



PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2019

ADDITIONAL PAPERS

Agenda Item 5

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE UPDATE

To receive and note an information report from Central Bedfordshire Council on matters affecting the locality including highways, schools, social care, waste and recycling, community safety, youth services and business support. (to follow).

(Pages 1 - 20)

PLEASE BRING THE ATTACHED PAPERS TO THE MEETING IN ADDITION TO THE PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED AGENDA.

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LEIGHTON LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

05 September 2019

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

Purpose of report: - for information

1 COMMUNITY SAFETY

1.1 Anti-social behaviour and Statutory Nuisance

The Community Safety Operations Team has carried out the following work in the Leighton-Linslade area from the February 2019 – June 2019:

There were 43 cases open to Community Safety Operations Team:-

- Begging – 1
- Dog Barking – 1
- Dog Fouling – 2
- Fly-tipping – 5
- Graffiti – 1
- Nuisance Neighbours – 6
- Pollution/Light – 1
- Pollution/Noise – 16
- Pollution/Odour – 4
- Rowdy/Inconsiderate Behaviour – 6

1 x Fixed Penalty Notice issued and paid re. Dog Fouling

1 x Abatement Notice issued re. Dog Barking

1 x file has been sent to Legal team regarding Breach of Criminal Behaviour Order.

Recorded CCTV Incidents

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.

Date	Time	Location	Type of Crime	Arrests
03/02/2019	03:08	Lake Street	Assault	0
03/02/2019	03:22	Lake Street	Affray	0
09/02/2019	15:17	High Street	Shoplifters	0
10/02/2019	13:12	High Street	Shoplifters	0
16/02/2019	03:01	Lake Street	Affray	0

19/02/2019	15:07	High Street	Wanted Male	1
20/02/2019	17:18	High Street	Shoplifting	0
20/02/2019	17:44	North Street	Street Drinking	0
20/02/2019	22:57	High Street	Breach Of CPN	0
21/02/2019	23:50	High Street	Burglary	0
08/02/2019	21:05	Waterborne Walk	Drugs/3males rolling and smoking drugs	0
02/03/2019	01:27	Lake Street	Affray	0
02/03/2019	23:40	The Picture House	Affray	0
03/03/2019	03:03	Lake Street	Affray	2
03/03/2019	13:48	Boots	Shoplifting	0
08/03/2019	11:49	Superdrug	Shoplifting	0
08/03/2019	13:03	Waterborne Walk	Intelligence	0
08/03/2019	14:01	Train Station	Vulnerable Person	0
08/03/2019	16:39	Train Station	Vulnerable Person	0
09/03/2019	15:58	WH Smith	Fraud	0
19/03/2019	16:55	Parsons Rec	Offensive Weapon	0
20/03/2019	17:53	Parsons Rec	Robbery	0
21/03/2019	19:24	Multi Storey Car Park	Vulnerable Person	0
30/03/2019	02:20	Lake Street	Alcohol Related	0
30/03/2019	03:06	Lake Street	Affray	1
01/04/2019	17:39	Poundland	ASB	0
05/04/2019	14:52	High street	Intelligence	0
05/04/2019	15:17	Clarks	Assault	0
05/04/2019	16:45	Boots	Shoplifting	0
05/04/2019	17:03	North Street	Intelligence	0
06/04/2019	16:12	Peacocks	ASB	0
06/04/2019	00:30	Billington Road	Intelligence	0
07/04/2019	13:07	High Street	Intelligence	0
09/04/2019	17:34	Waitrose	Shoplifter	1
16/04/2019	21:27	High Street	Intelligence	0
17/04/2019	15:10	Waterborne Walk	ASB	0
18/04/2019	17:42	Waterborne Walk	ASB	0
18/04/2019	18:54	Astral Park	ASB	0
21/04/2019	20:28	Waitrose	Attempted Break in	0
23/04/2019	17:00	Multi Storey Car Park	ASB	0
27/04/2019	16:53	Baker Street	Theft of Vehicle	0
27/04/2019	00:15	Waterborne Walk	Drugs	0
28/04/2019	01:32	The Lancer	Under age youths trying to get into the Lancer	0
01/05/2019	15:25	Parson Rec	OP-METEOR	0
01/05/2019	20:47	Waterborne Walk	ASB/Group of males casing trouble in Waitrose	0
03/05/2019	14:49	Peacocks	Shoplifting	0
04/05/2019	03:09	Lake Street (Pizza Plus)	Affray	0
04/05/2019	02:13	Lake Street	Affray	1

05/05/2019	23:23	Lake Street	Drunk and Disorderly	1
06/05/2019	17:00	Bell Alley	Bicycle Theft	0
09/05/2019	15:18	Peacocks	Shoplifting	1
11/05/2019	11:08	High Street	Missing Person	0
13/05/2019	15:14	Parsons Rec	OP-METEOR	0
13/05/2019	17:36	Wilko	Shoplifting	0
13/05/2019	18:10	Parsons Rec	Intelligence	0
14/05/2014	14:11	Waterborne Walk	Shoplifting	1
16/05/2019	17:54	Parsons Rec	Intelligence	0
17/05/2019	23:34	Swan Hotel	Offensive Weapon	1
21/05/2019	19:16	High Street	Intelligence	0
23/05/2019	17:14	Parsons Rec	OP-METEOR	0
28/05/2019	12:16	Waterborne Walk	ASB	0
30/05/2019	16:55	Waterborne Walk	ASB	0

2. Business, Investment, Employment & Skills

The Council supported the 7th annual Business Networking Event, was held at the Leighton Buzzard Golf Club on Wednesday 24th April with approximately 117 people attending. The event was well received and offered businesses the opportunity to network.

We continue to work with businesses in the Leighton Linslade area through our business engagement programme.

With regards to Inward Investment enquiries, the Leighton-Linslade area continues to attract a range of commercial property enquiries. For the period Mar 19 – Jul 19 we have received 7 new enquiries for the area. Four of these enquiries were for larger (10,000sq ft +) industrial / office premises including an inward investment enquiry for 250,000 sq ft of warehouse space from a large retail company. Five of these enquiries were for local companies looking to relocate or expand, one for the large inward investment and remaining one for a local start up. During this time there were also 13 enquiries that were looking across the whole Central Bedfordshire Council area including Leighton Linslade.

The Crossing on the A505 is now complete offering just over 50,000sq ft of warehousing space. The agent has informed us that there are a number of interested parties, however all are waiting to see how post Oct 2019 government decisions will affect their business before committing to the lease.

Bedfordshire Employment & Skills Service

To date this academic year, 123 Leighton-Linslade residents (87 of whom were unemployed) have attended Employment and Skills Service (BESS) courses which include basic skills in ICT, English and maths.

The Service works with its subcontractor partners to deliver general employability programmes, supporting people without jobs get back into employment e.g. “Creative Confidence for Work & Life”, a Hospitality Academy, “Live Smart into Work”, “Moving Towards Work” and “Smart Job Search”. These all cover different aspects of preparing for work, finding employment and the expectations of employers both at interview and on starting.

Other courses are aimed at specific sectors include Hospitality programmes and those aimed at residents wishing to work in schools and nurseries. The YOU Programme supports people who are experiencing a range of mental health challenges, which can affect their mental, physical, social, professional, spiritual and emotional wellbeing. Accessible venues used for the delivery of these programmes include the Friends Meeting House, Leighton Buzzard Library, Atral Park Community Centre, the Tactic Centre and the Royal British Legion. Courses in Bedford and Dunstable also attract Leighton-Linslade residents.

The Service also supports residents with maths, English, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) and ICT.

To find out more about the courses offered please visit our website at:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/90/adult_learning

High Street Vacancy Levels

According to Springboard, in collaboration with the BRC, the national town centre vacancy rate in April 2019 was 10.2%. The rate is now at its highest since April 2015. (BRC-Springboard footfall and vacancies monitor, April 2019).

On average, Town Centres in Central Bedfordshire have a vacancy rate of 5.5% (May 2019). This is an increase of 2% from February 2019 due to increase vacancies in Arlesey, Biggleswade and Shefford. The overall vacancy rate for Central Bedfordshire town centres at May 2019 was 7.65% (there were 928 recorded town centre units and 71 of these were vacant). This is an increase from the 5.36% figure recorded for February 2019. During the last quarter there has been an increase in the overall number of vacant units within Central Bedfordshire. Increase in vacant units have been seen in Biggleswade, Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard.

Town Centre vacancies (%) in Central Bedfordshire, May 2017 – May 2019

Town	May 17	Aug 17	Nov 17	Feb 18	May 18	Aug 18	Nov 18	Feb 19	May 19
Amphill	2.2	3.3	4.4	4.4	5.6	5.6	6.7	5.6	4.4
Arlesey	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7
Biggleswade	8.3	6.9	5.5	8.3	9.7	4.8	3.5	2.7	10.4
Dunstable	13.8	13.4	13.4	13.4	14.6	13.4	12.6	10.7	12.4
Flitwick	0	2.6	2.6	0	0.0	5.1	2.6	2.2	4.4
Houghton Regis	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	6.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Leighton Buzzard	3.9	4.9	3.9	3.4	4.9	4.4	3.0	3.5	4.9
Sandy	9	4.5	3	1.5	3.0	4.5	6.0	6.6	6.7
Shefford	2.5	2.5	5	0	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.6	4.9
Stotfold	0	5.6	5.6	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Average vacancy rate	4.3%	4.7%	4.7%	4.0%	4.4%	4.7%	3.7%	3.4%	5.5%

Source: Central Bedfordshire Council May 2019

2.1 Place Delivery in Leighton-Linslade, Regeneration and Business

HSIS: All new shop fronts are completed aside from a small number of minor rectifications under snagging.

MTRF: The most significant remaining project to be delivered is the architectural lighting scheme. LLTC have reported that the project will be delivered in two stages, with the first installations being completed by the end of the calendar year and the second phase by early Spring 2020. The project as a whole must be completed by financial year end, at which point the MTRF programme will formally close.

In a separate scheme, work was carried out, funded by a reallocation of MTRF resources, during w/c 5/8 to realign disabled spaces and install new removable bollards in the area of the Market Cross. The works were completed, however, there are some issues regarding the type of bollards used which are non-heritage standard. LLTC is liaising with Highways to rectify this issue.

Future High Street Fund: Last year, the Government announced a major new funding programme designed to support town centres and future proof them for further changes to the town centre economy.

The first round of funding is underway, with a number of schemes shortlisted at expression of interest stage. Detailed business cases (funded by the FHS programme) are now currently being developed after which a final funding decision on progression to delivery will be confirmed.

The type of projects that the Government wish to support as part of the FHS fund are intended to be transformative in nature with between £5 and £10million of funding typically available to successful applicants. Whilst a schedule for round 2 has not yet been announced, the Council is working under the assumption that this will be early in 2020. Based on population, the Council is eligible to submit up to two applications.

The Council will be liaising further with LLTC concerning the potential development of an application to this programme during the Autumn.

Town centre benchmarking: Earlier this year, the Council commissioned a benchmarking study across all of our major town centres. The purpose of the study was to provide up to date evidence on how our centres are performing, set against other similar centres in the UK and also to providing data that can be used towards project development and/or external funding applications such as the Future High Street fund, in support of major schemes.

This study has involved carrying out an audit of the town centre retail conditions, market and also car parking. A survey of both town centre users and businesses was also carried out with a total of 1148 responses submitted.

The final benchmarking report is currently being prepared and we will be presenting its findings during September and October at a presentation to LLTC/CBC members, businesses and other stakeholders (date tbc).

Land South of the High Street

The Head of Place Delivery and the Head of MANOP (Meeting the Accommodation Needs of Older People) will attend the next meeting of LLPC on 28th November. An update will also be provided to the Town Council at their meeting on 30th September.

3 COMMUNITY SERVICES

3.1 Rushmere Country Park

Education

A busy quarter for formal education visits across the Trust and also at the park. 313 children and young people were directly involved in education activities with the education team this quarter at Rushmere. The majority of visits were from KS 1 and 2 children (approximately aged 6 – 11). Visits were from local schools in Leighton Linlade and Heath and Reach as well as from further afield. New school contacts visited from Lancot Challenger Academy in Dunstable and Oakwood primary school in Luton with other visits from Winslow school in Bucks and returning visits from Greenleas in Leighton Buzzard. Activities included supported nature walks, habitat comparisons, season themes and mini den construction.

Volunteering

Practical and Conservation volunteers continue to carry out habitat management at Rushmere and other sites in Leighton Buzzard and enjoyed a day out at Totternhoe Knolls Nature Reserve in June. Andy Fleckney, reserves manager for the WLT in Bedfordshire, gave a guided tour telling the volunteers about the conservation work there and showed them some of the wonderful wildlife the site has.

Volunteers, past and present, were treated to a 20th Birthday BBQ at the end of June. Splendid weather, a great setting, food, drink, music and interesting speeches, not to mention a thoughtful gift, ensured a convivial evening for all.

HLF – Project Development

Developing bid to Heritage lottery Fund based around restoring and enhancing the historic and natural environment elements, and including the final identified phases to visitor centre infrastructure.

Shire Oak Land Purchase & Restoration Works

The main restoration activities at Shire Oak Heath have been completed, and Countryside Stewardship funding secured for the next 10 years.

CBC Access Route & Car Park Improvements

Whilst the majority of specified works have been completed and the contractors DJT have left site, they are due to return to complete works and make revisions.

Countryside Sites

Permissive Path – Southern Meadows

Contractors are currently securing the Approved in Principle (AIP) designing for the Bridge and identifying a work plan of installation. The new path in Grovebury Quarry / Southern Meadow that connects to the newly to be installed path / bridge has had the seasonal vegetation cut, working towards an official open ceremony soon.

Tree Works

Future surveying and follow up tree safety works are being planned around Leighton Buzzard area – Tiddenfoot Waterside Park, Southern Meadows / Grovebury Quarry.

Linslade Wood

Drainage works being worked / planned / costed – working with Friends of Linslade wood to establish works for this autumn

LEIGHTON BUZZARD LIBRARY (@ 27.8.2019)

Leighton Buzzard Library has been very busy over the summer with the Summer Reading Challenge for children and young people. This is a fun activity that keeps children reading over the summer to help develop their literacy and love of reading. As part of the challenge there has been children's craft events, the Lego club and story and rhyme time activities very week in the library. The Summer Reading Challenge has proven even more popular than ever with increased numbers of children taking part this year compared to last.

The library has continued with other regular activities during term time prior to the summer break, including Storytimes and Crafty Toddlers.

Regular library activities that are targeted at adults include: One to one computer sessions, Family History Club, the Walking Group, Job Club, U3A Family History Group, Stitchers Club and the Scrapbooking Club.

An office for Registrars will be opening on the first floor of the library on Tuesday 3rd September. Opening hours will be:

Tuesdays 10am to 12:30pm and 1pm to 4:15pm

Thursdays 10am to 12:30pm and 1pm to 3:30pm

LIBRARY THEATRE

The Theatre continues to provide a varied programme of film, music, event cinema, comedy and live theatre. Some of the film showings are targeted for more specific audiences and these include: Movies for the more mature and Leighton Babies (an exclusive parent/guardian screening.)

The Theatre is celebrating it's 40th anniversary in October with a week of films from 1979 including: All that Jazz, Quadrophenia and the Wanderers. We are also having a 1970s party night on Friday 4th October, featuring a DJ and live band.

We have some great live theatre with musical comedian Vikki Stone, fresh from the Edinburgh Fringe. The Pantaloons are bringing Othello and for children we have Marty McDonald returning with Crafty the Crow.

Our film season sees favourites like Benedict Cumberbatch and Timothy Spall in new roles. We are showing, amongst many others, a musical set in Luton and the new Almodóvar film.

The Royal Opera House have announced thirteen new broadcasts going into next year featuring well known favourites and world premieres.

There are many easy ways to book your favourite films, theatre performances, plus stand-up comedy at Leighton Buzzard Library Theatre. Visit <https://centralbedfordshire.ticketsolve.com/shows> to see what's on and book a show.

3.5 TIDDENFOOT LEISURE CENTRE

Looking back

We achieved:

- In May Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre held a TRY-ATHLON CHALLENGE. Challenging you to give a Triathlon a TRY Complete 1k, 5k or 10k Swimming or Rowing, Cycling & Running during the month.
- Teamed up with Swim England to create Disney inspired Toy Story 4 Swim sessions for the whole family.
- Mindful Yoga was running and continuing at the centre. Focus on promoting positive mental and physical health.
- MOVE for women's world cup challenge. 30 day challenge to get as many MOVES as possible in the gym for a chance to win a free month membership.
- Also increasing the amount of over 65 and under 16 at the leisure centre between the same period as last year.

Key highlights:

- May Day Fayre – Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre had a stall in recreation parl. Offering face painting, fitness challenges and even hook a duck.
- For all those who took part in LB Otters sponsored swimming event yesterday The LB Otters Swimming Club is a brilliant swimming club for the disabled, discovered in 1993 and swim Saturdays at Tiddenfoot
- Successfully hired a new Duty Managers at the Leisure Centre.
- Crash courses are going to be running again at Tiddenfoot from February half term. We are also working on restructuring our Aqua Ed swimming lessons to reduce number sizes to give a better quality of lesson and increase the number of classes that are offered. This is giving us the opportunity to increase our capacity and also improve service.
- RLSS UK'S Drowning Prevention Week. Aqua Ed team delivered water safety inspired lessons to help all of our swimmers keep safe this summer.
- Ian Morton Managing Director came to site to present WOW awards to Christine Claggett, Martina Rosolova and Yvonne Patterson

Looking forward

We are planning:

- Running a lifeguard course, to have more lifeguards at the leisure centre.
- Intensive crash courses running throughout the summer.
- Stay in shape this summer challenge to get a chance to win an Apple Watch.

Key messages:

‘SLL will continue to improve the health and wellbeing of its local communities by providing the best leisure and cultural opportunities for all.’

3.6 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TEAM

Physical Activity Team

Xplorer – Rushmere Park - July Summer holiday – over 70 people attended.

Active Lifestyle Referrals - 22 patients referred via the GP into exercise

Yoga – Fridays 2pm – 3pm at Astral Park. Approx 8-10 participants per week still running and having consistent numbers.

Seated Exercise – continues to run at Tutor Court with a regular number of attendees.

Walking Football

- Approximately 10-15 attending per week at Cedars Upper School Tuesdays evenings

Mental Health

- ELFT – East London Foundation Trust has launched a programme in partnership with Stevenage Leisure Ltd. Mindful Yoga sessions have been organised to promote physical and mental wellbeing. The sessions are delivered by a qualified yoga instructor working alongside coaches trained in mental health first aid.
- Participants are encouraged to stay after their exercise, enjoy complementary refreshments and speak with Trust staff who will offer advice on mental wellbeing and signposting to other services and support networks.
- Mindful Yoga takes place every Wednesday at Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre in Mentmore Road, Leighton Buzzard. It is from 1.45pm-3.15pm.
- Swimming sessions will be available as from October. Promotion for this will be launched shortly.

Play sites

The team has completed 3 Play Area Refurbishments in Leighton Buzzard.
Leighton Buzzard - Appenine Way (enclosed play area)

We have also completed housing owned play area refurbishing the following housing sites play areas:

Leighton Buzzard Meadow Way

Leighton Buzzard Nelson Road

Appenine Way (enclosed), Leighton Buzzard - Partial Refurbishment May 2019



Waste

Looking back

Key highlights:

As in previous years, the Council provided assistance to Town & Parish Councils taking part in the Great British Spring Clean 2019. This year there were 31 events across Central Beds and over 300 bags of litter were collected.

Two dog bins have been installed on the Southcott Estate, Grasmere Way and the grassed area to the rear of Blakedown Gardens.

We provided a lot of additional cleansing ready for the Anglia in Bloom judging in July.

Key issues:

Dog warden patrols for dog fouling have been carried out in: Bassett Road, Billington Road, Churchill Road, Cotefield Drive, Gilpin Close, Kestrel Way, Roundel Drive and Vandyke Road.

4. **HIGHWAYS**

Highways colleagues will be attending the next meeting of LLPC to be held on November 28th

4.1 **Jetpatcher & Resurfacing**

Our Highways team have been out and about in the area carrying out potholes and resurfacing ahead of the winter. You can find out the progress of these schemes by visiting the website or following us on Twitter @CBC_Highways.

We have also used an innovative scheme in Leighton Buzzard High Street. The Street Print scheme, which took place week of 19th August saw the council's highways team use a print to give the effect of block paving. The new technique will make repairs and maintenance easier and more cost effective whilst still keeping the town centre looking nice.



4.2 **Gully cleaning**

You can keep up-to-date with the works by following us on Twitter @CBC_Highways

The Highways team are well ahead of this year's programme of drainage works, cleaning out nearly 2,000 in the past month.

4.3 **Report Issues Online**

Highways team would like to remind people to report any issues they see on the roads online, via their website.

You can report most highways problems online including [potholes, faulty streetlights, damaged pavements, faulty traffic lights, drainage problems, damaged signs and much more.

If you report a problem online your report will go straight to an engineer and you will also be given a unique tracking number so that you can keep up-to-date with your report.

You can report issues online by visiting www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/reportit

4.4 Winter Weather

The council would like to remind people to sign up for winter weather information well in advanced of winter so they can find out the latest news on gritting routes, salt bins and when we go out gritting.

The Highways team will be carrying out training gritting runs in the next few weeks so If it is still warm and you see the gritters on the road please do not be alarmed.

4.5 Parking enforcement

The following works in Leighton, Linslade and surrounding areas have been put forward for completion:

Leighton/Linslade and surrounding areas
Basset Court off Dogget Street, school markings need to be repainted. (Mary Basset Lower)
Dudley Street, disabled bay needs repainting.
Victoria Road, nr The Gables disabled bay - L/W sign needs to be moved to within the L/W bay
High Street, Leighton Buzzard, o/s All Seasons dry cleaners - 2 additional signs for 'disabled badge holders only' parking added to the end bays, and also road markings painted for both end bays 'Disabled'
Mill Street, Leighton Buzzard, DYL and SYLs need refreshing up to house #15
North St, all limited waiting bays nr Halfords side need repainting
Brooklands Drive nr junction of South Street SYL needs post and sign: No waiting 7am-7pm (next to house #83 South St, sign & post needs to be on Brooklands Drive)

In progress:

Leighton/Linslade and surrounding areas
Stoke Road, Leighton Buzzard, limited waiting bay needs repainting
Re-paint all permit bays on Mentmore Road Linslade
Mentmore Road, all DYLS need repainting
Grove Road, Leighton Buzzard, o/s House 26- junction Grove place DYLS need repainting
Grove Road, Leighton Buzzard, opposite House 43 along the wall covering entrance to rear parking opposite house 37 DYLS need repainting
The Gables, Linslade, all SYLs need repainting

Key

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

From 1st March 2019 to 31st July 2019 1,168 PCN's have been issued in Leighton Buzzard and 294 issued in Leighton Linslade.

2392 visits have been made to Leighton Buzzard and 922 visits have been made to Leighton Linslade.

5. YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES

The figures presented below are based on the data stored within the Youth Support Service's CCIS database for young people who are currently not in education, employment or training (NEET) recorded at the end of June 2019. Since tracking is an on-going process, the numbers will fluctuate throughout the month as information is received and recorded. As young people are transitioning at this time of year, the June figures are the latest figures.

a) Update on NEETs within the wider Central Bedfordshire area

June Headline Figures for the whole Central Bedfordshire area			
Cohort	Total number of young people	Positive destinations (EET)	NEET destinations
16 year olds / Year 12	2824 ↑	2724 ↑	68 (2.4%) ↓
17 year olds / Year 13	2853 ↑	2673 ↑	90 (3.2%) ↓
Combined cohort	5677 ↑	5397 ↑	158 (2.8%) ↓

b) Overview for the Leighton-Linslade area compared to other local areas

	Dunstable		Houghton Regis		Leighton-Linslade	
Total YPs in area	791		458		871	
EET	757	95.7%	422	92.1%	836	96%
NEET	24	3%	28	6.1%	25	2.9%
Unknown/Refused	10	1.3%	8	1.7%	10	1.1%

c) Characteristics of the NEET Group in the Leighton-Linslade area

d) Summary of the individual Leighton-Linslade wards

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	300	12	4%
Leighton Buzzard South	269	8	3%
Linslade	216	3	1.4%

Heath and Reach	86	2	2.3%
Total	871	25	2.9%

d) Summary of the Leighton-Linslade NEET cohort by age, time and their current status

Actual Age (Year 12 & 13)		Length of Time NEET		Gender	
16 years old	5	Less than 3 months	1	Male	16
17 years old	14	3 - 6 months	13	Female	9
18 years old	6	6+ months	11	Other/Refused	0

e) Summary status of the Leighton-Linslade NEET cohort

Status		
Seeking Employment or Training	17	(68%)
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances'	8	(32%)

- Change of support for NEET young people**

The information, advice, guidance and support services for young people who are NEET is coming back in house from 1st September 2019. This will provide a clearer and more co-ordinated service for all young people who are NEET. There should be minimal disruption to young people in the Leighton -Linslade area.

- Find your Future website**

The Youth Support Service has helped develop a new website for young people aged 15 to 30 who are looking to make their next steps in employment or education, but don't know where to start. The website offers a reliable source of information all in one place about opportunities available to them. The website can be found at www.findyourfuture.org.uk

6 SCHOOLS

Schools for the Future

In response to the housing growth and the demand for more school places, we are working closely with all schools in the area to develop a plan for the cluster that will ensure we have the right schools in the right places delivering the best education. We will re-convene with all 25 schools as soon as possible in the new academic year to continue these discussions.

When a draft plan for the cluster is agreed we will share this with the local town/parish councils and the community for consultation before any decisions are made.

School Organisation

We continue to monitor and adjust the forecast for school places required in the towns as a result of planned housing developments in Leighton Buzzard and

Linslade . Our School Organisation Plan (2018 – 2023) is available on our website [here](#).

A need for new school places in Leighton Buzzard from housing developments to the west of the town resulted in the Council's Executive giving their approval (on 5 February 2019) for the proposed expansions of Gilbert Inglefield Academy and Vandyke Upper School (academy). The academies are to be expanded to provide an additional 2 forms of entry each from September 2020.

Central Bedfordshire is on the verge of significant growth over the next 15 -20 years as illustrated in the draft Local Plan. Our School Organisation Plan is already forecasting significant pupil growth over the next five years, so we are seeking to develop a more strategic, long term plan, namely 'Schools for the Future', to map out how we best meet this growth in terms of school expansions, new school requirements or any other changes, to align our educational provision with the growth identified in our local plan. You can read more about the plan and follow its progress via the above link.

School Admissions

The results of the applications for children starting school or transferring school in September 2019 admission were sent to parents on 1 March (national secondary offer day) and 16 April (national primary offer day). 97% of pupils were offered their first preference Central Bedfordshire upper school and 95% of pupils were offered their first preference lower/primary school.

Applications for school places for September 2020 open in early September 2019; parents of children transferring to upper school have until 31 October 2019 to make their application, and parents of children starting school (Reception Year) or transferring to middle school have until 15 January 2020 to make their application. Information packs will be sent to parents in the first few weeks of September.

7. PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

7.1 Community Grant Schemes

At Executive on 20 August the go-ahead was given for new grant schemes worth £700k designed to support local groups to meet the needs of their communities.

Firstly, we're investing in a Ward Councillor Grant Scheme which will enable each of our 59 councillors to work with groups in their areas, to explore how relatively small amounts of grant funding could make a difference.

Whether the groups are involved in cultural, environmental, sporting or social projects, they will be able to apply, provided they can match fund the grant they are seeking by alternative means to council funding and have the endorsement of their Ward Councillor.

Each of our councillors will have access to £2,000 which they can either support allocating in small grants to multiple organisations, or see the money allocated in its entirety to a single group who have need of a larger grant. They can also work together across a ward to combine their grants, if that's what is most needed.

Secondly, for more significant projects, a Community Assets Grant Scheme is to be introduced, for which groups can apply for grants of up to £25k. The funding is for capital projects such as contributing to roof repairs or extensions on community infrastructure, or buying kit such as Christmas lights or a village defibrillator.

Subject to some further decision-making (relating to constitutional arrangements for making payments) it is expected that both schemes will be launched in the autumn.

The third scheme under development is designed specifically to enable the council to work with towns and parishes across the area to help improve the cleanliness and tidiness of our communities.

From 1 October more information about the grants and how to apply for them will be available on our website.

7.2 Town Joint Committee Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference will be presented to the Councils General Purposes Committee on Monday 9th September seeking approval to amend the Constitution with the revised Terms of Reference. If approved the changes will be adopted by Council at the meeting on 26th September

8. PUBLIC HEALTH

8.1 NHS Health Checks

The NHS Health Check programme aims to prevent heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and kidney disease, and raise awareness of dementia, both across the population and within high risk and vulnerable groups.

GP practices continue to be the sole provider of the NHS Health Check programme; however, performance varies. As patients are entitled to one Health Check every five years, Practices have a target to invite 20% of their eligible population each year.

Across Leighton Buzzard as a whole, there have been 750 Health Check opportunities offered to the target residents, which represents performance of 111.6% against a target of 672. However only 210 Health Checks have been delivered compared to a target of 249 (84.3% of target).

Salisbury House have offered 239 (target 152), which is 157.2% of year-to-date target. The Practice has delivered 128 which represents 226.6% of the target (56). Quality is excellent; it currently stands at 100%.

Bassett Road Surgery have offered 113 Health Checks, which is 53.1% of their 213 target, and have delivered 65 out of 79 (82.3% of target). Quality is good, with them scoring 92.8%.

Leighton Road Surgery's target for offered is currently 307, but have delivered 398 (this is 129.6%). However, they have only actually delivered 17 out of 114 target (14.9% performance). 88.2% for quality is below target.

Grovebury Road are not currently offering or delivering Health Checks to their patients

8.2 Stop Smoking Services

Reporting of Stop Smoking Performance has moved to quarterly, with the latest end of quarter data relating to Q4 from 2018/19 being reported in June 2019.

Public Health-commissioned Level 2 Stop Smoking Services are delivered in-house by Salisbury House GP Surgery. CBC Specialist Level 3 Support is delivered in Bassett Road, and Leighton Road are just referring in to the Level 3 Service.

For 2018/19, a total of 172 smokers set a quit date through these 3 services, which resulted in 111 successful quits.

Bassett Road (175%), exceeded their set quitter target for the period, with Salisbury House at 86% and Leighton Road 44%.

The Service was re-modelled from 1 April to offer telephone and App-based support routinely, to give increased accessibility, but with the availability of continued face-to-face support for vulnerable and high-risk populations who would benefit from this specific intervention.

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. SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING

The future of the Westlands Care Home for older people

Central Bedfordshire Council wants the best possible quality of life for its residents and has been looking at how it can secure this both now and for future generations.

Following approval in 2017 by the Council’s Executive to consult on the future of Westlands Older Persons Home, a consultation took place between 14 August 2017 and 6 November 2017. Since then, the Council’s preferred option has changed so a new consultation process has started with revised consultation documents. These were recently sent to residents, relatives and other interested parties. At the same time the consultation team have been busy talking to residents, relatives and staff about the proposals and encouraging them to complete the consultation questionnaire.

The Council’s preferred option is to design and build a new care home on the former police station site at Hockliffe Road in Leighton Buzzard. The new care home would provide good quality accommodation and have all the modern facilities residents are coming to expect. Alongside this, the Council is intending to establish a trading company which would operate the new home. The Hockliffe Road home could then replace the capacity at Westlands and residents could be supported to move to either this home or somewhere else depending on their personal preference and their care and support needs.

You can find out more or to have your say about the proposals online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations. The consultation is due to run until 30 August 2019.

It is expected that a decision on the future of Westlands and permission to proceed to the next stage of development of the Hockliffe Road site will be made by the Council’s Executive in December 2019.

10. LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

There is no further update from the Pollution Team (part of Public Protection) at this time. A full update will be provided for the next report.

11. CONSULTATIONS

Central Bedfordshire Council Consultation activity update

Details of current and upcoming consultation activity undertaken by the Council are provided by the Knowledge & Insight Team. For more information about this update please contact [ClareHarding](#), tel: 0300 300 6109 (ext. 76109).

Current consultations

Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer
Westlands Older Person’s Home	Consultation on the future of Westlands Older Person’s Home	31 May 2019	30 Aug 2019	Mel Alderton 0300 300 4371

Licensing Policy	Consultation on the draft updated Licensing policy for 2019 to 2024	24 June 2019	1 Sept 2019	Margaret James 0300 300 4521
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy consultation	Consultation on the draft and homelessness strategy and rough sleeping review	24 June 2019	15 Sept 2019	Charlotte Gurney 0300 300 5345
Ferndale Older Person's Home	Consultation on the future of Ferndale Older Person's Home	5 July 2019	2 Oct 2019	Mel Alderton 0300 300 4371

Upcoming consultations

Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer
Public Space Protection Orders	Consultation on proposed public space protection orders – covering dog control orders and on-street drinking	9 Sept 2019	2 Dec 2019	Lisa Scott 0300 300 5733

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