

## CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

4 FEBRUARY 2021

Purpose of report: For information

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**1. COMMUNITY SAFETY****SAFER COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIP TEAM**

Safer Communities Involvement Officer have been joint working with Bedfordshire Police on 2 cases in the Leighton Buzzard area, issues raised were around anti-social behaviour and drug activity.

Weekly virtual 'drop in' sessions are being offered to Town and Parish Councils to raise Community Safety issues.

**CCTV REPORTS****OCTOBER 2020**

Date	Time	Location	Type of Crime	Arrests
01/10/20	18:47	Waterborne Walk	Theft	0
06/10/20	12:02	High Street	Breach of Community Protection Notice	0
10/10/20	19:40	High Street	Anti-social Behaviour	0
10/10/20	21:35	West Street	Assault	0
11/10/20	17:33	Parsons Rec	Intelligence	0
11/10/20	22:20	Market Square	Concern for Safety	0
15/10/20	15:21	Waterborne Walk	Shoplifting	0
16/10/20	15:09	North Street	Begging	0
16/10/20	15:59	High Street	Begging	0
17/10/20	17:52	High Street	Intelligence	0
18/10/20	13:49	Parsons Rec	Intelligence	0
18/10/20	01:03	High Street	Offensive Weapon	0
21/10/20	16:32	Waterborne Walk	Shoplifting	0
23/10/20	12:51	High Street	Begging	0
24/10/20	10:14	High Street	Begging	0
24/10/20	17:31	Parsons Rec	Intelligence	0
27/10/20	17:38	North Street	Intelligence	0

**NOVEMBER 2020**

Date	Time	Location	Type of Crime	Arrests
03/11/20	11:50	Peacocks	Theft	0
04/11/20	16:40	North Street	Intelligence	0
05/11/20	00:34	High Street	Affray	0
05/11/20	22:14	Duncombe Drive	Arson	0
13/11/20	14:00	Parsons Recreational Ground	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
13/11/20	14:15	Waterborne Walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
13/11/20	17:22	West Street Car Park	Criminal Damage	0
14/11/20	15:00	West street Car Park	Criminal Damage	0
15/11/20	12:05	High street	Shoplifting	0
18/11/20	12:10	Baker street	Begging	0

21/11/20	16:39	Waterborne Walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
21/11/20	21:00	North Street	Begging	0
25/11/20	20:47	Waterborne Walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
27/11/20	20:25	Astral Park	Drugs	0

**DECEMBER 2020**

Date	Time	Location	Type of Crime	Arrests
01/12/20	17:34	Waterborne walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
01/12/20	21:19	West Street	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
03/12/20	17:07	Waterborne walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
05/12/20	01:38	Waterborne Walk	Drugs	0
06/12/20	18:14	Waterborne Walk	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
06/12/20	18:34	North Street	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
10/12/20	11:08	High Street	Begging	0
11/12/20	11:14	Waterborne Walk	Shoplifting	0
11/12/20	14:55	High Street	Begging	0
15/12/20	14:30	High Street	Boots	0
17/12/20	14:30	High Street	Anti-Social behaviour	0
20/12/20	04:35	West street	Assault	1
23/12/20	18:27	Bridge street	Suspicious Activity	0
24/12/20	10:14	High Street	Begging	0
28/12/20	13:55	High Street	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
28/12/20	14:11	High Street	Begging	0
29/12/20	11:44	High Street	Begging	0
29/12/20	12:53	North Street	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
29/12/20	23:05	North Street	Begging	0

**1 AUGUST 2020 – 31 DECEMBER 2020**

During this period there were 289 cases open to the Community Safety Operations Team:

- Abandoned Vehicle – 1
- Accumulation of Waste – 3
- Community Littering – 2
- Dog Barking – 20
- Dog Fouling – 7
- Fly Posting – 3
- Fly Tipping – 36
- Graffiti – 1
- Malicious Communications – 1
- Nuisance Neighbours – 21
- Pollution – Light - 7
- Pollution – Noise – 148

- Pollution – Odour – 21
- Rowdy/Inconsiderate Behaviour – 6
- Side Waste Offences – 2
- Vehicle Nuisance – 6
- Waste Transfer – 2

1 x Fixed Penalty Notice served for Fly-Tipping

1 x Community Protection Warnings served

## COVID-19 STEWARDS

We have employed 16 COVID-19 stewards to support businesses and the public in increasing understanding of COVID-19 public health measures, such as social distancing, wearing face coverings in appropriate settings and hand washing.

The stewards are undertaking patrols across Central Bedfordshire to engage, explain and encourage best practice and promote the national guidance.

The stewards have no enforcement powers, but they will gather intelligence and information on potential COVID-19 regulation breaches and feedback to the relevant officers in the Council to support further investigation and possible enforcement. They will also report incidents to Bedfordshire Police.

The stewards, who work from 9am to 9pm seven days a week, are undertaking visits in Biggleswade, Sandy, Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable, Ampthill, Flitwick, Shefford and Houghton Regis. They are wearing video cameras on their bodies and high visibility jackets to identify them as Council COVID-19 stewards.

Officers from our public protection and community safety teams are continuing to undertake regular patrols and visits to businesses across the whole of Central Bedfordshire, to ensure everyone is adhering to government guidelines and offering advice and support where needed.

The stewards are provided through a contract with CYS Security Ltd and have been hired initially for 12 weeks, starting from 11 January 2021.

Anyone who has concerns about businesses not complying with the measures set out, should email [trading.standards@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) the subject 'COVID Business Compliance'. Reports will then be investigated by the appropriately delegated officers.

## 2. BUSINESS, INVESTMENT, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS

The team continue to engage with Central Bedfordshire's key employers through our business engagement programme to gather intelligence on the impact of the current situation. For example, Peli Biothermal a Leighton Buzzard owned business are a global name in temperature-controlled packaging and they are currently supporting pharmaceutical companies and their supply chains to bring COVID-19 vaccines to the market.

We have also been responding to the recent business grant enquiries and have been signposting them to government business support packages and working with our Revenue and Benefits team to support businesses to help claim the different grants available to them.

New business grant - the government has given us details of a new one-off grant for retail and hospitality businesses of up to £9,000 called the Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment (CBLP).

The good news is that businesses will not have to make a fresh application to us. However, some businesses will be required to certify they were trading on Monday, 4 January 2021. We will be emailing asking them to confirm this so please monitor your email. We will not ask for bank details as we already hold this information.

**Businesses eligible for CBLP** will also be supported by a further payment of up to £4,500 under the Local Restrictions Support Grant, depending on rateable value. This is intended to cover the period up and including Friday, 12 February 2021.

**Businesses closed under Tier 4** - we are also contacting businesses that were required to close from Saturday, 19 December by email so we can make payments under the Tier 4 grant scheme. We will then make a payment to these businesses to cover the period up to and including Friday, 12 February 2021.

We only ask you if the business was trading as of Saturday, 19 December 2020 and that they comply with state aid rules. We will not require bank details as we already have this information. No fresh application will be required while these businesses are obliged to remain closed.

Businesses required to close under Tier 4 will automatically receive their one-off CBLP payment of up to £9,000 provided they have responded to our email confirming that they were trading when those restrictions came into force.

#### COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ENQUIRIES – LEIGHTON BUZZARD

##### APRIL – DECEMBER 2020

There were a total of 87 new property enquiries across Central Bedfordshire, 23 of which were interested in Leighton Buzzard – please see table below. We would normally report the conversation rate but unfortunately these take a while to come to fruition (up to a year sometimes). When we do know the investment decision we add it to the reports.

Date taken	Enquiry Ref	Requirement Max Size	Requirement	Reason	Status	Original Location
20/04/20	413	2000 SqFt	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Leighton Buzzard
01/05/20	416	1000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Business start up	Live - Active	Unknown
06/05/20	419	4100 Sq Ft	Industrial	I am based abroad and need a UK site	Live - Active	Cranfield
10/05/20	395	2000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Milton Keynes
12/05/20	417	11000 Sq Ft	Industrial	My business is relocating	Live - Active	Hitchin
16/06/20	420	6500 Sq M	Industrial	My business is relocating	Live - Active	Leighton Buzzard
23/06/20	403	8000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Business start up	Live - Active	Dunstable
13/07/20	422	5000 Sq Ft	Industrial	My business is relocating	Live - Active	Baldock
21/08/20	430	2500 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Sandy
26/08/20	439	3000 Sq Ft	Industrial	My business is relocating	Live - Active	Hatfield

27/08/20	464	100000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Cranfield
04/09/20	437	2000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Business start up	Live - Active	Leighton Buzzard
16/09/20	441	1000 Sq Ft	Restaurant	Expansion	Live - Active	Unknown
22/09/20	445	150000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Cranfield
23/09/20	447	1500 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Dunstable
06/10/20	456	3 Acres	Land	Expansion	Live - Active	London
19/10/20	450	5000 Sq Ft	Retail	Business start up	Live - Active	Dunstable
19/10/20	451	5000 Sq Ft	Industrial	My business is relocating	Live - Active	London
21/10/20	457	4000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Houghton Regis
09/11/20	466	100000 Sq Ft	Land	I am based abroad and need a UK site	Live - Active	Cranfield
13/11/20	467	1500 Sq Ft	Industrial	Business start up	Live - Active	Leighton Buzzard
13/11/20	470	40000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Unknown	Live - Active	Cranfield
16/11/20	468	100000 Sq Ft	Industrial	My business is relocating	Closed	London
10/12/20	475	20000 Sq Ft	Industrial	I am based abroad and need a UK site	Live - Active	Cranfield

**TOWN CENTRE VACANCY RATES IN CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE, AUG 2020- NOV 2020**

Town	Aug-19	Nov-19	Feb-20	Nov-20
Amphill	5.5	3.3	4.4	3.3
Arlesey	12.5	18.8	18.8	18.8
Biggleswade	8.4	8.9	8.2	7.6
Dunstable	10.8	9.6	9.2	12.9
Flitwick	4.4	2.1	6.4	4.3
Houghton Regis	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Leighton Buzzard</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Potton	4.0	0.0	4.0	4.0
Sandy	7.9	7.8	7.7	9.2
Shefford	7.3	4.8	4.8	2.4
Stotfold	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total Rate</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>7.3%</b>

In November 2020, the vacancy rate for all units within towns surveyed was 7.3%. This is an increase from the 7% reported for August 2019. Notable increases in vacant units have been seen in Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable and Sandy. On average, towns in Central Bedfordshire have a vacancy rate of 6.1%.

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

As with other Further Education providers, the Council's Employment and Skills Service (BESS) continues to deliver educational courses via its in-house delivery teams and a range of external training providers working as part of the BESS partnership. As in March 2020, all courses have now moved online and will remain so for the duration of the current lockdown.

Currently in this 2020/21 academic year, 81 Leighton Linlade residents have generated 132 enrolments, despite the general Covid-19 restrictions. Of these learners, 44 were unemployed, 35 of whom were actively looking for work. The most popular courses have been Getting Started with English and Maths, Early Years and Supporting Teaching and Learning. The figures also include three individuals undertaking apprenticeships.

A number of the programmes we offer are accredited, so residents can work towards qualifications which will help them gain employment, support a career change or help residents progress in their specific sectors. Other courses are non-accredited which means that whilst successful learners won't get a recognized qualification, their appetite for learning may have been inspired or they have learned how to progress on a particular career path and are better informed as to the direction they wish to travel.

The BESS curriculum includes courses for the following:

- 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
- Health and Social Care
- Apprenticeships

A list of workshops and courses with information and how to enrol can be seen by looking at our [upcoming course list](#), with an overview of the workshops and courses available on the [curriculum map](#).

If residents would like someone to help them get started on the right course they should [contact us](#) with their details or 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 get started.

## **3. LEISURE, LIBRARIES & COUNTRYSIDE**

### **LEIGHTON BUZZARD LIBRARY**

The Library continues to offer a Select and Collect service and is opening for collections during normal opening hours.

The extensions to our digital resources will continue into 2021.

- Ancestry – access from home is until the 31<sup>st</sup> March and will be reviewed again closer to the date.
- British Newspaper Archive – is extended until four weeks after we return to a more “normal” service.
- Freegal – 24 hour streaming (from the usual 5 hours) has been extended until the end of March

We are working towards being able to open to the public for computer access and browsing.

## THEATRE LIBRARY

With the closure of the Theatre, we are taking this opportunity to carry out some much-needed work. Alongside an asbestos removal programme there will be redecoration of the Auditorium, new stage curtains, and central lighting rig. The theatre lounge will also undergo a partial refurbishment.

With the absence of Live shows Leighton Buzzard Drama Group are delivering an online streaming of Robin Hood and tickets can be purchase through

<https://centralbedfordshire.ticketsolve.com/shows/873622698>

Over the coming months the theatre will be exploring other opportunities to stream live theatre.

## COUNTRYSIDE SITES

### LEIGHTON BUZZARD/RUSHMERE COUNTRY PARK

As a result of recent national lockdown – Rushmere Country Park remains open with adaptations, during this period there will be reduced operational staff numbers and this will be to an absolute minimum to cover critical site checks /safety works and maintain this access.

Rushmere continues to be 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 has remained to maintain access throughout has at times been overwhelmed by visitors. Regretfully there is still inappropriate parking at peak times.

Visitors should check the website and social media before visiting regarding open hours / activities.

### OTHER CBC COUNTRYSIDE SITES

All sites have continued to remain open throughout the Covid pandemic, we continue to experience an increase in visitor numbers, regretfully (as nationally) we have encountered considerable increase in litter within our sites. We have maintained a level of volunteer activities within new guidelines 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.

The Tiddenfoot Waterside Park (TWP) / Southern Meadow permissive path and bridge continues to be popular (with additional litter), we are awaiting for a new litter bin to be installed on site towards the Grovebury Road point.

We continue to support Volunteering activities within Guidelines and Risk Assessments, the final decision to participate is down to the individual, ensuring safe distancing is maintained, not share equipment, take own refreshments etc..

## ACTIVE LIFESTYLES



**ACTIVE LIFESTYLES REFERRAL PROGRAMME** - Referral programme continued though the lockdown. Service was adapted and support was given to those who were currently on the programme. For more information please email [activityforhealth@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:activityforhealth@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

**HEALTH & WELLBEING KIOSKS** – **Out of use due to National lockdown**

**ONLINE ACTIVITY PROGRAMME**- We appreciate this is not one size fits all, however we are working on differing platforms to offer online resources to those who are not on social media.

We are also in the early stages of developing our 'you tube' channel. This will have pre-recorded classes available. Click to subscribe [Central Bedfordshire Active Lifestyles You Tube Channel](#)



## TIDDENFOOT LEISURE CENTRE

Sadly once again the doors to the Centre were closed on the 5<sup>th</sup> November until the 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Upon re-opening in Tier 2 we were able to continue with previous programming before moving to Tier 3 where all indoor classes had to be cancelled and then finally Tier 4 meaning we were closed from Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

With the inability to be able to invite people into the Centre to take part in studio classes (which is such a popular part of the programming at the Centre) the team created a number of on demand classes as well as live stream classes in partnership with Technogym. These classes took off really well and have continued to be a big hit throughout the closure period, allowing our members to still feel part of something special whilst supporting health living goals. Tiddenfoot recognises that lockdown can be tough mentally so it is just as important to reach out and offer more than just physical health benefits.



## 4. HIGHWAYS

### PARKING & ENFORCEMENT

There were 981 PCN' issued in Leighton Buzzard between July and December 2020 and 2,692 visits were made by CEO's to the area.

There were 227 PCN's issued in Leighton Linlade between July and December 2020 and 962 visits were made by CEO's to the area.

## 5. YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES

### 1) UPDATE ON NEEDS WITHIN THE WIDER CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE AREA

The figures presented below are those reported to the Department of Education at the end of November 2020.

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	3025	2935 (97.0%)	60 (2.0%)
17 year olds / Year 13	3008	2782 (92.5%)	143 (4.8%)
<b>Combined Cohort</b>	<b>6033</b>	<b>5717 (94.8%)</b>	<b>203 (3.4%)</b>

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

The figures presented below are based on the data stored within the Youth Support Service's CCIS database for young people as of 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

	Dunstable		Houghton Regis		Leighton Linlade	
Total YPs in area	843		488		911	
EET	797	94.5%	459	94.1%	868	95.3%
NEET	41	4.9%	27	5.5%	38	4.2%
Unknown/ Refused	5	0.6%	2	0.4%	5	0.5%

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

### 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	295	14	4.7%
Leighton Buzzard South	304	14	4.6%
Linslade	234	5	2.1%
Heath and Reach	78	5	6.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>4.2%</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	11	Less than 3 months	23	Male	26
17 Years Old	15	3-6 months	10	Female	12
18 Years Old	12	6+ months	5	Other/Refused	0

### c) SUMMARY STATUS OF THE LEIGHTON LINSLADE NEET COHORT

Status		
Seeking Employment or Training	33	86.8%
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances	5	13.2%

## 6. SCHOOLS

### 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 pupil forecasts are available on our website [here](#).

A need for new school places in Leighton Buzzard from housing developments to the east 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). Both academies have now been successfully expanded and will provide the required number of additional school places.

### SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

Following the conclusion of the consultation process for the proposed changes to the 3 schools within Phase 1a of the Leighton Linlade Cluster, the Council's Executive, at their meeting on 8 December 2020, duly approved a change of age range, from lower to primary, with effect from 2022, for both Aspley Guise and Swallowfield. With Fulbrook Middle (academy) to change to an extended secondary from 2022, this will move this 'Fulbrook Pyramid' from 3 tier to 2 tier.

Information regarding this can be found on the Council's Schools for the Future website [here](#). A further 'Have your say' consultation is to be launched in early 2021 regarding the proposed amalgamation of the 3 schools within Phase 1B, Husborne Crawley, Ridgmont and Woburn Lower Schools, and the proposed site for the new school.

### SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

The Admissions team are now in the process of allocating school places for on-time applications for all transfer rounds for September 2021.

At the time of writing this update, parents who did not apply on time for starting school or transfer to middle school (closing date 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021) will have the opportunity to submit a late application which will be processed once the on-time allocation has been completed.

The number of on-time applications received for transfer to Secondary and Upper was as follows:

- Secondary – 1,000 applications received of which 94% were made online
- Upper – 1934 applications received of which 97% were made online.

For parents who still have not applied for a school place for transfer in September 2021, the closing dates for [late applications](#) are:

Round	Late application deadline
Transfer to Secondary	15 March 2021
Transfer to Upper	15 March 2021
Starting School	30 April 2021
Transfer to Middle	30 April 2021

Parents are encouraged to apply for a place online via our school admission web pages [here](#). If parents are applying now, then their applications will be processed in the late rounds.

If parents have difficulty completing their application, they must contact Admissions who will be happy to help.

Parents will be notified of the outcome of their application for a school place for September 2021 on the following days:

Round	National Offer Day
Transfer to Secondary	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2021
Transfer to Upper	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2021
Starting School	16 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
Transfer to Middle	16 <sup>th</sup> April 2021

## 7. TRANSFORMATION

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

#### COMMUNITY AND VILLAGE HALL SURVEY

In collaboration with Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) we are surveying Community and Village Halls in Central Bedfordshire to ensure we have an up to date understanding of their status and any planned improvements. This will help to inform requests for S106 funding, which must be project based, and the Village Halls Advisor at BRCC can support halls in need of help around governance and management of their facilities.

#### COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

We have engaged with over 200 residents who signed up to be a Community Champion to assist with the amplification of public health messages to help keep residents safe during the pandemic. We estimate that the Champions help us to reach a further 26,000 residents when they share social media posts and email alerts with their friends, families and social networks.

Its easy to sign up on our [website](#)

#### COMMUNITY GRANTS

Subject to budget approval in February we hope to run the Ward Councillor and Community Asset Grant schemes in 2021/22.

#### CHEERING VOLUNTEERING 2020

Our 7<sup>th</sup> Cheering Volunteering event has moved on- line and we will be launching the 'movie' on You Tube in early February.

Central Bedfordshire  
**CHEERING VOLUNTEERING  
AWARDS AND EVENT 2020**



  
Central  
Bedfordshire  
Together

**CONSULTATIONS**

Feedback from the budget consultation will be collated and presented to the February Executive, in advance of decision making on the finalised budget which will be recommended to Full Council.

**CURRENT AND UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS**

Details of current and upcoming consultation activity undertaken by the Council are provided by the Community Intelligence 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
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**Upcoming consultations**

Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer
Schools for the Future – SEND	Consultation on the proposals for the SEND cluster	Dates tbc	Dates tbc	Jody Nason 0300 300 4512
Home to School transport	Consultation on the proposed policies for 5-16 year olds and those attending post 16 education	Dates tbc	Dates tbc	Jody Nason 0300 300 4512

**8. PUBLIC HEALTH**

Public Health commissions Primary Care to deliver Level 2 Stop Smoking Support. The delivery of these Stop Smoking Services through GP Surgeries continues to have been severely impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic and the latest data, from Q2 20/21 shows that the Leighton Buzzard locality is performing under target.

Overall, performance by the Leighton Buzzard Primary Care Network of Practices was at 50% against target for the period up to Q2 20/21 (7 actual quits compared to a target of 14). Of the practices in Leighton Buzzard only Basset Road offers Level 2 Services, whilst the others refer into the CBC Specialist level 3 service. There is no data on Level 3 referrals.

LOCATION	2020/21 SMOKING QUITTERS @ Q2
Basset Road	1 quit (plus 18 referrals into CBC Level 3 Support)
Leighton Road	No quits – not delivering Level 2 Support
Salisbury House	6 (target 14): 43% of target for period

The Stop Smoking Service delivers flexible support options, including telephone support, plus a new app, which continues to support local residents throughout the pandemic.

Extended treatment programmes are available to some residents who would benefit most from them, for example those 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

Email: [stop.smoking@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:stop.smoking@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

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

### **NHS HEALTH CHECKS**

The 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.

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, collected in December 2020, shows that in all Primary Care settings, including Leighton Buzzard, the Coronavirus Pandemic continues to have significant impact on delivery of NHS Health Checks, due to them needing to be delivered face-to-face, with no option for virtual delivery.

48 Health Checks were delivered against a target of 664 for the period (7.2% of annual target to date). They have invited 290 patients for a Health Check (target 1,788) so are performing at 16.2% for that indicator.

The local Practices are performing as follows:

Bassett Road is performing at 17.7% for Health Checks delivered (40 against a target of 226) and 29.7% offered (181 out of 610 target).

Leighton Road is performing at 2.8% for Health Checks delivered (8 against a target of 286) and 14.2% offered (109 out of 770 target).

Salisbury House has still yet to offer or deliver any Health Checks during 2020-21.

COVID continues to present significant disruption to the delivery of Public Health services in Primary Care and will continue to do so as Primary Care Networks are increasingly involved in the organisation and delivery of COVID vaccination programmes. We will continue to work with Practices to identify how we can support them looking to deliver Stop Smoking and Health Check services to their patients.

## **9. PUBLIC PROTECTION**

- 5 visits about Covid control measures
- Instigation of potential prosecution of a barber for failing to comply with health and safety improvement notice.

- 2 improvement notices for barber and hairdresser – both Covid related
- Closure of a car wash – Covid related
- 13 Covid pub checks carried out with 2 fixed penalty notices issued
- 5 firework related inspections.

### COMPLAINTS

- 28 noise complaints
- 5 odour complaints
- 1 bonfire complaint

We had a number of complaints regarding the Tesco's redevelopment in Leighton Buzzard and construction noise taking place outside of permitted hours during November. This went to the local press, radio and the MP. We liaised with residents and subsequently Tesco head office to resolve this and despite poor comms on Tesco part, we did assist in alleviating some of the disturbance before the project was completed.

We also dealt with a number of complaints concerning The W heatsheaf PH concerning noise from patrons outside and breaches of C-19 restrictions. We liaised with the licensing officers at EI Group (the company who own the premises) and a number of joint discussions were held with the police licensing team. Risk assessments for C-19 were submitted and checked and the concerns shared with CBC licensing as the noise in the main, was from persons in the street, which is within their jurisdiction.

### COMMERCIAL TEAM UPDATE

The Commercial Team continue to respond to a variety of complaints regarding non-compliance with Covid regulations and restrictions, and requests to advice and guidance from various businesses around the area, not least due to the rapid escalation in our Tier status over the past few weeks and the changes to the rules and guidance.

We continue to work closely with colleagues in Community Safety to identify areas of non-compliance that warrant further action. One such example was the New Himalaya restaurant in Leighton Buzzard. On a visit to the premises on a separate matter, one of the Council's Community Safety Officers noted that a customer waiting to pick up his takeaway had been served alcohol by the business owner, contrary to current lockdown restrictions for restaurants and public houses. This information was reported to Officers in Public Protection and a fixed penalty notice with a £1000 fine was issued to the business owner as a result.

## 10. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

### LOOKING BACK

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

There has been the need to increase the frequency of emptying of the Town's 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 a result of restrictions.

The increase in deposits of clothing, textiles and items that residents consider as re-usable outside of the smaller charitable organisations continues 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 the high volumes of discarded PPE we are still finding around the Town and in, and around, Town Centre Car Parks where residents continue to discard them after use.

The Household Waste Recycling Centre continues to be available to residents but remain on a booking system which is a simple process of residents booking a slot here:

[https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/2/waste\\_and\\_recycling/612/household\\_waste\\_recycling\\_centres\\_tidy\\_tips](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/2/waste_and_recycling/612/household_waste_recycling_centres_tidy_tips)

and taking along proof of booking and CBC residency. This is to ensure safe throughput of visitors on site and to control queuing.

### KEY ISSUES

Dog warden patrols for dog fouling have been carried out in: Astral Park, Bassett Road, Billington Road, Cedar Close, Harrow Road, Kestrel Way, Stanbridge Road and Vandyke Road.

Incidents of fly tipping remain high and continue to be cleared as soon as possible.

The full width verge cut took place at the end of November/early December which threw a lot of litter out. This has been cleared though in places the problem is ongoing.

With the third lockdown service provision will be continually reviewed with our Contractor and should staffing levels begin to be affected by the new variant strain of Covid 19, services may have to be prioritised to reflect this.

### NEW FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS

Following the Council's 2018 waste consultation which revealed that residents were overwhelmingly supportive of recycling and wanted the option to recycle more of their waste Weekly food waste recycling collections in the south of Central Bedfordshire were introduced in November 2020.

All residents (except those living in flats) received a small 23-litre outdoor food waste bin, smaller indoor kitchen caddy and a roll of food waste caddy liners to all houses together with an A5 4 page leaflet explaining how to use the bins and which food items can and can't be included in the collection. If a resident has not received their food waste kit, they can contact the Council. Take up of the collection has been good.

Further communication was provided to residents, Town and Parish Councils, Customer Services and other relevant stakeholders for the duration of the delivery period through a variety of different channels, including a press release, social media and via the council website.

### GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS

All kerbside garden waste collections are suspended between Monday, 7 December 2020 and Friday, 26 February 2021 inclusive. Collections will resume again on Monday, 1 March 2021.

During the break in service, garden waste can still be recycled at our Household Waste Recycling Centres which are open seven days a week from 9am-5pm, including bank holidays. Certain restrictions due to Covid-19 may be in operation at all four sites.



**11. SUSTAINABILITY**

In September 2020 the Council adopted its Sustainability Plan. This sets out the initial course of action and priorities that the Council will aim to follow to support Central Bedfordshire to become net zero carbon as well as realising the wider co-benefits from considering sustainability in all that the council does. A key part of this will involve engagement and working with key stakeholders, such as town and parish councils, businesses and communities. This will be developed over the coming year. The council's Sustainability Plan can be found on line at: [Climate change - tackling it and our strategy | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

A key first step was taken in December when the Council launched its new Central Bedfordshire Tree Planting Fund, aimed at delivering tree and hedge planting schemes across Central Bedfordshire. Town and Parish Council's, local voluntary and community organisations, schools and other groups can apply for funding (or match funding). Projects can vary in size, from a minimum of five trees upwards, to larger areas of new woodland. Planting more trees and hedgerows represents one of the key ways in which the climate challenge can be met. It will help increase biodiversity and mitigate other environmental issues such as flooding and air pollution. In addition to this, it will help create a nicer environment that benefits communities in many ways. More details can be found at: [Central Bedfordshire Council news and press releases | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

**12. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Date	Meeting	Time
Tues 2 February	Executive (Budget)	9:30am
Wed 10 February	DMC	10:00am
Mon 15 February	CPP	10:00am
Wed 3 March	Traffic Management	10:00am
Thur 4 March	Audit	10:00am
Thur 4 March	Council (Police precept)	5:00pm
Tues 9 March	CS OSC	10:00am
Wed 10 March	DMC	10:00am
Thur 11 March	SC OSC	10:00am
Mon 15 March	SCHH OSC	10:00am
Wed 17 March	Licensing	10:00am
Thur 18 March	CR OSC	10:00am
Thur 25 March	General Purposes	10:00am

**Key:**

CPP – Corporate Parenting Panel

CR OSC – Corporate Resources OSC

CS OSC – Children's Services OSC

DMC - Development Management Committee

HWB – Health & Wellbeing Board

SCHH OSC – Social Care, Health & Housing OSC

*Leighton Linlade*

Partnership Committee

4 February 2021

SC OSC – Sustainable Communities OSC