

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

21 MARCH 2013

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

Purpose of report: - For Information

Service Highlights

1. Schools -

At Executive on 19 March - members are to be asked to approve phase 1 of the proposed expansion of Vandyke Upper School. The school recently addressed deficiencies in SEN provision by converting significantly undersized general teaching rooms, thereby reducing the school's capacity. Phase 1 re-provides some of the lost capacity for the school and will increase the school's current capacity slightly from 1003 places. The majority of the new accommodation will address an existing shortfall in general teaching spaces for which the school is contributing just over £500k. commencement of the process to enable Vandyke Academy to be expanded to accommodate additional pupil places in response to housing growth

Executive at their meeting in February approved the proposed Policy Principles for Pupil Place Planning in Schools as the basis for the future development of commissioning options for new school places in Central Bedfordshire. These are as follows -

1. The need to provide local schools for local children, ensuring a sense of community belonging and also promoting sustainable modes of travel.
2. The need to create schools that are of sufficient size to be financially and educationally viable.
3. The ability to support the expansion of local popular and successful schools or to link expanding schools with popular and successful schools.
4. The potential to further promote and support robust partnerships and learning communities.
5. The ambition to achieve a single phase of education 0 -19 and reduce school transfer points.
6. The need to support the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA).
7. To seek opportunities to create inspirational learning environments for the school and to maximise community use.
8. To promote the diversity of provision offered in Central Bedfordshire to increase opportunities for parental choice.
9. To support vulnerable learners in Area Special Schools and integrate appropriate Special Educational Needs provision within mainstream schools.

The construction of the new Sandhills Campus for Greenleas lower school is still on target for admitting pupil its first pupils in September 2013.

2. Community Safety

Between April 2012 - February 2013 there were 1428 recorded crimes, compared to 1744 in the same time period in 2011-12, this is a reduction of 316 recorded crimes - 18% reduction.

The main hotspot area for crime continues to be the Lake Street area, with crimes here mainly relating to the night time economy.

Between April 2012 - February 2013 17% of all recorded crime were violence against the person offences, 16% criminal damage offences and 16% domestic disputes.

Between April 2012 - February 2013 40% of all recorded crime was in the All Saints area, 25% in Grovebury and 14% in Plantation.

3. Waste Minimisation

The Waste Minimisation team is holding 'Love Food Hate Waste' exhibitions across the area until April. The public can pick up Love Food Hate Waste recipe cards and shopping planners and have a chance to win a shopping voucher.

The exhibition will be taking place in Leighton Buzzard Library Monday, 8 April – Friday, 19.

Love Food Hate Waste aims to raise awareness of the need to reduce food waste that will ultimately benefit the environment and our purses.

For more information on food waste or local recycling schemes please contact Ian McMurdy in the Waste Minimisation team.

4. Leighton Buzzard - Riverside Management Plan, Further meetings have taken place with the EA, and CBC attended the EA flood alleviation session at Leighton Buzzard on Feb 20th.

The local group met on Feb 28 to consider the outcome of the walkabout and the discussions with the EA. The group is pleased with progress to date and we are working towards having a 1st draft of the Plan around June/July for the group to start reviewing content.

5 Highways

a) Road works in the Lake Street/Leston Road area

Works have been ongoing in the Lake Street area since the beginning of the year and are progressing well. There have been slight delays due to weather but our contractor hopes to make up time and finish on schedule.

However, it has come to light in recent weeks that there is a problem with the Anglian Water foul sewer on Lake Street and for environmental reasons we are having to suspend works to allow Anglian Water to carry out their repairs. The length of time it will take to complete their repairs will be dependent on initial excavation surveys.

We will resume works as soon as possible. Until that time, the pedestrian crossing currently being worked on will have to remain closed. Additional signage advising pedestrians to use the crossing at Morrison have been installed.

For more information visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/lakestreet

b) Clipstone Bridge replacement

Work on the Clipstone Bridge began in October to replace an existing weak bridge and install a new one with a culvert. The road closure was originally planned for six weeks after the harvest time to minimise disruption to local farmers.

Work has been significantly disrupted by flooding throughout the closure. Flood waters take several days to recede and work cannot commence until the area is dry. We have looked at alternative options for diverting water but when the whole area floods it leaves little option but to wait. We are working hard on the next phase of works, which are focussed on bringing construction to a level so that any further work is not affected by flood water.

c) Streetlight upgrade programme

We are working to replace streetlights across the area with new, more efficient and longer-lasting lights. The new lights we're now installing are much more efficient and should help improve visibility in areas that need it. However, the old lanterns are quite old and are failing at a faster rate than we anticipated.

This means that sometimes there is a slightly longer wait until the light is fixed or replaced. Basic repairs are taking around 10 days, but full replacement of the lights depends very much on where others have failed and it is sometimes taking around 20 days. We are prioritising repairs and replacements in particularly busy areas, or along key traffic routes and hotspots, and where there might be a risk to the public if the lights are out. We have also increased our repair teams to deal with this.

People can report faulty lights by visiting www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/do-it-online and filling out an online form, emailing highways@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or, if you believe the damage to the street light is likely to cause damage or injury, call 0300 300 8049.

6. Planning

a) Framework Plan for East Leighton Linslade

Consultation on the Framework Plan for the East Leighton Linslade development proposal finished on the 16th January. Responses are being summarised and considered and a report is due to go to 25th April Overview and Scrutiny Committee followed by Executive on the 14th May.

b) Development Strategy

The Development Strategy is the new Local Plan for Central Bedfordshire. Once adopted it will replace existing policies in the South Bedfordshire Local Plan and Mid Bedfordshire Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD. The draft Strategy makes provision for 28,700 new homes across Central Bedfordshire up to 2031 alongside 27,000 new jobs. Roughly half of the planned housing will be provided through large scale urban extensions including approximately 2,500 new homes to the East of Leighton Linslade. This development will also include new employment space, community facilities and open space.

The latest 'Pre-Submission' version of the Development Strategy was recently subject to a six week public consultation between January and March 2013. All responses received during this period are currently being analysed. A schedule of proposed minor changes to

the Strategy will be prepared before the document and supporting evidence is submitted to the Secretary of State in May 2013. The Strategy will then be subject to an Examination in Public through which an independent Planning Inspector will decide whether it is 'fit for purpose'. It is currently anticipated that the Examination Hearing sessions will take place in Autumn 2013 before the Development Strategy is adopted by the Council in Spring 2014'.

7. Census Statistics

Information released recently from the 2011 Census data provides an up-to-date picture of who lives in our wards.

CBC's Insight Team have produced a two-page summary for every ward, town and parish in Central Bedfordshire.

Each summary helps to answer the key questions about ward residents, and shows comparisons with both Central Bedfordshire as a whole and England.

8. Town Centre Strategy / Action Plan

Discussions are taking place with the Town Council regarding the preparation of a specification for the Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan. We aim to have something finalised for the Partnership Meeting in June.

LLTC would then manage the process of procuring a consultant to carry out the work, and manage the contract.

9 Adult Social Care and Housing

Nothing further to update from the last report

10. Youth

Youth centre continues to be active with good levels of attendance

Youth Work provider : Following the recent commissioning process 4YP will be the new Youth Work provider from the 1st April 2013. The existing provider Make a Difference will end their current contract on the 31st March 2013.

Other commissioned providers of Youth Support Service are:

- Drugs & Alcohol Support Service - Plan B
- Sexual Health Support Services - Brook
- Volunteering - Voluntary and Community Action (Jointly with CVS)
- Information, Advice & Guidance – 4YP

Working Together - CBC will be inviting the Town Council to an event to meet commissioned providers, which will take place on the 25th April at the Rufus Centre Flitwick. We will also be sending out dates in the near future for the Leighton Linlade, Dunstable & Houghton Regis Councils to meet quarterly with CBC and commissioned providers of youth work, volunteering and Information, Advice & Guidance

11. Central Bedfordshire Property Accreditation Scheme

The Private Sector Housing Team (PSHT) is currently promoting the Central Bedfordshire Property Accreditation Scheme which was approved by Executive in December 2012. The scheme aims to improve the quality of private rented accommodation by incentivising landlords and letting agents to raise the standards of their properties to higher than the

statutory minimum. Details of accredited properties will be displayed on the council's website and landlords will be able to display accreditation certificates in their properties, which will provide re-assurance to tenants and prospective tenants.

The PSHT promoted the scheme at the Landlords' Forum held in December 2012 and published an article in News Central, the council's publication for residents. The team will also be writing to all landlords and letting agents within their database, encouraging them to apply.

For further details of the scheme please visit the council website or contact Terry Gilbey, Private Sector Housing Area Manager, on ext.74384 (0300 300 4384).

12. Leighton Buzzard Police Station

A further meeting took place on 21 February between CBC, LLTC, Police and Fire & Rescue Service to consider opportunities regarding the future of the Police Station and explore the potential co-location of services. A number of potential sites are being considered. Neither the Police nor Fire Service need to move urgently and all agencies will remain where they are until a new site has been developed. The Police confirmed that the police station in Hockliffe Road will remain open until another suitable location within the town has been identified and made ready for occupation. The Police are happy to accommodate other agencies at the station in the meantime.

Ongoing discussions about proposed sites will be subject to a formal business case.

The next meeting will be in May / June.

13. Community Engagement Strategy (CES)

The draft Community Engagement Strategy was considered by the Central Bedfordshire Together Partnership at its March 7 meeting. Further work is needed to streamline the Principles and include weblinks. Next steps are to report to Overview and Scrutiny 23 April, Executive 14 May and Council 13 June.

14. Town and Parish Council Conference

Tuesday, 16 April, 6pm – 9pm, Priory House, Chicksands

Cllr David Hopkin, Deputy Executive Member for Corporate Resources, is inviting council representatives to attend the next Town and Parish Council Conference about planning. Please contact Peter Fraser, Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement, ext. 76740 (0300 300 6740), for further information and a booking form.

15. Licensing Application

Kebab Ye, 24 Leighton Road, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard has applied for a variation to its license, an extension of hours for late night refreshment. Closing Date 2 April

Central Bedfordshire Council Consultation activity update – as at 8 March 2013

Details of current and upcoming consultation activity being undertaken by the Council are provided by the Communications Team. Please contact Tom Skinner for more information about this update on ext. 75738 or email tom.skinner@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Current consultations				
Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer
Conservation Area Appraisal - Sandy	Consultation on the draft conservation area appraisal.	25 Jan 2013	8 March 2013	Carry Murphy 0300 300 4374
Conservation Area Appraisal – Caddington	Consultation on the draft conservation area appraisal.	4 Feb 2013	15 Mar 2013	Carry Murphy 0300 300 4374
Pilot 10 feedback	Feedback survey to local businesses who took part in the Pilot 10 programme.	4 Feb 2013	15 Mar 2013	Deborah Brown 0300 300 4622
Think Fathers Survey	To seek the views of dads in Central Bedfordshire on services and support available to them, and understand their needs for support and services for the future.	20 Nov 2012	8 March 2013	Peter Barras 0300 300 6780
Registrations Annual Survey	Annual customer survey to assess the quality of the registration service.	25 Feb 2013	22 March 2013	Jackie Neville 0300 300 6214
Bedfordshire Adults Skills and Community Learning Learner Survey 2012-2013	To understand how learners rate the Adult Skills & Community Learning service	12 Feb 2013	30 Aug 2013	Jane Rogers 0300 300 4884
Broadband Survey	To understand the need/ demand for super fast broadband by residents, local businesses and voluntary organisations. Views to be sought through online and paper survey.	19 Dec 2011	Ongoing	James Cushing 0300 300 4984

Upcoming consultations				
Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer
Business Continuity Survey	County wide survey to assess how prepared local business are to deal with unexpected incidents or disasters.	11 March 2013	29 March 2013	Amie McGrory 0300 300 4553
Business Satisfaction Survey	Telephone interviews with 250 local businesses to inform the local economic assessment.	4 April 2013	11 April 2013	Victoria Dale 0300 300 6096
Residents Tracker survey	Latest tracker survey to monitor residents' opinions on council services and Central Bedfordshire as a place to live and work.	15 April 2013	26 April 2013	Karen Aspinall 0300 300 6286
Noise nuisance survey	Customer satisfaction survey on how the Community Safety team have handled noise nuisance complaints	April 2013	May 2013	Steve Barratt 0300 300 5639