

LEIGHTON LINSLADE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**15. February 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 October– 31st December 2017:

Currently 23 cases open:-

- Dog barking – 1
- Dog fouling – 2
- Fly tipping – 2
- Graffiti – 1
- Nuisance neighbours – 4
- Light – 1
- Noise – 7
- Odour – 2
- Rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour – 2
- Waste carrying - 1

1 x FPN issued and paid for dog fouling

1 x Prosecution file sent to Legal regarding dog barking noise nuisance

Summary of recorded CCTV Incidents**Leighton Buzzard****1st October to 31st December 2017**

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
03/10/2017	22:16	Lake Street	Vehicle Crime	0
08/10/2017	03:08	High Street	Violent Offence	0
21/10/2017	02:39	The Lancer	Criminal Damage	1
22/10/2017	17:10	Astral Park	Other Theft	0
24/10/2017	01:16	High Street	Burglary	0
02/11/2017	17:22	Lake Street	Theft of Vehicle	0
09/11/2017	20:52	Waterborne Walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
21/11/2017	16:22	Parsons Rec	Violent Offence	0

22/11/2017	14:13	Boots	Shoplifting	0
22/11/2017	14:15	High Street	Violent Offence	0
26/11/2017	00:50	The Lancer	Other Crime	0
01/12/2017	16:00	Waterborne Walk	Shoplifting	0
02/12/2017	02:00	The Lancer	Violent Offence	1
06/12/2017	19:37	Waterborne Walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
17/12/2017	00:53	The Lancer	Criminal Damage	0
21/12/2017	00:53	Boots	Shoplifting	0
30/12/2017	01:00	The Lancer	Intel	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 Church Road/New Road was installed due to shop fronts being damaged, damage to vehicles and other criminal damage. – This camera will be moved to Lake Street on Wednesday 24th January.

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

Strategic Business Engagement

The Council continues to build on its programme of engagement with the area's significant employers. The main aim of the programme is to create economic growth and resilience in Central Bedfordshire and ensure the Council's growth and development strategies correspond with local business ambitions.

The team continue this programme of engagement and offer support with premises, recruitment, skills, procurement opportunities, marketing and connections with other key partners.

Innovation Bridge

Innovation Bridge offers innovation support and funding to SME businesses to assist with their growth plans. There are several companies across the area involved in the project. One Central Bedfordshire company that has benefited from the support is Dyslexia Matters. As a specialist training company, they received a grant of £5,800 to prepare and develop new course material. This will enable them to grow their business and reach a wider audience with their products. For more information about the Council's Innovation Bridge project and the case study visit

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/innovationbridge

Leighton Buzzard Business Networking Event - 2018

This is the sixth time we are looking to hold this event and working with the Town Council, Membership organisations and Network groups to plan for the next event in April 2018.

Inward Investment and Business Growth

Levels of inward investment enquiries continue to be high, through engagement with intermediaries and the Be Central Bedfordshire portal (becentralbedfordshire.co.uk). There have been 148 enquiries into the council as at the end of Dec, 33 of which were in the last quarter. Of the enquiries in the last quarter, 19 businesses were looking across the whole of CBC and 6 specifically stating Leighton Linlade as their preferred location.

The @BeCentralBeds Twitter and [Linked In](#) accounts continue to drive traffic to the website, which are supported by an ongoing property marketing campaign.

In October we attended MIPIM, the UK's premier property show as one of 7 local authority partners on the Cambridge Milton Keynes Oxford Growth Corridor – Central Area stand. In previous years we had attended as Be Central Bedfordshire but this new approach allowed us to continue to promote the opportunities and benefits of being based in Central Bedfordshire, in addition to showcasing the exciting infrastructure developments, such as East West rail and The Expressway which will benefit not just Central Bedfordshire but the economy of the wider Cambridge to Oxford arc.

New Businesses

Our records show that in the period 1/04/17 to 31/12/17 thirty one businesses have either relocated or expanded within the Leighton Linlade area, 4 of which were in the last quarter. Those in the last quarter included Frozen Food Ltd who took a 4800 sq ft unit on Cherrycourt Way and G2 natural Ltd who took a 3500 sq ft unit on Youngs Industrial Estate. Andrew White & Co and Smiddy's continue to be the most active agent in terms of deals completed, although LSH and Kirkby Diamond have completed more than one new deal during the current financial year. All of the stats above were provided by EGi.

The Business Investment Team continues to manage the Business Support & Growth Fund, providing a range of support to inward investors or expanding business, through awards of up to £10k of business rates discounts, public protection training or pre application planning advice. For more information on the Business Support & Growth Fund, please contact jeff.caiger@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Employment and Skills

Using money from the Education & Skills Funding Agency, the Bedfordshire Employment & Skills Service organises a range of courses for local residents which are designed to support residents as they seek employment. For some residents who are already employed, the courses provide support with career progression. The residents taking part are typically unemployed and often face a number of disadvantages.

Since the start of the academic year, a total of 78 residents from the Leighton Linlade area have benefitted from courses delivered locally. Of the 78 individuals,

there have been a total of 111 enrolments and the progression from one course to another suggests the courses are well received.

Some 10 residents were from a priority area of deprivation.

Amongst the 78 residents, there were a total of 14 who confirmed they were unemployed and not looking for work with 12 having been unemployed for over three years.

The courses are delivered in local venues such as the Astral Park Community Centre, the Library and the Friend's Meeting House. The courses are delivered partly by subcontracted providers (IT, Mental Health Peer Support etc) and the service's own Direct Delivery team for courses including IT, Maths and English. Work Clubs are delivered locally and support residents who are seeking employment. From April different arrangements will be introduced and residents will continue to benefit from the National Careers Service for advice and guidance. Further information can be found on Central Bedfordshire Council's website – [click here](#)

High Street Vacancy Levels and Retail Sales

As part of the ongoing monitoring of the Economic Development Plan the Council is monitoring the level of high street vacancies in 'A' class premises in Central Bedfordshire's town centres.

According to Springboard, in collaboration with BRC, the national town centre vacancy rate was 9.3% in October 2017, down from 9.6% in August 2017.

Figures from ONS show that UK retail sales rose by 0.3% in October from September but despite this, retail sales were 0.3% lower than for October 2016.

Lisa Hooker, consumer markets leader at PwC said that many factors held back October sales:

Unseasonably warm weather and Storms Brian and Ophelia coinciding with half-term saw some shoppers temporarily stay away from the High Street, impacting footfall and sales of non-food items – particularly new season clothing lines.

The overall average vacancy rate across Central Bedfordshire town centres in November 2017, 4.68%, has decreased fractionally from August's 4.7%. Reductions have been seen in three town centres, Biggleswade, Leighton Buzzard and Sandy, with Sandy having the fewest vacant units since July 2013, and Biggleswade the fewest for a year. It is pleasing to note that Ampthill, Biggleswade, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Sandy and Shefford all have units that are currently under offer or being refurbished.

Table 7: Town centre vacancies % in Central Bedfordshire, November 2016 – November 2017

Town	Nov 16	Feb 17	May 17	Aug 17	Nov 17
Ampthill	0	2.2	2.2	3.3	4.4
Arlesey	0	0	0	0	0
Biggleswade	4.8	7.6	8.3	6.9	5.5
Dunstable	15.4	13.4	13.8	13.4	13.4
Flitwick	0	0	0	2.6	2.6
Houghton Regis	3.4	6.9	3.4	3.4	3.4

Leighton Buzzard	4.9	4.9	3.9	4.9	3.9
Sandy	7.5	7.5	9	4.5	3
Shefford	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	5
Stotfold	5.6	5.6	0	5.6	5.6
Average vacancy rate	4.41%	5.06%	4.31%	4.7%	4.68%

Source: Central Bedfordshire Council November 2017

2.2 Enabling Delivery in Leighton-Linslade, Regeneration and Business

The intention is to provide an update at the April meeting of the Partnership Committee following the departure of Marc Howard at Christmas and the imminent appointment of a new scheme manager.

Market Town Regeneration Fund

We continue to support Leighton-Linslade Town Council with their Market Town Regeneration Fund projects. CBC is providing £159,500 (matched by LLTC). The projects have been designed and are due to be delivered by Leighton-Linslade Town Council; and include improvements to the market, architectural lighting and electronic signage.

High Street Improvement Scheme

Central Bedfordshire is offering 60% grant funding to shop owners for making improvements to their shop fronts. Seven businesses are included in the scheme for Leighton Buzzard town centre, including Smile Dentist, Touch of Class and Shan Shui.

As the signed contracts and business 40% contributions come in, the building contractor (BRAC) and the project team have been visiting the shops to confirm details and timetables. The HSIS will be done in phases across Central Bedfordshire but starting firstly in Leighton Buzzard in Feb/March.

Former Police Station site, Hockliffe Rd.

We are just finalising the tender documents to secure a care home provider and they should be out in the next couple of weeks. Central Bedfordshire Council wishes to secure the delivery and operation of a care home for older people on the site of the former Leighton Buzzard Police Station in Hockliffe Road, Leighton Buzzard. The Council owns the freehold of the site and intends to dispose of the freehold to a suitable organisation (the Buyer) with a development agreement that will require the Buyer to construct (or secure the construction of) and operate a residential care or nursing home for older people on that site within two years. The Buyer will be required to join the Council's contractual arrangements for the provision of care home places and is required to provide up to 30 places to allow for the closure of a 30-place care home owned and operated by the Council. The supply of these places shall be on the terms and conditions supplied as part of the tender package. In addition, there is a requirement for the provision of a day space area which could accommodate a day care facility for non-residents.

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.

If agreed this option will take around two years to implement during which time it is intended that Westlands would remain fully open. The feedback from the consultation will be presented in a report to Executive in June 2018 when a decision about the future of the home and the site at Hockliffe Road will be made.

In the meantime, having received outline planning consent for the Hockliffe Road site in October 2017, the Council will commission a heritage survey of the site in the next few weeks prior to contracting 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

2.3 Business Rates

There are a number of initiatives that the council runs to support businesses. Some of the current initiatives are mentioned in the Business and Investment update in the report. More information can be found on the council's website – www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/business

The council runs an annual consultation on the proposed annual budget and both local businesses and residents are encouraged to participate in that budget consultation. This normally runs in January of each year.

Business rate relief scheme consultation

Following the Government's most recent business property revaluation, which came into effect in April 2017, the Chancellor announced at the Budget on 8 March 2017, that it would make a fund available to help businesses that face the steepest increases in their business rates bills. The discretionary fund will be available from 2017-18 for four years.

The Government believes that local authorities are best placed to judge the particular circumstances of local ratepayers and direct the funding where it is most needed to support local economies. The Government has allocated the available funding to each billing authority area based on assumptions about how authorities will target their relief scheme.

The aim of the scheme is to provide financial help in the form of discretionary relief to small business ratepayers that are significantly worse off following the 2017 revaluation. We have identified the cases that are entitled to claim this relief. Application forms have been sent to them all and we are waiting for them to be returned. Within the next week we will be calculating how much relief they are entitled to and a revised bill will be sent to the customer.

- Pub Relief has been awarded to all those who qualify.
- Supporting Small Business Relief has also been awarded to all qualifying businesses there were none in L=L and only 15 in Central Bedfordshire.

With regards to the Discretionary Revaluation Support Scheme, please see the link below for more information on our website:-

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/business/rates/reductions-reliefs/spring-budget-2017.aspx>

3 COMMUNITY SERVICES

3.1 Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre

We have achieved:

The facility has over 3000 users that have taken up membership.

The learn to swim programme has 1700 participants both adults and children.

In September 2017 Stevenage Leisure Limited took over the site management from 1life,

The facility also went through Quest one day directional audit which went well with the site maintaining the score of Very Good. Quest is the Sport England recommended Continuous Improvement Tool for leisure facilities.

Key highlights:

Successful activity camp completed with good numbers attending the week long camp. 129 children attended the camp.

2 additional classes added to the group training programme. One a Body Pump and one a Pilates class. We now have over 60 classes on the programme.

Christmas 50+ party a good time was had by all. Approx. 140 attendees.

Safeguarding training was completed

New boxing equipment ordered for group training classes

New Dumbbells ordered for the gym to replace the old 1-10kg weights

Key issues:

Improvements to the Car park at Tiddenfoot is progressing to try and improve the parking provision for customers of the leisure centre.

Group training classes full

We are planning:

Working with Fit for Sport to run Holiday Kids Camps which are designed to educate children in the benefits of leading a healthy lifestyle, whilst encouraging them to try their best & have fun. A typical day includes: multi-sport sessions, such as; handball, dodgeball, hockey, rounder's 'Keeping the Future Fit' healthy lifestyle activities and an optional swimming session (venue dependent). Chill out sessions will be arts and crafts based, with activities such as: crazy crafts e.g. designing sports kits. Also available is the use of the swimming pool which is a big highlight for the children attending.

These sessions will run:

February half term 2018: 12-16 Feb

Easter Holiday 2018: 03 -13 Apr

May/June half term 2018: 29 May- 01 Jun.

Extended Day - (08.30 – 17.30) £25.25

Standard Day - (09.30 – 16.30) £21.00

Half Day - (09.30 – 13.00) £15.75

Grow numbers on the Wednesday Health Walk, when these are full planning to introduce an additional walking session.

Family Open Day date tbc

Review of the crèche to see if we can extend the hours on one of the days. We are potentially looking at the Thursday as this is the busiest day.

Graphics to be added to the windows of the variable base swimming pool to improve the pool environment visual appearance to customers. Funded by CBC

New music system being installed for the variable base pool. Funded by CBC

Key Priorities over the next 3 months:

- Replacement of the variable base pool controls & depth gauges. Funded by CBC
- Replacement of the partition door within the lower studio. Funded by CBC

3.3 Active Lifestyles

Active Lifestyles Report

- We achieved monthly work parties with Friends of Tiddenfoot Waterside Park and Friends of Linslade Wood
- Volunteer support at Tiddenfoot Waterside Park and Linslade Wood continues to grow with great outputs, opened / cut back and cleared the footpath along the rear of Cedars school, hedgerow layering/planting, acid grassland restoration, coppicing and ride edge widening.
- Assist 'friends' groups in Community Green Flag applications.

- Installed a 3-sided open bird hide viewing area (made from concrete to future proof it being burnt down)
- Works has started on installing a new machinery store at Rushmere Country Park – will give a more secure / safe site for machines, reduce transportation times for equipment able to be secured on site
- Successfully tendered works for the installation of stock fencing and surfaced path for the Grovebury Quarry (open space) / Southern Meadows – southern Leighton Buzzard
- Restricted cars parking Steppingstone Open space
- Rushmere Park Run continues to attract around 140 people per week and around 15 run volunteers per week
- Xplorer Rushmere Park – Family orienteering October half term had 213 participants take part. Xplorer will be returning February Half Term.
- Walking Football sessions continue to be popular with between 24-27 participants attending weekly.

Key issues:

- Working with Highways colleagues regarding securing appropriate Natural England permissions for highways to cut back roadside vegetation/hedgerow along Woburn Road

Looking forward

We are planning: include any events with dates

Key Priorities over the next 3 months:

- Undertake a refurbishment of the toilet block at Rushmere Country Park (previous Stockgrove Park) – March 2018
- Identify scope of car park improvements that can be achieved within budget at Rushmere Country Park – March 2018
- To promote / open access to Grovebury Quarry (open space) and Southern Meadows April onwards – after works are completed (could be earlier if weather permits works to start earlier)
- Install a publically accessible defibrillator at Rushmere Country Park
- Community Green Flag – judging visits, continue to support 'friends' groups

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

Leighton Buzzard Library and Theatre

Unfortunately the Library suffered a flood on 27 December 2017. The Theatre and Box Office were unaffected. Since 10 January a mini library has operated on the first floor offering a lending service to adults and children and access to PC's. Furniture

and book stock were damaged. Repair work and removal of damaged furniture and book stock is underway and a date for reopening is yet to be confirmed.

National Youth Jazz Collective

This is a collaboration between the Theatre and CBC Music Service which enables young people from Central Bedfordshire and the region access to tutors and professional to play, perform and create music. See: <http://nationalyouthjazz.co.uk/bedfordshire/>

3.5 Waste

Looking back

Key highlights:

Christmas clear up went well, the better quality tag which stayed on the bins giving residents collection advice may have contributed to this. Christmas tree collections also went smoothly.

Grounds maintenance for shrubs has continued over the winter and grass cutting is due to restart in March.

Following a request, we have installed a new dog waste bin at the junction of Meadow Way and Hockliffe Road which is being well used.

Key issues:

Dog warden patrols for dog fouling have been carried out in: Bassett Road, Bassett Road Recreation Ground, Billington Road, Billington Road Recreation Ground, Golden Riddy, Kestrel Way, Miletree Court, and Vandyke Road.

Looking forward

Household garden waste collection suspended for the winter in Central Bedfordshire

Kerbside collection of household garden waste will be suspended across Central Bedfordshire over the winter months. The collections will be suspended from Monday, 4 December 2017 until Friday 2, March 2018 inclusive. Residents are encouraged to check their last garden waste collection date for their area, which will be either the week commencing Monday 20 or Monday 27 November, and which can be found on the council's website.

The decision to stop the kerbside collection service during the quietest time of the year for garden waste was made as part of the council's financial planning process, and comes as a result of Government funding cuts. Council tax alone doesn't raise enough to cover all the services the council provides, and so the council focuses on delivering services that meet the periods of high demand, in this case restricting garden waste collections to during the growing season.

During the suspension, garden waste can still be recycled at the council's recently improved Household Waste Recycling Centres. Alternatively, residents with enough space in their gardens are encouraged to compost at home: All Central Bedfordshire residents are eligible for a discount on compost bins and accessories under a council scheme to encourage composting.

Cllr Budge Wells, Deputy Executive Member for Community Services at Central Bedfordshire Council, said: "During the winter season up to 80% less garden waste is collected compared to spring and summer, yet if we don't suspend the service then collection vehicles will still visit all our residential properties, incurring the associated costs to taxpayers. We know that the free garden waste kerbside collection service is important to our residents, and after this short break we will resume this service in 2018 during the months when there is a need for it again."

For more information about changes to your garden waste collection please visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/garden-waste

3.6 Billington Gypsy & Traveller Project

On the 5th December 2017, the Councils Executive approved a collaborative approach, working with residents and strategic partners to address the issues on The Stables & Greenacres Gypsy and Traveller site at Little Billington, LU7 9BP. In doing so, Executive also authorised the formation of a Project Board to bring the site up to the following standards:

- Compliant with planning and licencing regulations
- Safe and well maintained
- Well managed and accessible to the authorities

The Council retains the option to pursue a Compulsory Purchase of the existing Site & construct a new council owned site if sufficient progress or change is not demonstrated.

This decision and a copy of the Executive report can be found [here](#)

4. HIGHWAYS

4.1 Winter Weather

Our Highways winter weather team have been busy over the past couple of months, particularly at the beginning of December when we had the snowy spell of weather.

In five snowy days the gritting team went out 12 times salting a total off more than 3,300 miles.

The gritting team will continue to be on standby 24/7 until the end of March.

You can receive daily gritting updates by following our highways twitter account @CBC_Highways or by signing up to our winter weather email alerts at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/updates.

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 into the spring.

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

4.3 Resurfacing Plan online

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
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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

Key

L/W: Limited Waiting Bay

SYL: Single Yellow Line

DYL: Double Yellow Line

D/B: Disabled Bay

From 1st August 2017 – 31st December 2017 1446 PCN's were issued in Leighton Buzzard and 521 PCN's were issued in Leighton Linslade.

From 1st August 2017 – 31st December 2017 2671 visits were made to Leighton Buzzard and 1244 visits were made to Leighton Linslade.

5. YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES

The careers and employment event, entitled 'Find your Future', took place in 'The Incuba', Dunstable on Thursday, 2nd November. The event attracted large numbers of school groups and young people during the day and parents/carers and adults during the evening. More than 50 organisations exhibited or presented workshop sessions during the day and evening.

Throughout the Autumn term (September to December), the Youth Support Service were involved with the tracking, recording and providing information and guidance to all young people aged 16 or 17, residing within the Central Bedfordshire area, to ensure that they achieved a suitable destination in education, employment, or training (EET). This process is called the "Activity Survey".

Headline figures

At the end of December 2017, 92% of young people with the academic age of 16 or 17 were in education, employment or training.

Headline Figures for Central Bedfordshire (End of December 2017)		
Cohort	Number of young people recorded	Positive destinations (EET)
2017 Cohort (16 year olds/Year 12)	2842	2671 (94%)
2016 Cohort (17 year olds/Year 13)	2839	2545 (90%)
Combined 2016/2017 cohort	5681	5216 (92%)

The above figures are based only on the data stored within the Youth Service's CCIS database and since tracking is an on-going process, the numbers will fluctuate as information is received and recorded.

Update on NEETs within the wider Central Bedfordshire area

As of the end of December, there were a total of 5681 young people aged between 16 and 17 (years 12 and 13) within the Central Bedfordshire area, of which, the destination of 5367 were known and the service is attempting to contact the remaining young people via telephone, email, SMS, letter and, if needed, a home visit will be organised. 20 young people have refused to provide or have their destination shared.

Within this age range, 151 (2.66%) were reported to have a NEET status and 5216 (92%) recorded as being in 'Education, Employment or Training' (EET). The proportion of young people in the current year 12 'In Learning' is 93% and for the year 13 is 87%.

NEET Overview for the Leighton Buzzard area

Headline Figures for the Leighton Buzzard area (End of December 2017)			
Total YPs in area	842		
EET	794	94.3%	
NEET	16	1.9%	5.7%
Unknown	32	3.9%	

Characteristics of the NEET Group in the Leighton Buzzard area

The following information provides an overview of the characteristics of the current NEET group. The table includes figures for two other wards enabling a comparison to be made if required.

(1) Area

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	291	8	2.75%
Leighton Buzzard South	243	2	0.83%
Linslade	214	5	2.34%
Heath and Reach	94	1	1.07%
Total	842	16	1.9%

(2) Gender

Gender	Dunstable	Leighton Buzzard	Houghton Regis
Male	16 (61.6%)	5 (31.3%)	17 (56.7%)
Female	10 (38.5%)	11 (68.8%)	13 (43.4%)

Total	26	16	30
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(3) Age

Actual Age (Year 12 & 13)	Dunstable		Leighton Buzzard		Houghton Regis	
16	6	(23.1%)	3	(18.8%)	14	(46.7%)
17	13	(50%)	8	(50%)	12	(40%)
18	7	(27%)	5	(31.3%)	4	(13.4%)
Total	26		16		30	

(4) Time

Length of Time NEET	Dunstable		Leighton Buzzard		Houghton Regis	
Less than 3 months	14	(53.9%)	3	(18.8%)	14	(46.7%)
3 - 6 months	7	(27%)	8	(50%)	12	(40%)
6+ months	5	(19.3%)	5	(31.3%)	4	(13.4%)
Total	26		16		30	

(5) NEET Status

Status	Dunstable		Leighton Buzzard		Houghton Regis	
Seeking Employment or Training	22	(84.7%)	10	(62.5%)	25	(83.4%)
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances'	4	(15.4%)	6	(37.5%)	5	(16.7%)
Total	26		16		30	

(6) Unknown Destinations

Destinations are only made 'Unknown' when the service has attempted at least 3 telephone calls; including 1 during the evening, letter, email, text message, Facebook search, a home visit during the day, as well as cross referencing with all other available resources.

Unknown Destinations	Dunstable		Leighton Buzzard		Houghton Regis	
Refused Information	1	(0.2%)	0	(0%)	2	(0.5%)
Cannot be Contacted	5	(0.7%)	11	(1.4%)	2	(0.5%)
Unknown / Left Area	17	(2.1%)	21	(2.5%)	6	(1.4%)
Totals	23		32		10	

Within the Leighton Buzzard area there are still 6 young people that are classed as 'Year 11 Transition'. These are young people that have left compulsory education at the end of the last academic year and whose current destination has not been confirmed.

Next Steps

The Youth Support Service together with 4YP, will continue with their efforts to find the destinations of all young people without a registered positive destination as part of the 'Activity Survey' process.

The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which will supersede the current Data Protection Act 1998 in May 2018 will have an impact on the data held by the service and the effects of these changes are being investigated to determine the impact that it will have on the service's tracking and reporting processes. The new regulations will require consent to be an active process, rather than the current passive acceptance.

6 SCHOOLS

School Admissions

The closing dates for children starting or transferring schools in September 2018 applications have now closed. The School Admissions Team are currently processing all applications received by the closing dates and will notify parents of the outcome the national offer days; on 1 March 2018 for transfer to secondary or upper school and 16 April 2018 for those transferring to middle school or starting school for the first time (Reception Year).

Parents who have not yet applied can still make an application, which will be processed in the late allocations in the spring.

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 has been updated following consultation before Christmas and further consultation is taking place, with the plan proposing up to 20,000 new homes as well as the creation of approx. 24,000 jobs. 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 will include dialogue with all schools over the next few months 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 Volunteering

Cheering Volunteering – Many thanks to Biffa, Pro Logis, Aragon, Jeakins Weir and Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue and Central Bedfordshire College who are sponsoring Cheering Volunteering 2018.

Nominations opened on **Monday, 8 January 2018** and you can nominate people or groups for six different awards, including a new category for 2018: Sports volunteer.

[Nominate a volunteer online >>](#)

The full list of award categories is:

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

There is also a Panel's Choice Award, chosen by the judging panel from all entries. Entries will close at 12pm on Monday, 2 April 2018.

You can also apply to the Inspiring Volunteering grant scheme.

[Apply for a grant online >>](#)

There's a total funding pot of £5,000 available for projects which encourage volunteering or kick-start new activities involving volunteers.

Grant awards will be made from a minimum of £100 to a maximum of £1,000. Applications for funding will close at 12pm on Monday, 2 April 2018.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH

8.1 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.

8.2 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%)

8.3 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.

8.4 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.

The level of NHS Health Checks performance - offered and delivered - in Leighton Buzzard locality is currently the lowest of the 5 localities in Bedfordshire CCG (BBC and CBC). Only Bassett Road Surgery is meeting its Health Checks Delivered target.

Leighton Buzzard Locality - Year to Date			
	Actual (activity)	Target (activity)	Target (%)
NHS Health Checks Offered	2255	2025	111.4%
NHS Health Checks Delivered	745	891	83.6%

However, Leighton Buzzard Locality ranks 1st out of 5 localities in terms of the quality of Health Checks delivered, with a score of 98.3% against a CCG average of 96.6%.

8.5 Stop Smoking Services

As well as Public Health specialist stop smoking services, Level 2 Stop Smoking Services are delivered across all GP Surgeries in Leighton Buzzard.

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/>

Performance in 2017/18 to date

Performance is captured by locality, i.e. the clients who are registered with General Practices in each locality area.

Leighton Buzzard Locality Performance by Primary Care is excellent.

In the period up to the latest reporting date 218 residents of the Leighton Buzzard Locality attended Stop Smoking Services, with 100% setting quit dates.

130 of these were recorded as CO-validated quits, against a period target of 100, meaning that current performance is at 130%.

Practice	1 st Time Attenders	Set Quit Date	Total Quits	Period Quit Target	% Quit Target	RAG
Bassett Road Surgery	67	67	45	31	145%	
Leighton Road Surgery	102	102	53	44	120%	
Salisbury House Surgery	49	49	32	25	128%	

9. SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING

9.1 Community Grant Scheme

This grant funding is available to support Central Bedfordshire residents, launched by the Strategic Commissioning team in the Social Care and Housing Directorate.

The aim of this funding is to support the following key objectives:

- Avoiding unnecessary and inappropriate admissions to hospital
- Supporting people to return home after a hospital stay
- Avoiding inappropriate admission to institutional care (care home)

The funding should support one or more of the following outcomes for adults:

- People are able to live independently at home
- People are able to participate in their local community
- People are not socially isolated or lonely
- People feel safe, secure, valued and respected

The total funding available for all the schemes in 2018/19 Financial Year is £100,000. Bids will be accepted for funding between £200 and £10,000 and we will be seeking to achieve allocation across a range of funding levels. iBCF funding of £10,000 will be available for 2019/20 and invitations to bid for this will be published in due course. This grant application must be for one year only, however if your

scheme could run for further years you should indicate this within your application. Further bids beyond this period may be invited in due course. The level of detail provided in the application form should be proportionate to the level of funding being sought.

Funding is available for revenue costs, for example staffing, equipment (capital and assets up to a value of £300), fees for registration, DBS checks, running costs and promotion. Deadline 16 February. The application form is available [here](#), and completed forms should be submitted by email to strategic.commissioning@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

The deadline for completed applications is 16 February

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 is expected to commence 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.

If agreed, this option will take around two years to implement during which time it is intended that Westlands would remain fully open. The feedback from the consultation will be presented in a report to Executive in June 2018 when a decision about the future of the home and the site at Hockliffe Road will be made.

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 September 2017 to January 2018 inclusive:

We have responded to 33 complaints about commercial premises in the area, which is a similar level of complaints to our previous report in September 2017. 15 of these were in relation to noise from commercial premises, of which 4 were from Pubs/Clubs, and 8 were in relation to noise from construction sites. We had 3 alleged light nuisance complaints, but we have also received and responded to 15

odour complaints which is a substantial increase on the level of odour complaints for the area and since our last report.

The increase in odour reports is in the main due to bonfires at a site on Leighton Rd. In response to these, we instigated a joint agency approach between CBC and the Arson Reduction Team at Beds Fire & Rescue which resulted in a site visit on 29th December. Advice was given by both the Fire Officer and Public Protection Officers and the burning has since ceased in general, although we did receive a further couple of reports of the smell of burning in January. This was due to the sheer size of the original fire and it smouldering down, which the Fire Officer advised against turning it over in case of it reigniting. A recent visit by Public Protection Officers has shown no further signs of a lit fire.

The Construction Site Noise complaints relate to two sites in the main. One of these is a former quarry site therefore the hours for works are slightly varied to the standard times. The groundworks Site Manager has been very open in communicating with us and residents, he has met with complainants on site, provided reassurances with a full timeframe for works and provided independent noise surveys where appropriate.

The other relates to a Taylor Wimpey site, where despite informal interventions we received reports of continued out of hours working including Sundays. After a change in site manager and communications with Head Office the issue has now been satisfactorily resolved.

With regards to noise from pubs & clubs, The Top Bell remains an open case however a recent change in management and refurbishment has resulted in CCTV being installed at the premises. This covers the garden area at the rear that is now closed at 11pm every night. The new managers are showing positive signs of wanting to work with us and attend the Pubwatch meetings where they are active participants. Our complainants are currently happy with this progress and we hope to bring this long running issue to a close very soon.

Taxi rank

An update will be provided separately following the meeting of the Licensing Committee 7 February.