

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

2 DECEMBER 2021

Purpose of report: For information

Contents

1. COMMUNITY SAFETY	2
2. BUSINESS, INVESTMENT, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS	3
3. LEISURE, LIBRARIES & COUNTRYSIDE	6
4. HIGHWAYS.....	10
5. YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES	11
6. SCHOOLS.....	12
7. ADULT SOCIAL CARE	13
8. TRANSFORMATION.....	13
9. PUBLIC HEALTH	15
10. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES.....	17
12. SUSTAINABILITY.....	18
13. UPCOMING MEETINGS	20

1. COMMUNITY SAFETY

CCTV REPORTS

CCTV reports can be found on Central Bedfordshire Council's website under CCTV Reports:

[MAY 2021](#)

[JUNE 2021](#)

[JULY 2021](#)

[AUGUST 2021](#)

[SEPTEMBER 2021](#)

[OCTOBER 2021](#)

1st APRIL 2021 – 30th SEPTEMBER 2021

During this period there were 60 cases open to the Safer Neighbourhood Team:-

- Accumulation of Waste – 1
- Dog Fouling – 1
- Fly Tipping – 7
- Graffiti – 1
- Pollution – Light – 3
- Pollution – Noise – 37
- Pollution – Odour – 9
- Rowdy/Inconsiderate Behaviour – 1

5 x Community Protection Warnings served

2 x Prosecutions in progress for Breach of Injunction

SAFER COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIPS TEAM

Safer Communities Engagement Officer attended 2 'Tell a PCSO what you know' engagement events.

Safer Communities Engagement Officer attended a meeting with Bedfordshire Police and Leighton Linlade Town Council regarding Astral Park and Danes Way Park whereby an Environmental Visual Audit was carried out.

Targeted community engagement work around Hartwell Grove & Duncombe Drive.

Safer Central Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour survey drop in Danes Way.

Safer Communities Engagement Officer undertook some engagement work with dog walkers and owners in Churchill Road regarding dog fouling.

Safer Communities Engagement Officer & Safer Business Officer have carried out business visits in the Town Centre.

Safer Communities Engagement Officer worked with Bedfordshire Police regarding the abandoned building, Arden House.

Community Action Day was held in Leighton Town Centre with partners including Bedfordshire Police, Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, Safer Neighbourhood Team, Parking Enforcement, Street Watch volunteers, CBC Highways Team, CBC Environmental Services, CBC Housing.

2. BUSINESS, INVESTMENT, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS

With further funding from the Council's Revenue and Benefits team via funding from the government's Additional Restrictions Grant scheme in response to COVID-19 and to support the council's [Vision 2050](#) ambitions and [economic strategy](#) priorities, which includes building local prosperity, we have developed some additional business support programmes that will provide businesses with relevant information and access to business grants. These wider business grants include:

- **Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce:** provide free [International Markets](#) support
- **Cranfield University:** businesses can complete the [Ready for Scale Programme](#) to enable them to grow
- **SEMLEP Business Support and Mentoring Programme:** to provide advice and guidance/grant (at time of writing this programme will launch soon)
- **University of Bedfordshire, Central Bedfordshire Productivity Programme:** provide bespoke productivity training and specialist consultancy support, which offers two courses [Lean Thinking and Lean Six Sigma Green Belt](#).

Additional Council funding has allowed for the **Green Business Network** to:

- Encourage businesses to work towards being net zero carbon, and to become new [Members](#)
- Provide an innovative [green referral](#) networking group to create a region-wide green supply chain of companies referring each other's green solutions.

We are hosting a free webinar for businesses (Tuesday 30 November, 14:30-15:30) along with all our partners delivering who will explain all the current support programmes available to businesses.

Commercial Property Enquiries

June – September 2021

There were a total of 53 new property enquiries across Central Bedfordshire, 7 of which were interested in Leighton Buzzard – please see table below. We have also identified 2 additional enquiries that have secured premises in Leighton Buzzard and added these to the bottom of the report.

Date taken	Enquiry Ref	Requirement Max Size	Requirement	Reason	Status	Originating Location
------------	-------------	----------------------	-------------	--------	--------	----------------------

30-Sep-21	1190	1 Acres	Land	My business is relocating	Live - Active	St Albans
16-Sep-21	1164	40000 Sq Ft	Industrial	My business is relocating	Live - Active	Hemel Hempstead
03-Sep-21	1141	5000 Sq Ft	Industrial	My business is relocating	Live - Active	Luton
03-Sep-21	1147	2500 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Tingrith
03-Sep-21	1148	10000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Hemel Hempstead
17-Aug-21	1128	30000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Kensworth
16-Aug-21	1126	1000 Sq Ft	Retail	Business start up	Live - Active	Unknown
17-Sep-21	1168	300 Sq Ft	Retail	Business start up	Closed - Landed - non assisted	Hertfordshire
20-Nov-20	544	1200 Sq Ft	Industrial	My business is relocating	Closed - Success - Landed	Leighton Buzzard

BENCHMARKING SURVEYS

Town Centre benchmarking surveys are now underway. Links to the surveys are available on the [CBC website](#)

BEDFORDSHIRE EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS SERVICE (BESS)

Because of Covid-19, Central Bedfordshire Council's Employment and Skills Service (BESS) and its partner training providers have delivered most of the past year's adult learning classes online. As we move into a new academic year, community-based classrooms are being employed again, though with Covid-19 safety restrictions in place. Whilst the move to online learning has enabled many residents to undertake courses who might not otherwise have had the time or resource to travel to a classroom, we are aware that online learning is not accessible to everyone and so future delivery will, where possible, be a mixture of the two delivery methods.

During the past academic year (August 2020 to July 2021), we engaged with 131 Leighton Linlade residents, 61 of whom were unemployed when starting their learning with us. Of those 61, 21 had been unemployed for 36 months or more. The most popular courses were Health & Social Care, Child Development in Early Years, Preparation for Work, and Basic Maths & English. The figures also include four individuals undertaking apprenticeships in Teaching, Early Years and Adult Care.

BESS has a number of courses and workshops which are designed to help and support unemployed residents into work. Programmes can be quite generic, offering information and advice on changing career or how to tailor a CV to a specific job role. Some courses are sector specific, working closely with employers who are seeking to recruit, or which can lead into fully mapped career pathways. BESS has a close relationship with DWP and, together with its partners and where our Government funding allows, can deliver bespoke courses specifically requested by stakeholders supporting Central Bedfordshire

residents. Its in-house team of advisers can also offer 1 to 1 support to residents on finding employment or changing career.

The BESS curriculum currently includes:

- Maths and English (where local delivery will begin in Houghton Regis on a Tuesday from early September).
- IT and digital skills
- ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)
- 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 get started.”

Town Centre vacancy rates in Central Bedfordshire, Nov 2020 - Aug 2021

	November 2020	May 2021	August 2021
Town	% Vacant	% Vacant	% Vacant
Ampthill	3.3	3.3	2.3
Arlesey	18.8	12.5	12.5
Biggleswade	7.6	7.6	9.5
Dunstable	12.9	10.8	10.7
Flitwick	4.3	2.1	4.8
Houghton Regis	0.0	3.8	3.1
Leighton Buzzard	4.8	3.9	4.4
Potton	4.0	4.0	0.0
Sandy	9.2	9.1	8.5
Shefford	2.4	2.4	2.4
Stotfold	0.0	0.0	5.6
Total	7.3%	6.5%	6.8%

In November 2020 the vacancy rate for all units within towns surveyed was 7.3%, there were a total of 957 units of which 70 were vacant. After the Covid restrictions were lifted in May 2021 the rate fell to 6.5%. The latest August survey shows the vacancy rate rose slightly to 6.8% with a total of 949 Units and 65 vacancies.

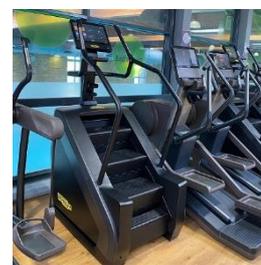
Overall the towns seem to have weathered the storm and many remain relatively stable. Some increases in vacant units have been seen in Stotfold, Houghton Regis and Biggleswade. Decreases can be seen in Arlesey, Dunstable and Potton.

3. LEISURE, LIBRARIES & COUNTRYSIDE

TIDDENFOOT LEISURE CENTRE

With the final restrictions being lifted on 19th July 2021, Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre whilst continually focussing on keeping its users safe – was able to relax a number of restrictions that had been in place post pandemic. These restrictions included:

- Increasing capacity in the fitness suite
- Increasing capacity in the workout classes
- Removing bookings from the fitness suite
- Multi programming in the swimming pool
- Changing rooms opening
- Full capacity and team sports in the sports hall
- Sauna and Steam room open



This is the closest the Centre has been to returning to pre-covid programming and has been warmly received by the local community.

Membership numbers have increased by approximately 500 in the fitness suite since re-opening on April 12th. The growth has been in part due to the commitment to continuous improvement to the community with 2 brand new climbs added to the fitness suite as well as an ever growing workout timetable.



Our AquaEd Swimming programme has also increased by nearly 300, with teachers now being allowed back in the pool to teach and class sizes no longer being restricted

A number of local clubs have also now been able to return at full capacity including Otters Swimming Club, Leighton Buzzard Swimming Club and Linlade Crusaders and our over 50's active group.

The Centre is also very much looking forward to re-opening the café in October

LEIGHTON BUZZARD LIBRARY & THEATRE

The library is currently offering access to customers for browsing, computer use and printing services.

The library is accessible to a fixed number of visitors, 40 at any one time.

The theatre works are in the final stages of completion and the venue has had a significant refurbishment. This includes a new lighting rig, total redecoration of the auditorium, new drapes and stage curtains, and extensive works in the projection room.

The lounge and bar have been refurbished with new flooring, furniture and bar top. We have invested in a new glass washer, ice machine, coffee machines and other bar equipment.

COUNTRYSIDE SITES

STREET TAG

We've launched a new initiative to encourage active lifestyles, encourage more active travel and help residents discover and explore their local parks and green spaces by using a fun new game.

Street Tag is a fun, free, family-friendly game that enables players to collect points by using their smartphones to scan virtual tags. The tags can be found in various locations across Central Bedfordshire, including in areas surrounding parks and open spaces but players can also place them on routes to school, work or the shops. The app will log any activity completed by participants, and it will show on a range of competitive community and school leader boards.



Take time out of your busy schedule with Street Tag.

Walk, run, or cycle to re-energise yourself, collect points and win prizes.

Download the Street tag app today!



Schools will have the opportunity to compete in the Central Bedfordshire Schools Street Tag League for their area, while residents in small groups of six or less will compete against other families or groups on a community leader board.

Leader board seasons last approx 14 weeks and within that time participants can compete with each other to be top of their leader board and earn rewards for their activity.

More information will be sent to town and parish council's on how to get more involved and promote the opportunity to local residents. Public information including how to download the Street Tag app can be found on the Council website at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/street-tag

GREEN FLAG AWARDS

Rushmere Country Park, Linlade Wood and Tiddenfoot Waterside Park have all once again received a Green Flag award. The Green Flag scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the UK. Tiddenfoot and Linlade Wood received the Community Green flag award which recognises the management of local spaces by volunteer groups.

RUSHMERE COUNTRY PARK

Winter opening hours commence Monday 4 October. This means car parks will close from 6pm in October and 5pm from 1 November.

Programmed activity has restarting at Rushmere Park. Recent and programmed activities include:

- Wedding Showcase – promoting what Rushmere has to offer
- Heathland Management Workshops – A series of three habitat events on conservation management
- Half Term activities including Woollen Woods trail, SEND Special - Scavenger Hunt, Xplorer Challenge

A new ANPR parking system has been implemented. This allows for a more flexible charging policy based on length of stay and visitors can now pay at a machine or via an app that should reduce queueing at the exit barrier.

The Sculpture Trail at the park has been named in a survey as the 'Best Overall Walk for Accessibility' The survey, by footwear firm Charles Clinkard identified 40 family-friendly walks as suggested by family bloggers and online roundups. Based on factors including disabled parking, disabled toilets, and the accessibility of the terrain, the [The Sculpture Trail at Rushmere Country Park](#) came out as the top-ranking walk. They recognised the park has disabled parking, disabled toilets, baby changing, and the path is fully accessible for prams and wheelchairs. They also acknowledge other aspects the park has to offer including a fairy trail and playground, as well as refreshments and a visitor centre. You can find out more [here](#).

Rushmere has also marked its 10th anniversary in July this year. There have been over 1.6 million visitors in the past 5 years and working with the Greensand Trust has provided ongoing investment to improve the facilities and overall offer as well as creating new jobs, volunteering opportunities, and supporting local businesses.

TIDDENFOOT WATERSIDE PARK

Planned works to improve paths and refresh natural play / trim trail facilities are planned, plus tree safety works. The Friends group are now back working after the end of Covid restrictions and busy with hedge laying, litter collection and planned coppicing tasks.

RIVERSIDE WALK

Annual tree health and safety works, including some left over from last year to take place. Biodiversity improvements started April 2021, with introduction of appropriate wildflowers into nettle dominated areas. This has worked well so more works are planned for this autumn and winter along with tree works to introduce a more diverse age structure to the willows and some flower / berry rich shrub planting.

Joint project with OVP including Greensand Trust, Environment Agency and Friends of the Earth (FoE) to maintain the current deflectors clear of litter from the River Ouzel. Findings included multiple shopping trollies and a moped. CBC contractor assisted with clearance and disposed of all debris once weighed and categorised by FoE.

CLIPSTONE BROOK

Annual tree health and safety works, including some left over from last year to take place. Clean up day planned with FoE. CBC contractor to clear and dispose of debris. Funding to FoE to improve wildflower areas.

SOUTHERN MEADOWS

Tree safety works and rejuvenation of old willow pollards.

LINSLADE WOOD

The Friends group at Linlade are also back to regular group activities and have just finished a project putting in 3 wooden waymarkers in the wood directing visitors to other nearby places such as Rushmere Country Park, L/L Town Centre and the Canal etc.

NEW GREEN SPACES ACCESS LEAFLET

Design work has started on a new and updated 'Green Spaces and Access' leaflet and PDF for the Ouzel Valley area which will show and encourage people how to use rights of way to access and enjoy the many green spaces in and around the town. This will include all spaces managed by both Council's and other publicly accessible routes.

COMMUNITY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

JULY 2021 – SEPT 2021

ACTIVE LIFESTYLES REFERRAL SCHEME - Our referral programme is continuing to run throughout Central Bedfordshire. The service was adapted, and support was given to those who were currently on the programme including more individual calls to support personal wellbeing. Our referrals are also now back in leisure centres using their facilities and assisting them in the referral journey.

For more information please visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/active-lifestyles. We work in partnership with a number of organisations, to provide the residents with opportunities to promote physical and mental wellbeing.

HEALTH & WELLBEING KIOSKS

Our Health and Wellbeing Kiosks have been in use now since the opening of the leisure centres free of charge from April 12th Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre have had 441 people sign up to use the facility, with over 50% of those people repeat scanning and tracking their health. (12th April 2021 – 29th Sept 2021).

These have been installed across all 6 of our leisure centres and are accessible to the public. You do not have to be a member and when leisure centres re-open there will be an opportunity to use the kiosks for a period of time free of charge.

For more information, please visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/health-kiosks

The health kiosks offer a secure and medically approved body analysis and use personal profiles with specific links to commissioned services in Central Bedfordshire including mental health support, weight management, physical activity and stop smoking services. Clinically validated, the kiosks them to self-monitor and continue to improve their healthy lifestyle choices.



ONLINE ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

We are continuing to provide our online classes as the feedback of these have been great during the pandemic and people wanted them to continue. We are always adding classes to our You Tube library.



www.facebook.com/GetActiveWith/

[Central Bedfordshire Active Lifestyles You Tube Channel](#)



OUTDOOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

All activities comply with current COVID guidelines. Activities include: Buggy fitness, walking football, outdoor bootcamps. All activities are currently running FREE for all residents book on via our booking page.

www.bookwhen.com/activelifestyles



FALLS PREVENTION

We have re-launched our Falls Prevention at some sites.

Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre coming soon. The course is a free 12 week programme designed to help improve strength and balance for people over 65 who are at risk of falling or have already had any falls.

We have also started an online 6 week Falls pilot which is in place to offer a similar programme for those people who are unable to attend the programme at the Leisure Centre for any reason.

Both programmes are proving successful.

4. HIGHWAYS

PARKING ENFORCEMENT

From 01/05/2021 – 30/09/2021 216 Penalty Charge Notices have been issued in Leighton Linlade and 980 visits have been conducted in Leighton Linlade.

WORKS CARRIED OUT IN LEIGHTON LINSLADE

Between 01/05/2021-04/10/2021 below are the following cases raised on the Fix my Street app for lining and sign works in Leighton/Linslade;

Row Labels	Road Markings and Lining	Signs Damaged or Missing	Grand Total
Action scheduled	3	3	6
Closed	8	8	16
Confirmed	5	6	11
Duplicate	0	1	1
Fixed- Council	0	3	3
Internal referral	4	18	22
Investigating	8	7	15
unable to fix	5	7	12
Grand Total	33	53	86

5. YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES

1) UPDATE ON NEETS WITHIN THE WIDER CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE AREA

The figures presented below are those reported to the Department of Education at the end of August 2021.

Headline Figures for the whole Central Bedfordshire area (31 st August 2021)			
Cohort	Total number of young people	Positive destinations (EET)	NEET Destinations
16 year olds / Year 12	3021	2899	88
17 year olds / Year 13	2021	2782	118
Combined Cohort	6033	5681 (94.1%)	206 (1.4%)

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 August 2021.

	Dunstable		Houghton Regis		Leighton Linlade	
Total YPs in area	823		491		907	
EET	779	(94.7%)	452	(92.1%)	860	(94.8%)
NEET	36	(4.4%)	33	(6.7%)	39	(4.3%)
Unknown/ Refused	8	(1.0%)	6	(1.2%)	8	(0.9%)

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	296	13	4.4%
Leighton Buzzard South	301	17	5.6%
Linslade	233	5	2.1%
Heath and Reach	77	4	5.2%
Total	907	39	4.3%

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	3	Less than 3 months	4	Male	28
17 Years Old	19	3-6 months	10	Female	11
18 Years Old	17	6+ months	25	Other/Refused	0

c) SUMMARY STATUS OF THE LEIGHTON LINSLADE NEET COHORT

Status

Seeking Employment or Training	34	(87.2%)
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances	5	(12.8%)

6. SCHOOLS

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

2022/ 23 ADMISSION ROUNDS

The 2022/23 transfer rounds are now open for the academic year 2022/23. Parents are able to apply for a school place for September 2022 online.

For Upper and Transfer to Secondary school places the closing date for applications is the **31 October 2021**.

For Reception and Transfer to Middle school places the closing date for applications is the **15 January 2022**

Parents can find information about schools and admission criteria on Central Bedfordshire Admissions website. As ever parents are encouraged to apply using the online application facility. Every time an application has been completed and submitted an automated acknowledgement receipt is sent. This confirms to parents that they have completed the process and that they have successfully submitted their application.

In terms of reception school places, we work closely with the NHS and early years team to promote applications for this year group.

NEW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CODE

The new School Admissions Code came into effect from the 1st September 2021.

There are a number of changes which admission authorities must implement from that time onwards.

The new School Admissions Code 2021 and related amendments fall into the following categories:

1. In year **(IY)** admissions for 2021/22 – decision re: outcome of application 10 school days no later than 15 school days
2. Amendments to determined admission arrangements – 2021/22 and 2022/23
 - o To include the combination of LAC and Previously LAC children priority of both inside and outside UK
 - o Children of Staff – definition
 - o Children of Service Personnel and crown servants
3. Fair Access Protocol

TERM TIME CALENDAR 2021-2022

In relation to the Queen's Jubilee, the 2021/22 calendar has been amended. This is available on the CBC website as well as the term time calendar for 2022/23.

SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

A consultation is now underway regarding a planning application to expand Fulbrook Middle School, which will enable its transition to become an extended secondary school in September 2022.

The planning application details the following:

- building a new teaching block and new sports hall
- remodelling works to the existing school
- car parking
- landscaping
- associated infrastructure

This is part of the Schools for the Future programme which will see Fulbrook and its feeder schools, Aspley Guise Village School and Swallowfield Lower School, transition to the primary/secondary education model from September 2022.

The Schools for the Future Programme is a dynamic programme and is reviewed regularly. The programme is currently being recalibrated in line with the recently adopted Local Plan and projected growth. The recalibration will consider Phase 1B of the Leighton Linlade cluster which includes, Husborne Crawley, Ridgmont and Woburn Lower Schools.

7. ADULT SOCIAL CARE

NEW CARE HOME IN LEIGHTON BUZZARD HAS A NAME

Thank you to all the residents, staff, and stakeholders for name suggestions.

Residents and staff from Westlands Care home were invited to choose their favourite for the new care home being built nearby at Hockliffe Road in Leighton Buzzard.

Together, they chose the name, **Marigold House**.

The proposed address: Marigold House, Hockliffe Road, Leighton Buzzard has been sent to Royal mail to request they confirm the postcode and once that comes through, we shall be able to confirm the full address.

There will be many decisions to make during the development of the new home and hope to involve the residents and staff in as many as we can.

Once the new care home is built Westlands's residents will be given the choice to move to Marigold House (or another home that can meet their needs) which will provide a much-improved environment as the building will be built to Passivhaus standards, which means it will be super energy efficient, and the design will include lots of garden rooms for the enjoyment of the residents. Once all the residents have moved, Westlands will be closed.

8. TRANSFORMATION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

INCREASING VACCINATIONS GRANT SCHEME

The Increasing Vaccinations Fund provides grants of up to £2,000 to assist groups to encourage take up of the vaccination across all geographical areas, vulnerable and ethnic groups and address COVID-19 vaccine inequalities within their communities.

We have approved four successful applications from the following organisations; Age UK, The Disability Resource Centre, Open Doors Training and Development and Diverse FM. These organisations will be using social media, radio, print and face-to-face campaigns to promote the vaccinations amongst hard to reach communities in Central Bedfordshire. They have also attended a drop-in session with the communication team and CCG colleagues to ensure messaging is up-to-date and accurate.

To read the guidance or make an application, visit the [website](#).

TPC TOPIC SESSIONS

Our first Topic session took place on 11th November and covered Sustainability. The recording, slide deck and notes have been sent to All Clerks to share with their Town / Parish Councillors.

The second of our Town and Parish Council key topic sessions is due to take place on 15 December. An invite will be sent out to Clerks and numbers will be limited to two per Town/Parish council. The policy and planning team will be presenting on the Design Guide.

The Design Guide is a material consideration when determining planning applications. It sets out key principles and standards to shape new developments and helps ensure they are of the highest possible quality. It was adopted in 2014 and there is now a need to update the guidance to reflect the new policies in the adopted Local Plan as well as new national and local guidance.

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS AND VILLAGE HALL CONSULTATION

Working with Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, we reviewed community buildings, village halls and other community facilities, such as Scout and Guide halls, to gain a comprehensive and accurate picture of facilities across the area.

We did this using a survey, in July 2021. We've used our review of the survey to produce recommendations for further investment and improvement of community buildings and village halls. We welcome your thoughts on these recommendations and our draft vision for local community facilities. To read the review, recommendations and to take part in the consultation, [visit the website](#). The consultation closes Tuesday, 1 March 2022.

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 and surveys

Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer(s)
Bedford Square Community Centre, Houghton regis	Consultation on the long term plans for the community centre in Houghton Regis	13 th Oct 2021	8 th Dec 2021	Iain Berry 0300 300 4475 Peter Fraser 0300 300 6740

Admission Arrangements for academic year 2023/24	Consultation on proposed changes to the admission arrangements for academic year 2023-24 for Leighton Middle School	5 th Nov 2021	17 th Dec 2021	Christine Edwards 0300 300 5862
Housing Allocation Scheme	Consultation on the draft Allocation Scheme, detailing amendments to the Council's Housing Allocation Scheme which will alter the priorities for access to Social and Affordable Housing in Central Bedfordshire	27 th Oct 2021	19 th Jan 2022	Charlotte Gurney 0300 300 5345
Tenancy Strategy	Consultation on the revised Tenancy Strategy (2022-2032)	5 th Nov 2021	28 th Jan 2022	Kyla Carter 0300 300 5662
Community and Village Hall proposals	Consultation (in connection with BRCC) on the proposals and vision for Community and Village halls in Central Bedfordshire	15 th Nov 2021	28 th Feb 2022	Sarah Hughes 0300 300 6166

Adult Carers Strategy for 2022-27	Consultation on the draft Adult Carers Strategy for 2022-27.	25 th Nov 2021	3 rd Mar 2022	Lorna Corbin 0300 300 6048
Statement of Principles (Gambling Act 2005) Review	Review of the Council's Gambling policy	22 nd Nov 2021	10 th Dec 2021	Nicola O'Donnell 0300 300 4091

9. PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID 19 RESPONSE

As the COVID 19 rates rise again and the impact of the Pandemic continues, Public Health leads on the delivery and development of the Local Outbreak Control Plan as a response. Most recently a focus has been identifying cases and containing the rate in school age children, but also with a stress on increasing the reach of the vaccination programme. Public Health has also led on the implementation of Lateral Flow Device (or 'Rapid') Testing, which is being delivered across Central Bedfordshire, as the emphasis remains on a flexible and targeted approach, using home and mobile testing opportunities.

As a result of the Pandemic, specific Public Health delivered and commissioned interventions taking place in Leighton Linlade have been impacted, not only as access has been reduced due to the COVID restrictions, but also as Primary Care resources have become focused on preventing the spread of the virus and, latterly, as Primary Care has been central in the ongoing delivery of the vaccination programme.

STOP SMOKING SERVICES

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 Q4 20/21 shows that the Leighton Buzzard locality was under target.

Overall, performance by the Leighton Buzzard Primary Care Network of Practices was at 60.7% against target for the period up to Q4 20/21 (17 actual quits compared to a target of 28. Of the practices in Leighton Buzzard only Salisbury House offers Level 2 Services, whilst the others refer into the CBC Specialist level 3 service.

LOCATION	2020/21 SMOKING QUITTERS @ Q4
Basset Road	1 quit (plus 37 referrals into CBC Level 3 Support)
Leighton Road	No quits – not delivering Level 2 Support
Salisbury House	16 (target 28): 57% 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

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.

Data for April – September 2021, 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. But there has been some improvement:

In Leighton Buzzard Primary Care 125 Health Checks were delivered against a target of 270 for the period 46.3% of annual target to date). Overall, they invited 303 patients for a Health Check (target 1,352) so are performing at 22.4% for that indicator.

The local Practices are performing as follows:

Bassett Road is performing at 32.6% for Health Checks delivered (30 against a target of 92) and 18.5% offered (86 out of 464 target).

Leighton Road is performing at 81.9% for Health Checks delivered (95 against a target of 116) and 37.4% for offered (217 out of 580 target).

The overall quality measure for these 2 practices in relation to Health Checks are 90.6% (amber) and 86.4% (red) respectively, so there is room for improvement in quality.

Salisbury House did not offer nor deliver any Health Checks during this reporting period.

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.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES

To further help residents manage their waste, slots no longer need to be booked at local Household Waste Recycling Centres (tidy tips), which are open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm, including bank holidays (please see our website for slight changes over Christmas and New Year). A permit system is in operation for some items and vehicle types, and proof of Central Bedfordshire residency should be taken when visiting the sites. Our website has further details.

FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS

Following the 2-week suspension of food waste collections to allow us to empty garden waste bins in October, weekly food waste collections have re-started from 1st November.

DOG PATROLS

From July to date, dog patrols have been carried out in the following locations:

- Bassett Road
- Billington Road
- Harrow Road
- Kestrel Way
- Vandyke Road
- Willowbank Walk

FLY TIPPING

Since the last update, fly tips have been cleared from various locations including:

- Lake Street,
- A505 Leighton bypass,
- Shenley Hill Road, Doggett Street/Mill Road/Bassett Road (and the surrounding estates),
- Bedford Street,
- Chartmoor Road.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Grass cutting has improved over the past few months. The shrub/hedge cutting season has begun, with winter works starting soon. Clearance of leaf fall is normally scheduled during October and November, and we will clear as much as we are able with the resources available.

BIN DELIVERIES

We are delivering household bins as required to new properties being built in Leighton-Linslade, but unfortunately, there are currently delays to the usual 10 working days delivery time. Until an area is adopted by the council, any requests for new dog waste or litter bins to be installed should be sent to the relevant developer.

11. SUSTAINABILITY

SUSTAINABILITY TEAM

The focus for the first part of 2021 included the recruitment of two teams. The Sustainable Transport & Active Travel team, led by Steve Lakin, covering areas such as walking, cycling, low and zero emission vehicles and supporting infrastructure, is now fully resourced. The Sustainability Team, led by Sara Earl, covers the wide range of non-transport related sustainability projects, covering areas such as sustainable buildings, planning, the tree planting (both in terms of the grants scheme and other projects), water conservation and the engagement with communities, businesses, and young people, including schools. Recruitment to complement the team is in its final stages with two posts appointed and is in the process of recruiting an apprentice.

GREEN BUILDINGS

The council has made good progress in this area bringing forward three flagship projects, delivered by the Capital Construction Team, that represent a step change in how sustainability is considered and designed into new council delivered buildings. Notable buildings are;

Chiltern Vale Integrated Health and Care Hub and homes for older people - The development embraces modern methods of construction and includes a number of sustainability enhancements, including the use of Solar Photovoltaic panels, AHUs (air handling units) on roof to aid heat recovery, installation of a green roof on the cycle shelter. The new homes will be built to energy efficiency standards that are above building regs requirements, have low energy lighting and heating, including use of air source heat pumps and PV panels. They will also include high water efficiency fixtures and charging points for electric vehicles alongside secure bike storage.

Thornhill Primary School extension, Houghton Regis - The project places sustainability at the forefront of the design to create a healthy learning environment, with Passivhaus being selected to ensure quality of construction, provide significant benefits to the whole life cycle cost, reduce the school's financial running costs, and improve thermal comfort and indoor air quality and give it a far lower carbon footprint than similar conventionally built schools.

Hockliffe Road Care Home, Leighton Buzzard - Hockliffe Road Care Home will be a modern 63-bedroom development that is built on the site of the former police station in Leighton Buzzard. The design for the new care home includes a number of sustainability features including air source heat pumps, solar photovoltaic panels and electric vehicle charging points. Additionally, the building will be designed to a PassivHaus standard. This design standard requires specific features such as increased wall thicknesses, increased air tightness and triple glazed windows. This leads to a much-reduced energy requirement for the lifetime of the building.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES INFRASTRUCTURE

In June 2021, the Council adopted its Electric Vehicle Charge Point Plan. This sets out the approach that we will take to support the delivery of the necessary infrastructure to facilitate the uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs). This provides a forecast of the likely level of future demand and the locations in Central Bedfordshire where early adopters of ULEV's are more likely to live. Following the preferred approach set out in the Plan, during October 21, the Council went out to procure one or more chargepoint providers to deliver the EV charging network to support on- street residential parking and the wider public provision in carparks and buildings. To support this the Council opened an online register of interest for residents without access to off-street parking to suggest local EV chargepoint provision. This will help prioritise areas where latent demand is highest. [Electric vehicles | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

TREE PLANTING

The Tree planting grant scheme is currently now open to new applicants. The first round saw circa 1500 trees and 2.5km of hedgerows planted. The pipeline of planting to be carried out between November 21 and March 22 currently includes 11,500 trees and 250m of hedgerow. The grant will to be further promoted to support the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, which the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire launched in October. To apply for a grant visit https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/42/stronger_communities/678/community_grants/4. To supplement the Council's own tree funding commitment, Highways Tree Officers working alongside the Sustainability Team have secured £300,000 in funding over the next four years for tree planting from the Forestry Commission as part of their Treescapes Fund which include new urban street trees for Dunstable, Leighton and Linlade.

BUSINESS

The Council is working with the Green Business Network (GBN) and providing funding to deliver a number of support programme. GBN is a membership organisation and a Charity, which helps businesses reduce their impact on the environment. The next networking event in the new year will take place in the Dunstable area. https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/58/business/52/business_networking/6

SUPPORT YOUTH CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

To strengthen engagement with schools the Council have launched a series of online Eco School Forum workshops and a COP26 creative competition. Main emphasis will be to support schools through the Eco School award scheme.

12. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Date	Meeting	Time
Tues 7 December	Executive	09:30am
Wed 8 December	Licensing Committee	10:00am
Mon 13 December	Schools Forum	03:00pm
Wed 15 December	Development Management Committee	10:00am
Thur 16 December	General Purposes Committee	10:00am
Mon 20 December	Corporate Parenting Panel	10:00am
Tues 11 January	Executive	09:30am
Wed 12 January	Schools Forum	03:00pm
Thur 13 January	Council	06:30pm
Tues 18 January	Children's Services OSC	10:00am
Wed 19 January	Development Management Committee	10:00am
Thur 20 January	Sustainable Communities OSC	10:00am
Thur 20 January	Biggleswade Joint Committee	02:30pm
Mon 24 January	Social Care, Health & Housing OSC	10:00am
Tues 25 January	Traffic Management Committee	10:00am
Wed 26 January	Health & Wellbeing Board	02:00pm
Thur 27 January	Corporate Resources OSC	10:00am
Tues 8 February	Executive	09:30am

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

SC OSC – Sustainable Communities OSC