

**LEIGHTON LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**22 October 2015**

**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE**

**Purpose of report: - for information**

**1 COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**1.1 Crime Data Update**

Below is the last 3 months data. Key issues which may cause concern are;

- **Burglary** = recognised across the force as an issue in Leighton Buzzard and plan in place to target and deal with suspects for this.
- **Vehicle crime** = Operation King in place to target offenders in an OCG that are impacting across central beds and Luton.
- **Crime is up in Leighton Buzzard** and we are working with our business change team to develop the policing model towards the New Year to provide greater visible support to Leighton Buzzard as newly trained officers arrive.

**1.2 The ASB & Statutory Nuisance Team dealt with the following for Leighton Buzzard and Linslade during 1 April to 31 June 2015:**

2 x FPN's for littering issued  
1 x FPN paid at £80

Investigations by case type:

- Littering - 1
- Dog barking - 2
- Dog fouling – 1
- Fly-tipping – 16
- Graffiti - 3
- Nuisance Neighbours – 2
- Noise – 9
- Smoke/fumes – 3
- Rowdy/inconsiderate – 2
- Vehicle Nuisance - 1

**1.3 Summary of recorded CCTV Incidents Leighton Buzzard  
1 June to 30 September 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 Description	No of Arrests
15:11 29 Jun 15	Pages Park	Stolen car was driven through park driving away from police.	
20:33 6 Jul 15	Parsons Close	Offensive Weapon - group of youths in Parsons Close with baseball bats. They ran when police arrived both youths were arrested.	2
04:49 5 Jul 15	Coral Bookmakers	Criminal Damage - object thrown at window above Coral shop, breaking glass.	
10:24 6 Jul 15	High Street	Theft - 2 females steal victim's purse while victim is shopping inside Peacocks.	
01:50 5 Jul 15	High Street	Assault - male is dragged out of taxi and assaulted by unknown male.	
17:06 23 Jul 15	Lake Street	Affray - males fighting following road rage incident. Majority from Picture House.	
01:18 2 Aug 15	Lake Street	Assault - male fighting with door staff of The Lancer.	
18:00 22 Aug 15	Waterbourne Walk	Criminal Damage Window of shop smashed in Waterbourne Walk.	
00:23 5 Sep 15	North Street	Criminal Damage male wearing dark hoody seen walking away from shop window which was damaged in North Street.	
18:05 12 Sep 15	Waterbourne Walk	Theft - Bicycle stolen from outside Waitrose.	
23:30 11 Sep 15	West Street	Sexual Assault - suspicion of assault. Footage of female passenger in dark grey vehicle coming from multi-storey car park.	

**Notes:**

Two arrests were recorded as a result of CCTV monitoring of incidents in this quarter. The CCTV control room continues to monitor problems with street drinkers in the Market Place in Leighton Buzzard in close liaison with the police. CBC is progressing with its project to start the upgrade of public space CCTV in Central Bedfordshire.

## 2 LEISURE

### 2.1 Community Physical Activity Team

#### 2.1.1 *Fit 4 Life 50 + Brochure*



**Contact Loren Barnard 0300 300 5125**

The aim of the 50+ brochure is to have a variety of activity advertised that residents can choose from. This brochure is also used to promote key messages from organisations such as MIND, Age UK, and Public Health.

This brochure is updated 3 times a year:

January – March, April – June, September – December, and the fifth edition is out now [fit4life brochure](#).

#### 2.1.2 GP Referral – Also known as Exercise Referral or Activity 4 Health in Central Bedfordshire

**General Enquiries: Loren Barnard 0300 300 5125 or Nadine Threader 0300 300 6372**

The GP Exercise Referral Programme provides a pathway of physical activity to assist in the prevention and management chronic disease. The pathway offers professional support over 12 weeks to encourage health behaviour modification and retention of an active lifestyle.



The GP has to make the referral via a form which is sent direct to the Community Physical Activity Team, Leisure Services, Priory House, Chicksands.

*Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre - June 2015–September 2015: 12 referrals received from the local GP surgeries.*

#### 2.1.3 Our Parks – Group Exercise Classes

**All enquiries should go through [www.ourparks.org.uk](http://www.ourparks.org.uk)  
CBC Contact: Vicky Buckland 0300 300 4248**



Funded through Sport England Community Sports Activation Fund

A brand new fitness concept launched on Monday 22 July in Central Bedfordshire – designed to provide access to free, outdoor group exercise classes through an interactive, social website.

- *Appenine Way – Leighton Buzzard – Total throughput from June to September =396.*

- *3-4 classes are organised each week. These consist of Abs, Bums Thighs, Bootcamp and BoxFit.*

All classes are led by experienced, fully qualified and insured instructors to cater for all levels of experience, from beginner to expert.

#### **2.1.4 Other programmes**

- Health Walks – 11 participants registered with 7-8 attending each week.
- Walking Football – Cedars Academy – July to August on going programme. 10 Participants registered with a throughput = 52.
- Seated Exercise Classes – Tudor Court – 16 participants registered with approximate 9 attending each week.

#### **2.2 Lifestyles@Tiddenfoot**

The Leisure Centre maintained a Good score in Quest (an independent Quality assurance programme for the Leisure Industry) for the 1 day maintenance visit and has a target to improve to Excellent in August 2016.

We are pleased to report that this year saw a huge increase in the number of children participating in the Activity Camps during the summer holiday period. The growth from 2014 to 2015 has been exceptional with over 830 children taking part this year compared to just 33 in 2014. In addition to the significant rise in numbers the centre also passed an inspection audit by Fit for Sport, the UK's leading experts in engaging and educating children through activity. The centre are now preparing for October half term and looking forward to welcoming back many of the same children.

A pulmonary group now make regular use of the centre on Thursday lunchtime.

2 NPLQ courses were held in August at Tiddenfoot which has given the site 7 new Lifeguards, also we have recruited staff in reception, Sales & Activity Camp.

The sales and swimming teams from lifestyles@dunstable and Lifestyles@tiddenfoot have been out and about in Leighton Buzzard to promote the centre in the town and surrounding areas. Information packs were handed out to the local community promoting health and fitness.

National Fitness Day on 9 September saw the centre offer free activities to members and non-members. National Fitness Day is the country's largest celebration of physical activity. There was a range of different 20 minute gym floor classes every hour as well as group exercise classes being offered for free on the day.

Luton Town Academy 16-18 year olds students studying at Cedars School have been making use of the facilities at Tiddenfoot, 35 students have signed up to the centre.

Work has started on next years Annual Service Plan, in partnership with CBC to agree performance measures to reflect the Council's strategic objectives.

During the coming weeks there will be a PR campaign to show all the great things happening at lifestyles@Tiddenfoot.

Forthcoming activities include:

- October half term Lifeguard course 26–31 October.
- Halloween children's party 31 October.
- October Activity Camp 26–30 October
- World Squash day with free Squash all day 10th October in aid of UNICEF.
- Events within the local community including Christmas lights on 27 November.
- 50+ Christmas Event with mince pies.

### **2.3 Countryside Access**

Both Tiddenfoot Waterside Park and Linslade Wood have been awarded the status of 'Green Flag Community Award' this year. This national award recognises high quality green space that is managed by voluntary and community groups and shows that these sites have reached a national standard for quality parks and green spaces. Both sites are owned and managed by Central Bedfordshire Council in partnership with the Greensand Trust and two associated 'Friends' groups.

CAS have successfully evicted the Fly Grazing horses at Southern Meadows, Grovebury Road, Leighton. This involved officers working within the new Control of Horses Act 2015 and the remaining retained horse has been successfully rehomed.

Members of the team have also been engaged in cross working with colleagues regarding the removal of travellers encamped at Woodman Close and rear of Carina Drive, and securing and cleaning the site after.

The Countryside team continue to support the Leighton Linslade partnership model local management and resident involvement on small parcels of land in Leighton Linslade, continually supporting local and national aspirations eg the National Pollinator Strategy, CBC Nature Conservation Strategy and Leighton in Bloom.

### **2.4 Leighton Buzzard Library and Theatre**

It has been a busy summer with the children's reading challenge 'Record Breakers', which finished on Saturday 5 September. 864 children joined the challenge and read 8,873 books. There was a very successful session delivered by Animal Edutainment in the Library to launch the challenge, which was much enjoyed by adults and children alike.

Library activities of all sorts have increased over the last year, and the library has seen nearly a doubling in the number of people coming along to those

activities; visitors increased from 4,932 in 2013-14 to 8,029 in 2014-15. The Library has recently launched 'Crafty Toddlers' an informal weekly event for pre-school children.

The Arts Council funded project 'Library as Laboratory' is now beginning to come together and to date the following strands have been developed:

- The post punk scene of the late 70s and 80s in Bedfordshire – creating new local history archives with a focus on sound archiving (working with young people and working aged men).
- What is the library of the future? Two three-day 'Future Library Festivals', scheduled for autumn, co-produced by communities and delivered from the libraries and also to isolated and housebound people.
- What can we do and make in a library? A series of activities and performances on the theme of 'Make, Do, Discover', working with people from beauticians and flower arrangers to private detectives and metal detectorists.

Leighton Buzzard Library has been working to develop the project and is excited to announce a one day film festival on Saturday 21 November about the post-punk era. Key figures in the films will include Siouxsie Sioux and Public Image Ltd. This will be followed on 27 November by a 'Dump it on Parliament' revisited concert in the theatre.

On the 10 October the Library will be hosting an all-day wool crafts 'Pop-Up Museum', sponsored by the Knitting and Crochet Guild. This truly innovative event includes:

- Spinning demos.
- Fair Isle in Fashion: a talk by Barbara Smith free tickets available from the help desk - find out more below.
- Exhibition of traditional crafts including the history of the wool industry in Leighton Buzzard.
- Rare film footage of spinning in rural Ireland - find out more below.
- Children's weaving craft free tickets available from the help desk - details listed below.
- Local knitters and stitchers available all day to answer your questions bring along a project you're working on and join us for a fun day.

Other forthcoming events include the launch of the Central Bedfordshire carers' card in the library, a meet the Gruffalo story time and a gadget workshop.

### **3 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION**

There will be a major road closure on Wing Road, Linslade, for gas mains replacement from 5 October until beginning of December. Twenty-four hour

closure but access to frontages will be maintained. This scheme was recently escalated due to high number of gas escapes on Wing Road in recent months. Lead and cast iron mains replaced by plastic as part of 30 year commitment to replace all old mains in Great Britain within 30 metres of households by 2031.

This closure will overlap with a closure of Vandyke Road and Beaudesert (which won't be closed simultaneously). This scheme starts on 19 October. This will include the temporary no entry from South Street onto Hockliffe Street to facilitate works. There will be two way lights on Hockliffe Street during off peak hours for the duration of this scheme which is approximately 5 weeks.

Programme for this scheme is as below:

Restriction	W/C	Duration	End date	Street name	Day	Working hours
Road closure	19/10/2015	1 week	02/11/2015	Vandyke Road	Mon-Fri	9-3.30pm
Road closure	26/10/2015	1 week	02/11/2015	Vandyke Road	Mon-Fri	7am-6pm (half term)*
Road closure	26/10/2015	4 weeks	27/11/2015	Beauesert	Mon-Fri	7am-6pm (half term)*
Road closure (lane closure)	26/10/2015	4 weeks	27/11/2015	South Street	Mon-Fri	9-3.30pm*
Two way lights	26/10/2015	4 weeks	27/11/2015	Hockliffe Street	Mon-Fri	9-3.30pm
Two way lights	26/10/2015	4 weeks	27/11/2015	Hockliffe Road	Mon-Fri	9-3.30pm

\* Vandyke Road closure cannot operate at the same time as Beauesert / Hockliffe Street / South Street closure.

Highways Performance – September 2015	
Potholes repaired	253
Carriageway resurfaced	1,815m
Footway resurfaced	1,880m
Street lights repaired	239
Street light upgraded to LED	413
Street light columns replaced	86
Emergency street light repairs	25
Rural grass cut	200km
Gullies cleaned	1,070

(Please note that these figures are Central Bedfordshire wide)



## **4 SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING**

### **4.1 Just Ask / Community Engagement Day**

Just Ask / Community Engagement Day Leighton Buzzard was held on Tuesday 25 August, 9.30am–3pm in the Market Square and surrounding area in Leighton Buzzard.

External partners including Bedfordshire Police, Beds Fire and Rescue, Public Health and council colleagues from Community Safety, Trading Standards, Waste Services and Environmental Protection were all represented, along with Leighton Linslade Town Council, Amey and the Youth Offending Service. Analysis has shown that the key issues in Leighton Buzzard involve crime, anti-social behaviour the environment and health.

Volunteers helped paint over the graffiti on the railway station footbridge. The before and after was quite a contrast. A variety of stalls were set up in the Market Square offering information on local services alongside providing support and advice to the community. It was great that many people of all ages attended – proof that the format works, and can be repeated elsewhere.

The aim of the Community Engagement Day is to improve the general environment and provide information on community safety issues in Central Bedfordshire in conjunction with Town Councils. Areas and priorities for such events are chosen on the basis of data obtained from police and partners, as well as information provided by local communities.

The event encouraged local residents to get involved in community safety initiatives by promoting good neighbour schemes, improving fire safety and promoting volunteering within the local community. As part of the day there were also environmental clean-ups of certain areas to improve the local environment. Partners also provided information on the health issues including the Care Act.

For more information, go to [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/communitysafety](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/communitysafety)

### **4.2 Job Fair**

Housing colleagues held a Job Fair on 29 September at Leighton Buzzard Theatre, which proved to be another busy event. With good support from Job Centre Plus we attracted 28 local employers or support agencies who signed up 382 people on the day for further information or contact.

The Kleeneze representative said ‘The Leighton Buzzard event was very successful for me, allowing me to talk to the attendees and explain a little more on how I can help them with employment, please reserve me a table at the next one’.

The stand holders included Mini Clipper, Center Parcs, Rachel Hill Recruitment, Toddington Services’ MOTO’ and the Army.

## 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. In July 2015 there was a total of 312 young people (3.8%) reported to have a NEET status. The number of young people in Education, Employment or Training (EET) was 7943. The proportion of young people (Years 12-14) still 'In Learning' being 80.4%.

### 5.2 NEET Overview for Leighton Buzzard/Linslade Ward

From April 2015 to July 2015 there has been a slight decrease in the number of NEET young people in the Leighton Buzzard area.

In July 2015 there were 59 young people (Years 12-14) in the Leighton Buzzard Area who were reported to have a NEET status, which is a decrease of 1 from the figure of 60 reported in April 2015.

Comparing the Leighton Buzzard area with other wards for the same period; there are 63 young people (Years 12-14) living in Dunstable wards who were reported as being NEET. This figure has slightly increased from the 60 reported in April 2015. In the Houghton Regis area there were 33 young people reported as being NEET, which was a decrease from its April's number of 41.

### 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:

**Area:** The majority, 53%, of the area's NEET live in the Leighton Buzzard North ward and only 3% live in the Heath and Reach ward.

**Gender:** The gender breakdown shows 44% male and 56% female in the area's NEET cohort.

**Age:** The age breakdown indicates that those young people in the NEET cohort aged 18-19 years of age make up 66% of the cohort.

**NEET Status:** The NEET status of young people in relation to whether they are currently available to the labour market and actively seeking EET (58%) or if they are currently unavailable for EET due to their personal circumstances (42%).

**Time:** The length of time young people have been NEET. In July, the number of young people in the area being NEET for 6+ months has increased to 39 which is 66% of the NEET cohort, whilst the number of young people that have been NEET for less than 3 months has fallen steadily to 7 (January 2015=18, April 2015=16, July 2015=7).

**Previous Destinations:** An indication of what young people were doing immediately prior to becoming NEET.

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

Leighton Buzzard Ward Breakdown for July 2015	
Leighton Buzzard North	31
Leighton Buzzard South	15
Linslade	11
Heath & Reach	2

Breakdown of NEET Characteristics for July 2015 for the Leighton Buzzard ward (Houghton Regis and Dunstable figures included for comparison)			
Total NEETs	Houghton Regis	Dunstable	Leighton Buzzard
	33	63	59

Gender			
Male	19	39	26
Female	14	24	33

Age			
16	0	2	1
17	8	15	17
18	8	25	19
19	17	21	22

NEET: Available to Labour Market			
NEET - Seeking Employment/Training	20	44	34
NEET: Unavailable to Labour Market			
Due to Pregnancy/Teenage Parent, Young Carer, Illness	13	19	25

Length of Time NEET			
Less than 3 months	4	17	7
3-6 months	5	11	13
6+ months	24	35	39

Previous Destination			
Employment/Apprenticeship	2	9	6
School/College/Education	7	13	15

Re-Engagement Programme / Foundation Learning / E2E Training	3	6	1
NEET - Available to Labour Market	7	10	7
NEET - Unavailable to Labour Market	5	6	11
Unknown/Cannot be Contacted	9	19	19

#### 5.4 Targeted Youth Work Contract

The complete tender for the new targeted youth work service was delivered in July 2015. The tender invited bids for one or a consortium of providers to deliver the service across Central Bedfordshire, with a requirement to work in partnership to develop an offer of services in specific communities.

The tender was awarded to Groundwork (East) who currently deliver youth work in Central Bedfordshire. The new service began on 1st October 2015. Groundwork will be working closely with all partners to ensure a smooth transition to the new service for young people.

## 6 SCHOOLS

### 6.1 School Admissions 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 all 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 in the late allocation round were notified of the place offered on 8 June, with further places at schools offered up until the start of term from other late applicants. The attached information shows the admission rounds for Starting School, Transfer to Middle and Transfer to Upper.

The new admission rounds for September 2016 opened on the 1 September and information is currently being distributed to academies and schools to give out to parents in the area.

The School Admissions Team advertise the Starting School admissions round to parents in a variety of ways through all lower schools, local radio and local newspapers and posters have been distributed to nurseries, pre-schools, supermarkets and doctors surgeries to advertise the application deadline. A leaflet has also been produced for residents in the Sandhills area with targeted information on the school choices they have and will be delivered to every house on the development.

### 6.2 Admission Allocation Round for 2015

**(Starting School, Transfer to Middle and Transfer to Upper) Leighton Buzzard area**

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 1 <sup>st</sup> preference for the school/academy
Beaudesert Lower School	55	52	88%
Clipstone Brook Lower School	75	56	71%
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	74	89%
Linslade Lower School	45	44	73%
Pulford Lower	45	46	93%
Southcott Lower School	60	60	93%
St. George's Lower School	30	22	77%
St. Leonard's Lower School	20	22	73%
Stanbridge Lower School	24	27	93%
The Mary Bassett Lower School	60	60	93%
Brooklands School	150	106	85%
Gilbert Inglefield Academy	140	138	84%
Leighton Middle	120	124	100%
Linslade School	150	138	85%
Cedars Upper	320	282	100%
Vandyke Upper	300	219	100%

*The information above is as at 31 August 2015 based on both the on time and late allocation rounds for the point of entry for the relevant phase of education. Pupil numbers at academies and schools are subject to change due to the mobility of pupils in Central Bedfordshire, i.e. change of preferences, house moves etc.*

### 6.3 New School Places for Leighton Buzzard & Linslade

At the Council's Executive on 7 July Members gave their support to 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 required due to the growth in population within the Town and the resulting demand upon school places. The school duly carried out the consultation and at their October meeting the Council's Executive will be asked to consider a request by the schools governing body to approve the proposed

expansion. If approved, part of the new provision should be in place by September 2016.

## **7 PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### **7.1 Town and Parish Council Planning Conference**

A Town and Parish Council Planning Conference took place on the evening of 23 September at Priory House, Chicksands.

Over 90 delegates attended and the following topics were covered:

- Planning Applications.
- Opportunities for open space improvements.
- Neighbourhood planning.
- Affordable housing delivery.
- Planning Enforcement.

Presentations from the event are now on the [council website](#), and the post conference report will be available in due course.

### **7.2 Town and Parish Council Conference – 11 November 2015**

The next Town and Parish Council Conference will be held on the evening of 11 November at Priory House Chicksands from 6pm-9pm.

Registration will be from 5.30pm, with refreshments and a light buffet available.

The topics for this conference are the **Passenger Transport Strategy** and the **Parking Strategy**.

Please contact [Peter Fraser](#) by email or telephone 0300 300 6740 to book a maximum of 2 places per town / parish council.

## **8 WASTE**

Waste Services targeted street cleansing activity along the judging route for Leighton-Linslade in Bloom competition.

Grounds maintenance is being carried out without any significant problems. The last cut of grass is to be completed late by early November. A partial weed spraying is to be carried out in October as required.

There have been issues with the bring banks in Tesco's car park. The council-owned cardboard bank was removed due to persistent contamination. Tesco's replacement bank led to fly tipping and there were issues with emptying, leading to complaints, so this was also removed. Residents may still put smaller pieces of cardboard in their wheelie bin and take larger boxes to the Household Waste Recycling Centre on Shenley Hill.

Bin collection arrangements over the Christmas period are currently being arranged. Residents will receive a bin tag with details of any changed collection dates in early December, and this will also be widely publicised via the Council website and social media.

Stickers will be placed on all kerbside recycling bins in October, reminding residents of items that they should avoid putting in their bin; items that would contaminate their recycling.