

**Motion Submitted by Cllr C Palmer (Proposer) and Cllr S Jones (Seconder) for Consideration at the Leighton-Linslade Council Meeting to be held 29 November 2021**

The current Leighton-Linslade Partnership Project List is a mixture of possible future projects where prospective partners vary, or, in some cases may not even exist, and with a number of the items also being of questionable continuing relevance for the Town Council.

***Consequently, we propose:***

- ***That the existing Partnership Project List\* be revised into categories A B C and D as set out below.***
- ***That those projects listed as Category A which have a sole or overwhelming Town Council interest be pursued through the relevant Town Council Committees as part of their objectives, subject to budget constraints within the 5 Year Financial Plan***
- ***That those listed as Category B where Central Bedfordshire Council would be a necessary and significant Partner, form a Partnership List where the Partnership Committee should take a central responsibility albeit in some cases in conjunction with the relevant Town Council Committee***
- ***That those projects listed as Category C which are of importance to the town but where realisation rests very largely with a third party (not Central Bedfordshire Council) are kept under review for any appropriate action by the relevant Town Council Committee(s).***
- ***That those projects listed as Category D be deleted.***

***It is further proposed that any new prospective projects be included in the list under the appropriate Category as and when they are endorsed by Council following a proposal from the relevant Town Council Standing Committee, and /or the Partnership Committee where Central Bedfordshire Council is the significant partner.***

The above recommendation allows for any amendments that should be agreed at this or any future meetings.

\*Descriptions are included for reference

**Committee Responsible**

**A. Projects with a sole or overwhelming LLTC interest**

<p><b>7. Improved Accommodation for Tactic</b> At this stage, the identification of new premises for TACTIC, if appropriate, would seem the responsibility of the Town Council, although other organisations/bodies may need to become involved (eg CBC if a South Side site on CBC land were to be sought).</p> <p><b>29. Recycling of cups and glasses at events</b> Very much a Town Council matter in this context.</p>	<p>Culture &amp; Economic</p>
<p><b>19. Skate Park Improvements</b> Again, initially a project for the Town Council to scope and pursue, bringing in any other bodies/organisations if appropriate at a later stage.</p> <p><b>22. Restoration of Henry Finch Memorial Fountain in Linslade Recreation Ground</b> Again, initially a project for the Town Council to scope and pursue, although there may need to be involvement at some point from CBC as in Conservation Area.</p> <p><b>28. Continue to Promote Greening and Wildflower Planting</b> This is principally for the Town Council to decide upon and pursue, in collaboration/partnership with such other bodies as may be appropriate.</p>	<p>Grounds and Environment</p>

**B. Projects which are a Town Council Aspiration but with CBC a necessary and significant Partner**

<p><b>1 Cultural and Community Facility</b></p> <p>There are two aspects which have now developed during LLTC/CBC work on South side – a new civic building (which could incorporate other facilities for the community) and an Arts/Cultural/Performance facility which, at least initially, may be pursued as a Community-led project in the light of the work done and support for such an element by the local arts’ community. Finance for a feasibility study/business case for a civic facility is being pursued by LLTC with CBC and this overall topic is clearly one for Partnership to continue to actively consider.</p> <p><b>3. Town Centre and Retail Improvements</b></p> <p>A very large part of this relates to South Side, where the scope of the development is to be reassessed as part of the review of the CBC Local Plan and joint working between LLTC and CBC to seek to maintain the development’s profile and accelerate action, continues as a priority. Will obviously include other parties – commercial, other landowners etc.</p> <p><b>6. Provision of a Tourist Information Centre in the town centre</b></p> <p>Given the existing role of the Library, a new development (eg using a new Civic Building on South Side) would need to be worked out with CBC.</p> <p><b>12. Support the Provision of Local School Facilities</b></p>	<p>Partnership</p>
--	--------------------

While the definitive responsibility lies with CBC, this is a matter of the utmost importance and relevance to the Town Council and our residents, especially, as and when any reorganisation is proposed and it must remain a matter of “Partnership” concern.

**13. Ensure the Children’s Centre on Vandyke Road is expanded to cope with demand**

Again, assuming this remains “live”, a project within CBC’s remit but of significance to the Town Council in meeting residents’ needs and is complementary to LLTC’s own relevant activities.

**16. Ensure land is set aside in major developments for future community needs such as leisure and recreation**

This is something which the LLTC Planning and Transport Committee has promoted in relation to such developments over recent years but constructive dialogue in Partnership remains highly desirable, even if the scope for future, major developments in the Town (beyond South Side and Bridge Meadows) is highly constrained.

**21. Leighton-Linslade Green Wheel**

Highly significant item which needs to be kept under Partnership review in terms of its adoption by CBC and implementation.

**22. Secure a new leisure centre as part of the development to the East of the town**

A very significant “Partnership” item given CBC’s responsibility and the relevance to the Town and residents. Progress with its development and implementation (and future of Tiddenfoot) needs to be an important item for the Committee.

**27. Continue to restore sandpits in and around town to public open space**

Given CBC's responsibilities and the potential significance of such spaces to the town, Partnership involvement appears sensible, if any developments are likely in the foreseeable future (something for the Committee, together with any resultant strategy, to consider?)

**31. Promote renewable energy and sustainable living to residents**

Although this goes far wider than LLTC and CBC, it is an issue of significance to both eg LLTC environmental ambitions or CBC's plans for promoting electric vehicle charging points. Clearly, a matter for continued "Partnership" attention.

**32. Campaign for improvements in bus services and community transport services**

Very much a current issue involving both Councils (discussion of the Improvement Plan at Partnership on 9 September 2021) especially in the light of new Government policy. Clearly, however, involves other parties, especially bus operators (and passengers!).

**34. Continued investment in the cycling network and encouragement of increased cycling**

An on-going matter for both Councils and Partnership. Maybe broaden to include pedestrian routes also given the far larger numbers of pedestrians and with the new developments to the east of the town?

**35. Healthcare provision**

<p>Something of the greatest and urgent importance to both Councils and the residents of the town, especially as population growth continues apace, against the background of continuing inadequate facilities in Leighton-Linslade. Obviously, other parties are involved, especially the Clinical Commissioning Group who have the prime designated responsibility. The importance of the matter is such that Partnership's continued close attention and action as appropriate is essential.</p>	
<p><b>New - Town Centre Improvement</b> Upgrade to Alleyways, Pedestrianisation, Business support etc</p>	
<p><b>9. Additional Cemetery Land</b> A matter of great significance for the town but our own efforts to find land within the parish boundaries have been fruitless to date. CBC have promised their support in the search and Land East, currently outside the parish, may also provide some help.</p> <p><b>20. Additional Allotment Land</b> Has common elements with Additional Cemetery Land above.</p>	<p>Partnership/Grounds &amp; Environment</p>
<p><b>8. Vandyke Road Youth Club</b> Though a CBC responsibility, this facility is both of great significance to the town and complementary to Town Council activities such as TACTIC. It should, therefore, remain under joint scrutiny.</p>	<p>Partnership/Culture &amp; Economic</p>
<p><b>18. Ensure any Central Bedfordshire planning strategy incorporates many of the Big Plan requirements deemed essential for future growth</b></p>	<p>Partnership/Planning &amp; Transport</p>

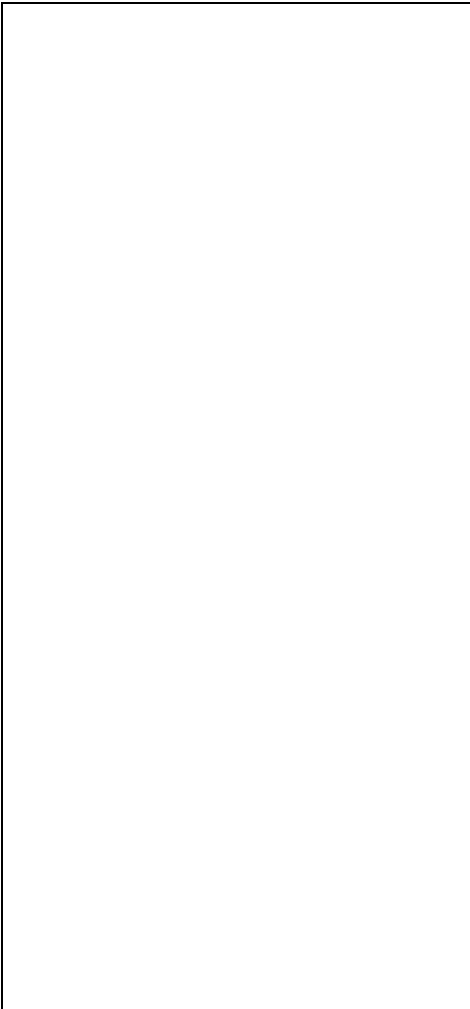
This is extremely important (does the Big Plan cover all?) as the Local Plan is reviewed (nb South Side) and new planning laws are introduced. LLTC involvement in relevant elements of this, including through Partnership working is of the greatest significance in view of the potential impact on the town (eg South Side or Article 4 Direction to prevent damaging change of retail to residential in the High Street without the need for formal planning permission under new Government planning rules).

**14. Employment Land on eastern urban extension**

The Town Council has made its views known to CBC and, while the development remains “in progress”, it is reasonable for this issue to be kept under review in Partnership in view of its importance to the Town.

**17. Ensure social and community infrastructure is available in first phase of future developments**

The same principle applies here as to the preceding Partnership Project.



**C. Projects of importance to the town but where a third party/other organisation may be pre-eminent/in the lead**

**10. Ensure police resources deployed locally keep pace with the town’s population**

Of the greatest importance (and frustration) to the Town Council and residents but, beyond Dodford, is entirely an operational police matter over which the Town Council and CBC have no control.

Community Safety Sub Committee

<p><b>2. Soft Play Facility</b></p> <p>This has been long talked about and there is a public demand for such facilities in the Town Centre. By its nature, this may be something which is better left to the commercial sector (could, for example, be part of a leisure facility on South Side) with the Town Council looking to give its strong support should such a development be proposed.</p>	<p>Possibly Policy&amp; Finance (If a partner becomes available)</p>
--	--

**D. Projects to consider for continuing relevance**

<p><b>33. Consider a Park and Stride Scheme for Rail Commuters</b></p> <p>A potentially important item for Partnership if this remains a feasible and practical proposition (?). Again, other parties could well be involved (eg private landowner(s) if a site identified.</p>	<p>Probably not viable but could be Partnership/Planning&amp; Transport</p>
---	---

<p><b>11. Continue to support the implementation of flood protection measures for Clipstone Brook</b></p> <p>Given actions by the EA and their responsibility for this item, is it still something requiring Partnership highlighting?</p>	<p>EA and Ousel Valley</p>
--	----------------------------

<p><b>15. Support evolution of the town library as a community facility offering a range of services</b></p> <p>The Town Library is clearly an important and valued asset but is there a continuing role for it being on the Partnership Project list in the light of its recent development/refurbishment and ongoing liaison on specifics elsewhere (eg its relationship to any proposed community development on South Side)?</p>	<p>CBC</p>
--	------------



<p><b>24. Provision of clubhouse and launching site for Canoe Club</b></p> <p>This has been a long held Town Council aspiration but, again, is there a continuing role for it being on the Partnership Project list, given the lack of developments over recent years and the uncertain CBC role?</p>	<p>Check Current Status</p>
<p><b>25. Continue to search for a suitable site for a club quality athletics track and facilities</b></p> <p>This would be a valid, and important continuing Partnership Project (eg in relation to any new leisure facilities) but subject to the continuing public requirement for it and assuming that recent improvements to the facilities at Vandyke School do not meet this.</p>	<p>Check Current Status of Vandyke</p>
<p><b>26. Consider Potential for a woodland cemetery, adventure play area, campsite and parking at Rushmere Country Park</b></p> <p>Does this remain relevant given recent developments and the apparent decision against a woodland cemetery at Rushmere?</p>	<p>Not Viable Rushmere not agreeing</p>
<p><b>30. Support development of a small windfarm close to the town to supply a proportion of local electricity needs</b></p> <p>Given developments at Heath and Reach, does this remain a live Partnership project for LLTC?</p>	<p>Superseded by Heath Development</p>
<p><b>5. Continue to promote improvements to available hotel accommodation</b></p> <p>This is relevant insofar as there is the possibility of such development on South Side. However, it would have to be a commercially viable and led development to which the Town Council could lend its support as appropriate, including through the planning process.</p>	<p>We cannot influence except through normal Planning</p>

**4. Utilise the town's waterfronts for a recreational development and support inclusion of a small canal boat marina/quay**

This relates to development of the Bridge Meadow site which does not appear imminent. While the Town Council had aspirations for the site in terms of its contribution to the Town and residents, the existing landowners and CBC (planning approval, s.106 contributions etc) will be major participants as and when.

Can go back on the list if it seems to be 'imminent'