

LEIGHTON LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**1 December 2016****CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE****Purpose of report: - for information****1 COMMUNITY SAFETY****1.1 Anti-social behaviour and Statutory Nuisance**

The ASB & Statutory Nuisance Team have carried out the following work in the Leighton-Linslade area from the 1st October – 31st December 2016:

1 case submitted for breach of injunction (for being in exclusion zone and stealing).

1 Community Protection Notice (CPN) issued for nuisance car cruising.

Cases opened:

Fixed Penalty Notices – 2

Accumulation of waste – 1

Dog barking – 1

Dog fouling – 2

Fly-tipping – 12

Nuisance Neighbours – 4

Noise – 8

Rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour - 5

Street drinking – 1

Vehicle Nuisance - 1

Littering - 2

Total = 37 cases

**1.2 Summary of recorded CCTV incidents in Leighton Buzzard
1st October to 31st December 2016**

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
01.10.2016	Lake Street	Group of males fighting	1

0300			
02.10.2016 23:38	Church Street	Male breaks number plate off a Police vehicle	0
04.10.2016 11:25	West Street	Footage of a car being driven by a non-driver	0
04.10.2016 19:50	Leighton Buzzard High Street	Male damages the front of a shop	0
04.10.2016 21:38	Linslade Park	Gang of males and females causing criminal damage	0
07.10.2016 10:20	Leighton Buzzard High Street	Victim chasing the suspect of a robbery	0
12.10.2016 16:31	Mentmore park	Youth pushing a stolen moped across the park	0
17.10.2016 10:15	Leighton Buzzard High Street	Elderly female had her purse stolen as she was shopping	0
30.10.2016 15:07	Leighton Buzzard High Street	Footage of 3 ic1 males who had shoplifted from Wilko's	0
30.10.2016 00:01	Lake Street	Footage from outside the Lancer	0
30.10.2016 01:12	Lake Street	The Lancer door staff involved in an altercation	0
01.11.2016 20:34	West Street	V1 stops at the roundabout v2 smashes into the back of V1 then drives off	0
02.11.2016 10:28	Leighton Buzzard High Street	Male with a dog attacks another dog	0
06.11.2016 03:00	Lake Street	Large group fighting outside The Lancer	0
07.11.2016 20:44	Old Road	Male breaks to hand at roundabout then flips over handle bars hitting his head on a vehicle	0
14.11.2016 19:06	Astral Park	Youths causing ASB	0
19.11.2016 01:43	Lake street	Male fighting with door staff of The Lancer - male swallows a bag of cocaine and is taken to hospital	1
20.11.2016 17:00	Astral Park	Two males being indecent	0
28.11.2016 17:30	Church Road Re-deployable camera	Damage to parked vehicle	0

05.12.2016 18:23	Waterborne Walk	Group of youths that were involved in a robbery	0
09.12.2016 20:01	Waterborne Walk	2 Males break into The British Heart Foundation.	0
24.12.2016 15:59	North Street	Group of youths who have just shoplifted from Peacocks	0
26.12.2016 15:56	Leighton Buzzard area	Group of youths set fire to a pile of wood in an alley that leads to the high street	0
27.12.2016 22:05	Leighton Buzzard area	Male damaging cars as he is walking through Leighton Buzzard	0
29.12.2016 01:41	Waterborne Walk	Group of 6 males walking away from The British Heart foundation with bags and boxes full of items	0

2 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.

Re-deployable camera locations:

Church St
Vimy Road since 26/10/17

Street drinking update

A working group met on 31st March to consider the issues and what more can be done to tackle the problem. Unfortunately the PCC are unable to provide any funding and the churches cannot provide anything further with the number of volunteers they currently have. However they are going to look at some fundraising ideas.

Community Engagement Day Tuesday 11th July from 9am until 3pm

A multi agency community engagement day is planned for the town in July. A working group is looking at local evidence to determine key themes for the event and which agencies need to be represented. A survey is being finalised and will ask the public what they would like to see.

2. BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT UPDATE

2.1 Business Support

The Business Support Team offers a range of support services across the area, including funded projects, direct support and referrals to strategic partners.

An ERDF funded project called Innovation Bridge is up and running and offering support to businesses who are seeking support through university expertise and grants to deliver growth and innovation. The project is delivered across three LEP areas (South East Midlands, Greater Cambridgeshire Greater Peterborough and New Anglia). Across the three years of the project, it aims to support 350 businesses with university expertise and provide 116 grants. Currently five businesses from Leighton-Linslade are receiving support from the University of Bedfordshire through the scheme. For more information visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/innovationbridge

The team also manages Business TimeBank, a free scheme whereby local experts of their field have volunteered to offer start-up/small businesses up to two hours of support and advice. There has been 1 Business TimeBank session held with a business in Leighton Linslade last month on sales and marketing.

A representative from the Council attends LB Connect's regular breakfast meetings and provides information on the business support initiatives provided by the Council.

The Council has re-invigorated its approach to business engagement with the area's significant employers, in order to create economic growth and resilience in Central Bedfordshire and ensure the Council's growth and development strategies correspond with local business ambitions. This includes local companies such as Vinci, Grundfos Pumps and BE Aerospace.

As part of our sector support for the Agri food sector, CBC is a delivery partner in the FEAST project. Feast is a part ERDF funded project (total £7million of which £3.5million is ERDF) to offer a range of useful services to food and drinks manufacturers over the next three years, including; grant funding, business mentoring, industry events, technical support and technical apprentices.

We continue to offer business support to any business that would like assistance. For full information of how our team can support local businesses, please contact business@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

2.2 Inward Investment

CBC has managed 189 enquiries since April 2016 with a significant increase in enquires received through the online BeCentralBedfordshire.co.uk investment portal.

In the last quarter we can report that Hartwood Foods Ltd have taken a unit on Young's Industrial Estate. This is a new business that will specialise in providing prime cuts of meat and quality spices. The business hopes to create up to 7 new jobs in the next 2 years. Hartwood Foods were supported in their plans to open in the area by an award to reduce their business rates from the Councils Business Support and Growth Fund, with support and advice also being provided by the Environmental Health and Building Control Teams.

Be Central Bedfordshire website (www.becentralbedfordshire.co.uk) continues to attract interest from potential investors with 10,000 visits to the site and 900 property searches since 1st April 2016, with Leighton Linslade featuring prominently. The

team have launched Twitter and Linked In accounts to further attract website traffic @BeCentralBeds, <https://www.linkedin.com/company/becentralbeds>

According to figures supplied by EGi, there have been 4 commercial deals completed in the Leighton-Linslade area since October 2016. The business types are as follows: 1 x Retail, 2 x Industrial, 5 x Office.

CBC's Business Support & Growth Fund provides a range of support to inward investors or expanding business, through awards of up to £5k of business rates discounts, public protection training or pre application planning advice. The Fund is a great success with the year so far providing 8 awards totalling £22,500, which has facilitated 62 new jobs, and £371k new investment. 2 of these awards were to Leighton Linslade businesses, which will lead to 9 new jobs for the area and new investment of £160k. For more information on the Business Support & Growth Fund, please contact jeff.caiger@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

2.4 Employment and Skills

Using money from the Skills Funding Agency, the Bedfordshire Employment & Skills Service (BESS) commissions a wide range of courses designed to assist residents who are aged 19+ to gain employment. The courses are delivered in a variety of locations where there are good transport links. For local residents this involves a number of venues in Leighton Buzzard (for example, the Library, Astral Park Community Centre etc.). Since the start of the academic year some 149 local residents from the Leighton Linslade area have accessed our training courses with some 258 enrolments; this means that a positive number have accessed more than one course. Of these residents, 75 have not previously gained a Level 2 qualification (equivalent to GCSE grade A-C) and it is therefore very positive that support has been given to those who are particularly disadvantaged. Local residents are also benefiting from specialist niche provision to support a variety of needs which may include mental health, recovering from addictions and homelessness. Further information on the provision available can be found at: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/jobs/adult-learning/landing.aspx>

Central Bedfordshire Council also has a team of careers advisors as part of the National Careers Service. The advisors are able to provide impartial careers information and advice; this is available through the above website link.

Leighton Buzzard Skills and Technology Centre

The £4m Leighton Buzzard Skills and Technology Centre is taking shape on Chartmoor Street. This is a pivotal piece of educational infrastructure that will help address the skills shortage currently being faced with in the construction and engineering industries in the South East Midlands region. This £4m project is funded by South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership, Central Bedfordshire College and Central Bedfordshire Council (providing £500,000).

2.5 High Street Vacancy Levels

The overall average vacancy rate across Central Bedfordshire town centres is 5.06% in February 2017. Central Bedfordshire's vacancy rate is lower than Britain's rate of 12.1% in February 2017 (Source: The Local Data Company).

Table 6: Town centre vacancies % in Central Bedfordshire, February 2016 – February 2017

Town	Feb 16	May 16	Aug 16	Nov 16	Feb 17
Ampthill	2.2	0	1.1	0	2.2
Arlesey	6.7	6.7	6.7	0	0
Biggleswade	6.9	7.6	6.9	4.8	7.6
Dunstable	17.7	18.8	15.4	15.4	13.4
Flitwick	2.6	0	0	0	0
Houghton Regis	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	6.9
Leighton Buzzard	5.4	6.9	6.4	4.9	4.9
Sandy	4.5	6	4.5	7.5	7.5
Shefford	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Stotfold	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
Average vacancy rate	5.75%	5.75%	5.25%	4.41%	5.06%

Source: Central Bedfordshire Council February 2017

2.6 Update on Leighton-Linslade Regeneration

Market Town Regeneration Fund

We continue to support Leighton-Linslade Town Council in their Market Town Regeneration Fund projects. CBC is providing £159,500 (matched by LLTC), which has been designed and due to be delivered by Leighton-Linslade Town Council include improvements to the traders market, architectural lighting and electronic signage. This package, which is due to be completed by March 2018, will make a big difference to the town's vitality and viability.

Central Bedfordshire is offering 60% grant funding to shop owners for making improvements and in turn revitalising our high streets in a scheme worth up to £1.4m. Our High Street Improvement Scheme is proving to be very popular with businesses in Leighton Buzzard. Since our HSIS scheme opened we have approved nine expressions of interest for shop front improvements in Leighton Buzzard which are now going through the full application process. Our external retail specialist and architect have been working with the successful shop owners to ensure the proposals are right for the business and provide additional support in terms of their business model. For the full applications that are approved, the next stage is gaining planning permission and taking consented shop front improvements forward to delivery. We are in the process of procuring a contractor that has the expertise required to deliver our High Street Improvement Scheme. The end result will be an enhanced street scene with shop fronts that reflect the businesses and compliment the character of Leighton Buzzard's market town. The closing date for applications to the HSIS is 1st May 2017.

Meeting the Accommodation Needs of our Ageing Population

Central Bedfordshire Council has a programme of improving all types of accommodation for older people. As part of this programme we are proposing the development of a new care home on the Police Station site in Hockliffe Road. The Council has appointed agents Barford + Co to develop the proposals, which will be subject to planning approval and public consultation. Barford + Co will be holding a public exhibition on the Hockliffe Road site on 23rd March 2017 between 4pm and 7.30pm so that members of the public can find out about the proposals and give their feedback early in the process. The search the Council undertook when it acquired the site from Bedfordshire Police did not reveal any covenants that would restrict development of this nature. The development of a new care home could replace the Council's existing facility, Westlands, which does not have the accommodation and facilities that are most appropriate for older people needing this type of care. This approach also fits well with the Council's commitment to providing services that offer value for money and town centre's that are fit for the future.

Land South of High Street

We are fully committed to delivering a sustainable mixed-use extension to Leighton Buzzard High Street that has long lasting benefits. Land South of High Street is a complex project so we are continuing to work on the best way to deliver this regeneration project, including ongoing market engagement.

Bridge Meadow

Like Land South of High Street, we are fully committed to enabling the delivery of this key regeneration project in Linslade. We have less control over this site, as it is mainly privately owned. Nevertheless, we are doing what we can to strategically plan and enable this project to come forward to fruition by holding discussions with relevant third parties and stakeholders.

Local Plan

Our emerging Local Plan was paused pending the publication of the Housing White Paper which was published on 7 February. Having now considered the implications, the Local Plan timetable has been adjusted and a report on the draft plan will be taken to Executive on 6 June 2017. It is anticipated (subject to Executive approval) that the plan will be published for consultation from the end of June for 8 weeks. Our Overview and Scrutiny Committee will also be consulted during this consultation period.

We recently held a Community Planning event in February 2017 for the Leighton-Linslade area. This event was well attended with over 200 visitors providing their feedback on local priorities. Results of our Community Planning Events will be published on our website and will be used to help us develop the Local Plan.

For more information on our emerging Local Plan please visit:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/planning/policy/local-plan/overview.aspx>

2.7 February 2017 Quarterly Monitoring Report

We can advise that our quarterly monitoring report can be found at the following link together with the 2016 Economic Insight report and infographics.

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/business/economic/overview.aspx>

Economic Insight monitors the local economic conditions and the factors influencing economic growth, along with key performance indicators set out in our Economic Development Plan. Economic Insight is produced biennially and replaces the Local Economic Assessment.

3 LEISURE, LIBRARIES & COUNTRYSIDE

3.1 Countryside

Rushmere Countryside Park

Park improvement work

- Conifer removal in Oak Wood to encourage further heathland and mixed woodland restoration.
- Complete extension to on site café facilities. Increasing kitchen preparation areas to enable a more efficient service to cope with demand at peak periods and improve customer service response times.
- Subject to securing capital finance, planned improvement include: -
 1. Toilet Block refurbishment at the 'Stockgrove' end of the site
 2. New machine store (for ground operations etc)
 3. Improvements to the access road and car parking surfacing
 4. Various tree safety works along user routes

Park events and activities

DATE	EVENT	MORE INFO
14 – 17 April	Easter Bunny Hunt	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/easter-bunny-hunt-tickets-32255351625
Every Saturday 9am	Park Run	http://www.parkrun.org.uk/rushmere/

3.2 Tiddenfoot Waterside Park

National Grid works - Upcoming Footpath Closures in Tiddenfoot Waterside Park

National Grid is currently carrying out essential maintenance work on the overhead power line between East Claydon and Sundon – including replacing wires and other equipment.

This will include working on the 2 pylons and wires that run though Tiddenfoot Waterside Park. As a safety measure whilst this work is being carried out, the park will be closed to the public from where the power line crosses the lake to the southern boundary. We also anticipate closure at the southern end of the park at

certain times during March, April and May. We will endeavour to provide users of the Park with adequate prior notice of when access will be restricted.

Canal Festival

Initial site meeting with LLTC staff regrading preparations for this years Canal festival have taken place, no identified issues have arisen.

Southern Meadow / link to Tiddenfoot Waterside Park

Work continues with BEA to secure a permissive path link across the BEA land that in time will connect from Grovebury Road to Canal towpath and access the green bridge in to Tiddenfoot.

3.3 Physical Activity

The Physical Activity team continue to organise activities in the Leighton Buzzard area:

Weekly Seated Exercise class at Tudor Court, Water Lane every Friday 2pm - 3pm open to everyone and there is no need to book. For more information Tel: 01525 220835

Walking Football every Wednesday 7-8pm at Cedars Upper School £1.50 per week, the sessions focus on enjoyment, with an inevitable competitive edge to games. It may be a slightly slower version of the game to reduce the chance of injury, but make no mistake, it is far from mundane. No need to book, just turn up.

Co-ordinated through BRCC, a weekly health walk starts from Bell Close (opposite Morrison's petrol station). The walking group is open to everyone and is free to take part. Walks vary each week but are typically between 30 and 60 minutes. For more information contact Edith Griffin, 01525 376551

External funding has been secured to improve facilities on the multi use games area at Appenine Way. This will include new goals, surfacing improvements and new court markings. It is anticipated that works will be tendered in May and improvements completed in September or October 2017.

Tea Dances at Leighton Buzzard Library Theatre

If you like dancing, making friends, listening to music and a spot of tea then come along to a new monthly tea dance at Leighton Buzzard Library Theatre. This is your opportunity to waltz, tango, cha cha cha and quickstep. You will be entertained with a wide range of music and will receive complimentary tea or coffee and biscuits which will be served throughout the dance. If you are a bit rusty or if you haven't danced before, no need to worry as there will be a workshop so you can learn all of the right moves. The Tea Dances are organised by the Physical Activity Team at CBC. For more information contact Loren Barnard via email loren.barnard@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or call 0300 300 5125.

- Wednesday 22 March 2017 2pm to 4pm
- Wednesday 26 April 2017 2pm to 4pm
- Wednesday 24 May 2017 2pm to 4pm

Doors open at 1.15pm. Admission is £3 (+ £1 booking fee) Telephone 0300 300 8125, call in to the box office or book online at <https://centralbedfordshire.ticketsolve.com/shows/873568039/events/128013359>

3.4 Leighton Buzzard Library and Theatre

January saw a very busy Panto season with all shows a sell out. In February the film Starfish was shown, supporting Sepsis awareness month.

We also had a whole day event celebrating all things woolly. This included a pop up museum sponsored by The Knitting and Crochet Guild, who sent down a wonderful collection from their archive in Lee Mills, West Yorkshire. The event was well attended and alongside the museum we had demonstrations of spinning and weaving. The event culminated in the showing of the film Yarn, an international collaboration exploring the use of Yarn as an art form.

February also saw a showing in the library of 'Where the River Runs'. Full House Theatre is working in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council to deliver a high quality touring theatre not only to Leighton Buzzard Theatre but other local sites including the library.

The library continued to provide a varied programme of events for children and families with the Lego club every Saturday being a particular success.

Looking forward

In the coming months the Library Stitchers will be preparing the libraries entry for Anglia in Bloom in July. For the last two years the group have entered a knitted collection much to the amusement of the judges. This year the theme will be 'A Blooming Good Read' and participants will be creating an item to be displayed with the book of their choice that has a horticultural theme, be it in the content, Author or title.

Visit <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/leisure/leighton-buzzard-library-theatre/event.aspx> for the full theatre programme.

3.5 Leisure Strategy & Policy

Helping to secure developer contributions for sport and leisure priorities. A letter has recently been sent to all Town and Parish Councils requesting information to support the delivery aims of the Leisure Strategy. The purpose of the engagement is to verify sites information for open space and outdoor sport facilities, and to understand local council priorities for new/improved facilities that developer contributions might be sought for.

To comply with the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations, developer contributions can only be sought for real, costed projects so we want to understand the local priority projects for open space and outdoor sport facilities to evidence the contributions we seek from new developments.

The engagement will link with priorities identified through Neighbourhood Planning however, to meet the CIL regulations the level of project detail required is greater than that for NPs.

As the key organisation representing the local community, we are primarily consulting town and parish councils. It is possible that different local stakeholders may have different priorities for new/improved facilities, and ideally these should be reconciled, with feedback on the consultation coming via the town/parish council to ensure continuity of priorities.

For more information about the format of the engagement, including information on the feedback being requested and next steps, contact lisa.white@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

The timescale for this work is 8 weeks from the end of February until 2 May 2017. We appreciate that we are seeking detailed feedback and that the timescale may not be sufficient, so we have asked town and parish councils to let us know if additional time, or help, is needed.

4. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

4.1 Parking consultation

The council is consulting on parking and this will be open for feedback until 16 June.

Parking is an important issue when considering transport topics. Central Bedfordshire households have a higher than average number of cars or vans, all of which need parking. However a well planned and managed approach to parking can have a positive impact on local businesses and people's quality of life. However there is a challenge - often there more vehicles than space to park, which causes problems.

The Council is proposing to introduce a new set of policies that set out a framework for how it will provide for, manage and make decisions about parking for residents, shoppers and commuters.

The results of the consultation will help to inform a draft Parking Strategy. When this is adopted, feedback from local area assessments in key towns will be used to understand if there are any areas in Central Bedfordshire where parking needs to be improved, at which point there will be further public consultation.

The consultation document and a response form is available online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/parking-consultations. Paper copies are also available in all of our libraries, Priory House and Watling House receptions.

4.2 Parking enforcement

The following list of works have been commissioned and completed in Leighton Linslade

Location		Works carried out
Bassett Road, Leighton Buzzard	Opposite house no 19 lamppost no's 4& 2	SYL signs repainted.
North Street, Leighton Buzzard	Outside Ocean Fish Bar.	DYL repainted.
Church Road, Linslade	Opposite house no. 2	SYL repainted.
Church Road, Linslade	Opposite The Hunt Lodge/near lamppost no 3	SYL repainted.
Church Road, Linslade	Outside house no 3a, opposite house no 4 and Rochester Mews	L/W bay signs replaced.
New Road, Linslade	Outside house 27-29 and outside the White Horse Pub	L/W bay signs replaced.
Waterlow Road, Linslade	Outside house no's 48-50	New sign for SYL.
High Street, Leighton Buzzard	Outside Wilkinson's	New D/B & Loading Only bay signs.
High Street, Leighton Buzzard	Outside Dry Cleaners	New signage for D/B bays.
Rock Lane, Linslade	Outside house no 41, lamppost 6	SYL sign replaced.
Rock Lane, Linslade	Outside house no 35-43 and house no 2 to street sign	SYL repainted.
Bunkers Lane, Linslade	From lamppost 8	Time plate replaced.
Grange Close, Linslade	Near house no 48	New SYL time plate.

The following works have been put forward for completion:

Location		Works to be carried out
Wing Road, Linslade	Outside house no's 22 and 24	Need signs for Resident Permit Holders Only.
Wing Road, Linslade	Outside house numbers 79-83, 89-93, 99, 105. 111-113, 117, 119, 123,	Need signs and posts for Resident Permit Holders Only.
Wing Road, Linslade	From house no's 69a-83	Bays need repainting.
Bassett Road, Leighton Buzzard	Outside school path entrance nearest to West Street	School markings need sign 'No Stopping Mon-Fri 8am-4.30pm' on school entrance markings.

Key

L/W: Limited Waiting Bay
 SYL: Single Yellow Line
 DYL: Double Yellow Line
 D/B: Disabled Bay

Over the last three months:

- 634 PCNs issued in Leighton Buzzard and 158 PCN's in Leighton Linslade.

- 1695 Visits from officers in Leighton Buzzard and 421 in Leighton Linlade.
- Civil works for the new parking system has taken place however this will now be delayed until Mar/Apr due to waiting for BT to install some ADSL lines
- Hockliffe being refitted and converted in to a pay on foot car park including the latest automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology to be implemented. This will now be delayed until Apr/May due to waiting for BT to install some ADSL lines which we have now been informed will involve significant excavation work.
- All remaining car parks have had the old P&D machines removed and new ones installed significantly increasing reliability and providing user with increased payment options.

Key highlights:

- Installation of new technology.

Key issues:

- Sign and line issues that have been prioritised and are being resolved (order has been placed and agreed see table above). – All lining work has been carried out however limited signing has been completed.
- We are looking to recruit further CEO's which will lead to increased patrols in both Leighton Buzzard and Leighton Linlade. – We have recruited two new CEO's however need a further 4.

Key Priorities over the next 3 months:

- West street Multi Storey refit with the latest automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology to be implemented in Mar/Apr.
- Hockliffe St Car Park conversion in to a pay on foot car park including ANPR technology to be implemented in Apr/May.
- Replace or reline the priority lines and signs across Leighton Linlade and Leighton Buzzard as part of a replacement program.

Key messages:

- There may be disruption to services when the new technology is installed at Hockliffe Street car park and West Street MSCP due to excavation works however we will aim to keep this to a minimum by working closely with BT - Ongoing

4.3 Highways Maintenance

- Church Road and New Road, Linlade - Consider representations to Proposed Waiting Restrictions and One-Way Order.
- Proposal to introduce one-way traffic in New Road has been withdrawn to allow further investigation work to be undertaken and the matter will be reported to a subsequent Traffic Management Meeting

- New road, Linslade closure 2 X Sundays on 21st May and 25th June for crane operation at house redevelopment.
- Velocity Patcher (pot hole repair vehicle) used in Bragenham Lane, Leighton Buzzard at end of March and scheduled for works at West Street Car Park.
- Bideford Green, Linslade – there will be the implementation of waiting restrictions in the vicinity of Southcott School at Bideford Green, Linslade. Date to be confirmed.
- 20mph limit in Billington Road, Leighton Buzzard to be implemented – date pending.
- A raised table zebra crossing to be installed in Billington Road, Leighton – date to be confirmed.
- The impact of the proposed changes to Billington Road will be monitored for a period of 2 years after the scheme’s implementation.

4.4 Changes to subsidised bus services – May 2017

In 2016 the council consulted on its Passenger Transport Strategy and a key topic was the subsidising of bus routes.

Currently 53% of bus services in Central Bedfordshire are subsidised at a cost to the tax payer of £1.2m per year.

From May 2017 the council will use the new, fair and transparent process agreed by Members last year to decide whether or not to fund a bus route where passenger numbers are not high enough to make it financially viable.

Subsidies will now only be allocated to buses running before 6:30pm on weekdays, and before 3:00pm on Saturdays. No subsidies will be available for services operating on Sundays and bank holidays. Bus providers will have the option of continuing to run services outside of these times, but they will no longer be subsidised by Central Bedfordshire. Additionally Central Bedfordshire is introducing a number of new bus services to ensure that local residents can access nearby towns. This change is in line with the process set out in the Passenger Transport Strategy adopted by members at Full Council in November 2016. The public was also in agreement that Central Bedfordshire should not subsidise underused buses.

These changes do not apply to routes funded from section 106 monies, or to services operated on a commercial basis, with no subsidy from Central Bedfordshire.

Information about changes to services will be displayed on buses and at bus stops, as well as on the CBC website.

Existing Subsidised services		
Route Number	Route Description	Changes to service
32/33	Leighton Buzzard Town Services (High Street - Weston Avenue - Brooklands)	Support to be withdrawn for Saturday afternoon journeys after 15.00
36A/	Leighton Buzzard Town Services (Linslade - High	No change but funded

36C	Street - Billington Park)	from section 106 in future
37	Leighton Buzzard - Heath & Reach	No change but funded from section 106 in future
49	Leighton Buzzard - Woburn - Ridgmont	To be withdrawn, replaced by new routes 43 & 47
73	Totternhoe - Eaton Bray - Billington - Leighton Buzzard	To be withdrawn, partly replaced by new route 43
150	Aylesbury - Leighton Buzzard - Heath & Reach - Milton Keynes	Support to be withdrawn - service operates commercially
162	Stewkley - Bletchley - Leighton Buzzard	No change
164	Leighton Buzzard - Cheddington - Tring - Aylesbury	No change
165	Leighton Buzzard - Aston Abbots - Wingrave - Aylesbury - Stoke Mandeville	No change
167	Leighton Buzzard - Cheddington - Ivinghoe	No change
43	Studham-Dunstable-Leighton Buzzard	Replaces journeys on current routes 49, 73 & X31
Bus providers will have the option of continuing to run services outside of these times, but they will no longer be subsidised by us.		

5. YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES

The Youth Support Service has just conducted the 'Annual Activity Survey' to establish the destinations of young people who completed year 11 and year 12 in the summer of 2016. This is a Department for Education requirement. Local Authorities have from September to the end of January to identify young people's current destination. Information on the activity status is sought from institutions in the first instance through enrolment lists. Young people not covered by institutional information or where inadequate information has been obtained are contacted directly by post, telephone, email, social media, home visits by the Youth Support Service and 4YP (our commissioned provider of IAG). The Youth Support Service also works closely with other Local Authorities as 40% of young people who are educated post 16 attend institutions outside Central Bedfordshire.

Update on NEETs within the wider Central Bedfordshire area

The levels of young people reported as being 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (*NEET*) remains low and is on a general downward trend. Out of the total Central Bedfordshire school years 12-13 cohort of 5768 young people officially reported at the end of February 2017, there were 133 (2.3%) reported to have a NEET status and 5469 (94.8%) recorded as being in 'Education, Employment or Training' (*EET*). The proportion of young people (*School years 12-13*) still 'In Learning' is currently at 92.9%. A total of 165 (2.9%) young people whose current situation is not known exist.

NEET Overview for Leighton Buzzard

At the end of February 2017 there were 22 young persons with a recorded NEET destination. This is the same level as at the end of December 2016.

The overall % proportion of the Leighton Buzzard population aged school years 12-13 who are currently NEET is 2.6%.

Leighton Buzzard Headline Figures for February 28 th 2017		
Total YPs in area	865	100%
EET	823	95.2%
NEET	22	2.6%
Unknown	20	2.4%

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 young people aged 16-18 (*school years 12-13*). Where relevant, the tables include the figures for two other areas enabling a comparison to be made if required.

(1) Area

The number of NEETs in this area has remained relatively constant since the start of 2017. The Heath and Reach ward has the lowest level with only 1 NEET young person recorded compared to the Leighton Buzzard North ward with the highest number of NEET young people living in Leighton Buzzard with 10 young persons recorded as having a NEET characteristic.

The following table gives a break down of the NEETs recorded as living within each ward at the end of February 2017.

Ward	Total number of YPs in the Year 12-13 cohort	Total number of YPs recorded as NEET	% of NEET within ward
Leighton Buzzard North	301	10	3.4%
Leighton Buzzard South	245	4	1.7%
Linslade	233	7	3.1%
Heath and Reach	86	1	1.2%
Total	865	22	2.6%

(2) Gender

Unlike other areas, the gender breakdown of the Leighton Buzzard area shows that gender seems to have no significance in the NEET numbers. The numbers seem to oscillate between the genders each month with the overall number remaining the same.

Gender	Dunstable		Houghton Regis		Leighton Buzzard	
Male	7	31.9%	6	35.3%	11	50%
Female	15	68.2%	11	64.8%	11	50%

Total	22	17	22
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(3) Age

The age breakdown indicates that it is the 17 year olds that are most likely to be NEET within Leighton Buzzard as well as the wider area of Central Bedfordshire.

Actual Age (Year 12 & 13)	Dunstable		Houghton Regis		Leighton Buzzard	
16	4	18.2%	2	11.8%	6	27.3%
17	12	54.6%	13	76.5%	14	63.7%
18	6	27.3%	2	11.8%	2	9.1%
Total	22		17		22	

(4) Time

The majority of the area's NEETs have had that status for less than 6 months..

Length of Time NEET	Dunstable		Houghton Regis		Leighton Buzzard	
Less than 3 months	9	41%	8	47.1%	9	41%
3 - 6 months	10	45.5%	7	41.2%	8	36.4%
6+ months	3	13.7%	2	11.8%	5	22.8%
Total	22		17		22	

(5) NEET Status

The number of young people within the Leighton Buzzard NEET group currently available to the labour market and actively seeking EET is 16 (72.8% of the NEET cohort of this area) compared to the 6 (27.3 % of the NEET cohort of this area) who are currently not available for EET due to their personal circumstances (e.g. *Illness, pregnancy, etc.*).

Status	Dunstable		Houghton Regis		Leighton Buzzard	
Seeking Employment or Training	15	68.2%	16	94.2%	16	72.8%
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances'	7	31.9%	1	5.9%	6	27.3%
Total	22		17		22	

(6) Unknown Destinations

There are currently 20 (2.4%) young people in the area with a recorded destination of 'Unknown'.

The percentages allow comparisons to be made against each area's total population.

Unknown Destinations	Dunstable	Houghton Regis	Leighton Buzzard
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Refused Information	2	0.3%	1	0.3%	0	0%
Cannot be Contacted	12	1.5%	9	2%	16	1.9%
Unknown / Left Area	4	0.5%	3	0.7%	4	0.5%
Totals	18		13		20	

(7) Next Steps

The Youth Support Service (YSS) will be taking the following action to ensure NEET numbers remain low in the Leighton Buzzard area:

There has been several NEET preventative measures taking place over the last few months and will continue into the future. These include:

- Youth workers and the 14-19 Partnership Officer are visiting schools in the area to promote 'Apprenticeship week' and the vacancies currently available via a lunch time pop-up stall.
- A series of targeted home visits aimed at those young people whose destinations have become 'Unknown' to the YSS continues to be undertaken by the service and its commissioned providers.
- Schools have been provided with an interactive Risk of NEET Indicator (RONI) report for all students in years 9 to 11 to enable them to target their students before they become NEET at the end of the current academic year. These interactive reports have been developed and circulated for a number of years and provide schools with a tool to identify students that may be at risk of becoming NEET. This is a pre-emptive measure that can help school target help and guidance to those who potentially may become NEET after leaving compulsory education at 16 years of age.

For those young people that are no longer attending school, the YSS continue to make available high quality Information Advice and Guidance to young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET within the Houghton Regis area through 4YP.

- The use of social media is being used to notify NEET young people of opportunities as they are advertised. The number of 'Friends' and has increased month on month with the newly created 'One-Stop-Shop' page.
- The YSS is currently analysing the latest NEET cohort to establish whether further work could take place to support these young people.

6 SCHOOLS

6.1 New School Places for Leighton Buzzard and Linslade

Leighton Middle School is currently being expanded 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.

Temporary accommodation is on site to provide the extra children who joined Leighton Middle School in September 2016 with the classrooms required due to a delay on site. Some new facilities were however completed on time and are now in daily use including the new art room and the main part of the new dining room.

Council officers and the school's leadership team continue to work with the contractor to ensure a successful, swift and satisfactory conclusion to the project and agree a revised completion date.

We continue to monitor housing development in the area and the timing of new school places required as a result.

6.2 School Admissions

Parents of children transferring to upper school in September 2017 were notified of which school their child has been offered a place on 1 March 2017 (national secondary offer day). All pupils in Leighton Buzzard were offered their first preference upper school.

Parents of children starting school (Reception Year) or transferring to middle school for September 2017 will be notified of which school they will be attending on the national primary offer day (18 April 2017).

Transition events for these pupils will take place during the summer term.

7. PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

7.1 Cheering Volunteering 2017

The third annual Cheering Volunteering awards and celebration event will be held during National Volunteers Week, on Tuesday 6 June at the Grove Theatre in Dunstable.

Having grown in success and popularity over the past two years, Cheering Volunteering is organised by the council, working in partnership with volunteer centres as part of Central Bedfordshire Together, to say thank you to those who give their time to help others.

The event is sponsored by Biffa, Aragon Housing, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, ProLogis and Jeakins Weir.

On the night volunteers and their guests will join the Chairman of the Council and other local dignitaries in the celebration of volunteering and the presentation of seven awards and grants. You can book your seats at the free event on 6th June at the Grove Theatre, Dunstable here: <http://www.grovetheatre.co.uk/events/cheering-volunteering/>

If you have any photos of local volunteers in action, please send them to Partnerships.CommunityEngagementTeam@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk so that they can be included in the photo montage during the event.

8. WASTE

8.1 Looking back

Key highlights:

Generally the Christmas clear up went well with very little issues.

The Leighton Buzzard Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) re-opened after refurbishment at the end of January 2017 and is proving popular with residents.

The Waste Services team recently assisted with the Great British Spring Clean event at the beginning of March, providing bags and arranging for the waste collected to be removed. We have also been asked to assist with clearing the waste after the May Fayre.

Reported numbers of abandoned vehicles in the area has increased.

Waste Services Officers will inspect vehicles reported as abandoned and, based upon a number of factors, sticker the vehicle only if they consider it as potentially abandoned.

If at the point of inspection the Officer does not consider the vehicle to be potentially abandoned no further action will be taken at that time.

Only once a sticker has been affixed by the Officer inspecting the vehicle are we able to commence our investigation as to its status.

If a vehicle is claimed during our investigation then we cannot continue to consider it as potentially abandoned and it will not be possible to remove it.

Key issues:

Dog warden patrols for dog fouling have been carried out in: Appenine Way, Bassett Road, Bassett Road Recreation Ground, Billington Road, Billington Road Recreation Ground, Camberton Road, Churchill Road, Hawk Drive, Kestrel Way, King Street, Kingfisher Drive, Queen Street, Redhouse Court, Southcourt Avenue, Springfield Road, Vandyke Road and Winston Close.

8.2 Looking forward

Grounds maintenance is due to start by the end of March and grass cutting was due to commence during the week of Monday 13th March, weather permitting.

Key Priorities over the next 3 months:

Garden waste collections resumed after the winter suspension the week commencing Monday 27th February or the following week depending on where residents live in Leighton Linlade.

The garden waste collected since the service resumed at the end of February/beginning of March has shown a higher than usual content of incorrect items, including black bags of domestic waste, food stuff, plastic buckets, metal springs, garden tools, paperwork, ring binders and general, not green, non compostable items. All garden waste that is collected at the kerbside is processed at a local composting site and non-compostable items can cause issues, meaning some garden waste cannot be composted. If residents are unsure, there are details on our website: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/waste/recycling/garden.aspx>

For clarification, items which can be put in the green waste are: grass cuttings, plants and weeds, flowers, prunings, hedge clippings, leaves and bark, vase plants and pond plants. Items which should not be put in the green waste collections are: vegetable peelings, kitchen waste, plastic bags, plant pots, polystyrene trays, soil, rubble, animal bedding, pet waste and general household waste.

This cutting season Waste Services will be overseeing the highways rural grass cutting contract (outside the speed limits of towns and villages) and queries relating to rural areas can be directed to the team.

9 PUBLIC HEALTH

9.1 5-19 Children's Public Health services.

Below are the universal 5-19 and other children's Public Health services. **There are no specific projects running in Leighton Linlade for these.**

Sexual Health Services ICASH

Cambridgeshire Community Services provide integrated contraception and sexual health services in partnership with Terrence Higgins Trust and Brook. These services are available for all Central Bedfordshire residents. The integrated contraception and sexual health services provide testing for sexually transmitted infections and treatment, HIV testing and treatment, all methods of contraception, psychosexual counselling, and general advice and support in regards to sexual health.

The My Life Healthy Relationships Programme (Brook)

The 'My Life' programme aims to build self-esteem, build healthy relationships and improve knowledge on sexual health. One to one programmes are available to young people identified as at an increased risk of teenage pregnancy, across Central Bedfordshire. The programme will continue to be delivered throughout 2017/18.

Smokefree projects

Preventative work is being done to reduce the smoking prevalence of young people with an interactive web based training package called Operation Smoke Storm addressing the harms of smoking in Schools across Central Bedfordshire, with support from the Stop Smoking Service to link with School Nursing Service to assist students to quit smoking. In addition to Harms Prevention, there are ongoing Smokefree Campaigns working closely with Early Year Settings to help service users understand the harms of second hand smoke to their babies and children's

development, to ensure they have a healthy and safe start. Children Centres, Pre-Schools and Nurseries are keen to promote these campaigns.

0-19 Health Visiting and School Nursing Service

Health Visitors:

Universal services are provided by Health Visitors and School Nurses for all children, young people and their families across Central Bedfordshire, as part of their delivery of The Healthy Child Programmes 0-5 years and 5-19 years. Services are divided into Community, Universal, Universal Plus and Universal Partnership Plus, offering an increasing amount of support and intervention at each level. Evidence shows that there are key times to ensure that parents are supported to give their child the best start in life, and to identify early those families who need extra help through early interventions. These key times correspond to specific elements of The 0-5 HCP

- Providing antenatal care and postnatal programmes which support families with a focus on the child’s healthy development.
- Delivering health promotion, advice and support
- Signposting to financial and welfare support
- Supporting breastfeeding and promoting secure attachment

School Nurses:

A named school nurse for every school operates as part of a skill mixed team:

- Ensuring assessment of health and wellbeing need and early identification of risk factors
- Providing advice and support for children and young people and their families through professional referral or self referral
- Providing health checks to indicate developmental concerns and delays
- Ensuring support for health promotion around issues such as obesity, smoking, drugs and relationship issues and sexual health
- Providing drop ins for pupils in year 7 and upwards
- Providing an emotional wellbeing School Nurse support pathway.

Stop Smoking Services

Services are delivered across all GP Surgeries in Leighton Buzzard and Linslade.

Other clinics, delivered by the CBC specialist service run at the following times/venues:

Venue	Day	Time
Leighton Buzzard Health Centre	Monday	2pm – 4pm
Bassett Road Surgery	Wednesday	3pm – 8pm
Tesco Leighton Buzzard	Thursday	3pm – 8pm

Extended treatment programmes are available to residents with a Mental Health diagnosis or COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder). The Smokefree Baby and Me programme is also available for pregnant smokers.

Call one of our advisors free on 0800 013 0553 (press 1 for Central Bedfordshire)
 Fax: 0300 300 8285

Email: stop.smoking@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
<http://www.smokefreebedfordshire.org/>

9.2 **Excess Weight**

Levels of obesity and excess weight are below average across Leighton Linlade compared to other wards within CBC. To support a reduction in child and adult weight levels, and raise levels of physical activity, there have been a number of services commissioned to deliver interventions.

Data

Obesity data shows that the average level of obesity in adults for Leighton Linlade ward is 22.9%. (CB average – 23.7%)

Excess weight data from the National Child Measurement Programme for children age 4-5yrs old within the same ward shows the average level for excess weight is 13.7% (CB average – 20%)

Excess weight data from the National Child Measurement Programme for children age 10-11yrs old within the same ward shows the average level for excess weight is 27.6% (CB average – 28.7%)

9.3 **Commissioned Services**

- **BeeZee Bodies** – Weight Management programmes for young children (HENRY), families (BeeZee Families), men (Gutless) and pregnant women (BeeZee Bumps)
 1 BeeZee Families programme ran in the local area which included referrals from families who live in Leighton Linlade.
 BeeZee Bodies also commission Weight Watchers and Slimming World via the GPs. All the GPs in Leighton Linlade use this referral programme for adults who are overweight or obese.
 1 Gutless programmes has been delivered in the area since April 2016 with men attending who live in Leighton Linlade.
 BeeZee Bumps Maternal Obesity programme is working with midwives to refer women who are overweight and deliver at Luton & Dunstable hospital.
- **Oral Health Promotion** – Community Dental Services were commissioned to deliver several programmes from April 2016 – March 2018.
 Fluoride Varnish application to 3year olds to decrease levels of tooth decay in young children and Healthy Smiles programme for 2 – 4 year olds. Working with Childrens Centres and Early Years settings.
- **Food Award Scheme** – Funding from Public health has been secured to introduce a Food Award Scheme. Working with Environmental Health, a new officer will contact food businesses to support them to reduce the levels of fat, salt and sugar in food served. The award will initially be offered to Leisure Centre cafes and Hot Food Takeaways in areas of high levels of excess weight. Final locations and establishments will be decided in May 2017.

9.4 **NHS Health Checks**

NHS Health Check is a national risk assessment and management programme for those aged 40 to 74 living in England, who do not have an existing vascular disease,

and who are not currently being treated for certain risk factors. It is aimed at preventing heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease and raising awareness of dementia for those aged 65-74 and includes an alcohol risk assessment. Everyone receiving an NHS Health Check will have a risk assessment which will look at individual risk factors as well as their risk of having, or developing, vascular disease in the next ten years. An NHS Health Check should be offered every five years.

Currently GP practices are the sole provider of the NHS Health Check programme; however performance varies. NHS Health Checks are being delivered through 3 GP Practices in the Leighton Buzzard Locality, Salisbury House Surgery, Bassett Road Surgery and Leighton Road Surgery. From April 2016 – February 2017 1,089 Health Checks were delivered through these practices which equated to 84.7% of their target delivery. The quality of the NHS Health Checks delivered within the locality remains high at 98.9%.

To optimise the clinical and cost effectiveness of the programme the uptake needs to increase especially within populations with the greatest health needs to narrow health inequalities. Achieving positive health outcomes is dependent on close working between local authorities and their partners across the health care system, including primary care. Identify opportunities to link with other programmes such as the National Diabetes Prevention Programme

10. SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING

10.1 Personal Social Services Adult Social Care Survey England (ASCS)

Local authorities in England with responsibility for providing adult social care services are required to conduct an annual postal survey of their service users. The Personal Social Services Adult Social Care Survey England (ASCS) is a national survey for England. The mandatory survey asks questions about quality of life and the impact that the services they receive have on their quality of life. It also collects information about self-reported general health and well-being.

Following the Personal Social Services Adult Social Care Survey England (ASCS) the results from 2015/16 are now here [ASC survey report](#). You can request a copy of the results by contacting Partnershipteam@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

All councils in England are now delivering the 2016/17 survey where throughout January – March they have contacted a sample of customers in Central Bedfordshire. The survey has been sent out to approx. 1000 customers selected at random, because they receive, or have received, care and support services that are paid for or arranged by Central Bedfordshire Council. By care and support services we mean they may be living in a care home, receiving a personal budget, home care, meals services, direct payments, or attending a day centre.

The aim is to improve the support we offer to customers, the views of customers are important to us to ensure we are getting our services right.

The results of the survey will be used by the Care Quality Commission, Department of Health, NHS Digital (previously the Health and Social Care Information Centre) and by Central Bedfordshire Council to improve services.

The outcome of the response will be published on our website in 2017/18.

If you have any questions related to the survey, please contact Cheryl Stimson on 0300 300 5176 or email at Partnershipteam@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

10.2 Just Ask

The 'Just Ask' project took the road throughout 2016 visiting various sites across Central Bedfordshire; Sandy, Flitwick, Shefford, Stotfold, Ampthill, Biggleswade, Leighton Buzzard and Dunstable. The project is facilitated by Health Watch Central Bedfordshire who work in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council, Aragon Housing Association (AHA) and other key stakeholders including a wealth of voluntary and community groups. The aim of the project is to distribute information, advice and guidance about Social Care, Health and Housing, children and families, education and community safety across Central Bedfordshire. This includes signposting the public to other local services, voluntary, charitable and community organisations in their area.

The Project reached out to more than 1600 people who visited the bus and whether they were looking for information from 0 - 99yrs there was a range of professionals on board from different areas including children, young people, families, older people and carers. This one stop shop offered a wide range of information available.

For more information on the project visit [Health Watch Central Bedfordshire](#) to download the report.

The Just Ask event in Leighton – Linslade takes place on Tuesday 15th August 2017 @ 9:00 am - 1:30 pm on The Market Square