

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MONDAY 27th April 2015

Every elector of Sandy and Beeston is invited to the Annual Town Meeting to be held in the Theatre at Sandy Upper School, Engayne Avenue, Sandy on Monday 27th April 2015 at 7.30 pm

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2014 Annual Town Meeting – Copies will be supplied
3. Matters Arising
4. Presentation of Town Mayor's Award for Services to the Community
5. Reports from Elected Representatives:
 - Town Council – Cllr A Jackson
 - Central Bedfordshire Council
6. Reports from other bodies
7. Resolutions and Questions

**Cllr A Jackson
Town Mayor**

In order that a full answer may be available to any question it would be helpful if these could be submitted to the Council Offices by Wednesday 22nd April 2015

**Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting for the Parish of Sandy,
Bedfordshire, held on Monday 12 May 2014 at Sandy Upper School
commencing at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Mrs S Sutton (Town Mayor as Chairman of the Meeting)
together with 72 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Town Cllrs M Pettitt, C Osborne, M Scott, B Smith and S Walsh, and from Central Bedfordshire Cllr N Sheppard.

The Mayor welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

2. Minutes of the 2013 Annual Town Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 29 April 2013, which had been circulated to those in attendance prior to the meeting being opened, were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Town Mayor's Award for services to the community

The Mayor reported that many nominations had been received for all three categories including previous winners. She thanked nominees for their continued work in the community and explained that this year she would be recognising the work of those who have not received awards or recognition of any kind – "our unsung heroes". A set of residents who quietly and diligently support the community because for them "it's the right thing to do", which she had seen first hand during her time as Mayor.

The Mayor's Young Person's Award was awarded to Mr Stephen King of Sandy in recognition of his work as a youth leader at Sandy's Viking Cub Pack.

The nomination for the Citizens award came from members of one of our longest established groups in Sandy. The group was the Townswomen's Guild and the winner was Mrs Elizabeth Wheatley.

The newest award was for a Community Group. There were numerous volunteer led groups in Sandy and Beeston and it was felt it was time that they were also on the list to receive a Mayor's award

The winning Group had only been running for a relatively short time but their impact had been wide reaching. They provided a community service two days a week serving low cost and nutritious meals in a warm and friendly environment. The service was available to anyone who walked through the door all year round. The Winner was The Drop In Cafe – based at St Swithun's Church.

The Mayor thanked all those who had made nominations and thanked all nominees for their contribution to the community.

5. Reports from Elected Representatives:

i) Town Council – Cllr Mrs S Sutton

The Council's annual report had been printed and made available to all those attending the meeting. The Mayor highlighted a number of aspects of the report which presented an overview of all the Town Council's work during the year 2013/14.

In particular she drew attention to the adoption of a new strategic plan for the Council which included objectives and plans for the future. The installation of a permanent hearing loop and microphone system, including a change in the layout of the council chamber had made it easier for the public to see and hear the discussions.

It was with regret that the Allotments in Stratford Road were closed in November and the Council was continuing to work with CBC on a replacement site. However, this did mean that work could press ahead with the plans for the extension to the cemetery site.

For the second year the Council had provided the Christmas illuminations and organised with the Friends of the Christmas Lights the largest event in the town which over 3,000 people attended.

STC's grant budget was distributed by the Community First panel, which also had additional funding from Central Government. By pooling the resources over £11,500 was given to 22 applicants. However, 2014/15 would be the last year that government funding would be available as it was the end of the four year scheme.

ii) Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) – Cllr N Aldis

Cllrs Aldis, Maudlin and Sheppard had provided a written report which was made available to those attending the meeting and which presented an overview of Central Bedfordshire Council's work during the year 2013/14. Cllr Aldis noted that Cllr Maudlin had just been re-elected as Chairman of Central Bedfordshire Council. Cllr Maudlin pointed out that all three CBC councillors were happy to be contacted regarding anything mentioned in their reports or any other concerns.

A member of the public asked about BUPA withdrawing from managing Allison House and what this would mean. Cllr Aldis explained that Central Bedfordshire Council was taking it over and it should be a seamless transition as they were keeping the existing staff in place.

6. Reports from other bodies:

i) Bedfordshire Police

Sgt Gary Kidd had provided a written report which was made available to those attending the meeting.

The last year has been a testing time for Bedfordshire police as there had been cutbacks. Biggleswade police station had closed with officers having to move to Kempston. Officers have still been patrolling in Sandy but they have had to come from Kempston. However, they were now being moved back to Biggleswade.

Overall crime had gone down. Last year there were 54 cases of burglary whereas this year there were 22. Motor vehicle crimes had gone down to 64 from 84 the previous year.

The Sandy Neighbourhood Team held a burglary awareness week in December 2013 and delivered 1700 crime prevention packs. They also gave out 98 packs at an awareness session at Tesco.

Speeding was still an issue in Sandy. Eight people from Sandy would be attending training to form a community speed watch group the following weekend. These members of the community would monitor speeding in areas and act as a deterrent to speeding motorists. Each time a motorist is caught speeding they will get a letter which usually acts as a deterrent. However, if they continue to speed the information gained from previous offences will be used to target that particular motorist. Sgt Kidd

reiterated that if anyone would like to join the group they should get in touch.

Sgt Kidd was asked about the increase in violence against the person. He explained that the figures included actual bodily harm (ABH), common assaults and public order offences. Most of the cases were domestic related and this was the highest category across the country not just in Sandy.

Sgt Kidd was also asked how many burglars had been caught. He replied that a fair few had been caught and sent to prison but not as many as he would like.

ii) Bedfordshire Police Traffic Management Department

Gordon Pearsall introduced himself and explained his background as one of the first accident investigators in the area.

He explained that when a speeding complaint was received the area was monitored for a 7 day period with a speed data box, put in place to collect speeding information. In the case of high levels of non-compliance complaints remain live until something in the area changes, e.g traffic calming measures, such as those in St Neots Road.

There were two locations in Sandy on the speed maintenance list, Bedford Road and Sunderland Road. The next steps were to put up signs, including vehicle activated signs, along with wheelie bin stickers to act as a deterrent. Then the police would target the area on a rolling programme.

Mr Pearsall was asked about speeding on the A1. He stated that the cameras were owned by the Highway Agency. The cameras were wet based film and the Highways Agency need to replace them with digital cameras, which were expensive. Mr Pearsall's solution to this would be to have average speed enforcement cameras at the start and finish of the speed limit, but ultimately it was the Highways Agency's responsibility and decision.

iii) Local Area Transport Plan

Ben King, Principal Transport Planner from Central Bedfordshire Council spoke about the Local Area Transport Plan.

The Local Area Transport plan was used to help produce the strategic plan for investment in the local transport network.

There were 11 Local Area Transport plans for Bedfordshire, Sandy being covered by the Biggleswade & Sandy Transport Plan. This was drawn up a few years ago after extensive consultation. It included a long list of ideas to be prioritised over 4 years. The Biggleswade & Sandy Transport Plan was in its 4th year.

The plan had delivered public transport, freight & cycle improvements in the area. Including 20mph zones outside schools, waiting restrictions on Girtford Bridge and improvements to footpaths damaged by HGV's.

Mr King explained that future funding was reduced due to Government cut backs of 40%. This means CBC was trying to do more with less money. Therefore the Council would continue with an evidence based approach to work.

One of the projects for the future was the East – West Rail link, which would provide a link between Oxford to Ipswich and Norwich via Cambridge, in order to improve connectivity and stimulate economic growth. The western section would be in place by 2019. The Central section would be in place by 2014. There was no route identified for the eastern section as yet but one of the options was through Sandy.

Mr King was asked if he thought it was weird that two sections were already planned before a route for the final section was identified. Mr King noted that Sandy Town Council and the most recent Sandy town plan supported the link. It was not unusual for sections to be put in place to make some impact before link routes were finalised.

A resident asked about cars parking on St Neots Road as people were in danger of being knocked off their bikes and that the bus shelters were filthy. Mr King noted that the cycle lane in St Neots road was a discretionary route. In the future housing developments would be encouraged to supply generous parking to stop cars parking on the street. One benefit of cars parking on the street is that cars were forced to travel slowly.

A member of the public stated that St Neots Road was not wide enough for a mandatory cycle path. Mr King explained that the introduction of

traffic calming and the future implementation of weight restrictions on lorries would create conditions for safe cycling.

Another member of the public asked if the Government were cutting their funding what was the total that CBC would contribute. Mr King said CBC could bid for additional capital funding for schemes that are important, for example, the Station Interchange at Biggleswade Station. But as with any bid they need to demonstrate value for money.

Mr King was questioned on his statement about a lack of growth in Sandy, the questioner said Sandy was gridlocked in the mornings which showed there was growth. He explained that in comparison to Biggleswade, Sandy is growing at a much slower rate and is hampered by its geography by having the railway line to one side and the A1 to the other.

Mr King was asked if that meant that nothing will improve in Sandy. Mr King responded that that was not the case. Any serious incidents would still spark an investigation.

Mr King was asked how would the council be able to respond to the knock on effects that the Black Cat Improvements would have on Sandy. Mr King explained that the Black Cat was a Highways Agency issue, they have a route based strategy for improvements, which rank improvements in a national context. The reality was that this was not a high priority for the Highways Agency. CBC can lobby the HA but they have to have proof of what they are asking for.

A member of the public voiced a lack of confidence in CBC. Mr King responded that CBC was doing its best but was hampered by the current lack of funds. He then suggested any other questions were forwarded to him at CBC.

iv) Public Transport

Paul Dodge, the public transport manager from CBC spoke about Bus Route 73.

Mr Dodge explained that bus services were provided by private companies and they decided where to provide their services. CBC assessed the needs for services and tried to find bus companies to provide necessary services.

Recently it was felt that a bus service to Tesco was needed, Stagecoach proposed to include Fallowfield in this service. Unfortunately bus stops were erected prematurely by Stagecoach in the wrong places, they had since been removed.

Since then the route had been assessed and Stagecoach had deemed the current turn around in Engayne Avenue to be unsafe. They had prepared several options which were now subject to public consultation. Consultation papers were available at the meeting. The consultation deadline was Friday 23 May 2014. Once the consultation was closed the results would be reviewed and a way forward determined.

A member of the public asked if the routes proposed had been surveyed as if they had been the survey would have shown that on one of the routes there were bollards blocking the way and on several of the routes there were problems with cars double parking, making it hard for a bus to get through. Mr Dodge explained that if that option was pursued the bollards would come out and be replaced with either raising bollards or a chlcane for buses only. Extra spaces for cars might be considered to ease the parking situation.

Mr Dodge was asked why there was an option to go through Fallowfield and why no option to go round the outside of the Fallowfield Estate. He advised Stagecoach had said they would not go round the outside of the estate as a bus can get round the estate itself.

v) Rights of Way

Drew Gwillam the Rights of Way Officer at CBC spoke about the Countryside Access Service.

The Countryside Access Service was responsible for footpaths, bridleways and byeways. The seasonal vegetation clearance was the biggest expense. Footpaths were cleared twice a year. Though landowners were responsible for maintaining hedges or fences bordering a right of way.

Sandy was an important area with regards to rights of way as Sandy was now a Walkers are Welcome town, it also had the Greensand Ridge and Kingfisher Way running through it. So it was important to keep the paths clear. Mr Gwillam urged regular walkers to take his card so they could let him know if there were any problems in the local area.

Mr Gwillam then spoke about the Sandy Green Wheel. The Sandy Green Wheel Masterplan was now under consultation with the deadline being 23 June 2014.

The Mayor thanked all the contributors to the evening.

7. Resolutions and Questions

Questions that had been submitted previously were answered. It was noted that Mr Gurney wished to withdraw his question but as the questions and answers were prepared in advance there was no time to do this in time for the meeting.

1 Accuracy of Town Council Minutes

Question submitted by John Gurney

In minute numbered 5 of the minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held on 21 October 2013, in a reference to me the Mayor is quoted "The Mayor reminded Cllr Lynch that a decision had been made by the whole council as a result of an agenda item first raised on 29 July 2013 that the staff should not communicate with this individual". As there can be found no agenda item or minute of that meeting on 29 July that mentions this matter, this statement cannot be accurate.

Would the Town Mayor now agree that either she gave an incorrect reply to the question asked on this matter or would she agree that she signed minutes are (sic) being an accurate record of the meeting of 29 July that were in fact inaccurate in that they failed to record a decision made by Council?

Furthermore having researched all minutes of Council both before and after 29 July no record of Council having made such a decision can be found. Is it not a requirement in local government law that all resolutions of Council are contained within minutes of the meeting concerned?

In conclusion, I now ask that this minute be deleted and an apology be given for this inaccuracy, in public at the Annual Town meeting? I also ask that I'm given the right of reply to any statement made by the Mayor or Town Clerk on this matter.

Response from Sandy Town Council

The questions Mr Gurney raises have already been answered by the Town Council in previous correspondence with him and others. The Town

Council is satisfied that its meetings have been correctly minuted and all resolutions properly recorded. The minutes are and have been in the public domain. The minutes of a Town Council meeting once approved can only be altered by the council itself and no member has asked for any amendments to be made.

2 The North end of the Pavements on St Neots Road

Question submitted by Peter and Marie Stainton, members of the SG19 Group

The pavements north of West Road, are not at all safe. The holes, the workmen's work, for gas, electricity water and drains etc, across the pavements are humps or ditches. Also, when crossing side roads, of which there are EIGHT out of a total of twelve, we have to avoid puddles in the gutters, blocked drains and rough holes. Crossing East Road is particularly difficult and unsafe. The South end of the pavements were repaired some time ago but the North end was not, and it has deteriorated more since then! When will it be repaired to the appropriate safety standards?

Response from Central Bedfordshire Council

A response from Central Bedfordshire Council has been requested but was not available at the time of writing. Any further response will be published on our website.

Response from Sandy Town Council

Sandy Town Council shares concerns about the state of the pavements in West and East Road and has drawn the attention of the Highways Authority to the problems through various channels of communication.

3 Town Council Cheques

Question submitted by Ken Lynch

It has been noted that Sandy Town Council have out-sourced the task of writing cheques, could I please be told (a) what is the cost to Sandy council taxpayers for this and (b) why is it thought necessary to incur these additional costs at a time of such financial pressure on council expenditure?

Response from Sandy Town Council

With effect from 1 March 2014 Sandy Town Council appointed Accounting Solutions DCK Beavers Ltd as contract accountants at a cost of £6,193.25

for the year. The scope of the work provided under this contract is far greater than the production of cheques (as Mr Lynch should be aware since he was provided with all relevant documentation during his time as a councillor) and includes accounts preparation work which was previously being undertaken by other providers. The decision to outsource this work was made because at a time of financial pressure on council expenditure it is essential to have effective financial controls in place. The council recognised that the number of regular financial transactions it was undertaking had increased significantly during the preceding 5 years but in the current economic climate it did not wish to increase its permanent staff establishment to deal with the resulting additional work.

4 SG19 Road Safety Action Group

Question submitted by SG19 Road Safety Action Group

Does the Town Council agree to support the efforts of the SG19 Road Safety Group to investigate, prioritise and seek solutions for road safety issues in the SG19 area including the provision of a named contact with it?

Response from Sandy Town Council

This question was received on 29 April 2014 and so there has been no suitable opportunity for the question to be put to a meeting of the Town Council and for a resolved position to be agreed upon.

Meanwhile the Town Council will continue to communicate with SG19 Road Safety Action Group and to respond to their concerns as it does with other community interest groups.

Resolutions

No resolutions have been submitted in advance for discussion and voting.

Sandy Town Council

Annual Parish Meeting April 2015

Report from CBC Councillors Aldis, Maudlin and Sheppard

Highways Improvements

Below are the main activities that have taken place in Sandy over the past 12 months:

- **Potton to Sandy Cycle Route**
Design and feasibility study into the provision of a **cycle route from Potton to Sandy**, including signalling the entrance to RSPB Sandy site to allow for a crossing point in this location.
- **Freight Issues – Sandy**
Implementation of some of the recommendations as identified in the **Freight Issues Sandy** report as can be found on the Transport Strategy pages of the council website.
- **Lantern Replacement**
Wide ranging replacement of existing lanterns to white LEDs in street lights.
- **Sand Lane Business Park**
Signage installed to Sand Lane Business Park (partially externally funded, and partially by Business and Regeneration).
- **Maintenance**
Carriageway structural maintenance on UC251 New Road/Station Road
Carriageway structural maintenance on East Road
Footway structural maintenance on B1042 Potton Road
Footway structural maintenance on East Road

For the coming year:

- **Potton to Sandy Cycle Route**
Installation of the crossing point at RSPB Sandy as per the feasibility studies undertaken in 2014-2015
- **Maintenance**
Carriageway structural maintenance on A603 Bedford Road
Footway structural maintenance on Allhallows

Planning

Over the past 12 months the council dealt with **65 planning applications** in the Sandy Ward, the majority of which were applications from people wishing to extend their homes.

Community orchard and allotments

Partnership working continues with CBC and STC to help the Town Council lease two pieces of land for **community allotments**, and for a **community orchard**.

A Housing Needs Survey is being carried out re: the proposed orchard site and soil testing carried out on the proposed allotment land shows that it is safe for growing food. CBC Assets are now liaising with the current tenant on the allotment site.

Environment and Waste

Below are the main activities that have taken place in Sandy over the past 12 months:

- **Litter picking** of the Bidlake Memorial Site and all the laybys of the A1. There has also been a full deep cleanse of the High Street, and a deep cleanse of the footpath between the RSPB's The Lodge and Sandy.
- Education to residents about the **dry recycling scheme** has been carried out in Magnolia House and McMurdo Court.
- There have been numerous incidents of **fly tipping** on the bridleway in Sunderland Road, which have been cleared. Waste Services are liaising with the Environmental Protection Team to install deterrents such as signs in the area.
- A new **dog bin** is being installed at the top of Sunderland road to help reduce the number of dog fouling incidents, and a broken dog bin has been replaced near Waverley Avenue. A new **recycling on the go bin** has been installed on Station Road.
- The Council continue to support the **Sandy Seetec group**, collecting waste they collect in the course of their litter picks, and clearances of leaves along verges.

For the coming year:

- The **annual weed spraying** programme of footpaths and highways is due to start in April.
- The **new grounds maintenance contract** commences in April, therefore there may be a short time whilst the new contractor becomes accustomed to their new area. Any issues regarding the quality should be reported to the current Waste Services Officer for the area, Jenna Campbell. Her contact details are; email her on Jenna.campbell@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or tel 0300 300 4318

Defibrillators

Sandy Town Council received two **community public access defibrillators** in January 2015, as part of the partnership scheme between the council, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Community Heartbeat Trust

One of these units was installed on Sandy Library, and the other is proposed to be installed at Quince Court, Engayne Avenue.

Sandy Library

Below are the main events / activities that have taken place in Sandy over the past 12 months:

Sandy Library has run many events over the last 12 months for adults, children, families and teens. The children's events have been particularly popular and have generated excellent customer feedback and compliments for the service.

In addition to the one-off events the library also has a large number of regular, on-going activities. These include: games club; Lego club; colouring club, coffee morning; Good Afternoon Group; children's rhyme time and story time; knit and natter group; crafty tots; reading group.

The Library is working with colleagues in Leisure Services to promote beginner walks for the 50+, which begin and end at the Library. A Stop Smoking Clinic is held in the Library once a week.

- **Virtual Library and e-offer**

In addition to the physical library offer Sandy Library is now able to offer library users a much wider range of e-resources than previously. Within the last few months the Library Service has introduced **e-books and a wider range of e-magazines** that people can access from their own PCs and tablets 24x7. These supplement the existing e-newspapers, e-audio books, e-newspapers and e-reference materials that have been available for some time. To access these resources all a user has to do is visit the Virtual Library and log on with a library card and PIN.

In addition, library users can now access **full text academic and scholarly articles** on a wide range of subjects by using the library public access computers. This service gives Sandy Library users access to materials that would only previously have been available from the British Library or held within major educational institutions such as university libraries.

In the last month the offer has been further enhanced by The British Newspaper Archive, which gives **free access to millions of news articles** going back over 200 years from national and local newspapers. The partnership between the British Library and findmypast aims to digitise up to 40 million newspaper pages from the British Library's vast collection over the next ten years. It is a fantastic local and family history resource, but also perfect for research into social, political, military history and so much more.

And for the coming year:

The Library Manager is already planning an extensive range of events for 2015 onwards. These include a series of talks in partnership with Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service (10 in all), activities to support Adult Learners' week and an author visit as part of Central Bedfordshire Libraries Crime Month.

The major event of the summer will be the **Summer Reading Challenge** for children. This year the theme is Record Breakers and there will be an opportunity for children to come

into the library to be photographed with the world's tallest man (although not in person!). Last year the library joined 566 children to the challenge, beating their target by 10%.

- **50th Anniversary 2015**

It is Sandy Library's 50th anniversary in November and there are plans to have a 'Golden' lunch inviting customers to come along for a finger buffet.

- **Friends Group**

Sandy Library would like to start a **Friends Group** and launched the initiative in January on National Libraries Day. The library is hoping to find people in the local community who would be able to take on some key roles in such a group and has been running a recruitment campaign.

- **Building and other capital works**

The Library Service is currently working towards a **major upgrade of the IT facilities** in Libraries. This will include upgrades to networks (larger and faster), upgrades to hardware (the actual PCs in the libraries) and upgrades to soft ware.

Schools

- **School Admissions**

For pupils transferring to Upper School in September 2015, **all requests for Sandy Upper were met** (129 offers made – school has 269 places in each year group). The late allocation results, for applications received after the deadline, will be released on 24 April.

- **Transport Commissioning and Entitlement**

138 mainstream pupils receive transport to Sandy lower, middle and upper schools
28 Sandy pupils with Special Education Needs receive transport to CBC special schools
14 post 16 mainstream pupils receive transport

- **School Improvement**

Sandy Upper was inspected in July 2014 and achieved a 'Good' (2) Ofsted outcome. In 2014, the school recorded the best GCSE results in Bedfordshire, was "**The Most Improved School in the Country 2014**" and was the **highest performing school in Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough**.

The Minister of State for Schools, the Rt Hon David Laws, confirmed to the Principal that *'your school is one of the top 100 performing non-selective state funded schools in England'*

The following schools have been inspected in the Sandy area since September 2014 and have all achieved a 'Good' (2) Ofsted outcome:

- Moggerhanger Lower
- Northill Lower
- Biggleswade Academy
- Ivel Valley Special, Biggleswade

- **School Organisation**

A feasibility study is being undertaken on the potential **replacement of the temporary unit** at Robert Peel Lower School with permanent provision

Supporting Young People in Sandy

Below are the main activities / services that have taken place in Sandy over the past 12 months:

- **Local issues/need**

- As of 2014, there were 661 young people aged 13-19 living in the Sandy area – with 392 aged 16-19
- Of those aged 16-19, a total of 18 young people or 4.6% were not participating in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) (2014)
- The overall number and % of young people aged 16-19 who are NEET continues to fall in Sandy – with the latest figures falling to 11 and 2.6% (Jan 2015)

- **Supporting Young People to participate in Education, Employment and Training**

- Sandy Upper School were one of the first schools in Central Bedfordshire to agree to **minimum standards in delivery careers education**. This will help ensure young people in Sandy have the right information to make informed career choices
- Services such as 4YP will work on a needs led basis and will meet young people in Sandy if they wish to help them to **overcome their barriers to participation in learning**

- **Youth Work and Targeted/Thematic Support**

- The **Youth Club** in Sandy continues to operate 3 times per week – including Friday evenings. Since April 2014, the club has supported over 100 young people and seen positive engagement in events such as the Sandy carnival
- We continue to work with those who address/manage anti-social behaviour and where possible aim to provide positive alternatives for young people

For the coming year:

- New youth work services will be in place across Central Bedfordshire from October 2015 onwards. This will include opportunities to tackle **Anti-Social Behaviour** and **grant funded projects** in more rural localities
- More effective **identification and tracking** of young people in Sandy who are disengaged in order to support them into Education, Employment and Training
- New opportunities to **Volunteer for Young People** in local projects and with local employers

Adult Social Care

Below are the main activities that have been completed by Private Sector Housing (PSH) in Sandy over the past 12 months:

- 18 Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) for clients needing major adaptations - other cases are in progress.
- 2 Renewal Assistance cases (1 for essential Heating repairs, 1 for heating and windows).
- PSH received 36 Service Requests not relating to grants and loan assistance from Sandy residents. Of these 36; 13 were in respect of poor housing standards, and 7 were in respect of public health related issues
- In addition, 51 service requests were received regarding various advice and assistance requests. Some of these will have resulted in DFG or Renewal Assistance completions mentioned above, but other will be signposting to other agencies, or will result in energy rating surveys. Most of the 51 enquiries were in respect of DFG assistance.

Community Safety

Beeston - From 23 March 2014 to 23 March 2015 there has been 1 case of light pollution and 1 case of noise pollution in Beeston.

Sandy - From 23 March 2014 to 23 March 2015 there have been the following 34 cases:

- 1 x Dog barking
- 2 x Dog fouling
- 7 x Fly tips
- 1 x Graffiti
- 4 x Nuisance neighbours
- 14 x Noise nuisance
- 3 x Odour/smoke nuisance
- 2 x Rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour

There has been one Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for dog fouling issued in Sandy, and no prosecutions or Abatement Notices have been served.

CCTV

There were a total of 8 arrests during the period 1 Jan 2014 to 28 Feb 2015 as a result of 41 incidents being recorded in Sandy.

Leisure Services

During 2014, 24 people have completed the activity for health programme at Sandy Sports Centre. Below are some quotes from the post activity questionnaires:

- "The guys at the gym are a fantastic group of people"
- "The programme is very good. I now feel much fitter and my blood pressure is much lower – it is a much better way of doing this rather than taking tablets".
- "I was glad to have the opportunity to join the scheme and to get back into exercise to feel healthy again, Thank you".
- "I thought coming to the gym would be hard but I have found the experience pleasant and rewarding"
- "Very good course"
- "I would like to say how wonderful the staff were and so helpful to me"
- "I have really enjoyed the 12 week programme and I am looking forward to continuing the training. The team has been brilliant, thank you".
- "This is a great idea! I would not have started attending the gym without this extra push".

Business Support

- **Middlefield BID**

At the end of March, businesses on the Middlefield Industrial Estate went out to ballot on the proposal put forward by a group of local businesses, to create a Business Improvement District (BID).

A BID involves businesses paying an additional levy on top of their existing business rates to support activity on the estate that contributed to "a safe, secure, effective and smart operating environment". 58% of those businesses who voted, voted against the proposal.

The Business Support Team has worked closely with the Middlefield BID Steering Group throughout the development of the BID proposal and the consultation stage. The Team will be looking to continue to work with the group.

Although it was a no vote, the Steering Group have already achieved a significant amount, particularly around working together to identify the issues facing the estate and possible ways of addressing these.

Even without a BID, it is hoped that the steering group will continue, as together the businesses have a strong collective lobbying voice, and will be a good forum through which the Business Support Team, other council departments and external partners, can engage with local businesses.

The BID Steering Group are currently assessing their next steps and will be organising a meeting with local businesses to look at why the ballot was unsuccessful and to look at potential ways forward.

- **Business Support**

The Business Support Team offers support to a range of businesses from across

Central Bedfordshire.

Recent examples of businesses from Sandy which have received support include:

- Support to a new start up company – Business TimeBank sessions were arranged and contact made with UKTI for support around exporting
- Funding search run for a catering business and referrals made to Velocity, Grants for Growth and the Low Carbon KEEP Capital Grant scheme
- Boutique business signed up to Innovation Bridge, referred to Grants for Growth and Business TimeBank sessions arranged
- Orbital Welding Equipment, one of twenty-two Central Bedfordshire based companies to receive funding through Grants for Growth

Data received via BankSearch indicates that 83 new businesses were started in Sandy during 2014. The Business Support Team has recently signed up to the enterprise agency Wenta's online business support facility, My Incubator Ventures (MIV).

This offers businesses and individuals from Central Bedfordshire the opportunity to chat online with qualified business advisors and to access a range of business related information. Although available to any business, we expect MIV to be particularly useful to start up businesses and businesses in their infancy.

- **European Social Fund (ESF)**

£1.4m of ESF monies was allocated in summer 2014 to support a number of skills and employability projects across Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough until autumn 2015. The projects include:

- **Extending the Work Clubs** – awarded to Voluntary and Community Action South Bedfordshire to build on the existing work club model. Nine individuals from Sandy have been to a work club.
- **Get Into Work** – Hospitality and Retail – contracted to Ixion, individuals receive a combination of training and work experience to support them to access employment within the hospitality and retail sectors. Four individuals from Sandy have participated to date.
- **Enterprise Coaching** – Exemplas are delivering their proven programme for supporting individuals to consider self-employment, through workshops and mentoring. Seven individuals from Sandy have enrolled to date.
- **Progress to Training, Education and Employment** – delivered by BRCC, this project supports individuals within mental health issues progress towards employment. To date, five participants have come from Sandy.
- **Employment Support for Migrants** – this project aims to help migrant workers improve their language and employability skills as well as gaining recognition of their existing qualifications. This project is aimed at individuals in Bedford Borough, but two participants have been from Sandy.
- **Apprenticeship Support** – aims to encourage more individuals to become apprentices. This activity is focused on Bedford Borough, but two participants have been from Sandy.

Social Care, Health and Housing

Below are the main activities that have been completed in Sandy from April 2014 – March 2015:

- BCF Ivel Valley event was held on 1 May 2014
- Just Ask Biggleswade was held on 21 March 2014
- Dementia Friendly Community Session for Sandy (Commissioning) was held on 27 Jan 2015

Village Care Schemes located in Sandy continue to provide volunteer support in the community.

Future events include 'Just Ask' in Sandy on 30 October 2015. Organised by Healthwatch, the council, Aragon Housing and their residents group (ROAR) together with the Older Peoples Reference Group (OPRG) the project aims to reach out to isolated residents across Central Bedfordshire, helping them to access information on social care, health and housing.

Transport

The biggest issue in Sandy has been the provision of **bus service to Engayne Avenue**, and the **new Tesco store**. There was a public consultation, and there was clear demonstration of a need for bus services to these locations.

Because of safety issues, Stagecoach will be pulling their **73 out of Engayne Avenue** from 24 May 2015. From the same date there are other revisions to the routeing which will also see the 73 being diverted to serve Sandy Station and Tesco, as well as serve a stop nearer to Fallowfield in the direction of Biggleswade.

From 26 May 2015, a **new Sandy local bus service 83 will start**. This will link Tesco, Station, Sunderland Road, Fallowfield (boundary), St Neots Road, Engayne Avenue, West Road. This service will be operated by a smaller bus and will be financed by Section 106 funds from Tesco.

During the summer of 2015 real time screens will be installed at Sandy Market Square. This shows real time as opposed to scheduled time of most local bus departures. Currently there is testing in progress to ensure that such screens will work with both Stagecoach and Centrebus vehicles in Sandy.

Partnerships and Community Engagement

In 2014, the **Partnerships and Community Engagement Team** organised the following events:

- **April 2014** – Town and Parish Council Conference – looking at community defibrillators, cemeteries and burial grounds, digital traffic safety cameras and the BCCG review



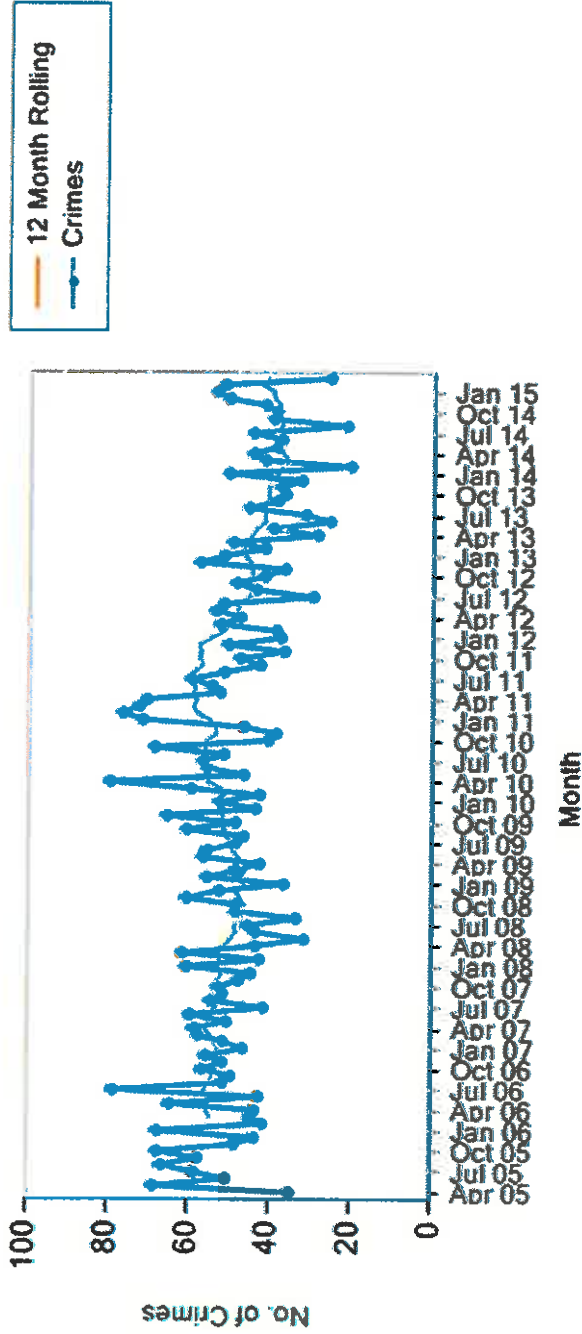
- **July 2014** – Town and Parish Council Conference – looking at affordable housing, protecting and enhancing the environment and the local area, the planning application process and Neighbourhood Planning.
- **September 2014** – CBT Stakeholder Conference – looking at understanding the collective challenges of Health and Wellbeing, Community Safety and Economic Growth.
- **November 2014** – Council Tax seminar for TPCs.
- In **January 2015**, the team organised a Town and Parish Council Conference that looked at the Highways contract, the elections, the budget for 2015, Dog Control Orders and also saw a presentation from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

There will also be more Town and Parish Council Conferences organised throughout 2015.

- The team are also organising a **Central Bedfordshire Cheering Volunteering** event to be held on 2 June 2015 at the Grove Theatre in Dunstable from 6.30pm – 9.00pm. The event is a big celebration and a chance for us to say thank you to the thousands of people who give up their time to volunteer in Central Bedfordshire. More information on how to nominate someone for an award and how to book your free tickets to the event is available on the www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.



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Crime Type Breakdown in last 12 months

Financial Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Avg
Current Financial Year: 2014/2015	45	39	38	45	22	40	39	42	51	54	52	26	493	41.08
Financial Year: 2013/2014	29	40	26	32	46	39	37	38	33	51	21	42	434	36.17
Financial Year: 2012/2013	48	54	52	30	44	49	42	37	58	52	42	50	558	46.50
Financial Year: 2011/2012	71	53	55	60	52	43	48	37	51	38	39	53	600	50.00
Financial Year: 2010/2011	80	47	56	57	52	69	41	39	47	72	77	73	710	59.17
Financial Year: 2009/2010	43	57	56	49	47	61	43	66	44	53	43	60	628	52.33
Financial Year: 2008/2009	44	32	44	46	34	49	49	61	53	37	56	49	554	46.17
Financial Year: 2007/2008	59	51	60	42	55	52	53	48	45	61	43	62	631	52.58
Financial Year: 2006/2007	44	65	43	79	52	50	57	52	56	47	52	58	655	54.58
Financial Year: 2005/2006	35	69	51	59	67	58	68	49	44	68	42	45	655	54.58

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Long term crime breakdown for each of the following offences

Domestic Burglary

Financial Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Avg
Current Financial Year: 2014/2015	1	2	3	1	1	4	6	2	4	6	5	1	35	2.92
Financial Year: 2013/2014	2	4	1	1	4	3	1	2		2	1	2	23	1.92
Financial Year: 2012/2013	3	2	2	1	3	4	4	3	10	16	4	3	55	4.58
Financial Year: 2011/2012	4	3	10	1	7	6	8	5	8	1	1	2	56	4.67
Financial Year: 2010/2011	7	1	3	5	2	5	6	3	3	7	6	7	55	4.58
Financial Year: 2009/2010	1	3	3	1	4	4	2	8	3	7	1	2	39	3.25
Financial Year: 2008/2009	1	1	2		2	4	2	5	9	5	3	1	35	2.92
Financial Year: 2007/2008		2	5		2	7	5	3	7		1	1	33	2.75
Financial Year: 2006/2007	3	1	4	9	3	4	1	1	4	2	10	3	45	3.75
Financial Year: 2005/2006	1	1	5	8	3	9	6	2	3	5	4	5	52	4.33

Burglary other

Financial Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Avg
Current Financial Year: 2014/2015	2	2	3	8	3	1	1	4		2	2	3	31	2.58
Financial Year: 2013/2014	3	3	1	3	5		2		3	8	1	1	30	2.50
Financial Year: 2012/2013	8	7	6		3	5	5	6	7	3	2	3	55	4.58
Financial Year: 2011/2012	12	5	3	9	2	3	5	1	2	2	4	4	52	4.33
Financial Year: 2010/2011	20	7	3	6	6	6	5	3	3	8	14	7	88	7.33
Financial Year: 2009/2010	2	4	11	8	4	6	6	3	5	6	2	6	63	5.25
Financial Year: 2008/2009	6	2	8	3	5	3	12	4	5	4	2	4	58	4.83
Financial Year: 2007/2008	11	4	4	2	4	5	3	5	4	5	5	7	59	4.92
Financial Year: 2006/2007	1	6	4	7	3	4	6	2	6	2	4	10	55	4.58
Financial Year: 2005/2006	3	6	5	7	2	5	4	4	1	3	1	4	45	3.75

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Vehicle Crime

Financial Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Avg
Current Financial Year: 2014/2015	8	12	6	5	1	9	4	3	3	6	3	1	61	5.08
Financial Year: 2013/2014	3	8	3	2	5	3	8	6	4	10	2	9	62	5.25
Financial Year: 2012/2013	5	9	9	3	12	9	3	5	13	5	6	5	84	7.00
Financial Year: 2011/2012	8	6	2	10	8	5	5	4	12	9	7	12	88	7.33
Financial Year: 2010/2011	4	3	7	6	6	4	1	3	6	8	8	5	61	5.08
Financial Year: 2009/2010	10	6	6	7	7	9	11	8	6	6	5	3	84	7.00
Financial Year: 2008/2009	5	4	7	10	6	2	4	11	8	5	6	9	77	6.42
Financial Year: 2007/2008	6	6	5	3	13	6	9	5	9	6	5	15	88	7.33
Financial Year: 2006/2007	5	11	3	6	3	8	14	10	6	4	5	10	85	7.08
Financial Year: 2005/2006	7	17	7	8	9	14	16	4	7	15	5	9	118	9.83

Theft Other

Financial Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Avg
Current Financial Year: 2014/2015	4	3	5	4	6	5	1	4	7	5	13	2	59	4.92
Financial Year: 2013/2014	5	6	4	3	6	7	5	4	7	12	8	3	70	5.83
Financial Year: 2012/2013	3	6	7	4	1	8	7	6	4	4	6	9	65	5.42
Financial Year: 2011/2012	6	11	8	10	9	9	6	8	7	7	10	6	97	8.08
Financial Year: 2010/2011	11	8	14	7	2	11	5	3	2	9	13	11	96	8.00
Financial Year: 2009/2010	6	6	3	7	7	8	5	11	4	7	8	14	86	7.17
Financial Year: 2008/2009	6	3	2	3	3	7	4	6	2	1	4	8	49	4.08
Financial Year: 2007/2008	4	9	9	8	7	5	8	2	5	10	4	3	74	6.17
Financial Year: 2006/2007	3	5	6	11	9	5	8	6	9	5	10	1	78	6.50
Financial Year: 2005/2006	6	4	5	3	11	1	4	7	8	8	10	6	73	6.08

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Criminal Damage

Financial Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Avg
Current Financial Year: 2014/2015	9	5	3	8	5	10	9	16	23	16	10	3	117	9.75
Financial Year: 2013/2014	5	5	9	11	4	3	7	9	7	5	4	9	78	6.50
Financial Year: 2012/2013	13	14	11	6	6	11	9	9	12	7	8	6	112	9.33
Financial Year: 2011/2012	19	11	12	14	9	8	12	10	12	7	6	9	129	10.75
Financial Year: 2010/2011	14	10	4	15	13	14	11	12	14	22	20	26	175	14.58
Financial Year: 2009/2010	10	23	11	15	12	14	11	22	11	11	12	17	169	14.08
Financial Year: 2008/2009	9	12	12	17	10	17	9	20	15	9	23	8	161	13.42
Financial Year: 2007/2008	25	7	14	12	13	15	12	14	5	18	4	18	157	13.08
Financial Year: 2006/2007	19	19	6	24	16	16	11	15	17	19	12	17	191	15.92
Financial Year: 2005/2006	4	17	11	18	16	9	11	12	10	17	13	10	148	12.33

Theft of motor vehicle

Financial Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Avg
Current Financial Year: 2014/2015	1	2		1		2	1	1	2			1	10	0.83
Financial Year: 2013/2014	1	2			1	1	3	4	2	3		2	19	1.58
Financial Year: 2012/2013			1		1	1		1		1			5	0.42
Financial Year: 2011/2012	1	1	1	2		2	1	1			1	1	11	0.92
Financial Year: 2010/2011	1		3	2	1	3		1	3	3	1		17	1.42
Financial Year: 2009/2010	2	1	2	3	3	2	3	1	1	1	2		21	1.75
Financial Year: 2008/2009	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	17	1.42
Financial Year: 2007/2008	3	3	2		3	1	2	1	1	1	2		19	1.58
Financial Year: 2006/2007	1	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	2	3	5	23	1.92
Financial Year: 2005/2006		3	3	4	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	4	25	2.08

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Theft from motor vehicle

Financial Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Avg
Current Financial Year: 2014/2015	7	10	6	4	1	7	3	3	1	6	3		51	4.25
Financial Year: 2013/2014	2	6	3	2	4	2	5	2	2	7	2	7	44	3.67
Financial Year: 2012/2013	5	9	8	3	11	8	3	4	13	4	6	5	79	6.58
Financial Year: 2011/2012	7	5	1	8	8	3	4	3	12	9	6	11	77	6.42
Financial Year: 2010/2011	3	3	4	4	5	1	1	3	3	5	7	5	44	3.67
Financial Year: 2009/2010	8	5	4	4	4	7	8	7	5	5	3	3	63	5.25
Financial Year: 2008/2009	4	2	5	9	5	1	2	10	7	4	3	8	60	5.00
Financial Year: 2007/2008	3	3	3	3	10	5	7	4	8	5	3	15	69	5.75
Financial Year: 2006/2007	4	9	2	3	2	6	13	9	5	2	2	5	62	5.17
Financial Year: 2005/2006	7	14	4	4	8	12	15	3	5	13	3	5	93	7.75

Year to Date Recorded Crime and Solved Crimes.

Crime Type	Recorded Crime		Solved Crimes	
	20/04/13 to 19/04/14	20/04/14 to 19/04/15	20/04/13 to 19/04/14	20/04/14 to 19/04/15
Violence against the Person	80	109	35	35
Sexual Offences	7	6	1	0
Robbery	3	5	0	0
Domestic Burglary	22	34	12	9
Burglary Other	28	32	2	0
Vehicle Crime	68	60	3	5
Other Theft	145	119	23	30
Criminal Damage	87	125	9	16
Drugs	8	12	11	11
Other Notifiable Offences	3	5	1	4
Total	451	507	97	110

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Good news stories for Sandy in 2014/2015.

- **Operation Vision – Wednesday 22/10/2014**; this event was held on the Fallowfield Estate and High Street Sandy. This was a daylong event where Police Community Support Officers, the Police Crime Commission, Bedfordshire Police NHW/Smartwater worker and Sandy Speedwatch Team worked with Central Bedfordshire Council under the Good Neighbours initiative. 211 homes and businesses were visited and members of the public also came along to our hubs and engaged with us there.
- **On 09/04/15** I carried out a Community Day in Sandy; I spent the day on foot; starting the day visiting groups and organisations within Sandy giving home/personal safety advice. I had my break in the local café and went on to assist the Sandy Speedwatch team on Bedford Road. I finished my day in Bedford Park Recreation Park engaging with parents and young people.
- **Over the last 12 months** I have worked closely with the Youth Club and attended many of the sessions. I have been working in the schools; giving assemblies, talking to classes and small groups.
- **I have been to coffee mornings and attended locations within Sandy to give advice and reassurance to our more elderly members of the community.**

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• **PCSO 4763 Ann Jeeves.**

Sandy and Biggleswade Local Policing Team.

Tel: 101. Email: Jeeves.ann@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk