

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

21 APRIL 2022

Purpose of report: For information

Contents

1. COMMUNITY SAFETY	2
2. BUSINESS, INVESTMENT, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS	3
3. LEISURE, LIBRARIES & COUNTRYSIDE.....	5
4. HIGHWAYS	9
5. YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES	10
6. SCHOOLS	11
7. ADULT SOCIAL CARE	12
8. TRANSFORMATION.....	13
9. PUBLIC HEALTH.....	14
10. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	16
11. SUSTAINABILITY.....	18
12. UPCOMING MEETINGS.....	19

1. COMMUNITY SAFETY

CCTV REPORTS

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

[NOVEMBER 2021](#)

[DECEMBER 2021](#)

[JANUARY 2022](#)

[FEBRUARY 2022](#)

[MARCH 2022](#)

1st OCTOBER 2021 – 31ST DECEMBER 2021

During this period there were 21 cases open to the Safer Neighbourhood Team:

- Fly Tipping – 4
- Graffiti – 1
- Pollution – Light – 1
- Pollution – Noise – 12
- Pollution – Odour – 2
- Rowdy/Inconsiderate Behaviour – 1

1 x Fixed Penalty Notices served (Fly Tip)

1 x Community Protection Warnings served

3 x Prosecutions in progress for Injunction Applications

1 x Prosecution in progress for Breach of Injunction

SAFER COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIPS TEAM

Safer Communities Engagement Officer presented the Leighton-Linslade Community Safety Plan to Leighton-Linslade Town Council.

Safer Business Officer and Safer Communities Engagement Officer carried out business visits in Leighton Buzzard.

Safer Communities Engagement Officer conducted patrols around Leighton Buzzard.

Safer Communities Officer gave a talk about Scams to Leighton Buzzard WI.

Safer Communities Engagement Officer held a case around Bell Alley where people were reporting anti-social behavior and urinating.

2. BUSINESS, INVESTMENT, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS

The Additional Restrictions funded Wider Business support programmes which ended on 31st March 2022 (currently under evaluation) would have supported approximately 450 business to access direct support from our business partners, such as:

- Cranfield University - <https://www.cranfield.ac.uk/business/choose-cranfield#>
- University of Bedfordshire - <https://www.beds.ac.uk/ris/we-mean-business/>
- SEMLEP - <https://www.semlepgrowthhub.com/about-us/>
- Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce - <https://www.chamber-business.com/>

Whilst the Central Bedfordshire fully funded programme enrolment will have come to an end for now, businesses are encouraged to contact the above partners to discuss what other support they currently have for businesses.

Until end of July 2022, Central Bedfordshire businesses still have access to [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.

Businesses can also go to our Central Bedfordshire website for current grant and other business support available and sign up for email alerts as well as visit our Be Central Bedfordshire dedicated website to access business support and subscribe to our Let's Talk Business newsletter to ensure they receive the latest information

Commercial Property Enquiries December 2021 – March 2022

There was a total of 58 new property enquiries across Central Bedfordshire during this period, 11 of which were interested in Leighton Buzzard – please see table below.

The last of these is a US e-commerce fulfillment company, Spreetail Ltd, setting up their first UK/EU distribution center. They have taken a lease on the largest of the warehouses in Ascent Park and hope to start operations by May 2022. Although we have very little detail about this company at present, we hope to be working closely with them, especially focusing on recruitment and employee development.

Date taken	Enquiry Ref	Requirement Max Size	Unit Type	Reason	Status	Originating Location
07-Dec-21	1539	40000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Leeds
15-Dec-21	1548	5 Acres	Land	Expansion	Live - Active	Leighton Buzzard
13-Jan-22	1578	80000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Heathrow, London
24-Jan-22	1588	5000 Sq Ft	Industrial	My business is relocating	Live - Active	Dunstable
28-Jan-22	1603	40000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Dunstable
02-Feb-22	1611	9 Acres	Land	I am based abroad and need a UK site	Live - Active	Turkey
04-Feb-22	1620	4000 Sq Ft	Industrial	My business is relocating	Live - Active	Dunstable
28-Feb-22	1655	3000 Sq Ft	Industrial	I am based abroad and need a UK site	Live - Active	Italy
09-Mar-22	1668	7000 Sq Ft	Industrial	Expansion	Live - Active	Luton
21-Mar-22	1677	5000 Sq Ft	Leisure	Business start up	Live - Active	Leighton Buzzard
24-Mar-22	1688	150000 Sq Ft	Industrial	I am based abroad and need a UK site	Closed - Landed	USA

BEDFORDSHIRE EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS SERVICE (BESS)

Because of Covid-19, many of the courses delivered by Central Bedfordshire Council's Employment and Skills Service (BESS) and its partner training providers over the past two years have been online. However, as restrictions have become less onerous, face to face (classroom) delivery has increased. Moving forward, BESS hopes to deliver a mixture of the two.

Since the beginning of the current academic year we have engaged with 81 Leighton Linlade residents, 36 of whom were unemployed when starting their learning with us. Of those 36, 10 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 seven 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, May 2021 - Feb 2022

	May 2021	August 2021	November 2021	February 2022
Town	% Vacant	% Vacant	% Vacant	% Vacant
Ampthill	3.3	2.2	2.2	3.2
Arlesey	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5
Biggleswade	7.6	9.5	9.5	10.8
Dunstable	10.8	10.7	12.0	12.3
Flitwick	2.1	4.3	4.5	2.3
Houghton Regis	3.8	3.1	3.1	6.3
Leighton Buzzard	3.9	4.4	4.8	4.4
Potton	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sandy	9.1	7.6	7.4	9.0
Shefford	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0
Stotfold	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0
Total	6.5%	6.7%	7.0%	7.3%

In May 2021 the vacancy rate for all units within towns surveyed was 6.5%, there were a total of 959 units of which 62 were vacant. In February 2022 the vacancy rate rose slightly to 7.3% with a total of 966 Units and 71 vacancies. Since May 2021 some increases in vacant units have been seen in Biggleswade, Dunstable and Houghton Regis and some decreases can be seen in Potton and Shefford. However the overall rate, although rising, is quite stable.

3. LEISURE, LIBRARIES & COUNTRYSIDE

TIDDENFOOT LEISURE CENTRE

Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre had had a very busy start to 2022. Membership numbers in both fitness and the learn to swim programme have almost returned to pre covid levels, a fantastic achievement in a turbulent year.

Footfall and usage continues to increase with an average of 26,000 visits in 2022 comparable to 11,000 in the last quarter of 2021.

The café is now open both morning and afternoon 7 days a week which is proving very popular and bringing back the much needed social hub that Tiddenfoot was always proud to house. The café offers both a food and beverage service which has been very well received. We have taken the service in house providing more employment opportunity in the community.

The Leisure Centre introduced a new Centre Manager (Vincent Mansi) in March 2022 who has had significant impact to date ensuring continuous improvement in service and standards.

The Centre will host an RLSS lifeguard course in April of this year, providing both training and employment opportunities to the local community. This has been well advertised to the community and local higher education sectors.

We look forward to welcoming back our outdoor BootCamp sessions as the warmer weather returns. These sessions were vastly popular pre and during pandemic and we can't wait to get going again.

The Centre continues to be involved in supporting a number of local and national charities with events in the last quarter being held in support of Comic Relief, Diabetes UK, KidsOut



LEIGHTON BUZZARD LIBRARY

The library is now fully open with no restrictions on numbers. We have computer access and printing facilities.

The knitting and stitching club has restarted on the second Saturday of the month 2-3.45pm

We have recently restarted our Storytime for under 5s on a Tuesday afternoon 2.15-2.45 and a Wednesday morning 9.45-10.15

Rhyme time has returned once a month on a Saturday morning and we are hoping to restart Lego club shortly.

We had our first school visit in over two years with Rushmere Academy joining us for stories and crafts. We will be hosting some coding sessions for children in the coming months.

THEATRE LIBRARY

The newly refurbished theatre is now back to full admission numbers of 170 and we have restarted live theatre, music, comedy nights and Cinema screenings. Due to cinema release dates and distribution issues, we are unable to programme as far in advance as previously, and this impacts our screenings and brochure distribution. Our social media and website are updated with new events regularly. Finally, we have a card payment facility at the bar which is great news for customers and staff alike.

COUNTRYSIDE SITES

KNOLLS WOOD

Friends of group have worked with contractors to clear areas where trees have been lost due to storm damage from the beginning from March. The Friends group applied successfully for a CBC Tree Planting Grant and have replanted one of two areas with trees and shrubs to increase understory and introduce a new age of trees to the woodland area. The Friends group also carried out tasks to lay some of the ivy hedgerow on Sandy Lane.

TIDDENFOOT WATERSIDE PARK

Following the Autumn felling of Sycamore trees which had died of sooty bark disease, 300 shrub whips have been planted as a trial to increase bank stability and diversify the species found in this area of the park. Native shrubs including Spindle, Holly, Wild privet, Blackthorn and Hazel are included and will provide pollen and nectar sources and berries for insects and birds.

Working with the Friends of Tiddenfoot, additional benches, a new tree trail, sculptures / play features to be delivered next financial year. Further preliminary work on proposals for visitor facilities to be pursued in 2022/23.

RUSHMERE COUNTRY PARK

Summer hours will begin from Friday 1st April when both entrances remain open until 8pm.

Following two seasons where the centre was closed, visitors can return this year to see the herons nesting in Heron Valley from the deck. Live footage is available from the atrium screen as well as regular live streams.

A limit supply of binoculars and telescope are available for visitors to use - this will be managed by the volunteers who ensure that they are cleaned between each user.

WINTER STORMS

Sites in the Leighton Buzzard Area were among the worst affected by recent winter storms. The sandy soils and a large number of conifers, which being evergreen are more at risk by the strength of the wind and topography has resulted in a number of trees being affected. This included several trees at Rushmere Country Park as well as damaged at Clipstone Brook, Riverside Walk and Tiddenfoot Waterside Park.

OTHER UPDATES

- The entrance to Linlade Wood (Knave's Hill) is currently being revamped.
- Works to replacement the eastern boundary fence and footbridge bridge at Astral Park have been undertaken. Minor surface repairs to be completed around the bridge

COMMUNITY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

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.

FALLS PREVENTION – STRENGTH & BALANCE REFERRAL PROGRAMME

Falls Prevention Strength & Balance referral programme is now running at all leisure facilities. Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre started November 2021. The course is a free 12 week referral 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. For more information please email: activityforhealth@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

HEALTH & WELLBEING KIOSKS

The health and wellbeing kiosks have been installed across all 6 of our leisure centres and are accessible to the public. You do not have to be a member to use the kiosk. The health and wellbeing kiosks are free to use. A health and wellbeing kiosk can also be found in Leighton Buzzard Library. 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 YouTube library.



www.facebook.com/GetActiveWith/



[Central Bedfordshire Active Lifestyles You Tube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



OUTDOOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

All activities comply with current COVID guidelines. Activities include Buggy fitness, walking football, outdoor bootcamps. Most of the activities are FREE. Residents must book on via our booking page.

www.bookwhen.com/activelifestyles



4. HIGHWAYS

(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) (HIGH STREET, LEIGHTON BUZZARD) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2022

[View the Public Notice](#)

Following a joint site meeting between LLTC and CBC Traffic Manager all experimental Covid restrictions have now been removed and returned to pre-covid restrictions. The taxi rank has been moved back to the top of the High Street and parking restriction signs re-erected. Planters have been moved from the parking bays back onto the footway to maintain parking on the High Street. The vehicle barrier is to be retained for use by the Market Porter to manage access during Market days. Lining has been refreshed at the top of the High Street to return to the taxi rank and to ensure no vehicles drive south along Lake Street.

The new ETRO came in to force on 29th March 2022 and restricts vehicular access on Tuesdays and Saturdays. This has previously been sent to LLTC for information. As this is an experimental scheme no formal consultation is required, but if the Town Council wish to make any comments, they should be submitted in writing to the Highways inbox as explained in the notice by 22nd September 2022.

We are aware of the requests resolved at the February meeting of the Partnership Committee and are with the appropriate colleagues for a response.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT

From October 2021 – February 2022 the Civil Enforcement Officers have visited Leighton Linlade 828 times and they have issued 195 Penalty Charge Notices.

WORKS CARRIED OUT IN LEIGHTON LINSLADE

Figures for 01/12/2021 - 22/03/2022

ROW LABELS	ROAD MARKINGS & LINING	SIGNS	GRAND TOTAL
ACTION SCHEDULED	0	8	8
CLOSED	4	9	13

CONFIRMED	0	4	4
DUPLICATE	1	0	1
IN PROGRESS	1	0	1
INTERNAL REFERRAL	5	10	15
INVESTIGATING	0	1	1
UNABLE TO FIX	10	6	16
TOTAL	21	38	59

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 February 2022.

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	3122	3061	46
17 year olds / Year 13	3055	2902	94
Combined Cohort	6177	5963 (96.5%)	140 (2.3%)

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 17th March 2022.

	Dunstable		Houghton Regis		Leighton Linlade	
Total YPs in area	822		519		936	
EET	786	(95.6%)	495	(95.4%)	907	(96.9%)
NEET	30	(3.6%)	20	(3.9%)	24	(2.6%)
Unknown/ Refused	6	(0.7%)	4	(0.8%)	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	292	8	2.7%
Leighton Buzzard South	321	8	2.5%
Linslade	236	7	3.0%
Heath and Reach	87	1	1.1%
Total	936	24	2.6%

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	1	Less than 3 months	5	Male	14
17 Years Old	14	3-6 months	12	Female	10
18 Years Old	9	6+ months	7	Other/Refused	0

c) SUMMARY STATUS OF THE LEIGHTON LINSLADE NEET COHORT

Status		
Seeking Employment or Training	21	(87.5%)
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances	3	(12.5%)

6. SCHOOLS

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

On the 1st March 2022, the national offer day for transfer to Secondary and Upper school resulted in the following statistics.

Secondary:

Admissions received 727 first preference applications from Central Bedfordshire residents applying for a Central Bedfordshire School. We were able to offer 724 applicants their 1st preference which equates to 99.5% which is a fantastic result.

In terms of transfer to Upper the number of 1st preference offer made for Central Bedfordshire Schools is 98%.

Parents had up to the 15th March to either decline their offer or change their preference school.

The next national offer day is on the 19th April and it is for Starting School and Transfer to Middle school

Parents will be notified via email, if they have provided an email address.

SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

Executive has approved changes to the principles and policies of the Schools for the Future programme.

The aim of the ambitious and long-term programme is to raise education standards in Central Bedfordshire by ensuring the area has the right schools, in the right places, delivering the best education. Part of this is the move to the two-tier model of education and is key to improving our education offer and in attracting and retaining the best teachers. This remains unchanged.

These changes were proposed in response to the adoption of our Local Plan in July 2021 and that we used this opportunity to check the pupil places needed in future aligned to the new Local Plan.

These revised principles and policies will now underpin the Schools for the Future programme going forward, with the aim of providing more transparency and clarity about the parameters of the programme, which is what many schools told us they wanted. The changes will also support a fair and equitable approach across the whole of Central Bedfordshire.

Executive approved a number of changes, which include:

- Support for a target to improve learning outcomes to above the national average at Key Stage 2, Key Stage S4, and Post-16.
- Consistent, clear, and honest communications via a single, agreed message to stakeholders.
- The Council no longer making initial proposals for changes to academies as we are not the key decision-maker. We will now welcome two-tier proposals from Academy Trusts which are supported by the DfE.
- Proposals for primary / secondary conversion will be matched against Central Bedfordshire Council-validated pupil place requirements.
- Setting out clear value for money principles in investing any capital funds into small schools.
- Schools for the Future capital investment will not support Early Years or Post-16 proposals.
- Proposals to improve and create SEND places will continue but SEND investment will be a parallel programme led by Children's Services and not directly managed by the Schools for the Future programme.
- Schools for the Future funds will not be available to improve existing school accommodation. Additional accommodation will be provided as standalone new-build blocks unless site constraints dictate extensions/alterations are required.
- A new Design Principles Policy that sets out what can fairly and equitably be funded across the schools still in the three-tier system.
- All building improvement works will be funded by Central Bedfordshire Council and managed by Central Bedfordshire Council and its contractors
- A new six-point criteria against which the council will consider all conversion proposals.
- Comprehensive feasibility studies will inform public consultations on proposed changes

We will now be inviting all school Governing Bodies and Trusts to consider and hopefully support these proposals. The pause we brought to the programme for new schools joining can now be lifted as we have made good progress on checking pupil places needed in future aligned to the new Local Plan.

We are now very well placed to move forward at a quicker pace with the support of all our Schools for the Future partners and will be updating them, parents/carers, and other stakeholders about this revised approach.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Schools for the Future team on schoolsforthefuture@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Following the approval of the Schools for the Future Reset paper at the Executive Committee on 8 February, and the revised principles the SFF team is reviewing the cluster plans and how they can be delivered.

Some phases are more advanced than others, with a number of schools already transitioned to the two tier system. Key to our plans is accurate population data for the coming decade and matching this to school places, ensuring we have sufficient places, especially where there is expected growth in demand.

This is the work we are currently undertaking for the Leighton Buzzard and Linlade area. When we are able to share more information with the cluster we will be in contact with schools, academies and their governing bodies/trustees.

There's this section on the website: <https://www.schoolsforthefuture.co.uk/programme-update>

7. ADULT SOCIAL CARE

MARIGOLD HOUSE

Construction of Marigold House, CBC's first new care home in a generation, is underway and progressing well. The 63 place care home is designed to Passivhaus Standards, providing for a healthy indoor environment and low energy use throughout, especially important in contributing to environmental sustainability and much lower energy bills as an additional benefit. Marigold House incorporates space for community use within the building and we are inviting community representatives to inform how the new home becomes integrated to the town and how the community area may best be utilised, once the scheme is complete, scheduled for the first quarter of 2023. Thanks to Leighton Linlade Town Council for hosting the first meeting of this Working Group.

Marigold House Event: The White House Leighton Linlade Council

This was the first community engagement event for Marigold house, we expect to offer sessions on a regular basis with the next one booked for 23rd June.

The event was organised to integrate local organisations and groups into the new building project of Leighton Linlade's new care home, Marigold House, which is due to be finished early 2023.

The MANOP teams aim is to ensure this care home is an integral part of the Leighton Buzzard town and building links and relationships with partners and organisations in the local area will ensure that this will offer the best environment for this aim to be successful.

The Organisations attending were a diverse mix of people ranging from social prescribers to charities and independent volunteers within the community, their input will help shape the community development to ensure residents will receive the best living experience when they move to the care home next year.



8. TRANSFORMATION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TPC TOPIC SESSIONS

The most recent town and parish council topic session took place on 30th March and focused on digital accessibility. The recording of the session can be viewed [here](#) and the slides are available [here](#).

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)
Engine Idling	Survey to ascertain areas in Central Bedfordshire that might have issues with engine idling to inform a potential consultation	4 March 2022	30 April 2022	Jo Borthwick 0300 300 6170
Biggleswade Library	Consultation on the proposed reconfiguration of Biggleswade Library, including the co-location of a Children’s Centre, Registration Service and satellite office	14 March 2022	5 June 2022	Daniel Waller 0300 300 5608
Leighton Buzzard Day Centre	Consultation on the future of Leighton Buzzard Day Centre	6 April 2022	7 July 2022	Tobin Stephenson 0300 300 4098

Upcoming consultations and surveys

Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer(s)
Arlesey Community Governance Review	Community Governance Review on amends to the amount of town councillors for Arlesey	20 April 2022	14 June 2022	Brian Dunleavy 0300 300 4049
Leighton Linlade Leisure Centre	Consultation on the proposals for a new leisure centre in Leighton Linlade	25 April 2022	15 July 2022	Lisa White 0300 300 4489
Stotfold Library	Consultation on the proposed relocation of Stotfold library	April 2022	Tbc	Shaun Machan 0300 300 4182

9. PUBLIC HEALTH

COVID 19 RESPONSE

COVID 19 rates remain high, but in line with Government relaxation of restrictions and testing, Public Health has reduced its response. We are still supporting a variety of settings, including schools, when they reach outbreak thresholds, in order to mitigate risks where possible.

As an ongoing legacy of the Pandemic, specific Public Health delivered and commissioned interventions taking place in Leighton Linlade have been impacted, largely due to Primary Care resources becoming focused on preventing the spread of the virus and, latterly in the ongoing delivery of the vaccination programme and 'catching' on patients' needs that were not met during the Pandemic.

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 Q2 21/22 shows that the Leighton Buzzard locality was under target.

Overall, performance by the Leighton Buzzard Primary Care Network of Practices target for the period up to Q2 21/22 shows that the surgeries achieved 9 quit, where they could deliver services directly and a further 50 referrals into the Specialist Service where they could not deliver stop smoking support themselves:

LOCATION	2020/21 SMOKING QUITTERS @ Q4
Basset Road	1 quit (target 4) plus 23 referrals into CBC Level 3 Support
Leighton Road	No quits (not delivering Level 2 Support) plus 27 referrals
Salisbury House	8 quits (target 5)

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

The Service is returning to delivery of face-to-face delivery for those clients who need it. 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 2021 – February 2022, shows that in all Primary Care settings, including Leighton Buzzard, are continuing to deliver under target for Health Checks.

In Leighton Buzzard Primary Care 288 Health Checks were delivered against a target of 493 for the period (a slight increase of 58.4% of annual target to date). Overall, they invited 801 patients for a Health Check (target 2,478) so are performing at 32.3% for that indicator.

The local Practices are performing as follows:

Bassett Road is performing at 39.3% for Health Checks delivered (66 against a target of 168) and 32.1% offered (273 out of 850 target).

Leighton Road is performing at 89.2% for Health Checks delivered (189 against a target of 212) and 30.6% for offered (326 out of 1,064 target).

Salisbury House delivered 33 Health Checks from a target of 113 for the period (29.2%) and offered 202 (from a target of 564) at a rate of 35.8% during this reporting period.

The overall quality measure for these 3 practices in relation to Health Checks are 90.5% (amber) and 87.5% (red) and 89.0% (red) respectively, so there is room for improvement in quality.

The legacy of COVID continues to present not only significant health implications for our population, and has highlighted a inequalities experienced by our residents, possibly exacerbated by the disruption to the delivery of services in Primary Care. 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

WASTE COLLECTIONS – Garden Waste Collection recommenced on 28th February 2022 and are being collected every other week

LEAF FALL – Leaf Fall clearance was carried out and was generally successful

DOG PATROLS - From November 2021 to March 2022, dog patrols have been carried out in the following locations:

- Bassett Road
- Billington Road Rec
- Harrow Road
- Hawthorn Close
- Roosevelt Avenue
- Kestrel Way
- Vandyke Road
- Willowbank Walk

FLY TIPPING - We are still having issues with fly tipping around the area: A505 By-Pass, Acacia Close and Baker Street are regular areas. We have also done a recent clearance of Meadow Way removing all waste and tidying the internal footpaths, scraping them of weeds and general detritus.

We recently removed over 100 illegal fly posters from around Leighton/Linslade for various companies from streetlights / posts etc. When checked the companies were not legitimate.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE - Following the recent storms our teams helped to clear tree branches from various locations including Lime Grove, Churchill Road, and Cotefield Drive

WINTER WORKS - We carried out winter works for Grounds in Knaves Hill, Orion Way, West Street, Hockliffe Street/Lake Street Roundabout, Vimy Road, Miles Avenue and other sites

BIN DELIVERIES - We are still extremely busy with new builds and bin deliveries, but they are generally back on track and done within 10 working days

LITTER AND DOG BINS – A new litter bin was installed on Grovebury Road by the bus stop near The Car Shop

The Dog waste bin on Cotefield Drive was made a back-to-back bin

Damaged Litter bins at Oakley Green, Church Square, Kestrel Way, Waterdell and Clarence Road have all been replaced

ONLINE REPORTING LINKS:-

Missed collections - [Bins and waste collections, food waste bags, garden waste sacks and missed bins | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Replacement bins (individual and communal – damaged/lost/stolen) - [Bins and waste collections, food waste bags, garden waste sacks and missed bins | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Request different sized bins (140, 240 and 360) - [Bins and waste collections, food waste bags, garden waste sacks and missed bins | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Removal of bins - [Bins and waste collections, food waste bags, garden waste sacks and missed bins | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Order bin set for a new build - [Bins and waste collections, food waste bags, garden waste sacks and missed bins | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Assisted Bin Collections - [Bins and waste collections, food waste bags, garden waste sacks and missed bins | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Request clinical/sharps collection (can also amend and/or cancel existing collection) - [Clinical waste | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Order sacks (food/orange/pink/garden) - [Bins and waste collections, food waste bags, garden waste sacks and missed bins | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Grounds Maintenance - [Street cleansing, litter and road sweeping | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Street cleansing (includes litter clearance, street/dog bin requests, community litter pick assistance, dead animal etc) - [Street cleansing, litter and road sweeping | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Fly-Tipping - [Report fly-tipping or illegal waste dumping](#)

Pest control (wasps in public spaces) - [Pest control | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

School recycling (new/amend/cancel) - [Recycling for schools | Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

11. SUSTAINABILITY

TREE PLANTING PROJECT

The Tree planting grant scheme is currently open to new applicants and all successful applicants can begin planting in autumn, in line with the next tree planting season. This financial year the tree planting project has supported over 30 projects, 17,000 trees, and over a 1km of hedgerow. Friends of Knolls Wood in Leighton Buzzard have made excellent use of the tree grant, with their project 'Knolls Wood Regeneration - The next Generation', they have already planted 1,449 trees in 2021 and submitted another application for 2022. The grant can be used to support the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, which the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire launched in October 2021. 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 includes new urban street trees for Dunstable, Leighton and Linlade. The council hosted their tree giveaway pilot events at four locations across Bedfordshire in March 2022, including one at Leighton Buzzard market, which resulted in 300 trees being planted across our area. For further information and guidance visit <https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/tree-planting>.

ECO SCHOOLS

This academic year the Sustainability Team has been leading on a new monthly Eco-Schools forum. In February representatives of the Fairtrade Leighton-Linslade lead the 'Global Citizenship' themed eco forum. There was also representation from the National Fairtrade Foundation. The Sustainability Team is working with Greenleas School, Heathwood Lower School, Mary Bassett School, Brooklands Middle School, Oak Bank School, and Van Dyke Upper School, to support the Eco-Schools Green Flag award process. The team offers support to all schools in Central Bedfordshire through the Eco-Schools award programme. For more information email BeGreen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

GREEN BUSINESS

The Council is working with the Green Business Network (GBN) to deliver an enhanced business support programme of seminars, events and most recently the SME Sustainability Award. GBN is a membership organisation and a charity, which helps businesses reduce their impact on the environment. For further information visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/58/business/52/business_networking/6

HOUSING – SOLAR PROJECT

The council has partnered with solar panel experts iChoosr to offer residents an opportunity to buy solar panels and battery storage for their homes through a secure, group-purchasing Solar Together scheme. With increasing focus on climate action and rising electricity prices solar remains a compelling option for the domestic market with increasing numbers of people opting to add storage to a system to maximise their grid-independence. The scheme will help residents reduce their carbon emissions and energy bills. The scheme will be launched in May 2022 with registrations for residents opening on 9th May 2022. For more information email BeGreen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

12. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Date	Meeting	Time
Monday 25 April	Social Care, Health and Housing OSC	10:00am
Tuesday 26 April	Licensing Sub-committee	10:00am
Tuesday 26 April	Houghton Regis Partnership Committee	7:00pm
Thursday 28 April	Corporate Resources OSC	10:00am
Friday 6 May	Licensing Sub-committee	10:00am
Wednesday 11 May	Development Management Committee	10:00am
Thursday 12 May	Council	06:30pm
Monday 16 May	Social Care, Health and Housing OSC	10:00am
Tuesday 24 May	Traffic Management Committee	10:00am
Tuesday 31 May	Audit Committee	10:00am
Monday 6 June	Corporate Parenting Panel	02:00pm
Tuesday 7 June	Executive	09:30am
Wednesday 8 June	Development Management Committee	10:00am
Thursday 9 June	Sustainable Communities OSC	10:00am
Thursday 9 June	Dunstable Joint Committee	07:00pm
Monday 13 June	Social Care, Health and Housing OSC	10:00am
Tuesday 14 June	Children's Services OSC	10:00am
Wednesday 15 June	Licensing Committee	10:00am
Thursday 16 June	General Purposes Committee	10:00am
Thursday 16 June	Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee	7:30pm
Thursday 23 June	Corporate Resources OSC	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

SC OSC – Sustainable Communities OSC