

Leighton-Linslade Partnership Project List – a discussion paper from LLTC Lib Dem Group

**Revision 3
6.9.2021**

The below aspirations (first 4 columns) were adopted by Leighton-Linslade Town Council at its meeting held on 30 September 2019, or were contained within Big Plan II – the parish plan for 2011-2017, adopted by Council on 18 April 2011.

	Description	Source	Comment January 2020	Lib Dem Group comment	Keep in or Delete?
Culture, Heritage & Tourism					
1	Cultural and community facility Reword: to secure a Cultural and community facility in the centre of the town	Council resolution 30/9/2019 & Big Plan II 2010	This is a long term aspiration which might come forward in plans for future development of land south of the High Street. Big Plan II contained an aspiration for a better venue for Arts & Drama and a conference room.	Now being actively considered as an Town Council-led “anchor” development to spark the redevelopment of LSSH.	Keep in. High priority.
2	Soft play facility	Council resolution 30/9/2019	A soft play facility of sufficient size to be useable by a wide range of age groups or needs requires a building of suitable size and height, ideally in an easily accessible location or with car parking. To date no such location has come forward.	Much more expensive per user than say an open air play facility due to building and staffing costs. Commercial facilities already exist.	Delete or low priority
3	Town centre and retail improvements. Revise title to “Plan and implement the Land South Side of the High Street development project”	Big Plan II 2010	Work with partners to implement the 2012 Development Brief for the south side of the High Street and specifically, to attract retailers that the town lacks and increase local employment opportunities. LLTC asked CBC to present an action plan for development of the south side in Feb ‘20.	CBC announced July 2021 that there is no prospect of starting anything on Land SSHS for five years. The idea of LLTC initiating a development is to be discussed at P&F 23/8/21.	Keep in. High Priority.
4	Utilise the town’s waterfronts for a recreational development and support inclusion of a	Big Plan II 2010	2012 Development Brief for land at Bridge Meadow but land not in local authority ownership. Potential for marina development by A505.	Again, should this not be left to commercial developers? Possible marquee CBC project if they ever considered this scale of project.	Delete

	small canal boat marina/quay				
5	Continue to promote improvements to available hotel accommodation.	Big Plan II 2010	The Swan Hotel refurbished and reopened in 2011. Possibility of hotel inclusion on land south of the High Street development.	Should LLTC be involving itself in hotel provision?	Delete
6	Provision of a Tourist Information Centre in the town centre. Re-word: Create a Tourist Information Centre.	Big Plan II 2010	Interim solutions include leaflet racks at Library and multi-storey car park. Town centre free WiFi launched 2020 will provide visitors with fast and free access to information.	Could be provided within an LLTC Community Centre on Land SSHS.	Keep in. Medium priority.
Social Infrastructure					
7	Improved accommodation for TACTIC Reword: Identify and plan TacTic's accommodation needs.	Council resolution 30/9/2019	The Hockliffe Street building, although centrally located, is suitable for limited uses.	What exactly are TACTIC's accommodation needs? Isn't this an LLTC-only project?	Delete as a joint CBC project.
8	Vandyke Road youth club	Council resolution 30/9/2019	This facility is owned and managed by Central Bedfordshire Council. However, the Town Council continues to review services for young people within the parish through its Teenage Advice and Information Centre.	What is LLTC's approach re Youth facilities? If CBC are the normal provider, do we want a role in providing youth services?	Unsure/delete
9	Additional cemetery land Re-word: Secure additional cemetery land	Council resolution 30/9/2019 & Big Plan II 2010	The Town Council has investigated and considered a number of options for increasing its burial capacity. Land allocated for this purpose in the planning applications for the eastern urban extension are not within the parish boundary & its suitability for this purpose is not known.	Really unclear is happening on this.	Keep in. Priority unsure.
10	Ensure police resources deployed locally keep pace with the town's population.	Big Plan II 2010	Operational policing decisions rest with the Chief Constable of Bedfordshire Police. The Town Council's community safety budget and Operation Dodford framework agreement provide a mechanism for ongoing communications with the Police.	Remains a priority project but difficult to see how CBC are involved.	Delete as a joint CBC project.
11	Continue to support the implementation of flood	Big Plan II 2010	Measures implemented by the Environment Agency and flood risk has been downgraded.	Is this LLTC's responsibility? Surely not.	Delete

	protection measures for Clipstone Brook.		Situation to be monitored, particularly given the development on land east of the town.		
12	Support the provision of local school facilities	Big Plan II 2010	Central Bedfordshire Council has statutory responsibility and is developing a Schools For the Future programme. Potential change from 3-tier to 2-tier school system under consultation.	Schools are not an LLTC responsibility.	Delete as a joint CBC project.
13	Ensure the Children's Centre on Vandyke Rd is expanded to cope with demand.	Big Plan II 2010	This rests with Central Bedfordshire Council. LLTC supports a number of initiatives for young children including offering subsidised facilities to the Mentmore Under Fives Playgroup and the Pages Play Café.	CBC responsibility. LLTC should continue to plan and offer complementary projects and services to young children.	Delete as a joint CBC project.
14	Employment land on eastern urban extension	Big Plan II 2010	Big Plan states aspirations to: a) Ensure that designated employment land on the plans for East of L-L will use local apprentices who have been unable to find work; b) secure mixed use commercial/industrial/office development; c) provide starter units for small businesses. Whilst land has been designated for employment uses, these aspirations will be dependent upon market forces and third parties.	CBC responsibility	Delete as a joint CBC project.
15	Support evolution of the town library as a community facility offering a range of services	Big Plan II 2010	This rests with Central Bedfordshire Council which has responsibility for the Library service.	CBC responsibility. Unaware of any permanent LLTC initiatives relating to the Library.	Delete as a joint CBC project.
16	Ensure land is set aside in major developments for future community needs such as leisure & recreation.	Big Plan II 2010	Ongoing through the planning process.	Requires an infrastructure shopping list that LLTC does not have, (but this PPL revision is a step) and for LLTC's P & T Cttee and CBC's Development Cttee to begin proactivity where for 12 years they have been passive spectators of planning applications.	Keep in. High priority.
17	Ensure social and community infrastructure is available in first phase of future developments.	Big Plan II 2010	S.106 developer contributions determined and trigger points set by Central Bedfordshire Council.	Again, presumably through LLTC's Planning & T Cttee – but it hasn't done this for at least the past 12 years and again there is no process.	Keep in if LLTC intends to

					become proactive.
18	Ensure any Central Bedfordshire planning strategy incorporates many of the Big Plan requirements deemed essential for future growth. Reword: "To ensure that Leighton-Linslade's infrastructure needs are identified, considered, negotiated in the context of planning applications, and secured".	Big Plan II 2010	LLTC continues to review and comment upon emerging Central Bedfordshire planning strategy and has made representations in respect of the draft Local Plan. Big Plan II outlines proposals for the provision of community facilities including shops, healthcare facilities, bus stops, play areas & other recreational opportunities, as well as supporting sustainability in terms of energy and transport.	LLTC role is to press for a list of desired infrastructure projects to be funded through S106 each time major (e.g. five houses+) planning applications come to LLTC Planning & Transport Cttee. A new Objective is needed. A shopping list is also needed, both a revised Partnership Project List and a revised set of Town Council 5 Year Plan Objectives.	Keep in. High priority.
Green Infrastructure, Sports & Leisure					
19	Skate park improvements	Council resolution 30/9/2019	The current skate park is nearing the end of its useful life. Being located on a flood plain, options for its replacement are limited. Demand for this facility needs to be ascertained and options explored.	Isn't this a sole LLTC responsibility?	Delete, transfer to the LLTC 5 Year Plan list.
20	Additional allotment land	Council resolution 30/9/2019 & Big Plan II 2010	The Town Council currently has minimal waiting lists but will assess likely future demand.	Another sole LLTC responsibility.	Ditto. Priority depends on waiting list.
21	Leighton-Linslade Green Wheel Re-word "To implement the Green Wheel Master Plan"	Council resolution 30/9/2019 & Big Plan II 2010	A long term partnership ambition through the Ouzel Valley Park Steering Group, the revised Green Wheel Masterplan is currently under consultation. LLTC purchased Peace Meadow to secure this green space.	Good example of Partnership Project List item.	Keep in. Medium priority.
22	Restoration of Henry Finch Memorial Fountain in Linslade Recreation Ground	Council resolution 30/9/2019	External funding was sought as part of the 2018/19 improvement programme for Linslade Recreation Ground, but was unsuccessful.	Another sole LLTC responsibility. The likely cost would be better spent on facilities for the living, eg a Town	Delete

				museum in the LSSHS community project.	
23	Secure a new leisure centre as part of the development to the East of the town Reword : add "and develop dialogue with local users about the scoping of the centre".	Big Plan II 2010	The Principal Authority through its Leisure Strategy is working toward the delivery of a commensurate level of appropriate facilities sufficient to meet existing and future need.	Looks like a valid Partnership Project – but there has been no joint pressing for it over the past 12 years. Threat of Tiddenfoot closing must be resisted. LLTC has not discussed a list of user facilities with eg local sports clubs in the past two years.	Keep in. Medium priority.
24	Provision of clubhouse and launching site for Canoe Club	Big Plan II 2010	No suitable site or funding has as yet been identified.	No joint pressing for it over the past 12 years. What do the Canoe Club currently want?	Keep in. Priority unclear.
25	Continue to search for a suitable site for a club quality athletics track & facilities	Big Plan II 2010	The Principal Authority by way of its Leisure Strategy is aware of this aspiration. Any future leisure centre site should where possible include provision for athletics.	No joint pressing for it over the past 12 years. Is there a Leighton-based Club and what do they currently want?	Keep in. Priority unclear.
26	Consider potential for a woodland cemetery, adventure play area, campsite & parking at Rushmere Country Park.	Big Plan II 2010	Central Bedfordshire Council and The Greensand Trust co own and manage the site. LLTC input through Rushmere Parishes Group and Ouzel Valley Park Steering Group. Car parking extension completed and play provision continues to develop.	Woodland cemetery not being pursued. What do LLTC want to happen at Rushmere?	Unsure.
27	Continue to restore sand pits in and around town to public open space. Re-word: "Identify and pursue a joint Plan for community use of the restored sandpits."	Big Plan II 2010	Central Bedfordshire Council liaises with quarry operators and land owners on this. LLTC kept advised as part of the Sandpit Steering Group which meets on a quarterly basis.	Objective poorly-phrased: surely we want to derive community usage of these restored pits? No such over-arching Plan discussed as Sandpits sub-Cttee.	Keep in. Getting a Plan is high priority.
28	Continue to promote greening and wildflower planting.	Big Plan II 2010	LLTC has a service level agreement with South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth which includes the management of several wildflower and bee friendly sites on LLTC owned land.	If CBC are not involved, should this come off and be added to the Town Council's list?	Delete as a joint CBC project.
Sustainability					

29	Recycling of cups and glasses at events	Council resolution 30/9/2019	The Town Council will encourage traders and suppliers at its events to move towards more sustainable options in line with the Council's environmental ambitions.	Doesn't look like a Partnership Project.	Delete as a joint CBC project.
30	Support development of a small wind farm close to the town to supply a proportion of local electricity needs.	Big Plan II 2010	One wind turbine established; second proposed. Solar farm now operating just outside the Parish.	Nothing has been done about this for 12 years. Is this LLTC business?	Delete
31	Promote renewable energy and sustainable living to residents.	Big Plan II 2010	LLTC seeks to promote activities undertaken by local groups in respect of sustainability and in 2019 adopted a set of environmental ambitions.	Probably worth retaining, with re-wording. Needs an injection of purpose and energy.	Keep in. Medium priority.
32	Campaign for improvements in bus services and community transport services	Big Plan II 2010	Ongoing through groups such as the Southern development Exemplar steering group.	Nothing has been said about this in my two years on the Council. Might be worthy, if so why are we not discussing it?	Unsure
33	Consider a park and stride scheme for rail commuters.	Big Plan II 2010	The Strategic Transport Team at Central Bedfordshire Council is aware of the added value a park and stride facility would bring to the parish and is seeking ways to try and realise this.	Again, nothing has been said about this in my two years on the Council. Some signal of CBC intent needed. Maybe LLTC P & T Cttee should be pressing?	Unsure
34	Continued investment in the Cycling network & encouragement of increased cycling. Re-word: "To implement improvements to cycling facilities in the town, taking note of the BuzzCycles Strategy Plan."	Big Plan II 2010	The Plan contains aims such as creation of new routes, promotion of cycling, safer routes to schools, school travel plans, maintaining an up to date map of local cycle routes. Central Bedfordshire Council is now appointing a designated Cycling Officer for the area.	Valid Partnership Project, but needs re-wording.	Keep in. Medium priority.
Health and Social Care					
35	Healthcare provision Reword: a) To secure the provision of a Health Hub for Leighton Buzzard and Linslade.	Big Plan II 2010	The Plan outlines the wish for a community hospital and an increase in the number and capacity of GP Practices to keep pace with the town's growing population. The CBC East of Leighton Linslade Framework Plan identifies land for potential	A valid Partnership Project – lack of any progress is the result of inaction at CBC and Bedfordshire NHS/CCG/ [insert this week's title]. Ditto	Keep in. High priority. Ditto

	<p>b) To provide new GP surgeries in Eastern Leighton Buzzard and Linslade</p> <p>c) To secure an early Minor Injuries Unit at an existing surgery location</p>		<p>healthcare facilities and the 2015 CBC Infrastructure Plan identifies a project cost for a GP surgery. The size and location of said facility is the subject of on-going work by delivery partners. The Framework Plan also makes reference to the Big Plan and its successor document.</p> <p>LLTC has formed a Health Services Task and Finish Group to encourage progression of healthcare provision proposals to meet the ever-growing needs of the town and its surrounding area. Once the group has agreed its objectives, these will then be shared with the relevant delivery partners.</p> <p>The future provision of a healthcare facility/hub has been an agenda item on previous Partnership Committee meetings and remains a town wide priority.</p>	<p>Ditto</p> <p>Ditto</p>	<p>Ditto</p> <p>Ditto</p>
--	---	--	--	---------------------------	---------------------------

Document endorsed by Leighton-Linslade Town Council 28 September 2020

The following projects seem worth discussing as possible additions to the list.

	Description			Lib Dem comment	
36	To review CBC's strategy for Leighton Library			To assess whether LLTC has a potential role.	Unsure
37	To identify the needs of seniors in the town for day care services.			Currently LLTC are going it alone but is there a worthwhile synergy involving CBC to be found?	Medium
38	To ascertain the benefits			Currently being investigated by CBC at LLTC request. Is there potentially a limited list of important	High for this

	of a timed light pedestrian crossing at Leighton Road/ Bridge Street			roads/pavements projects that would benefit from a Partnership approach?	particular project.
39	To achieve a proper public consultation on a CBC plan for the future of the High Street			Awaiting CBC officer presentation on CBC's intentions. Meanwhile the time available for a proper public consultation is fast ebbing away.	High
40	To influence the purchase of Bridge Meadow for an appropriate community use.			How can the strategic importance of this site be brought to the table and discussed?	Medium
41	Review the effectiveness of CCTV provision in the town			Recent control-room upgrade. Is the camera network in good shape and is there a Plan to grow it /not grow it?	Medium

Steve Owen
6 September 2021