

Sandy Town Council

To: Cllrs N Aldis, P Blaine, A Gibson, A M Hill, T Knagg, C Osborne, S Paterson, M Scott, S Sutton (Chairman), N Thompson
c.c. J Hewitt, W Jackson, R Lock, M Pettitt, P Sharman

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council to be held remotely via zoom Monday 25 January 2021 commencing at 7.30pm.



Chris Robson
Town Clerk
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy, SG19 1JE
01767 681491
19th January 2021

Notes:

(1) Due to the current Covid-19 Coronavirus situation, the Town Council will meet virtually via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/>) as permitted in The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations").

(2) Meeting ID: 869 6027 4158

Press and public are cordially invited to attend. Those wishing to join the meeting should contact the clerk on clerk@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk in advance for the meeting password.

(3) Members of the public wishing to address the Council during the public participation part of the formal meeting must make the Clerk aware of their intention before the meeting starts.

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for absence

2 Declarations of interest

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*

Sandy Town Council

relevant to items on the agenda.

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

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

To consider the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 21st December 2020 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

4 Public Participation Session

Members of the public may ask questions or make representations to the committee about items of business which are on the agenda.

5 Action List

To receive the Action List and any updates.

Appendix I

6 Tree Planting

To receive and approve a recommendation from the Environmental Working Group on a submission to Central Bedfordshire Council's Tree Fund.

Appendix II

7 Electric Car Charging Points

To receive and note an update on a proposal to install two electric car charging points in the Council car park.

Appendix III

8 Skateboard Working Group Terms of Reference

To receive and consider draft Terms of Reference for the Skateboard Working Group for recommendation to Full Council.

Appendix IV

9 Community Safety

To note that Central Bedfordshire Council's Community Safety Partnership are continuing to run drop-in sessions for Town and Parish Councils.

Appendix V

10 Events Working Group

To receive notes from a meeting of the Events Working Group and proposals within for events to be held in 2021.

Appendix VI

11 Greensand Country

To receive communication from the Co-Chairman of Greensand Country on a volunteer opportunity.

Appendix VII

12 Chairman's Items

13 Date of Next Meeting Monday 8th March 2021

Agenda Item 5 - Community Services and Environment Committee - Action list

Subject	Action to be taken		Response /Status
	Minute	Action	
Full Council Meeting 20/04/16			
Allotments and Community Orchard At Beeston (CBC owned land)	(22-16/17)	Progress and update reports to go to the Community Services and Environment Committee	Heads of Terms agreed. Solicitor details provided to CBC. CBC internal discussion on finer details with the development manager for the affordable units adjacent to community land. CBC confirmed LGSS Law asked to contact STC solicitor. Delays due to transfer of land from CBC Assets to Housing. CBC have stated our solicitor will now hear from LGSS law to progress. At time of issuing agenda Solicitor was still awaiting further approach from LGSS.
CSE Meeting 24/08/2020			
The Meadows Site Visit (Former Days Inn site)	(23-20/21)	Site visit to view CBC's Transitional Housing site to be arranged	Due to COVID19 a virtual tour of the Meadows has been arranged. The link to watch the tour is now available and will be circulated to Members.
Use of former Days Inn conference site	(24-20/21)	RESOLVED to write to CBC with ideas about potential use of the former Days Inn conference site.	Letter summarising council's comments issued. Clerk liaising with CBC who has confirmed receipt of the letter. 15/12/20 – Communication indicating thoughts about how it could be used were well received. CBC waiting for other projects to feed back, which they will by the end of the financial year in April 2021. Board deferred matter until then, at which point CBC will be able to pick up dialogue again with the local community.
CSE Meeting 05/10/2020			
SID Sign locations and Installation	(37-20/21)	RESOLVED to approve sign locations and the Clerk work with CBC to arrange installation.	CBC Highways informed the Clerk that due to the number of requests for SID signs they wanted to review their approach. No new signs to be agreed by Highways until a new guidance document is produced. Expected in January 2021. Local policing team to express their support for SID signage in Sandy to CBC. Chased.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Community Services and Environment

DATE: 25 January 2021

AUTHOR: Anne Elliott-Flockhart (Administrator)

SUBJECT: Central Bedfordshire Council's Tree Planting Grant Scheme

1. Summary

1.1 The Community, Services and Environment Committee previously considered Central Bedfordshire Council's (CBC) Tree Fund and agreed that the Environmental Working group consider the fund further and propose an application. The group met on Wednesday 13 January 2021 to discuss the tree planting grant scheme.

1.2 The following report outlines the Working Group's proposal to date.

2. Background Information

2.1 There are two rounds of applications:

2020/2021 Planting Season

Opens: 10 December 2020

Closes: 28 February 2021 at 5pm

2021/2022 Planting Season

Opens: May 2021

Closes: 28 February 2022

2.2 Applicants can make no more than two applications, but the areas identified within an application can be many. After this planting season, CBC will be looking for feedback on this scheme, so as to tailor it better for the 2021/22 planting season.

2.3 Applications can be made for council owned land or land owned by other people, but permissions would need to be sought in that case. The applicant is responsible for the future maintenance of any trees planted as a result of the fund.

2.4 Bearing in mind that the deadline for the first application is close at hand, it was decided that the working group would concentrate on STC owned land for the first round and look at other land, bigger projects or projects that would require public consultation for the second round, where there is more time to get any permissions or information required.

2.5 In the first instance, the group looked at STC areas that could take more tree planting. Tree suppliers need to be contacted to consult on what trees are


suitable for those areas and for prices of individual trees. This information will be required for the final submission to CBC.

3. Areas and proposals for 2020/21 Planting Season

3.1 Fallowfield play area - clay soil might be an issue.

	<p>Create a mini garden with seating/benches and trees between the play areas near the school (highlighted).</p> <p>Small number of trees required to be planted as part of first application to tree fund.</p> <p>Note: Clay soil might be an issue</p>
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3.2 Avocet close area

	<p>Plant trees along roadside to create a safety barrier for children playing (highlighted in red). Potential for a small orchard/copse (highlighted in blue) at the top end, still allowing for an area for children to play. Make sure that trees are either all edible or not edible, so children won't get confused between the two. BRCC to provide some further advice.</p>
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3.3 Sunderland Road

	<p>Small triangle of land south of play area (highlighted in red) for seating area/tree shelter. Infill down Sunderland Road (highlighted in yellow)</p>
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3.4 Bedford Road


	<p>Trees along fence line of play area and near the basketball court to provide shelter (highlighted in blue). Shrubs along road fence to provide a pollution barrier from the road and to match up with the hedge mix along the rest of that side of the play area (highlighted in red). Hedging could include hebes, wintersweet, euonymous, cotoneaster, red robin. (Whatever grows well at Faynes Corner will grow well at Bedford Road). Potential for some infill.</p>
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3.5 The Limes

	<p>Trees around edge of the play area (highlighted in red). A copse at the top end with a good mix of native species (highlighted in blue). Seating area at bottom end, to include current memorial bench, with flowering shrubs/herbaceous plants to create a 'garden' area (highlighted in orange).</p>
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3.6 Beeston

	<p>North end can take more planting (highlighted in red). North verge highlighted in blue is suitable for additional cherry blossom trees.</p>
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	<p>Potential for infill around the rest of the green – mixed trees of various sizes and species. Smaller trees on verges to prevent parking. Between 12 – 20 trees.</p>
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4. Areas and proposals for 2021/22 Planting Season (Second Application)

4.1 Fallowfield

	<p>Large open area within Fallowfield has potential for more tree planting. This could take the form of two large copse in the centre of the field, and/or individual trees planted around the inside of the circular pathway.</p> <p>Any planting should take into account the possibility of the Council's ambition to install more outdoor gym equipment.</p> <p>Time for consultation needed.</p>
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4.2 The Riddy

	<p>Potential for tree planting in The Riddy. Dependant on permissions from EA, which has to be sought for any tree planted in the nature reserve. Only certain types of trees and locations would be permitted.</p> <p>BRCC to advise on tree planting and will submit any applications to the EA for approval on behalf of the Council.</p>
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4.3 Beeston

	<p>Fruit trees for community orchard as part of orchard and allotment project. Dependant on CBC moving forward lease agreement with STC for use of land. Exact location would need to be agreed as part of proposed layout of the site.</p> <p>Area to be taken on under the proposed lease is highlighted in red.</p>
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5. Next steps

- 5.1 Community, Services and Environment Committee to agree to principles of proposal.
- 5.2 Tree suppliers need to be contacted to consult on what trees are suitable for those areas and cost of trees.
- 5.3 Total number of trees and cost to be considered by the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee ahead of the application submission prior to 28th February 2021
- 5.4 Plans for the second round are dependant on the result of the first application.

6. Recommendation

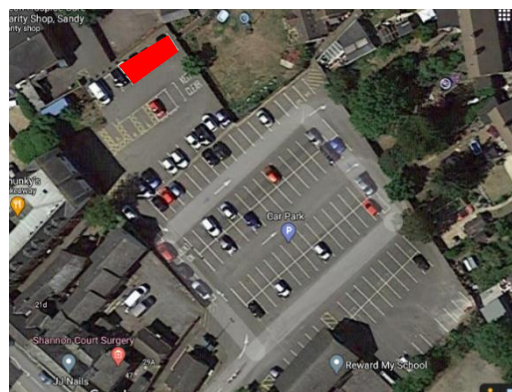
- 6.1 That the Community, Services and Environment Committee approve the areas identified for inclusion in an application to be submitted prior to 28th February 2021.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**COMMITTEE:** Community Services and Environment**DATE:** 25 January 2021**AUTHOR:** Town Clerk**SUBJECT:** Electric Car Charging Points**1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Council previously agreed to a proposal for the installation of two electric car charging points (including one rapid charger) in the Council owned car park. The Council agreed to the principles of a hosting agreement with BP Chargemaster, this was subject to further investigations by the company into the costs and viability of the scheme.
- 1.2 The Clerk has been awaiting updates from BP Chargemaster who were obtaining DNO costs. The following report is intended as an update for Members' information.

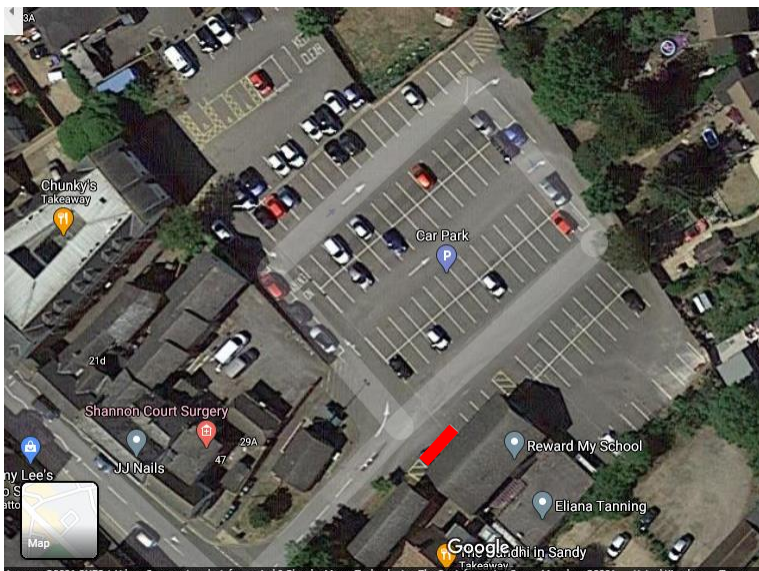
2. Background Information

- 2.1 Following the closure of the Days Inn and the removal of the electric car charging point that was located there, the Council agreed to look at having an alternative charge point installed in the Town Council car park. Companies were approached and BP Chargemaster agreed in principle to enter into a hosting agreement with the Town Council which would see charging points installed in the car park.
- 2.2 The hosting agreement proposed that the Council would give permission for BP Chargemaster to install the charging points at an agreed location within the car park and that the Council would receive a small annual rent. The maintenance, management and operation of the charging points would be the responsibility of Chargemaster. As part of the hosting agreement, it was stated that a preferred option for both parties was to have the charging points connected to their own electricity supply owned by Chargemaster, rather than go via a Town Council supply (Cambridge Road or the public toilets).
- 2.3 An engineer from Chargemaster carried out a site visit and the area highlighted in red on the image opposite was identified as the most suitable. The area was agreed in principle by the Council. The proposal was then subject to further costing work by BP Chargemaster to ensure that it was economically viable for it to proceed.



3. Update

- 3.1 The engineer who drew up the initial proposed scheme has received back DNO costs. The costs to connect the charge points are a lot higher than BP Chargemaster anticipated. Although the engineer is happy to put the proposal and final costs forward to the project team for approval, he is of the view that they will be rejected as they are too high to make the proposal economically viable based on Chargemaster's standard hosting agreements.
- 3.2 The Clerk queried how costs could be lowered to make the proposal viable. The engineer stated that the location of the charging points would need to be located a lot closer to the entrance to the car park, where the connections will come from. As such, an alternative proposal is to locate two charging points at the location marked in red on the image below.



- 3.3 The engineer believes that there would be room to locate two charging points at this location. However, if the proposal was to prove logistically and economically possible, some consultation with the shop/s in front of which the charge points are located, will be needed. While the Council owns the car park, the walkway appears to form part of the shops/property ownership.
- 3.4 The engineer has asked for costs for the alternative location and will report these back to the Clerk when obtained.
- 3.5 The engineer advised the Clerk that the charging points are not noisy when operating, so should not cause a disruption for nearby premises. However due to the size of the rapid charger they will be quite visual.

4. Alternatives

4.1 The Environmental Working Group asked that the Clerk contact Central Bedfordshire Council to enquire what their agreed approach to electric car charging points in Central Bedfordshire is and whether they might consider looking at hosting charging points within the Market Square.

4.2 The Clerk has also contacted the Co-op to enquire about whether they would consider entering into a hosting agreement for electric charging points within their car park. A response is awaited.

5. Recommendation

5.1 That the Committee continue to work on the Council's ambition to have electric car charging points installed in the town centre and that the Clerk work with BP Chargemaster to pursue the alternative suggested location within the car park.

5.2 That the Clerk continue to look for other possible locations in the town and contact the relevant landowners to gauge interest/possibility in siting a charging point.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Community Services and Environment

AUTHOR: Town Clerk

DATE: 25 January 2021

SUBJECT: Skatepark Terms of Reference

1. Summary

1.1 The committee previously agreed to recommend to Council that a working group be established to help bring forward a new skatepark project. The Working Group would report to the Community, Services and Environment Committee. At a meeting of the Full Council on 18th January 2021 the Council agreed to establish a working group.

1.2 Terms of Reference guiding how the Working Group will work, and its aims and objectives must be agreed by the Full Council. The following draft Terms of Reference have been drawn up for agreement by the Community, Services and Environment Committee (the parent committee) for recommendation to Full Council.

1.3 The Skatepark Working Group will work to bring forward a project plan to the **CSE meeting of 8th March 2021.**

2. Terms of Reference

2.1 The following draft Terms of Reference have been developed for the committee's consideration.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

SKATEPARK PROJECT WORKING GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Functions

- To support Sandy Town Council's ambitions to create a new skatepark facility in Sandy and make recommendations to the Council on the development, design and funding of the facility.
- To develop a skatepark project plan and associated actions for agreement by the Community, Services and Environment Committee.
- To regularly monitor and progress action points within the agreed Skatepark project plan.
- To liaise with the Sandy Skatepark Charity as necessary.
- To identify funding opportunities for a new skatepark facility and make

applications for grant funding on behalf of the Council.

- To meet with or invite experts/professionals as required.
- At time agreed by the Council, to develop a tender document for a new skatepark at the appropriate time for review and agreement by the Council.
- To carry out the tender review process and make recommendations to the Council.
- To work with an appointed contractor on the design and development of the skatepark.
- To consult and work with residents on the design and development of the skatepark.
- To ensure key target demographics are involved in consultation on the design of the skatepark.
- To make recommendations to the Council on design and development.
- To promote the skatepark project plan and the Council's ambitions for a new facility to partners, stakeholders and the public.
- To make recommendations on operation, management and maintenance of a skate park.

Membership

- Membership shall comprise of five Councillors, with a quorum of three Councillors. Following initial appointment in January 2021, Membership shall be agreed on an annual basis at the annual meeting of the council held in May.
- The Working Group can include residents, professionals or other individuals that will help in meeting its functions, including that of engaging its target demographics.

Operation

- The Skatepark Project Working Group will meet as and when it is required throughout the year.

Terms of Reference

- The Skatepark Project Working Group reports to the Community Services and Environment Committee.

- The Working Group shall elect its own Chair on an annual basis.
- The Working Group has no formal decision-making authority on operational matters or budget expenditure but acts as a discussion forum making recommendations to the Community, Service and Environment Committee.
- The Working Group is able to invite persons other than members of the Council to participate in meetings.
- The Working Group shall function and operate in accordance with the Council's approved Standing Orders.
- Meetings of the working group are not usually, but may be, public meetings.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Community Services and Environment

AUTHOR: Town Clerk

DATE: 25 January 2021

SUBJECT: Community Safety

1. Summary

The Clerk and Cllr P Blaine previously attended an online session with Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Safer Communities and Partnership Team to discuss concerns around safety and anti-social behaviour in Sandy. The Team are continuing to run sessions and the Clerk will look to attend a further session; however sessions are open to any Member who may wish to raise any concerns with the Team.

2. Communication from Safer Communities and Partnership Team

Dear Clerks,

We hope that you have all been keeping well.

The Community Safety team at Central Bedfordshire Council have been running virtual community safety drop ins, for the town and parish councils. We would very much like to engage with you as these drop ins provide an opportunity for you to tell us about community safety issues in your area, however small.

We are offering weekly bookable slots every Thursday evening between 7pm and 8pm and also on Tuesday mornings between 10am and 12 noon. If you are unable to make these times we would be very happy to offer an alternative.

If you wish to book a slot please email community.safety@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk. We will send you a meeting invite with a link to join the meeting via Microsoft teams and instructions on how you can access it from your internet browser if you do not have this software installed.

We are looking forward to meeting and working collaboratively with you.

Kind regards,

Safer Communities & Partnership Team

Community Safety, Parking and Programmes

Central Bedfordshire Council Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford,
Bedfordshire, SG17 5TQ

Email: community.safety@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Community Services and Environment

AUTHOR: K Barker – Administrator

DATE: 25 January 2021

SUBJECT: Events Working Group Report

1. Summary

A Meeting of the Events Working Group was held remotely on Monday 18th January 2021. Members are asked to note the following minutes from that meeting and consider the event proposals included under section 2.5

2. Minutes of the meeting of the Events Working Group

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs M Scott & S Paterson

2. Overview of events held in 2020

Members noted a list of events held in Sandy during 2020:

- Scarecrow Competition: 8th-21st June
- Best Kept Gardens Competition: 13th-31st July
- Street Food Markets, town centre car park: 24th July & 14th August
- Sandy Green Wheel Celebration Fortnight: 22nd August - 6th September
- Outdoor Theatre, Beeston Green: 30th August & 12th September
- Funfair, Sunderland Road: 10th-13th & 17th-20th September
- French Market, town centre car park: 25th October
- Act of Remembrance, War Memorial: 8th November
- Christmas Decoration Competition: 23rd November – 18th December

A member remarked that it was positive to see how many events had still been able to run despite the disruption and difficulties caused by the pandemic. It was also mentioned that positive feedback about the Council's events had been received from members of the public and that some of the past year's events could be repeated.

3. Christmas event feedback

Members heard feedback on St Swithun's Church's outdoor Christmas Tree Festival from Cllr Sutton who led on the Council's entry. The Council's tree, as with most of the others, had fared well against the elements throughout the festival. It was agreed the event had been very well received, with lots of people seen visiting and enjoying the installation throughout the Festival.

Feedback on the Council's Christmas decoration competition was also heard; there had been 25 photo submissions from households, businesses, the library and a primary school. There was also good engagement online, with members of the community liking and commenting positively on the photos. Winners and runners-up were awarded voucher prizes for local businesses, totaling £300, plus a £25

donation was given to a household collecting funds for the East Anglian Air Ambulance Charity.

It was suggested that a press release go out detailing all the events held by the Council over the past year and the prizes awarded to help support High Street businesses during this difficult time.

It was also noted that turning on the Christmas Lights early had received a lot of positive feedback this year.

4. Existing events planned for 2021

Members noted events already confirmed for the next year:

- Circus, Sunderland Road Recreation Ground: 12th to 16th May *or for a full week if required due to COVID-19 restrictions limiting capacity*
- Outdoor Theatre, Beeston Green: 15th July, 30th July, 21st August
- French Market: intending to return in October

. It was noted the dates for this market were yet to be confirmed and that it would be preferable to run the event over two days if possible.

. The Clerk advised that in 2020 some cars were left parked in the area designated for the market; this could be problematic if repeated this autumn when, hopefully, the pandemic might be less impactful on attendance.

5. Potential events for the next year

The group noted the following regular events which, with the exception of Remembrance Day, were not run by the Council and may or may not be able to run during 2021:

- Sandy Carnival: unconfirmed
- Fireworks: unconfirmed
- Remembrance: some form of parade or service will be run
- Christmas Lights Switch on Event – unconfirmed

Members discussed ideas for activities or events which the Council could run over the next year; and it was proposed that the Council hold the following events:

Event	Date/s	Note
World Book Day Kids' Craft Competition <i>possibly partnered with Sandy Library</i>	15.02.21 – 04.03.21	Online photo competition of arts and crafts inspired by their favourite book. 3 age groups: under 5s, 5-11 & 12-18. National Book Tokens awarded as prizes to be funded from Community Event Support budget.
Easter Bunny Trail <i>partnered with Sandy Centre Group</i>	Late March - early April 2021 Date TBC	Kids' treasure hunt to find knitted bunnies placed in shop windows and the rabbits in the town centre mosaics. Easter eggs / sweets given as prizes to every child taking part.
Greensand Festival Sandy Green Wheel Walk or Guided Trail	May 2021 date TBC	A group walk and/or a trail with a treasure hunt / quiz to complete around the route, depending on regulations at the time.

AGENDA ITEM 10

APPENDIX VI

Circus	12.05.21 – 16.05.21	Already agreed to hold on Sunderland Road.
Greensand Festival Spring Craft Market & Busking Day <i>Possible approach to Sandy Guild to partner with</i>	Late May bank holiday 31.05.21	Local tradespeople and crafters selling goods at stalls in the Market Square, plus street food vendors. Work with a local resident who suggested a busking day to include a lineup of musicians playing at locations such as the Community Stand, St Swithun’s churchyard & outside the train station during the day.
Pantaloons Outdoor Theatre, Beeston Green	15.07.21 21.08.21	Already agreed to hold.
Street Food Market	June to October	Streetfood market to return to carpark on second Friday of the month, dependent on COVID19 restrictions in place at the time.
RBL 100 Celebration	August bank holiday 31.08.21 or a Sunday when COVID restrictions are lifted	Using the template of the VE Day 75 event planned for 8 th May 2020. A street party in the Market Square, with live music & dramatic performances on stage and a street food market. Themed around the centenary year of the Royal British Legion (est. 15 th May 1921).
French Market	Weekend in October 2021	French market to return for a Sunday in October 2021. Request will be made that they attend for a whole weekend.
Remembrance Sunday	14.11.21	To work with the RBL on this years Act of Remembrance
<i>All proposed events would be subject to COVID19 restrictions and guidance.</i>		

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Community Services and Environment

AUTHOR: Town Clerk

DATE: 25 January 2021

SUBJECT: Greensands Country

The following correspondence has been received from Greensand Country for members information:

Hello and Happy New Year ...

I am very proud to contact you as Co-Chairman of Greensand Country and ask for your help in sharing an exciting volunteer opportunity.

We are looking for volunteers from across Greensand Country to take part in fascinating Oral History and research project which will inspire content for our commissioned artists.

It's a great project and it begins at the end of January with free training in Oral History, Historical Research and Archiving. Volunteers will also get to work with the artists and become an integral part of the creative process.

I would be really grateful if you could share this with your members, colleagues, social media networks, volunteers and anyone you think of who might be interested. It could be a really good lock down project for someone!

If you have any questions the project officer is Sally and her contact details are:
Mobile: 07789206784

Email: sallyc@greensandcountry.com

Thank you in advance for all your help and if you get a moment to update me please do. Very best wishes

Caroline

Councillor Caroline Maudlin

Vice Chairman of Development Management Committee

Ward Member for Sandy, Beeston & Blunham

Greensand Country Landscape Partnership

Celebrating Greensand Country - Stories of the Landscape, Oral History Project

- Do you live or work in Greensand Country?
- Are you interested in local history and oral history?
- Are you looking for a new challenge?
- Would you like free training in archiving, research and oral history?
- Would you like a project you can do entirely remotely?

Then this project is for you.

Project Overview

Greensand Country Landscape Partnership is looking for volunteers to uncover and gather stories, past and present, from across Greensand Country. These stories will provide inspiration for our commissioned artists, whose work will be presented during The Greensand Festival in May 2021.

A key part of the project is collecting living memories from those who know and love Greensand Country in order to build the Greensand Country Oral History Suite, which will be housed on the Greensand Country website. The final stages of the project will involve volunteers collating findings ready for the Greensand Country Archive which can be used for generations to come.

Volunteers will receive free training from industry experts in Oral History, Archiving and Historical Research to provide them with the necessary skills to embark on this exciting project. Training begins in January 2021 and the project culminates in May 2021.

Commitment and requirements

Volunteers will need to be able to commit to at least two hours a week for five months (approx. 50 hours in total)

You will need access to a computer and a quiet place to work

Training

Volunteers will be asked to undertake the following training in late Jan 2021/Feb 2021:

Four half day sessions in Oral history (remote learning, 25th, 26th, 27th Jan 2021 & Feb 2021 TBC)

One half day session in archiving (remote learning, dates TBC)

One half day on historical research (remote learning, dates TBC)



What can you expect to gain from the project?

- New skills which can feed into your work, hobbies or creative practice
- 21 hours of free training
- Free access to equipment and software
- Small group sessions with commissioned artists and Community Arts Officer
- Access to archives in Bedfordshire
- A greater understanding of your local area
- New friendships and a community of likeminded individuals

Who can apply:

- Volunteers are welcome from all backgrounds, but we ask you be over the age of 18
- Ideally volunteers will live or work in Greensand Country. However, we would also like to hear from individuals across Bedfordshire who are interested in Greensand Country

How to apply:

To find out more about the project and to book your place on the training sessions please email Sally Christopher on sallyc@greensandcountry.com.

Please note: We are committed to ensuring that this opportunity is accessible to everyone. If you experience or anticipate any barriers within the process, or require any help to make an application, please contact us.

We can also be contacted at The Old School, Cardington, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK44 3SX.

Information about Greensand Country

'Greensand Country' is an island of distinctive, beautiful and loved countryside, based on a band of higher ground 'Greensand Ridge'. The Greensand Ridge is a narrow, wooded sandstone ridge over 40 miles long, stretching from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay, rising out of the surrounding clay vales.

It contains all of Bedfordshire's remaining heathland, more than half of its woodland, and more surviving historic parkland than any other landscape in the country, often surrounding notable manor houses. This landscape character is a legacy of its underlying Greensand geology, which led to much of it being regarded as 'marginal land' not suitable for agriculture, as well as its management over centuries by major estates.

Greensand Country Landscape Partnership are thrilled to have gained funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver a Landscape Partnership programme and an array of exciting projects which will help us raise awareness of the heritage value of the Greensand Country and to reverse the gradual decline in the distinct landscape character of this beautiful and loved place. The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded this funding in January 2017. The programme will run until June 2021.

Visit us at www.greensandcountry.com

