

LEIGHTON LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

18 June 2015

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

Purpose of report: - for information

1 COMMUNITY SAFETY

1.1 Crime Data Update

Between May 2014 – April 2015 there were 2037 crimes recorded in Leighton Linslade. This is an increase of 22% on the same time period in the previous 12 months.

Between May 2014 – April 2015 there were 334 SAC crimes recorded in Leighton Linslade. This is a decrease of 8% on the same time period in the previous 12 months.

Between May 2014 – April 2015 there were 93 domestic burglaries recorded in Leighton Linslade. This is a decrease of 43% on the same time period in the previous 12 months.

1.2 ASB & SN Team Update in between 1st January 2015 – 31st March 2015

Littering: 2

Fly tips: 12

Fly posting: 1

Graffiti: 2

Light Pollution: 1

Noise Pollution: 16

Odour/fumes/smoke Pollution: 4

Rowdy/Inconsiderate Behaviour: 2

Prosecutions to legal: 2 x fly-tipping, 1 x littering

FPNs: 1 x FPN paid at £50 rate

FPN's issued: 2 x littering

Additional:

Location: Doggett Street, LB

Issue: single mother, vulnerable victim referred to ASB & SN team. She felt unable to leave her flat due to groups of youths hanging round in the stairwell, intimidating her and calling her names. She became quite depressed. Complaints of constant strong smell of cannabis within the block. Complaints of anti-social and nuisance behaviour from this group of youths was also reported

in other blocks of flats and outside on the street, where there were regular fights resulting in Police attendance. The youths gained entry to the blocks by damaging the rear entry doors and also putting tape over the front entry door-locking mechanism.

Action taken: joint home visits to victim by ASB team and CBC housing offering support and encouragement. She was supported to attend her GP. She also completed several weeks of incident diary logs. Liaised with Local Police team. Victim's case heard at ASBRAC, where multi-agency support was put in place for victim and her 1 year old child. Partnership working with Police, CBC Housing and Children's Services resulted in: Identifying the youths causing the ASB: warning letters and visits to 2 adults (18y and 20y), Unacceptable Behaviour Notice signed by young person (15y) and parent, with requirement to continue to engage with his social worker, accept support to attend school and a mentoring project around vehicle maintenance. Victim supported by CBC housing to move to a more suitable property. CBC housing maintenance team repaired doors with more secure locks.

Outcomes: The 3 main offenders stopped hanging round in the stairwells of the flats or in the street outside, following the warnings and behaviour contract. This resulted in the whole group dispersing. There are no further issues in this area. The 15 year old is engaging with education and Children's Services. The victim is receiving support in her new home and regularly takes her young child out and attends a mother and child group.

1.3 **Summary of incidents recorded by CCTV, Leighton Buzzard, 1st January 2015 to 31st March 2015**

This report contains data gathered by the Council's CCTV Control Room located at Watling House, Dunstable. It includes details of CCTV monitored incidents and arrests by the police in the towns of Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Leighton Buzzard. It does not include details of the police response to any particular incident where an arrest is not made, nor does it include incidents not captured by CCTV; for this reason the data will not reflect the overall picture of crime and disorder in any area. Personal data is excluded to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Date and Time	Location	Brief Summary	No of Arrests
1 Jan 15 03:00	Dragon Chinese Restaurant	Criminal Damage – male smashes door window at premises	1
8 Jan 15 17:41	Hockliffe Street	Offensive Weapon – male with metal pole making threats	
8 Jan 15 18:35	Lake Street	Robbery	
8 Jan 15 18:05	Waterbourne Walk	Assault – male assaulted by male on a bicycle	

10 Jan 15 08:29	Various Town Centre	Theft of Vehicle – male riding dangerously on stolen vehicle various location in the town centre	
20 Jan 15 10:56	High Street	Affray – group of males fighting	1
31 Jan 15 00:27	Lake Street	Assault - Door staff push female down stairs outside The Lancer	
1 Feb 15 00:09	Lake Street	Affray – fight outside Mr Ridgeway	
2 Feb 15 13:10	High Street	Public Disorder – male being abusive to female traffic warden outside HSBC	
15 Feb 15 01:28	High Street	Assault on Police – 2 males arguing and fighting with police	2
15 Feb 15 17:10	Winterbourne Walk	Criminal damage – group of youths start a fire	
21 Feb 15 12:44	Lake Street	Drunk and Disorderly – male resisting arrest	
22 Feb 15 01:40	Lake Street	Assault – male assaults female door staff at The Lancer	
21 Feb 15 02:00	High Street	Criminal Damage – male kicks and damages door of taxi	
1 Mar 15 02:45	High Street	Criminal Damage – male forces taxi to stop then breaks wing mirror	
18 Mar 15 23:33	Leighton Road	Affray – males fighting in Shell garage	1
21 Mar 15 01:00	Lake Street	Door staff assault two males using unreasonable force.	
27 Mar 15 09:32	Market Square	Miscellaneous – Male arrested for breach of non molestation order.	1

Notes

A total of six arrests were recorded by CCTV as a result of incidents monitored in the quarter compared to eight in the same period in 2014.

The three cameras at Astral Park are now live and being monitored in the CBC control room in Dunstable.

CBC has completed the purchase of 6 new deployable CCTV cameras and these are currently in the testing and commissioning phase and staff are being trained in their use. It is anticipated that they will go live operationally at the end of June 2015.

2 **LEISURE**

2.1 **Library**

On 14 April there was a launch of the Learning Consortium 'Year of the Arts' for local schools. 300 pupils came to watch their fellow students perform music, dance and drama in two shows. Schools will be taking turns displaying their writing and art work in the children's library over the next year.

A partnership has been established with LLTC to promote the Children's Trail and to display art cards by children following the trail. The display in the children's library will go on for several months.

On 9 May there was a new collaboration with Leighton Buzzard Art Club – the library hosted 'Try Art Workshops' for people interested in watercolours and pastels.

Leighton Buzzard Children's Centre held series of story sessions in the library for families with young children for whom English is not their first language. A member of library staff introduced them to library services.

A Dementia Friends information session for local people held in the library on 21 May. These sessions have been held in a number of libraries across the authority.

Craft sessions for children were held during National Families Week.

Future events include meet the Bookstart Bear on 13 June and a Gadget workshop on 20 August. All the usual events and activities have continued: Storytimes, Rhymetime, children and family craft events, Lego sessions, Family History Group, Stitchers, Craft club, Reading group etc.

2.2 **Theatre**

The Theatre works have now been largely completed – a new lighting rig and desk has been installed, the theatre floor has been re-varnished, the box office and bar repainted and improvements made to meeting spaces and facilities for performers.

A new satellite dish has been installed for digital cinema.

Feedback from the survey undertaken with families about what they would like to see at the theatre has been published on the Central Bedfordshire website at: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/have-your-say/results.aspx>. 201 people responded of which 63% were theatre users and 34% non-users. The reason most people cited for not attending the theatre was that they were not aware of what was on. Of the people that did attend the two most popular reasons were films and children's theatre events. Nearly 60% of people that responded wanted to see a Saturday morning children's film event.

2.3. Leisure

2.3.1 Community Physical Activity

Beginner walks continue from Leighton Buzzard library every Thursday at 10am together with the exercise session at Tudor Court. The exercises use the treadmill or exercise bike and promote strengthening and balance to help prevent falls. These sessions are open to all members of the public, contact robin.osborn@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk for further details. Seated exercise classes continue at Tudor Court on Fridays 1.30-2.30pm.

A dance machine session for children age 8+ is taking place at Leighton Buzzard library on 19th August 1.00– 1.45pm. Dance machines are engaging, fully interactive and visually stimulating. Being simple to use with natural movement they are ideal for complete beginners. Helping with balance, control and accuracy, it contributes towards confidence and concentration. It is a fantastic way to get active whilst having fun. Contact the library to book a place.

A new fit4life 50+ Activity Programme leaflet was published in April 2015 and the next will be published in September 2015 please visit [Fit4life brochure](#). Hard copies of the booklet can be requested from Loren Barnard physical.activity@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

2.3.2 Policy & Strategy

Working with Leighton Linlade Town Council and Countryside Access Service we are seeking to access a large sum of S106 money to enable the Town Council to carry out improvement works to their major green spaces.

2.3.3 Leisure Facilities

We are delighted to announce that the newly refurbished Health Suite is now open offering sauna, steam room and a relaxation area. Customer feedback is that the work undertaken is a big improvement in the facilities available.

Over the last 3 months we have seen an increase in usage at Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre in most areas, especially swimming with over 1750 children per week taking part in lessons. There has been an increase in the number of customers coming through medial referral pathways (Activity4Health). The 50+ session continues to be popular and runs every Friday providing activity & social interaction.

The centre recently achieved a 'Good' score in Quest, which is a nationally recognised quality assurance system operated by Sport England

Over the next three months the centre staff will work with CBC to provide Beginner walks. These will be open to all residents and the aim of the walks is to encourage everyone in Central Bedfordshire to get moving. They are short walks of 30-45 minutes and the group will meet back at the café for a cup of tea/coffee and a natter.

We are currently reviewing the way that new members are welcomed and inducted into the Leisure Centre to offer the best possible customer experience throughout the lifetime of their membership.

Group training sessions are currently under review with a view to developing the programme to introduce new innovative group based activities suitable for all abilities and age groups.

Work is also underway to organise the summer camp activities, which this year will run along side disability sessions making them open to many more children.

3 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

There is no update from Highways and Transportation since the last report.

4 SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING

Carers Forum/Drop in Session, Astral Park, Leighton Buzzard - 9th June 2015

Just Ask at Market Place, Leighton Buzzard - 25th August 2015

The Independent Living Allocation Policy Consultation started 20th May and will run until 15th June 2015.

5 YOUTH SERVICES

5.1 Update on NEETs

The levels of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) continue to be low across Central Bedfordshire and has decreased since December 2014. In April 2015 there were only 319 young people (3.8%) with a NEET status from a cohort total of 8,739. The number of young people in Education, Employment or Training (EET) is 7,987 of which the proportion of young people (Years 12-14) still 'In Learning' is 82.4%.

5.2 NEET Overview

From December 2014 to April 2015 there has been a general decrease in the number of NEET young people.

In April 2015 there were 60 young people (Years 12-14) in Leighton Buzzard who were NEET, which is a decrease from 80 young people who were NEET in December 2014.

There were 60 young people (Years 12-14) living in the Dunstable area who were NEET. This is a decrease from 65 young people who were NEET in December 2014.

There were 41 young people (Years 12-14) in Houghton Regis who were NEET, which is a decrease from 50 young people who were NEET in December 2014.

5.3 Characteristics of the NEET Group in Leighton Buzzard:

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

- spread of young people across the Leighton Buzzard wards;
- 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.

Leighton Buzzard Ward Breakdown for April 2015	
Leighton Buzzard North	27
Leighton Buzzard South	16
Linslade	13
Heath & Reach	4

Breakdown of NEET Characteristics for April 2015 for Houghton Regis, Dunstable, and Leighton Buzzard			
Total NEETs	Houghton Regis	Dunstable	Leighton Buzzard
	41	60	60

Gender			
Male	24	35	26
Female	17	25	34

Age			
16	6	5	4
17	8	13	16
18	14	27	25
19	13	15	15

NEET: Available to Labour Market			
NEET - Seeking Empl. or Training	30	43	34

NEET: Unavailable to Labour Market			
Due to Pregnancy/Teenage Parent, Young Carer, Illness	11	17	26

Length of Time NEET			
Less than 3 months	11	18	16
3-6 months	11	11	13
6+ months	19	31	31

Previous Destination			
Employment/Apprenticeship	6	12	6
College	11	14	13
Re-engagement Programme/Foundation Learning/E2E Training	2	9	0
NEET – Available to Labour Market	6	7	9
NEET – Unavailable to Labour Market	16	18	32

6 **SCHOOLS**

6.1 **School Organisation**

6.1.1 **Starting school in Leighton Buzzard & Linslade**

Further to the information provided previously, regarding the demand upon school places and the actions taken by the Council's School Admissions Team in order to assist parents and carers who would be applying for a reception year school place for those children due to start school in south Leighton Buzzard in September 2015, attached is a table showing the lower schools in Leighton Buzzard and Linslade, their published admission number (the amount of places they have available to offer for the year group) and the number of places offered. Parents who met the closing date for 'on-time' applications were advised of the place offered on 16 April, which is the 'National Offer Day'. Parents who submitted applications after the closing date will be advised of the place offered on 8 June.

6.1.2 **New School Places for Leighton Buzzard & Linslade**

In March 2015 the Council's Executive approved the proposed expansion of both Leedon Lower School and Clipstone Brook Lower School by 150 places each with effect from September 2015. It is hoped that construction will commence on both projects in early June.

The Council's Executive (at their meeting on 7 July) is to be asked to support a consultation to be undertaken by Leighton Community Middle School to permanently expand the school by 120 places, with effect from 1 September 2016. This expansion is also required due to the growth in population within the Town and the resulting demand upon school places.

6.2 **Starting School 2015**

The following information below shows the lower schools in Leighton Buzzard, their published admission number (the amount of places they have available to offer for the year group) and the number of places offered.

School/Academy	Published Admission Number	Total number of Places offered	% offers which were 1st preference for the school/academy
Beaudesert Lower School	55	49	96%
Clipstone Brook Lower School	75	62	76%
Doverly Down Lower School	30	30	100%
Greenleas School, Derwent Road	60	60	97%
Greenleas School, Kestrel Way	60	60	98%
Heathwood Lower School	30	30	77%
Hockliffe Lower School	15	15	100%
Leedon Lower School	90	77	91%
Linslade Lower School	45	45	69%

Pulford Lower	45	45	98%
Southcott Lower School	60	60	93%
St. George's Lower School	30	20	75%
St. Leonard's Lower School	20	17	76%
Stanbridge Lower School	24	23	91%
The Mary Bassett Lower School	60	60	93%

7 PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

7.1 Cheering Volunteering – On 2nd June the first Cheering Volunteering event was held at the Grove Theatre, Dunstable. Almost 400 people attended the celebration and awards evening event, where awards were presented to winners in seven categories of volunteering. Feedback from attendees and sponsors has been very positive indeed with expressions of support for Cheering Volunteering to become an annual event .

8 WASTE

8.1 Looking back

8.1.1 We achieved:

Pressure washing of the town centre has been carried out, with some areas to still to be completed.

The second weed spray of the season of Council-maintained hard surfaces began in early June. Grass cutting began in March, and continues throughout the season.

8.1.2 Key highlights

A new contract for the management of Central Bedfordshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres, including Leighton Buzzard's Shenley Hill site, began on 1st April. Amey will continue to provide the same high level of service to residents. An initial issue with the glass bins provided at the sites has now been resolved.

4 new 'Recycle on the Go' bins have been installed in Leighton Buzzard town centre, and have been well-used.

The Council supported the Leighton Buzzard May Fayre by collecting litter and waste from the event, in addition to several other community litter picks including those in Tiddenfoot Park and Blackbridge Path. Litter pickers were supplied and litter was collected after the event.

8.1.3 Key issues

There has been an increase in graffiti around the town centre, with the Council cleaning areas for which it is responsible.

8.2 Looking forward

8.2.1 We are planning

Dog Control Order signs are to be erected across the town, as directed by the town council.

9 BUSINESS SUPPORT AND INWARD INVESTMENT UPDATE

9.1 Leighton Buzzard Business Collective

The second meeting of the Leighton Buzzard Business Collective, organised by The Chamber, was held on May 21st at Grundfos Pumps. Jason Longhurst, Director of Regeneration and Business, presented to the group on upcoming local developments, and a representative from the Business Support Team was also in attendance. Vinci, BE Aerospace, Mini Clipper, Reisswolf, Data Harvest and C& C Training were amongst the companies present. Following the meeting, the Business Support Team will be looking to support a couple of the businesses to organise a local recruitment fair.

9.2 Business Support Schemes

In March 2015, a business clinic was held in Leighton Buzzard. As a result of attending the clinic, C&C training have accessed further support from the Velocity business support scheme, received a Velocity grant for £10,000 and have registered for the Business Growth Accelerator programme.

The Business TimeBank scheme continues to run and was heavily promoted in April and May, resulting in a number of companies from Leighton Buzzard being referred for TimeBank sessions. We have also signed up new service providers from Leighton Linslade.

9.3 Property/Site Availability

From the EGI data and other data, 57 units are available which cover a variety of uses and cover a wide geographical area ie. Chartmoor Business Park, Grovebury Road and Waterbourne Walk.

Total Commercial space (B1) available: 27 units totalling 20,221 sq m/ 217,648 sq ft was . Previously, 15,979sqm/ 171,999 sqft

Total Retail space available: 11 units totalling 977sqm/10,516 sq ft. Previously 564 sqm/6,069 sqft

Total Industrial space available: 19 units totalling 22, 024sqm/ 237,084sqft.
Previously 18,088 sqm/ 194,701sq ft

Development land available: Two sites listed.

The www.becentralbedfordshire.co.uk website includes a free online property search and future developments map. Look out for coverage in local business magazines.

The team have recently commissioned aerial photography of the area, including Leighton Buzzard and can share this with interested parties.

The 2014-15 year ended with 86 inward investment enquiries across Central Bedfordshire with fifteen successes. Our logistical offer is very strong and there continues to be a great deal of interest about future development sites.

9.4 Looking Forwards – Market Towns Programme

Central Bedfordshire Council will be releasing a pot of funding (amount tbc) for Town Councils to bid for with the purpose of revitalising our Market Towns to fulfil their potential. This is aimed at capital projects to improve the local infrastructure, public realm and fabric of the Market Towns. We are looking for this to be complemented by revenue based activities that support skills development for local businesses through existing funds, in-kind support or through bidding for other funding. We would recommend that Town Councils consider this as part of their budget planning. Central Bedfordshire Council will work in partnership with our priority Market Towns (of which Leighton Linlade is one) to support the development of proposals to bid for the funding and will provide guidance in the delivery of successful bids. A Market Town Specification is currently under development with the aim of launching the Funding in Autumn 2015.

9.5 Parking Study

As previously reported and with the support of Leighton-Linslade Town Council, CBC commissioned the production of a parking study from specialist independent consultants that examined the current and future issues concerning parking capacity and management up to 2026. This report which was finalised in March this year provides a solid base of evidence from which to plan any parking related activities in the Leighton Buzzard area. It highlighted the current and growing pressures on car parking capacity and some suggestions as to how to alleviate these issues through changes to management practices and identifying opportunities for increasing capacity.

The Council is not seeking to apply the findings or suggestions outlined in the report as a whole. It will however seek to bring forward solutions to some of the issues highlighted across the area as funding and other opportunities arise through existing highways/statutory processes.

An example of this work is the conversion of the former cattle market site for car parking provision. This work is underway and due to be completed by 20th June

. CBC was intending on using this site to extend and increase the capacity of Duncombe Drive car park. Without major ground works to improve drainage in an archeologically sensitive area it was not possible to resurface the area to minimum CBC car park standards which could then be enforced. Instead, the site will be used to provide parking for market traders which will have the effect of increasing capacity on market days in existing car parks.

A copy of the full study is available via the Town Clerk or upon request to paul.salmon@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk