

Sandy Town Council

To: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, J Hewitt, J Ivanciu-Wilkinson, L Ivanciu-Wilkinson, R Lacey, A Lock, R Lock, C Osborne, M Pettitt (Chair), M Scott, P Sharman, S Sutton and N Thompson.

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 14th November 2022 commencing at 7.30pm for the purpose of transacting the items of business below.



Nicola Sewell
Town Clerk
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy
SG19 1JE
01767 681491
Date 9th November 2022

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*

Sandy Town Council

3 Public Participation Session

To receive questions and representations from members of the public.

4 Minutes of previous Town Council meetings

To consider the Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 10th October 2022 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 17th October and 7th November 2022
- ii) Policy, Finance and Resource Committee held on 31st October 2022 and the EOM held on 7th November 2022

6 Proposed New Woodland at Beeston

To receive and comment on a proposal from Forest of Marston Vale and Central Bedfordshire Council regarding a new 30ha Community Woodland North of Beeston on former arable fields between the A603 and Vinegar Hill. The woodland will also include an area to be set aside as community allotments and accommodate a section of the rout of the Sandy Greenwheel.

Appendix I

Darren Woodward, Forest Development Manager to be present to answer questions.

7 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Council

To receive reports from Ward Councillors.

8 Mink Management Programme

To consider a request from the Wildlife Trust of Bedfordshire and Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity for support with their Mink Management Programme.

Appendix II

9 Office Christmas Opening Times

To consider closing the Council Offices over the Christmas period due to staffing arrangements and agreed leave.

Appendix III

10 Action List

To receive and note an action list on Full Council items.

Appendix IV

11 Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies

To receive the following reports from Council representatives on

Sandy Town Council

outside bodies.

i) Report from Cllr M Pettitt on the Sandy Sports and Leisure Association (SSLA) committee.

Appendix V

ii) Reports from Cllr M Pettitt and Cllr Lock on the Sandy Twinning Association.

Appendix VI

iii) Verbal report from Cllr Hewitt on the Village Hall Management Committee.

12 Jenkins Pavilion Development

To receive an update from CBC regarding progress on the Jenkins Pavilion Development Project.

To come

13 Neighbourhood Plan

To receive a verbal report from Cllr Hewitt on progress with the Neighbourhood Plan.

14 Mayoral Engagements

To note a list of recent engagements undertaken by the Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor;

- Sunday 9th October we attended the Flitwick Town Civic Service held at St Peter & St Paul Parish Church, Flitwick.
- Tuesday 11th October I assisted with the planting of a Prunus Serrula (Tibetan Cherry) tree at Fayne's Corner Garden. Originally planned to commemorate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, it will now stand to remember her long lasting service to our Country and form a part of the Queen's Green Canopy.
- Wednesday 20th October I attended the Annual General Meeting of the Sandy Branch of the RBL held at Sandy Conservative Club Hall.
- Tuesday 25th October together with other members and members of staff we attended the leaving event in the Council Chamber for Anne Elliott-Flockhart and Katie Barker. Thanks to The Clerk for organising collections and refreshments.
- Saturday 29th October attended the Sandy Cricket Club's Annual Awards Presentation evening held at Sandy Roundabout Club.
- Saturday 5th November the Mayoress and I were pleased to join members of Sandy Rotary Club for lunch at The Anchor, Great Barford and to draw the 4 winners of the Annual Christmas Raffle which will have raised more that £2.5k.
- Friday 11th November with the Mayoress and others including Cllr Mrs Susan Sutton, President of Sandy RBL Branch took

Sandy Town Council

part in a short Act of Remembrance in the grounds of St Swithun's Church.

- Sunday 13th November with the Mayoress, Deputy and other members took part in the Town's Annual Remembrance Day Parade, Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial and Service in St Swithun's Church.

15 News/Press Release

16 Chairmans Items

- AOC Report and live event for Historic Society
- Update from the last Sandy Green Wheel meeting
- Mayor's Carol Service on 17th December
- Bedfordshire CERT
- Welcome reception for Syrian family in the Chamber at 16.00 on Tuesday 14th November.

17 Date of next meeting: 19th December 2022

Sandy Town Council

Date:	14th November 2022
Title:	Proposed New Woodland at Beeston
Contact Officer:	Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive and comment on a proposal from Forest of Marston Vale and Central Bedfordshire Council regarding a new 30ha Community Woodland North of Beeston on former arable fields between the A603 and Vinegar Hill.

Recommendation

2. To agree a response to be submitted to the Forestry Commission before the deadline of 1st December.

Background

3.0 As part of the Trees for Climate programme The Forest of Marston Vale are working with Central Bedfordshire Council to create a new 30ha community woodland north of Beeston on former arable fields between the A603 and Vinegar Hill as shown on the attached location map. The new woodland will be planted with both native broadleaf and conifer trees as well as native shrubs. The woodland will also include an area to be set aside as community allotments and accommodate a section of the Sandy Greenwheel.

3.1 The Forest of Marston Vale and CBC are seeking comments regarding the proposed woodland by the 1st December 2022. All comments received will be sent to the Forestry Commission as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment. The leaflet attached provides further details on the Trees for Climate project.

Financial Implications

4.0 At this stage financial implications are not clear, if allotment land were to be made available then negotiations around rent and the costs for maintenance would need to be discussed and allowance made in the appropriate budget.

Legal Powers

5.0 Under the Smallholdings and Allotment Acts 1908 ss 23,26 & 42 parish councils have a duty to try to satisfy demand for allotments.

**Trees for Climate:
Beeston, Sandy**

Key

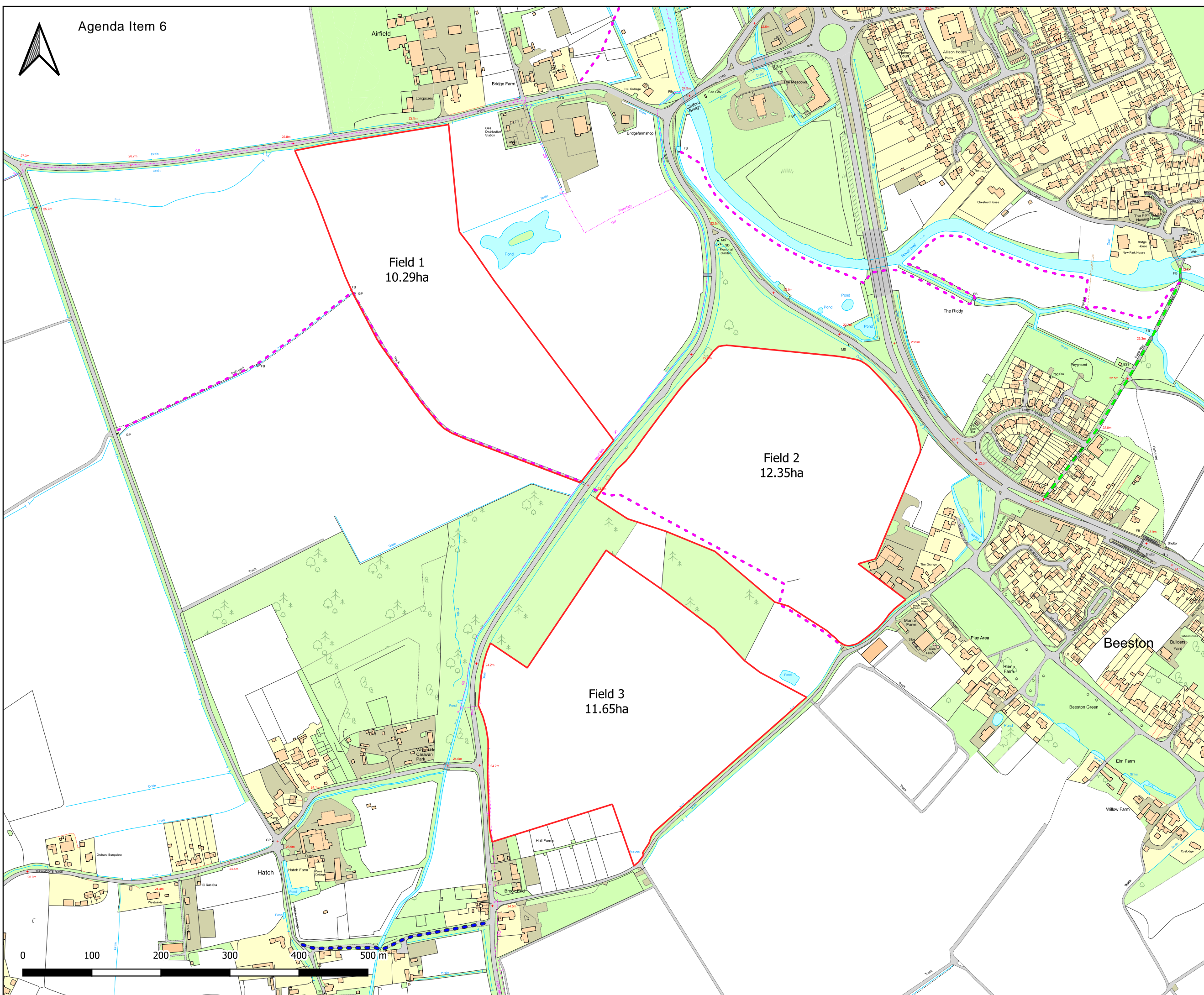
- Central Bedfordshire Council
- Proposed woodland planting (winter 2022/23)
- Public Rights of Way
- Bridleway
- Byway Open to All Traffic
- Footpath

Date: 12-10-2022
Scale: 1:5000

Scale correct at A3

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**Trees
make life
better**



Field 1
10.29ha

Field 2
12.35ha

Field 3
11.65ha

Beeston

Hatch



**Trees for Climate:
 Beeston, Sandy**

**Woodland Design
 Concept Plan**

Key

- Central Bedfordshire Council
-  Proposed woodland planting (winter 2022/23)
- Public Rights of Way
 -  Bridleway
 -  Byway Open to All Traffic
 -  Footpath
-  Existing trees, woods and hedgerows
-  Proposed new woodland
-  Proposed areas of shallow rooted species and wider spacings
-  Open ground with species rich grassland
-  Informal paths

Date: 12-10-2022
 Scale: 1:5000

Scale correct at A3

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The overall concept is to create a new, largely native broadleaved woodland on a minimum of 60% of the site. The final locations for this is to be determined in conjunction with CBC Historic Environment Team, based on the results of ongoing geophysical surveys. The areas identified on this plan are therefore INDICATIVE ONLY to identify key principles and priorities

Important areas of archaeology to be retained as open ground and managed as species rich grassland - exact areas tbc

Areas of potential archaeological sensitivity to be planted at wider spacings and using shallow rooted tree and shrub species only

Sandy "Green Wheel" route to link in with wider footpath network

5m wide access ride along edges

Informal 'arboretum' with individual specimen trees to be developed along edges to Green Wheel path

Woodland areas to be planted using a variable spacing matrix that helps create diverse graded edges

Informal footpath network - final alignment tbc

Allotments

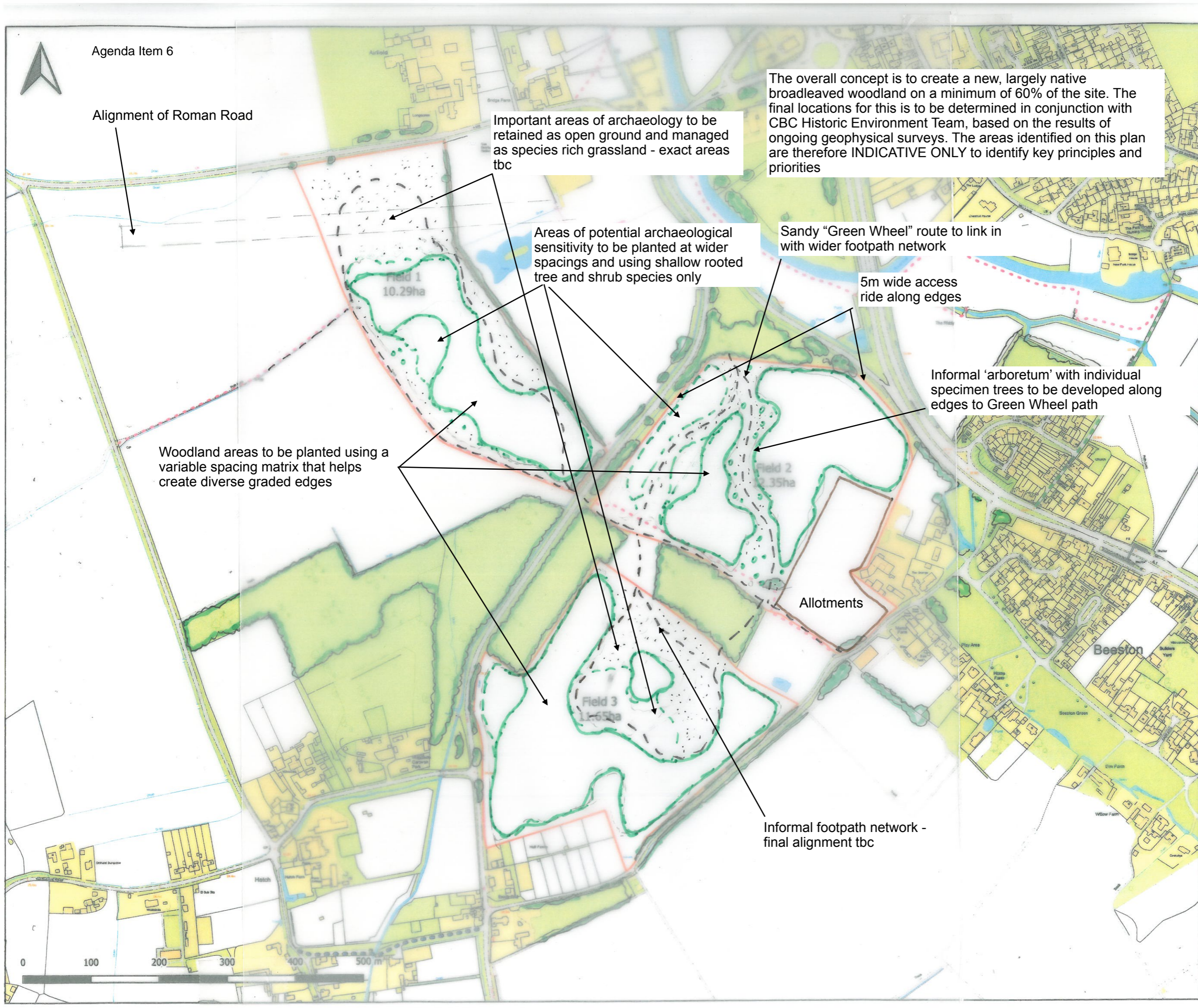
Field 1
10.29ha

Field 2
2.35ha

Field 3
11.65ha

Agenda Item 6

Alignment of Roman Road





Why trees?

Why Trees for Climate?

Advice and finance for delivery of tree planting projects that will:

- guarantee grant income;
- improve soil quality;
- deliver future timber resource;
- deliver carbon benefits to help tackle the climate emergency.

Trees
make life
better




marstonvale.org
Registered Charity No. 1069229

Trees for Climate

Trees for Climate is a multi-million pound woodland creation programme, part of the national Government-led Nature for Climate Fund.

Trees for Climate is being delivered by England's Community Forests, 13 organisations like us across the country who have experience of supporting farmers and other landowners in exploring their options when it comes to integrating trees into their farm business or land holding.



Trees for Climate is helping the country to tackle climate change, storing hundreds of thousands of tonnes of carbon through the planting of trees.

The wider range of benefits include reducing flood risk, delivering more home-grown timber and creating more places for nature to thrive.

Trees can be a hugely valuable addition to farms and other land holdings.

Why trees?

If they are introduced with the right level of support and as part of a well thought through farm business, trees will deliver financial, environmental and social benefits and ensure stewardship of the land for generations to come. Carbon payments for woodland creation can also be a beneficial supplement to farm incomes.

Through Trees for Climate we can offer attractive finance packages and advice on how to plant and maintain trees for their long term health and regeneration.



Trees can provide:

- Shelter and shade for livestock, people or property;
- Habitats for pollinators that can help crop management;
- Additional income through future timber, woodfuel and carbon payments;
- Wider benefits as part of an agroforestry scheme.

Trees help to:

- Combat soil erosion and improve soil quality;
- Slow water run-off entering watercourses;
- Buffer watercourses and improve water quality;
- Extend the growing season through warming the soil;
- Improve biodiversity and the local environment for future.

What you can expect from our approach

Our experienced Forest Creation Team focus on working with farmers and landowners closely. They can work with you at every stage to assess potential planting ideas, and help to develop and deliver schemes that fit business plans and make real financial, as well as environmental sense.

Grant funding and support from Trees for Climate

A Trees for Climate grant is highly bespoke and open to most farmers or landowners within the Forest of Marston Vale area. If you're looking to diversify income streams and secure funding for your land we can help.

The grant can cover costs associated with woodland creation and provide continued funding to ensure the successful establishment of the trees and associated infrastructure that is needed. Grant support for other options including hedgerow planting is also available. Grants are not dependent on public access, but additional funding could be available for this benefit.

Trees for Climate can provide:

- Grant funding to cover low risk, practical options for delivering new woodland, shelter belts, orchards and hedgerows;
- Free advice from Forest Creation Team on woodland creation, design and planning;
- Annual payments starting from £500 per hectare for 15 years to ensure success.

Interested in finding out more? Let's talk

To explore the potential of tree planting on your land through the Trees for Climate programme, and to arrange an informal, no obligation look at your options please contact:

treesforclimate@marstonvale.org

or for more information visit:

www.marstonvale.org/trees-for-climate

Sandy Town Council

Date:	14th November 2022
Title:	Mink Management Programme
Contact Officer:	Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive a request from the Wildlife Trust of Bedfordshire and Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity for support with their Mink Management Programme.

Recommendation

2. To agree to support the Wildlife Trust of Bedfordshire and Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity with their Mink Management Programme.

Background

3.0 The Water Life Recovery Trust (WLT) are removing mink from water courses to help the water vole population that they threaten. The WLT has approached the Wildlife Trust and asked for its support with the management of mink in areas around Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire including Sandy.

3.1 To support this project the Wildlife Trust need Sandy Town Council's agreement as landowner to allow a properly licensed member of the team to carry a .22 Air Rifle and use it to their land to conduct the programme.

3.2 The programme works by using raft traps that carry a system that alerts the team to the presence of a mink, so that they can deal with it humanely and without delay.

Financial Implications

4.0 There are no financial implications.

Legal Powers

5.0 The actions undertaken are covered by the Localism Act 2011, s.1 the General Power of Competence, for which Sandy Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort, allowing the Council to do anything an individual can do.

Sandy Town Council

Date:	14th November 2022
Title:	Office Christmas Opening Times
Contact Officer:	Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive a report from the Clerk and consider closing the office over the Christmas period due to staff shortages.

Recommendation

2. To close the office on the 28th, 29th and 30th December 2022. Staff to take time off as part of their holiday allowance/TOIL.

Background

3.0 Historically Sandy Town Council offices have remained open over the period between Christmas and New Year and it has been left to staff to decide if they wish to work over this period or take holiday.

3.1 This year due to the recent resignation of two staff members and time off already booked by the Clerk across Christmas and New Year, it is very possible that we will not have enough staff to manage the office on these three days.

3.2 Although it is expected that at least two of the new members of staff will have started their roles at Sandy town Council before this time at least one of those has confirmed they already have holiday booked for the period so would not be able to work on those days.

3.3 The days between Christmas and New Year are historically quiet and as such many Town and Parish Councils make the decision to shut down across the period.

Financial Implications

4.0 There are no financial implications.

Legal Powers

5.0 The actions undertaken are covered by the Localism Act 2011, s.1 the General Power of Competence, for which Sandy Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort, allowing the Council to do anything an individual can do.

AGENDA ITEM 10**APPENDIX IV****Town Council - Action list**

Subject	Action to be taken		Response/ Agenda no.
	Minute	Action	
Meeting 9/11/15			
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.	The Council submitted a response to the most recent EWR consultation on 9th June 2021. Letter issued to MP's office reaffirming Council's view. Cllr Blaine attended a stakeholder meeting and is due to report back to the Council. Cllr Blaine attended a meeting on 10 th Feb 2022 and circulated links to Consultation Summary and Consultation Documents on 21 st April 2022. On 17.08.2022 Cllrs Pettitt, Hewitt and Blaine met with Cllrs Ben Pitt St Neots Town Mayor and Stephen Ferguson Chairman of Cambridgeshire CC to discuss matters of mutual interest, notably East West Rail. Next meeting to be held on 8th November at 18.30 Cllr Blaine, to attend and report back.
Meeting 21/5/18			

AGENDA ITEM 10

APPENDIX IV

A1 – Local Issues	(19-18/19)	To push for decisions on the future of the A1 and action on safety and environmental issues.	<p>Representatives of STC previously joined a meeting with a representative from Highways England, facilitated by local MP Richard Fuller. Working Group response to Highways England consultation on agenda for consideration.</p> <p>Mayor chaired meeting in January with representatives of neighbouring authorities to discuss shared concerns and priorities in relation to the A1 and further work undertaken with Biggleswade TC reps on developing a proposed joined up approach to take forward.</p> <p>R.Fuller's office has contacted the Mayor to arrange a follow up meeting.</p> <p>Cllrs Pettitt and Hewitt met with Mr Fuller MP on 6.04.2022.</p> <p>Cllr Pettitt wrote to the Mayor of Biggleswade on 01.07.2022 to facilitate further dialogue with Richard Fuller MP and move this issue along.</p> <p>At the TC meeting of 22.08.2022 Members asked the Clerk to write to National Highways to urge them to carry out and publish a comprehensive study of traffic coming into Sandy via these routes, to provide a real understanding of the impact these projects would have on the town, asserting that no work should proceed until this study had been undertaken. A copy of the letter was to be sent to Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport, Richard Fuller MP and Lorna Carver Director of Place and Communities at Central Bedfordshire Council. A letter was drafted on 23rd August and sent</p>
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AGENDA ITEM 10

APPENDIX IV

			<p>out. STC has received a response from National Highways which was forwarded to Members on 14.09.2022 and a response from Richard Fuller was circulated to Members on 09.09.2022 which can be viewed here: https://www.richardfuller.co.uk/news/proposed-closure-gap-central-reservation-a1-biggleswade-road-upper-caldecote-tingeys-corner Cllr Pettitt to set up a further meeting with local counterparts to discuss how the issues can be taken forward.</p>
Meeting 17/12/18			
Sandye Place Academy	(142-18/19)	That the Town Council place on record its opposition to any future residential development on the site and all other aspects the site could be used for as highlighted in the Council's Community Plan and that CBC Ward Councillors support the Council's position.	<p>Extraordinary meeting of Council considered the CBC public consultation on SPA. Response sent restating Council's previous position and emphasising value of site as a community asset. CBC stated that they should know the outcome of their application to have the site released from its DfE status in June 2022. On 11.07.2022 Cllr Maudlin reported that the DfE were still asking questions of CBC about the site and that there would be no further updates about the future of the site before September and that in the meantime, she was investigating the possibility of having sheep graze the area to keep the grass down.</p> <p>No further updates</p>

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

Date: 14 November 2022

Title: Sandy Sports & Leisure Association

Contact: Cllr Martin Pettitt

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide and update on Sandy Sports & Leisure Association

Summary and Key Bullet Points

- Work to spray the wooden rebound boards with preservative will be postponed until the spring.
- Phillip Rose of SLL has taken interim responsibility for contacting Mark Peckham of Highlights Floodlighting with a view to getting the pylon integrity testing scheduled and done as soon as possible.
- The long-awaited invoice from TCE Electricals for work undertaken to lighting in the car park and on the external wall of the school sports hall has been received dated 30 October and will be paid shortly.
- Still no contact with the Charity Commission regarding future planning etc.
- A meeting of the SSLA Committee will take place by Zoom, probably on 22 or 23 November

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

Date: 14 November 2022

Title: Sandy Twinning Association

Author: Cllr Martin Pettitt

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide and update on Sandy Twinning Association

Summary & Key Bullet Points

- The 5-person committee met on 25 October and spent most of the meeting discussing and considering our response to the last communication from Malaunay concerning their proposed visit to Sandy in April / May 2023.
- Subject to early receipt of responses from others, notably regarding availability and willingness to host our detailed response will be emailed shortly.
- We still lack sufficient hosts and will inevitably fall well short of the number required to meet Malaunay's expectations and that fact alone puts the future of the association in jeopardy.
- It is also proving difficult to agree a weekend for the visit to take place and that has been made more difficult with the Coronation now fixed for Saturday 6 May and an additional BH on Monday 8th, not to mention our local elections potentially on the eve of the day the Malaunay Committee have marked as their preferred arrival date!!
- We had "offered" the previous weekend which is by far our most popular option and that of almost all of the hosts, but which was declined for two principal reasons.
- Our contact at Stratton School is being reminded of the need to begin work now if the Summer Schools in Poland are to resume in 2023, also involving possibly Sandy Secondary School.
- There have been no approaches from the civic or community links in Skarszewy to suggest any intention of wishing to visit Sandy in the near future.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

Date: 14 November 2022

Title: Sandy Twinning Association

Author: Cllr Martin Pettitt

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide and update on Sandy Twinning Association

Summary & Key Bullet Points

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