

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL FIVE YEAR PLAN & OBJECTIVES 2019 – 2024

Proposed amendments to Council 25/4/22 following review by standing committees 7/3/22 – 11/4/22:

| OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY | | COMMENT |
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| To ensure value for money and operational efficiency and a structure which will underpin current and future service delivery by the Town Council. This work will be primarily within the remit of the Policy and Finance Committee. | | |
| 1 | To regularly review how we communicate and seek to embrace new technologies. <i>Digital meetings held in 2020/21 plus live webcasting of the Remembrance Day service and the Annual Parish Meeting on social media. Six monthly communications reports to committee.</i> | Software review 2022-23 |
| 2 | To continue to aim towards a paperless office. <i>The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated this objective with a significant move towards more online working.</i> | Software review 2022-23 |
| 3 | To review our financial systems and develop more financial analysis/reporting. <i>This work is scheduled for 2022-23.</i> | Software review 2022-23 |
| 4 | To develop a customer service strategy. | COMPLETED |
| 5 | To review waste and recycling operations <i>Last update to Grounds Committee March 2022. Significant increase in recycling per Council's environmental ambitions.</i> | Reported regularly to Grounds Committee |
| 6 | To revisit the Volunteer Strategy. <i>Following consultation with volunteer groups, a new policy was adopted by Council in 2020.</i> | COMPLETED |
| 7 | To increase environmental awareness and incorporate the Town Council's environmental ambitions across all facilities and service areas. | Ongoing through all committees and Council |
| 8 | To work with the local authority to review and where appropriate, upgrade existing CCTV provision. <i>The CCTV cameras in Town Council owned parks will be upgraded to digital in 2021, allowing better quality data capture, particularly at night.</i> | Underway and due for completion during 2022 |
| 9 | To consider imaginative uses of Community Safety budgets for the benefit of our community. <i>Funds have been invested in supporting young people and reducing antisocial behaviour, supporting traffic management in the vicinity of schools.</i> | Ongoing through the Community Safety sub-committee |

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| 10 | To renew the Council's Quality Gold accreditation in 2021. <i>Re-accreditation confirmed in May 2021.</i> | COMPLETED |
| GROWTH, COMMUNITY COHESION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | | Comment |
| To recognise and embrace co-plan the growth of our community town with Central Bedfordshire Council and other agencies and to seek to influence the local authority and partners to plan and secure adequate infrastructure provision. This work will be within the remit of all committees. | | |
| 11 | To work collaboratively develop a plan for collaborative working with neighbouring parishes, particularly in respect of planned housing growth but in other areas too. <i>This work is ongoing through various meetings and forums.</i> | High priority. |
| 12 | To embrace the eastern urban extension and seek to integrate this into the existing community. To secure the redrawing of parish boundaries to include the housing growth east of the town into our parish. <i>The Town Council has lobbied CBC and the Boundary Commission to undertake a governance review as soon as practicable.</i> | High priority. |
| 12a Chg to 14 | Following the outcome of the boundary governance review, to consult the new residents to the East of Leighton Buzzard (properties within the parish of Leighton-Linslade) to identify a priority list of community needs as input to discussions with CBC on S106 delivery. | High priority. Planning & Transport Committee. |
| 13 | To continue to lobby Central Bedfordshire Council for improved and timely infrastructure by a) generating a priority list of Infrastructure needs for our town, b) pursuing S106 allocations to that list through periodic meetings with CBC planning and spending officers, including discussions on destinating previously-negotiated S106 allocations, c) tagging consideration of planning applications at P & T Committee with fresh S106 requests linked to that list, d) regular monitoring of the delivery of those negotiated allocations. <i>This work is ongoing through the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee.</i> | High priority. Planning & Transport Committee |
| 14 | To review the parish boundary and ward arrangements. <i>See point 12 above.</i> | Replace with above at 12a |

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| 15 | To continue to seek ways in which to help support community safety, community cohesion and help address antidote isolation and loneliness in Older People. <i>Work commenced in 2020 to support older people in the community by helping relevant groups, providing information and addressing digital inclusion. The council has introduced new off-peak pricing to encourage community use of its facilities.</i> | Older Persons Sub-Committee (under C+E Committee) |
| 16 | To discuss regularly with Central Bedfordshire Council continue to liaise with the local authority on matters for which it is responsible and which affect residents of the parish. <i>This work is ongoing and includes raising matters including traffic and transport issues, parking, community safety matters and healthcare provision.</i> | Medium priority. |

| VIABILITY VIBRANCY AND VITALITY OF TOWN AND TOWN CENTRE | | Comment |
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| To continue to support a thriving, vital and successful town centre and vibrant town through a town planning partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council working and initiatives including management of the street market, support for local businesses, town and community promotions, and town centre enhancements. This work will be primarily within the remit of the Cultural & Economic Services Committee. | | |
| 17 | To consider delivery of a Town Ranger service. COMPLETED <i>Includes graffiti removal and cleaning.</i> | Ongoing through the Grounds & Environmental Service. |
| 18 | To promote the creation of a soft play facility within the town. <i>This is now identified in the Partnership Project List as requiring third parties to drive this forward on a commercial basis.</i> | To be market driven |
| 19 | To identify, promote and celebrate the unique features and heritage of the Parish to both residents and visitors. <i>Buzzard Trails App. for Living History Trail launched October 2019. The locally distinctive new Town Centre logo launched 2020.</i> | Ongoing |

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| 20 | To consider taking on additional services, where practicable and where considered beneficial to the town. <i>Central Bedfordshire Council's public realm scheme has partly funded the equipment for the Town Ranger service. Any further approach regarding devolvement of services awaited from CBC.</i> | Ongoing |
| 21 | To promote the town centre as a safe and vital vibrant place to visit in the evening. <i>Coordination role of Best Bar None scheme relinquished March 2020 & passed to Central Bedfordshire Council. 2020 scheme cancelled. Town Centre lighting scheme ongoing.</i> | Ongoing |
| 22 | Consider the provision of town centre Wi-Fi (including footfall monitoring facility). <i>Wi-Fi and GeoSense footfall systems went 'live' January 2020. Funded for 3yrs using planning development funds, s106, released by CBC.</i> Suggested replacement Objective: To introduce 'piped' music via wifi systems to improve the retail ambiance particularly at Christmas. | Ongoing |
| 23 | To continue to manage, promote and develop the street market. <i>Alternative location in May, returned to the High Street in June, short-term 'Thursday eXtra' market delivered & current layout utilising temporary pedestrianisation of High Street.</i> | Ongoing |
| 24 | To continue to deliver quality community events and regularly review their scope and delivery. <i>Alternative delivery throughout 2020, online band concerts, online VE&VJ day activity, Town Centre Business & Halloween Trails & Christmas markets.</i> | Ongoing |
| 25 | To consider ways to work with town centre businesses to achieve digital/online commerce options and promote the town's shopping/ leisure offer. <i>Funding for online LL Directory (Shopping & Services), funded ShopLocalLB online platform (shop based businesses), updated Town Centre Shops & Services Directory & circulated, COVID-19 Welcome Back campaign delivered & updated Official Town Guide.</i> | Ongoing |
| 26 | To consider ways to support the increase in leisure and personal development opportunities for youth, incorporating ongoing feedback from young people and considering suitability of delivery locations for youth work. | Ongoing |

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| | <i>Table tennis tables installed in parks following feedback from young people funded by Grounds and Environmental Services Committee, commenced preparations with Partnership Committee's Community Forum, for youth survey to be delivery in autumn 2021; theme of youth provision within the town. Annual TACTIC delivery plan in place.</i> | |
| 27 | To consider ways to support the increase in leisure opportunities for older people. <i>See no. 15. £50k dedicated to fund digital inclusion scheme, 55up Grant Fund, directory of leisure activities & provided community web development.</i> | Ongoing and linked to objective 15 regarding isolation. |
| 27a | To consider the potential identify an outline facilities and services spec for a cultural and community facility Centre in the town centre, followed by space/location requirements, followed by a Project planning process, including funding, to enable the Council to reach a go/no go decision. <i>South Side working party established and reporting to Policy & Finance Committee.</i> | This also remains on the Partnership Project List and a standing item on Partnership Committee agendas, as CBC is the majority landowner. |

| GREAT PUBLIC OPEN SPACES | | COMMENT |
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| To provide great public open spaces with varied opportunities for sport and leisure and to exceed expectations in delivering cemetery and allotment services. This work will primarily be within the remit of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee. | | |
| 28 | To refurbish Pages Park pavilion to ensure it is safe and suitable for continued community and sporting use. | COMPLETED |
| 29 | To create a plan for the management, maintenance and use of all pavilion buildings. <i>Ongoing – External cleaning contractor appointed, new pavilions supervisor in place, new bookings administrator appointed 2021. Last update to committee on facilities bookings March 2022.</i> | |
| 30 | To continue to provide excellent play equipment across the parish and to expand the range of accessible play equipment available. <i>Last update to committee March 2022. Alwins Field play area to be improved 2022, to be followed by Derwent Road play area.</i> | |

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| 31 | To expand memorial services available at Town Council run cemeteries. <i>Additions to Vandyke Road Cemetery COMPLETED - New memorial options installed, and pricing agreed September 2020. Considerations for Old Linslade Cemetery under review. Enhanced marketing will be delivered by the end of 2021.</i> | |
| 32 | To continue to actively seek additional cemetery land or where this is not possible, to consider other ways in which to expand burial capacity. <i>Last update to committee December 2021.</i> | |
| 33 | To continue to computerise historic cemetery records. <i>Ongoing – Please note it is highly likely that this may never be completed. Possibilities for volunteers undertaking some work will be reviewed and updated to committee for consideration when possible.</i> | |
| 34 | To create a ten year planned maintenance programme for buildings and assets. <i>Following accessibility review of all buildings, work is continuing towards a plan. Late update to committee March 2022.</i> | |
| 35 | To continue to seek freehold depot premises. | |
| 36 | To continue to aim towards the creation of localised Friends groups. <i>Ongoing – Previously taken to 10th June 2019 committee meeting.</i> | |
| 37 | To consider options for restoration of historic features and monuments, where practicable and viable. <i>Restoration to condition of Vandyke Road Cemetery lych gate and chapel in 5 year financial plan for 2024-25</i> | |
| 38 | To seek to maintain and enhance sporting provision. <i>Ongoing – Sports and Physical Activity Development Plan currently being revised (Sept 2020).</i> | |
| 39 | To continue to build on the success of the annual Anglia in Bloom campaign. <i>2020 and 2021 campaigns cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic.</i> | |
| 40 | To install interpretation panels in the parks and open spaces. <i>Ongoing – last update to committee March 2022.</i> | |
| 41 | To install drinking water fountains in the larger parks. <i>Work on this project has been postponed until 2022/2023 by Council agreement following the Covid pandemic (discussed by Council November 2021)</i> | |
| 42 | To install a Changing Pod facility in Parson's Close Recreation Ground to meet requirements of additional needs. <i>Completed – Fully funded through S106 monies from Central Bedfordshire Council.</i> | COMPLETED |

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| 43 | To consider the development of the playground in Parson's Close Recreation Ground to incorporate an adventure play area. <i>Last update to committee March 2022; Project management of this development underway.</i> | Due for completion July 2022 |
| 44 | To consider car parking arrangements and capacity at town council-owned facilities. <i>Linslade Memorial Playing Field – CBC approached regarding enforcement.</i> | |
| 45 | To continue to invest in facilities for young people. <i>Sept 2020 – Purchase of outdoor table tennis tables agreed. Last discussed by committee March 2022; further consultation needed.</i> | Also in discussion at C+E and Partnership committees. |
| 46 | To work with key partners on the development of the Leighton-Linslade Green Wheel. <i>Endorsed by Council and is now being implemented where possible. £20k of funds made available for projects to be completed via the Ouzel Valley Park Steering Group.</i> | |
| 47 | To assess likely future demand for allotments. <i>Update to committee March 2022.</i> | |
| 48 | To consider possibilities for the restoration of the Henry Finch Memorial Fountain in Linslade Recreation Ground. <i>Last discussed at committee December 2021; condition report awaited to inform next steps.</i> | Next report to committee June 2022 |