

LEIGHTON LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**07 June 2018****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 1st January– 30th April 2018:

There are currently 24 cases open;

- Littering – 1
- Dog fouling – 2
- Fly tipping – 8
- Graffiti – 1
- Nuisance neighbours – 2
- Noise – 6
- Odour – 3
- Rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour – 1

Files sent to Legal for prosecution;

1 x Breach of Injunction

2 x Breach of Community Protection Notice

2 FPN's have been issued and paid;

1 x Dog fouling

1 x fly tipping

Summary of 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
01/01/2018	02:25	Lake Street	Violent Offence	0
01/01/2018	02:30	Lake Street	Violent Offence	0
07/01/2018	15:35	North Street	Breach of Order/Injunction	1
07/01/2018	03:10	Wing Road	Burglary	0
09/01/2018	12:22	Wing Road	Drugs	0
16/01/2018	12:10	North Street	Breach of Order/Injunction	0

19/01/2018	17:51	Waterbourne Walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
29/01/2018	14:36	North Street	Breach of Order/Injunction	0
30/01/2018	16:50	Waterbourne Walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
31/01/2018	17:49	Waterbourne Walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
03/02/2018	23:34	The Lancer	Violent Offence	1
03/02/2018	12:05	Waterbourne Walk	Robbery	0
10/02/2018	21:26	Waterbourne Walk	Suspicious Activity	0
11/02/2018	18:05	Astral Park	Criminal Damage	0
12/02/2018	13:40	Waterbourne Walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
12/02/2018	16:05	Waterbourne Walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
17/02/2018	01:50	Lake Street	Public Order	0
17/02/2018	02:00	Lake Street	Public Order	0
18/02/2018	02:45	The Lancer	Violent Offence	0
21/02/2018	09:25	High Street	Road Traffic Accident	0
25/02/2018	13:34	Peacocks	Shoplifting	0
25/02/2018	16:47	High Street	Bicycle Theft	0
25/02/2018	14:43	Waterbourne Walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
28/02/2018	19:49	Waterbourne Walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
01/03/2018	18:51	High Street	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
04/03/2018	01:11	The Lancer	Other Crime	0
04/03/2018	02:05	The Lancer	Violent Offence	0
04/03/2018	02:41	The Lancer	Violent Offence	0
05/03/2018	18:04	High Street	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
06/03/2018	19:06	Waterbourne Walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
06/03/2018	00:23	North Street	Burglary	0
06/03/2018	18:31	Waterbourne Walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
07/03/2018	17:56	Waterbourne Walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
10/03/2018	22:45	The Lancer	Drugs	0
11/03/2018	00:05	The Lancer	Criminal Damage	0
18/03/2018	18:02	High Street	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
07/04/2018	22:35	The Lancer	Public Order	0
08/04/2018	12:45	Astral Park	Other Theft	0
11/04/2018	15:24	High Street	Street Drinkers	0
15/04/2018	01:42	The Lancer	Public Order	0
19/04/2018	19:34	Parsons Rec	Violent Offence	0
20/04/2018	03:37	Market Square	Violent Offence	0
20/04/2018	17:50	Wilko's	Shoplifting	0
22/04/2018	12:33	Peacocks	Shoplifting	0
29/04/2018	02:58	The Lancer	Public Order	0

There are currently 2 re-deployable cameras in Leighton Buzzard;

LLTC1 located on Vimy Road was installed in October 2016 due to problems with anti-social behaviour, minor criminal damage and dangerous driving in Tesco car park.

LLTC2 located on Billington Road.

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.

CBC is progressing with its project to start the upgrade of public space CCTV in Central Bedfordshire.

2. Investment, Employment & Skills

Leighton Buzzard Business Networking Event – April 2018

This is the sixth time CBC has partnered with the town council and others to organise this popular business networking event. It took place on the 23 April at the Leighton Buzzard Golf Club. Over 90 businesses were in attendance and 88% of attendees rated the event as good or excellent. The event was very successful and like last year Blendology provided the high tech tap badges which again worked well.

Leighton Buzzard Engineering and Construction Skills Centre

As part of our follow up to November's Find Your Future careers event, we supported a Careers Advice Event in partnership with Kier Construction, Central Bedfordshire College, CITB and SEMLEP to help local schools to understand the range of opportunities available in the construction sector. This was held at the Leighton Buzzard Engineering and Construction Skills Centre. Year 8 pupils from Brooklands School participated in the day where they were able to find out about the broad range of routes and roles available.

Innovation Bridge

There has been a lot of interest in Innovation Bridge from SME businesses in this area and 9 of them are at different stages of receiving business support ranging between 12hrs academic support to submitting a grant application.

Commercial property

For the period Mar 18 to May 18 we have received 6 new enquiries for the Leighton Linslade area. The majority were for smaller industrial units but one enquiry was looking for circa 4 acres. All enquiries are ongoing. Over the last 6 months, 13% of all enquiries we have received have been for the Leighton Linslade area.

Work continues on the Clipstone Park site with discussions ongoing between CBC and the developers about the range of units types and sizes to be built on the site.

Bedfordshire Employment & Skills Service

The Council's Bedfordshire Employment & Skills Service continues to deliver courses for local adults who have low prior learning attainment, are unemployed and want to build skills for work or who need wellbeing support.

Since August 2017, 105 Leighton/Linslade residents have attended courses which have included ICT, English, maths, employability and a peer support programme for those who want support to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

Residents have also had access to locally delivered National Careers Service information, advice and guidance, initially through Work Clubs then since March through 1:1 appointment.

The service will be introducing a weekly Connect community support group from May 2018. It will be delivered in Leighton Buzzard by Community Action and create opportunities for residents to peer support each other, improve wellbeing and link with a range of services.

High Street Vacancy Levels and Retail Sales

According to Springboard, in collaboration with BRC, the national town centre vacancy rate was 8.9% in January 2018, down from 9.3% in October 2017. The overall average vacancy rate across Central Bedfordshire town centres in May 2018, 7.7%, has increased further from February's 4.0%, and the towns now collectively at their highest number of vacant retail units since August 2016 (also 7.7%). Only Stotfold has seen a reduction in vacant properties, with Arlesey, Flitwick and Stotfold having no vacant retail units.

Town Centre vacancies % in Central Bedfordshire, February 2017 – May 2018

Town	Feb 17	May 17	Aug 17	Nov 17	Feb 18	May 18
Ampthill	2.2	2.2	3.3	4.4	4.4	5.6
Arlesey	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Biggleswade	7.6	8.3	6.9	5.5	8.3	9.7
Dunstable	13.4	13.8	13.4	13.4	13.4	14.2
Flitwick	0	0	2.6	2.6	0	0.0
Houghton Regis	6.9	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
Leighton Buzzard	4.9	3.9	4.9	3.9	3.4	4.9
Sandy	7.5	9	4.5	3	1.5	3.0
Shefford	2.5	2.5	2.5	5	0	2.6
Stotfold	5.6	0	5.6	5.6	5.6	0.0

Average vacancy rate	5.06%	4.31%	4.7%	4.68%	4.0%	7.7%
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Source: Central Bedfordshire Council February 2018

2.2 **Enabling Delivery in Leighton-Linslade, Regeneration and Business**

Stephen Mooring will attend the meeting on the 7th June to provide a verbal update.

Former Police Station site, Hockliffe Rd.

The Council recently went through a procurement process to secure a care home provider to deliver and operate a care home for older people on the site of the former Leighton Buzzard Police Station in Hockliffe Road, Leighton Buzzard. The buyer will be required to join the Council's contractual arrangements for the provision of care home places and provide up to 30 places to allow for the closure of Westlands, a 30-place care home owned and operated by the Council. In addition, there is a requirement for the provision of a day space area which could accommodate a day care facility for non-residents.

It is now planned that the Council's Executive will make a decision on the site and the future of Westlands Older Persons Home at its meeting in August 2018. As well as receiving a report about the outcome of the procurement, at the same time it will also consider the feedback received from the consultation on the future of Westlands which took place late in 2017.

If a provider is agreed for Hockliffe Road it is estimated that it would take 18-24 months to implement during which time it is intended that Westlands would remain open.

In the meantime, having received outline planning consent for the Hockliffe Road site in October 2017, the Council has commissioned a heritage survey of the site and is arranging for the demolition of the current buildings and the reclamation of any reusable materials. Mindful of the risk of anti-social behaviour on the site prior to development the Council has arranged for regular security patrols and provided a contact number to local residents who have any concerns.

For more information please contact Rebecca Carr at rebecca.carr@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or 0300 300 6609

3 **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

3.1 **Active Lifestyles**

Xplorer – Rushmere park

- Feb half term – 259 participants
- Easter Holidays – 193 Participants

Active Lifestyle Referrals

- 35 patients referred via the GP into exercise

Yoga

- session started end of April at Astral Park. Approx. 8-10 participants per week

Seated Exercise & Boccia sessions running in the following settings:

- Greenfields
- Tudor Court
- Finches crescent

Walking Football

- Moved outdoors for the summer from Vandyke to Cedars. Approx. 10-15 people attending each week.

The physical activity team are working in partnership with ELFT (East London Foundation Trust) who manage the mental health service across Bedfordshire and Stevenage Leisure Ltd. Organising an activity programme for people with mental health who also require a support network after participating in physical activity. For more information email. Physical.activity@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Ongoing monthly work parties with Friends of Tiddenfoot Waterside Park and Friends of Linslade Wood, volunteer support continues to grow with great outputs. At this time in the year we hold back on major projects, allow nature to catch up after a cold wet spring and pause work for the Bird nesting season.

Grovebury Quarry (open space) / Southern Meadows – southern Leighton Buzzard. We are waiting for the site to dry-out before the installation of fencing and surfaced path.

3.2 Rushmere Country Park

- Practical conservation volunteer teams led by Greensand Trust have contributed 1009 hours on tasks at Rushmere; including heathland restoration and fencing. Visitor Centre volunteers have volunteered 344 hours welcoming visitors, answering questions and improving the overall visitor experience.
- Tree safety and roadway safety improvements. Initial survey and design works have commenced, a topographical survey has been ordered for the area alongside Old Linslade Road extending to the entrance gates, the road running from the causeway to the main parking area.
- In 2017/18 there were 1% (1600) less visits than 2016/17. The first fall in visitor numbers since Rushmere opened. This is however in line with predictions that the increase in parking charges would arrest visitor growth. This year's visitor target is to match visitor numbers from last year.
- Heron Watch began on 15th February 2017 and lasts till the end of June, as well as manning the telescope and engaging with over 6000 visitors the 'Heron Watch' volunteers have helped by completing wildlife survey sheets thus building up a snapshot of wildlife in the park.

Key issues:

- Working with Highways colleagues regarding roadway culvert flooding / Tree survey issues along Old Linslade Road.

Looking forward

Key Priorities over the next 3 months:

- Undertake a refurbishment of the toilet block at Rushmere Country Park (previous Stockgrove Park) – delayed to September 2018
- Identify scope of car park improvements that can be achieved within budget at Rushmere Country Park – March 2019
- To promote / open access to Grovebury Quarry (open space) and Southern Meadows – after works are completed.
- Options appraisal of Tiddenfoot Waterside Park – derelict stable block – options available March 19
- Countryside Sites team will be attending the LLTC Canal Festival July 28th.

Key messages:

- Continue to try and secure permissive access from Southern Meadows across BEA land and join to canal path/green bridge to gain access to Tiddenfoot Waterside Park and on in to Linslade
- Continue to support the friends of TWP and Linslade Wood – a valuable volunteer resource

3.3 LEIGHTON BUZZARD LIBRARY

Leighton Buzzard Library will be fully operational from Tuesday 12 June, following flooding which has left the ground floor closed completely and a reduced service available only on the first floor.

The ground floor has been closed since Boxing Day 2017 as the authority has sought to repair the extensive damage, which accounted to more than £21,000 of books and up to £17,000 of furniture.

The length of time has been necessary to allow the concrete floor to dry out completely.

The next steps are to make good the floor, level it and lay new carpet tiles before returning furniture and brand-new stock to the first floor, while also reorganising and tidying the first floor.

To complete this work the library will close from 8-9 June before reopening on 12 June.

When the library opens on 12 June we will have a host of new titles to choose from, the children's library will be restored, and we'll have a full range of services on offer once more.

Shelf-help at our Libraries

Following on from Mental Health Week remember that our libraries have a series of expert-endorsed books, available to borrow for free, to help adults and teenagers manage their mental health and wellbeing. Our Libraries have a range of books that can help advise on conditions such as anxiety, depression, self-harm, body image and eating disorders, as well as life experiences such as bullying. These range from non-fiction, information and self-help material as well as memoirs, graphic novels and fiction.

Last year the library service created a video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=9StkMIG5T8U&app=desktop> with 'Break the Stigma' founder Ben Salmons who, after experiencing his own issues, created an initiative to help people understand more about mental health and to tackle common misconceptions. Ben explains why he thinks the libraries' 'Shelf Help' books – which have been selected by health professionals and co-created by a team of young people who have lived with mental health conditions – can be such a useful source of support and advice for young people and their parents.

3.4 LIBRARY THEATRE

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

Following consultation which attracted no objections, Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre carpark will have two parking meters installed in May to go live in June 2018. The reason for the meters is due to a high number of commuters using the carpark, leaving leisure centre users to park elsewhere.

The meters will ensure access to a range of leisure, cultural and tourism facilities for members, residents and visitors alike.

They will provide a ticket for 3 hours of free parking (no return within 1 hour) Monday – Friday between 0800 – 1800 only.

Due to demand the Crèche hours have been increased on a Thursday.

The team attended the May Day Fair and had a stall in the park where they completed fitness tests, children's games and advertised the centre for all activities involved

'Fit for Sport' Holiday Kids Camps will be running during half term 29 May- 01 Jun. There was some negative press coverage in the Leighton Buzzard Observer in respect to the 'foul smell' at Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre. The leisure centre is very popular throughout the day and the Leisure Management Operators are not aware of any recent complaints relating to the smell in the changing rooms. It is not clear when the customer raising these concerns had or is using the facilities, so it is

difficult to further investigate or provide a comment. CBC representatives visit the facility regularly to monitor and inspect the service being provided by the operator, at a recent visit they were not aware of a 'foul smell' at that time.

However, we consider all feedback and act when required. The Operator has confirmed that the facilities are regularly cleaned in the evening to reduce any operational impact to the customers and spot cleaned to freshen up, where required, throughout the day. Additional deep cleaning has taken place during May, including cleaning the drainage channels and all drainage pipes below the surface throughout the wet changing room and toilets.

Improvement works:

A new partition wall has been installed in the lower studio so that we can now section off the room for more meetings, smaller events and classes.

New and improved Swimming pool controls have replaced outdated equipment in the variable base pool, with a new touch screen and depth gauges for improved operations.

A new Sound system is due to be installed in the lower studio to give better sound quality and improve the experience for activities that take place in the studio. We will be installing a new Speaker system at reception this will help staff and customers with communication across the centre

Waste

Looking back

Key highlights:

Thank you to residents who responded to the consultation or attended one of the informal events, including that held at Leighton Buzzard library.

Following the consultation which ran from 26 February to 20 April and received over 15,000 responses, the Council has listened to residents and is suggesting the introduction of:

- weekly food waste collections for everyone
- where possible, a choice of wheelie bin or reusable bags for fortnightly garden waste collections and
- potential kerbside glass collections for all.

The Council has discarded the idea of charging for garden waste, as this was the least favoured option for residents. After listening to residents' concerns about three-weekly black bin collections, the Council is not proposing to introduce those straight away but will look to the longer term when residents have been supported to recycle as much as possible, so reducing waste in their black bin.

The new contract for bin collections would start in the Autumn 2019.

Key issues:

Dog warden patrols for dog fouling have been carried out in: Bassett Road, Bassett Road Recreation Ground, Bennetts Recreation Ground, Billington Road Recreation Ground, Brookside Walk, Kestrel Way and Vandyke Road.

Looking forward

Grass cutting has commenced and growth is presently rapid due to the wet then warm conditions. We are monitoring this and managing resources prioritise areas as resource allows. Any concerns can be reported to Waste for the urban or rural areas.

Thorn Turn

The new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Thorn Turn has now opened. The HWRC is a modern, split level design following on from the successful redevelopment of our other three sites at Ampthill, Biggleswade and Leighton Buzzard, a Highways Depot and Passenger Transport Depot are also based at the site. The trade waste site opened on Mon 30th April and the opening date for the Re-Use Shop will be announced in due course.

4. HIGHWAYS

4.1 Jetpatcher

The Jetpatcher is back in Central Bedfordshire and will be visiting the Leighton Linslade and Leighton Buzzard area over the summer. The council will be using the Jetpatcher to repair those roads most affected by the damage caused from the severe winter weather. You can keep an eye on the Jetpatcher whereabouts by following the council's Highways Twitter account @CBC_Highways.

4.2 Gully cleaning

Central Bedfordshire Council's Highways team are continuing a major gully cleaning scheme and will continue to clear gullies in Leighton Buzzard. The scheme started at the end of the summer and is due to continue throughout this summer.

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

4.3 Resurfacing Plan online

Last week we finished resurfacing Whipsnade Road, Dunstable, which marked the beginning of a resurfacing programme.

The council's resurfacing plan is now online, providing details of which roads will be resurfaced. Dates are still to be confirmed but the roads from Leighton Buzzard are available on our website, here:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/transport/service/about.aspx>

4.4 Report Issues Online

Our 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

4.5 Parking enforcement

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

Location		Works completed
Rock Lane Linslade	Whole road	SYL's both sides of road need refreshing very faded in parts, completely missing as you 1st enter the road near house 2a.
Leopold Road Linslade	Whole road	All SYL's and school markings need refreshing - very broken and faded.
Church Road, Linslade	Opposite flats no2-6 Changers Hall as you 1st go into Church Road from Wing Road	1st bay on the right needs a '2hr no return 2 hour except permit holders' sign (will need a post)
Soulbury Road Linslade	Outside house 62 & outside house 72	2x disabled bays lines and wording needs repainting, signs already in place.
Waterloo Road Linslade	Outside house no 48	SYL sign needed on lamppost no1 'No waiting Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm'. Needs to be put up high or use anti tamper fitting to stop it being removed.
Waterloo Road Linslade	Whole road	All L/W /Permit Bays need repainting.
Victoria Road Linslade	Whole road	All L/W / Permit Bays need repainting.
Rosebery Avenue Linslade	Whole road	SYL's need repainting both side for entire length, very faded

Stoke Road Linslade	Outside house no 7	SYL Sign 'No Waiting Mon-Sat 7am-7pm' - will need a post.
Vandyke Road Leighton Buzzard	Whole road	SYL needs repainting - very faded
New Road, Leighton Buzzard	o/s house 58-60 and o/s house 25	2x '2hr, no return 2hr, except permit holders' signs for L/W bay
New Road, Leighton Buzzard	All L/W bays and disable bays	Need repainting
Service Road, West Street Multi storey car park	Around the whole length of the service road	DYLS need repainting
Mentmore Road, Linslade	o/s house 21 to opposite house 26	Repainting DYLS
Old Road, Linslade	From house 25 to house 45	All L/W bays need repainting
The Gables, Linslade	Opposite house4 to lamp post 1 on Waterloo St	SYL needs repainting
The Gables, Linslade	Lamp post 2	Needs 'No Waiting Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm' SYL sign on lamp post 2

The following works have been put forward for completion:

Judges Lane, Leighton Buzzard	Whole road	DYLS need repainting on the Church side
Judges Lane, Leighton Buzzard	Opposite the left side of the 'kidsout' building, outside the church	Sign needs removing, says mon-sat, misleading as it is next to DYL
Waterloo Road, Linslade	o/s house 17 opposite the park between bay windows	Sign needs changing from 8:30am-5pm to Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm
Wing Road, Linslade	Opposite house 88	SYL sign needs removing as it is a DYL
Station Road	Near station	DYLS are supposed to be SYLS
Ship Road	o/s house 16	Timeplate missing needs 4h no return within 2h, excluding permit holders
St Andrews St	Signage for SYLS	Mon- Sat 7am-7pm x3 all with new posts o/s St Andrews flats on corner and o/s house 26 and house 10
Basset Road	School markings	Needs repainting
Brooklands Drive	School markings	Needs repainting

Key

L/W: Limited Waiting Bay

SYL: Single Yellow Line
 DYL: Double Yellow Line
 D/B: Disabled Bay
 O/S: outside

From 1st January till 17th May 1407 PCN's have been issued in Leighton Buzzard and 422 issued in Leighton Linlade.

2913 visits have been made to Leighton Buzzard from 1st Jan – 17th may and 1132 visits have been made to Leighton Linlade.

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 in May 2018. Since tracking is an on-going process, the numbers will fluctuate throughout the month as information is received and recorded.

1) Update on NEETs within the wider Central Bedfordshire area

Headline Figures for the whole Central Bedfordshire area			
Cohort	Total number of young people	Positive destinations (EET)	NEET destinations
2017 Cohort (16 year olds/Year 12)	2827	2700 (95.5%)	70 (2.47%)
2016 Cohort (17 year olds/Year 13)	2830	2646 (93.5%)	80 (2.82%)
Combined 2016/2017 cohort	5657	5346 (94.5%)	150 (2.65%)

2) Overview for the Leighton Buzzard area compared to other local areas

	Dunstable	Houghton Regis	Leighton Buzzard
Total YPs in area	801	438	839
EET	764 (95.4%)	395 (90.2%)	796 (94.9%)
NEET	21 (2.7%)	28 (6.4%)	19 (2.3%)
Unknown	16 (2.0%)	15 (3.5%)	24 (2.9%)

3) Characteristics of the NEET Group in the Leighton Buzzard area

a) Summary of the individual Leighton Buzzard wards

Ward	Total number of YPs in the Year 12-13 cohort	Total number of YPs recorded as NEET	% of NEET within ward
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Leighton Buzzard North	287	8	2.79%
Leighton Buzzard South	248	5	2.02%
Linslade	206	4	1.94%
Heath and Reach	98	2	2.04%
Total	839	19	2.3%

b) Summary of the Leighton Buzzard NEET cohort by age, time and their current status

Actual Age (Year 12 & 13)		Length of Time NEET		Gender	
16 years old	1	Less than 3 months	5	Male	8
17 years old	8	3 - 6 months	7	Female	11
18 years old	10	6+ months	7	Other/Refused	0

c) Summary status of the Leighton Buzzard NEET cohort

Status		
Seeking Employment or Training	12	(63.2%)
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances'	7	(36.9%)

6 SCHOOLS

School Admissions

Parents who applied for their child to start school or transfer to Middle or Upper school for September 2018 have been notified of which school their child has been allocated. Across Central Bedfordshire 96% of families were offered their first preference lower or primary school for children starting school this year, and 95% of families were offered their first preference middle or upper school. Schools are working together as part of the transition arrangements and pupils will have a taster day at their new school during the next half term.

School Organisation & Capital Planning

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 and the updated version of the School Organisation Plan (2017 – 2022) which is available on our website [here](#).

Central Bedfordshire is on the verge of significant growth over the next 15 -20 years as illustrated in the draft Local Plan. The plan, which proposes up 20,000 new homes as well as the creation of approx. 24,000 jobs, has been submitted to the government. 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 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. This includes on-going dialogue with all schools to seek to coordinate how we meet this growth to ensure the best possible educational outcomes for children.

7. PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

7.1 Cheering Volunteering

A verbal update on Cheering Volunteering will be given at the meeting regarding awards for

- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Volunteer of the year
- Volunteer Group of the Year
- Outstanding Contribution
- Lifetime Achievement
- Sports Volunteer of the Year and
- Panels Choice

7.2 S106 Community Facilities grant scheme

One grant has been allocated to the Leighton Buzzard Scouts group to improve access to their facility.

Discussions are taking place with another local group aiming to improve community access.

Whilst there is no imminent deadline to spend the S106 monies , the earliest spend date being July 2021, further discussion with the Town Council is planned re local need and prioritisation to encourage more applications.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH

8.1 NHS Health Checks

GP practices continue to be 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 2017 to March 2018 1,132 Health Checks were delivered through these practices which equated to 95.4% of their annual target delivery. This ranks 4th in terms of performance out of the 5 CCG localities. They offered residents 2,995 Health Check opportunities, which at 111%, of the 'invite target' means that they offered Health Checks to more than the eligible population.

The quality of the NHS Health Checks delivered within the locality remains high at 98.4%, higher than the CCG average of 96%, and ranking 1st out of 5.

8.2 Stop Smoking Services

Public Health-commissioned Level 2 Stop Smoking Services are delivered by Bassett Road and Salisbury House GP Surgeries, with the CBC Stop Smoking Team providing the service through Level 3 Support in Leighton Buzzard Health Centre.

In the first 3 quarters of 2017-18 a total of 167 smokers set a quit date through these 3 services, which resulted in 107 successful quits. Both Level 2 providers, Salisbury House and Bassett Road, exceeded their set quitter targets.

The other clinic delivered by the CBC L3 Specialist Service run at Tesco, delivered 6 quits from 9 smokers who set quit dates.

Pharmacies in Leighton Linslade provided another 3 smoking quits during this period.

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. In view of this, at its meeting on 1st August 2017 the Council's Executive approved proposals to start a consultation on the future of Westlands care home for older people in Leighton Buzzard.

The decision was made alongside approval to commence a procurement process to identify a provider for a new care home for older people on a site at Hockliffe Road, Leighton Buzzard. This procurement process commenced February 2018 (see update on former Police Station site in the Enabling Delivery section)

The Council's preferred option is to secure the development of new care home capacity at Hockliffe Road, Leighton Buzzard with sufficient places at that home for anyone at Westlands who wishes to go there, and then to close Westlands. Staff in Social Care, Health and Housing have supported residents, relatives and staff during the 12-week consultation period, which ended on 6th November 2017, ensuring they had an opportunity to have their say.

The feedback from the consultation will be presented in a report to Executive in August 2018 when a decision about the future of the home and the site at Hockliffe Road is expected to be made. If a provider is agreed for Hockliffe Road it is estimated that it would take 18-24 months to implement during which time it is intended that Westlands would remain open.

10. LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

A summary of the work undertaken by the Pollution Team (part of Public Protection) in the Leighton Buzzard area from January 2018 to May 2018 inclusive:

We have responded to 37 complaints about commercial premises in the area, which is a similar level of complaints to our previous report in September 2017. 27 of these were in relation to noise from commercial premises, from a variety of sources. We received and responded to 8 odour complaints which is a notable decrease on the level of odour complaints for the area and since our last report. We also received and responded to 2 light nuisance complaints.

With regards to noise from pubs & clubs, The Top Bell was a recurring noise source and problem for a considerable period of time, but we are pleased to report that the issue is finally resolved due to a positive change in management and an agreement the garden is closed at 11pm. Our complainants are very happy with this result as this has been a longstanding issue which we now hope is finally resolved.

Taxi rank

As an update to the Taxi Rank provision, Members of the Licensing Committee met on Wednesday 7 February to consider the request by Leighton-Linslade Town Council to vary the market Square taxi stand on market days only. A decision was taken to agree to the Town Council's request to revoke the current hackney carriage stand facing east on market days only and to appoint a new hackney carriage stand on the opposite side of the road facing west on market days only.

However, there is still concern about the current provision of hackney carriage stands in the town from both the Town Council and the hackney carriage trade. Licensing Officers are looking at all possible locations in an effort to find suitable additional spaces. A report will be made at the next Partnership Committee on 7 June.