

**LEIGHTON LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE****11 February 2016****CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE****Purpose of report: - for information****1 COMMUNITY SAFETY****1.1 The ASB & SN Team dealt with the following for LB & Linslade during 1<sup>st</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015****Investigations by case type:**

Abandoned vehicle – 1  
 Littering - 1  
 Dog fouling – 1  
 Fly-tipping – 11  
 Graffiti - 2  
 Nuisance Neighbours – 3  
 Light - 1  
 Noise – 18  
 Smoke/fumes – 5  
 Rowdy/inconsiderate – 1

44 cases in total

**1.2 Summary of recorded CCTV Incidents, Leighton Buzzard, 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 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.

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>No of Arrests</b>
2.10.2015 23:30	Leighton Buzzard High Street	Group of 4 males assault another male	0
13.10.2015 08:45	Bell Alley car park	Suspicious person(s)	0
7.10.2015 08:30	Leighton Buzzard High Street	Theft of bicycle	0
16.10.2015 10:47	Waterbourne Walk	Theft bicycle	0

25.10.2015 01:12	Lake Street	Assault outside Mr Ridgeway	2
25.10.2015 01:20	Assault on police	Assault on police at Mr Ridgeway	3
25.10.2015 02:43	Lake Street	4 Females fighting vomiting and urinating inside a taxi	0
31.10.2015 12:45	Astral Park	4 Males riding mopeds dangerously in the park	0
1.11.2015 03:40	Affray	Males fighting in and outside Mr Ridgeway	3
4.11.2015 06:00	Linslade Park	CID office Mandy Godfrey requested footage	0
4.11.2015 06:00	Leighton Buzzard Train Station	Suspicious person(s)	0
7.11.2015 01:26	Lake Street	2 x females fighting outside The Lancer	0
7.11.2015 03:31	Lake street/Leighton Buzzard High Street	Affray	0
8.11.2015 18:00	Wing Road	2x ic1 males involved in a robber of Betfred	0
9.11.2015 08:03	Leighton Buzzard High Street	Male assaulted his wife	0
11.11.2015 20:50	Astral Park	3 males bring a stolen moped into the park and try to hotwire it	0
13.11.2015 15:33	Parsons Park	Footage of stolen moped from Dunstable in Parsons Park	0
21.11.2015 07:00	Clarence Road	Male was stabbed on Clarence Road	0
3.12.2015	West Street	Theft	0
12.12.2015 23:26	Leighton Buzzard High Street	Footage of potential suspects involved in a pursuit	0
13.12.2015 12:49	Leighton Buzzard High Street	Group of males fighting with a taxi driver	0

### Notes

There were 8 arrests 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.

**2 LEISURE, LIBRARIES & COUNTRYSIDE**

**2.1 Community Physical Activity Team**

- *Fit 4 Life 50 + Brochure*

**Contact Natalie Stevenson (Tel: 0300 300 5386)**

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 2016 – 6<sup>th</sup> Edition Out now! Click here for a copy of the [fit4life booklet](#)

- GP Referral – Also known as Exercise referral or Activity 4 Health in Central Bedfordshire

**General Enquiries: Nadine Threader (Tel: 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 September 2015 – December 2015.*

*15 referrals received from the local GP surgeries*

- Our Parks – Group Exercise Classes

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



Funded through Sport England Community Sports Activation Fund

Providing access to free, outdoor group exercise classes through an interactive social website.

*Appenine Way – Leighton Buzzard – Total throughput from June to December =426*

*2 BoxFit classes are organised each week.*

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

- Other programmes

Health Walks – 17 participants registered with 12-14 attending each week.

Walking Football, at Cedars Academy, from July to December - ongoing programme.

18 Participants registered with a throughput = 171

Seated Exercise Classes, Tudor Court, 20 participants registered with approximate 9/10 attending each week.

**Appenine Way Play Area, Leighton Buzzard** –During the spring/summer 2016 we will be replacing the multi use games area and surfacing which will be funded from S106 contributions.

## **2.2 Lifestyles@Tiddenfoot**

The centre is preparing for the half term Activity Camp which will run from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February and is a multi sport holiday club for ages 5-12 years. The centre is running a Lifeguard course 15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February.

The 50 plus Christmas meeting went very well with the group praising the improvements made by Tiddenfoot.

## **2.3 Countryside Access**

Both Tiddenfoot Waterside Park and Linslade Wood have submitted applications for the 'Green Flag Community Awards', Tiddenfoot Waterside Park have already been informed that they will only receive a 'Mystery Shopper' visit this year. The 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.

Countryside sites team have also been engaged in cross working with colleagues regarding the removal of travellers encamped at Tiddenfoot Waterside Park and securing and cleaning the site after.

The Countryside team is working with Greensand Trust and LLTC on a project for the River Ouzel in the town centre, removing some trees and vegetation, repairing river banks from crayfish holes, creating new woodland berms in the water to generate new fish holding/bio diversity areas to improve the water environment along this stretch between Town Centre bridge going north towards the open space at the rear of Pledges factory.

The team continue to work with LLTC regarding preparations for this year's Canal Festival.

The Sites team continue to work closely with the Friends of Linslade Wood with regard to woodland management and developing a programme of walks over the coming year.

Heath and Reach P3 who work alongside LLTC and other P3/Friends groups in the Leighton-Linslade area have reformed/restructured and are working on a series of projects over the year including a survey of all their rights of way, running their annual 'Toad Patrol' helping toads cross busy roads in the village, management of the Heath and Reach community woodland and a 'Clean for the Queen' clean-up around the parish.

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

### **2.4.1 Library**

#### **IT and Technology**

A new LED display screen has been installed which enables the library to publicise forthcoming events in both the library and theatre. This will be moved from its current position to a more permeant location now that the pilot phase of the project has been completed.

Central Bedfordshire Council have installed a new public Wi-Fi system in the library and theatre. This enables users to access free Wi-Fi in Leighton Buzzard Centre and any other CBC building.

#### **Events**

As ever, there have been many events in the library including a series of talks by Bedfordshire and Luton archives and Records Service on family and local history topics; a Pop-Up Museum for British Wool Week; activities for children including noodle modelling, weaving and spooky crafts; Christmas crafts; a return visit by animal Edutainment; and special visits from the Gruffalo and Santa.

A new weekly session "Baby Meet and Chat" has been set up.

### **2.4.2 Theatre**

The Library as Laboratory events based around the post-Punk music scene were well received and attracted a new audience to the Theatre. There were two very successful children's shows Flyaway Katie by the Long Nose Puppets and Santa's Helper by Blunderbus.

#### **Online Services**

*Access to Research*, which offers the public access to over 1.5 million online academic and scholarly articles, has been trialled in public libraries across the country for two years and it has now been agreed that it will continue past the pilot phase. This service is available free in Leighton Buzzard Library.

### **3 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION**

Highways numbers for December 2015:

<b>Highways performance - December 2015</b>	
Potholes repaired	288
Carriageway resurfaced	446m
Street lights repaired	395
Street lights upgraded to LED	307
Emergency street light repairs	22
Rural grass cut	150km
Gullies cleaned	1,012
Gritting runs	2

(Please note that these figures are Central Bedfordshire wide)

Mild weather meant an incredibly low number of gritting runs. Current resurfacing programmes were completed in December; the new programmes start in March 2016. Rural grass cutting was also completed in December and resumes in April.

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

We plan to host employment and tenant conferences in this area during 2016. The first event of the year in that area is at Leighton Buzzard library on 17 March, where Housing will have a Gadget/Leasehold/Employment/Get Involved drop in.

### **5 YOUTH SERVICES**

#### **5.1 Update on NEETs**

The levels of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) continues to be low across Central Bedfordshire and in most areas these numbers are on a general downward trend. At the end of December 2015 there was a total of 245 young people (3%) reported to have a NEET status. The number of young people in Education, Employment or Training (EET) was 7938. The proportion of young people (School years 12-14) still 'In Learning' being 83.1%.

#### **5.2 NEET Overview for Leighton Buzzard**

In 2015 there has been a slight decrease in the number of NEET young people living in the Leighton Buzzard area. There was a decrease of 8 young people recorded as NEET during the year. In January, 59 were recorded and in December 51 young people living in the area were recorded as being NEET.

Comparing the Leighton Buzzard area with the other two areas for the same period shows that this area has the highest number of NEETs of the three.

### 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 ward with the highest number of recorded NEETs, 26 (50.9%), is Leighton Buzzard North. The Heath and Reach ward has the lowest number with only 3 NEETs resident in that ward. Although the number of NEETs in all of the wards has changed from January 2015, the general trend is down apart from Linslade which has a slight increase of 1 since January 2015.
- **Gender:** The gender breakdown shows that the number of female NEETs 24 (47%) is slightly lower than the male number of 27 (53%). The gender split has 'flipped' several times since January 2015 when the numbers were male=23 (39%) and female=36 (61%).
- **Age:** The age breakdown indicates that the number of NEETs increases with age. As in previous months it is the older young people who tend to be part of the cohort. The 18 year old group having the largest numbers (23=45%).
- **NEET Status:** The number of young people within the NEET cohort currently available to the labour market and actively seeking EET is 35 (69%) compared to 16 (31%) who are currently not available for EET due to their personal circumstances.
- **Time:** The majority of the young people within the cohort fall into the 'Less than 3 months' time category which is the same for all three areas.
- **Previous Destinations:** 20 (39%) young people have no known destination recorded and another 4 (7%) could not be, or were unwilling to be, contacted and have their destination tracked.

Leighton Buzzard Ward Breakdown for December 2015	
Leighton Buzzard North	26
Leighton Buzzard South	10
Linslade	12
Heath & Reach	3

Breakdown of NEET Characteristics for December 2015 for Leighton Buzzard (Houghton Regis and Dunstable figures included for comparison)			
Total NEETs	Houghton Regis	Dunstable	Leighton Buzzard
	20	49	51

Gender			
Male	14	19	27
Female	6	30	24

Age			
16	4	4	9
17	5	16	12
18	8	20	23
19	3	9	7

NEET: Available to Labour Market			
NEET - Seeking Employment/Training	17	28	35
NEET: Unavailable to Labour Market			
Due to Pregnancy/Teenage Parent, Young Carer, Illness	3	21	16

Length of Time NEET			
Less than 3 months	12	29	21
3-6 months	3	6	12
6+ months	5	14	18

Previous Destination			
Employment/Apprenticeship	2	3	5
School/College/Education	4	9	10
Re-Engagement Programme / Foundation Learning / E2E Training	2	3	3
NEET - Available to Labour Market	3	0	1
NEET - Unavailable to Labour Market	1	6	8
Unknown Destination	6	15	20
Cannot be Contacted	2	3	4

## 6 **SCHOOLS**

### 6.1 School Admissions in Leighton Buzzard & Linslade

The deadline for Starting School and Middle transfer applications was the 15<sup>th</sup> January, which is the national closing date for primary applications. The national offer date will be Monday 18 April this year when parents will find out the result of their application.

Applications received for the Upper school transfer round are currently being processed and parents will be notified on Tuesday 1 March which is the national offer date for Secondary/Upper applications.

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



Following a consultation carried out by Leighton Community Middle School regarding a permanent expansion of the school, in response to growth in population within the Town and the resulting demand upon school places, with effect from September 2016, the school's governing body subsequently asked the Council's Executive for approval for their proposed expansion. The Executive considered the request at their meeting on 6 October and duly approved the proposal to expand Leighton Community Middle School from a 4 form of entry (480 place) middle school for pupils aged 9 to 13 to a 5 form of entry (600 place) middle school for pupils aged 9 to 13, increasing the school's published admission number from 120 to 150 with effect from 1 September 2016, subject to the grant of planning permission.

Planning permission was subsequently granted and work has now started on site.

Topping out ceremonies were held at 2 Leighton Buzzard lower schools in November - Leedon and Clipstone Brook Lower – both of which are being expanded under the Council's New School Places Programme, as previously advised.

## **7 PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### **7.1 Clean for the Queen**

Central Bedfordshire Council is supporting a national 'Clean for the Queen' campaign as part of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations and we want to mobilise communities across the area to take part in a nationwide litter pick over **4 / 5 / 6 March 2016**.

All of the UK's litter charities together with local authorities, companies, land managers and other associations have come together in support of this campaign, which seeks to inspire a million people to take action and enjoy a few hours together litter-picking to make the places where we live more beautiful.

Community groups and organisations who are interested in taking part can get more information and register their interest by visiting [www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk](http://www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk)

Central Bedfordshire Council is keen to support those local groups who want to take part in the special clean-up event between 4 - 6 March, or to run any sort of local litter blitz in the run up to the Queen's birthday, which will be officially celebrated in June.

Initially we would like to gauge interest and take-up across the area so that we can help to coordinate activity among groups and provide useful information and advice, including details of how our Waste Services Team may be able to help.

To help us build up a picture of local participation in 'Clean up for the Queen' please can you reply with the following details:

- Are you are planning to run a Clean up for the Queen litter picking event?
- Where, when and what time do you plan to do a litter pick? (either over the special clean-up weekend or outside of these times)
- Name / details of the group taking part and contact details (email/phone) for the person that we should send future communications to

Please provide these details to [karen.lang@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:karen.lang@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) by **Friday 5 February**.

We will use the information and contact details you provide to let group leaders know if another group is planning to clean a particular area immediately beforehand. This will avoid duplication of effort and allow groups to select another location to clean. By keeping in contact with groups, we will also be able to provide advice about collecting litter safely and what to do with your rubbish once you've collected it.

Whether you do it for Queen and country; or just to make your local community look even better, we hope you will get involved and support this event.

## **7.2 Cheering Volunteering**

Following the success of last year's event, Cheering Volunteering will return in 2016.

Nominations are already coming in for Cheering Volunteering 2016. Bookings are also being taken by The Grove Theatre for the awards evening – book now to avoid disappointment!

The first Central Bedfordshire Cheering Volunteering event took place at the Grove Theatre in Dunstable in June 2015, with more than 400 people enjoying the celebration and awards evening.

The Grove will again host the 2016 awards which will take place on Tuesday, 7 June – at the end of National Volunteers' Week – and will be compered by Tom Jones impersonator Billy Lee, who was a huge hit with the crowd at this year's event.

The event is organised by the Partnerships and Community Engagement Team along with Central Bedfordshire's Volunteer Centres, to say thank you to those who give their time to help others. In 2016 there will again be seven awards:

- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year

- Volunteer Group of the Year
- Outstanding Contribution
- Lifetime Achievement
- Fundraiser of the Year
- Panel's Choice

The closing date for nominations is Wednesday 6 April. To find out more about the awards, as well as volunteering opportunities across Central Bedfordshire, please visit the [Cheering Volunteering page on the council website](#).

## **8 WASTE**

### **8.1 Looking back**

#### **We achieved:**

Waste collections were carried out with minimal disruption over Christmas, and Christmas trees have been collected alongside residents' garden waste collections.

Stickers were placed on all kerbside recycling bins the months preceding Christmas as part of a wider communications campaign, reminding residents of items that cause problems in the recycling stream at the sorting facility.

### **8.2 Looking forward**

#### **We are planning:**

Various Leighton Buzzard and Linslade community groups are getting involved in the national 'Clean for the Queen' litter picking campaign in March, to tidy up the local area to coincide with the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in April. The council will be collecting bags of litter for disposal.

Grounds maintenance recommences late March/early April, depending on the weather.