

Sandy Town Council

To: Cllrs N Aldis, B Blackley, A Effiong, R Lacey, A Lock, R Lock, C Osborne, M Scott, S Sutton (Chairman) and N Thompson
c.c. Cllrs S Baker, J Hewitt, M Pettitt and P Sharman

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council to be held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy SG19 1JE on Monday 6th November 2023 commencing at 7.30pm.



Nicola Sewell
Town Clerk
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy, SG19 1JE
01767 681491
1st November 2023

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 relevant to items on the agenda.*

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

Sandy Town Council

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

To consider the minutes of the Community, Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 2nd October 2023 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. (Updates from the Committee meeting in October will be made at the meeting).

Appendix i

6 Bedford Road Recreation Ground - Pavilion

To consider a report on replacement doors for the pavilion

Appendix ii

7 Events Working Group

To consider a report from Councillor Joanna Hewitt Chairman of the Events Working Group and to determine the recommendations therein.

Appendix iii

Members are asked to note that in accordance with the decision of the Council meeting held on 30 October 2023 the Committee has delegated authority to determine the budget and organisation of the Christmas Light Switch On event 2023/24

8 Environmental Implications

To consider reports on biodiversity and hedgerow initiatives

Appendix iv

9 Summary of Budget Proposals for 2024/25

To consider a report on the items identified

Appendix v

10 Beeston Working Group

To receive a report on recent meetings of the Working Group

Appendix vi

11 Chairmans' Items

12 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 18th December 2023

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

Subject	Action to be taken Action	Response /Status
Full Council Meeting 20/04/16		
Allotments and Community Orchard At Beeston (CBC owned land) Min (22-16/17)	Progress and update reports to go to the Community Services and Environment Committee	Refer to CS&E Agenda March 2023 for previous text. The condition of the proposed allotment site was discussed at the Council meeting on 30 October. The future use of the site now depends on CBC reacting to the poor condition of the site. If CBC does not take action to remove the hard surfaces identified the Council will consider rejecting the site
CSE Meeting 23/08/2021		
Min (33-21/22) EV Charging Points	RESOLVED that the Clerk submit a list of STC owned sites for consideration as part of CBC's EV Charge Point Scheme	Refer to CS&E Agenda March 2023 for previous text. Tom Price, Senior Sustainable Transport Officer for CBC attended March meeting to give update, including reapplying for grant for Sandy to be included in 2023 plans. A Working Group was set up to consider siting of EV points and impact on capacity of car park. CS&E Recommendations for option 1 agreed at Full Council on 7 th August 2023. However, Option 1 now includes 3 rapid charging points <i>OPTION 1</i> <i>3 x 50kW rapid charge points over 6 bays (wholly BP Pulse funded)</i> <i>4 x 7kW standard charge points over 8 bays (50% grant funding/50% BP Pulse, with some revenue share to Sandy TC)</i>
CSE Meeting 21/03/2022		
Min (118-2021/22) Queen's Jubilee	RESOLVED: that S106 and CBC councillor grant monies be used to supply an additional mosaic for the town.	Refer to CS&E Agenda March 2023 for previous text. STC to remain in contact with Carolyn Blake in 2023 in the anticipation that the project can get back on track for 2024.
CSE Meeting 09.05.2022		
Min (134-2021/2022)	Meeting between Philip Lovesey, Operations	Refer to CS&E Agenda March 2023 for previous text.

APPENDIX I

<p>Beeston Green Drainage Minute(40 – 2023/24 refers)</p>	<p>Manager at Bedford Group of the Drainage Board took place.</p>	<p>The majority of this work has been completed</p> <p>A meeting is being arranged to be held on 3 November 2023</p>
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Community Services and Environment Committee

Date:	6th November 2023
Title:	Repairs to Pavilion Bedford Road Recreation Ground
Contact Officer:	Deputy Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1.0 To consider a request from Sandy Football Club to work with the Council to replace four external doors at the pavilion.

1.1 The doors are subject to regular low level vandalism with handles being regularly damaged and the doors kicked on a regular basis.

1.2 The Football club has submitted one quote in accordance with Financial Regulations two more quotes are sought however they are facing difficulty in getting additional quotes. They have advised they will contribute to the cost. The Pavilion is looking uncared for. It is suggested we build on the good relationship with the football club and part fund the repairs. There are significant repairs that will need consideration including repairs to changing rooms and the drains.

Recommendation

2.0 That the Committee considers the quotation received and agrees to pay half the cost of the works.

Background

3.0 The pavilion is in the ownership of the Town Council and is leased to Sandy Football Club

Quotation

Description	Company	Price
Replacement of steel doors	A	£ 3,000 exc VAT

Financial Implications

5.0 The work is required to improve to look of the pavilion and ensure the security of the site.

Legal Powers

6.0 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.

Community Services and Environment Committee

Date:	6th November 2023
Title:	Events Working Group
Author:	Cllr J Hewitt, Chair

Purpose of the Report

1.0 To provide Members with an update of the one off events recently held and those planned for the year. Also, to receive and approve a report on the development of the new Christmas Lights Event following the decision to take over the event from the Friends group.

Recommendation

2.0 To receive and note the report.

2.1 To approve the finance structure for the new Christmas Lights Event.

Background/Information**3.0 Skate Jam - 16th September**

Following the opening of the skate park in 2022 there has been an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour on and around the site, plus issues with litter. As a result, it was decided to hold an anniversary Skate Jam – with the theme of Crime Awareness and Prevention.

Maverick who built the skate park hosted the event via Camp Rubicon at a cost of £2,500. Funding for the event was achieved via grant applications following discussions with the High Sherriff:

£1,000 – Crime beat Bedford.

£1,500 - Gale Family Trust.

On the day we were joined by our local community police team, PC. Dave Lace and our new PCSO. Donna Donnelly, together with Nicola King the youth worker from Grand Union Housing. In addition, the owners of Old Red Barbers, keen skateboarders, joined and provided prizes for the completion of the questionnaires we used to engage with both young people and parents.

On the day we spoke with 41 young people and 10 adults. The results were in the main positive, the site is like and enjoyed, young people feel safe. There are some issues with litter and it was suggested that the provision of summer classes/professional sessions would be helpful. Concerns about the lack of CCTV were raised.

Nicola from GUHG has indicated that she may be able to access funding to provide a number of classes. Old Red have indicated that they may be able to help with funding toward an event next year. CCTV is now active.

Pecoro Restaurant from the Market square attended providing pizza joined by coffee and ice cream vans.

3.1 Archaeology Day - 7th October

Following the excavation of the new cemetery site, AOC have completed their report and produced a digital book - Loss and Discovery – Roman Sandy in Bedfordshire. With the support of the Sandy Historical Society and the Library a launch event for the book and exhibition of finds was held in the library.

The event was well attended with presentations held throughout the day..

3.2 Remembrance Sunday – 12th November

Planning for the event is now complete.

The Royal British Legion have confirmed the order of service, and this is ready to print.

The parade order and invitations have been agreed and issued.

Andrew Havergal has again volunteered to support us with the operation of the PA system at the memorial.

Samantha Wenn, a forces veteran, with her horse Chester, which will be covered with a poppy blanket made up from hand knitted poppies donated by people in Sandy, will lead the parade.

The formal road closure has been applied for and granted and support with the rolling road closure will be provided by Milestone/CBC. Notices have already been placed along the route.

This year the dismissal of the parade will take place in the Church Yard..

3.3 Christmas Lights Event - 3rd December

Following the closure of the Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights it was agreed that STC would take over this popular event for the town.

Reviewing invoices from the FSCL to understand what is required and the volume of work involved the EWG concluded it is better to work with a single provider if possible, and post the successful Coronation event have worked with Event Production Live.

On closure the FSCL transferred a balance of £8,000 to STC, held in a designated fund for Christmas lights events. In addition, there is an allocate budget line of £4,000 for the event.

The Deputy Clerk has written to local businesses asking if anyone would like to sponsor the event. Britannia Pharmacy made the decision to change their regular charity donation scheme to the Christmas Lights Event and the people of Sandy have gifted £1,500 to cover the cost of the tree.

Further donations are anticipated but not yet confirmed.

A separate budget line is in place to cover the cost of the actual lights on the tree, the roundabout and the High Street - £14,400 per year for 3 years.

Community Services and Environment Committee

Date:	6th November 2023
Title:	Environmental Improvements
Contact Officer:	Deputy Town Clerk

(a) Bio-Diversity**Purpose of the Report**

1.0 To consider a report on the biodiversity duty for the Town Council

1.1 The Council has a legal obligation to consider how it can conserve and enhance biodiversity, set policies and objectives and implement policies and achieve objectives

1.2 Councils must complete its first consideration of what action to take by 1 January 2024 and set policies and objectives as soon as possible.

Recommendation

2.0 That the Committee considers a suggested way forward to deal with its biodiversity responsibilities based on Its Environmental plan

Background

3.0 As part of the biodiversity policies the Council could look how it manages the land it owns including allotments, cemeteries, parks and sports fields, verges, woodlands and nature reserves, rivers and water dependent habitats. The way these areas are managed could create habitats for wildlife, and nature corridors

3.1 Other beneficial actions of a biodiversity policy include using native and sustainably sourced trees when planting, creating dedicated spaces for wildlife, leaving deadwood in woodlands to provide additional habitat, maintaining planted trees to give them the best chance of survival, reducing the use of herbicides, pesticides peat and water, implementing measures to prevent the spread of invasive species and plant disease

4.0 Financial Implications

The work is required to show due diligence.

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.

(b) Hedgerows**Purpose of Report**

1.0 Next year the Campaign for Rural England(CPRE Bedfordshire) plans to take part in the CPRE Hedgerow Heroes project and plant or restore hedgerows in Bedfordshire. It is keen to hear from groups that have land or a green space where hedgerows can be planted or maybe need restoring and also from organisations that can share their skills and knowledge of hedgerow planting and management to help make the project a reality.

This Council supports the CPRE campaign to call for a 40% increase in the extent of hedgerows by 2050 to help tackle the climate emergency

To support this ambition local areas of the CPRE network have been running some exciting projects. CPRE are in the third year of CPRE's Hedgerow Heroes project, with nine transformative hedgerow projects planned by local CPRE groups across England. Past and current projects are set out below;

www.cpre.org.uk/stories/hedgerow-heroes-phase-3-nine-new-local-cpre-hedgerow-projects/

www.cpre.org.uk/stories/hedgerow-heroes-phase-2-explore-this-years-projects/

Recommendation

2.0 That the Committee considers submitting a planting hedgerow scheme to CPRE

Date:	6 November 2023
Title:	Summary of budget proposals for 2024/25
Contact Officer:	Deputy Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1.0 To consider a report on the proposed budget submissions from CS&E

Recommendation

2.0 That the Committee consider the report and makes recommendations to PF&R.

Background

3.0 In order to assist with the 2024/25 budget planning process a summary has been compiled of the budget related matters discussed at CS&E in the 2023/24 round of meetings..

3.1 The summary contains the meeting date, item discussed and minute number. Costs are also includes where known, however these may change with price rises. These items were all to be referred to the 2024/25 budget discussions.

Budget items

Meeting date	Minute reference	Subject	Price
5/6/2023	8-2023/24	Banner installation: Summer, Remembrance	£475 per installation
	11-2023/24	Sunderland Road Pitch improvement. Possible funding from Football Foundation	£4000
17/7/2023	21-2023/24	Fallowfield footways	
	25-2023/24	St Swithun's Western Wall. Awaiting information from survey	
21/8/2023	36-2023/24	Line Marking, robot system in operation. budget line 4042	£500 per season
	38-2023/24	Clothing bank INCOME to Mayors Account	
2/10/2023	48-2023/24	Ex-SEG spaces. Renovations and ongoing maintenance.	£2,500
	48-2023/24	Skatepark soft pour installation to replace non-existent and deteriorating grass surface. Suggested from Capital	£9,000
	51-2023/24	Tree care. To fund aftercare after planting to reduce losses. NB: awaiting CBC confirmation that Mini	

AGENDA ITEM 9:**APPENDIX V**

		forest application will be approved for The Limes. If forthcoming all costs, including 3 years of care will be fully funded by CBC via Earthwatch.	
Not yet discussed		Draft list of Events for 2024/25. Markets x 2 DD Day commemorations Big Lunch Skate park anniversary Remembrance Christmas Lights St Swithuns tree Festival	

Financial Implications

5.0 To inform the 2024/25 budget process.

Legal Powers

6.0 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.

Date:	6 November 2023
Title:	Report of Beeston Working Group Plan
Contact Officer:	Beeston Working Group

Purpose of the Report

To understand the scope of the committee's commitment and appetite to support the residents of Beeston, in providing them with good community opportunities, manage and maintain The Green to ensure there is no degradation of its beauty and review opportunities to enhance the natural surroundings to support the nature and wildlife. **(In considering this report the Committee to note the report does not cover any financial implications)**

Background

On 29 September 2023, the Beeston Working Group (Councilors Blackley, Scott and Lacey) carried out a 'walk about' of Beeston to review a number of issues with regards to areas of concern and potential opportunities to build some community programmes. These included:

1. Internal Drainage Board
2. Trees and Green Maintenance
3. Beeston Allotments

Internal Drainage Board

There are a number of issues with the maintenance of the dykes and tributaries surrounding the road arteries of Beeston. Cllr Scott was in the process of meeting with the IDS to discuss work that we believe would substantially improve water drainage. These included:

1. Review the dyke at the north end of Beeston that runs along the side of the road and goes underground at Bulldog Steel signage as this needs debris cleared from it to increase flow
2. Clear debris and substantial foliage overgrowth where the dyke surfaces at the end of The Grange and runs in front of Grange Gardens
3. Clear debris and substantial foliage overgrowth where the dyke surfaces at the end of The Grange and runs in front of Grange Gardens
4. Clear debris and extensive overgrowth of foliage within the tributary that connects to the Ivel from the bridge and to the left of Willow Island as there is currently no free flowing water
5. Clear concrete debris from beside the little bridge on west side of The Green outside No. 18 and new building site
6. Clearing and maintenance of the dyke on the lefthand side that runs up the boundary of No. 43 as currently limited free flowing water due to overgrowth of vegetation and foliage
7. Thorough pipework review and cleaning of the culvert that runs on the lefthand side of The Green from The Crescent, along the back of the properties on West Side and up to Magnolia Cottage which consistently floods throughout Winter when it rains

Trees and The Green Maintenance:

As part of the Tree Survey that is being carried out, we would like to recommend the inclusion of some key areas within Beeston that have become overgrown and unwieldy. As well as reminders to residents about their use of The Green as drive ways and thoroughfares:

1. At the north end of The Green, opposite The Grange the Oak sapling requires better and more robust support for it to maintain any ability to grow healthily
2. Maintenance and management of Willows and trees on the north end of Beeston Green between The Grange and Grange Gardens need substantial care as all overgrown and impacting water flow
3. Rewilding parts of The Green for nature with meadow/water flowers to encourage community engagement through Community Grant potentially:
 - a. Would like an opportunity to review and understand potential of developing Willow Island either as a rewilded community space or for allotments as close to water. Would need to consider access via a walking bridge
 - b. As well as the two pockets of land running either side of the road as it passes from Cos Lodge towards Bartram. See attached map for details of potential sites
 - c. NB: Need to ask the people of Beeston if this would be of interest.
4. A number of properties have been identified that have damaged The Green or are creating new access or driveways by driving over it. Or they have created wildlife areas using The Green and we'd like to advise them of the tree survey. We'd recommend letters to be sent to the following:
 - a. Letter to be drafted to No. 2 The Green (Virginia Cottage) to ask them to make good the damage to The Green outside their house, where they have housed a skip for several months. Also, to remove the remaining metal items that have been left.
 - b. Letter to be sent to No. 6 The Green to advise that the tree outside their house will be included in the Sandy Tree Maintenance programme and they may need to remove their birdfeeders. Or if they would prefer, manage the maintenance themselves so as not to disturb their current set-up.
 - c. Outside No.18 and the new buildings in the garden, there is a small bridge onto The Green that has a culvert under it. The bridge is fairly sturdy but believe this has the potential to become a short cut from the properties across The Green once all three properties are sold. We'd like for there to be consideration of either a memorial bench placed there and/or some local artwork (CBC to potentially support) to ensure there is a clear demarcation that there is no access from this point across The Green.
 - d. Confirm ownership of land between Beeston Hall, the waterway and Willow Farm as currently ownership according to map is STC but is being used for car parking and caravan parking (see attached map with red highlight with blue circle).
 - e. Letter to be sent to No. 43 The Green requesting access across their driveway to provide adequate maintenance and management of the overgrown bushes and trees that run along the boundary and up towards Bartram. NB: this is the suggested site for potentially rewilding.
 - f. Letter to be sent to No. 1 East Side to advise them that the land they are currently parking their 'UK Power Network' van is part of The Green and that there is no provision for them to use as parking space, as there is no parking on The Green.
 - g. Confirm with land registry of No. 17 has access over The Green, as currently they are using it as a portion as a driveway.

- h. Letter to be sent to No. 25 to advise that they should not be creating a new 'driveway' over The Green and use the access that is allocated to them. It would be advisable if they are asked to make good on the damage that they have already caused from constantly driving over a portion of The Green to the road.
- i. Tree needs replacing outside of Rosie Cottage on The Green, as the current one has died and is rotting

Beeston Allotments:

With the ongoing discussions for potential allotment site in Beeston and potential for rubble or hardcore to be present that may hinder cultivation. There is a potential site that might be worth consideration but would need further investigation and a commitment from this committee to proceed. The options suggested:

1. Look at the option to co-opt the land with two old gateposts and broken brick wall that sites between No.18 The Green and Greensands Ridge which currently we understand has no ownership. This has potential to become Beeston Allotments, as close to water and has potential access via Quinn's Close.
2. Contact Land Registry for clarification of ownership of land between No. 18 boundary and Greensands Ridge (see attached map highlighted in yellow)
3. Contact Land Registry for clarification of ownership of the agricultural land that extends back and runs between No. 18 boundary and Greensands Ridge (see attached map with diagonal line highlights)

Or contact Land Registry for clarification of ownership of the 'builders yard' that is adjacent to the land owned by CBC and earmarked for allotments, orchard and six houses. There may be potential to unlock greater capacity, as this land parcel is currently 'land locked'