandy Town Council has 12 concrete bins located at;


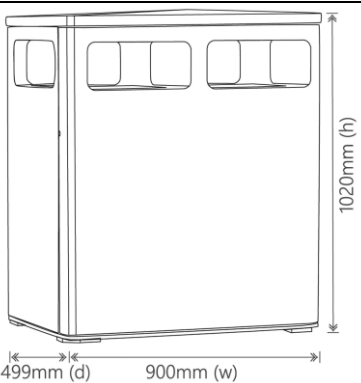


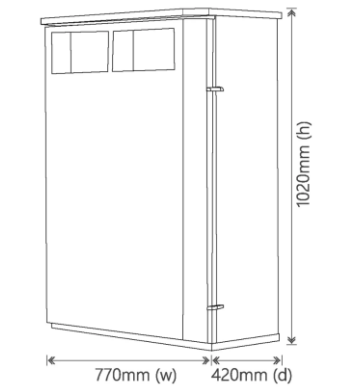

- Bedford Road x 5
- Sunderland Road X 5
- Faynes Corner X 1
- Car Park X 1

2.2 The concrete bins, although still functional are very old and have deteriorated in appearance over the years. If these bins are to be updated, they could be replaced with dual bins which would allow for the users to split recycled and non-recycled rubbish if the Council were to start recycled public waste at some point in the future.

2.3 The Council has a total of 33 waste bins within Sandy and may need to have the long term ambition of replacing all these bins if the Council were to set the future aim of having a scheme to ensure recycling waste was separated at the point of user disposal to allow recycling.

2.4 The Council would need to look at arranging a new contract for the disposal of recycled waste collected from its bin. Central Bedfordshire Council are currently gathering information for the Clerk on potential costs and providers for recycled waste collection and this would need to come to a later meeting if Members wished to explore this. The Council would also need to consider the additional space that might be required to store the rubbish before it is collected. This matter could be further considered by the Working Group reviewing the Council's Environment Plan.

2.4 The table below gives example prices of dual bins for Councillors information on what the potential capital costs may be. CBC may be able to source bins at a cheaper rate for STC and this information is to be provided to the Clerk.

| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  | <p>Athena Double Litter & Recycling Bin</p> <p>2 x 120 litre galvanized liners</p> <p>Cost: £415.00 (ex.VAT)</p> <p>Additional costs for anti-graffiti coating or A3 advertising panels if required.</p> |  |
|  | <p>Synerg Recycling Bin</p> <p>2 x 100 litre galvanized liners</p> <p>plastic</p> <p>Cost: £429.00</p> |  |
|  | <p>Derby Double Slimline Recycling Bin</p> <p>2x 80 litre galvanized liners</p> <p>Cost: £389.00</p> <p>Additional costs for anti-graffiti coating or A3 advertising panels if required.</p> |  |
|  | <p>Envirobank Twin Recycling Litter Bin</p> <p>2 x 90 Litre</p> <p>Cost: £580.95 (Ex. VAT)</p> <p>plastic</p> | <p>Width 651 mm</p> <p>Depth 669 mm</p> <p>Height 1398 mm</p> |

- 2.5 Based on the above prices the minimum cost of replacing the 12 concrete bins with dual bins would be £4,668. This is a cost that would need to be met from the Council's Rolling Capital Fund. Based on the capital costs Members may wish to spread this over three years.
- 2.6 Based on the above prices the minimum cost of replacing all 33 town council bins with dual bins would be £12,837. This is a cost that would need to be met from the Council's Rolling Capital Fund.
- 2.7 The costs and additional time for recycling waste are still to be determined. As do the storage requirements.

3. Replacement with Standard Bins

- 3.1 For Members information the cost of replacing concrete bins with a new standard bin such as the on below ranges from £129 - £199.



The committee is asked to consider;

- 1) If it wants to recommend replacing concrete bins in recreation grounds and with the Policy, Finance and Resources committee considering the cost as part of the 2020/21 estimates process.
- 2) If yes, does the committee want to replace concrete bins with standard single waste bins

or

replace bins with dual bins allowing for a public waste recycling scheme with further detailed information on waste disposal costs and requirements for such a scheme being brought forward.

AGENDA ITEM 9

APPENDIX III

**Parks and Recreation Grounds
Investment Planning
2020 -2022**

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL



Live. Work. Play. **SANDY**



Improving our shared spaces

During 2019 and 2020 Sandy Town Council has invested in enhancements and improvements to its open spaces. This is investment it wishes to continue to make sure we are providing multi use recreational spaces which provide benefits for all our residents.

This document summarises some of the investment and enhancements we are looking to make over the next few years.

The recreational spaces owned or managed by Sandy Town Council are;

- Bedford Road recreation ground
- Sunderland Road recreation ground
- Fallowfield recreation ground
- The Limes play area
- Beeston Village green
- The Riddy Nature Reserve
- The Pinnacle

Live. Work. Play. **SANDY**



About our Recreation Areas

Sandy Town Council owns or manages a number of public recreational spaces in Sandy. These spaces are of various type and use and are maintained for the benefit and enjoyment of residents and visitors to Sandy

We want to make sure our recreational spaces provide children and adults with valuable play, learning and social opportunities while benefiting the environment and enhancing our town

Why recreation areas are an important part of our town



Promoting Exercise

Parks and open spaces encourage physical activity and are important in providing residents with opportunities to exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle



Benefits of Play

Play forms an important part of a child's development. Good play equipment means all children will have access to play opportunities to help development and socialising



Social Interaction

Play forms an important part of a child's development. Good play equipment means all children will have access to play opportunities to help development and socialising



Pride in our Town

Investment in or recreation grounds helps create a sense of pride and ownership in our town, making in an attractive place to visit and spend time



Helping our Environment

Parks and key to creating green corridors through our towns which can benefit and encourage benefits for our environment, including its wildlife



Planting more Trees

Sandy is a Tree Charter member & is committed to planting more trees. Parks offer opportunities to plant trees in our town and reap the benefits they create



Children's
Play



Football



Public
seating



Public
Toilets



Trees



Flowers /
Planting

BEDFORD ROAD Recreation Ground

Bedford Road is a multi use recreation ground located close to our town centre. The site, which has its main access via Bedford Road is surrounded by residential houses on three sides.

The recreation ground is home to the sandy Football Club and has one adult size football pitch and a club house, bot of which are leased from the Council by Sandy FC. Football games are played on the site throughout the football season. The pavilion also houses public toilets which are open 6 days a week.

The site has Sandy's largest children's play area with equipment for children of all ages, including a Multi Unit Games Area. The site is also home to the Twinning Flower garden and the Sandy War Memorial.

Recent Investment

In 2019 Bedford Road recreation ground received £53,700 of investment in a new large multi-play item of equipment and the installation of a smaller ground graphic game. This investment was part of a larger project by Sandy Town Council to update our play parks.

Further work was carried out in 2019 to make our parks safer, by repairing or installing new safety mattering for some items of well used equipment.



In 2020 the Council invested funds in upgrading the CCTV cameras at Sunderland Road recreation ground. The new cameras provide a 360-degree view of the areas they are located and have infa-red technology, making them far more effective than the old cameras.

Live. Work. Play. **SANDY**

BEDFORD ROAD Recreation Ground

Future investment



Potential to include replacing/updating bins and possible inclusion of future outdoor gym equipment to be further researched



Replacement of one double swing set of flat seat swings which are rusting and need updating. The installation of a new 'springer' to replace a broken item previously removed



Improved signage is needed in the park and this should follow a complete review of signage



Replacement of damaged picnic bench and potential installation of new seating benches to the south and west sides of the site.



Creating a 'nectar café' as part of the Twinning Garden planting scheme. Pollinating plants, mixed with herbs provide homes for insects such as butterflies. Scope for installing insect and bee houses at points within the park.

Why create a 'Nectar Café'?

Many of our prettiest insects are nectar feeders that need flowers for their survival. Butterflies, moths, bees and hoverflies all need sources of nectar and pollen to thrive. As they travel from flower to flower, they also pollinate them and enable them to set seed or bear fruit.

Setting up a 'Nectar Cafe' will invite and support an array of insects which are integral to our ecosystem and is one of the ways we can support our local environment. Such planting is of benefit to our plants as well as allowing residents to enjoy the flitting of beautiful butterflies and insects within our recreation areas.





Children's Play



Football



Cricket



Public Seating



Trees



Parking

SUNDERLAND ROAD Recreation Ground

Sunderland Road recreation ground is Sandy's largest formal recreation space and is its most multi-use area. The recreation area is made up of a large sports field, a fenced in children's play area, and a skate park. It is also home to the Village Hall, an all-weather pitch and the Council owned Jenkins pavilion.

The recreation ground is home to both the Sandy Colts FC and the Sandy Cricket Club. The sports field is used for both football pitches and a cricket pitch during the respective sport seasons. This, plus its general use by residents, makes it the most multi-use recreation area in Sandy. The recreation ground benefits from a car park which is used by the Village Hall and Jenkins Pavilion.

The recreation ground's location near the Central Bedfordshire Council run Sandy Sports centre means that the area is something of a sports hub in Sandy.

Recent Investment

The Sunderland Road park received the largest investment as part of the Council's 2019 improvements to play equipment. Due to the age and state of the old equipment all items were replaced and updated at a cost of £62,500.

In 2019 the council carried out some repair work to the entrance track leading to the car park.

In 2020 the Council invested funds in upgrading the CCTV cameras at Sunderland Road recreation ground. The new cameras provide a 360 degree view of the areas they are located and have infra-red technology, making them far more effective than the old cameras.





The installation of eight adult gym items as part of our aim to ensure our recreation areas provide residents with opportunities for healthy living and wellbeing



The installation of an additional bench in the children's play area and a replacement bench at the skate park.

Potential to include replacement of concrete bins



Research potential for planting of XX additional beech trees at the xxxx end of the recreation ground. Environmental Plan group to consider.



As part of our maintenance we will be clearing out the ditch which runs alongside Sunderland Road, adjacent to the Council's land. This is part of our efforts to deal with drainage of surface water.

Why install adult gym equipment?

An increasing number of public parks are installing outdoor gym equipment to the benefit of both the park and locals who use it.

Benefits include;

Modernise Parks to ensure they offer what our residents need.

Free Exercise Equipment enabling access to gym equipment to all residents. Encouraging and promoting regular exercise as part of healthy living. Free equipment also encourages those who may not regularly work out to give it a go.

Family Friendly outdoor gym equipment is made to be simple to avoid causing personal injury. The equipment is a great way for parents to spend time with older children and encourage them to exercise.





Children's
Play



Trees

Fallowfield Recreation Ground

The Fallowfield recreation ground is a large, enclosed grass recreation area within the Fallowfield housing estate. The site is adjacent to Maple Tree Primary school and acts as an entrance and exit point for children and parents during school drop off and pick up times.

The site has two enclosed children's play areas, an unenclosed set of swings and slide and a Multi-Use Games Area. The wider grass field is not used for any sports and is popular with dog walkers.

The site was originally intended to have a football pitch on it; however this was objected to by residents and the scheme did not go ahead.

Recent Investment

In 2018 the Council invested £5,000 in new fencing around the parameter of the recreation area. This provided safety for children and dogs and fully enclosed the ground.

In 2019 the Council invested £17,980 in new play equipment as part of its wider investment in updating and providing new play opportunities across the town. New flat seat swings and a slide were installed following a review by Central Bedfordshire Council's Play Officer and consultation on what play elements were missing.

Repairs were carried out to self closing gates in 2019, however issues continued to arise and in 2020 a new self closing gate was installed at the Osprey Close entrance to the recreation ground. In spring 2020 the Council replaced a broken bit of play equipment with a new 'Flymobile' item at a cost of £2,700

Fallowfield Recreation Ground

Future investment



The installation of two new all-inclusive picnic benches near the entrance to Maple Tree School and the play areas.



The installation of new advisory and educational signage promote good dog behaviour and sharing of the open space.



Potential for the planting of additional trees to be further looked into be Environmental Plan group.



Potential for outdoor gym equipment to be further looked into if funding can be identified



Previous review into install street lights could be confirmed and included

Why Improve Signage?

Clear and informational signage is an important element in the managing of shared recreational spaces. Effective signage can enhance user experience and improve multi use of an area by ensuring that users know what is permitted and what is expected from them and others.

While too much signage can cause confusion and create 'clutter', informational and education signage can help guide users and give an overall communal view of the intended uses and purpose of the area.

Effective signage should;

- Be easy to notice and easy to understand
- Use colours that stand out from the background
- Include easily recognisable symbols
- Avoid crowding too many messages in one area

If signage is confusing or does not address the needs of the site, then a review may result in the need for improved or different signs to be erected, or other signs to be removed.



Children's
Play



Trees



Public
seating



Walking
Routes

Beeston Village Green

Beeston Village Green is a legally recognised Village Green and carries with it the protections afforded by that status. The Green is under the ownership of the Council and sits in the middle of Beeston, with roads on its northern and eastern sides and houses to the west and south. The houses to the west are access via tracks across the Green.

The Green has a small children's play park, a picnic bench and several seating benches on its edges. The Green has numerous trees and has a right of way across it, which forms part of the Greensands Ridge Walk.



Recent Investment



In 2018 a lot of tree work was carried out as a result of a tree inspection survey looking at trees in across town council owned areas. The work to trees on the Green required an investment of £6,050 by the Town Council. In 2019 additional trees were planted on the Green to replace some which had unfortunately died or been removed.

In 2019 a new slide was installed on the Green as part of the small pay area located there. This was different to other play equipment installed across the town as it was made of timber, to be more sympathetic to the surroundings of the Green. The same year a new waste bin was installed on the Green to accompany a memorial picnic bench which was funded and arranged by residents. The notice board was also refurbished.

Beeston Village Green



Review to see if there is a need or desire for an additional benches to be installed.



Potential to plant additional trees to be further looked into.



The planting of wildflowers along the western border of the Village Green as part of work to help our local environment and create habitats for local wildlife.



Improvement of signage for the Greensands walk and installation of 'No Parking' signs along the edge of the Green.



As part of maintenance we will be arranging for clearing of the calvert on the western side of the Green. This is part of our efforts to deal with drainage of surface water and management of the environment.

Future investment



Why do we need public benches?

There is a good history of providing public seating in our shared spaces. Parks are full of dependable benches that have been in situ for years, beside newer installed seating. Park benches provide free, communal, accessible public space for all, encouraging people to spend time in or parks.

- Public seating provides an opportunity to rest which is import for allowing all our resident to spend time in our shared spaces.
- Having somewhere to sit allows you to spend longer in the fresh air.
- Communal outdoor seating reduces social isolation.
- Access to somewhere to sit gets you more active. Studies show that people will do more local walking if there are places to go and sit.
- People will use and enjoy your spaces for longer if there are opportunities to sit, take a break or spending time chatting.

Where possible the council will make good and repair our existing benches. However, we are also committed to providing more opportunities to sit and enjoy spaces in our town and when we install new benches, they will be eco-friendly recycled plastic seats, durability, offering low maintenance, and more vandal resistance.



Children's
Play



Trees



Public
seating

The Limes Recreation Ground

The Limes is a small recreation area which forms part of The Limes housing estate. It sits adjacent to the walking route from Sandy through to Beeston and is close to the Council owned Riddy Nature Reserve. The recreation area sits opposite houses and is bordered by numerous trees and bushes separating it from the nature reserve.

The Limes has a children's play park, bench, bin and an open grassed area.



Recent Investment



In 2019 The Limes ground received £3,300 of investment in a 'back to back' spinner and safety matting. The need for the equipment was identified as part of Central Bedfordshire Council's review of the play park and an assessment of its play value.

The Limes Play Area



Potential to look at additional bench.



Potential to plant additional trees around play area or planting of small copse to be looked at.



Lack of signage at the site. Potential to include signage about the Green Wheel which passes through the adjacent Riddy, along with local nature/wildlife information.

Future investment



Why plant more trees?

Trees are a vital part of our environment. As the biggest plants on the planet, they provide oxygen, store carbon, stabilise the soil and give life and shelter to the world's wildlife. Beyond their essential role in providing life they make our recreation spaces more pleasant and as the oldest species on our planet trees create a link between the past, present and future. Trees planted now will continue to form part of our spaces for decades to come. It is critical to our local environment that trees are preserved and sustainably managed across our town.

The value of trees is widely recognised and national there are efforts to plant and encourage the planting of vast numbers of trees. Locally Central Bedfordshire Council have committed over £1.5 million to the planting of trees.

Sandy Town Council is a Tree Charter member and wants to play its part in making sure more trees are planted in Sandy by committing to planting trees where we can. The impact trees have on helping tackle CO2 is also particularly important for Sandy and its position next to the A1.

What's the cost?

Funding our Enhancements



Live. Work. Play. **SANDY**

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**COMMITTEE: Community Services and Environment****DATE: 24th August 2020****AUTHOR: Town Clerk****SUBJECT: Community Asset Fund****1. Summary**

- 1.1 Central Bedfordshire Council's Community Asset Fund is currently open for applications. The fund has £260,000 available for bidding in this round and eligible groups can apply for up to £25,000 to improve or provide new community infrastructure. Match funding is required to cover 50% of the total costs of the project seeking funding. The grant scheme is open to a range of Central Bedfordshire organisations, including voluntary and community groups, not-for-profit organisations, parish or town councils and social enterprises.
- 1.2 Members are asked to consider whether they wish to submit an application to the scheme in this current round.

2. Projects

- 2.1 As the scheme requires 50% of the total project cost to be match funded, large schemes such as skate park improvements, as discussed at the last committee meeting would not be eligible as the Council does not have the funds in place to cover the project at this time. Therefore, small projects which could be match funded would need to be considered.
- 2.2 Members have recently agreed the installation of outdoor gym equipment, funded by the PCC and Section 106 at the Sunderland Road recreation ground. The equipment has not yet been installed or reviewed in terms of its uptake and use. However, the Council had indicated that it wished to look at the installation of further equipment at other sites in the town. This funding opportunity could provide match funding towards gym equipment if Members wished to pursue more equipment at this time.
- 2.3 The selected contractor working on the Sunderland Road outdoor gym identified potential projects in Bedford Road and Fallowfield. The approximate cost for a similar level of equipment (with a mix of adult and youth items) would be approximately £13,500 based on the Sunderland Road project. An exact cost and quote can be provided by the contractor.

- 2.4 The contractor has stated Fallowfield would be suited to a circuit of adult gym items, while Bedford Road a smaller number of mixed adult and children items.
- 2.5 The grant funding could provide 50% of the costs of the project if successful, with the council needing to take the other 50% from its rolling capital fund or considering a further section 106 application.

Members are asked to consider whether they wish to pursue further outdoor gym equipment at this time and if so, identify whether a preferred site. Costs and an application would then need be taken to the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Community, Services and Environment Committee

DATE: 24th August 2020

AUTHOR: Cllr. M Hill

SUBJECT: Greensand Country Partnership

1. Summary

- 1.1 Cllrs Hill and Pettitt attended a Greensands Country Partnership workshop on 12th August 2020. The Workshop was held remotely via zoom. The session was hosted by Countyscope.
- 1.2 Other Councillors will be attending the same workshop on 19th August 2020 and may have further comments they wish to give to support the report at the meeting.

2. Notes from Workshop

Participants: Martin Pettitt and Max Hill

Hosted by Countyscope

The meeting was organised to give an update on the work of the partnership. Forward plan being developed to match up with local priorities and CBC's vision for 2050. The partnerships logo is based on Greensand geology.

The Partnership is 24 organisations working together for the benefit of Greensand Country. Lottery grant received. The Greensand Trust is a member of the partnership.

The Greensand Country is rich in local heritage. The Partnership is running until June 2021 and has already delivered more than 80 projects.

The Lottery provided £1.6 million and a further £1.5 million from local partners giving an investment of £3.1 million. Monies used in a wide variety of ways: village gateway signage, recreational activities etc.

A Sense of Place toolkit has been produced with local businesses to make the most of this special landscape, also an interactive map (cycling, horse-riding routes etc.); notice-boards on the route, art installations, skills and capacity building.

There was a successful Greensand Country Festival in 2019 (which will hopefully be repeated in 2021).

The Greensand Country fits perfectly with the CBC vision of 'living in balance with our environment'.

Participants were asked their views on;

- What are the natural heritage priorities for your parish?
- What are the cultural priorities for your parish?
- What are the community development priorities for your parish?
- What are the local economy priorities for your parish?
- What are the CBC 2050 vision priorities for your parish?

The above was not developed as local councils have not discussed these questions as yet.

Finally, there was an exchange of views as to how the partnership might fund and support the work of Greensand Country going forward. A business plan is needed and use of section 106 funding is to be explored.

Note: There were some IT problems with the meeting and no prior notice as to how the meeting was to be conducted. An application called Menti was not available to all participants, which made interaction difficult.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**COMMITTEE: Community Services and Environment****DATE: 24 August 2020****SUBJECT: Events Working Group****1. Summary**

- 1.1 A Meeting of the Events Working Group was held remotely on Thursday 13th August. Members are asked to note the following update report.

2. Meeting Report**2.1 Best Kept Gardens Competition**

- i) Members discussed the competition, which seemed successful due to the public interest which was gauged. A member remarked that the number of entries received was respectable for the online-only competition, when compared to the original event run by Sandy Enhancement Group. Facebook posts throughout the event had attracted a lot of views and engagement, and the Sandy High Street vouchers had proved to be popular both with the competition entrants and the businesses with whom the winners chose to spend their prizes. So far this year, the Council has given over £300 in prize vouchers for Sandy High Street businesses.

2.2 Green Wheel Celebration Fortnight

- i) The group discussed plans for an event to celebrate the Sandy Green Wheel's 2nd anniversary. It had been hoped that a Green Wheel walk could run this Autumn, as part of Bedfordshire Walking Festival, but, unfortunately, the festival had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. The Celebration Fortnight was conceived of as an alternative way to encourage members of the public to explore and enjoy the Green Wheel.
- ii) The event will run from 22nd August – 6th September, so that families can complete the route in their own time and without having difficulty with maintaining social distancing. Residents will be invited to enter a competition: collecting letters around the route and submitting their guess at the words the jumbled letters spell, along with a photo of themselves on the walk, via email to the Council. Photos will be shared on the Council's Facebook page and one correct submission will be drawn at random to win a £50 voucher for the Sandy High Street business of their choice.

2.3 Funfair

- i) Members received a request from a local company to bring their funfair to Sunderland Road recreation ground, where it has run in previous years, on 10th-13th September and 17th-20th September.
- ii) Members heard that the funfair would have various COVID-19 safety precautions in place, including hand sanitizers on each piece of

equipment, queuing systems, social distancing, and would not have any reduced-price nights so as not to draw large crowds.

- iii) The fair organiser had also mentioned the possibility of using a larger area of the recreation ground than in previous years, in order to space the equipment out to allow members of the public to keep their distance. The Clerk would arrange a site visit to look at the area available. It was noted that some of the dates coincide with the football season, when pitches would also be in use.
- iv) It was expressed that there is a strong appetite in the local community for amusement and leisure activities following the months of lockdown and that the Council should enable families to enjoy unique opportunities for entertainment if they are managed safely by organisers, with all necessary precautions in place.

2.4 Family Fitness Classes

- i) Members considered an in-principle request from a local community interest company to run parent-child group exercise & craft classes in a number of the council's recreation grounds and green spaces. The organiser is looking for outdoor spaces in which to run the sessions for children in the 0-5 age range and their parents. The classes had originally been held in St Swithuns Church Rooms, and so far during the pandemic, have only been able to run virtually via video-conferencing.
- ii) A member voiced their feeling that the classes could provide a valuable opportunity for support and socialisation for new parents and their young children who have been very isolated during lockdown. The events group agreed that it would be good to enable the sessions to run if possible and invited a more detailed proposal to be brought forward.

2.5 Outdoor Theatre

- i) Members received a request from a touring open-air theatre company to hold performances on one of the Council's recreation grounds on 30th August and 12th September, after having lost access to their original venue in the local area.
- ii) The group were informed that the company had already developed and tested a successful method for seating families to ensure social distancing was maintained, during their current national tour. All ticket holders are sent full instructions in advance including the suggestion to wear a mask before and after the performance and only use toilets in an emergency.
- iii) Possible sites for the performances were identified as Beeston Green, Fallowfield recreation ground and the Pinnacle Field. The company would be given an explanation of the locations available and offered their choice of the most appropriate one, with a possible site visit to be arranged by the Clerk.

- iv) Again, members agreed that the outdoor theatre performances offered a valuable leisure opportunity for local families. The company's performances are popular and if it is possible to do so safely, they should be accommodated at a local venue for the benefit of the community.

2.6 Tree Planting

- i) The possibilities for planting some trees in the town in commemoration of the 75th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day this year were discussed.
- ii) Enquiries to be followed up with the local schools as to whether they would each like to have a tree planted and the office is awaiting some of their responses.
- iii) Members discussed possible other locations in the town, which could be considered in the event that the schools did not want them planted in their grounds. It was agreed that a copse or possible small community orchard in The Limes recreation ground would add to that largely open green space. It was mentioned that the project could be an opportunity to plant some tree species which are less common in the area, such as mulberry.

2.7 Drive-Thru Clinic

- i) The Clerk informed members of a joint request from Sandy Health Centre and the Shannon Court Surgery to make use of most or all of the town centre car park during several weekends in the Autumn for the purpose of a drive-through flu clinic. Discussions on the details of the plan are ongoing.
- ii) Patients arriving at the site would be directed to drive to the appropriate location, then receive their jab through the open window, whilst remaining in their car. The Clerk explained that the clinic would help the practices to provide vaccinations to a larger number of patients in the local area due to the reduced COVID-19 related risks of a drive-through service, compared to in-surgery visits. The clinic might also allow them to offer vaccinations for additional conditions, such as shingles. Both practices are already working together to share their vaccine supplies, due to differing delivery dates.