


Sandy Town Council

To: Cllrs P N Aldis, J Ali, P Blaine, T Cole, A M Hill, W Jackson, G Leach, C Osborne, M Pettitt, D Quick, M Scott, D Sharman, P Sharman, J Sparrow, and S Sutton

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Sandy Town Council to be held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 1 August 2016 commencing at 7.30pm for the purpose of transacting the items of business below


Chris Robson
Town Clerk
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy
SG19 1JE
01767 681491
26 July 2016

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS MEETING

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence

2 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

Under the Localism Act 2011 members of Council are not required to make oral declarations of interest at meetings but may not participate in discussion or voting on any items of business in which they have a Declarable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) and under Sandy Town Council's Standing Orders must leave the room for the duration of all discussion on such items. (All members' register of interests are available on the Sandy Town Council website or on application to the Clerk.)

*This item is included on the agenda to enable members to declare new DPIs and also **those who wish to do so** may draw attention to their stated DPIs and also any non-declarable personal interests which they have declared under Sandy Town Council's adopted Code of Conduct and which may be relevant to items on the agenda.*

- i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests*
- ii) Non Pecuniary Interests*
- iii) Dispensations*

3 Public Participation Session

To receive questions and representations from members of the public.

Sandy Town Council

4 Minutes of previous Town Council meetings

To consider the Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 20 June 2016 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

5 Minutes of committees and recommendations therein

To receive and note the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub-committees and (if applicable) to approve recommendations therein which do not arise elsewhere

- i) Development Scrutiny Committees held on 27 June 2016 and 18 July 2016
- ii) Community Services and Environment Committee held on 27 June 2016
- iii) Policy, Finance and Resource Committee held on 11 July 2016

Resolved to Recommend that the Town Council support the Scouts by funding the firework event up to the cost of £4,000 and that this money is reimbursed from ticket sales, with all event profit above and beyond this going to the Scouts. Also that a representative of the Council sits on the fireworks organising body.

6 Financial Matters

- i) To note a summary statement of income and expenditure against budget for the year to date (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 11 July 2016).
- ii) To note a list of payments made since the last Town Council meeting (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 11 July 2016).

7 Action List

To receive and note the Action List.

Appendix I

8 Central Bedfordshire Local Plan

- i) To receive a summary of the Community Plan Steering Group's comments on CBC's Technical Site Assessment Criteria consultation.
- ii) To receive a briefing report from the Town Clerk on the CBC Local Plan conference held on 13th July 2016.

Appendix II

Appendix III

Sandy Town Council

- 9 Beeston Green Affordable Housing and Orchard Project**
i) To receive a report from the Town Clerk Appendix IV
ii) To receive a report from Central Bedfordshire Council Appendix V
- 10 Sandy Schools**
To receive an update from Cllr Hill on recent proposed changes to schooling in Sandy.
- 11 General Permitted Development Orders**
To receive a report on General Permitted Development Orders and their implications for Sandy Town Council. Appendix VI
- 12 Annual Report**
To receive a copy of the Council's Annual Report for 2015/16. Appendix VII
- 13 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors**
To receive reports from Sandy's Central Bedfordshire Councillors.
- 14 Reports from representatives on outside bodies**
To receive written reports from Council representatives on outside bodies/organisations.
i) Twinning visit to Skarszewy, Poland – Cllr W Jackson Appendix VIII
- 15 News Releases**
- 16 Chairman's Items**
- 17 Date of Next Meeting: 12 September 2016**

AGENDA ITEM 7

APPENDIX I

Town Council - Action list

Subject	Action to be taken		Response/ Agenda no.
	Minute	Action	
Meeting 9/11/15			
Bedford Road Recreation Ground – Outdoor Gym Equipment	(86-15/16)	Completion of Sport England park user's survey to support grant application. This is external to the Council.	Consultation/ Surveying to take place at Bedford Road park re need for to establish interest. On-going
Surgery relocation to Shannon Court	(87-15/16)	Council agreed changes to the car park layout in principle. Town Clerk to continue to work with Dr Graffy to identify potential funding.	On going. 12/7/16 Dr Graffy informed Clerk that he is awaiting confirmation of additional support to ensure the project can go ahead.
East West Rail Link	(89-15/16)	Town Council strongly support the East West rail link coming through Sandy and to lobby the relevant authorities.	Awaiting publication of Sandy corridor details. Delayed from May 2016.
Meeting 7/3/16			
Allotments Site Search	(129-2015/16)	That members have reviewed the new information presented regarding the development of the site and no longer consider it to be a viable option for the investment and creation of an allotment site. That the above resolution is 'without prejudice to any views we may take to the possible development on that site' and that the Council actively seek alternative land for allotments.	On going Progress and updates to go to the Community Services and Environment Committee Matter on Agenda – Beeston orchard land
Road Investment Strategy A1	(130-2015-16)	To respond to Cllr M Russell and write to the local Member for Parliament and the Under Secretary for Department of Transport outlining the points made.	Acknowledgements of receipt letters have been received. Further information due following Stake holders meeting in July. No update at time of agenda.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 1 August 2016

AUTHOR: Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Central Bedfordshire Council's draft Technical Site Assessment Criteria

Summary

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) is currently consulting on the draft technical site criteria that will be used when reviewing sites that came forward as part of CBC's Local Plan's 'Call for Sites'. The Assessment Criteria documents were previously sent to Councillors and can be found on CBC's website.

This criterion will be used as CBC's standard criteria when assessing all sites across CBC, including those in Sandy. The Community Plan group reviewed the assessments point by point, considering the potential sites in Sandy and the impact the assessments will have. Comments were fed back to Central Bedfordshire Council as part of the assessment.

Information

The following table summarises the questions and comments raised by the Community Plan Steering group;

Housing Framework			
Stage	Point		Comment
1A	2	Q	Why is it just Flood Zone 2 & 3, and not flood zone 1?
1A	3	Q	Why is it just Flood Zone 2 & 3, and not flood zone 1?
1B	6	Q	Will a Site be automatically rejected if there is a physical restraint? Or would the possibility of crossing obstacles be considered and built into the assessment process?
		C	Members would like the possibility of crossing obstacles to be included in the assessment, i.e. crossing a rail line.
		C	'Logical' needs to be defined. What logic is being used to assess the sites by? It is not possible to conclude a site is a 'logical extension' without knowing what logic it is being assessed against.
1B	7	Q	No one site in Sandy would produce an increase in area of more than 25% as a standalone site. However, if sites to the North were to be joined into one site a 25% area increase may be likely. At what point will assessments consider the validity of joining with neighbouring sites and how will this be demonstrated in the process?

1B	7	C	Members had no issue with question 6 & 7 in general, but felt that in Sandy's case it failed to take into account possible changes it isn't possible to predict in the time frame of the plan, namely the East West Rail link and A1.
1C	8	Q	Members had no concerns with the question, but did wonder how CBC will find out the relevant information?
1E	13	Q	Could Central Bedfordshire Council confirm Sandy does not have any statutory green belt land within its settlement envelope?
1E	14		
1E	15		
1E	16		
2A	19	Q	What form of consultation does this refer to? CBC consultation only or developer consultation? Will there be consultation on each site?
		Q	Sandy Town Council has issued a leaflet asking for people's opinions on the future development of the town. Will this count as site consultation or will it be more specific?
2A	21	Q	Will a lack of development over the last ten years make Sandy a CBC priority for development as part of the new Local Plan?
2A	24	C	<p>The question appears to assess the sites relationship to the existing settlement purely on geography and does not take into account matters such as distance, transport, vehicle access, and car parking to and from the town centre and service areas.</p> <p>The assessment does not take into consideration car parking capacity for shops and train station.</p> <p>Distance from settlement centre should be included as an assessment point.</p> <p>The community needs a central focus with connectivity between developments and the site assessment must address that need.</p> <p>Members felt this assessment point was inadequate with a very limited view on how a site relates to a settlement.</p>
2B	26	C	<p>There is no question on the capacity of Doctor's surgeries. A surgery may be close to the settlement but the assessment must consider whether a surgery has the capacity to take more residents.</p> <p>Members felt there should be a follow up surgery question, similar to that of the schools.</p>
2B	27	C	None of the questions in this section (26-30) have assessment of adequate provision; the assessment simply asks whether a service exists. The assessment must consider whether the current provision is adequate.
2B	28	Q	Will CBC continue to support current bus services as well as any future bus services that will be needed to support site development?

2B	29	C	Crucially Sandy still does not know if there will be another station as part of the East West rail link. This could dramatically affect the assessment of all sites.
2B	30	C	A site simply passing as accessible is not a good enough criteria. The assessment should address whether access points are capable of taking additional traffic and whether improvements would be needed. i.e. widening of access point etc. Members felt a secondary question was needed to address the above point.
2B	31	C	The question should read 'Spare capacity' and should look at that percentage level so the sites impact on school numbers can be directly assessed.
2B	32	Q	Will it be for the developer to commit to addressing lack of school capacity?

Strategic Employment Framework			
Stage	Point No		Comment
2B	23	C	As yet Sandy does not know if the East West Rail Link will result in an additional station at Sandy, and if so where this may go. Consideration must also be given to train and town centre parking to support a growing commuter base.
2B	24	C	Whether the road network has the capacity to take more traffic as a result of site development should be assessed as part of the criteria.

The following general questions were raised, which do not relate to a specific assessment point;

General Comments and Questions	
Q.	What happens once a site has gone through the assessment and passed?
Q	How are the answers to the questions weighed? For example, what weight does a 'Red' score carry?

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 1 August 2016

AUTHOR: Town Clerk

SUBJECT: CBC Local Plan Town and Parish Conference 13th July 2016

Summary

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) held a conference on 13th July 2016 to update Councils on the status of their Local Plan and to set out a timeline for consultation and completion.

The conference was attended by Cllrs Blaine, Hill, Aldis and the Town Clerk. A copy of the presentation has been forwarded to members and is available on the CBC website. The following report is meant as a briefing on the points presented by CBC.

Strategic Context

- CBC needs to adopt a Local Plan due to the rapid growth in jobs and homes in Central Bedfordshire, MK, Luton and Cambridge. This growth brings challenges with it, specifically around infrastructure provision, such as healthcare, schools and roads. The aim of the Local Plan is to steer growth to areas where it will be sustainable.
- Longer life spans and smaller household sizes means housing is now needed for four generations, rather than three as previously planned for.
- Central Bedfordshire is an attractive location, with high commuter output and good transport links.
- The role of Town and Parish Councils is to assist/advise CBC in understanding where growth will go and steering it to where it can be managed sustainably and get most benefits from development, as well as giving consideration to what type of growth we want to see in Central Bedfordshire.
- As well as looking at expanding settlements the building of new communities as a way of handling growth may also be considered, also looking at successful examples of new settlements such as Wixams, Fairfield and Shortstown.

Local Plan Progress Update

- As Members are aware a Local Plan is a statutory requirement and CBC's current Plan needs to be replaced. As part of their Local Plan CBC are required to demonstrate 5 years' worth of housing land.
- CBC is currently short of being able to demonstrate a 5 year land supply.
- The plan is for a 20 year period, 2015 to 2035, and must incorporate national and local population growth expectations. It is anticipated that CBC's population will increase by 17% by 2035. This is an increase from **264,000 to 310,000**.
- CBC wishes to have the plan submitted for inspection by the end of 2017.
- As Members will be aware, Councils have a **Duty to Cooperate** with neighbouring authorities. CBC's previous Plan failed on this point and they are now actively engaging with all 9 boundary neighbours.
- The duty to cooperate addresses cross boundary strategic matters. If neighbouring Local Plans cannot identify enough housing land within their area their plans may ask CBC to take on this additional housing. This cannot be ignored and must be addressed.
- Shared market housing – as there are no large towns in CBC's area we form part of other market housing areas (MK, Bedford, etc.) People from or working in these areas may move to Central Bedfordshire and commute. This puts additional pressure on our housing needs.

How many new homes?

- CBC needs between 28,000 – 32,000 dwellings over the period 2015 – 35.
- 25,000 of these have already been built or been given permission, meaning the Council must look for an additional 7,000 as part of the Local Plan.
- However, unmet need from neighbouring authorities will add to their target.
- This means the Plan may need to identify up to 23,000 extra new homes in the Plan. (THESE FIGURES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Timetable

- Launched 15th February 2015
- November 2015 – November 2016, CBC drawing up evidence base and pulling information together for the **Draft Local Plan**
- September 2016 - December 2016, working with communities & stake holders
- Consulting on a Draft Local Plan at the end of 2016 into 2017
- January 2017 – March 2017, considering consultation comments
- January 2017 – June 2017, work with communities to produce **Community Plans** for evidence base
- Re-draft Plan based on consultation feedback – June/July 2017
- The Re-drafted Plan will be the final Plan prior to submission to government
- Further consultation, however no major modifications can be made to the Plan
- Submit to government in December 2017

What is in the Draft Local Plan

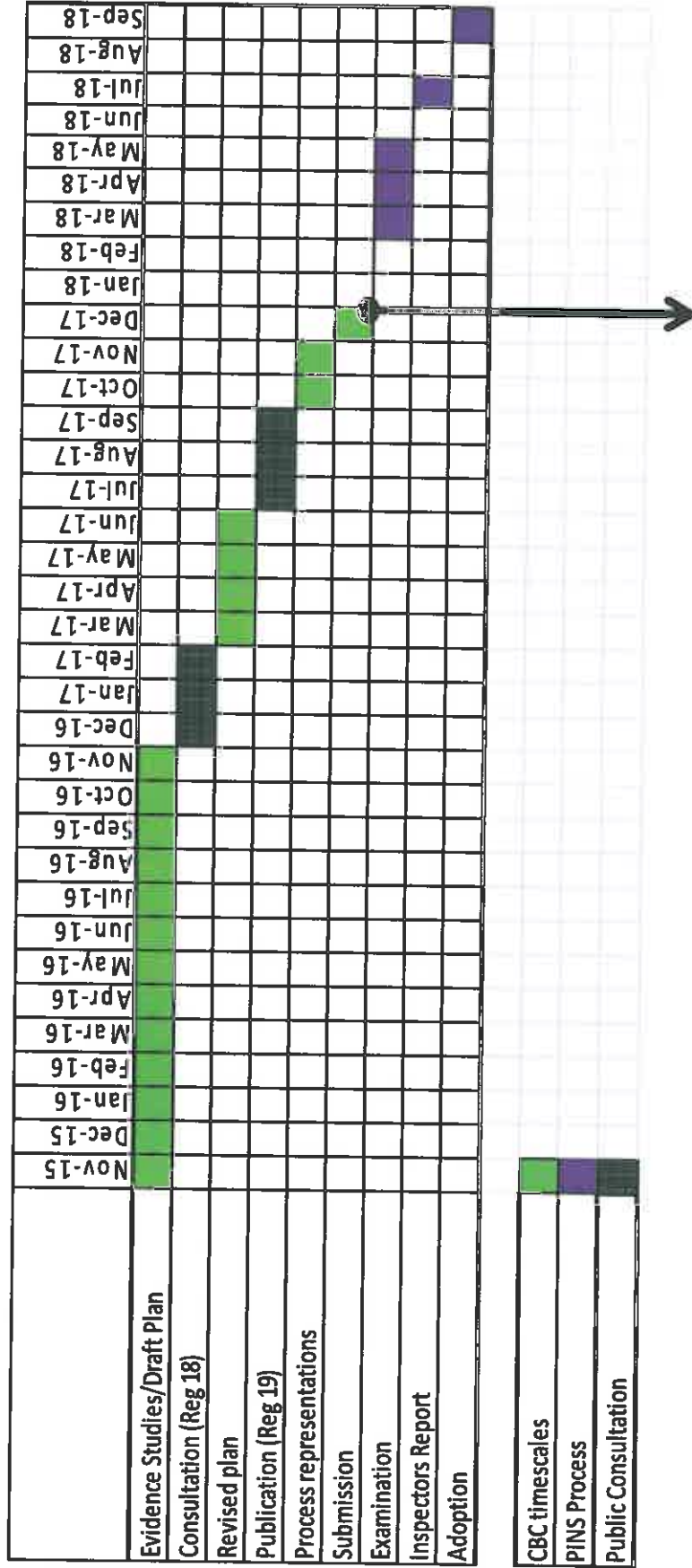
- A preferred strategy for growth
- New up to date development policies
- Broad range of development locations – no detail on smaller sites
- New transport infrastructure – where roads provide good access
- Increased services
- Opportunities to protect the environment

Community Plans and Engagement

- The conference marked the start of engagement with communities and stakeholders.
- Engagement via **Community Planning**. The aim of this is to allow councils and residents to input information on their area which will help shape the Local Plan.
- Engagement will include workshops for Councils and stakeholders and Road Shows to engage with residents.
- The information collected through workshops and road shows forms the **Community Plan**.

- Community Plans in this context are a document produced by CBC, working with communities to inform the emerging Local Plan as part of its evidence base.
- In the future these Community Plans will form part of the planning decision process, although will have no statutory powers.
- The 75 town and parish councils within CBC have been grouped together based on location and underlying factors.
- Sandy is grouped with Blunham, Tempsford and Everton. This grouping will be jointly consulted via an area workshop and the results will form one Community Plan covering the four areas.
- Community information packs for each of the 15 Community Plan areas will be available in October 2016. This will include information on infrastructure requirements and settlement facilities. This will also include guidance on what information is needed from the workshops.

Process: Local Plan Timescale



Submission
December 2017

What is the timeline for delivering the new Local Plan?

Local Plan: The Journey



How are we going to engage with everybody?

Local Plan: The Journey



SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 1 August 2016

AUTHOR: Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Land at Beeston

Summary

On the 29 June 2016 a meeting was held with Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) officers on a proposal to build affordable homes and a community orchard on CBC owned land in Beeston Green.

The following report summarises discussion at the meeting and the current project status. This report is to be accompanied by a CBC officer report and drawings.

Background

The proposal to create a community orchard on CBC land in Beeston dates back seven years. Four years ago CBC agreed to support the aspiration by making the land available for community use. The land is owned by CBC and fronts Beeston Village Green.

There has long been a drive, from the Beeston Green Wildlife Group in particular, to allow this land to be used to establish and run a Community Orchard. Letters of support were previously provided from residents. It was intended that a strong and active group of volunteers would be able to run/manage the orchard.

CBC have a duty to realise the value of its assets and a policy to provide affordable housing. Some development of the land would be compatible with community use, but planning policy will only provide affordable housing.

In June 2015 the results of a local planning housing survey identified a need for 6 affordable houses in Beeston. It was suggested that these houses could be incorporated into the proposed orchard land, being positioned at the front of the site closest to the village green. The remaining land could then be developed as an orchard, with developer contributions going towards set up costs.

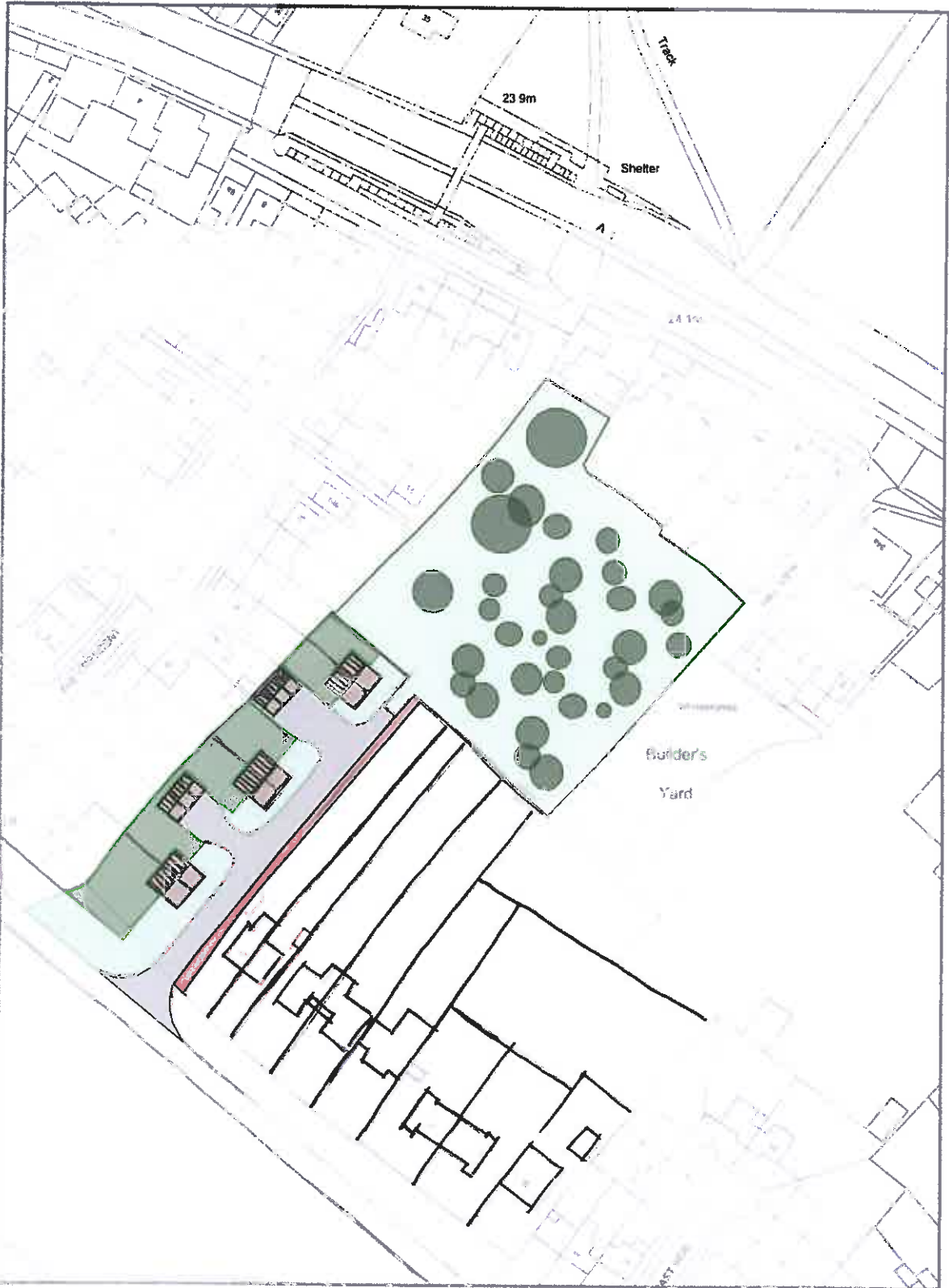
Information

- The attached plan shows the site in question. The site is 0.8258 hectares. The site available for the Orchard if the 6 houses are built is 0.6 hectares.



- Management of the land must be decided to accompanying a planning application.
- Pre-application advice suggests that the attached plan (with caveats) would receive support from planners. An amended plan has been invited for further pre-app advice, including the repositioning of houses and a management plan for the community orchard.
- The original groups of volunteers that supported the project are depleted, therefore consideration would need to be given as to who would managed the orchard.
- Due to Sandy's need for allotments the possibility of exploring the division of the orchard land into an orchard and allotments could be considered. At an estimate 50% of the available 0.6 hectares may be able to provide 20 x 5 pole allotment pitches.
- If allotments were to be incorporated consideration would need to be given to water, car parking and access. A car park on the site would reduce the available space for the orchard and allotments.
- The developer could fund preparation of the site. Increasing the level of houses on the site would result in more funding for further work but would reduce the orchard area. If the level of housing increases from 6, each additional 2 houses would reduce the orchard by approx. 0.1 hectares. However, planners may not allow more than the 6 houses identified by the housing survey.

Considerations for Council

1. Will STC support the principle of development as outlined?
2. Is there still appetite for a community orchard in Beeston?
3. Whether the land could be divided between orchard use and allotment use?
4. Who would maintain the land?
5. Would STC, with the support of CBC's Steve Halton, write a management plan for the community orchard (This could be incorporated into the Beeston Green Management Plan)
6. If the development goes ahead, under what terms would STC accept transfer of the land (access, site preparation, hard landscaping etc)



Land at The Green, Beeston

	Date: 16 July 2015	© Crown Copyright and database right 2015 Ordnance Survey 100049029 Central Bedfordshire Council <small>OS and Ordnance Survey are registered trademarks of Ordnance Survey Ltd.</small>	
	Scale: 1:1250		

Report for Sandy Town Council

Date: 1 August 2016

Title: Update on housing / green space project at The Green, Beeston

Purpose of the Report: For information - to update the Town Council on the progress of this project

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 There has long been a drive, historically from the Beeston Wildlife Group in particular, to allow land at The Green in Beeston to be used to establish and run a Community Orchard. There is a strong and active local P3 group of volunteers and letters of support from residents. More recently the allotment society and Open Gardens groups have become active locally.
- 1.2 Four years ago CBC agreed to support the aspirations of this group and Sandy Town Council (STC) by making the land available for community use. The land is owned by CBC and fronts Beeston Village Green which is owned by STC. Part of the verge in front of the site is also designated Village Green. Part of the land was previously a commercial orchard, and remnants remain in the boundary hedgerows.
- 1.3 Funding for conservation activity and planting is likely to be successful with the continued support of CBC to STC. CBC will continue to work with STC to promote and contribute towards the necessary works for the orchard.
- 1.4 Central Bedfordshire Council has a duty to realise the value of its assets and also a policy to provide affordable housing. Some development on this land is compatible with community use, but planning policy will only support affordable housing. Results of a survey of local housing need (showing that 6 new, affordable homes are required in Beeston) was reported to STC in June 2015, and their views sought on delivery options.
- 1.5 The principle of development in 2 parts (6 affordable houses at the front of the site to meet the evidential need and a community orchard / green space behind) has been tested. Pre-app advice suggests that (with caveats) the plan in Appendix A would receive support from planners.
- 1.6 A meeting was held between representatives from STC and CBC on 29 June, to ascertain if STC were likely to support the principle of development as outlined. Whilst there was a general agreement that STC were happy with the scheme, some amendments were suggested. There follows a summary of the issues discussed.

2. KEY POINTS

2.1 Housing

- Possible re-positioning of the houses; there was suggestion from planners that there may need to be an alteration to the frontage to remain in keeping

with the rest of The Green. It is understood that STC are unlikely to object to either option.

- Possibility of increasing the number of houses from six to eight or ten, with two or more of these houses being 'market rate' to make the project more attractive to potential developers. Lee Newton, Surveyor from CBC Property and Assets has agreed with Planners that this would be acceptable. It should be noted that the larger the scheme, there would be more chance of a sizeable donation / contribution from a developer towards the upkeep of the orchard. Lee will also ascertain whether CBC Housing wish to take on this development themselves, and if not, whether a Housing Association might.

Appendix B shows the plans for the additional options mentioned above.

2.2 Division of Green Space

The possibility of incorporating both orchard planting and allotments on the green space was discussed. It was reported that membership of the Beeston Wildlife Group has fallen, and it is hoped that combining orchard and allotment ambitions may reinvigorate the local volunteer community. Options discussed also included having a low key wildlife area with possibly a smaller orchard area and a mix of allotments (conventional and raised beds for accessibility), leaving the scope to plant more trees in the future, if and when capacity grew.

2.3 Management Plan

The pre app suggested that a successful application would need a management plan for the community orchard / green space The Beeston Project Group comprised of Cllrs Stock, Hill and Scott will produce this with support from CBC's funding of BRCC. It is anticipated that the management plan for the green space will form a chapter in the plan for the whole village Green.

BRCC are able to offer support with the following:

- Site survey and proposed layout
- Management Plan
- Community Consultation / engagement
- Volunteer support
- Potential ongoing management support

BRCC have also secured a grant of £9k from S106 funding towards the establishment of the orchard, including 75 fruit trees (and associated stakes, guards etc.) an information board and a bench. Although this funding should be spent by March 2017, it has been established with Laura Kitson, (Beds and Luton Green Infrastructure Officer CBC) that there could be an option to extend this timescale if necessary.

Planned role of STC re the future management of the site – it is anticipated that STC will be either the freehold or leaseholder of the land which we expect to be subject to planning conditions to adhere to the approved management plan.

2.4 Additional potential

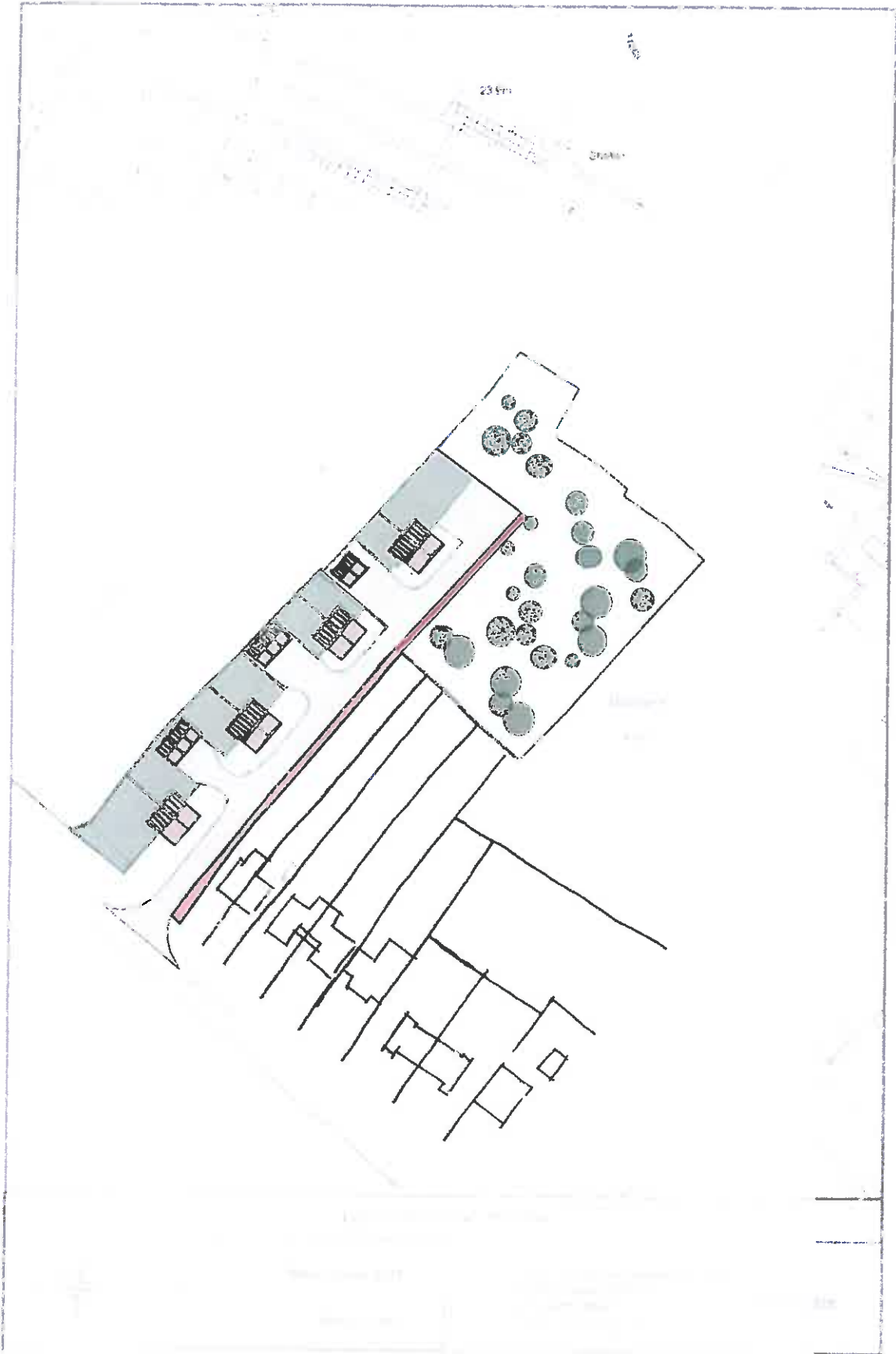
- The owner of one of the bordering properties has enquired about purchasing a parcel of land within the site for use as a garden.
- Another owner with a bordering property has contacted CBC enquiring about selling a parcel of land they own, to be included in this development.

Lee Newton is exploring both of these options further.

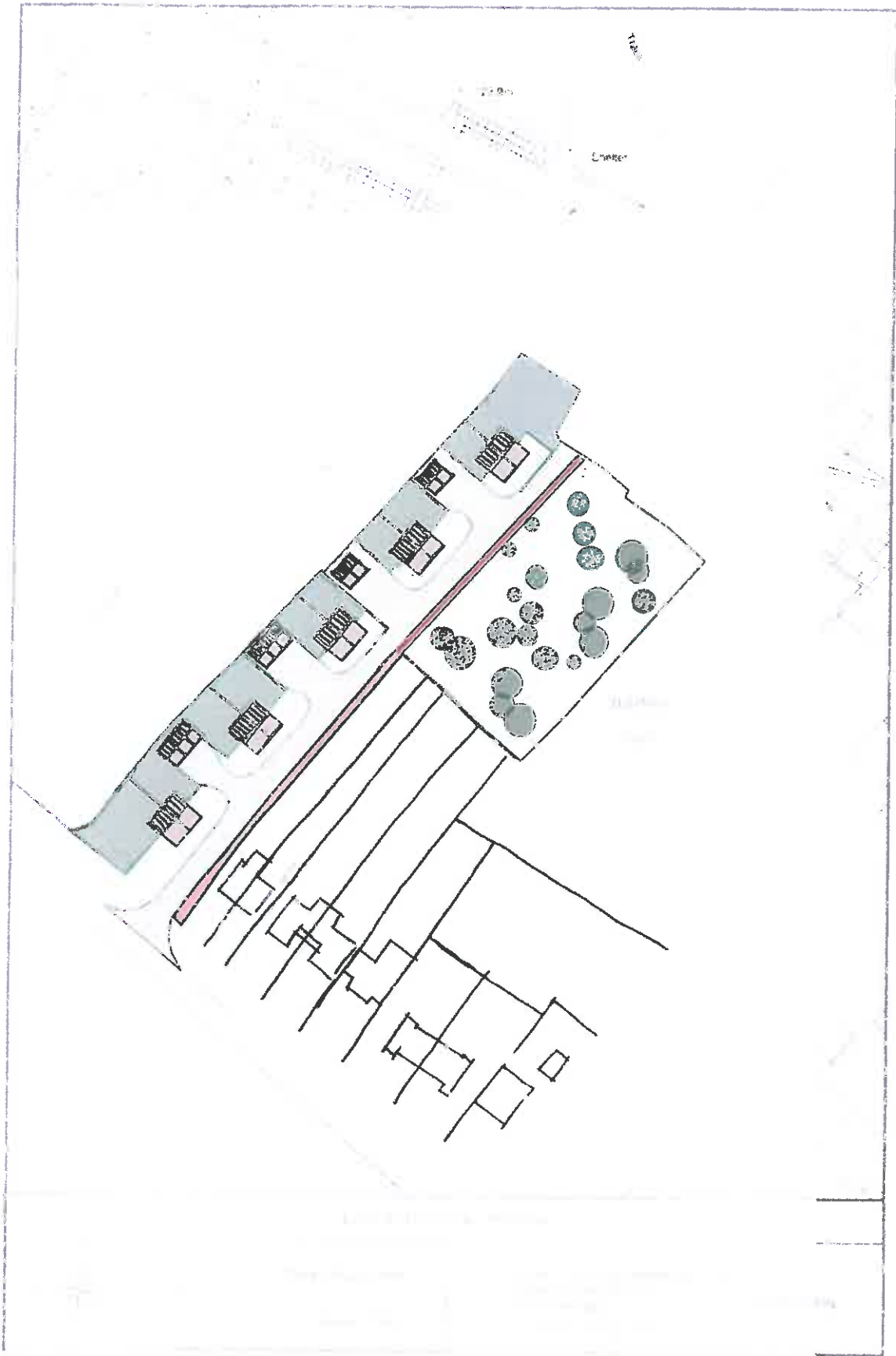
3. NEXT STEPS / TIMESCALE

Agree and finalise plans ready for submission to Planning	End of Sept 2016 (subject to further pre-app)
Agreement on the terms of the transfer of the land from CBC to STC	Following planning decision
Timescale and programme of activity to enable the necessary community engagement, planning and preparation	Following planning decision





Appendix B



Appendix B

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**DATE: 1 August 2016****AUTHOR: Administrator - Anne Elliott-Flockhart****SUBJECT: General Permitted Development Order****Summary**

One of the Councils Administrators recently came across the decision for a storage building located behind Lloyds Chemist in the Market Square to be converted into 2 one bedroom dwellings, on the local authority's website while looking for planning decisions. (CB/1601493/PADO)

The Administrator got in contact with the planning officer to question why Sandy Town Council had not been informed of this application and was informed that planning permission was not required as it was permitted under General Permitted Development Order.

The Development Scrutiny Committee discussed the matter at a meeting on 6 June 2016 where it was resolved to contact Sandy's CBC Councillors asking them to investigate.

What is a GPDO?

The General Permitted Development Order is a piece of legislation set out in the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 which has been amended this year and came into force on 6 April 2016. The legislation can be found at www.legislation.gov.uk.

Planning permission is not needed when the existing and the proposed uses fall within the same 'use class', or if The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) (GPDO) says that a change of use is permitted to another specified 'use class'.

(Source: Planning Portal.)

Articles relating to this particular case can be found at Class P of Schedule 2 of the 2015 order and amendments at part 8 of the 2016 order.

Basically put, permitted development rights are a national grant of planning permission which allow certain building works and changes of use to be carried out without having to make a planning application. Permitted development rights are subject to conditions and limitations to control impact and to protect local amenity.

What are the implications of a GPDO?

Where a relevant permitted development right is in place, there is no need to apply to the local planning authority for permission to carry out the work. Permitted development rights do not override the requirement to comply with other permission, regulation or consent regimes.

Having looked into the matter CBC Councillors advised the Town Council that CB/16/01493/PADO was not a planning application as it fell under a GPDO, therefore the only statutory requirement was to consult with adjoining neighbours, highways, control of pollution and the environment agency.

Other Parish and Town Councils have also reported similar issues with GPDO applications.

It would seem that GPDO's can be interpreted differently by each local authority and the decision maker does not necessarily consider rights of way or other local amenities. The lack of need to notify Town and Parish Councils means those 'on the ground' cannot advise of rights of way or other issues particular to the application being considered.

Sandy Town Council

2015/16

Annual Report





Introduction

The Annual Report informs readers what Sandy Town Council has done over the past year, a summary of its budgets, details of Council Members and the wards they represent.

The report is based on the financial year 1st April 2015 to 31 March 2016; however it may also include information based on the Civic year which covers the period May 2015 to April 2016.

The Council welcomes any views on this report and on the services provided by the Town Council. Members of the public are also invited to attend every Council meeting to ask questions, make comments and raise matters of local interest during the public session.



Mayors Report

On behalf of Sandy Town Council it is my pleasure to introduce our report to the electorate of Sandy and Beeston after a very busy and challenging year.

Once again we had a very successful day at the end of November when our Christmas lights were switched on. Many organisations had stalls at this event to raise funds and there was a very good selection of stage entertainment from around the area. The weather was rather windy but still approx. 3000 people turned out to support the event once again. What a wealth of talent we have around the town.

Sandy Town Council is committed to the continued support of this very successful event and providing the Christmas lights for the benefit of the local community and we look forward to doing it all again this year. This year's event will be on 4th December 2016. The Switch on Event is organised by the 'Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights' group, which relies heavily on volunteers. If you are interested in helping organise this event by joining the groups committee or volunteering on the day please contact the council offices, we would be very glad to hear from you.

I am pleased to report that we have a settled and hardworking council now and I would like to thank all councillors for the time they voluntarily give to our town.

For the third year Sandy Town Council received no mitigation funding from Central Beds Council which would have been in the region of £50,000 this year, but despite this we have managed to keep our precept rise to only 5.99% which has meant on a band D property an increase of £7.41 per year or 14p per week.

In agreeing the Budget for 2016/17 the Council reviewed and reduced budgets across the board wherever possible and we continue to look to lower costs across all cost centres.

The Town Council does not rely solely on its precept to fund projects and activities and actively pursues grant and support funding wherever possible. The Council is currently working on grant funding to refurbish the War Memorial and make it more accessible, support the cemetery archaeological costs, bring benefits to the high street from CBC's match fund and



Mayor's Report Continued

over the next year we will actively be looking to bring as much section 106 money back into Sandy as possible, via Council applications and supporting community groups.

Our cemetery extension has received planning permission and we now await the start of the archaeological dig which is a planning requirement. Over the past year several paths have been completely re-laid and resurfaced in our existing cemetery, improving its look and accessibility. Work has also been carried out on the cemetery chapel to protect it from damage caused by nesting birds.

Our biggest disappointment has been the proposed allotment site, which has fallen through due to the potential short life span of the site. It was felt that it was a large investment to develop the site and condition the land so it was fit for purpose for potentially such a short time. The Council realises the benefits allotments offer to communities and the Council are committed to finding suitable land. We are continuing to work with CBC officers and the Sandy Allotment Association to explore all other possibilities.

In September we appointed a new Town Clerk who has been working with Council staff and Councillors to progress projects, get involved with the Sandy Community and continue to develop the Council and its services.

The Town Clerk and Grounds team have continued to work with Seetec in supporting and coordinating the work they do around Sandy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the work they do which has such a positive impact on our community.

The Mayors charity fund this year has been donated to Sandy Guides for new flags and equipment, Music for Memory (Bedford) to further their work with people who have dementia and the Eve Appeal for gynaecological cancer research. Over £1700 was raised and may I personally thank all those who attended the mayor's charity events or made donations. It is truly appreciated. May I thank all the organisations for the warm welcome my wife and I have received when we have visited them and thank them for all their kind invitations and hospitality. We have enjoyed meeting so many people on our visits.



Councillor W Jackson, Mayor of Sandy



Mayors Civic Service at St Swithun's Church



The Council

4

Sandy Town Council exists to serve and represent the interests of the whole community of Sandy and to work for provision of services for its residents. Sandy Town Council will work with organisations or people willing to improve the well-being and prospects of the community.

The Council has had a full schedule of meetings including

11 Full Council Meetings

16 Development Scrutiny Committee Meetings

8 Policy Finance and Resources Committee Meetings

7 Community Services and Environment Committee Meetings

These meetings were the forum for detailed discussion and strategic decision making. Members of the public attended many meetings and this is always welcome and leads to much more informed decisions being taken. Our local PCSO gave regular reports to the council and the officers of different public agencies and service providers gave presentations and reports to the council during the year.

Members have acted as representatives on a number of outside bodies:

Talk of the Town Transport Committee

Sandy Charities

Sandy Village Hall Management Committee

Sandy Walkers are Welcome

Sandy Twinning Association

Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights

Sandy Sports and Leisure Association

Sandy Chamber of Trade

22 Squadron Air Training Corps Parents and Friends Committee

SG19 Road Safety Group

Sandy Carnival Committee





Chaired by Councillor M Scott

The Town Council’s Policy, Finance and Resources Committee is authorised by the Full Council to take responsibility for the preparation of the Councils annual precept, ensuring the Council has sufficiently budgeted for its operations, implementation of annual grants system, review of the longer financial term strategy of the Council, the review and approval of Council policy and procedures, and the monitoring and scrutinising of the budget.

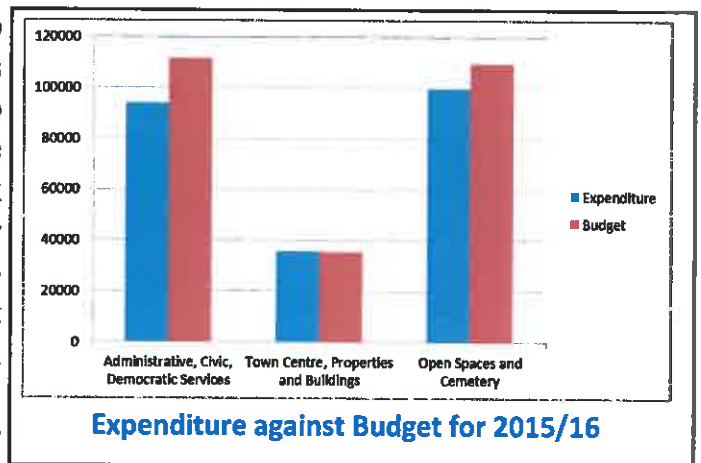
Policy, Finance and Resources Committee Report

It has been a busy year for the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee. Over the course of 2015/16 I have worked with the office to ensure the committee has carried out the review, updating and amending, where necessary, of our policies and procedures to ensure that all are up to date and effective. It is the responsibility of the committee to continually review all policies and procedures to ensure the council is acting with clarity and reacting in the most efficient and responsible way.

It is the role of the committee to review and approve grant applications. During the last year the committee agreed 6 grant applications for a variety of worthy community causes which carry out wonderful and important work within Sandy. The Council has increased its community grants budget for the next financial year as we look to support as many community initiatives as we can for the benefit of residents.

The Council Tax you pay helps towards a variety of services. The largest proportion is for those provided by Central Bedfordshire Council – education, roads, bin collections, health and social services, highways and planning right across the district. There is then a contribution towards Bedfordshire Police and Fire services. A small proportion of your overall council tax is for the running of your own Town Council which provides local services. The Town Council receives no direct grant from government and no share of business rates.

Over the past year we have worked hard to scrutinise budget lines and reduce our costs where possible. The committee continues to review service and utility agreements to ensure the Council is achieving best value for the tax payer. At the end of the 2015/16 financial year the Council was under budget by 38.2% due to efforts to reduce expenditure via sourcing best value products and services. This has allowed us to reduce some budgets for the 2016/17 financial year. However, there are costs over which the Council has little or no control, such as tax, superannuation, national insurance, utilities, business rates, etc. In common with many other Parish and Town Councils across the Country Sandy Town Councillors made the difficult decision to raise the local precept by 5.99% , equivalent to an overall increase of £7.41 per Band D Property.





Chaired by Councillor N Aldis

The Community Services & Environment Committee has a wide remit to discuss issues related to the open spaces, allotments, the cemetery, consultation with the community and many other items. Apart from consideration of planning applications, policy making, the finances and human resources it deals with practically everything else. The committee reviews work required to footpaths, pavements, cycle-ways, roads, waterways, horticultural and arboriculture works, street furniture (seats, planters, waste bins), play areas, and play equipment. Not all of this falls within the Town Council remit, however, so we try to liaise closely with our Central Bedfordshire Council partners on the maintenance of those items for which they have specific responsibility. In order to assist them, we reinstated occasional audits of all paths and kerbs in the town centre so that we could advise them of any defects requiring their attention.

Community Services and Environment Committee Report

The Council has not ceased its search for new allotment land and has continued to consult with Central Bedfordshire Council and landowners. During 2015 the Community Services and Environment committee believed it had found a suitable Central Bedfordshire Council owned site for our new allotments. The committee carried out investigatory work and negotiations with Central Bedfordshire Council in preparation for the Council to take a lease on the land for the use of allotment sites.

Unfortunately in February the Council was informed that the land for the proposed allotment site is to form part of a consortium of landowners looking to seek planning consent for development. Although any potential development, if approved, could be five year or more away it did place a short life span on the use of the land. The Council had to carefully consider whether the site was a workable option and if investing an estimated £35,000 - £40,000 in setting up the site was an appropriate expenditure given the potential development and short life span of the site.

As a result the Council unfortunately had to take the difficult decision that the site no longer presented a viable option for the financial investment and creation of an allotment site. The Council recognises its responsibility to provide allotment land and is dedicated to continue negotiations and searches to find a suitable site.

The council recognises the importance of the cemetery to our community. Many people visit it daily and every effort has been made to maintain the cemetery to the highest possible standard so we provide a pleasing and tranquil environment for mourners. During the past year there have been 18 burials and 14 interments of ashes. We are grateful for donations of benches and other memorials to the cemetery although at present there is no space for any additional seating. The committee approved work to the cemetery chapel during the year to ensure it did not suffer further damage from nesting birds.

The Cemetery Extension has now received its planning permission and following a tender process an archaeological contractor has now been appointed to carry the required archaeological excavation work.



This year the committee approved the submission of an application to CBC which will see up to £300,000 invested into our High Street, including pavement works, new signage, art work and street furnishings. The committee has also pushed for progress on the Sandy Greenwheel and Sandy to Potton Cycle way.

At Sunderland Road Recreation Ground the council continued to provide beneficial leases and subsidised pitch fees to several sports organisations. In return volunteers from the sports clubs contribute to the upkeep of the facilities which are also available for use by the public. The Jenkins Pavilion continues to be managed for the council by Stevenage Leisure Ltd and community use of this building has increased year on year.

Play equipment at Bedford Road, Sunderland Road, Beeston Green, the Limes Play area and Fallowfield Recreation Ground has been maintained during the year and inspected weekly. Residents should be mindful that not all the public open space in the estate belongs to Sandy Town Council and this accounts for some discrepancies in maintenance treatment.

Public open space at Pinnacle Hill, Pinnacle Field and Bedford Road/ Sunderland Road was maintained and made available for individual events during the year. Several “pop-up” events in the recreation grounds were held throughout the year as well as a fair on Pinnacle Field. On 21st April 2016 the Council arranged a beacon lighting event to celebrate the Queens 90th Birthday. The event included community stalls and a procession from the market square to The Pinnacle. This successful event was supported by the scouts, girl guides and the Sandy Reunion Band.

The Riddy Nature Reserve has been managed by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire in conjunction with Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity. The reserve is a haven for native flora and fauna and visitors have enjoyed spotting different species throughout the seasons including a colony of water voles. Essential maintenance works have been undertaken and the area was grazed during the summer months.

The council continued to provide free public car parking in the town centre car park with the aim of supporting local businesses. The car park includes public conveniences which are owned and operated by the town council as are the public conveniences at Bedford Road Recreation Ground.



The Jenkins Pavilion at Sunderland Recreation Ground



Chaired by Councillor M Pettitt

This committee has three key roles: it reviews every planning application, considers tree applications, and takes part in various district and regional consultations where they may impact on Sandy. The Town Council is a statutory consultee, and reviews all planning applications and advises CBC should they not meet local requirements and aspirations. However, it should be noted that Central Bedfordshire Council makes the final decision on all planning applications, and does not always agree with the Town Council's comments.

Development Scrutiny Committee Report

Sandy Town Council (STC) is not a planning authority and has no direct powers to control the development of the town. Planning applications in Sandy are decided by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) which is the local authority empowered by law to exercise statutory town planning functions as well as the Local Development Framework and the key local planning policy documents which affect Sandy.

STC is entitled to see all planning applications which pertain to Sandy parish and to make comments on them which CBC takes into consideration when deciding whether to grant planning permission. This role is the responsibility of the Development Scrutiny (DS) Committee which consists of 10 members appointed annually at the Sandy Town Council Annual Meeting held each May and which has met on 16 occasions in the past year to respond to and comment upon around 100 planning applications. To effectively fulfil their role, to assist their understanding of particular applications and to aid decision making members have made a number of site visits during the past 12 months.

Members of the public with an interest in a particular application are encouraged to contact the Town Council to make their views known either in writing or to attend the DS Committee meeting when the matter is on the agenda to express them in person.

On 2 occasions in the past year members of STC have appeared before CBC's Development Management Committee (DMC). In late 2015 Members of DS resolved to object to CBC's own application for residential development on land in their ownership in Ivel Road. During January 2 members addressed the committee and set out the objections but none the less planning consent was granted. On a separate occasion a member of Town Council appeared before the DMC to present objections to a planning application which would have created a new gypsy and traveller site. This intervention almost certainly contributed to the decision by members of the CBC to refuse the application. Some you lose, some you win!

In order to gain a better insight and mutual understanding of how planning law should be interpreted and applied Members of DS Committee accompanied by the Town Clerk had a very useful meeting during the year with a senior officer from CBC Planning Department.



Development Scrutiny Committee

9

There have been a number of important and broader strategic issues which members of DS Committee have begun to consider during the past year. With CBC launching the new Local Plan pressures are growing for land to be made available for future development not only around Sandy but in the wider area. In addition therefore to its role set out above, with the recent news regarding the East West Rail link and studies still ongoing regarding the future of the A1 it will be important for this committee and indeed the Town Council as a whole to remain diligent and to try to ensure there is co-ordinated planning to help influence the way Sandy develops during the decade to come and beyond.



Human Resources Committee

Chaired by Councillor M Hill

The Human Resources committee, which meets about four times a year, has the major responsibility of trying to ensure the smooth and effective running of the Council through its paid staff, who operate as the office and outdoor teams. The committee is responsible for performance management, team-building and training as well as opening hours and work schedules. We must also do what we can to ensure the work-life balance of all the staff is

Human Resources Committee Report

I was elected chair of the Human resources committee last May, perhaps surprisingly, as I had only just joined the Council, but resources all round at that time were extremely stretched. The past year has seen two distinct phases;

From May to September the Council was operating without a clerk and had been since earlier in the year. Initial priorities were to improve morale among the staff after what had been a turbulent and disruptive period, introduce weekly briefings and address perceived current weaknesses. A temporary minuting clerk was appointed to ease the load and various attempts were made to ease tensions and improve the working environment.

Interviews for a new clerk were held in late July and, although the field was small, Chris Robson made an instant impact and was the unanimous choice of the panel. Chris joined us at the start of September and has proved 'a breath of fresh air'. The past six months have been devoted to;

- The reestablishment of an annual appraisal programme for all staff.
- The identification and enactment of training needs in line with new roles.
- Team-building activities with the heads of the office and outdoor teams.
- On-going review of opening hours.
- Review of meetings' patterns, minutes deadlines etc.



Human Resources Committee

10

Good progress has been made in all areas. The new clerk has really 'set the ball rolling' and we have already secured re-recognition for Quality Council status. Particular mention should also be made of Carol Baker- Smith, who did a sterling job keeping the ship afloat and more during the eight months the council operated without a clerk, Margaret Bracey who stepped in as temporary minutes clerk and greatly eased pressures all round, and all the staff who had to cope with a lengthy period of turbulence and stress.

The new structure and office roles have still another year to run. We need to try and establish the most appropriate office opening hours which suit the greatest number of Sandy residents and maximize the varied talents and experience of all our team members according to the needs of day-to-day efficiency. The appraisal cycle will be completed in the autumn and training needs on-going.



Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights

Chairman—Max Hill

The 2015 Christmas light switch on event was held on the last Sunday in November and the real challenge proved to be the weather on the day. Strong winds in the morning made setting up extremely precarious but fortunately the rain held off for most of the event itself. The lights had just been switched on at 16:30 when the heavens opened bringing proceedings to a premature end. The deluge emptied the town square in about 5 minutes flat.

Despite this, the event was judged another real success. Good numbers turned up, though not as many as the previous year, there was a full programme of stage events and Santa Claus was overwhelmed by the number of expectant children. Stalls of all kinds were very well received and the public generally felt that the lights themselves were a step up from the previous year. Almost all the feedback was positive and we look forward to a similar event in 2016.





The Sandy Tourist Information Centre closed in the spring of 2015 and a brand new **Information Point** has been integrated in the Sandy Town Council Reception and was opened in April 2015. These changes have ensured that as many as possible of the tourism services previously provided have continued and where possible enhanced. The new Information Point has been refurbished to create a new and welcoming Reception area for the visitors to the Council Offices and telephone and email enquirers. The Information Point continues to provide information regarding local attractions, local walks, travel information and providing assistance and information about the locality to local residents.

The Council remains agents for Safford's Coaches, thus allowing local people to book holidays and day excursions within the office. A What's On section is kept updated on the Town Council webpage and posters are displayed in the Centre. Monthly articles continue to be written about the Centre and its services and news for publication in local journals.

The Centre holds a supply of Central Bedfordshire Council's green garden Bags, orange recycling bags, food bins and food waste bags for household waste thus allowing residents to collect these locally. A recent survey shows this is our third most popular enquiry at the Information Point.

The Centre has organised and led six **local Walks** (although unfortunately one of the Walks had to be cancelled) during the year, in which over 160 people have taken part. Also during the winter three **local Talks** took place (although unfortunately one of the Talks had to be cancelled) which were heard by nearly 120 people. These Walks promote access to the countryside in the area. Sandy's status as a Walker's are Welcome town has encouraged walkers to visit and participate in the guided walks and also individual, family and group walking.

The Town Council has hosted an increased number of visits from local schools to the Roman Sandy exhibition in the council offices as well as welcoming individual visitors to view the exhibits on display

This Year's Talks

OCTOBER

Bedfordshire Heroes by David Fowler

NOVEMBER

Concorde – an inside story by Colin McCartney

December

Training to be a Secret Agent by Bernard O'Connor

This Year's Walks

JANUARY - Lowfields, Heath and Lodge Walk

MAY – Southill House Tour

MAY – Southill House Tour

JUNE – Coffin Walk

JULY - Tempsford Village Walk

AUGUST – Old Warden Village Walk



The Roman Sandy Exhibition can be viewed at the Council Offices



Community Grants

Every year the Town Council provides sum funding for community groups and project in the town. The Council has adopted a set of criteria which successful applications must meet and aims to support sustainable local projects that improve the quality of life for the residents of Sandy.

In the financial year 2015/16 Sandy Town Council awarded grants to:

Biggles FM	£250
Mid Beds CAB	£250
Sandy Twinning Association	£250
Sandy Community 1 st Responders	£446.31
Audrey Boothby Award	£25
Sandy Enhancement Group	£250
Total	£1,471.31



Town Council Services

Cemetery Management

Church Yard Maintenance

Jenkins Pavilion & Sports Pitches

The Riddy Nature Reserve & The Pinnacle Hill & Field

Beeston Green

Public Open Spaces

Play Areas, including Fallowfield, Bedford Road, Sunderland Road, Beeston and the Limes

Town Centre Car Park

Town Centre & Bedford Road Public Conveniences

Floral Displays

War Memorial

Local Information

Roman Sandy Exhibition

CCTV

Some Street Lighting and Furniture

Christmas Lights



Harris's Fun Fair sets up at The Pinnacle



Financial Summary 31 March 2016

31 March 2015	Income Summary	31 March 2016
455,704	Precept on District Council	479,098
406	Capital Grants and Sale of Assets	4,361
4,770	Interest and Investment Income	3,559
7,057	Recreation Grounds and Open Spaces	4,466
26,051	Cemetery	18,535
10,344	Tourist Information Centre	2,181
1,478	Car Park and Market	1,460
7,639	Establishment/General Administration	1,788
-	- Civic and Democratic	50
5,660	Christmas Lights	2,099
-	- CCTV	833
1,509	Investment Sale Proceeds	-
-	- Outside Services	1,586
520,618	Total Income	520,016
	Expenditure	
278,430	Establishment/General Administration	316,504
-	- Election Expenses	421
30,253	Capital Expenditure	21,942
609	Loan Interest and Capital Repayments	608
	Operational Expenditure:	
47,100	Recreation Grounds and Open Spaces	54,345
2,688	Allotments	812
9,247	Cemetery	6,992
29,180	Tourist Information	4,246
4,470	Public Toilets	2,638
17,616	Car Park and Market	15,202
6,863	Lighting and Street Furniture	11,951
3,605	Civic and Democratic Costs	6,663
2,000	Grants and Donations	-
15,290	Christmas Lights	13,748
17,051	CCTV Fees	17,255
29,314	Outside Services	25,813
493,716	Total Expenditure	499,140



Financial Summary 31 March 2016

31 March 2015		31 March 2016
	General Fund	
20,764	Balance at 01 April 2015	80,106
520,618	Add: Total Income	520,016
541,382		600,122
493,716	Deduct: Total Expenditure	499,140
47,666		100,982
-	Transfer (to)/from Capital Receipts Reserve	15,083
32,440	Transfer from/(to) Earmarked Reserves	11,663
80,106	General Reserve Balance at 31 March 2016	127,728
	Current Assets	
2,556	Stock	-
7,303	Debtors and prepayments	15,968
546,593	Cash at bank and in hand	573,976
556,452		589,944
	Current Liabilities	
11,991	Creditors and income in advance	24,607
544,461	Net Current Assets	565,337
544,461	Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	565,337
544,461	Total Assets Less Liabilities	565,337
	Capital and Reserves	
72,795	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	57,712
391,560	Earmarked Reserves	379,897
80,106	General Reserve	127,728
544,461		565,337



Sandy Town Councillors

Beeston Ward

Cllr M P Scott
"The Gowans"
Seddington Nursery
Great North Road
Seddington
Sandy
SG19 1NZ

Home 01767 681457
Work 01767 680983

scott729@btinternet.com



Ivel Ward

Cllr P Blaine
19 Poplar Close
Sandy
SG19 1HH

01767 692619
peterblaine.blaine@gmail.com



Cllr M Hill
21 The Green
Beeston
SG19 1PE

0176 681469
amaxhill@outlook.com



Cllr W Jackson
14 Westfield Gardens
Sandy
SG19 1HF

01767 682549
will.jackson662@btinternet.com



Cllr M J Pettitt
42 Swansholme Gardens
Sandy
SG19 1HL

01767 680082
martin.pettitt@virginmedia.com



Cllr S J Sutton
33 Bedford Road
Sandy
SG19 1EP

01767 227589





Sandy Town Councillors

16

Fallowfield Ward

Cllr T Cole
1 Partridge Piece
Sandy
SG19 2UP

01767 699888
teresacole@hotmail.com



Cllr G Leach
C/o Sandy Town Council
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy
SG19 1JE

C/o 01767 681491
admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr P Sharman
3 Swallow Crest
Sandy
SG19 2SN

07889 599556



Pinnacle Ward

Cllr P N Aldis
7 Mayfield Court
Sandy
SG19 1NF

01767 691333
nigel.aldis1@gmail.com



Cllr J Ali
22 Market Square
Sandy
SG19 1JA

01767 689743
07962 361102





Sandy Town Councillors

17

Pinnacle Ward Continued

Cllr C Osborne MBE **01767 682032**
Summercourt
2 Leeds Smith Drive
Sandy
SG19 1LU



Cllr D Quick **07932 331227**
1 Cauldwell Court dlshorses@hotmail.co.uk
Sandy
SG19 1DA



Cllr D Sharman **01767 683868**
21 Falcon Close
Sandy
SG19 2TA



Cllr J Sparrow **01767 682693**
C/o Sandy Town admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk
Council
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy
SG19 1JE





Beeston Ward includes properties in:

Ash Close, Brook End, East Side, Elder Close, Girtford Bridge, Grange Gardens, Great North Road, High Road, Hillview, Lime Avenue, London Road, Nursery Drive, Meadow Close, New Road, Orchard Road, Tempsford Road, The Baulk, The Cloches, The Crescent, The Green, The Knolls, West View, Whitestones

Ivel Ward includes properties in:

Albion Court, All Hallows, All Saints Way, Bedford Road, Bickerdikes Gardens, Birch Grove, Brandreth Place, Braybrook, Carter Street, Cedar Gardens, Centurion Walk, Church Path, Coopers Close, Deepdale, Edgcumbe Court, Elm Tree Road, Filland Court, Foster Grove, Girtford Crescent, Greyhound View, Harvey Court, Heron Close, High Street, Ivel Road, Ivel View, Kings Road, Laburnum Road, London Road, Manor Road, Market Square, Mayfield Court, Mill Lane, Monoux Place, Ongley Court, Park Court, Park Mews, Park Road, Poplar Close, Potton road, Queens Road, Rivermead Gardens, Robert Hunt Gardens, Roman's View, Sandford Rise, Sandpiper Court, South Road, Spencer Road, Spring Grove, Station Road, Stratford Road, Swan Lane, Swansholme Garden Court, Swansholme Gardens, The Avenue, West Road, Western Way, Westfield Gardens, Willow Rise, Woolfield

Fallowfield Ward includes properties in:

Avocet Close, Brambling Close, Crow Hill, Cuckoo Close, Dove Close, Falcon Close, Fieldfare, Goldfinch Drive, Hawk Drive, Kestrel Way, Kingfisher Close, Larks Rise, Linnet Close, Merlin Drive, Osprey Close, Owlswood, Partridge Piece, Pipit Grove, Plovers Field, Robin Close, Rothbury Close, Starling Close, Swallow Crest, Swift Close, Tempsford Road, The Buntings, The Finches, The Harriers, The Jays, The Rookery, Weavers Green, Woodcock Close, Woodpecker Way, Wren Close

Pinnacle Ward includes properties in:

Abbey Grove, Alfred Cope Road, Alnwick close, Arran Close, Balmoral Close, Banks Drive, Belam Way, Berwick Way, Bidlake Croft, Brickhill close, Brickhill Road, Brindley Close, Bunyan Road, Cambridge Road, Carlisle Close, Cauldwell Court, Cherrycroft, Churchill Way, College Road, Cottage Road, Dapifer Drive, Deepdale, Delamare Close, Downing Court, East Road, Edward Close, Engayne Avenue, Everton Road, Faynes Court, Friars Walk, Handley Court, Havelock Close, Kingsley Court, Glebe Close, Glebe Road, Greens Close, Jubilee Close, Leeds Smith Drive, Lindisfarne Close, Longfield Road, Magnolia House, Malaunay Place, Maple Road, Market Square, Medusa Way, Middleham Close, Midland Road, Mills Walk, Moores Court, Newton Way, Northcroft, Oak Close, Peels Place, Pentland Close, Powers Close, Pickering close, Pleasant Place, Potton Road, Prince Georges Drive, Pym's Way, Quince Court, Rectory Court, Rowan Court, Rutland Gardens, Sand Lane, Sandon Close, Shannon Close, Skipton Close, St Neots Road, St Swithuns Way, Stirling Close, Stonecroft, Sunderland Road, Swaden, Talisman Close, Warkworth Close, Waverley Avenue, Wesley Road, Winchester Road, Windsor Way, Wynnefield Walk.



Members Meeting Attendance 2015/16

19

Town Council			
Councillors	Total No. attended	Total No. of meetings	% attendance
Cllr Aldis	11	11	100%
Cllr Ali	4	11	36%
Cllr Blaine ¹	7	7	100%
Cllr Cole	10	11	90%
Cllr Hill	11	11	100%
Cllr Jackson	11	11	100%
Cllr Leach	7	11	63%
Cllr Osborne	10	11	90%
Cllr Pettitt	5	11	45%
Cllr Quick ²	4	7	57%
Cllr Scott	10	11	90%
Cllr D Sharman ³	5	7	71%
Cllr P Sharman	11	11	100%
Cllr Sparrow ⁴	6	7	85%
Cllr Sutton	10	11	90%
Development Scrutiny Committee			
Councillors	Total No. attended	Total No. of meetings	% attendance
Cllr Ali	6	16	37%
Cllr Blaine	11	12	91%
Cllr Cole	14	16	87%
Cllr Jackson	14	16	87%
Cllr Quick	7	12	58%
Cllr Pettitt	14	16	87%
Cllr D Sharman	8	12	66%
Cllr P Sharman	15	16	93%
Cllr Sparrow	12	12	100%
Cllr Sutton	13	16	81%

1. Cllr Blaine was co-opted on 17 August 2015

2. Cllr Quick was co-opted on 17 August 2015

3. Cllr D Sharman was co-opted on 17 August 2015

4. Cllr Sparrow was co-opted on 17 August 2015



Members Meeting Attendance 2015/16 Continued

20

Policy, Finance & Resources Committee			
Councillors	Total No. attended	Total No. of meetings	% attendance
Cllr Aldis	8	8	100%
Cllr Blaine	5	6	83%
Cllr Hill	5	8	63%
Cllr Jackson	6	8	75%
Cllr Leach	5	8	63%
Cllr Osborne	4	8	50%
Cllr Pettitt	7	8	88%
Cllr Scott	7	8	88%
Cllr D Sharman	0	6	0%
Cllr P Sharman	8	8	100%
Community Services & Environment Committee			
Councillors	Total No. attended	Total No. of meetings	% attendance
Cllr Aldis	7	7	100%
Cllr Ali	4	7	57%
Cllr Cole	7	7	100%
Cllr Hill	7	7	100%
Cllr Leach	6	7	85%
Cllr Osborne	6	7	85%
Cllr Quick	3	5	42%
Cllr Scott	7	7	100%
Cllr Sparrow	5	5	100%
Cllr Sutton	6	7	85%



Council Contact Details and Addresses

21

Town Council and Information Office

10 Cambridge Road, Sandy SG19 1JE

Tel: 01767 681491

Fax: 01767 692527

General Email: admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Council Staff:

Town Clerk

Chris Robson

Administration Team

Carol Baker-Smith – Administration Team Leader

Anne Elliott-Flockhart - Administrator

Barry Groom - Administrator

Brian Leonard - Caretaker

Valerie McFarlane - Administrator

Karon Sizer – Office Cleaner

Grounds Team

Richard Gilbert – Grounds Team Leader

Colin Eaton - Groundsman

Richard Loake - Groundsman

Chris Smith – Groundsman

Stratford Road Depot

Stratford Road, Sandy SG19 2AA

Cemetery and Former Allotment Site

Potton Road, Sandy SG19 2AA

Play Areas

Bedford Road Recreation Ground, Bedford Road, Sandy SG19 1EY

Beeston Green, The Green, Beeston, Sandy SG19 1PY

Sunderland Road Recreation Ground, Sunderland Road, Sandy SG19 1TH

The Limes, Elder Close, Beeston, Sandy SG19 1GF

Merlin Drive, Fallowfield, Sandy SG19 2UN

Jenkins Pavilion

Sunderland Road Recreation Ground, Off Medusa Way, Sandy SG19 1TH

Public Conveniences

Bedford Road Recreation Ground, Bedford Road, Sandy SG19 1EY

Town Centre Car Park, High Street, Sandy SG19 1AG

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**DATE: 1 August 2016****AUTHOR: Cllr W Jackson****SUBJECT: Twinning Visit – Skarszewy 23 July to 27 July 2016**

The following is meant as a brief report on a recent twinning trip to Skarszewy, Poland.

Following an eventful journey due to flight delays the Sandy delegation arrived in Gdansk where we were greeted by representatives from the Mayor of Skarszewy's office.

In the evening the Mayor hosted a dinner for the delegation, allowing us to meet with representatives from the Mayor's office and cultural centre. This provided a good opportunity to discuss the history and strong links between the two towns and the benefits the long running summer school had provided for the youth of both Sandy and Skarszewy.

Friday

The Sandy delegation went to a local regional museum where differences in regional dialogs were explored along with a mixture of exhibits illustrating the struggles and exploitation people from the area suffered following their liberation the end of WW2. Many were sent to Russia to work in the forests in extreme cold and many died of starvation and hypothermia. Various replicas, such as a transport train and air raid shelter showed the harsh conditions faced. Other curios there were the world's longest plank at 46.53 m long and the world's longest table 35m long. The creation of which was a massive local enterprise involving many regional and national officials.

In the evening delegations from Sandy and Mechernich, Germany attended the Mayors Gala dinner. This was in celebration of the long standing twinning relationship between Sandy and Skarszewy and to mark the signing of a new agreement between Skarszewy and Germany. The dinner featured local foods, such as whole wild boar from the forest, baked pears and a selection of delicious sweets.

The Mayor of Skarszewy spoke of his appreciation for the strong relationship with Sandy and the success of the upcoming summer school and various exchange visits over the years. The Sandy delegation presented a gift to Skarszewy marking the celebrations of the Queen's 90th birthday. The evening was rounded off with some singing from each country, to which the Sandy delegation performed a rather good rendition of yellow submarine.

Saturday

The Saturday featured the first day of the Town's festival. The Sandy delegation started the day in the town hall by witnessing the signing of the new twinning agreement between Skarszewy and Mechernich, Germany. This included presentations from each of the delegations. Both delegations were then invited to join a parade, in which the whole town took part. The delegation paraded quite a long way (well it seemed it) from the outskirts of the town back to the town square where the celebrations were officially opened by the Mayor of Skarszewy. The delegations then paraded to the old town walls for a military and aerial display. At this point delegates carried out interviews for local TV reports about the long standing friendship between Sandy and Skarszewy and promoting the upcoming summer school.

Following lunch the weather unfortunately took a turn for the worst with a cloud burst and a thunder storm, I think it was the worst storm I have ever witnessed and it flooded the arena area causing the next two evenings concerts to be cancelled. In the evening delegates were invited to an evening meal with the Comunio in Cristo who hosted us all, the venue doubled as a fan zone meaning we got to join our Polish hosts in watching a Polish world cup game.

Sunday

Both the German and English delegations visited Gdansk to view the industrial dockland area via a short cruise upon a replica Gallon. Delegates then moved on to a brief walk of the beautiful old city before returning to Skarszewy. The evening was spent with the German delegation.

Monday

A meeting with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in the Mayors parlour to discuss the damaged caused to the town and outlying villages by the weekends storms.

Each day we were accompanied by a different local school teacher, who acted as an interpreter. The interpreters were with us from the time we left our hotel until we returned each evening. Transport was supplied by the local fire service and the hospitality we received in Skarszewy was second to none, we were made to feel quite at home and had a brilliant and interesting time.

It should be noted that this twinning visit was self-funded by the delegates.