

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

30 AUGUST 2012

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

1 **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING**

- 1.1 The health and social care advice and information outreach project, 'Just Ask' visited Leighton Buzzard market on 24th July.
- 1.2 'Carers in Bedfordshire' will be holding a Carers Café in Eaton Bray. Further details can be obtained from Carers in Bedfordshire on 0300 111 1919, email contact@carersinbeds.co.uk or visit www.carersinbeds.co.uk

2 **WASTE SERVICES**

2.1 Waste Services undertake the following services:

- Collection, transportation and disposal of residual wastes, dry recyclable materials and green wastes.
- Collection, transportation and disposal of bulky household and clinical wastes.
- Wheeled bin repair, exchange and replacement service.
- Street and Associated Cleansing Service
- Grounds Maintenance Service, an Abandoned Vehicles inspection, collection and disposal service and A Stray Dog Retrieval and Dog Warden Service.
- Management and monitoring of the Contractor undertaking the running of the Shelley Hill Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Refuse and Recycling Collections Services

2.2 Nothing to report in respect of problems. Service provision will be unchanged during the forthcoming August Bank Holiday.

Street and Associated Cleansing Service

- 2.3 Recent concerns have been received from Leighton-Linslade Town Council forwarded to Central Bedfordshire Council on behalf of the Leighton-Linslade in Bloom Committee in respect of the amount of litter generation in Leighton Buzzard High Street, Bideford Green/ Derwent Road and the Leighton Buzzard Station areas. A request for provision of additional street litter bins was also made.
- 2.4 The cleanliness standards of the areas were inspected and it was confirmed, in general, the level of cleanliness observed was to a satisfactory standard. However, it was noted that the internal paths from Grasmere Way Shopping Area to Rock Lane and through to Southcourt Avenue was in need of remedial cleansing. It was also noted that the High Street, whilst generally litter free also needs some remedial

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cleansing to remove a number of smaller items, cigarette ends and the like, that appears to be accumulating.

- 2.5 The concern in respect of a request for additional litter bins in the Linslade area was considered to be valid, and locations for provision of 2 new bins in Southcourt Avenue, and the approach to Leighton-Linslade Station have been approved. Suitable locations to site the bins are being identified at present.
- 2.6 "Recycle on the Go" street litter bins, which allow for the separation at source by the pedestrian, of recyclable and non recyclable items, are currently being trialled in the area. One such bin is in place in the High Street and has proved very popular. As such a further 4 bins are to be sited. Leighton-Linslade Town Council has been approached for their suggestions and asked to advise as to appropriate locations for these further bins in the Town Centre. It is anticipated that these additional bins will be installed within the next 4 weeks.

Dog Fouling / Fly Tipping

- 2.7 Incidents of Fly Tipping in the Leighton-Linslade area continue to be fairly low. There are however, sites that remain as "Hot Spots" that are considered active enough to be monitored twice per week by a Contracts Officer. The sites currently under closer observation by Contract Officers are A505 Bypass (in the vicinity of Billington), Clipstone Lane, Billington Road and Stoke Road. These locations continue to be monitored frequently.
- 2.8 Ongoing monitoring in Pages Park for dog fouling at the request of Town Council.
- 2.9 Joint operation was carried out with Bedfordshire Police on 14th & 15th May to tackle scrap metal dealers and metal theft.

Grounds Maintenance

- 2.10 Grass cutting operations continue across the area and the recent slight improvements in the weather conditions have enabled an improvement in the quality of cutting to be achieved. Service Complaints in respect of cutting operations remain low.
- 2.11 The second of the "two spray" weed spraying service, to be adopted on hard paved surfaces, is due to commence at the end of August subject to satisfactory weather conditions.

Abandoned Vehicles Service

- 2.12 The numbers of reported and confirmed abandoned vehicles in the Leighton-Linslade area remains very low. The price of scrap metal continues to be high so any vehicle of no further use to its owner/keeper appears to be being disposed of properly at authorised sites as payment is available.
- 2.13 Waste Services does continue to offer a free amnesty service to owners /keepers of vehicles who might otherwise be unwilling or unable to dispose of their unwanted vehicle via a dealer or collection contractor.

Dog Warden/Stray Dog Retrieval Service

2.14 Nothing to report in respect of this service.

Household Waste Recycling Centre

2.15 The Shenley Hill HWRC continues to be a very popular and busy site with extensive facilities available to local residents for the separation, recycling and disposal of unwanted items or waste. The permit scheme continues to be in force to, so far as is possible, prevent misuse of the site by commercial operators or the disposal of commercially generated wastes.

3. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Structural Maintenance

3.1

SCHEME DESCRIPTION	Work Area	Programmed
Lantern Replacement Programme - Phase 1 - Leighton Buzzard (Planets Area)	Street Lighting	Q2
Lantern Replacement Programme - Phase 2 - Leighton Buzzard	Street Lighting	Q2
King Street	Drainage	TBC
Plantation Rd	Drainage	TBC
A4146 B488 Roundabout & Approaches Mentmore Rd / Ledburn Rd	Structural Maintenance	Q1
C238 Stanbridge Road (Rabt To Vehicle Test Stn)	Structural Maintenance	Completed
C194 Wing Road (From West St To Victoria Rd)	Structural Maintenance	Completed
C245 Old Linslade Road	Structural Maintenance	Q2
Mentmore Road	Structural Maintenance	Completed
Bideford Green Near Spur 103	Structural Maintenance	Q2
The Heath And Heath Court	Structural Maintenance	Q2
Mercury Way	Structural Maintenance	Q2
Mardle Road	Structural Maintenance	Q2

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Jupiter Drive	Structural Maintenance	Q2
Atterbury Avenue	Structural Maintenance	Q2
Harrow Road Loop	Structural Maintenance	Q2
Blakedown Road	Structural Maintenance	Q2
Clarence Road	Structural Maintenance	Q2
Forticrete - Design Works Phase 2	S106	TBC
S278 TS Billington Rd South Leighton Buzzard	Development Control	TBC
A505 Leighton-Linslade Development Roundabout	Development Control	TBC
Grovebury Playfield LB	Development Control	TBC
Leighton High Street shared space concept	Integrated Transport	ongoing 13/14
Railway station pedestrian improvements	Integrated Transport	ongoing 13/14
Bus stop Improvements	Integrated Transport	ongoing 13/14
Town centre cycle routes	Integrated Transport	ongoing 13/14
Parking Schemes	Integrated Transport	Q4
Exemplar Projects in Lake Street	Integrated Transport	ongoing 13/14
Engagement Activities	Integrated Transport	Q4

Central Bedfordshire and Luton Transport Model (CBLTM)

- 3.2 In 2009 a Central Bedfordshire and Luton Transport Model was developed by Halcrow, predicting traffic movements in and around Central Bedfordshire and Luton in 2026 - the forecasting year.
- 3.3 This was in line with the end date of the Luton and South Bedfordshire Core Strategy. However, the emerging Central Bedfordshire Development Strategy has an end date of 2031.
- 3.4 AECOM was awarded the contract to update the 2009 model from the 2026 horizon to 2031 in line with the revised Development Strategy, and to manage and maintain the model for the next 3 years.

London Luton Airport

- 3.5 On 16 January 2012, owners of London Luton Airport, London Luton Airport Limited (LLAL) announced that it would seek to increase the capacity of the London Luton Airport to 18 million passengers per year using the existing runway.

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- 3.6 The airport's current maximum capacity is estimated at 11.5 million passengers per annum (mppa) and 9.6mppa are expected to use the airport this year. London Luton Airport is the UK's fifth biggest airport.
- 3.7 LLAL estimated that the airport expansion to 18mppa could create up to 6000 new jobs.
- 3.8 In March 2012 Luton Airport operator, London Luton Operations Limited (LLOL) Issued their Luton airport Master Plan consultation document prior to submission of their a planning Application.
- 3.9 The LLAOL proposal to Increase the Capacity of the airport to 15-16 million passengers per annum contained three main components. They were:
- Duelling of the road from the Holiday Inn roundabout to the Central Terminal Area
 - Improvements to the terminal building
 - Taxiway extensions and rationalisation of aircraft parking area
- 3.10 LLAL and LLAOL have now agreed to prepare a combined proposal for the airport expansion. In a recent joint statement, LLAL and LLAOL said the combined proposal will "ensure the main elements from both proposals are retained" and the "increase in capacity will take place within the existing boundary and use the existing runway". More details will be released when the plans are finalised in July and it is expected a planning application will be lodged by LLAOL later in the summer.

Sustainable Transport Fund

- 3.12 **Travel choices** is a three year initiative funded (£4.9m) through the Governments Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) to support the economy of Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Leighton Buzzard by providing residents and businesses with an improved choice for local journeys reducing car use, cutting costs and improving health.
- 3.13 The key objectives of the project are:
- Improved access to employment by sustainable modes of transport
 - To reduce the impact of commuting trips on local communities
 - To maximise opportunities for training and education for those without access to a car
- 3.14 Work will be focussed on Dunstable and Houghton Regis with some funding for Leighton-Linslade, supporting the authority's growth agenda.
- 3.15 Partnership working will be key to successful delivery and Central Bedfordshire will be working closely with a number of partner organisations including Town Councils, NHS Bedfordshire, local businesses, Dunstable College, and Voluntary and Community Sector organisations.

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- 3.16 Work will be targeted around the objectives above and focuses on the following areas of activity:
- Improvements to walking and cycling routes in Dunstable and Houghton Regis including National Cycle Route 6
 - Improved information for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users
 - Promotional events and activities in town centres, employment areas and local communities
 - A promotional 'hub' in Dunstable town centre which will provide information on travel options and other programmes of activity
 - A 'Wheels to Work' scheme, offering alternative forms of transport (scooters & bicycles) to young people for whom travel remains a barrier to work and training
 - Sustrans 'Bike It' programme in local schools promotion the benefits of cycling
 - A team of Active Travel advisors offering personalised travel and transport information to residents and local businesses.

3.17 Progress to date:

- We are already working with our highways partners; Amey Infrastructure to develop a programme of walking and cycling improvements this year.
- Our team of active travel advisors will be out and about in Leighton-Linslade from the end of August.
- Our Wheels to Work scheme is already up and running through Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity.
- Our Bike It programme will be underway in the academic year starting September 2012.
- We anticipate our Active Travel Hub will be open for business in October 2012.

Luton Dunstable Guided Busway

- 3.18 Works on the main Busway are still programmed to finish towards the end of this year (December for construction and March/April for opening) although the wet weather is starting to impact on the works programme and in particular the labour intensive pad and beam laying operations.
- 3.19 The first section of the Busway to be completed will be in Dunstable, Blackburn Road to Church Street, this will be used to prove / test the system and start the bus driver training. There will be opportunities for a ride on the bus during this phase. Expectations are that this will start in September with driver training continuing through to March/April 2013.
- 3.20 Discussions are progressing with local bus operators to look at an acceptable service provision. Both Arriva and Centrebus have now committed to use the Busway
- 3.21 Proposed opening date is currently April 2013.

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- 3.22 A series of art works will be placed at key points on the busway; the designs for which are based on the contemporary history of Dunstable and Houghton Regis. Further details from:

<http://buswayart.wordpress.com/2012/07/30/final-artworks-for-the-luton-dunstable-busway/>

Luton Northern Bypass

- 3.23 A link road that is likely to be considered in two phases between the proposed M1 Junction 11a and A505. There are a number of route options currently being promoted for the first phase between Junction 11a and A6 with interested developers. Second phase between A6 and A505 is unlikely to come forward due to the environmental impact of the preferred route.

M1 Junction 10a

- 3.24 This is to be an improved local junction where the M1 spur crosses the A6/A1081 at Kidney Wood, Luton.
- 3.25 Luton BC are the lead authority for the de-specialisation of the motorway link road scheme, with GAF funding allowing consultants Scott Wilson to work on the design. It is anticipated that the scheme will be funded through a government grant.
- 3.26 Luton BC has been advised by the Highways Agency that the scheme should progress through Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) as it includes part of the existing motorway network.
- 3.27 It is expected that determination will be in summer 2012.

4. YOUTH

- 4.1 **MaD** commenced the 2nd year of their commissioned contract to deliver youth work in the area on 1st April 2012. Consultation is currently taking place on the draft locality based youth work specification for 2013-15.
- 4.2 **Leighton Buzzard Youth Centre** is attracting good numbers consistently.
- 4.3 **TacTic** CBC have been working with the Town Council to review the TacTic Centre.
- 4.4 **Youth Group** CBC have been supporting voluntary sector partners to establish a youth sector group.

5. COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 5.1 Anti Social Behaviour - no significant issues identified.
- 5.2 CCTV continues to work with the Town Council with regard to reported criminal damage in Bridge Street.

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- 5.3 Waste Minimisation Officers have undertaken a significant amount of waste recycling education work in the Sandhills estate over the last few weeks including, door knocking, daytime events and flat education
- 5.4 Environmental Protection – no significant issues to report for fly-tipping or statutory nuisances

Crime Figures

5.5 Reported Crime

1st July – 15th August 2012 there were 11 reported crimes for the Parish of Leighton-Linslade. These crimes were classified as below;

Date of Offence	Crime
01/07/12	CRIMINAL DAMAGE - TO DWELLINGS
02/07/12	CRIMINAL DAMAGE - TO DWELLINGS
10/07/12	ASSAULT OCCASIONING ACTUAL BODILY HARM (OAPA SECTION 47)
18/07/12	THEFT OF PEDAL CYCLES
25/07/12	DRUGS - CLASS B CANNABIS - POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED DRUG
27/07/12	THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE
30/07/12	THEFT IN A DWELLING OTHER THAN FROM AUTOMATIC MACHINE OR METER
09/08/12	THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE
09/08/12	CRIMINAL DAMAGE - TO DWELLINGS
11/09/12	ASSAULT OCCASIONING ACTUAL BODILY HARM (OAPA SECTION 47)
13/08/12	ASSAULT OCCASIONING ACTUAL BODILY HARM (OAPA SECTION 47)

5.6 ASB

There were 22 reported incidents of anti social behaviour during the same period.

6. ECONOMIC GROWTH & REGENERATION

Inward Investment

- 6.1 We are currently collating information around inward investment into the Leighton Buzzard area and will report at the next Partnership meeting.

High Street Vacancy Levels

- 6.2 There are currently 14 vacant retail units within Leighton Buzzard. This has risen from 11 in April 2012. CBC Officers will be meeting with Commercial Property Agents who cover retail units in the Town Centre to assess the status of these and to ascertain why this is increasing.

Business Timebank

- 6.3 Business Timebank launched in Pilot Phase in October 2011. The scheme links local business intermediaries with companies requiring specific advice and support. During this phase around 60 businesses sought an 'interaction'. We will be working

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more closely with businesses in Leighton Buzzard and will report to the Committees the number of Timebank providers and the number of businesses using the service.

Lets Talk Business

- 6.4 Let's Talk Business was launched at the end of 2011. It is a targeted local business newsfeed which aims to provide information to businesses on the following:
- Financing and funding opportunities
 - Contracts and tenders from Central Bedfordshire and partners
 - Information on Business Timebank scheme which includes FREE seminars, workshops and opportunities for one to one advice
 - Updates on key infrastructure or new developments
 - Advice and information for businesses
 - Networking events
 - Awards and competitions
- 6.5 Businesses can access this newsfeed by completing a short questionnaire on the CBC website which enables a business to preference the sort of information it would like to receive and the area it is in to receive area specific information. Businesses then receive regular news through electronic newsletters and targeted news flashes for urgent and specific information.
- 6.6 The target for 2012/2013 is to get 2500 businesses signed up to this newsfeed. We will report to the Partnership the numbers signed up to the service in the Leighton Buzzard Area.

Business Clinics

- 6.7 The first Leighton Buzzard Business Clinic will be held on the 21st September at the White House. This gives local businesses the opportunity to meet with a number of partners to look at issues facing their businesses. Further details and bookings can be obtained from Vicky Hlomuka vicky.hlomuka@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Market – handover and launch

- 6.8 Members have agreed to transfer the Market Charter to Leighton-Linslade. Formal paperwork to agree transfer has been signed by Richard Carr and Cllr Maurice Jones. PF to liaise with Cllr David Hopkin and town clerks to arrange publicity to be organised for a handover event potential on the 29 September.

Public conveniences

- 6.9 Public conveniences transferred to LLTC on 1st June 2012. Novation of Cleaning and Hygiene Consumables Contracts to be resolved. CBC has sent agreement to novate to MCS, Merchant Rentals and the Town Council for approval. Once agreed the Lease can be finalised.

7. PLANNING

Core Strategy

- 7.1 A Development Strategy is being produced for the whole of Central Bedfordshire, which will set out targets for new development (new homes and jobs etc) as well as detailed policies to guide decisions on planning applications. The draft Development Strategy was considered by the Council's Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 16 May 2012, prior to public consultation starting on 11 June for six weeks.

Planning and Development Briefs

- 7.2 Planning and Development Briefs for two sites in Leighton Buzzard; Land South of the High Street and Bridge Meadow, were endorsed by CBC Executive on 27 March 2012.
- 7.3 The briefs provide a framework to guide the comprehensive regeneration of these two sites and determine appropriate uses and development principles. There are numerous issues to address but the Council is working towards facilitating delivery on the sites and a Delivery Plan is being prepared.

8. LEISURE

Leisure Strategy Update

- 8.1 The Leisure Strategy will comprise a suite of four strategies;
- Chapter 1: Leisure Facilities Strategy
 - Chapter 2: Recreation & Open Space Strategy
 - Chapter 3: Playing Pitch Strategy
 - Chapter 4: Physical Activity Strategy
 - Overarching Leisure Strategy Document
- 8.2 Chapters 1-4 will each undertake an audit and assessment for their specified leisure facilities in order to detail their respective current facility provision and future requirements. The scale of each individual chapter requires that their delivery and completions be phased. All four chapters and the Overarching Leisure Strategy document will be complete by July 2013.
- 8.3 Chapters 1 to 3 will be prepared using approved methodology required to ensure that each is successfully adopted by Central Bedfordshire Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) under the Local Development Framework. As such these documents will provide the policy basis which will inform the Council's Development Management in determining where and what new or improved leisure facilities should be provided with housing development
- 8.4 The first of the four chapters of the Leisure Strategy commenced in April 2012 with Chapter 1: the Leisure Facilities Strategy which focuses on built and indoor leisure facilities. The appointed consultants, Neil Allen Assoc. have been working through the summer to audit these facilities and will be delivering an Audit & Assessment Report in October detailing their analysis of the current quality, quantity and accessibility of provision across Central Bedfordshire. The report will also forecast facility needs up to 2031 in line with the Council's emerging Development Strategy.

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- 8.5 This document will be used as a basis for consultation with stakeholders in November to help identify the specific objectives to be incorporated into a draft Leisure Facilities Strategy in December.
- 8.6 **Consultation on Chapter 1 has been arranged for 19 Nov: 6.00 – 9.00pm Creasey Park and 21 Nov: Priory House: for Town and Parish Councils, sport governing bodies, sports clubs, stakeholders, to discuss:**
- draft Audit & Assessment Report
 - draft Strategy Issues and Options
- 8.7 In addition, work commenced in July on Chapter 2: the Recreation & Open Space Strategy, which focuses on all types of outdoor recreation space. Our consultants will be starting the on-site assessments of sites in August, to build a picture of current provision. The completed Audit & Assessment Report will be ready in January, after which it will be used as the basis for consultation with stakeholders to develop a draft Recreation & Open Space Strategy.
- 8.8 Work on Chapter 3: the Playing Pitch Strategy is due commence in September 2012 with the site audits and assessment visits.
- 8.9 Work on Chapter 4: Physical Activity Strategy is due to commence in September 2012 with the research phase.

Customer Forums

- 8.10 Quarterly Customer Forums are held at all CBC Leisure Centres. We invite all users of the facility to come along and receive an update on how the centre has performed over the last three months and what is planned over the next three months. Everyone is given an opportunity to discuss any comments or queries they may have. The next meeting at Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre is to be held on 19th September at 7pm.

9. ENVIRONMENT

River Clearance

- 9.1 The CBC has various departmental ownership responsibilities along the River Ouzel and Clipstone Brook. The Countryside Access Service (CAS) have proactively ensured that these parts are being cleared currently by a 12 month arrangement with the 'Community Pay Back' scheme on a 2 days a month, total 24 days a year. On the 1st Mon, Tue of each month excluding Bank Holidays, then the following Monday and Tuesday.
- 9.2 The CAS has started outline work with LLTC, Greensand Trust (GST) and local community volunteers towards producing an over arching 'Management Plan' for the future effective management of the water course for the benefit of biodiversity, conservation, visitor attraction and public use in line with outcomes of the 'Big Plan II'. We have also invited the Environment Agency (EA) and Internal Drainage Board (IDB) to attend initial meeting to establish baseline of information in how the water courses are managed by external agencies.

- 9.3 Potential shape / structure of developing 'Management Plan'
- Vision
 - Purpose
 - Aim
 - Area in context
 - Recommendation / Proposals
 - Action Plan
 - Progressing the plan

Children's Trail

9.4 BACKGROUND

The interactive Children's Trail was funded by the combined use of S106 Public Art contributions from Leighton-Linslade developments and support from Leighton-Linslade Town Council's Partnership Committee, local schools and the community. The project was led by Central Bedfordshire's Arts Team.

The Trail was created by commissioned artist Martin Heron, and comprises of 22 artworks inspired by children's literature. The works are both large and small and have been sited in some unusual places. It begins at Leighton Buzzard Library and Theatre, and winds around the town, into Parsons Close Recreation Ground and back towards Lake Street; encouraging the visitor to explore, look out for unusual shadows, hidden creatures and a secret door.

This project takes inspiration from the work of Mary Norton, author of 'The Borrowers', who lived in the town when she was growing up and realises a long standing aspiration of Leighton-Linslade Town Council (LLTC) to celebrate her work in some way. The trail also includes reference to authors like Michael Rosen (who agreed to be a champion for the Children's Trail), Philip Pulman, A.A Milne, J.M Barrie and Julia Jarman.

- 9.5 The Leighton-Linslade Children's Trail was launched on 25th August by Cllr Alan Brandham (Mayor - LLTC) and Cllr Angela Barker (Chairman-CBC) with an address by best selling children's author Julia Jarman.

- 9.6 Cllr Brandham spoke on the following points:

- The Children's Trail as a Key Economic Development Tool for Leighton-Linslade
- Adding to local Child Friendly activities (Narrow Gauge Railway. Mead Farm, Rushmere Park) to secure Leighton Buzzard's positioning as a prominent family friendly tourist attraction in the East of England
- Thanked the Artwork Hosts:
 - Mrs Margaret Mason (Peacock Mews)
 - Jennings Bet (Lake Street)
 - Barista (Market Square)
 - Book Delights (High Street Mews)
 - Baleday Ltd (Market Store, Bell Alley)
 - Cream /Savils (Waterborne Walk)
 - CBC (other sites)
 - The Artist - Martin Heron,
 - The Installer - Andy Langley

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- Orange Dot - Lucy Banwell and Paula Moss - for on line literature project at Leighton Middle and Cedars Upper

9.7 Cllr Barker spoke on the following points:

- The Children's Trail as an excellent example of partnership working most prominently between CBC and LLTC; both officers and members championing the project.
- Excellent example of cross departmental working for Central Bedfordshire Officers to realise the project over the last two years. (Arts Team, planners, highways, facilities, libraries, regeneration, conservation team)
- Innovative Public Art project - The Children's Trail highlights the social and economic impact and benefits of Public Art and includes specific contributions to the Public Realm (Pencil bench in Parsons Close, book seating outside the library, the bollard shadows and the refurbished 'Rat' bench in the High Street)
- The Trail realises Central Bedfordshire's Vision for its residents.
- Legacy of the project - wider benefits for all (apart from economic development),
- educational impact, family friendly activity, tourism, health (walking)
- Fits with wider regeneration of the town centre over the next few years; makes it a unique place to live and visit.
- Aspiration to allow growth and expansion of the project as the town develops.

9.8 Children's author Julia Jarman spoke of the importance of The Children's Trail as a vehicle for children and their families to explore and discover books, reading, writing, and growing the imagination.

9.9 There was supporting activity throughout the week leading up to the launch:

- A programme of children's films at the theatre
- A reading challenge at the library
- Mad Hat making workshops at the Theatre on 24th and 25th August at the Theatre
- FREE face painting on 25th August at the Library
- Alice in Wonderland street performers in the town on 25th August

9.10 40 local shops took part in a pre-launch campaign; showing posters and on launch day each shop was given 50 specially created postcards/pencils and trail guides to hand out to the public.

9.11 Rail guides maps will also be available from the Library, the Theatre and the White House.

9.12 Limited edition 'Field Guide' is being created which will act as a legacy document for the project. It should be available by the beginning of October and will be distributed to all schools in Leighton Buzzard and Linslade, LLTC and the Library.

9.13 The Field Guide will also be available as a FREE download in due course.

10. EDUCATION

10.1 On 21 August 2012, the Council's Executive will be asked to make a decision on the provision of new school places (including nursery provision) for the Pratts Quarry /

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Sandhills area of Leighton Buzzard, which is to be provided by the proposed expansion of Greenleas Lower School onto a second campus within the development.

- 10.2 The identification of the need for additional school places, and the proposal that was formed to provide them, arose out of the publication of the Council's first School Organisation Plan (SOP), which was published in September 2011, and the subsequent New School Places Programme which received Executive approval in March 2012.
- 10.3 The SOP supports transparent, objective decision-making by the council as commissioners of school places, and for the allocation of capital funding. It will be refreshed by October 2012 and will continue to be the basis for the planning of new education provision as a result of planned housing growth.
- 10.4 The New School Places Programme establishes how the growth identified in the SOP is to be managed. Like the SOP, it is a rolling five year plan and currently identifies £93m of capital spend required to provide new school places in 23 school catchment and housing development areas , four of which are within the Leighton / Linslade area . One of the projects in the current programme is the proposed expansion of Greenleas Lower School. The Programme is also subject to annual refresh and will be presented to the Council's Executive in early 2013.
- 10.5 Both the School Organisation Plan and the New School Places Programme, complete with a summary of the key information that has been gathered to compile these key documents, can be accessed via the Council's website at <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/school-organisation-ict/default.aspx>