

## CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

3<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

Purpose of report: For information

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### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

DATE	MEETING	TIME
16 September	DMC	10:00am
24 September	Council	6:30pm
13 October	Executive	9:30am
14 October	DMC	10:00am

**1. COMMUNITY SAFETY****CCTV REPORTS****FEBRUARY 2020**

Date	Time	Location	Type of Crime	Arrests
01/02/2020	01:36	Lake Street	Assault	0
01/02/2020	02:18	Lake Street	Assault	0
02/02/2020	01:11	Lake Street	Assault	1
02/02/2020	16:56	High Street	Shoplifting	0
02/02/2020	17:08	North Street	Intelligence	0
02/02/2020	21:14	High Street	Burglary	0
08/02/2020	03:14	Lake Street	Affray	0
08/02/2020	18:41	Astral Park	Nuisance Vehicles	0
09/02/2020	15:46	Waterborne Walk	ASB	0
14/02/2020	15:27	High Street	Shoplifting	0
18/02/2020	15:20	North Street	Police Chase	0
20/02/2020	00:13	West Street	Drunk & Disorderly	1
22/02/2020	15:00	High Street	Assault/Robbery	0
24/02/2020	10:30	Waterborne Walk	Threatening behaviour	0
25/02/2020	14:17	High Street	Shoplifting	0

**MARCH 2020**

Date	Time	Location	Type of Crime	Arrests
01/03/20	03:16	Lake Street	Assault	0
03/03/20	10:53	North Street	Stolen Vehicle	0
04/03/20	13:30	High Street	Begging	0
04/03/20	15:13	Waterborne Walk	Shoplifting	0
05/03/20	10:06	High Street	Begging	0
05/03/20	18:12	Lake Street	Public Disorder	0
06/03/20	11:43	Waterborne Walk	Shoplifting	0
07/03/20	14:14	Market Square	Street Drinking	0
07/03/20	15:24	Waterborne Walk	Shoplifting	0
07/03/20	17:24	High Street	Shoplifting	0
12/03/20	10:14	Waterborne Walk	Shoplifting	0
13/03/20	23:27	Waterborne Walk	Drugs	0
15/03/20	13:34	High Street	Shoplifting	0
16/03/20	16:38	High Street	Shoplifting	0
17/03/20	18:40	North Street	House Fire	0
17/03/20	20:49	Lake street	Theft OF Bicycle	0

18/03/20	01:06	Leighton Road	Concern for Safety	0
27/03/20	21:14	North Street	Intelligence	0

## APRIL 2020

Date	Time	Location	Type of Crime	Arrests
04/04/20	13:21	North Street	Assault	0
05/04/20	22:55	Waterborne Walk	Drugs	0
05/04/20	22:55	Waterborne Walk	Drug Deal	0
09/04/20	18:42	North Street	Arson	0
09/04/20	00:32	High Street	Arson	0
09/04/20	01:00	High Street Area	Intelligence	0
12/04/20	15:54	Parsons Rec	ASB	0
14/04/20	23:07	Waterborne Walk	Drugs	0
14/04/20	20:04	Waterborne Walk	Drugs	0
15/04/20	17:53	North Street	Intelligence	0
16/04/20	20:18	North Street	Intelligence	0
16/04/20	21:38	South Street	Criminal Damage	0
20/04/20	12:53	North Street	Missing Person	0
20/04/20	15:28	High Street	Intelligence	0
21/04/20	16:02	High Street	Intelligence	0
26/04/20	16:25	North Street	Street Drinking	0
26/04/20	16:48	North Street	Street Drinking	0
26/04/20	17:50	North Street	Intelligence	0
26/04/20	19:40	North Street	Intelligence	0
26/04/20	20:57	High Street	Intelligence	0
28/04/20	18:50	Waterborne Walk	ASB	0
30/04/20	12:31	High Street	Intelligence	0

## MAY 2020

Date	Time	Location	Type of Crime	Arrests
01/05/20	18:17	High Street	Intelligence	0
01/05/20	19:36	High Street	Attempt Bicycle Theft	0
02/05/20	11:28	High Street	Street Drinking/Breach of Peace	1
02/05/20	15:20	North Street	Street Drinking	0
02/05/20	15:32	North Street	Intelligence	0
02/05/20	12:52	High Street	Street Drinking	0
03/05/20	21:12	High Street	Street Drinking	0
03/05/20	21:19	High Street	Street Drinking	0

06/05/20	22:16	North Street	Affray	2
11/05/20	11:28	North Street	Threat to kill	0
11/05/20	14:09	Waterborne Walk	Robbery	0
12/05/20	13:03	High Street	Shoplifting	0
13/05/20	17:58	High Street	Begging	0
14/05/20	19:02	North Street	Intelligence	0
14/05/20	19:03	North Street	Intelligence	0
18/05/20	00:15	High Street	Burglary	0
19/05/20	14:21	North Street	Intelligence	0
23/05/20	18:40	Waterborne Walk	ASB/ Youths on roof	0
25/05/20	14:34	Waterborne Walk	ASB/ Youths on roof	0
08/05/20	03:32	North Street	Drugs	0
11/05/20	21:10	Waterborne Walk	Drugs	0
12/05/20	21:25	High Street	Drugs	0
13/05/20	17:58	High Street	Begging	0
20/05/20	18:31	North Street	Street Drinking	0
20/05/20	20:26	North Street	Begging	0
21/05/20	17:57	High Street	Begging	0
21/05/20	19:27	North Street	Begging	0
27/05/20	12:25	North Street	Breach Of CPN	0
28/05/20	15:46	North Street	Intelligence	0
29/05/20	14:37	High Street	Intelligence	0
31/05/20	20:48	Astral Park	Drugs	0

## JUNE 2020

Date	Time	Location	Type of Crime	Arrests
01/06/20	20:50	Vimy Road Roundabout	Road Traffic Collision	0
03/06/20	21:40	North Street	Rape	0
09/06/20	17:40	High Street	Intelligence	0
10/06/20	02:30	North Street	Breach of Curfew	0
11/06/20	15:35	High Street	ASB	0
11/06/20	21:09	High Street	Breach of curfew	0
11/06/20	21:41	Waterborne Walk	Drugs	0
13/06/20	17:23	Waitrose	Miscellaneous	0
19/06/20	19:14	North Street	Street Drinking	0
19/06/20	20:28	High Street	Intelligence	0
19/06/20	22:20	North Street	Drugs	0
20/06/20	02:54	High Street	Drugs	0
28/06/20	01:04	High Street	Robbery	0
29/06/20	23:08	Waterborne Walk	Drugs	0

**JULY 2020**

Date	Time	Location	Type of Crime	Arrests
07/07/20	21:54	High Street	Intoxicated Male	0
08/07/20	17:21	Waterborne Walk	Intelligence	0
10/07/20	00:37	Waterborne Walk	Drugs	0
10/07/20	20:14	Lake Street	Affray	0
11/07/20	22:13	Market Square	Affray	0
11/07/20	22:57	Lake Street	Intelligence	0
14/11/20	16:00	High Street	Intelligence	0
15/07/20	19:32	North Street	Street Drinking	0
16/07/20	22:46	Road Traffic Collision	High Street	0
17/07/20	20:43	High Street	Criminal Damage	0
17/07/20	23:32	Lake Street	Affray	0
18/07/20	18:38	North Street	Public Disorder	0
18/07/20	19:52	North Street	Public Order	0
19/07/20	20:48	North Street	Street Drinking	0
22/07/20	10:37	High Street	Begging	0
22/07/20	11:49	High Street	Street Drinking	0
23/07/20	13:08	High Street	Shoplifting	0
23/07/20	16:32	Waterborne Walk	Shoplifting	0
24/07/20	11:59	High Street	Begging	0
25/07/20	12:51	North Street	Public Disorder	1
25/07/20	20:36	High Street	Public Disorder	0
25/07/20	00:27	Wing Road	Stabbing	0
27/07/20	21:36	High Street	Public Disorder	1
28/07/20	13:59	Waterborne Walk	Begging	0
29/07/20	20:34	Breach of The Peace	Lake Street	0

**SAFER CENTRAL – COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY**

The Community Safety team want to know what community safety issues are important to you – whether you are new to the area or have been a resident for a long time. Your views will help to set Safer Central’s priorities.

Safer Central brings together Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedfordshire Police, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Services, Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Offender Management Services and other partner agencies to work together to make Central Bedfordshire a great place to live and work.

Take the survey [Here](#).



### Public Space CCTV

CBC has a project to upgrade its public space CCTV system, including a new Control Room and new cameras. The new Control Room will be built at the existing Council depot at Thorn Turn, north of Dunstable. Currently a detailed tender specification is being written for release to the market this autumn aimed at national CCTV suppliers and installers. It is anticipated that the work will be completed in the summer of 2021. It is intended that all existing Council owned CCTV cameras in L. Buzzard town centre will be replaced with modern HD digital cameras, with an additional camera (budget permitting) being added to the junction of Hockliffe Street and North Street. Advantages of a new system should include 'cloud based' evidence sharing with the police eliminating the need for the creation and collection of DVDs, and wireless signal transmission for cameras (largely replacing BT fibre) allowing for more flexibility in camera deployment and cost effectiveness.

### Safer Neighbourhood Officers

CBC is recruiting a new team of Safer Neighbourhood Officers who will be accredited by Bedfordshire Police under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) and be provided with some police powers. The powers are similar, though not as extensive, as those of a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). 5 of the required 12 officers have been recruited and are currently in training. A further 5 are due to start before the end of August. The scheme will go live this autumn.

## 2. BUSINESS, INVESTMENT, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS

Since Covid 19 we have continued to contact local employers through our business engagement programme to gather intelligence on the impact of the current situation, in addition we have been identifying businesses that are making redundancies and offering our help through the National Careers Service by offering support with CV writing, Online Job Searching, Application Forms and Interview Techniques.

We have also been responding to circa 600 general business/self-employed/residents requests to help whether it is signposting residents for food parcels, fuel top-up to claiming benefits. With regards to businesses, we have been signposting them to government business support packages and working with our Revenue and Benefits team to support businesses to claim the small business and discretionary grant scheme. To date, 559 grants have been awarded in Leighton Buzzard area accounting for £7.2 Million

The Council has produced a [list of frequently asked questions about re-opening your business](#) following the relaxation of the lockdown regulations as of Saturday 4 July. Among the topics covered are health and safety advice, selling alcohol in beer gardens or car parks and parking.

As part of the Local Outbreak Control Plan for workplaces, there is a [guidance flowchart \(PDF\)](#) on the CBC Coronavirus pages which outlines the steps you should take as an employer, if there is an outbreak of COVID-19 in your workplace / premises / establishment. We have been promoting the

guidance through our business comms channels and we are writing to businesses to outline the procedures and to offer our support.

With regards to Inward Investment enquiries, since the beginning of this financial year to date we have received 15 enquiries from businesses looking to either relocate or start-up in the Leighton Linlade area with sizes ranging from 1000 sq ft to 50 acres predominantly seeking industrial units followed by retail space in the area.

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

During the past few months since the impact of Covid-19 really began with the country going into lockdown in March, the Council's Employment and Skills Service (BESS) has continued to deliver programmes via its in-house team and a range of external training providers working as part of the BESS partnership. What started the year as classroom delivery moved to an online model as soon as possible after those classes closed. Whilst this wasn't possible for all courses, the majority made the transition successfully, which enabled BESS to reach local residents who might otherwise not have been able to attend classes. However, the team is aware that online learning isn't accessible to everyone and so hopes to move through September with more of a blended model; delivering via both classrooms and online.

At the time of writing, we are nearly at the end of the 2019/20 academic year and to date 118 Leighton Linlade learners have generated 229 enrolments. Of this, the number since the Covid-19 lockdown started in March has been 37 learners with 91 enrolments (i.e. a number of learners doing more than one course). Across the year, 67 of the learners were unemployed, 35 of which were actively looking for work.

The three most popular courses in terms of enrolments have been the You Programme delivered by Impact Mental Health, Move Forward with English and Move on in English (both delivered by the Service's in-house delivery team).

The most popular courses since March have been those dealing with Health and Wellbeing.

Courses continue through August and will pick up in number during September. Some are accredited so residents can work towards qualifications to help them gain work or support a career change/career progression.

The BESS curriculum includes:

- English
- ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)
- Maths
- IT and digital skills
- Support with wellbeing and mental health
- Preparing for employment
- Working with and supporting children and young people
- Apprenticeships

A list of workshops and courses with information and how to enrol can be seen by looking at our [upcoming course list](#).

An overview of the workshops and courses available can be seen by looking at our [curriculum map](#).

If residents would like someone to help them get started on the right course they can [contact us](#) with their details. They should use the comments box in the online form to let the BESS team know what learning they are interested in. An adviser or the relevant training provider will then get in touch to help them you started.

### 3. LEISURE, LIBRARIES & COUNTRYSIDE

#### LIBRARIES SELECT AND COLLECT SERVICE

Our Library Services have launched a new Select and Collect service at all twelve of our libraries. This means that residents are now able to request, borrow and return books at libraries, without entering the building, ensuring the safety of customers and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Great news for those of us who enjoy curling up with a 'real' book! During the pandemic, the service has enhanced the digital offer available on the virtual library, whilst making it even easier for new customer to sign up and become online library members. Daniel Waller, Library Services Manager Said: "Our Library team is amazing. Not only have they stepped up to help during the peak of the crisis while the libraries were closed, they have now developed a new COVID-secure way of delivering services to our customers. We'll continue to look at how we deliver our services in new and different ways."

#### TIDDENFOOT LEISURE CENTRE

Our Aqua ed programme was a success in 2020, the programme expanded from 1600 swimmers to 1660 by March 2020.

We have also offered more crash courses and distance nights throughout the year to really push the swimmers to reach the potential.

We introduced new classes to our programme which were a big hit.

Tiddenfoot was hitting 80% capacity for the group exercise classes every week. These positive numbers were driven by local leaflet drops and our social media pages. We have a varied social media page ensuring all areas of the centre are targeted.

We won a completion from techno gym for having the best social media posts during their make a move challenge 2019.





We were just about to roll out our fitcamp classes but sadly COVID19 shut us down. Since restarting these in August 2020 they have been a huge success with a full class of 25 people for first 2 sessions.

Over 57,000 visitors to the centre were recorded in the first quarter.



Sadly, as the Centre really started to make progress after a slow start, on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020, The Government announced that all Leisure Centres and Libraries were to close their doors for an indefinite period as we reached the upward curve of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## COUNTRYSIDE SITES

### LEIGHTON BUZZARD/RUSHMERE COUNTRY PARK

As a result of national guidance which informed Partners decision making, as of the **1st April 2020** all visitor facilities and car parks were closed, however sites remained open for access via foot or bike. During this period there was a reduced operational staff numbers to an absolute minimum required to cover critical site checks /safety works and maintain this access.

### Recovery Planning

Partners recognised that Rushmere remained a key facility for the area, with its significant role in providing a relatively safe haven for exercise and peoples general well-being. With the risk of contracting Covid recognised as being significantly reduced in the open air, Rushmere, which had sought to maintain access throughout, was quickly overwhelmed by visitors.

A recovery plan was produced which adapted the site and the operations to address the evident public demand / need, with an understanding of emerging guidance, sensitivity to risk and the need to also ensure medium to long term sustainability.

### Restart

With CBC support Rushmere began to restart its visitor facilities with adaptations through the above planning to mitigate the risks associated with public access and Covid. Priority was given to car parking and to address the inappropriate parking on local roads, and toilets as related antisocial behaviour was creating other risks. Basic take away refreshment and visitor support was also enabled.

As of the 1<sup>st</sup> July all visitor centres remained closed to the public, as were all play areas and equipment. Ridge Rider Activity area remained closed but X-country Trails kept open throughout.

### Visitor Numbers

Visitor numbers have exceeded Covid expectations significantly, though it's difficult to predict if this trend will continue to the same extent. Visitors should check the website regarding open hours/ activities.

### OTHER CBC COUNTRYSIDE SITES

All sites have remained open throughout the Covid pandemic, we have experienced (as nationally) an increase in visitor numbers, regrettably whilst a lot has been positive and new users, we have encountered considerable inappropriate ASB regarding litter, inappropriate activities/uses of car parks.

Volunteer operation were stopped during this period, although with the easing of lockdown/activities, we are experiencing a slow return to volunteering, ensuring social distancing is being maintained. Volunteers have been doing a fantastic job in keeping the sites clear of the additional litter being generated by the increase in visitor numbers.

We have also completed the Tiddenfoot Waterside Park (TWP) / Southern Meadow permissive path and bridge – this is proving to be a popular addition in connecting TWP to the retail area along Grovebury Road, further works are being planned regarding in improving pedestrian access to the route from along Grovebury Road. A gate along the route was recently stolen, we are currently waiting for quotes to replace/rearrange the route ahead of a soft launch of the route – ensuring Covid / Social Distancing is maintained for users of the route.

### COMMUNITY PHYSICAL - ACTIVITY ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

*Please note that as of March 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 the Community Programme was suspended due to COVID-19.*

Active Lifestyles		
Activity	Venue	Number of Participants attending each week January – March 16 <sup>th</sup>
Xplorer	Rushmere Park October 1 Session	56
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

The Physical Team continue to deliver a non-clinical Active Lifestyle Referral Pathway across Central Bedfordshire and have done throughout the pandemic. Although numbers have been low the team have adapted the service to provide more advice and guidance over the phone/internet. The team offer motivational one-to-one patient support programme to help individuals to maintain their motivation so that they continue to be active.

Looking forward:

- **Low impact outdoor exercise sessions**

The team have recruited new fitness professionals to deliver low impact outdoor exercise sessions. We are currently in the process of setting one up in Leighton Buzzard. All sessions will be outside. For more information please contact

[active.lifestyles@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:active.lifestyles@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

- **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. The team hope to start these classes across Central Beds from September onwards.

- **Coming Soon - Health & Wellbeing Kiosks  
Monitor/Track/Set Personal Goals**

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.

The kiosks are being installed at Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre and Leighton Buzzard Library w/c 17<sup>th</sup> August and will hopefully go live in September. For more information please email [boditrax@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:boditrax@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)



## 4. COMMUNITY SERVICES

**LEIGHTON BUZZARD MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK HAS REOPENED**

With work to make it COVID-secure complete, Central Bedfordshire Council reopened the multi-storey car park in the newly pedestrianised Leighton Buzzard High Street at 7am on Tuesday, 28 July

To ensure the health and safety of car park users during the pandemic and reduce the potential for spread of the virus, the lift will not be in use and but there are disabled bays and parent and family friendly parking spaces on the ground floor. Disabled bays have been created on in the High Street itself, operating on a 'one in, one out' basis during while it remains pedestrianised.

There are also open-air car parks close to the town centre in Hockliffe Street and Duncombe Drive.

With all car parks open, people will be able to choose which of the car parks available best suit their needs.

## **5. HIGHWAYS**

### **PARKING & ENFORCEMENT**

From 1<sup>st</sup> January – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020, 801 Penalty Charge Notices were issued in Leighton buzzard.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January – 30<sup>th</sup> June, 173 Penalty Charge Notices were issued in Leighton Linlade.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2746 visits were made to Leighton Buzzard.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January – 30<sup>th</sup> June 1092 visits were made to Leighton Linlade.

Extra resources to assist with new road layouts to promote social distancing on the High Street.

### **COVID-19 IMPACT ON HIGHWAYS**

CBC used it Covid-19 emergency powers to close the High Street to traffic other than cycles and delivery vehicles on 20<sup>th</sup> June using an experimental traffic regulation order. Under the same order, Lake Street was made one-way from the point immediately north of the Fire Station service road. The scheme of works also included the use of barriers to create additional footway width on both Bridge Street and Hockliffe Street.

These works are part of a wider programme of measures designed to enable schools, shops and service businesses to reopen safely, particularly in regard of the need to maintain appropriate social distancing. For retail and hospitality businesses, the scheme takes space away from traffic for the benefit of pedestrians and allows use of the public realm for trading and queuing. It also dedicates a large area for the Town Council to host activities such as regular street markets.

During its initial period the operation of the High Street was continuously monitored and changes introduced to help residents and business adapt to the closure. The liaison work undertaken by Victoria Harvey in her capacity as CBC Ward and Town Councillor and by Gennaro Borelli of LB First over this period was very much appreciated by officers.

The experimental order period, which could extend to a maximum eighteen months, acts as a consultation period. All feedback received will be logged, reviewed and reported at the point a decision is made by CBC as whether to make the changes should become permanent or reversed

CBC is reliant on the Town Council to monitor and track the impact of the pedestrianisation scheme on vitality of the town centre, accepting that lockdown meant that there is no real baseline from which to measure against as only 'essential' businesses were trading at the point of its introduction.

Work is to start soon on removing road markings on the pedestrianised Leighton Buzzard High Street before we introduce additional planters, benches and a parasol to support outdoor dining.

Councillor Ian Dalgarno, our Executive Member for Community Safety, explained:

We want to take steps so that residents and visitors feel what used to be the road is now public open space.

We're looking at examples of how other towns have used colour and street art within recently pedestrianised roads as this will help normalise using the space that has been created.

We are also keen to see more businesses make use of outdoor space for trading there, so we've set up a quick, simple system to gain permission. The first step is to set up a mock-up, take a picture and email it to [traffic.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:traffic.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk).

Further improvements are planned for both Bridge Street and Hockliffe Street to aid social distancing alongside temporary shelters and more seating in West Street for bus users. There will also be a barrier installed to control access to the High Street.

Councillor Dalgarno however warned:

"There is a high demand for all kinds of highways street furniture as every council in is making changes during the pandemic. This means it is impossible to give accurate timescales because of the stress on the supply chain. But we progress the changes and improvements as quickly as we can.

We will continue to listen to feedback on how the scheme is working and remain open to making changes. But it is pleasing to hear feedback from some of the business owners who initially were worried about pedestrianisation have now completely changed their minds and now strongly support it.

Although currently the pedestrianisation scheme is temporary, there is no set date for its withdrawal as this will depend on government guidance relating to the pandemic and keeping people safe. A decision to extend the High Street closure would be subject to a public consultation. Until then we will continue to listen and respond to feedback on how the changes are working."

## 6. 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) as recorded on the 20th July 2020.

**1) UPDATE ON NEETS WITHIN THE 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	3023	2916 (96.4%)	83 (2.7%)
17 year olds / Year 13	2882	2669 (92.6%)	111 (3.8%)
<b>Combined Cohort</b>	<b>5905</b>	<b>5648 (95.4%)</b>	<b>194 (3.2%)</b>

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

	Dunstable		Houghton Regis		Leighton Linlade	
Total YPs in area	851		485		902	
EET	796	93.5%	446	92.0%	865	95.9%
NEET	45	5.3%	33	6.8%	28	3.1%
Unknown/ Refused	19	1.2%	6	1.2%	9	1.0%

**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 the Year 12-13 cohort	Total number of YPs recorded as NEET	% of NEET within ward
Leighton Buzzard North	302	10	3.3%
Leighton Buzzard South	282	7	2.5%
Linslade	239	5	2.1%
Heath and Reach	79	6	7.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>3.1%</b>

**b) SUMMARY OF THE LEIGHTON LINSLADE NEET COHORT BY AGE, TIME AND THEIR CURRENT STATUS**

Actual Age (Year 12 & 13)		Length of Time NEET		Gender	
16 Years Old	0	Less than 3 months	0	Male	19
17 Years Old	13	3-6 months	6	Female	9
18 Years Old	15	6+ months	22	Other/Refused	0

**c) SUMMARY STATUS OF THE LEIGHTON LINSALDE NEET COHORT**

Status		
Seeking Employment or Training	22	78.6%
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances	6	21.4%

**7. SCHOOLS****SCHOOL ADMISSIONS**

The next school place application round for admission in September 2021 opens in September 2020. Below are the closing dates:

School Type	Deadline for applications
Secondary and Upper School	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2020
Starting School (Reception)	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Transfer to middle school	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2021

Schools will be having their open days from September 2020 onwards. Information about when these will take place is published on the CBC website and will also be advertised at schools.

The Admissions Team works closely with schools and provides them with school place application information that they need to share with parents whose children will be transferring in September 2021.

We are in the process of updating our website so that parents are clear about when to apply and what is needed.

As ever we encourage parents to apply on time for a place using the online application which can be found on the CBC School Admissions web pages on the following link:

<https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions>

These pages 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.

#### **ACADEMIC CALENDAR – 2021/2022**

This is now available and can be found on the CBC website from 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. Schools and academies within Central Bedfordshire have been issued in advance of publication a copy of the 2021/22 calendar.

#### **CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

2021/22 Admission arrangements for CBC Schools were determined by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and published on the Council's website.

For admission arrangement changes due to take effect from September 2022, the consultation period commences October 2020. The consultation period must last a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

Any proposed change will be consulted upon in accordance with the School Admissions Code.

#### **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 being expanded and will provide additional school places from September 2020.

#### **SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE**

As part of the Council's 'Schools for the Future' programme a 12-week consultation was carried out, from January to April 2020, seeking views on the proposed changes to the schools within the Fulbrook Pyramid (Phase 1) of the Leighton Linlade Cluster. Details of the proposed changes and the consultation are available on the CBC website [here](#)

The Council's Executive considered the results of the consultation and agreed, at their meeting on 17 July 2020, to a staggered delivery of Phase 1 - the report is available of the CBC website [here](#).

Phase 1a = Swallowfield Lower School, Aspley Guise Lower School and Fulbrook Middle School.

It was agreed that a statutory consultation for the proposed changes to Swallowfield Lower School and Aspley Guise Lower School be published in September 2020. Fulbrook Middle School, which is an academy, is not subject to a statutory consultation but requires approval from the Regional Schools Commissioner for any changes.

Phase 1B = Husborne Crawley, Ridgmont and Woburn Lower Schools.



The Executive agreed that a further 'Have your say' consultation be launched in late 2020 regarding the proposed amalgamation of the 3 schools and the proposed site for the new school.

## **8. PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### **WARD COUNCILLOR GRANT SCHEME- COVID-19 EXTENSION**

Councillors are to be given extra funding so that they help local groups in their area affected by the impact of COVID-19.

Each year, as part of the Ward Councillor Grant Scheme, councillors are given £2000, which they can allocate to groups in their area which aim to improve the lives of local people.

At a meeting on Tuesday 16 June, our Executive agreed a proposal to extend the existing **Ward Councillor Grant Scheme** and allocate an additional £1000 to each ward councillor. This is to enable them to support local groups that are dealing with the direct consequences of the current public health emergency. Unlike the existing scheme, bids for the additional funds do not require match funding.

Many local voluntary and community groups, both new and well established, have stepped up to help as part of their response to the pandemic, playing a phenomenal role in their parishes, villages and towns. This will undoubtedly have put pressure on their resources.

Local councillors know their area best and are well placed to spend the money where it will make the most difference. For some groups a small grant can make a big difference to how they make it through this pandemic.

The scheme has already funded 15 applications totalling £9,244. In many cases multiple Councillors have brought together their funds to provide a more significant impact.

### **WARD COUNCILLOR GRANT SCHEME**

The Ward Councillor Grant Scheme has now funded 103 applications totalling £65,555 with the funds allocated to Councillors in the 2019/2020 period. With the new allocation on funds in April 2020 Councillors have provided grants to 8 different organisations totalling £5,012.

### **COMMUNITY ASSETS GRANT SCHEME**

The second bidding round of the Community Assets Grant Scheme closes on September 1 2020 at 5pm. £260,000 is available in this bidding round and eligible groups can apply for a grant of up to £25,000 to improve or provide new community infrastructure. Match funding is required to cover 50% of the total costs of the project seeking funding.

### **VOLUNTEERING NEWSLETTER**

Our second newsletter for volunteers has now been published. It includes volunteering news, stories and information and can be viewed here:

<https://centralbedfordshire.box.com/s/2r7dfi7i77pzkogafz7qk9rdx34cm1a1>

### **CHEERING VOLUNTEERING**

We are re-thinking our annual Cheering Volunteering event due to COVID 19 and the restrictions on public gatherings. Meanwhile nominations and photos can be submitted at the [following link](#).

## **9. PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **RECOVERING FROM COVID-19 – A NEW NHS WEBSITE**

**The NHS has produced a new website to help navigate recover from COVID-10. Visit [ourcovidrecovery.nhs.uk](https://ourcovidrecovery.nhs.uk)**

If you've had coronavirus it's understandable that you'll want to get back to normal as quickly as possible – but it can take time. As you find yourself recovering from COVID-19 you may still be coming to terms with the impact the virus has had on both your body and mind. These changes should get better over time, some may take longer than others, but there are things you can do to help.



The Your COVID Recovery website helps you to understand what has happened and what you might expect as part of your recovery. It looks at:

- Managing the effects
- Your wellbeing
- Your round to recovery

It also has information for family, friends and carers.

### **HOLIDAY PICNIC INITIATIVE & KEEPING CHILDREN HEALTHY AND ACTIVE THIS SUMMER**

#### **HOLIDAY PICNIC**

A pilot project to improve the health and wellbeing of children (4-12) and their families has begun distributing at least 1,250 meals a week over the school summer holidays.

The Holiday Picnic pilot is a joint initiative between our public health and children's services with [Team Beds & Luton](#) (Bedfordshire's Active Partnership), created in response to some of the pressures resulting from [COVID-19](#) and to improve access to healthy affordable food.

By engaging with families, the scheme aims to improve the health and readiness to restart school in September of over 500 children and their siblings, as well as encouraging families to spend more positive time together.

We worked with schools in Central Bedfordshire who helped to identify the participating families, who have been collecting, a healthy pre-prepared picnic lunch with food for the entire family once a week from our [Children's Centres](#).

This will supplement the [government's decision](#) to offer supermarket vouchers over the summer to children eligible for free school meals.

## KEEPING ACTIVE

[Research](#) has shown that the decrease in structured activity over the summer holidays, compared with term time, can negatively affect children's learning and attainment.

So, families have been receiving an age appropriate activity pack, to promote exercise, physical activity and use of Central Bedfordshire's [parks](#) and [outdoor spaces](#) in order to get active and have fun, while keeping as safe as possible.



We know that families have also had to stay indoors for long periods of time and though some restrictions are starting to ease it remains important to keep practicing [existing social distancing measures and hygiene guidelines](#).

## 10. SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & HOUSING

### THE FORMER POLICE STATION – SITE OF A NEW CARE HOME

The work to deliver the new care home at Hockliffe Road continues with the expectation that the detailed design will be put forward for planning in September. The care home design features 63 en-suite rooms, a kitchen, dining and other community rooms and landscaped gardens. Subject to a successful planning application, work will start on site in spring 2021 and the care home will open in summer 2022.

Related to this is the consultation on the future of the day centre on Duncombe Drive. A consultation on the potential to move the day centre into the new care home was ongoing when the Covid-19 outbreak began. In response, day services were suspended and the consultation was then paused. No decision will be made on the future of the day centre until the consultation is able to be completed and the Council's Executive has received a report on the outcome of that consultation.

## 11. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES UPDATE

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS:**

There has been the need to increase the frequency of emptying of the Towns glass banks, litter and dog waste bins on a site by site basis to contain and manage the increased volumes of glass, litter and dog waste that is being placed in these receptacle as Residents being to become familiar with the easing of lockdown restrictions and take advantage of the open spaces to take more regular exercise.

There has also been an increase in the deposit of clothing, textiles and items that Residents consider as re-usable outside of the smaller charitable organisations and, whilst these premises remain closed, we are removing these items and recycling them when able.

Street and Associated Cleansing operatives continue to be mindful as to the safe and proper handling of discarded PPE we are finding around the Town and in, and around, Town Centre Car Parks where residents continue to discard them after use.

Collection Teams, Street and Associated Cleansing Teams, Grounds Maintenance Services and Dog Retrieval services worked throughout the lock down period with only minor service disruptions. Green Waste collections were suspended to ensure the sufficiency of staff to deploy the primary services however this service was re-started at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Household Waste Recycling Centre continues to be available to Residents but the booking system, which appears to be working well, is still in place to ensure safety of site staff and users of the HWRC and to continue be able to manage site numbers to ensure Social distancing requirements.

**KEY ISSUES:**

Dog warden patrols for dog fouling have been carried out in: Bassett Road, Billington Road, Church Square, Harrow Road, Kestrel Way, Plantation Road, Southcourt Avenue and Vandyke Road.

**12. 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).

**Current consultations**

Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer
Woodside LDO	Consultation on the revision and extension of the Woodside LDO	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	7 Sept 2020	Christine McGoldrick 0300 300 4557

**Upcoming consultations**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Lead officer</b>
Leighton Buzzard Day Centre	Consultation on the future of Leighton Buzzard Day Centre	14 Feb 2020	Paused due to covid-19	Tobin Stephenson 0300 300 4098
Short breaks and Personalisation	Consultation on the longer-term options for the development of the funding and delivery offer for non-residential Short Breaks for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) and their families.	3 Mar 2020	Paused until schools return	Branwen Harris 0300 300 6863