

LEIGHTON LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**23 October 2014****CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE****Purpose of report: - for information****1 COMMUNITY SAFETY****1.1 Leighton Linslade**

Between October 2013 – September 2014 there were 1853 total crimes recorded in Leighton Linslade. This is an increase of 13% increase on the same time period in the previous 12 months.

Between October 2013 – September 2014 there were 371 Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) crimes recorded in Leighton Linslade. This is a 5% increase on the same time period in the previous 12 months.

Between October 2013 – September 2014 there were 140 recorded domestic burglaries in Leighton Linslade. This is a 9% increase on the same time period in the previous 12 months.

1.2 CCTV Incidents - Leighton Buzzard Jun – Sept 2014

Date and Time	Type	Location	Description	Arrests
02:25 5 Jul 14	Assault	Outside Top Bell	Group of males seen attacking another male on the ground	1
06:15:00 18 Jul 14	Offensive Weapon	Vimy Road/Willow Bank Walk	Male with gun leaves Tesco Vimy Rd. Stopped Willow Bank Walk.	1
05:00 19 Jul 14	Grievous Bodily Harm	Bridge Street	Male assaulted outside Bar Budda	
02:40 26 Jul 14	Affray	High Street	Group of males fighting.	
20:43 26 Jul 14	Offensive Weapon	High Street	2 drunk males ejected from the Swan. One shows a hammer stuffed in the front of his jeans police on sight male later found and arrested	1
02:01 30 Jul 14	Assault	Lake Street	Male attacked by two others	
18:40 30 Jul 14	Assault	Parsons Park	8 Month old baby kicked in head	
23:13 5 Aug 14	Traffic Accident		Footage of female getting into her car after she had reported it stolen and involved in RTC	

15:37 7 Aug 14	Theft/Shoplifting	High Street/Lake Street	male and female shoplifting from Superdrug and then making off in a car	
12:50 8 Aug 14	Offensive Weapon	Location not recorded	Male chases another male with a knife.	
04:20 9 Aug 14	Assault	Bridge Street	Female assaulted by 2 males	
16:54 6 Aug 14	Criminal Damage	Lake Street	Possible offender in damage to car on High Street. Makes off down Lake Street.	
16:54 6 Aug 14	Criminal Damage	High Street	Female causes Criminal Damage to car on High Street.	
11:00 12 Aug 14	Intelligence	Various	Footage of males and a female being a problem in town centre shops.	
16:53 6 Aug 14	Attempted Robbery	High Street	Male with knife attempts to rob male at bus stop.	
13:07 14 Aug 14	Intelligence		Males appearing to sell jewellery to 3 Counties Pawnbrokers. Known burglars	
16:27 15 Aug 14	Theft/Shoplifting	Waterbourne Walk	Youths steal wine from Waitrose. Known offenders.	
05:00 17 Aug 14	Affray	Bridge Street	Car drives at male and male throws punches.	
04:45 31 Aug 14	Affray	Bar Buddha	Large fight.	
09:36 3 Sep 14	Theft/General	North Street	Red bicycle stolen from outside shop next to Buzz Wines	
02:03 6 Sep 14	Drunk and Disorderly	Lake Street	Male ejected from Lancer	1
01:28 6 Sep 14	Drug Related	Bell Alley	Possession of Class A drugs.	1
03:08 6 Sep 14	Affray	Lake Street	Large group of males and females fighting by Top Bell.	
04:08 6 Sep 14	Assault	Lake Street	Male makes off from police after assaulting another male outside Top Bell.	
05:55 7 Sep 14	Assault	Lake Street	Males fighting.	
03:00 20 Sep 14	Assault	Lake Street	Fight outside the pizza shop	
14:15 17 Sep 14	Theft/General	High Street	Purse stolen from vehicle and card used at Nationwide	

03:25 27 Sep 14	Drunk and Disorderly	Lake Street	Male being abusive to Mr Ridgeways staff.	
10:40 17 Sep 14	Traffic Offence	Lake Street	RTC	

Notes:

CBC still awaiting confirmation from LLTC on fibre connections from Astral Park and when monitoring is likely to begin.

1.3. The ASB & Statutory Nuisance Team has completed the following

- 3 x Vehicle nuisances reports and dealt with by standard warning on Billington Road, Johnson Drive and North Street. The last one is still under investigation and the part of the routine patrol routes.
- 1 x Light nuisance - resolved with informal advice following OOH visit during evening/night hours.
- 1 x Noise Abatement Notice breach (dog barking) – this is to be prosecuted.
- Nelson Rd - working with land owners to reduce the amount of fly-tipping at rear of properties
- North St - waste clearance notice served after fly-tipping investigation
- Bunting Drive - duty of care investigation into disposal of waste - possible formal caution
- Breach of civil injunction banning an individual from the town centre – currently being heard at court
- Monitoring children involved in ASB in REEVE CLOSE/SANDHILLS – partnership working with Police
- Street Drinkers in town centre – Advised
- Harassment case in BROAD RUSH GREEN
- JOHNSON DRIVE – Nuisance Neighbours/Youths

2 LEISURE

2.1 lifestyles@tiddenfoot open for business

lifestyles@tiddenfoot had its official opening on Sunday, 28 September with appearances from Olympic swimming stars.

Local children had the chance to swim with Fran Leighton, 2012 Olympian, Adam Whitehead, former European and Commonwealth swimmer and Zoe Reeve, GB synchro squad swimmer. Residents can't wait to experience the facilities on offer at the newly renovated leisure centre.

The fitness suite has been extended and refurbished and now includes brand-new equipment from Technogym, including the new Artis range – making lifestyles@tiddenfoot one of only three centres in the world to feature this state-of-the-art equipment. Including the latest interactive Well-being technology, a heavy weights area and a range of resistance training equipment, as well as having internet access and iPhone/iPad docking

To date redevelopment work has included:-

- Installing a larger fitness room more suited for promoting activity to improve the health of customers.
- New changing rooms for the fitness room
- The complete refurbishment of the entrance area to include a costa coffee offering and a new reception area
- The provision of a new crèche area
- The conversion of a dance studio from the old fitness room

While this redevelopment phase of the works is now completed The project was always seen as an ongoing programme over a number of years as funding becomes available, further improvement planned for later this year include:-

- the refurbishment of the pool spectator galleries
- replacement of the Health Suite

Work will then continue in the next financial year to:-

- improve ventilation to the poolside and changing rooms
- repainting of the pool hall
- improve the structure of the building surrounding the variable bottom pool.

We are also working with the management contractor ensuring the cleaning and maintenance standards within the facility are improved and that repairs to the equipment are undertaken in a timely manner.

We are also making changes to the activity programme with a view to ensuring that it is comprehensive and attractive to all sections of the community, ensuring the centre is fully used. When the draft programme is prepared there will be consultation with customers. One of the main aims of the new programme will be to open up more public swimming times during the day, which is a requirement of the local community and was highlighted in the research that we undertook for the development of our Leisure Facilities Strategy, it is planned this new programme will start in the new year.

Work has also taken place on the entrance and reception area, which now features a Costa café offering a range of refreshments, and refurbishment works are currently being undertaken in the health suite.

2.2 Leighton Buzzard Library

On 1 October the theatre introduced online booking. The first week has been very successful with 52% of bookings received online as opposed to face to face. A tender for new theatre lighting has been sent to potential suppliers; evaluation of the tenders will begin in mid-October. Capital works on the theatre and box office have been programmed for implementation in February 2015.

Free computer classes are being held at Leighton Buzzard Library on Wednesday 15 October, aimed at showing beginners basic skills, from using a keyboard and mouse to logging onto the internet.

The classes are run in partnership with Luton Learning Centre and celebrate national Get Online Week – inspiring people across the UK to get online and learn digital skills.

Forthcoming events for children include: Hugless Douglas rhyme and story times (9, 18, 21, 22 October), Kite Craft (18 October), hand puppets (29 October), pumpkin

lanterns (30 October), rocket book marks (4 November), festive baubles (13 December), and button wreath decorations (20 December).

On the 1 November the library will be hosting a 'human library'. A human library works just like a normal library – open to all, readers choose from a catalogue and borrow a 'book' for a limited period of time, returning it back for others to share. The twist in the Human Library is that the 'books' are people and that 'reading' them involves a conversation.

3 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

3.1 We are undertaking carriageway resurfacing in November at the Old Linslade/ Linslade/ Plantation Road Junction, Stanbridge Road, Southcourt Road/ Southcourt Ave, Springfield Road; and in December at Barnabas Road and Melfort Drive. We are also undertaking a footway re-tread scheme in Severn Walks due on site in October.

3.2 Woodside Link approved

Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin has approved the Woodside Link road, which will connect Houghton Regis and the industrial estates in Dunstable with a new junction on the M1 motorway.

The Woodside Link will connect the areas with junction 11a, which will be built on the M1 north of the town, as part of the A5-M1 link being constructed by the Highways Agency.

The council secured £20million of government funding for the project in July of this year, adding to the £5million it was awarded from Westminster's Local Pinch Point Fund in June 2013. Construction work on the Woodside Link is expected to start in early 2015 and take two years to complete.

Initial work has already begun on surveys, putting cabling underground and planning for the scale of construction. And the Woodside Link road, along with the A5-M1 link, is scheduled to be completed and ready for use in early 2017.

3.3 Car Parking Study

Paul Salmon is unable to attend the October meeting of the Partnership due to hospital treatment. Paul will instead attend the December meeting of the Partnership after internal consultations with Members have been completed to provide an update on the parking study and emerging recommendations

4 SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING

4.1 Dementia workshop - On Wednesday 3rd September Cllr Carole Hegley – Executive Member for Social Care, Health & Housing sponsored a workshop where there was an opportunity for Members to undertake the Dementia Awareness training and become a 'Dementia Friend', as well as informing them about the National Dementia Challenge, and the Council's approach to this. Members were also able to make the links to this years Chairman's Charity, the Alzheimer's Society. The event was very well received and further Dementia training is being offered in enabling our communities to become more dementia friendly

- 4.2 Older Persons Festival** - Healthwatch Central Bedfordshire worked in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council, Aragon Housing and their residents group (ROAR) together with the Older Peoples Reference Group (OPRG) to host this year's Festival for Older People on 3rd October. This year the focus for the day was celebrating the achievements and contributions that older people make to our society and tackling negative attitudes and outdated stereotypes. We had over 40 exhibitors and over 250 attendees.
- 4.3 Homelessness Strategy Focus Groups** two workshops will be delivered w/c 13/10/14 to engage with staff and other stakeholders.
- 4.4 Housing Allocations Workshop** engagement event on 17/10/14
- 4.5 Making a Difference and Improving Outcomes for Older People in Leighton Buzzard & Linslade** - On the 4th November 2014 at Astral Park Sports & Community Centre Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group will be holding an event to bring together expertise from the local community, including voluntary and social groups, healthcare professionals, local Councillors and members of the public to explore the challenges, share aspirations, connect to opportunities, and take action to make a difference to the health and wellbeing of older people.
- 4.6 Mobile Home strategy** engagement & consultation activities from October / November 2014, event scheduled 27/01/2015 at the Rufus Centre Flitwick.
- 4.7 Key Priorities over the next 3 months**
- Prepare for future changes and the transformation of adult social care, housing and localised health provision, including the Care and Support Bill and Welfare Reform.
 - Strengthen customer focus, through communication, engagement and consultations.
 - Determine and deliver the Council's housing offer.

5. YOUTH SERVICES

5.1 Update on NEETs

5.1.1 The levels of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) continue to be low across Central Bedfordshire (4.3% from year 12 -14 cohorts in July 14). The proportion of young people In Learning is 82.1%

5.1.2 NEET Overview

The July data has been used for the purpose of this report as it is the last month young people are in a settled destination before the new academic year.

There were 66 young people (Years 12-14) in Leighton Buzzard who were NEET, 67 young people who were NEET in May

5.1.3 Characteristics of the NEET Group in Leighton-Linslade:

The following information provides an overview of the characteristics of the current NEET group in relation to the:

- gender and age breakdown;

- NEET status of young people in relation to whether they are currently available to the labour market (actively seeking EET) or if they are currently unavailable for EET due to their personal circumstances;
- length of time young people have been NEET;
- previous destinations in relation to what young people were doing immediately prior to becoming NEET.

The overview also includes Houghton Regis and Dunstable figures to help provide context.

Breakdown of NEET Characteristics for July 2014 for Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Leighton Buzzard

	Dunstable	Houghton Regis	Leighton Buzzard
Total NEETs	68	48	66

Gender

Male	39	26	29
Female	29	22	37

Age

16	2	3	2
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17	27	14	17
18	17	17	23
19	22	14	24

NEET: Available to Labour Market			
NEET - seeking empl. or training	45	30	39
NEET - Start date agreed for EET	2	1	0
Working not for reward	2	1	4
NEET: Unavailable to Labour Market			
Illness	4	5	6
Pregnancy	7	2	5
Teenage Parent	6	7	11
Not available – Other	2	2	1

Length of time NEET			
Less than 3 months	20	11	15
3-6 months	21	13	17
6+ months	27	24	34

Previous Destination			
Employment	4	5	11
Foundation Learning/Training	6	3	0
Maint. School/Sixth Form College	18	10	12
College	13	8	15
NEET - seeking empl. or training	3	4	3
Pregnancy/Teenage Parent	7	9	8
Apprenticeship	5	2	3
Re-engagement Programme	6	2	0
Unknown/Cannot be Contacted	4	4	10
Other	2	1	4

6 SCHOOLS

The 2014 version of the School Organisation Plan (SOP) has just been published and is available via the CBC website:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/school-organisation-ict/default.aspx>

The SOP outlines expected changes in pupil population over the next 5 years, and proposals for delivering additional school places where required. The SOP is a key evidence base to support decisions on where to spend available capital investment, and is designed to enable transparent and objective decision making by the council as a commissioner of school places.

In view of the required extra school places that have been identified by the SOP, we are currently talking to 2 lower schools and a middle school within Leighton Buzzard regarding possible expansions.

7 PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

7.1 Central Bedfordshire Together Stakeholder Conference – On 30 September 2014 an event was held with over 120 stakeholder representing a range of organisations. It looked at 3 key themes

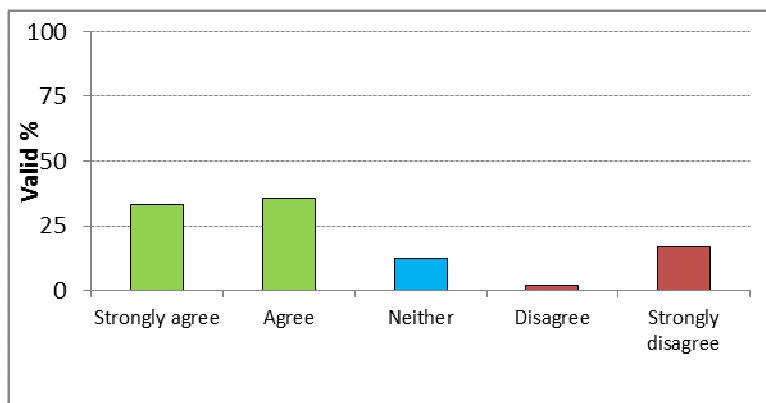
- Improving Health and Wellbeing in Central Bedfordshire
- Future Policing Strategy for Bedfordshire Police; What it means for our communities
- Enabling Sustainable Economic Growth

A full Conference report is being prepared and will be available shortly.

7.2 Regent Street and Miles Avenue

A consultation with local residents completed on 3 October revealing support for a community garden project on the piece of CBC land between these 2 roads. A meeting was held on 13 October to consider the proposed scheme in more detail and future grounds maintenance arrangements.

Leighton Linlade Biodiversity garden results
 Land between Miles Avenue and Regent Street
 49 responses
 162 paper questionnaires posted to local residents



8 WASTE

8.1.1 Looking back

We achieved:

The Waste Services Officer has arranged the installation of an additional dog waste bin in Ouzel Meadow and a new litter bin in Weston Avenue.

The new style of metal recycle-on-the-go litter bin being trialled since August on the High Street in Leighton Buzzard is being reviewed, and further bins may be installed in other parts of the High Street.

8.1.2 Key issues

Following the issues with grass cutting in recent months, closer monitoring by the Waste Services officer has resulted in improved quality. Grounds maintenance staff are focusing on maintenance of the shrub beds until the end of the growing season this month. Grounds maintenance staff will start leaf fall collection soon.

8.2 Looking forward

8.2.1 Key Priorities over the next 3 months

Educational letters and leaflets are to be distributed to properties on the Sandhills development with the aim of introducing any new residents to the recycling scheme and decreasing the contamination of recycling bins.

8.2.2 Key messages

The Autumn issue of News Central featured an article about reducing the amount of contamination (unwanted materials) in dry recycling and residents will be receiving further communications to encourage them to leave out of the recycling bin any items they're unsure about, in order to increase the quality of the recycling.

9. REGENERATION

Land south of the High Street.

- 9.1** The purchase of the Parkridge/Cattle Market portion of land south of High Street site has been completed. Clearance works have been carried out on the Cattle Market portion of the site and the Council is intending on extending Duncombe Drive car park into this area on a temporary basis ahead of any redevelopment. We would like to have this completed ahead of the Christmas period if not sooner.

Grovebury Road

- 9.2** Partnership Committee Members asked for an update on the Grovebury Rd application. The matter is still locked into the Court process and we are expecting a decision from the Court of Appeal in November. Whatever the ruling there is always the possibility of further appeal. There have been two sets of proceedings so far. An application for Judicial Review was refused by Judge. This was "appealed" by FoE

and following a high court hearing, this was also refused. There is now the outstanding appeal to the Court of Appeal.

Tourism Strategy

- 9.3 The Partnership Committee workplan refers to a Tourism Strategy. This will have links with our sector focus activity with the Visitor economy being one of the four key sectors. The emphasis on the Visitor Economy is to raise the profile of Central Bedfordshire and attract more visitors (business and leisure tourists). The plan is to have sector groups for each of the key sectors, each will consider and determine the need for strategies, action plans or similar. We would want to see links with Experience Bedfordshire and with the wider SEMLEP strategic plan for Arts, Heritage, Sports, Visitor Economy, Cultural and Creative Industries. In addition there is likely to be an element of supporting the visitor Economy that we would like to discuss with Town Councils.