



Grounds and Environmental Services Committee

Date:	10th June 2019
Title:	“Friends” groups for various parks, cemeteries and open spaces update
Purpose of the Report:	To provide Members with an update on the Town Council’s Friends Agreement, to be used by group/s of people who support the work of Leighton-Linslade Town Council within the boundaries of the designated site/land.
Contact Officer:	Ian Haynes – Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

Corporate Objective/s	LLTC Three Year Plan – Aim 3. <i>“To provide great public open spaces, varied opportunities for sport and leisure and to exceed expectations in delivering cemetery and allotment services”</i> Objective #31	
Implications:		
Financial		Within existing bud
Human Resources		None
Operational/Service delivery		None
Procedural/Legal		None
Risk/Health and Safety		None

1. RECOMMENDATION

Should members be minded, the proposal is:

1.1 To note the report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting held on the 2nd February 2015 the Leisure and Community Committee endorsed the Town Council's Friends agreement (attached).
- 2.2 The Grounds and Environmental Services Committee received a verbal update at its meeting held on the 4th June 2018 regarding the potential setting up of "Friends" groups of volunteers for the parks.
- 2.3 Previous attempts to attract interest from the public had not generated much response, but further publicity would be issued to try to generate more interest. It was noted that the Council was working closely with the volunteers from the local South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth group and from the Friends of Leighton-Linslade in Bloom.

3. DEFINITION OF A FRIENDS GROUP

- 3.1 A group of people who support the work of Leighton-Linslade Town Council within the boundaries of the designated site/land.
- 3.2 A group that promotes and assists two-way communication between local volunteers and Leighton-Linslade Town Council.
- 3.3 Priorities for the group could be: Fundraising; Events; Consultation; Conservation; Renovation; Volunteering.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 By having a local friends group in town council parks or open spaces, it is believed that they could:-
 - Help improve its appearance
 - Have a say in its facilities
 - Improve its biodiversity
 - Increase its safety
 - Meet new people
 - Get exercise, improve your health and wellbeing
 - Make a positive contribution to your local area
 - Organise improved community events

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Even though it is disappointing that the Town Council hasn't managed to setup a network of Friends group across its assets, the Grounds and Environmental Services team do support a number of activities across the parish.
- 5.2 It is believed that the attached agreement is still fit for proposes and further publicity would be issued to try to generate more interest.