

## CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020

**Purpose of report: For information**

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**1. COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**CCTV REPORTS**

**OCTOBER**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TYPE OF CRIME	ARRESTS
01/10/2019	13:48	High Street	Drug Deal	0
01/10/2019	17:07	Waterborne Walk	Intelligence	0
05/10/2019	11:36	Waterborne Walk	Youth on roof	0
07/10/2019	20:36	Waterborne Walk	Drugs	0
07/10/2019	21:48	Waterborne Walk	Drugs/Drug Deal	0
08/10/2019	01:37	Tesco	Robbery	0
10/10/2019	20:21	Waterborne Walk	Drugs	0
19/10/2019	15:01	High Street	Intelligence	0
19/10/2019	16:56	Astral Park	Miscellaneous	0
22/10/2019	02:19	Waterborne Walk	Robbery	0
22/10/2019	17:08	High Street	Robbery	1
26/10/2019	11:11	High Street	Intelligence	0
26/10/2019	16:26	Waitrose	Attempted Theft	0
27/10/2019	02:16	North Street	Assault	0
30/10/2019	19:07	North Street	Intelligence	0
31/10/2019	16:37	High Street	Intelligence	0

**NOVEMBER**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TYPE OF CRIME	ARRESTS
08/11/2019	15:59	Lake Street	R.T.C	0
09/11/2019	16:39	Waterborne Walk	Shoplifting	0
14/11/2019	09:51	Waterborne walk	Shoplifting	0
17/11/2019	13:33	West Street Car Park	ASB	0
17/11/2019	17:29	Waterborne Walk	Drugs	0
19/11/2019	14:50	High Street	Burglary	1
21/11/2019	11:09	Parsons Rec	Drugs	0
24/11/2019	14:26	High Street	Street Drinker	0
27/11/2019	20:13	Waterborne Walk	Drugs	1
27/11/2019	04:10	High Street	Burglary	0
27/11/2019	20:13	Waterborne walk	Drugs	0

**COMMUNITY SAFETY OPERATIONS TEAM**

July to December 2019- There were 83 cases open to the Community Safety Operations Team.

Type	Amount
Accumulation of Waste	1
Dog Fouling	1
Fly-tipping	12
Graffiti	1
Nuisance Neighbours	13
Pollution: Light	1
Pollution: Noise	32
Pollution: Odour	12
Rowdy/ Inconsiderate Behaviour	5
Street Drinking	2
Vehicle Nuisance	3

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

1 x prosecution file sent to legal re. Injunction Application

**2. LEISURE, LIBRARIES & COUNTRYSIDE****TIDDENFOOT LEISURE CENTRE****LOOKING BACK**

We achieved:

- Launched Mindful Swimming on Friday evening for a relaxing evening of swimming to soothing music.
- Make a MOVE Technogym National Challenge Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre came 8<sup>th</sup> in the whole country with 351 participants taking part and 867,005 Moves achieved. Winning The National Prize from Technogym for Top Social Media Posts.
- Over 265,000 customers have visited the Leisure Centre this year and on average over 22,000 a month (this excludes December 2019)

Key highlights:

- Crash courses ran again at Tiddenfoot in the October half term.
- Scare-Venger Hunt took place during the October Half Term. Finding Balloons hidden around Leighton Buzzard to claim a prize at Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre.
- Ian Morton Managing Director came to site to present WOW awards to Christine Mandy (Swimming Teacher) Tillie (Lifeguard/Trainee DM) Laura (Swimming Teacher) & Lucy (Lifeguard/Café Supervisor)

**LOOKING FORWARD**

We are planning:

- Running a lifeguard course, to have more lifeguards at the leisure centre.
- New Home Education Swimming Lessons coming January 2020.
- Increasing Aqua Ed Members with new lessons starting in January and increasing Fitness Members in the New Year.
- Gym Challenges and Promotions in the New Year to keep members carrying on their Fitness Journey.

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.’

### **LEIGHTON BUZZARD LIBRARY**

Leighton Buzzard Library was very busy over the festive period with numerous crafts organised for children and young people. As things have settled down, we are looking forward to the months ahead.

We are currently working on crafts for February half term and the Easter holidays in April. Class Visits with local schools have also been booked which is a fun introductory visit to the library. It is a great opportunity for us to promote what we offer and encourage students to visit us outside school hours.

The Summer Reading Challenge will be taking place in July (date/theme tbc). As always we will be organising a range of activities for the children and young people during the summer to coincide with the challenge.

The library is continuing with regular activities during term time including Storytimes, Crafty Toddlers and Lego/Duplo on Saturdays.

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

The Council desk on the first floor of the library is open Tuesday and Thursdays 9am – 12pm and 12.30pm – 5pm

The Registrar’s office on the first floor of the library is open:

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

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

Appointments for the Registrar can be made on [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) or by calling 0300 300 8089

### **THEATRE LIBRARY**

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.)

On the live theatre front we have The Pantaloons bringing Bleak House and for children we have Woodland Tales with Granddad from Pickled Image, a wonderful blend of live action and puppetry with an ecological message.

Our film season enters awards season with 15 Oscar and/or BAFTA nominated films coming in the next few weeks. 1917, with its 2 Golden Globe wins, 9 BAFTA nominations and 10 Oscar nominations leads the way over two brochure periods, with other contender like Jojo Rabbit, Little Women and Bong Joon-Ho's Parasite.

National Theatre Live have announced two of their live broadcasts for this year, starting with James McAvoy in a modern version of Cyrano de Bergerac then Maxine Peake in The Welkin. The Royal Opera House and Royal Shakespeare company continue with their seasons and more2screen bring us an (almost) sold out Kinky Boots.

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.

## COUNTRYSIDE SITES

### RUSHMERE COUNTRY PARK

#### Education

A busy quarter for formal education visits across the Trust and also at the park.

365 children and young people were directly involved in education activities and events with the education team in this period.

Visits were from local schools in Leighton Linlade and Heath and Reach as well as from schools further afield such as Whitchurch, Hockliffe, Dunstable and Husborne Crawley. Activities included supported nature walks, habitat comparisons, season themes and mini den construction.

The home education (HE – LB) group visits attended 3 further sessions which were well attended with around 12 participants attending each session. This periods sessions focussed on pond discovery, habitats and art.

Two schools (Parkfields Middle from Toddington, and John Hellins Primary from near Towcester) visited for end of term activity sessions with whole school, and whole year groups, visiting at once.

Our Youth Ranger programme began at the start of September with 12 young people registered to work with us until February. There will be 12 planned sessions in total and the youth rangers will learn about Rushmere park and its management, working towards achieving their John Muir Discovery level Award.

#### Volunteering

Volunteers have been helping in the office with filing, survey data entry, recording feedback from social media sites and entering information from our permit applications.

Practical and Conservation volunteers continue to carry out habitat management at Rushmere and other sites in Leighton Buzzard every Wednesday. Three new volunteers have joined the group and are, so far, enjoying their volunteering.

**HLF – Project Development**

Developing bid to Heritage lottery Fund, the National Lottery Heritage Fund (as they are now known) have a new Strategy for the period 2019 – 2024. The proposal previously presented as an ‘initial enquiry’ is now being evaluated against the new criteria and an ‘Expression of Interest’ will be drafted for discussion and agreement.

**Countryside Sites****Permissive Path – Southern Meadows**

The bridge is at build stage and awaiting delivery from the galvanising yard, ground works are imminent regarding abutment works for bridge and starting the path/surfacing/fencing. Works are anticipated for completion for March subjective to the weather conditions.

**Tree Works**

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

**Linslade Wood**

Drainage works has started, but due to wet weather – have been stopped as not wanting to create further repair/reinstatement works.

**COMMUNITY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY****Active Lifestyles – Physical Activity Update**

Activity	Venue	Number of Participants attending each week
Xplorer	Rushmere Park October 1 Session	38 (Heavy Rain)
Yoga	Astral Park	8-10
Seated Exercise	Tudor Court	10-13
Health Walk	Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre	8-10
Mindful Lifestyles Swimming	Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre	4-6

The Physical Team continue to deliver a non-clinical Active Lifestyle Referral Pathway across Central Bedfordshire. The team offer motivational one-to-one patient support programme to help individuals to maintain their motivation so that they continue to attend the identified service.

Active Lifestyle Referrals	Locality Group	Customers referred via the GP
October – December	Leighton Buzzard	12

Looking forward:

- **Falls Prevention**

To pilot the provision of community based falls prevention strength and balance programme for residents at risk of, or having suffered a fall. Sessions will be community based within a leisure centre setting, offering a fixed number of group sessions with falls prevention education and strength and balance exercise. Further information will be available mid Feb.

- **Coming Soon - Health & Wellbeing Kiosks**

Leisure services at Central Bedfordshire Council are investing in a secure, cloud hosted digital health solution built around a highly accurate, clinically validated body composition device. A device that we can customise by adding a range of additional features, integrations with our own systems and other devices to provide a wraparound package to record, track and report on our customers health and fitness journey.

Boditrax have created the world's only clinical grade (MDD Medical Device Directive) cloud hosted full segmental, self-service Body composition Analyser. Boditrax is used across the medical, fitness and corporate workplace sectors.

Providing individuals with access to a kiosk in a public setting will enable them to self-monitor and continue to improve their healthy lifestyle choices.

If a customer has taken part in a time limited programme this tool will enable them to continue to monitor their own health and provide information on additional services if needed and signpost to additional support where required.

### **3. BUSINESS, INVESTMENT & SKILLS**

Central Bedfordshire Council's Business & Investment Team continues to support the Leighton Buzzard 8<sup>th</sup> annual Business Networking Event (Wednesday, 22 April) working in partnership to help shape and promote the event for businesses to take the opportunity to network.

With regards to Inward Investment enquiries, the Leighton-Linslade area continues to attract a range of commercial property enquiries. For the period Aug 19 – Dec 19 we have received 5 new enquiries for the area. All enquiries came from businesses within the Central Bedfordshire area looking to relocate / expand, including one start up. Three of these businesses were interested in industrial premises with the remaining two interested in a retail shop front for non-retail businesses. Clients were interested in larger premises with three looking for 15,000 – 100,000 sq ft. The enquiries are still on-going.

#### **BEDFORDSHIRE EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS SERVICE (BESS)**

To date in this academic year, 61 Leighton-Linslade residents have attended Employment and Skills Service (BESS) courses which include basic skills in ICT, English, Maths and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL). 21 of these learners were unemployed (eight of which had been for over 36 months)

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", "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. Courses in Bedford and Houghton Regis also attract Leighton-Linslade residents.

Further information on the Service's courses can be found on Central Bedfordshire Council's website at: <https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/adultlearning>

### HIGH STREET VACANCY LEVELS

According to Springboard, in collaboration with the BRC, the national town centre vacancy rate in October 2019 was 10%. This is a small decrease on the previous quarter rate of 10.3 which was the highest rate since January 2015, (retail Gazette & BRC- Springboard footfall and vacancies monitor, October 2019).

Central Bedfordshire Council monitors the level of town centre retail unit vacancies across 11 towns. Much recent work has been done to produce a comprehensive audit of town centre units and this has meant there have been some changes to the overall number of units. Pottton has also been added to the Council's monitoring. For these reasons it is difficult to compare November's vacancy levels with those of the previous year.

The overall vacancy rate across Central Bedfordshire's town centres in November 2019 was 5.99%. There were a total of 952 retail units counted in our town centres and of these, 57 were vacant. On average, towns in Central Bedfordshire have a vacancy rate of 5.26%. The closure of banks, online shopping and the popularity of out-of-centre retail parks continues to have an impact on footfall in our town centres.

### Town Centre vacancies, November 2019

Town	Total town centre retail units	Vacant town centre retail units	Town Centre vacancy rate
Ampthill	91	3	3.30
Arlesey	16	3	18.75
Biggleswade	157	14	8.92
Dunstable	240	23	9.58
Flitwick	47	1	2.13
Houghton Regis	26	0	0.00
Leighton Buzzard	226	6	2.65
Pottton	25	0	0.00
Sandy	64	5	7.81
Shefford	42	2	4.76
Stotfold	18	0	0.00



<b>Total</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>5.99</b>
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Source: Central Bedfordshire Council November 2019

**Town Centre vacancy rates in Central Bedfordshire, August 2018 – November 2019**

Town	Aug 18	Nov 18	Feb 19	May 19	Aug 19	Nov 19
Amphill	5.6	6.67	5.56	4.44	5.49	3.30
Arlesey	0.0	0.00	0.00	6.67	12.50	18.75
Biggleswade	4.8	3.45	2.68	10.39	8.44	8.92
Dunstable	13.4	12.6	10.66	11.89	10.83	9.58
Flitwick	5.1	2.56	2.22	4.44	4.44	2.13
Houghton Regis	6.9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Leighton Buzzard	4.4	2.96	3.52	4.85	3.98	2.65
Potton	-	-	-	-	4.00	0.00
Sandy	4.5	5.97	6.56	6.67	7.94	7.81
Shefford	2.6	2.56	2.63	4.88	7.32	4.76
Stotfold	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Average rate	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>5.42%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>5.26</b>

Source: Central Bedfordshire Council November 2019

**4. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT**

**WORKS COMPLETED**

LOCATION	WORKS
Stoke Road, Leighton Buzzard	Limited waiting bay needs re-painting
Duncome Drive Car Park	'Red bays' need signs removing (Market trader ones)
Mentmore Road, Linlade	Re-paint all permit bays
Mentmore Road, Linlade	All DYLS need re-painting
Grove Road, Leighton Buzzard	o/s House 26- Junction Grove place, DYLS need re-painting
Grove Road, Leighton Buzzard	Opposite House 43, along the wall covering entrance to rear parking, opposite house 37. DYLS need re-painting

The Gables, Linslade	All SYLs need re-painting
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**CURRENTLY THE WORKS SCHEDULED FOR LL**

LOCATION	WORKS
Orchard Drive, Leighton	SYLs need re-painting
Duncombe Drive, Car Park	Permit bays need re-painting and also writing on the floor that says 'Permit Holders Only'
Hockliffe Street, Car Park	Permit bays need re-painting and also writing on the floor that says 'Permit Holders Only'

**PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

**From 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019**

1374 PCN's were issued in Leighton Buzzard

281 PCN's were issued in Leighton Linslade.

**From 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019**

2494 visits were made to Leighton Buzzard

871 visits were 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 start of January 2020. Since tracking is an on-going process, the numbers will fluctuate throughout the month as information is received and recorded.

**1. UPDATE ON NEETs WIDER CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE AREA**

JANUARY 2019 HEADLINE FIGURES FOR THE WHOLE CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE AREA			
Cohort	Total number of young people	Positive destinations (EET)	NEET destinations
16 year olds/ Year 12	3034 ↑	2937 ↑	69 (2.27% ↓)
17 year olds/ Year 13	2884 ↑	2704 ↑	95 (3.29% ↓)
<b>Combined cohort</b>	<b>5918 ↑</b>	<b>5641 ↑</b>	<b>164 (2.7% ↓)</b>

**2. OVERVIEW FOR THE LEIGHTON-LINSLADE AREA COMPARED TO OTHER LOCAL AREAS**

	DUNSTABLE		HOUGHTON REGIS		LEIGHTON-LINSLADE	
Total YPs in area	859		486		904	
EET	816	95.0%	461	94.9%	862	95.4%
NEET	34	4.0%	23	4.7%	31	3.4%
Unknown/refused	9	1.0%	2	0.4%	11	1.2%

### 3. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEET GROUP IN THE LEIGHTON-LINSLADE AREA

#### a. SUMMARY OF THE INDIVIDUAL LEIGHTON LINSLADE WARDS

WARD	TOTAL NUMBER OF YPs IN YEAR 12-13 COHORT	TOTAL NUMBER OF YPs RECORDED AS NEET	% OF NEET WITHIN WARD
Leighton Buzzard North	301	10	3.3%
Leighton Buzzard South	284	11	3.9%
Linslade	239	5	2.1%
Heath and Reach	80	5	6.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3.4%</b>

#### b. SUMMARY OF THE LEIGHTON-LINSLADE NEET COHORT BY AGE, TIME & THEIR CURRENT STATUS

ACTUAL AGE (YEAR 12 & 13)		LENGTH OF TIME NEET		GENDER	
16 Years Old	8	Less than 3 months	9	Male	19
17 Years Old	18	3-6 months	13	Female	12
18 Years Old	5	6+ months	9	Other/Refused	0

#### c. SUMMARY STATUS OF THE LEIGHTON-LINSLADE NEET COHORT

STATUS		
Seeking Employment or Training	26	83.9%
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances'	5	16.1%

## 6. SCHOOLS

### SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

The transfer to Secondary and Upper school for 2020 admission closed on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019

A total of **989** Secondary and **1907** Upper on time applications were received. The closing date for late applications is **16 March 2020** and parents will be notified of the decision on 20 April 2020

Allocation and first preference information will be published on the Councils website on **2 March 2020**.

Starting school and Transfer to Middle school application deadline was the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Parents are encouraged to apply for a place online via our school admission web pages [here](#) which contain a wealth of information including the deadline dates for applications, school catchment areas, deferred entries, making an application on religious/faith grounds and how places are allocated.

## 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 Linlade . 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 additional school places from September 2020.

## 7. PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### CHEERING VOLUNTEERING 2020



Cheering Volunteering will take place on Thursday 4. June at the Grove Theatre, Dunstable. All Members are invited to attend and will be able to book seats directly with the Grove. The call for nominations to the six categories of Volunteer of the Year, Young Volunteer, Volunteer group, Lifetime Achievement, Outstanding Contribution , Sports and Wellbeing will open in the new year.

### BT PAYPHONE REMOVAL – CONSULTATION

Following the first phase of community consultation, we received 209 representations regarding BT's proposals to remove 30 public payphones across Central Bedfordshire.

As part of the process, we are required to undertake public consultation and to inform BT of the results. The second phase of the consultation which runs from 17 December 2019 closed on Tuesday 21 January 2020 will enable town and parish councils and residents to comment on whether they agree or object to first decision.

Based on community feedback and evidence provided, the first decision proposes objecting to 27 payphones being removed

During the first phase of consultation, which was published on our website, the number of responses for each phone box was relatively small, however there was general support for retaining the boxes in villages – either as payphones or adopting the phone boxes for community use. There were a handful of suggestions that the phone boxes could be used by the community as small lending libraries.

Some of objections were about the lack of mobile signal in the villages, and the need for payphones in the case of network outages. Some communities lodged objections arguing there are concerns that removing the payphones will have more of an impact on the elderly and disabled.

A further month will be given for local people to have their say on the First decision ahead of a final view being submitted in February to the Executive, who will be asked to consider and agree a Final decision on the proposed removals to BT and which will be published on our website.

You'll find more information – including a list of the public payphones proposed to be removed at

[https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/27/about\\_your\\_council/188/consultations](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/27/about_your_council/188/consultations)

## **TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL CONFERENCE**

The TPC Conference took place on 22 January, 58 delegates attended and the following topics were covered.

- Schools for the Future
- Vision 2050
- Local Plan
- Community Safety

A copy of the presentations will be [on the website shortly](#)

## **8. PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **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.

The latest data, from December 2019 shows that across Leighton Buzzard as a whole, 1,665 invitations to have a Health Check have been offered to local residents, which represents performance of 92.9% against a target of 1,792.

Data from the same period shows that 639 Health Checks have been delivered compared to a target of 664 (96.2% of target).

At 96%, the overall quality measure for Health Checks in Leighton Buzzard is slightly higher than the overall percentage for Bedfordshire CCG (95.4%)

12 local residents have subsequently been newly diagnosed as having hypertension, and 15 have been prescribed statins for the first time. A further 2 patients were identified as having undiagnosed type 2 diabetes.

### **STOP SMOKING SERVICES**

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.

Since April 2019, all 36 clients have set a quit date through Salisbury House which has so far resulted in 22 successful quits. This represents 157% of their period quit target (14).

Basset Road and Leighton Road Surgeries have made a combined total of 82 referrals into the CBC Service.

The re-modelled Service offers 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](mailto:stop.smoking@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

<http://www.smokefreebedfordshire.org/>

## **9. SOCIAL CARE & HOUSING**

### **THE FUTURE OF WESTLANDS OLDER PERSONS HOME**

In the September edition of the Leighton Linlade Partnership Committee update report, we shared the Council's proposal 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. The Council proposed that the Hockliffe Road care home could replace the capacity at Westlands in Leighton Buzzard and from 31<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019 the Council formally consulted with Westlands residents, relatives and other interested parties on this proposal.

In December 2019, the Council's Executive Committee agreed with the proposal to replace the capacity at Westlands with the development of the Hockliffe Road home and subsequently close Westlands. It is expected that development process, including design and build of the Hockliffe Road home will take 2-3

years. It has also been agreed that the Hockliffe Road home will be operated by a local authority trading company. When the new home opens, residents from Westlands will be supported to move either to this home or somewhere else depending on their personal preference and their care and support needs. In the meantime, Westlands will continue to operate as normal and residents, relatives and staff will be kept informed as the build progresses.

## 10. PUBLIC PROTECTION

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH- HEALTH & SAFETY

Concluded a long and complicated investigation at Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre (old management company 1life) following a chemical incident that resulted in hospitalisation of staff. Case file has been passed to legal.

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH- FOOD

In the period April – Dec 19 – 87 Food Safety inspections were carried out in the LB area with all businesses being rated between 3-5\* (3\* and above being legally compliant)

There were a number of Food projects conducted in the area namely; an Allergens project targeting Café's and Restaurants looking at legally compliance with the legislation ( 14 visited – all were found not to fully comply with the requirements – 1 business to such a degree they were stopped from selling food immediately), As part of Operation OPSON a national project looking at counterfeit and illicit alcohol sales as well as our own Intel led project work 40 tests were carried out – all were found to be compliant.

### TRADING STANDARDS

8 Leighton Buzzard residents were identified from a National Scammers List (a list of vulnerable people compiled by Scammers to target) – all these residents were contacted, given advice and guidance and further support on avoiding being scammed.

There were 3 underage sales test purchase operations carried out covering Leighton Buzzard with all businesses complying and refusing to sell alcohol to the children.

There were 6 Petroleum safety inspections carried out as well as 8 explosive storage safety inspections (Mainly Firework storage and sales).

### POLLUTIONS UPDATE

We received a total of 18 noise complaints.

3 relating to licensed premises;

LICENCED PREMISES	COMPLAINT
The Top Bell	Noise complaints from patrons in garden area. It transpires they had changed management and staff again so we were required to liaise with the Landlords to ensure the former agreement of the outdoor area closing at 10.30pm was adhered to. No further complaints since this was actioned.

<b>The Lancer</b>	A complaint relating to music break out, not substantiated and no diary sheets returned.
<b>The Swan</b>	Noise from patrons using new rear garden area beyond times set out in conditions at planning stage. Management contacted and this is being addressed with door staff being utilised where necessary.

4 related to Construction site noise – All developments now completed. The others are miscellaneous and are currently in hand (extract fans etc)'

There were no other complaints for other environmental issues for this area.

## 11. ENVIROMENTAL SERVICES

### WASTE UPDATE

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Leaf fall clearance has gone fairly smoothly with the help of the leaf fall crew. The verges along the rural highways areas have now been cut. Our contractor is sending the main route litter picking crew to tidy up the areas as a lot of litter will have been exposed by the short, freshly cut vegetation.

Two new dog bins have been installed in Linlade.

#### KEY ISSUES

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

#### GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS

All kerbside garden waste collections are suspended between Monday, 9 December 2019 and Friday, 28 February 2020 inclusive


## 13. CONSULTATIONS

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 Clare Harding, tel: 0300 300 6109 (ext. 76109).

### UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	START	END	LEAD OFFICER
Adult social care charging policy	Consultation on revisions to the current charging policy, which includes how people	Jan 2020	Mar 2020	Iain Melville 0300 300 6204





	are financially assessed and how much they are charged for social care.			
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