

Sandy Town Council

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

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Sandy Town Council to be held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 28 October 2019 commencing at 7.30pm for the purpose of transacting the items of business below



Chris Robson
Town Clerk
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy
SG19 1JE
01767 681491
22nd October 2019

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS MEETING

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for Absence

To receive any 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) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests*
- ii) Non Pecuniary Interests*
- iii) Dispensations*

3 Public Participation Session

To receive questions and representations from members of the public.

Sandy Town Council

4 Minutes of previous Town Council meetings

To receive the Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 16 September 2019 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

5 Minutes of committees and recommendations therein

To receive and note the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub-committees and (if applicable) to approve recommendations therein which do not arise elsewhere.

- i) Development Scrutiny Committee held on 23 September 2019 and 14 October 2019
- ii) Community, Services and Environment Committee held on 23 September 2019

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that an additional Town Council representative be sought to attend the Police Hub meetings.

Agenda Item 14

- iii) Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 14 October 2019

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Council adopt the Freedom of Information Policy.

6 Financial Matters

- i) To note a balance sheet and detailed financial report showing income and expenditure against the revenue budget for the year to October 2019 (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 14 October 2019).
- ii) To note a budget overview report (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 14 October 2019).
- iii) To note a list of payments made since the last Town Council meeting (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 14 October 2019).

7 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors

- i) To receive reports from Sandy's Central Bedfordshire Councillors.

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- ii) To receive notes from a quarterly meeting between CBC Ward Councillors and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Sandy Town Council. Appendix I

8 Action List

To receive any updates and note the action list. Appendix II

9 Days Inn, Sandy

To receive and consider information from Central Bedfordshire Council on their purchase and future use of the Days Inn, Sandy. Appendix III

10 CCTV

To receive and consider a recommendation from the CCTV Working Group. Appendix IV

11 Village Hall Section 106

To receive a report from the Town Clerk on an application for Section 106 funding. Appendix V

12 Neighbourhood Plan Briefing Document

To receive and consider a briefing report from the Town Clerk on Neighbourhood Plans. Appendix VI

13 75th Anniversary of VE Day

To receive and consider an event proposal and funding request from the Events Working Group. Appendix VII

14 Police Priority Setting Meetings

To appoint a Member to attend the Police Priority Setting Meetings as a representative of Sandy Town Council and consider how that Member will identify priorities. The next meeting is at 6:30pm to be held on 8th January 2019 at Kempston Police HQ.

15 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

- i) To receive a report from Cllr M Hill on the Sandy Twinning Association Anglers' Exchange Visit Appendix VIII
- ii) To receive a report from Cllr M Hill on the Sandy Twinning Association and Remembrance Day Appendix IX
- iii) To receive a report from Cllr M Hill on the Talk of the Town Minibus Appendix X
- iv) To receive a report from Cllr Gibson on the PCC AGM Appendix XI
- v) To receive a report from Cllr Gibson on the Sandy Carnival AGM Appendix XII

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- vi) To receive a report from Cllr Blaine on the BATPC AGM Appendix XIII
- vii) To receive a report from Cllr Aldis on the Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights Appendix XIV
- viii) To receive a report form Cllr Aldis on the SG19 AGM. Appendix XV

16 Mayor's Engagements

To note a list of recent Mayor's civic engagements carried out since the last meeting of Council:

Sunday 15 September 2019 – Deputy Mayor attended Potton's Civic Service

Monday 16 September 2019 – Deputy Mayor attended Skarszewy Reception at the Council offices

Thursday 19 September 2019 – Deputy Mayor attending Bedfordshire Police Conference and Awards Evening

Thursday 26 September 2019 – Bedfordshire Fire Service Awards Evening

Tuesday 1 October 2019 – PCC Annual Parish Conference

Sunday 6 October 2019 – ABF Curry Lunch

Sunday 13 October 2019 – Flitwick Civic Service

Thursday 17 October 2019 – BATPC AGM

Sunday 20 October 2019 – March Civic Service

Sunday 27 October 2019 – Ampthill Civic Service

Monday 28 & Tuesday 29 October 2019 – Deputy Mayor attending NALC Conference

17 News Release

18 Chairman's Items

19 Date of Next Full Council Meeting: 9 December 2019

**Sandy Town Council
Meeting with Central Bedfordshire Council Councillors****Notes of a meeting held on 5:30pm on the 10th October 2019 in the Council Chamber, 10 Cambridge Road****Attendees:**

Cllr Mike Scott – Mayor of Sandy Town Council
Cllr Martin Pettitt – Deputy Mayor of Sandy Town Council
Cllr Caroline Maudlin – Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Tracy Stock - Central Bedfordshire Council
Chris Robson - Clerk to Sandy Town Council

Apologies:

Cllr Simon Ford - Central Bedfordshire Council

Notes on Points Discussed;**1) Pigeon Appeal Hearing Adjournment**

It was reported that the appeal hearing on the application to build 224 homes to the north of Sandy had been adjourned until 11th February 2020. The adjournment was due to the submission of new evidence by the appellant on the last day of the appeal. Central Bedfordshire Council's legal representatives asked for an adjournment to allow time to review and verify the new evidence put forward. The inspector agreed to the adjournment in the spirit of fairness. Dates for November, December and January were offered, but the earliest date all parties could make was February 2020. It was not apparent what new evidence had been submitted.

It was noted that the Inspector had accepted the importance of the countryside gaps within the emerging Local Plan and that this was a crucial point for Central Bedfordshire Council.

2) Sandye Place Academy

The Clerk informed the group that CBC's Mr Tony Keaveney would be meeting with Sandy Town Councillors at 6:30pm on 18th November 2019 to provide an update on his work on looking at potential options for the future of Sandye Place and the delivering of CBC's leisure, educational and care services in Sandy. Mr Keaveney has received a copy of STC's SPA document, which highlighted the importance and significance of Sandye Place as a community asset and put forward some of the town's needs. It was confirmed that the site had been made secure, bollards have been installed at the entrance to the site and the pool filled due to safety concerns.

3) Days Inn Hotel, Sandy

Central Bedfordshire Council's purchase of the Sandy Days Inn hotel was completed on 10th October 2019. The hotel has been purchased by CBC to utilise for transitional housing for local people. CBC has used the hotel for this purpose on a rental basis for some time.

STC put forward concerns that had been expressed by residents on the availability of services for temporary residents and how they will be able to integrate with the community with the A1 acting as a barrier. A communication, with FAQ's is currently under draft that will address some of these matters. The communication will be issued imminently, and a copy will be passed to the Clerk for circulation and publication. It was noted that users of the transitional housing may already be members of the Sandy community in many cases.

4) Winchester Road Regeneration

An update was given on the Winchester Road Regeneration project. Ringway Jacobs are working on a detailed plan and looking at more cost-effective measures to some elements of the proposals. Proposed bollards to stop verge parking will be replaced with trees. Ringway Jacobs are also looking at the removal of Grand Union garages within their work on the project. The contingency amount within Ringway Jacobs' quote is being reviewed to see if this can be lowered. We are awaiting a detailed map, cost breakdown and final figures to see how much more funding needs to be raised. CBC will take on green spaces from Grand Union as part of the scheme. STC to help with Waste Amnesty days where possible.

5) Community Grant Fund

Cllrs Stock and Maudlin provided further information on the Community Grant Fund that gives each CBC Ward Member a budget of £2,000 which can be spent within the community. Any money granted from the fund must be match-funded and cannot be used alongside Section 106 funding or any other CBC funding. The Clerk would send Cllr Stock a list of community groups in Sandy that may be interested in the grant funding. CBC Cllrs asked that Town Councillors consider projects or ideas for which the community fund may be able to support.

6) New Homes Bonus

Councillor Stock updated Members on the New Homes Bonus. The New Homes Bonus is a grant paid by Central Government to local councils to reflect and incentivise housing growth in their areas. The New Homes Bonus is currently paid each year for 6 years. It is based on the amount of extra Council Tax revenue raised for new-build homes, conversions and long-term empty homes brought back into use.

Central Bedfordshire Council, like some other Planning Authorities, added the grant fund to its revenue budget to support services and projects such as health hubs. The Government is phasing the grant out by decreasing the amount paid gradually before stopping it altogether. The matter was raised at Full Council by a Central Bedfordshire Councillor who stated that monies from NHB should be coming forward to town and parish Councils. Cllr Stock reported that the figures put forward as part of this were inaccurate and based on some assumptions.

7) People and Places Benchmarking

The Clerk informed the group that the results of CBC's Benchmarking exercise had now been received and that People and Places, who carried out the Benchmarking would be coming to give a presentation and facilitate discussions on their result. The proposed date was 30th October 2019 and a town centre venue was being sought. The meeting would be at 6:30pm for a 7pm start. The Clerk would work on bringing the matter forward with Cllrs Gibson and Stock. The benchmarking may assist the Council in generating ideas for the future High Street Scheme.

8) Highways

Cllr Stock informed Members that it had now been accepted by Highways England that the work to the A428 will have an impact on Sandy and that the monitoring scheme has Sandy high on the agenda. Pollution will be monitored along with impact on traffic flow, which may be a gradual impact rather than immediate. There has been a push to have the impact the work will have on Sandy recognised, so a joined-up approach to the Sandy section of the A1 by Department for Transport and Ministry of Housing Communities, and Local Government can be pressed for.

- New HGV signage will be placed on the roundabout at the entrance to Fallowfield near the Co-op. The increased signage at the entrance will be to stop HGVs going through the housing estate to Sunderland Road Industrial Estate. New double yellow lines will be added to the entrance road to Fallowfield from the A1, opposite the bus stop.
- Roads leading off St Neots Road (such as Carter Street) are going to be looked at to tackle parking on corners by installing double yellow lines. The same will also be done on the corners of the junctions to Willow Rise and Woolfield. There are also to be formal consultations on whether additional parking restrictions for Willow Rise and Woolfield are needed.
- Double yellow lines will be installed on Swan Lane at the junction with the housing area.
- Re-painting of the giveaway lines on Swan Lane is still outstanding and this will be chased up with the area technician.
- Double yellow lines will be installed on West Road to reduce parking on the verge before London Road. A path is to be moved so some additional parking can be created.

9) Sandy Sports and Leisure Association

The Clerk and Cllr Pettitt updated CBC Members as to the current position with the leases between SSLA and CBC. CBC Cllrs were asked to work with officers to help the SSLA move the process of renewing leases forward.

Town Council - Action list

Subject	Action to be taken		Response/ Agenda no.
	Minute	Action	
Meeting 9/11/15			
East West Rail Link	(89-15/16)	Town Council strongly support the East West rail link coming through Sandy and to lobby the relevant authorities.	Town Council has responded to the First stage of the consultation. No further updates. Decision on route expected in December 2019.
Meeting 21/5/18			
A1 – Local Issues	(19-18/19)	To push for decisions on the future of the A1 and action on safety and environmental issues.	Notes from a meeting with A. Burt (MP), SG19 and HE previously circulated. Notes from A. Burt’s office received. Awaiting further information.
Meeting 17/12/18			
Sandye Place Academy	(142-18/19)	That the Town Council place on record its opposition to any future residential development on the site and all other aspects the site could be used for as highlighted in the Council’s Community Plan and that CBC Ward Councillors support the Council’s position.	Community Plan group have agreed principles for STC’s vision for the future of Sandye Place, its importance to the town and the spaces/services which Sandy is missing. This has been communicated to CBC’s Tony Keaveney. A meeting with Mr Keaveney to be held on 18 th November 2019.

Central Bedfordshire Council
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Proposal for the former Days Inn, Sandy

Information and frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the proposal for the former Days Inn, Sandy



Question	Response
<p>What is intended for Days Inn</p>	<p>A Change of Use application is currently being prepared for submission to Central Bedfordshire Council, with the following proposal: to provide a transitional housing scheme consisting of 42 units in total, owned and run by Central Bedfordshire Council.</p> <p>The proposed accommodation will comprise of the following: Family and single person/ couple accommodation</p>

	<p>The scheme's communal facilities will include the following:</p> <p>Shared kitchens and dining room</p> <p>Shared parking onsite</p> <p>Communal Garden</p>
<p>What is a transitional housing scheme (temporary housing) for homeless households?</p>	<p>A transitional housing scheme provides an individual with short to medium term accommodation while they search for, and prepare to transition into, longer term housing. The council will work with residents during their stay to identify suitable move-on accommodation (e.g. private rented sector / affordable home ownership) and, where required, support individuals to develop the skills needed to sustain longer term housing solutions.</p> <p>In the last three years, the number of people who need temporary accommodation in Central Bedfordshire, because they are homeless, has trebled. This pressure is set to continue. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, which was implemented from 1 April 2018, broadens the duties placed upon councils to provide suitable accommodation.</p>
<p>Why was the site chosen for development?</p>	<p>The site was chosen because the Days Inn was already converted to hotel accommodation and has previously been used by Central Bedfordshire Council to accommodate emergency transition housing cases. Central Bedfordshire Council is keen to provide its own managed transitional accommodation, and as some homeless applicants are already being accommodated in Sandy and surrounding areas, the Council took the decision to purchase the block. The site is in a sustainable location with good access to local facilities and sustainable modes of transport. The location was an important factor when determining the appropriateness of the site for the intended use.</p> <p>The current proposal is to develop the site to be used as transitional accommodation for people who are homeless. People become homeless for many reasons including relationship breakdown; domestic abuse; unemployment; debt problems; other personal issues and illness, as well as the most common reason - the end of an assured shorthold tenancy in the private rented sector.</p>
<p>What happens if there is any neighbour nuisance? How will the Council manage problems caused by anyone who is difficult?</p>	<p>The council does not envisage there being a problem as the scheme will be well-managed. The Council has a strong track record of managing similar properties. Indeed, each household will be subject to a risk assessment. If there are problems, the household will be moved. Should any issues arise, the Council will respond effectively and swiftly. For any issues arising during office hours, it is likely there will be a member of staff onsite, or close by to contact. Should assistance be required during out of hours, the Council will provide a telephone number for emergencies only.</p>
<p>What is the average length of expected tenure?</p>	<p>This will vary for each applicant; currently the average stay in short term transitional accommodation is approx. 6 weeks, for medium term transitional accommodation is approx. 30 weeks, but this duration may increase as demand grows, or as rents in the private rented sector increase. Occupants will be given a licence to occupy the property rather than a tenancy agreement due to the short-term nature of the accommodation.</p>
<p>Will tenants have support needs?</p>	<p>Each prospective tenant would be subject to a robust risk/needs assessment. Floating support will be provided if it is identified that an individual has a support need.</p>

Will tenants be asked to leave during the day?	No, the scheme is not a Night Shelter. Residents will be carrying out their normal daily routines- working, or school runs etc.
Will tenants be able to drink alcohol on site?	Alcohol will not be permitted on site.
What will be the management arrangements?	The scheme will be managed by Central Bedfordshire Council and will incorporate office space. It is envisaged that staff from the Housing team will have a regular presence during office hours. There will be a call out operation, with out of hours for emergencies only.
Will you install CCTV to ensure there is no neighbour nuisance?	All internal communal and the sites external areas (up to the boundary) will be covered by CCTV as will the front entrance gate. Relevant warning signs will be clearly displayed to discourage and monitor any anti-social behaviour and give the local residents piece of mind. Access to and from the building will be strictly controlled using an electronic door entry system.
When will development works start?	The development works will not start until the Planning process is complete and a decision has been granted.
What is the parking provision for residents and visitors	There is ample parking within the site for residents and visitors, although our experience within Transitional Accommodation shows car ownership at a lower level, this site was chosen for the good transport links along with access to local facilities. If parking becomes a problem, this would be managed across the whole of Central Bedfordshire provision.
What about the electric car charging point?	This will remain connected for use. It is maintained and operated by an external company.
What will happen to the conference centre?	We do not have any planned use for the conference centre at this stage.
Grounds maintenance	
How will the grounds be maintained?	A garden maintenance contractor will carry-out regular maintenance at the site. We will also be planting further greenery along the boundary to the A1 to enhance the green use of the site and protect residents from potential noise pollution.
Local facilities	
Having more residents will add more pressure on the local GP Surgery.	The residents are likely to remain registered with their current G.P. as the majority of them will be from the Sandy/ Biggleswade area.
Staffing / parking	
How many staff will be located at the site?	It is likely that we will have a scheme managers who will be based at times on the site. In the main, they work in the local community across the North of the area though. Other CBC staff may visit during the course of a day. This visible presence is, we believe, likely to be welcomed. However, those staff are not directly working with these residents other than consideration of their Homelessness Application to the Council.

As there will not be 24 hours staff on site, we feel there will be an issue with security.	CBC staff will not be on site 24/7. That said, there are Housing staff on call, if required. The council will provide 24-hours CCTV to the entrance and parking areas to discourage anti-social behaviour if planning permission is granted.
What happens next?	
Planning submission	The indicative timetable is as follows: It is expected that the Change of Use application will be submitted in November 2019.
Is this a done deal as the Council already owns the property?	No. The Council must follow the same guidance as anyone else.

Contact us...

on the web: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

by email: Ru Begum

Write to: Ru Begum,
Lettings & Transitional Accommodation Manager
Housing Services
Central Bedfordshire Council Watling House,
High Street North, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU6 1LF

by telephone: 0300 300 5388

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**DATE: 28 October 2019****AUTHOR: Town Clerk****SUBJECT: CCTV System****1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Council previously resolved that it would look to upgrade all its existing cameras to new infra-red record only cameras and end 24/7 live monitoring of its cameras. It was also agreed to install cameras at the new Council depot. The PF&R committee were to consider quotations for new cameras and the ongoing annual revenue costs.
- 1.2 The PF&R committee considered some quotes on the 14th October 2019 and agreed in principle to the costs involved, subject to a further quote coming forward. Authority was delegated to the CCTV Working group to review the best CCTV propositions and bring a recommendation forward to Full Council.
- 1.3 The CCTV Working Group has met and the following report summarises its recommendation to Council.

2. Information

- 2.1 The Working Group concentrated on the two best quotes received, which were both proposing different CCTV solutions.
- 2.2 Company A has proposed a CCTV solution that would use wifi to record, store and transfer data. This would allow an operative to log into the camera remotely to download the data. This proposal would see lower initial capital investment needed, but would have a 63% higher annual revenue cost than Company B's solution.
- 2.3 Company B has proposed a solution that would use recorders within the CCTV columns to record data. This would mean that to retrieve the data from the cameras, a designated operative would need to go to the camera column and download the data, as opposed to dialling in wirelessly.

- 2.4 Both solutions would hold recorded footage for 28 days and the camera specs provided for the camera would meet the needs of the Council.
- 2.5 The proposals for the depot CCTV have been detailed separately in the cost breakdown later in this report. This is due to the need to prioritise the depot CCTV installation and the proposal that the costs of the camera are covered from the 2019/20 revenue budget as opposed to the capital budget.

3. Working Group Preference

- 3.1 The Working Group felt that Company B's 63% lower annual revenue costs were a substantial saving and as such the proposal by company B was the preferred solution. The savings made in ongoing revenue would quickly balance out the initial increased capital cost needed for Company B's solution.
- 3.2 While company B's solution does require an additional capital outlay of £3,057, the company are quoting for two more cameras than that quoted by Company A.
- 3.3 The Working Group's initial direction was to review the Council's CCTV provision and consider its purpose, requirements and value for money. It was to also identify a system that met the Council's requirements, providing value for money and sufficient coverage to produce footage suitable for evidential use and providing a value for money service. The Working Group felt that Company B's proposal met this requirement. As the cameras will not be monitored 24/7, the Working Group did not feel that the need to be able to download data via wifi, as opposed to directly from the recorder at site, was of high importance. Footage from each of the cameras would only need to be downloaded when an incident had occurred, or if footage was requested.
- 3.4 Company B's proposal for the depot offered an internal camera and an additional external camera for a lower cost than that of Company A. For this reason, it was a preferable provider for the depot CCTV.

4. Costs

Company A			
Location	Number of Cameras	Capital Cost	Revenue Cost
Car Park	2 new cameras	£2,000.00	£720.00
Jenkins	2 new cameras	£1,999.00	£720.00
Bedford Road	3 new cameras	£2,608.00	£1,080.00
Sunderland Road	3 new cameras	£2,568.00	£1,080.00
Annual Service & Maintenance Charge			£432.00
Total		£9,175.00	£4,032.00
Depot Building	1 external	£1,385.00	£0

Company B			
Location	Number of Cameras	Capital Cost	Revenue Cost
Car Park	3 new cameras	£3,058.18	£0
Jenkins	3 new cameras	£3,058.18	£0
Bedford Road	3 new cameras	£3,058.18	£0
Sunderland Road	3 new cameras	£3,058.18	£0
Annual Service & Maintenance Charge			£1,467.89
Total		£12,232.72	£1,467.89
Depot Building	2 external / 1 internal	£1,260.00	£0

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That the Council agree the solution proposed by Company B and engage the company for the provision, installation and maintenance of new CCTV cameras. That the Clerk makes arrangements to exit the current contract and have cameras removed.
- 5.2 The works be completed within the current financial year and that the capital cost of £12,932.72 for the Council's recreation ground cover be taken from the Council's rolling capital fund for the current financial year.
- 5.3 That the annual revenue cost for the cameras be incorporated into the Council's revenue budget for 2020/21.
- 5.4 That the depot camera be installed immediately, and the costs of £1,260.00 be taken from the 2019/20 Works Property and Security budget (403 4035).

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 28 October 2019
AUTHOR: Town Clerk
SUBJECT: Section 106 Village Hall

1. Summary

- 1.1 The following report is brought to the Full Council due to urgency in getting work completed if approved.
- 1.2 The village hall is in need of some urgent works to the communal outdoor area to the rear of the property. The paving has become a health and safety issue, which makes use of the area by village hall patrons difficult - especially older users.
- 1.3 The Bowls Club previously received some Section 106 funding to carry out works to the paving surrounding the bowling green. Those funds came from Section 106 Outdoor Sport contributions. The village hall committee have now sought assistance with the costs of making good the paving at the rear of the village hall.

2. Information

- 2.1 At present there is £22,337.92 in uncommitted funds under Section 106 Village Hall contributions. The cost of carrying out the needed work at the village hall is £3,140.82. Central Bedfordshire Council have confirmed that this amount can be covered by a Section 106 grant.
- 2.2 The village hall, like many community organisations, does not hold the funds to pay for the needed work, and use of Section 106 funds would allow for the work to be done and the area made safe for use of the facility.
- 2.3 Three quotes were obtained, and Central Bedfordshire Council has approved use of the best value quote from the three selected, which is a contractor the village hall are happy to work with.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That the Town Council approves the expenditure of the Section 106 funds and that the contractor invoice the Town Council upon completion of works, with the Council claiming the funds back from Section 106 following completion.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**DATE:** 28 October 2019**AUTHOR:** Town Clerk**SUBJECT:** Neighbourhood Development Plans**1. Introduction**

1.1 The Clerk has been asked for details on Neighbourhood Plans by Members and this paper is intended to provide Councillors with some background information to enable them to decide if completing a Sandy Neighbourhood Plan is the right thing for the community.

1.2 Since April 2012, local communities have been able to produce Neighbourhood Plans for their local area, putting in place planning policies for the future development and growth of the neighbourhood. At the end of December 2017 there had been 1666 applications for designation as neighbourhood planning areas, and 88 Neighbourhood Plans had been adopted after a referendum. In October 2019 this had increased to 2717 total applications and 805 adopted plans. (www.planningresource.co.uk). Four Neighbourhood Plans have been adopted in Central Bedfordshire.

Executive Summary

- A Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory planning document with legal weight. A Community Plan or Town Plan is not a statutory planning document.
- Some Local Authorities have a very high ratio of adopted plans, such as Cornwall with 28 or Aylesbury Vale with 20. While 157 of the 326 Local Authorities have no adopted plans at all. (*Planning Resources*),
- Whilst a Neighbourhood Plan is primarily a planning document the policies it aspires to must be in context to the community in terms of the plan areas:
 - Economic and employment situation
 - Environmental and heritage aspects
 - Social and community structure
 - Infrastructure and transport assets
- A Neighbourhood Plan is a document which has statutory power and influence in planning decisions and must be considered by Planning Authorities.
- A Neighbourhood Plan is best originated by a Parish or Town Council, although it can be instigated by a group from the community, known as a Neighbourhood Forum.

- A Neighbourhood Plan requires substantial community input and collaboration and will only finally be approved if it is accepted by a referendum of the voters in the Parish.
- Generating a Neighbourhood Plan is not easy but is possible given a reasonable time frame and resources.
- Funding a Neighbourhood Plan can be supported by grants which are available.
- Having a formal approved Neighbourhood Plan could enhance STC's standing with the Planning Authority and the local community as a result of consultation and engagement.
- Central Bedfordshire Council's Local Plan has not been approved and needs further work. A Neighbourhood Plan adopted after the Local Plan would need to conform with the policies within the Local Plan.
- There remain strategic unknowns, such as the East West Rail link that would impact on future plans for Sandy.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Localism Act 2011 introduced a right for communities to shape their local areas through the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. The purpose of Neighbourhood planning is to allow communities, including residents, employees and businesses, to come together through a local town council and say where they think new houses, businesses and shops should go – and what they should look like. It can help also help protect heritage and environmental features which are considered locally important.
- 2.2 The plans could be simple and concise, or considerably more detailed depending on the issues being addressed. Local communities may be able to use neighbourhood planning to grant full or outline planning permission in areas where they most want to see new homes and businesses, making it easier and quicker for development to go ahead. Communities can help determine where development should go and can decide the type and design of development that can be granted automatic planning permission, through a Neighbourhood Development Order.
- 2.3 Provided a neighbourhood development plan or order is in line with national planning policy, with the Local Plan policies of Central Bedfordshire Council, and with other legal requirements, local people will be able to vote on it in a

referendum. If the plan is approved by a majority of those who vote, then the local planning authority must bring it into force. Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations came into force on 6th April 2012 and give more detail on how the process will work.

3. What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

- 3.1 A Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led framework for guiding the future development and growth of an area. It may contain a vision, aims, planning policies, proposals for improving the area or providing new facilities, or allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development. All Neighbourhood Plans must meet some basic conditions, which are described later in this paper. In the main Neighbourhood plans relate to the use and development of land and associated social, economic and environmental issues.
- 3.2 It should also deal with a wide range of other issues (like housing types, employment, heritage and transport) or could instead focus on some particular issues that are of importance in a local area.
- 3.3 Once completed it is a legal document which gives it more authority than other planning documents such as Parish Plans and Design Statements. Once in place, it must be consulted to determine planning applications in the neighbourhood.

4. Who can start a Neighbourhood Plan?

- 4.1 There is the notion of a Qualifying Body to start the process and it is the Qualifying Body that submits the plan to the planning authority. A Qualifying Body can be:
- A Town or Parish Council
 - A Neighbourhood Forum formed of 21 people from the area.

5. Neighbourhood Area

- 5.1 For town or parish councils, there is a strong presumption that the defined neighbourhood area will be the same as the parish boundary. However, the council may choose a smaller and more focused area, such as a town or local centre, or an area beyond the parish's boundaries if that makes a sensible area to plan for. The first step in any Neighbourhood Plan process would be to decide the boundaries of the Neighbourhood area based on opportunities, risks and protections which were to be addressed in a Plan. There would then need to be an application to CBC for have the defined Neighbourhood area designated.

6. Conformity with CBC's Local Plan

- 6.1 One of the criteria is that the Neighbourhood Plan must conform to the broad policies set out in the Central Bedfordshire Council's Local Plan when adopted, which is currently under development. An original draft was withdrawn in November 2015 after the government introduced major changes to national planning guidance and revised housing projections. Central Bedfordshire Council have since worked on completing their Local Plan which has not yet been approved. The Central Bedfordshire Local Plan will be the key strategic planning document for Central Bedfordshire. It will plan for the next 20 years, covering the period 2015 to 2035.
- 6.2 Initial guidance from the Department of Community and Local Government (DCLG) was that conformity needed to be with emerging Local Plans rather than any existing strategic plan. DCLG now refer to the Independent Examiner Report for Winsford Neighbourhood Plan, by D Mynors. It states this is not a requirement although of consideration of an emerging local plan, is desirable where possible. This would mean that any Neighbourhood Plan adopted before the Local Plan would need to conform with the existing Local Development Framework Core Strategy and any retained policies of Central Bedfordshire Council. However, the Local Plan has gradually gained status as it has progressed through the due process and would be complete prior to a Sandy Neighbourhood Plan coming into effect.

7. Resources

- 7.1 In preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, there are significant commitments in terms of time and energy, over a period of up to 2 years. A review of timescales suggested by other authorities puts that average time to develop, consult on and approve a Plan, as 18 months.
- 7.2 The Town Council's major expense would be employing consultants, consultation, printing and room hire. A review of a council who have gone through the process suggests that the costs to the Town Council are likely to be in the region of £20k-£25k. Planning authorities are able to claim from the Department of Communities and Local Government, £5k on an area being designated, and up to a further £25k on plans being ready for independent review. It might be a matter of negotiation how much of this sum Central Bedfordshire Council would pass to the Town Council. Planning authorities do incur some direct costs such as the independent assessment, referendum and offering guidance.

- 7.3 Although forerunner funding has now ceased, a grant of up to £9k is available directly to the Town Council from the DCLG Supporting Community fund (<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/about/grant-funding/>).
- 7.4 There may be additional funding of up to £8,000 if the Plan involves any of the following
- Allocating sites for housing
 - Including design codes in your plan
 - A designated business neighbourhood plan
 - A cluster of three or more parishes writing a single plan

8. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

- 8.1 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is discretionary and allows local planning authorities to set charges which developers must pay when bringing forward new development in order to contribute to new infrastructure (Planning Act 2008 & CIL Regulations 2010 as amended), including:
- Transport, highway improvements; bus / rail interchange and cycling facilities.
 - Local schools; further education facilities and community building.
 - Parks; play areas; leisure and cultural centres.
 - Community safety; health and social care provision.
- 8.2 The Localism Act introduced changes to the Community Infrastructure Levy, including provisions requiring some funds to be passed to local councils or neighbourhoods where the development has taken place. It also allows funds to be spent on the ongoing costs of infrastructure, as well as the initial costs of new infrastructure. It was initially stated that up to 15% of CIL (capped) was proposed for local councils, but this would rise to 25% uncapped if a Neighbourhood Plan is in place.
- 8.3 In the case of Central Bedfordshire, it is the Clerk's understanding that CBC intends to remain with Section 106 contributions as opposed to introducing CIL. Therefore, an adopted Neighbourhood plan would not result in more contributions.

9. Action to be taken if a Plan is to be progressed

- 9.1 If the Council feels that it is the right time to progress a Neighbourhood Plan, it will need to formally apply to Central Bedfordshire Council to designate a neighbourhood area and define it on a map. This will be the first step. The Planning Authority must publicise the application on their website and consider any representations before approving it.
- 9.2 The work on developing a Plan would be best delegated to a steering group, perhaps by adapting the role of the current Community Plan Working Group. However, while it is the Town Council's legal responsibility to approve the Neighbourhood Plan which is submitted to the Planning Authority, it should

involve the wider community as much as possible. Therefore, any steering group may need to include businesses, landlords and community groups with a balanced representation.

- 9.3 The government have produced a “Roadmap Guide to Neighbourhood Planning” which gives practical advice on completing a plan and could form the basis of a project plan.
- 9.4 The Town Council would need to appoint consultants to undertake much of the work and there are now a number of consultants with experience. There would also need to be considerable community involvement. Local organisations, such as BRCC offer support and consultation services for elements of the Neighbourhood Plan process.
- 9.5 When completed, a draft Neighbourhood Plan would be submitted to the planning authority, which would publicise the facts and appoint an independent person to examine the Plan. This may be a member of the Planning Inspectorate but can also be another competent person. Central Bedfordshire Council would then then arrange for a referendum and the Neighbourhood Plan would only be approved if supported by 50% or more of voters.

Members are asked to consider the Neighbourhood Plan process and whether they wish to take further steps into starting the process of developing a Plan.

Initial Event Proposal



Event Details

Event Title	V.E Day 75 th Anniversary
Target Group(s)	Residents of all ages from Sandy and the surrounding area
Proposed by	Events Working Group
Hosting Organisation	Sandy Town Council
Event Date(s)	Friday 8 th May 2020
Venue	Market Square, Sandy
Amount Requested	2019/20 - £1,025.70 2020/21 - £2,282.84

Event Description

May 2020 will see the 75th anniversary of VE Day. A time when the nation celebrated the end of the war with street parties across the country. Sandy Town Council has previously agreed to mark this occasion by partaking in the national programme. It is proposed that the Town Council should also enhance the celebrations by hosting a 'street party' in the Market Square on the bank holiday Friday. There should be a view to link in with any local businesses, such as pubs who may be able to get involved in the event.

The street party is meant as a celebration, but also to meet the Town Council's aims of working with businesses and promoting the town centre and encouraging footfall. The street party would be held in the Market Square and the same road closure as used for the Christmas Lights Switch on Event would be applied for. The road closure would allow for Cambridge Road and all the Market Square to be used for the event. As it will be a bank holiday, there will be no issue with buses moving through the Market Square.

The celebration event would comprise of a street food market, live music, space for dancing and some communal tables. The area would be decorated with Union flags and red/white/blue bunting, and attendees would be encouraged to bring their own chairs - as in the original street parties. There is a possibility of encouraging attendees to wear 1940's fancy dress and also running a 'best dressed shop window' competition.

Proposed Program

The table below outlines a draft programme for the day.

Time	Activity	Comment
12pm – 10pm	Road Closure in place	
12pm – 12:15pm	Council team/volunteers place out road barriers and signs to close off the Market Square and Cambridge Road	
12:30pm	Stage and PA system arrives to set up	
12:30pm – 2:30pm	Council team/volunteers set up Market Square with bunting, decorations and poseur tables.	
1pm	Street food arrives to set up.	
3:00pm	Playing of 'The Battle's O'er'.	To be played by a piper on the stage to start the event.
3:00pm	Raising of a national toast to the heroes of WW2.	Encourage toast to take place in pubs across Sandy
4pm – 9pm	Street party. Street food and live music.	
4:00pm – 4:30pm	Local Musician Performing	
4:30pm – 5pm	Stage Entertainment	
5:00pm – 5:20pm	Local Musician Performing	
5:20pm – 5:40pm	Local Musician Performing	
5:40pm - 5:50pm	Recorded music playing while Big Band set up	
5:50pm – 6:50pm	15-member Big Band Performing	
6:55pm	A Cry for Peace Around the World	
7:00pm	Ringin' out for Peace	
7:05pm - 8pm	15-member Big Band Performing	
8:15pm – 8:45pm	Local musician performing	
8:45pm – 9:00pm	Recorded music playing	

Food & Drink

The Street Food market which operated in Sandy once a month over the summer has asked to come back again in 2020. They would be looking to hold a food market on the Friday in question and would be happy to move this to the Market Square to make it the main food offering for the event. Attendees would have the choice of purchasing food and drink from the stalls in attendance. The Council can also suggest inclusion of local food traders known to it, as part of the food offering by the market organiser.

Use of the street food market would have a number of advantages:

- There would be no set up or organisation of traders required by the Town Council.
- The market organiser would source stalls and make the relevant stall holder insurance and health and safety checks.
- The event would provide the market, which the Council has expressed a wish to support, with publicity and allow them to advertise their Sandy markets for the rest of the 2020 - hopefully increasing their footfall.
- The Council can ask that the organiser looks to source as many local traders as possible and can put forward some suggestions of traders the Council is already aware of.

In addition to the street food market, local pubs can be encouraged to get involved in the event and lead on the national toast. Councillors to engage with the local pubs to get them involved and have them benefit from the event. Possibility of Potton brewery producing a VE Day beer.

Entertainment

It is proposed that the main entertainment should centre around a 1940's style big band. Further entertainment will comprise of local musicians or groups (e.g the Community Choir) and hopefully some form of entertainment from a group such as the Kingfisher Players. It may also be possible to get some 1940's dance performers to attend.

A 1940's Glenn Miller style band has been sourced which could do a two-hour set at a cost of £150. They are a non-profit group that formed via Central Bedfordshire Council's 'Inspiring Music', and any money raised goes to charity. A budget will need to be allowed to cover the cost of this entertainment and donations to any other entertainers the Council is able to secure.

It is also proposed that Harris's Fun Fair be invited to attend and set up in the car park. A charge could be applied for the pitch to add to the event budget.

Tables and Chairs

Cllr Scott is able to provide a number of trestle tables for free. It may also help the event to provide a number of poseur tables around the square for people to rest drinks and food on.

The cost of renting chairs was looked into, but ultimately it was felt it would be better to encourage residents to bring their own chair and join the party. This cuts down on costs, set-up time and manpower.

The Venue

Market Square and Cambridge Road up to the Queen’s Head Pub. A road closure order to be applied for. Volunteers to help set up and man the road closure may be needed.

Equipment Needs

It is not proposed to include gazebos or community stalls in the event. Therefore, equipment required will be as follows:

- Barriers for road closure. Set out by STC
- Signage for road closure. Set out by STC
- Bunting for decoration
- Tables for the community. To be provided by Cllr Scott. STC to collect and set-up/pack away.
- Poseur tables
- Stage large enough for 15 big band performers. PA system.
- Bins for event area.

Decoration

The Council has some red, white and blue bunting which can be added to with Union flag bunting. The Council will need to work with local businesses to seek permission to place bunting on buildings. Bunting can also be placed from the lampposts in the Market Square.

LED lights in the Market Square trees are to be installed as part of the Christmas lights display. These will be left in the tree all year round and can be turned on for the event.

Scope of Work

The following is a breakdown of the main tasks/work from start to finish that must be accomplished for the proposed event to succeed.



Action	Who?
Submitting Road Closure	Clerk
Ordering and arranging delivery of barriers	Admin Team Leader
Asking the William Peel pub for permission to store barriers at the back of their car park	Administrator
Research and booking of PA system and staging	Administrator w/ Admin Team Leader
Contacting and booking entertainers	Administrator
Ordering Bunting	Administrator w/ Admin Team Leader
Ordering and arranging delivery of poseur tables	Administrator w/ Admin Team Leader
Agreeing number of trestle tables and	Clerk, Lead Cllr on event and Cllr Scott

delivery/return with Cllr Scott	
Liaising with Street Food Market and stalls, insurances, certifications	Clerk, Lead Cllr, Market on the Green
Organise and book a Piper for the event	Clerk/Administrator/Lead Cllr
Arrange for a Cryer for the event	Events Group
Insurance cover for the event	Clerk
Site layout plan	Clerk & Events Group
Posters, press releases and advertising material	Administrator
Letters to pubs, businesses and residents impacted by road closure	Administrator
Direct engagement with pubs over the toast	Designated Councillor / Events group
Direct engagement with businesses	Designated Councillor / Events group
Organising shop window dress competition	Events group
Timings and programme of entertainment	Events Group
Decorate square with bunting	Grounds Team
<i>On the Day of the Event</i>	
Set up road closure	Grounds Team/Clerk/Volunteers
Coordinate stage set up	Volunteer Councillor / Staging Contractor
Co-ordinate food stall set up	Volunteer Councillor / Market Organiser
Delivery and set up of trestle tables	Cllr Scott / Grounds Team / Volunteers
Health and Safety Lead	Town Clerk
Road Closure Barrier Stewards	Volunteers
Stage manager and announcer Play/stop recorded music between sets	Volunteer Councillor
Set up of 15 seats for big band	Grounds Team/Volunteers
Litter picking	Grounds Team
Pack up and dismantle of food stalls	Market Organiser
Pack up of staging	Staging Contractor
Pack up of trestle tables	Cllr Scott / Grounds Team / Volunteers
Clean up of area	Everyone
Removal and storing of barriers and poseur tables	Grounds Team
Arrange collection of barriers and poseur tables	Admin Team Leader
Thank you letters	Administrator
Event Review	Events Working Group

Budget

If the Council are to run the event, an approved budget will be required. The Council's events 2019/20 budget has £2,163.05 of unspent funds. The Council may wish to commit some of these funds to the event as some of the expenditure listed in the table below will be incurred during the current financial year (e.g. payment of deposits).

The table below sets out an estimated budget for the event.

EXPENDITURE		
Activity	Cost	Comments
Temporary Events Notice	£21.00	To cover event and alcohol
Barrier Hire	£95.00	Safety barriers for road closure
Poseur Table Hire	£57.84 6 tables	
Table covering	£32.00	White paper banqueting role
Union Flag Bunting	£269.70	To supply 30 no. Packs Union Flag Pennant Bunting – 12" x 8" – 9mtr length - 30 flags per length.
Table Flags	£10.00	
Entertainment	£450.00	Cost of Shambles big band and allowance for donation for other performers.
Piper	£170.00	
Staging & PA System	£2,000.00	Based on quote received
First Aid for Event	£235.00	Based on Xmas Lights Event cost
Total	£3,340.54	
INCOME		
Harris's Fair Ground Rent	TBC	STC charges £500 for attendance at the Christmas fair. Given that this is a new event, a lower charge may be considered.
Street Food Donation	TBC	Depending on the success of the event, traders may be able to offer a donation.

Expenditure from 2019/20	Available Budget: £2,163.05	Expenditure from 2020/21	Available Budget: £
Temporary Events Notice	£21.00	Entertainment	£450.00
Deposit on Barrier Hire	£40.00	Barrier Hire balance	£55.00
Deposit on Poseur Table Hire	£35.00	Poseur Hire balance	£22.84
Union Flag Bunting	£269.70		
Table Flags	£10.00	First Aid	£235.00
Deposit on Piper	£50.00	Piper Balance	£120.00
Deposit on Staging and PA	£600.00	Staging/PA Balance	£1,400.00
Total	£1,025.70	Total	£2,282.84

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 28 October 2019

AUTHOR: Cllr M Hill

SUBJECT: Sandy Twinning Association - Anglers Exchange Visit

1. Summary

The eighth exchange visit between anglers from the PZW Club in Skarszewy and local Sandy anglers took place in mid-September.

2. Programme

- The group had a visit to Duxford Air Museum on the day of their arrival and were also welcomed at the Council offices by Cllr Martin Pettitt in his capacity as Deputy Mayor.



- On the following days, matches were held at How End near Ampthill, Offley Lake, Hitchin, Biggin Lake near Oundle and the Great Ouse at Willington.
- Hot sunny days did not make for ideal fishing conditions but nevertheless, there were some good weights and all the visiting anglers caught large carp and barbel.
- All four matches were won by local angler, Edd Blain and Sandy anglers occupied the first four places with Dave Blount, Graham Inwood and Roger Adams all doing well.
- Because of this, Sandy comfortably won back the community shield by 92 points to 70. I however, came last!



- The best weight of the week was Edd Blain's 85 lbs 30z from How End, and the largest fish was caught by one of our visitors, Bogdan Froelich – an 18 lb carp from Biggin Lake on pop-up pellet.
- The visitors were all accommodated with local families and were treated to sumptuous spreads every evening.
- An excellent week overall.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 28 October 2019

AUTHOR: Cllr M Hill

SUBJECT: Sandy Twinning Association – Remembrance Day

1. Summary

- I'm sure Councillors will be as disappointed and frustrated as I am that, for the second year running, we will have no representatives from Skarszewy with us over the Remembrance weekend and taking part in parades both here and in St Neots.
- Whilst last year there was a direct clash with their own National Independence Day, this year there is not, and I am at a loss as to why the Mayor has decided not to send a delegation, having previously informed me verbally he would.
- E-mails over the past couple of months seeking a response have not been answered and so we simply don't know what the agenda is. A Brexit protest perhaps??

2. Looking Ahead

- As regards 2020, I have already begun planning the two summer schools for next July - one in Skarszewy and one in Pelplin.
- We have also made various suggestions as to how we might mark 25 years of the Sandy-Skarszewy twinning, alongside their own celebrations to mark 700 years of the town's existence.
- I would tentatively suggest that the £250 grant which was given to the Twinning Association last year is again put on hold until we know exactly what the Mayor of Skarszewy has in mind.
- If no joint activities come to pass, the money will need to be repaid.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 28 October 2019

AUTHOR: Cllr M. Hill

SUBJECT: Talk of the Town Minibus (TOTT)

1. Future of the Talk of the Town Minibus

- 1.1 The future of the community bus is again in jeopardy following the recent illness of Ray Morrissey, who was the principal driver and the person who took the bus for its regular servicing. Thankfully Ray has recovered well but will no longer be able to drive the bus.
- 1.2 Nigel Aldis has kindly offered to take on the administrative tasks associated with hiring and running the community bus, but if there are not enough drivers available, the service will inevitably fold.
- 1.3 A meeting is to be held in early November to take the matter forward.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**DATE: 28 October 2019****AUTHOR: Cllr A Gibson****SUBJECT: PCC AGM****1. Summary**

- The PCC Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 1st October 2019, at the Rufus Centre in Flitwick.
- This was led by Kathryn Holloway – the Police and Crime Commissioner, Gary Forsythe – the Chief Constable for Bedfordshire and David Boyle – Chief Inspector as well as Local Policing Hubs and Officers from Operation Yellow and Liethan.
- Attendees from Sandy Town Council were Cllrs Michael Scott and Amanda Gibson.

2. Key Points of the Evening

- Additional funding received for Bedfordshire Police of £6.7m will fund new front-line officers. Recruitment has started for an additional 160 officers. The expectation is that the new funding announced by Government would result in a further 18 – 21 officers, however in the latest PCC newsletter, this is now 46.
- Attrition of officers is about 100 per year so in reality, recruitment needs to be for 300 officers to achieve the uplift. The estimate therefore is 80 additional trained officers this year. The PCC is working to refurbish police stations and improve morale in the force and also to improve retention.
- The Bedfordshire Police funding formula is still not resolved so the PCC and Chief Constable will continue to drive with the government for a long-term solution.
- More neighbourhood policing – the aim is to double the number of PC's in the 8 community hubs working in partnership with local communities to improve intelligence gathering and problem solving. Examples were presented during the evening that included Bedford Prison, reduction of throw overs of drugs and phones; and Shefford - where antisocial behaviour and knife crime was reduced through behavioural changes.
- A Taskforce has been established that can be rapidly deployed to trouble-shoot problem areas that arise and reduce offending, with a triage team to move in and identify the issues and resolve.
- Big issues are still gangs, drugs, guns and knife crime, and there is a focus on proactive prevention by tackling the social issues that drive criminality,

working with community groups, schools and Councils through the community hubs.

- Technology presents opportunity and issues, and finding the admissible evidence from online/mobile phone activity is increasingly difficult and takes a lot of manpower to sift through.
- The drug economy in Bedfordshire has been valued at £200m, with 1 in 10 adults being drug users. With our rail and road network, we are a prime target for organised crime networks, gangs and county lines. With every successful police operation, the gangs learn and share knowledge to avoid future detection.
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults and children from exploitation is a key priority and requires all agencies to work together.

2. Priorities for the Chief Constable

- Tackling serious and organised crime - especially in Luton which is becoming a hot spot for gun crime.
- Counter Terrorism
- Neighbourhood Policing growth focused on crime prevention
- Continue funding the BOSUN team to tackle gangs/guns

3. The National Neighbourhood Policing Guidelines

- These are the basis for PCSOs and hubs, and resources are prioritised accordingly:
 - Needs based
 - Analytical tool set to triage the issue
 - Intelligence to target resources effectively
 - Problem solving based on evidence
 - Targeted intervention
 - Training / specialisation for officers
 - Shared learning at a national level
 - Culture of collaboration to understand the causes of crime.
- There was a Presentations of two case studies on how this approach has been applied in Bedford and Shefford with great success.

4. To Conclude the Meeting

- The meeting closed after Q&As, and local issues raised were concerned with speeding and unauthorised encampments.
- With regard to speeding, the focus is on casualty reduction and so local speed watch groups may be the only option for enforcement. Motorists that are recorded speeding 3 times get a police visit.

- Unauthorised encampments – The Chief Constable reassured us that there is no traveller site in Bedfordshire that his officers wouldn't enter if a crime is committed. A transit traveller site would reduce the number if there are any illegal encampments.

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working with community groups, schools and Councils through the community hubs.

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SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 28 October 2019

AUTHOR: Cllr P Blaine

SUBJECT: Report from Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils Annual General Meeting

17th October 2019 at Cople Village Hall

Representing Sandy Town Council; Cllrs Blaine, Gibson and Scott

1. The meeting was chaired by Helen Nellis, the Lord Lieutenant, in a way that was both effective and pleasant.
2. The routine matters were dealt with expeditiously. The finances of the Association continue to be in very good order. The officers were all re-elected unopposed.
3. All nominees for the County Committee were elected unopposed. Most of the remaining vacancies were filled at the meeting, although a small number probably remain to be filled.
4. Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick proposed a motion on behalf of Brickhill (Bedford) Parish Council calling on the government to make the removal of unauthorised traveller encampments more easy. I did ask him whether he felt that apart from his own area legitimate traveller provision was adequate. He didn't know. The motion none the less had merit and was passed easily.
5. In general the guest speakers appeared as helpful as they could be, but the timing was such that there was little new information to be given.
6. Martin Tugwell the Programme Director for England's Economic Heartland, was also present last year. He is no doubt a capable advocate for our regional interests and uses such resources as are available to him to attempt to stimulate needed investment in our region.
7. Will Gallagher, a Strategic Director for East-West rail was keen to emphasise that his door was always open to local representations. He had no new information immediately available but was keen to confirm that an announcement of the route for the new railway would be made before the end of the year.

8. We had two speakers from Luton Airport who explained the procedures involved in modifying the stacking and approach routes to Stanstead and Luton. The proposals are in the paperwork accompanying the calling notice for the meeting and there is a web site. On the face of it the effects of the changes reach as far as Biggleswade. It may well be wise to study the information in case there are implications which are not obvious at first sight, in which case it would be appropriate to make representations.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 28 October 2019

AUTHOR: Cllr N Aldis

SUBJECT: The Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights Committee (FoSCL)

1. The Event

- Preparations are well advanced for this year's event on Sunday 1st December 2019. Special attractions will include a Fairy Grotto in the Queen's Head car park. Father Christmas will be in attendance along with his elves and reindeer. Santa will arrive from the Sunderland Road area travelling through the Market Square. He will be located in the Boules Court behind the Queen's Head to avoid noise from the funfair. The children will first see the reindeers then follow the maze round to Santa's Grotto.
- There will also be the popular fairies on stilts as at previous events, to entertain the crowds.
- A full range of stage acts have been booked including all the local schools and Sandy's talented performers. A DJ will co-ordinate the entertainment starting and finishing the event. An earlier start and later finish time are being planned.

2. Funding and Finances

- To help fund these attractions, there will be two raffles as before - the first being a bottle raffle, and the second a Christmas hamper. Council Members are being asked to provide an alcoholic bottle to go in either of the raffles.
- FoSCL are keen to gain charity status in order to secure grants and match funding. A constitution for large charities with an annual income of over £5,000 has been downloaded from the Charity Commission's website and modified for the Group's needs. The trustees of the charity form the committee of the Friends with no other members.
- The bank account has a healthy balance to support the event and income is being generated by the raffles, Santa sleigh runs and from the stalls. To date, there are 18 confirmed stalls with another 14 showing an interest in coming along too.
- To further raise awareness of the event, there is a children's colouring competition with entries being displayed in the library in November.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 28 October 2019

AUTHOR: Cllr N Aldis

SUBJECT: SG19 Road Safety Group AGM

1. Introduction

- The Group recently held their AGM and re-elected the officers en bloc including the chairman, Mr Stephen Allen.
- The main priority continues to be the demand for a new route for the A1 but there are other local issues which are causing concern.

2. Main Issues

- A new online petition is to be launched soon when the political turmoil has quietened down. It will call on the government to consider the environmental aspects of the existing road - especially air pollution - as well as the congestion which occurs every morning and evening both on the A1 and the surrounding road network.
- The Group is keen to ensure that the petition has very wide support from everyone including friends, family and colleagues.
- The Chairman has contacted Alistair Burt MP and asked him to ensure that both the Department for Transport and the Department for Communities & Local Government are aware of the issues for a new A1. There is a need for joined up thinking between Highways England (HE) and Central Beds Council (CBC). CBC Cllr Ian Dalgarno has promised to feedback on liaison between the two of them (HE and CBC) - from CBC's perspective.
- Joint meetings have been held with Buckden councillors who continue to press their MP, Jonathan Djanogly, to support Alistair Burt in the need for a proper bypass.
- The impact on the Sandy roundabout caused by the Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Expressway is also raising more concerns. A quicker passage through that area will inevitably lead to increasing problems in Sandy.

3. Local Matters

On more local matters, the Group reiterated its view that the priority in Station Road was for a crossing at the High Street end across the different coloured tarmac strip. It also remains concerned about the pedestrian crossing at the entrance to the Tesco store, for which there appears to have been no improvement brought forward by the store's management.