

Sandy Town Council

To: Cllrs N Aldis, R Lacey, A Lock, R Lock, C Osborne, M Scott,
S Sutton (Chairman) and N Thompson
c.c. S Baker, B Blackley, A Effiong, J Hewitt, 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 in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy SG19 1JE on Monday 17th July 2023 commencing at 7.30pm.



Nicola Sewell
Town Clerk
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy, SG19 1JE
01767 681491
12th July 2023

A G E N D A

Membership of the Committee - to be completed at the Committee meeting following an Extraordinary meeting of the Town Council being held on that evening

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 5th June 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. (To be circulated separately)

Appendix I

6 Repair of Footways at Sunderland Road and Fallowfield Recreation Grounds

To consider a report on immediate and necessary repairs.

Appendix II

7 Neighbourhood Plan – Green Infrastructure Plan

To consider a report on the Green Infrastructure Plan from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group including consideration of Local Green Places. (NB this is a draft document, and the editors are aware of spelling mistakes etc. in this version of the plan)

Appendix III

8 Request for Repair of boundary fence between Scout Hut and ATC/ATF building

To consider a report on fence being relocated and replaced in places.

Appendix IV

9 Events Working Group

To receive a report on the latest discussions of the Events Working Group relating to:

- Skatepark one year Anniversary Event
- Remembrance Sunday
- D Day 2024 – 80th anniversary
- Big Lunch 2024– D Day themed
- Autumn Market
- Christmas Lights Switch on event 3 December 2023

Appendix V

10 St Swithun’s Parish Church – Closed Churchyard

To consider a report on the condition of the walls at the churchyard.

Appendix VI

11 Environmental Plan

The Committee is invited to consider the Environmental Plan first approved at the Committee meeting 5th October 2020 (Minute 38-202021 refers)

Appendix VII

Sandy Town Council

12 Sunderland Road Recreation Ground – Ditch

To consider a report on the riparian ownership of the ditch at the recreation ground and its implications for the Council.

Appendix VIII

13 Electric Vehicle (EV) Points – Proposed Installations in Sandy

To consider the attached report on the latest proposals to implement Central Bedfordshire Council's plans to install EV Points in Sandy.

Appendix IX

14 Chairmans' Items

15 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 21st August 2022

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. Updated lease from CBC solicitors did not arrive in time for March STC meeting. Clerk is chasing. CBC have notified STC that the building works on site have been delayed to September 2023. We therefore do not have a date by which completion will take place.
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. Tim 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.
CSE Meeting 21/03/2022		
Min (118-2021/22) Queens 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) Beeston Green Drainage	Meeting between Philip Lovesey, Operations Manager at Bedford Group of the Drainage Board took place.	Refer to CS&E Agenda March 2023 for previous text. The majority of this work has been completed

Community Services and Environment Committee

Date:	17th July 2023
Title:	Repair of Footways at Sunderland Road and Fallowfield Recreation Grounds
Contact:	Ian Reed, Deputy Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive and consider the costs for the resurfacing of footpaths at the Sunderland Road and Fallowfield Recreation Grounds.

Recommendation

That the Council approves the quotation that provides the best quality product while considering value for money. The 2023/24 budget has only allowed a maximum £1,000 spend on recreation grounds so funding would need to come from Capital.

Background

3.0 The severe cracking of footpaths at the two recreation grounds is due to them having a subbase of Oxford Clay. Therefore, the contraction/expansion of the ground has caused the tarmacadam surfaces to badly crack and as such they are causing a trip hazard.

3.1 This has been identified in the past and the Grounds Team initially tried to solve the issue by filling the cracks with post crete. In most cases, however, this has not been successful; the material is hard to work with making it difficult to fill in the cracks and some of the material has quickly eroded or has been kicked out of the cracks by recreation ground users. On the grounds of health and safety signs have been displayed warning the public of the cracked footpaths.

3.2 On identifying an alternative solution would be required the Deputy Town Clerk approached Civils/ tarmac resurfacing companies to quote for the works. One company did not quote.

Proposals/Information

4.0 The Council is concerned about the condition of the footpaths in Sunderland Road. It is a very popular recreation ground heavily used for formal and informal sporting activities. Both play areas and the skatepark are served by footpaths that are badly cracked and there have been reports of children tripping over these cracks. Also, in September the Town Council is staging an anniversary event at the skatepark.

4.1 The following quotes have been received. Contractor A is a company the Town Council has used before. Contractor B has quoted for a high level of repair that would last for over 10 years and the contractor guarantees workmanship for 12 months.

Description	Company	Price
<p>Due to the condition of the pathways I think the best way to quote for the repairs is to give you a price per square meter, this would allow you to prioritise the areas that need repairs most and you can mark out the bits that you prioritise and will suit your budget.</p> <p>To dig out old tarmac and hardcore were needed, removing all waste, backfill and compact, then resurface area with 6mm S.M.A Tarmac at 2” thickness and seal joints with hot tar.</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>£35 per square metre Plus £9 per Metre to clean out cracks, remove waste and seal with hot tar. So for Sunderland Road the equivalent quote would be £4,100 For Fallow field £14,945</p>
<p><u>SUNDERLAND ROAD RECREATIONGROUND</u></p> <p>Excavate four areas to a depth of 75mm below finish level. Remove all waste materials from site. (118 Square Metres)</p> <p>Prepare and re-consolidate existing granular sub-base, ready to receive new macadam. (118 Square Metres)</p> <p>Supply and lay 50mm of 20mm dense bitumen macadam binder course, to all levels, rises and falls. Consolidate when hot with machine roller. (118 Square Metres)</p> <p>Supply and lay 25mm of 6mm close graded macadam surface course, to all levels, rises and falls. Consolidate when hot with machine roller. (118 Square Metres)</p> <p>All work laid in accordance with EN13108</p> <p><u>FALLOWFIELD – ACCESS OFF OSPREY CLOSE</u></p> <p>Excavate eleven areas to a depth of 75mm below finish level. Remove all waste materials from site. (427 Square Metres)</p> <p>Prepare and re-consolidate existing granular sub-base, ready to receive new macadam. (427 Square Metres)</p> <p>Supply and lay 50mm of 20mm dense bitumen macadam binder course, to all levels, rises and falls. Consolidate when hot with machine roller. (427 Square Metres)</p> <p>Supply and lay 25mm of 6mm close graded macadam surface course, to all levels, rises and falls. Consolidate</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>TOTAL COST: Labour and Materials: £8,930.00 +VAT</p> <p>Workmanship fully guaranteed for 12 months)</p> <p>TOTAL COST: Labour and Materials: £29,412.00 +VAT</p> <p>Workmanship fully guaranteed for 12 months)</p>

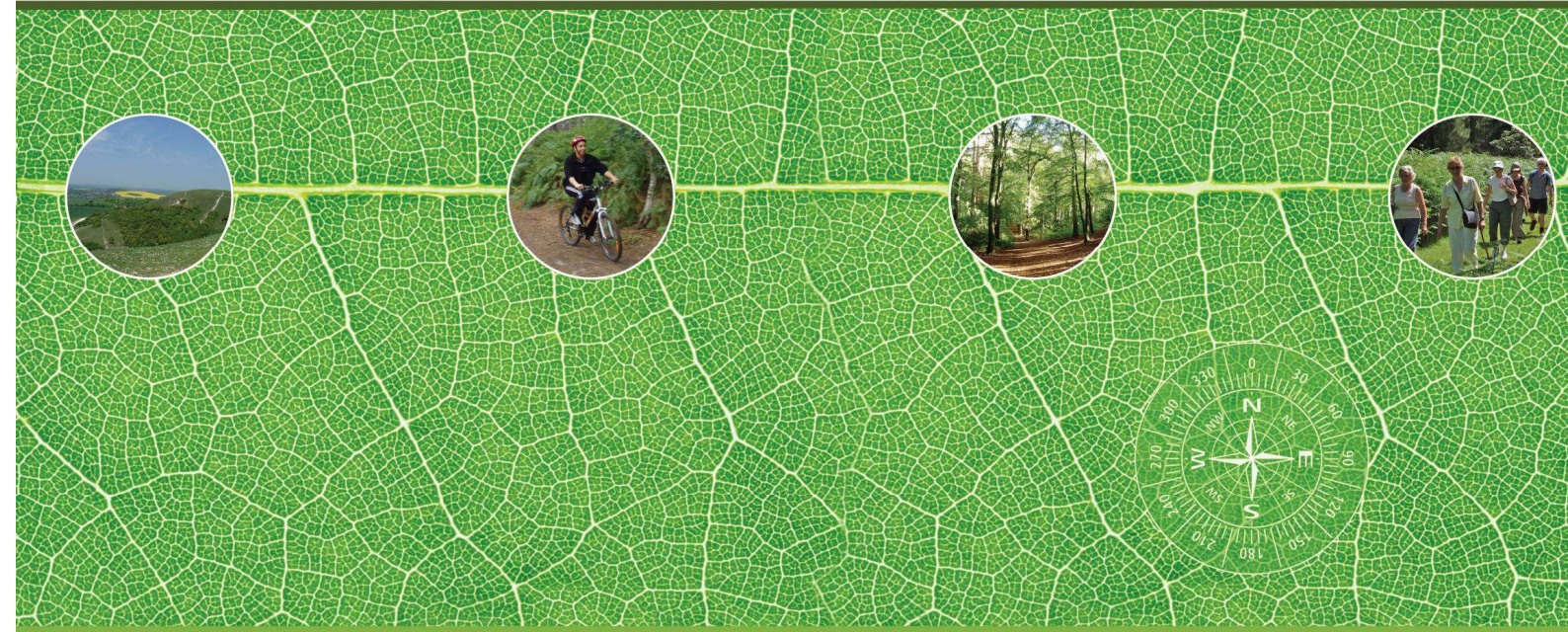
when hot with machine roller. (427 Square Metres)		
All work laid in accordance with EN13108		

Financial Implications

5.0 2023/24 budget has only allowed a maximum £2,000 spend on maintenance at Sunderland Road Recreation Ground. For Fallowfield there is no specific budget for repairs. However, the Council has £200,000. in reserves for repairs/ improvements to Fallowfield Recreation Ground.

Legal Powers

6.0 The action undertaken is 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.



Living Networks

Sandy

Green Infrastructure Plan

June 2023



Contents

Introduction	1
Context	2
Endorsements	4
What is Green Infrastructure?	5
Aims of this Plan	6
Links to other GI related plans	7
Methodology & Community Involvement	9
Sandy GI Plan Aspirations Map	11
Sandy GI Plan Aspirations Table	12
Prioritisation of Aspirations	14
Important Green Spaces	15
Local Green Space Assessment Summary	18
Sandy GI Plan Action Plan	23
2010 Sandy Green Infrastructure Plan	Appendix 1

SANDY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Introduction

The Sandy Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan is one of over 40 parish and town GI plans to have been produced across Bedfordshire.

The production of the Sandy GI Plan has been funded by Sandy Town Council (STC) as part of their funding of the Sandy Neighbourhood Plan. It has been produced by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC).

The production of the GI Plan was requested by the Sandy Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) on behalf of STC, to be a valuable tool in its own right as a planning document, and to inform policies and objectives in the emerging Sandy Neighbourhood Plan. This Plan is a revision of the original Sandy GI Plan (2010), see Appendix 1. This revised plan will be reviewed annually by STC to determine progress made, and the NPSG will review the GI Plan every five years and update where required, on behalf of STC.

BRCC was appointed to facilitate the production of this Plan, as it is a charity that works with local communities and landowners to conserve and enhance the landscape, wildlife and history in this area. At the heart of BRCC's work is the belief that empowering local communities, giving them a say in issues that affect them, achieves the best results. BRCC has over 60 years' experience of community development support and facilitating community consultation; and has 25 years' experience of planning and delivering green infrastructure projects in Bedfordshire.

The need for GI Planning has been identified at all levels, from central government, through regional bodies (the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy and the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy), to County and District levels. The Bedfordshire and Luton Strategic GI Plan was produced in 2007 by the Bedfordshire & Luton Green Infrastructure Consortium. Parish and Town GI Plans are valuable tools for planners, committees, developers and communities themselves. They can help inform important decisions and help local people identify what is important to them, and what they would like to happen in the future. Parish and Town GI Plans have been used to support funding bids, helping people make important improvements to their local environment, and they also provide a snapshot of the local environment.

It should be acknowledged that not all of the aspirations identified will be delivered, because there are many other influencing factors, such as the views of landowners, existing planning permissions and allocations, potential future land use allocations and the cost of implementation. The value of this GI plan lies in the fact that it has been produced by local residents for their own community. It can help inform planning decisions and be used as a mechanism to identify where financial benefits from development should be directed. It cannot be used as a tool to prevent development but may influence considerations in the planning process. All aspirations that gained community support have been included; however, it remains a community owned document that, while supported by CBC, has not been formally adopted. The plan as a whole is based on a robust approach to mapping and implementing a high quality GI network for the existing, and future, residents of Sandy.

Context

Sandy is a small town in East Bedfordshire which takes its name from the Sand Hills of its distinctive rural setting. Located on the Great North Road (A1) Sandy has the benefit of easy access to the main commercial centres of London (only 45 minutes by train), Stevenage, Bedford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge. The population of the town is currently c 12,000. The town is surrounded by the pleasant landscape of East Bedfordshire with its market gardening heritage and variety of villages, woods, heathlands, rivers and brooks.

Sandy's long and fascinating history commences some thousands of years before the arrival of the Romans. The invaders left the town early in the fifth century and in early English times, Sandy formed part of the Kingdom of Mercia. The Manor of Sandeia is recorded in the Domesday Book, as being the area that we now know as Sandy.

The present-day parish of Sandy, minus Beeston, still traces the same area as the original 4,000-acre Manor.

Historical estates have now become places of importance. Sandye Place was owned by several families including Monoux, Brandreth, Foster and Edgecumb before becoming a school. The site is no longer required for education and is currently sitting empty. Sandy NP hopes the site will be returned to the town to be used by the community.

The Lodge, once owned by Sir William Peel, son of Sir Robert, the former Prime Minister and founder of the Police Service, is now the HQ of the RSPB. Sandy Residents and visitors enjoy exploring the Nature Reserve here.

A new Turnpike Trust set up in 1725 brought improvements to the Great North Road and in 1758 came the completion of the Ivel Navigation Scheme, taking coal lighters from Tempsford through Biggleswade to Shefford. This was followed a century later by the building of the Great Northern Railway and afterwards the Sandy to Potton Railway built privately by Captain William Peel. The line was later taken over by the Bedford and Cambridge Railway, eventually linking Oxford to Cambridge.

The explosion in communications throughout the two centuries allowed Sandy to fully exploit its best asset, the acres of rich farming land surrounding the town. Market gardening thrived, as growers were able to transport produce quickly from the fields to the town and on down the Great North Road and later the railway to the London markets.

By the turn of this century, many of the town's present landmarks were in evidence: Potton Road cemetery was opened in 1891; the Conservative Club was built the same year and enlarged in 1897 to include a large concert hall and facilities to house the town's lending library. The Town Hall, interestingly never used as a town hall, now the Roundabout Club, was built in 1906 and by 1920 three schools were listed.

The population of Sandy grew steadily from 1,115 in 1801 to 2,118 in 1861 and 3,110 in 1901. Sandy Parish Council was created in 1894 and its first meeting was held in the new Council Chamber on the first floor of the recently constructed Fire Station in Cambridge Road. In 1974 saw the formation of a new Sandy Parish Council which later that year changed its name to Sandy Town Council.

During the lifetime of the Town Council, Sandy has continued to evolve whilst retaining its distinctive setting in a rural environment. The expansion of the town which began in earnest after the Second World War included the development of a London “overspill” housing scheme between Sunderland Road and St Neots Road and continued in the 90s with the creation of new housing at Fallowfield and Ivel Park. During the 21st century housing development has been on a smaller scale, with more infill developments but the potential of Sandy as a commuter town for workers in London, Cambridge, Bedford, Stevenage and Peterborough remains thanks to the A1 and the railway links.

Beeston is a delightful hamlet, which sits within the parish of Sandy and is half a mile to the south of Sandy town centre. The development of the Great North Road over the centuries means that Beeston is now bisected by the A1. This contributes to its separation from Sandy and a strong local sense of being an independent community. In the heart of Beeston is an attractive 13-acre traditional village green which is surrounded by several ancient buildings

Sandy is defined by the Greensand Ridge, a band of higher ground stretching from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay, which rises out of the surrounding vales to create a locally unique environment.

The area surrounding the town is dominated by a range of low hills known as the Sand Hills with the River Ivel, a tributary of the River Great Ouse, running through the town. Parts of the town and adjoining land are designated as a Flood Warning Area. Sandy is part of Greensand Country which is made up of towns that the Greensand Ridge runs through. The Greensand Ridge is an escarpment which runs through Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, and Cambridgeshire. The Sandy Green Wheel is being developed in response to an increased desire for more, better quality, opportunities to walk and cycle in the local area and its rim is around 6 miles long.

The Sandy Heath transmitting station, a 244-metre-tall television broadcast mast, provides a very wide area with broadcast and data services. It is visible from as far away as St Ives to the North and is a visual reference point for the many light and historic aircraft that traverse the area. The RSPB heathland environment that surrounds the mast provides excellent walking and birdwatching opportunities for families in or visiting Sandy.

Endorsements and Support

Endorsement by Sandy Town Council:

Sandy Town Council endorses this Green Infrastructure Plan, which has been produced by current residents of the parish, for this and future generations. In endorsing this Plan, the Town Council confirms its support for the concept of GI planning and the methodology used to produce the Plan. In addition, the Town Council will seek to be an active partner in the delivery of this Plan, leading and assisting the implementation of those actions which fall into the remit and plans of the Council. The Town Council will annually review the Plan, reporting to the community activity undertaken and planned, both by the Council and others, towards implementing the Plan.

Endorsement by Sandy Neighbourhood Plan Strategy Group:

Sandy Neighbourhood Plan Strategy Group endorses this Green Infrastructure Plan. It has been produced using an agreed and well developed process involving current residents in a series of community engagement activities. As such it represents their more detailed views on how the issues previously identified can be addressed in the future. It sets a clear plan for the future that will be supported by local planning policies in the forthcoming Sandy Neighbourhood Plan.

Support from Central Bedfordshire Council:

Central Bedfordshire Council recognises the need to provide a framework for green infrastructure provision in the District to meet the needs of existing and new residents and help create sustainable communities. In 2008, Mid Beds District Council produced a district-wide GI plan which has informed the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy and other Local Development Documents. The production of this parish-level GI Plan for Sandy gives added detail and together with the views of local people adds value to, and compliments, the Mid Beds District GI Plan and the Strategic GI Plan for Bedfordshire and Luton which was produced in 2007. All levels of GI Plan, including this Sandy GI Plan, will be used by the Authority in considering development proposals and assisting with the creation of green infrastructure assets.

Support from BRCC:

BRCC will support the community of Sandy in implementing this Plan where appropriate and feasible, providing advice, support in securing funding and in implementing practical works.

What is Green Infrastructure?

Green Infrastructure covers the themes of landscape, history, biodiversity, access and open space; and is formed by the network of green spaces, access routes, wildlife habitats, landscapes and historic features. Combined, these features provide:

- a healthy and diverse environment
- attractive places to live and visit
- a good quality of life
- a sustainable future

Green Infrastructure assets include:

- Accessible green space
- Country parks
- Green corridors
- Urban parks and gardens
- Habitats for wildlife including nature reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and County Wildlife Sites.
- Historic parks and gardens and historic landscapes
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Waterways and water bodies, including flooded quarries
- Public rights of way and cycleways
- Allotments
- Children's play spaces
- Formal sports facilities
- Cemeteries

It is important to plan the GI network in the same way that we plan other networks and facilities, so that we can safeguard and enhance the environment and meet the needs of a wide range of people, both now and in the future. Green infrastructure also provides social and economic benefits, including:

- Places that can be used as a focus for community activity and events
- Opportunities to keep fit and healthy
- Helps support the local economy, including village shops, pubs and B&Bs
- Links between town and country helping people in rural areas to access facilities
- Helps reduce the use of cars

Aims of this Plan

To identify the key existing natural, historic, cultural and landscape assets, accessible greenspace and rights of way and to plan new features that will provide a connected network of green infrastructure for the benefit of present and future generations.

To inform the emerging Sandy Neighbourhood Plan, including through the identification of important green spaces and the proposal to designate eligible sites as Local Green Spaces.

Objectives

The objective of this Plan is to create a comprehensive document that will assist the local community to:

- Protect and where possible enhance the landscape, biodiversity and the historic environment
- Improve access and links for people and wildlife
- Provide a multi-functional green infrastructure network
- Provide a source of information and guidance for planners, landowners and developers in formulating land use plans
- Promote community involvement
- Identify projects and produce an action plan to implement projects.

Links to other GI related plans

The Bedfordshire & Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan

The Bedfordshire & Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan (2007) identifies a broad, spatial vision for green infrastructure across the area and highlights 11 strategic GI corridors across the county. Biggleswade lies within the Ivel River Valley Corridor.

The Mid Bedfordshire GI Plan

The Mid Bedfordshire GI Plan (2008) identifies a network for protecting and enhancing GI across the whole of the former Mid Beds District. This Network is broken down into a series of six 'areas', with Biggleswade lying in the Ivel Valley.

CBC Leisure Strategy

In March 2014, Central Bedfordshire Council adopted its Leisure Strategy, which comprises three facility-based chapters and replaces the 2008 PPG17 Study. Chapter 2: the Recreation and Open Space Strategy, focuses on the provision of nine types of open space, which are:

- Countryside Recreation
- Urban Parks
- Informal Recreation
- Large Formal Recreation Areas
- Small Amenity Spaces
- Facilities for Children
- Facilities for Young People
- Allotments
- Cemeteries & Burial Grounds

Chapter 2 assessed the current provision of each of the nine open space types and, utilising national guidance and local requirements, it established a set of local standards to guide future provision of open space on both a strategic and local level in Central Bedfordshire.

To define open space provision on a parish level, a Parish Schedule has been created for each parish in Central Bedfordshire. It identifies current provision, shortfalls or surpluses against the local standards and priorities.

Based on national standards for levels of provision, the CBC figures for 2020 indicate that residents of Sandy have a good level of access to 'Large Formal Recreation Areas' and some access to 'Large Informal Recreation Areas'. There is a lack of 'Small Amenity Spaces' in the south-east of the town, "although to an extent demand (is) negated by the presence of larger sites". There are gaps in the access to 'Play Areas for Children' to the east of the town and limited access to 'Facilities for Young People'. There is also a requirement for a new allotment site following the closure of the Stanford Road closure in 2013.

The Leisure Strategy for Sandy includes in its key priorities:

- Investment to increase public access to open spaces, including the creation of a new park
- New and upgraded play facilities
- New facilities for young people
- New allotment site

Methodology & Community Involvement

A methodology for the production of Parish Green Infrastructure Plans was developed in 2007 and 2008 by the PGIP Working Group and endorsed by the Beds & Luton Green Infrastructure Consortium (now the Beds & Luton Local Nature Partnership). This standard methodology has been used to produce 40+ parish-level GI Plans across Bedfordshire, as it was for the Sandy GI Plan of August 2010 (see Appendix 1).

The 2022 revision of Sandy's GI Plan has included an initial review of the 2010 aspirations by Sandy's Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in order to remove those aspirations that have been completed or deemed no longer possible.

A revised aspirations list was then produced and circulated online via a SurveyMonkey questionnaire in February 2022, with a drop-in event also taking place on 5 February 2022 in the Sandy Town Council Chamber. A further drop-in took place in Sandy Market Square on 10 April. This provided residents a further opportunity to peruse the maps and discuss the updated survey, and enabled those residents without access to the online questionnaire to complete a paper version of the survey, which is reproduced below.

Aspirations map

The map shows aspirations for improving Sandy's Green Infrastructure Network.

- **Of these aspirations (identified by local residents through previous consultation activities), can you please rank your personal top five – those that you would most like to see implemented.**
- **Are there any other green infrastructure aspirations that you would like to see added to the Green Infrastructure Plan?**
- **Are there any existing aspirations which you strongly disagree with? If yes, please give the Aspiration number below; and say why you disagree with it.**

Green Spaces map

The map shows Sandy's main publicly accessible green spaces. Through the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, we hope to protect as many of these sites as possible from future development by designating them as Local Green Spaces (LGS).

- **Which of the green spaces do you consider to be the most important sites to protect? Please rank your top five sites – those that you are most keen to see protected.**
- **Are there any other green spaces (excluding open farmland) which are not currently included on the green spaces map but which you feel are important to the local community?**

In relation to the Green Infrastructure Plan as a whole:

- **Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the local area that you think will be important in planning the future of Sandy's Green Infrastructure Network?**

The collation and analysis of the survey responses led to the production of a revised GI map and prioritised table of aspirations, and an updated list of important green spaces. This information formed the basis of a further survey which was launched in July 2022 and displayed at a drop-in which took place in the Market Square on 15 July. The results from this consultation activity provide the final lists and priorities for the GI Plan.

Sandy GI Aspirations Map (2023)

The numbered locations on the map correspond to the aspiration numbers shown in the following tables.

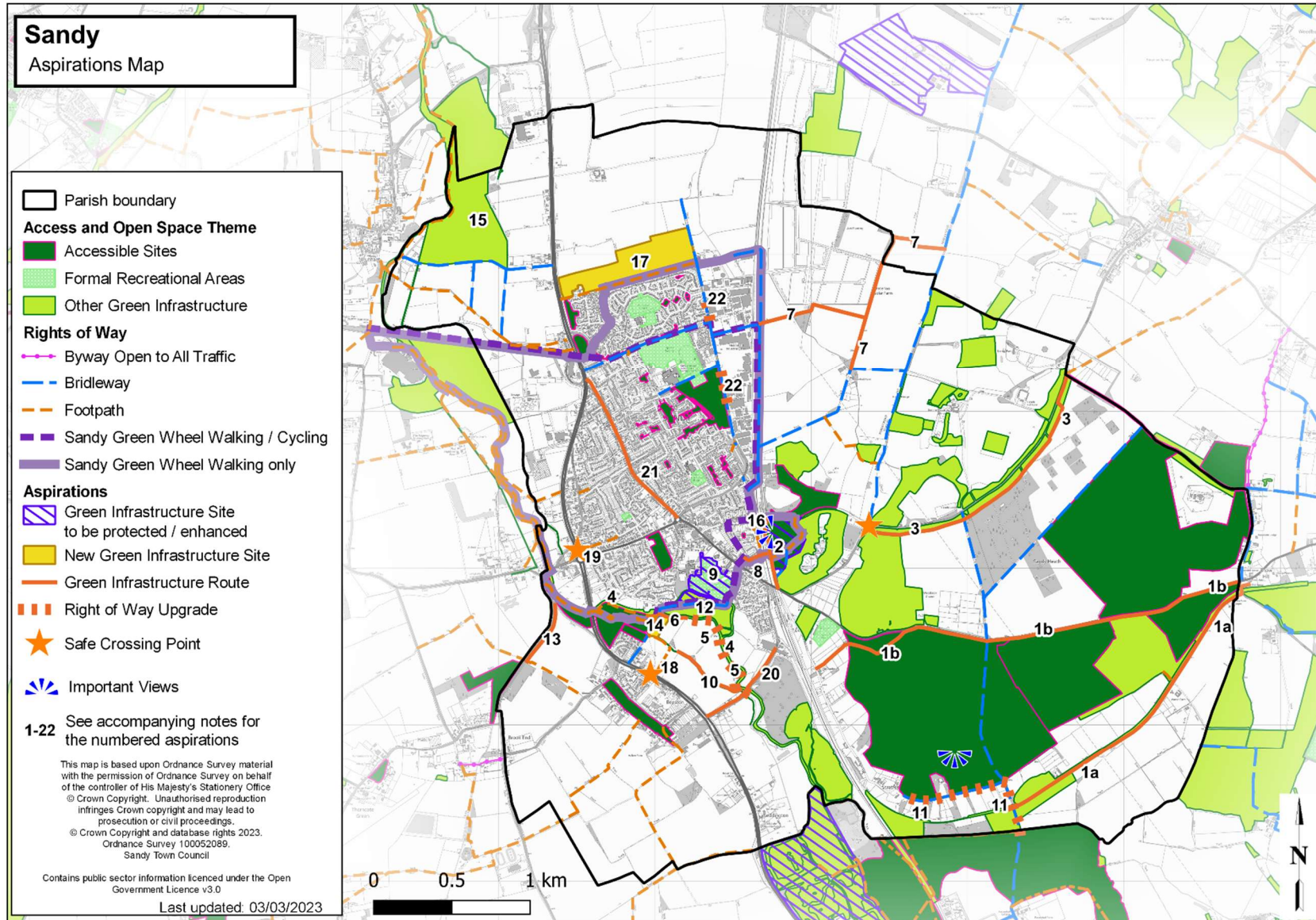


Table of GI Aspirations

The Aspiration numbers in the table below relate to locations on the GI Map above.

Asp No.	Aspiration
1a, 1b	Create cycleway route from Sandy to Potton, either 1a. along disused railway or 1b. using paths through the Lodge as appropriate
2	Improve public access to The Pinnacle with surfaced path and more bins and benches <i>Note: current issue with steps / erosion</i>
3	Create new bridleway parallel to Everton Road linking Swaden and Stone Lodge, including a safe crossing of Everton Rd from Sand Lane - to link to BW28
4	Enhance management and use of the River Ivel and adjacent watercourses
5	Upgrade Kingfisher Way permissive path to Public Footpath through County Farm Meadows north-west of New Road
6	Create Public Footpath to complete Kingfisher Way link along river bank <i>Note: Drainage issue to be resolved</i>
7	Create Public Bridleways along existing farm tracks and field boundaries to enhance access network and create a circular route
8	Create cycleway from Potton Road to Cherrycroft via footbridge over the railway <i>Note: Important to protect acid grassland habitat, but historical farm track could be used to keep cyclists on a clear path</i>
9	Secure the grounds of Sandye Place as a community green space
10	Create Public Footpath alongside Riddy stream north-west of New Road <i>Note: Status of access check required</i>
11	Enhance bridleway surface, linking Biggleswade Common & Stratford Rd as part of Great North Cycleway (NCN R12)
12	Formalise access and management of Sandcast Wood
13	Create Public Footpath alongside Sandy to Shefford road linking Bidlake Corner to existing footpath
14	Create new nature reserve adjacent to The Riddy to east of The Baulk
15	Provide some public access and bird viewing opportunities at Zwetsloot's Lakes
16	Create new Public Footpath to link Sand Lane to existing dead-end footpath at base of the Pinnacle

17	Create landscaped community green space to include informal recreation and habitat creation (and possibly allotments)
18	Enhance footbridge over A1 to enable use by cyclists, buggies, wheelchairs and mobility scooters
19	Provide safe crossing of A1 to filling station / supermarket and Rights of Way network to the west
20	Create roadside footpath along New Road
21	Create cycleway along St Neots Road
22	Complete pavement and upgrade to cycleway along Sunderland Road to link Fallowfield to town centre (section of Sandy Green Wheel)
General GI aspirations – not site specific and so not shown on the map	
Seek opportunities to increase public access to, & interpretation of, features of local archaeological interest <i>Note: Map locations to be determined (in relation to existing access and possible improvements)</i>	
Enhance management of all greenspace and verges to increase biodiversity	
Undertake more tree planting (including fruit trees) opportunities; including woodland, road verges and edges of green spaces	
Create allotments – location to be determined	

Future Development

Where future built developments are proposed on land where GI aspirations have been identified, consideration should be given as to whether the aspiration(s) can be delivered either as part of a potential built development, or whether an alternative location for the aspiration(s) can be found. Such developments may contribute, either financially or through direct works, to the implementation of GI aspirations.

Prioritisation of GI Aspirations

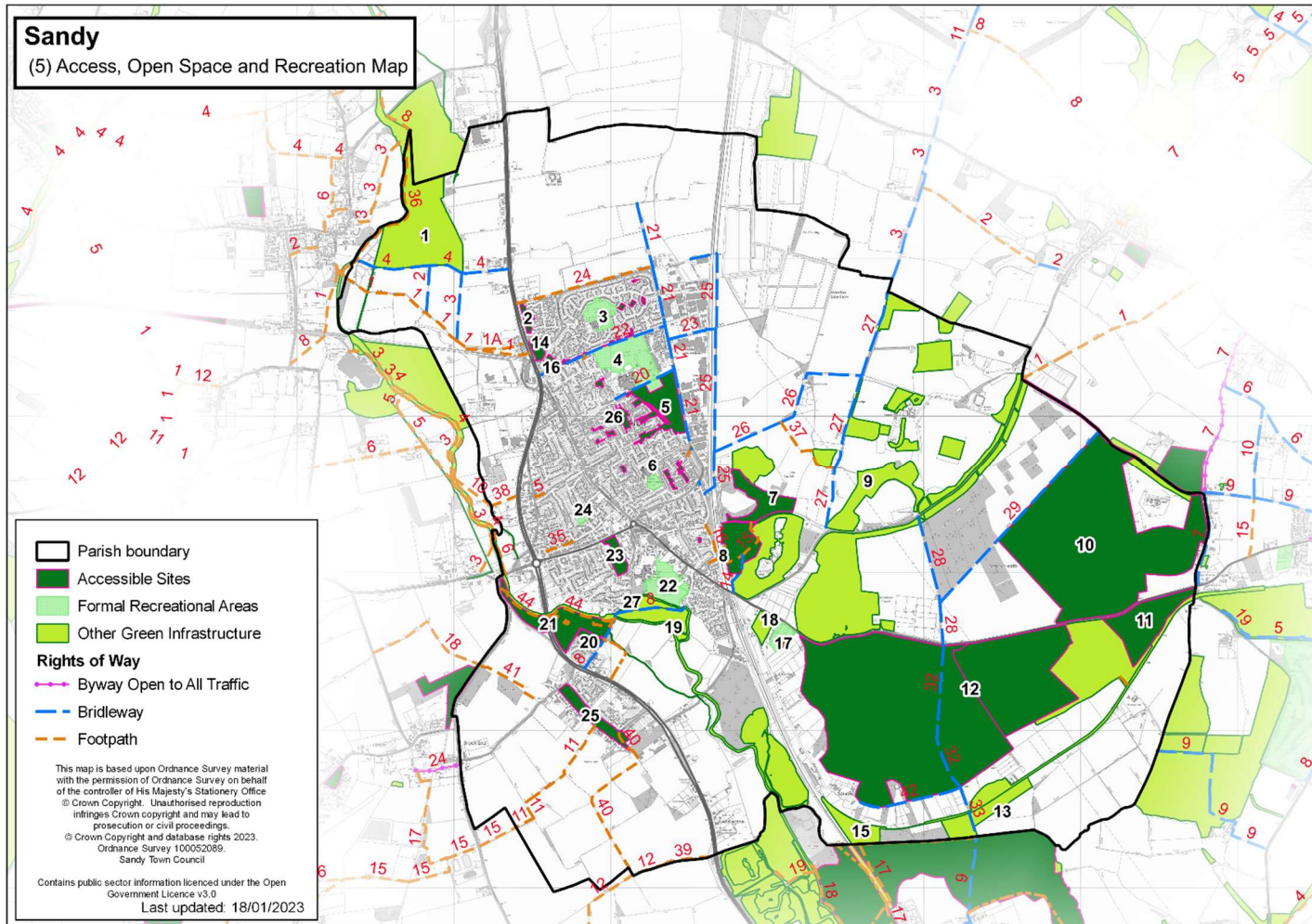
Survey respondents were asked to identify their top five priorities from the above aspirations. This resulted in the following aspirations being prioritised as the most important.

Priority order	Aspiration number	Aspiration
1	9	Secure the grounds of Sandye Place as a community green space
2	17	Create landscaped community green space to include informal recreation, habitat creation (and possibly allotments)
3	General	More tree planting (including fruit trees) opportunities; including woodland, road verges and edges of green spaces
4	1a, 1b	Create cycleway route from Sandy to Potton, either: 1a. along disused railway, or 1b. using paths through the Lodge as appropriate
5	15	Provide some public access and bird viewing opportunities at Zwetsloot's Lakes

Green Spaces

In addition to proposing aspirations for the future enhancement of Sandy's GI, residents were shown the following map identifying the main green spaces in Sandy and were asked to list those spaces that they felt were most important.

All of the sites shown on the following map were included in the consultation, but only those that were deemed as 'most important' are shown on the table following the map.



The table below lists the mapped sites that were reported as most important to respondents.

Sandy's Green Spaces	
Map no.	Site name
1	Zwetsloots Pits CWS
3	Fallowfield Recreation Ground
4	Sandy Upper School Sports Ground
5	Sunderland Road Recreation Ground
7	Cox Hill
8	The Pinnacle
10	Sandy Heath Quarry
12	The Lodge, Sandy
15	Sandy Disused Railway CWS
18	Sandy Cemetery CWS
19	Sandcast Meadows
21	The Riddy Local Nature Reserve
22	Sandye Place Grounds
23	Bedford Road Recreation Ground
25	Beeston Green
26	Winchester Road Open Space
27	Sandcast Wood

The results of the various consultation activities, shown above, were then presented to the local community in order to provide a ranked list – below - of green spaces identified as the most important in the parish.

Priority Ranking (top 10)	Map number	Green Space
1st	22	Sandye Place Grounds
2nd	8	The Pinnacle
3rd	21	The Riddy Local Nature Reserve
4th	23	Bedford Road Recreation Ground
5th	3	Fallowfield Recreation Ground
6th	4	Sandy Upper School Sports Ground (1)
7th	5	Sunderland Road Recreation Ground
8th	1	Zwetsloots Pits County Wildlife Site
8th	25	Beeston Green
10th	12	The Lodge, Sandy
	7	Cox Hill
	18	Sandy Cemetery County Wildlife Site (1)
	27	Sandcast Wood
	26	Winchester Road Open Space
	19	Sandcast Meadows
	10	Sandy Heath Quarry (2)
	15	Sandy Disused Railway County Wildlife Site (2)

(1) These two sites – Sandy Upper School Sports Ground and Sandy Cemetery County Wildlife Site - are deemed as sufficiently protected due to their current status, and will therefore not be taken forward for possible designation as LGS's (see below) as this will not provide them with any additional protection.

(2) In further discussions within the Sandy Neighbourhood Plan Group, it was agreed that these two sites – Sandy Heath Quarry and Sandy Disused Railway County Wildlife Site – are of sufficient importance to be taken forward for possible designation as LGS's (see below).

The remaining sites on the Access, Open Space and Recreation map – those not listed in the table above - received no or very few votes and are consequently not considered to be among the prioritised sites.

Local Green Space Designation

A stated aim of this GI Plan is to propose the designation of important green sites as Local Green Spaces through the emerging Sandy Neighbourhood Plan.

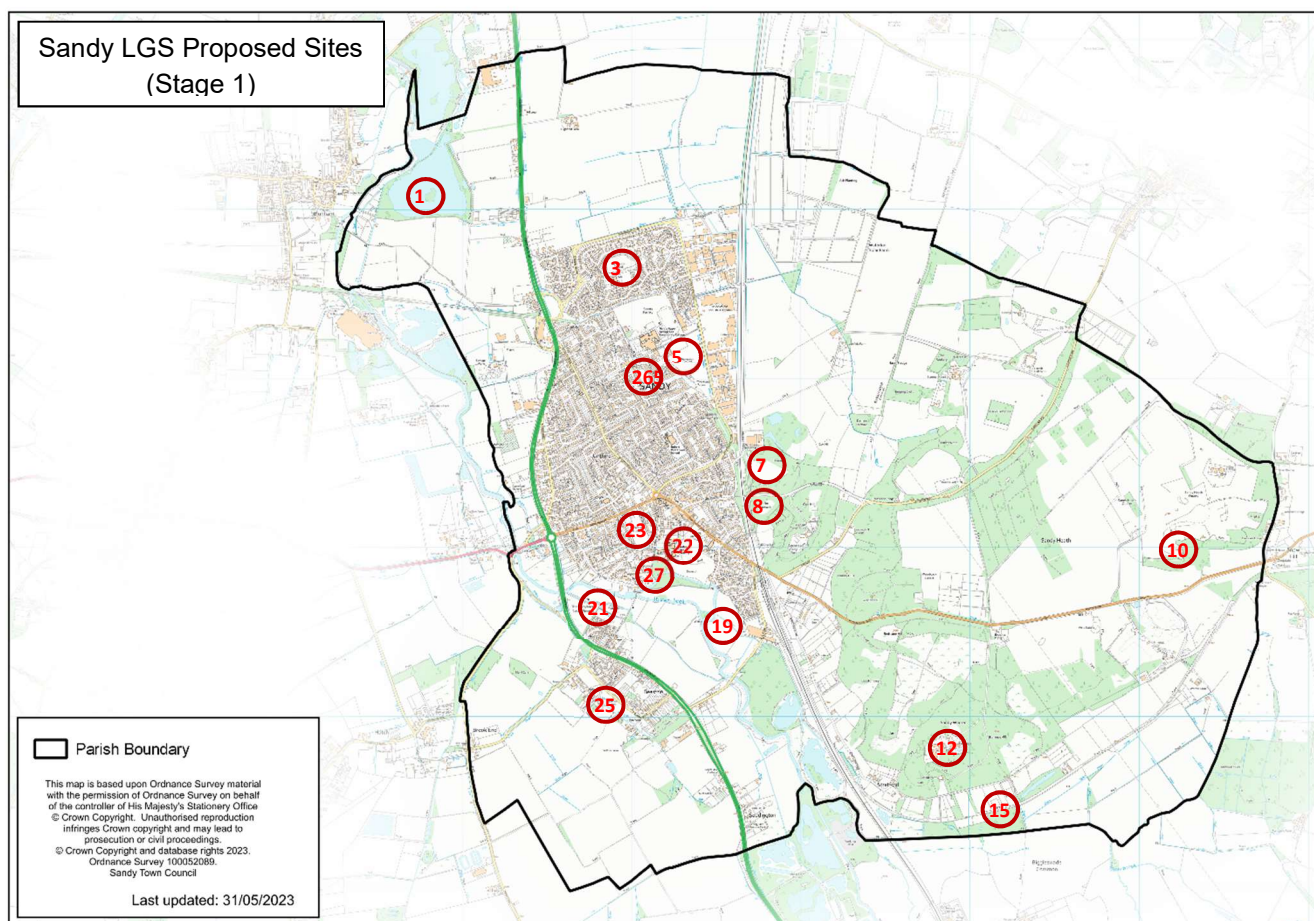
The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. A designation to protect local green areas of particular importance to local communities has been introduced. The Local Green Space designation will allow communities to identify and protect areas that are of value to the community through local and neighbourhood plans.

The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

A full LGS assessment has been undertaken on the thirteen most important sites, shown in the table above, as identified by the local community and the Sandy Neighbourhood Plan Group.

A summary of the LGS Report is provided on the following pages. The full LGS Report is forwarded separately.



Stage 1 Assessment

The stage 1 assessment is designed to filter out which sites - proposed for LGS Designation by the 2023 Sandy Green Infrastructure Plan - do not meet the basic LGS eligibility criteria. Sites which have current planning permission, or have been allocated for development, or have an existing designation giving the same level of protection as a LGS designation, do not meet the criteria and are not carried forward to the stage 2 assessment.

Site name	Site number	Current Planning Permission?	Allocated for Development?	Already Designated?	Pass to Stage 2?
Zwetsloots Pits County Wildlife Site	1	N	N	County Wildlife Site	Y
Fallowfield Recreation Ground	3	N	N	N	Y
Sunderland Road Recreation Ground	5	N	N	N	Y
Cox Hill	7	N	N	N	Y
The Pinnacle	8	N	N	County Wildlife Site Local Geological Site	Y
Sandy Heath Quarry	10	N	N	N	Y
The Lodge, Sandy	12	N	N	N	Y
Sandy Disused Railway County Wildlife Site	15	N	N	County Wildlife Site	Y
Sandcast Meadows	19	N	N	N	Y
The Riddy Local Nature Reserve	21	N	N	Local Nature Reserve	Y
Sandye Place Grounds	22	N	N	N	Y
Bedford Road Recreation Ground	23	N	N	N	Y
Beeston Green	25	N	N	Registered Village Green	N
Winchester Road Open Space	26	N	N	N	Y
Sandcast Wood	27	N	N	N	Y

Stage 2 Assessment – Overall Summary

The table below summarises the detailed assessments in the LGS assessment.

Site and Ref. No.	Too Extensive?	Close Proximity?	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant?	Recommend for Designation?
1. Zwetsloots Pits County Wildlife Site	Y	Y	Y	N
3. Fallowfield Recreation Ground	N	Y	Y	Y
5. Sunderland Road Recreation Ground	N	Y	Y	Y
7. Cox Hill	N	Y	Y	Y
8. The Pinnacle	N	Y	Y	Y
10. Sandy Heath Quarry	Y	Y	Y	N
12. The Lodge, Sandy	Y	Y	Y	N
15. Sandy Disused Railway County Wildlife Site	N	Y	Y	Y
19. Sandcast Meadows	N	Y	Y	Y
21. The Riddy Local Nature Reserve	N	Y	Y	Y
22. Sandye Place Grounds	N	Y	Y	Y
23. Bedford Road Recreation Ground	N	Y	Y	Y
26. Winchester Road Open Space	N	Y	Y	Y
27. Sandcast Wood	N	Y	Y	Y

Final Proposed Local Green Space Designations

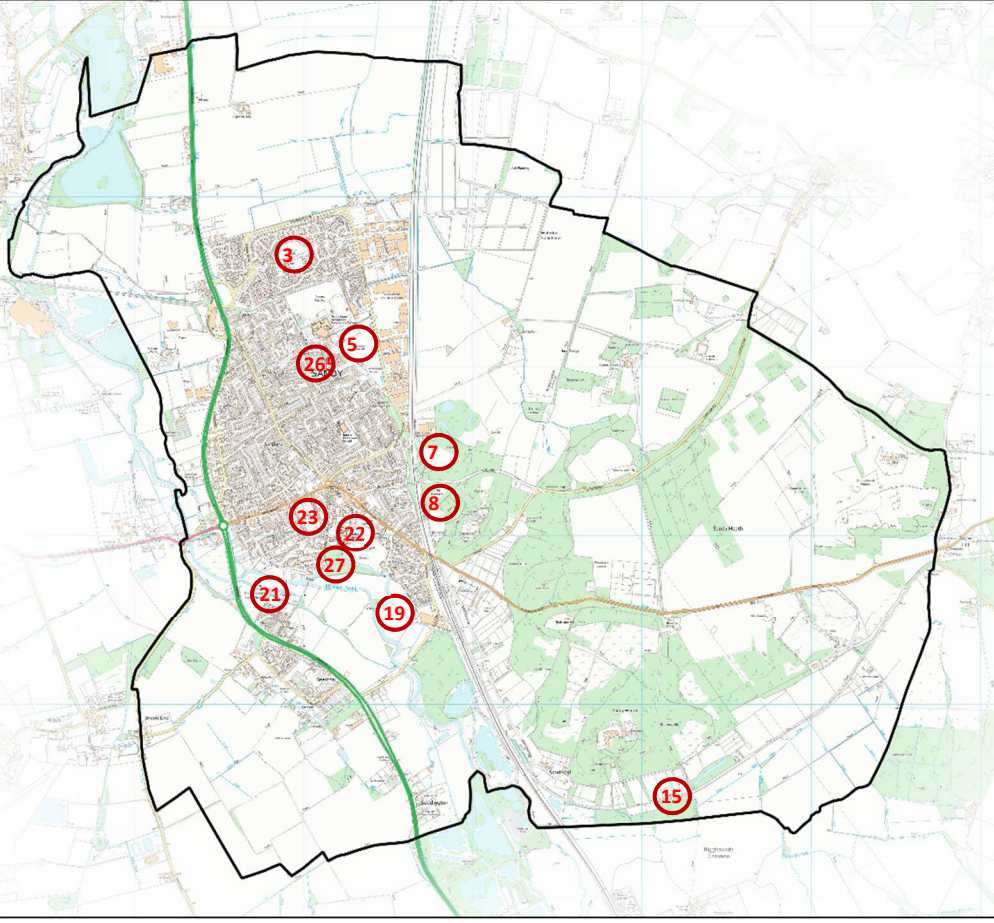
Sites assessed and proposed for LGS Designation within the Sandy Neighbourhood Plan
Fallowfield Recreation Ground (3)
Sunderland Road Recreation Ground (5)
Cox Hill (7)
The Pinnacle (8)
Sandy Disused Railway County Wildlife Site (15)
Sandcast Meadows (19)
The Riddy Local Nature Reserve (21)
Sandye Place Grounds (22)
Bedford Road Recreation Ground (23)
Winchester Road Open Space (26)
Sandcast Wood (27)
Sites assessed and considered to not meet LGS criteria
Zwetsloots Pits County Wildlife Site (1)
Sandy Heath Quarry (10)
The Lodge, Sandy (12)

Sandy
LGS Proposed Sites

□ Parish Boundary

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
© Crown Copyright and database rights 2023.
Ordnance Survey 100052069.
Sandy Town Council

Last updated: 31/05/2023



Sandy Parish Green Infrastructure Plan Action Plan

- [1] Lead Partner Organisation / individual taking the lead in the planning and implementation of the aspiration (See key below table)
 [2] Other Partners Other organisations to be involved in the planning and implementation of the aspiration
 [3] Resourcing Likely level of funding needed: Low (achievable with no or minimal funding), Medium (achievable with moderate new funding), High (achievable with significant new funding)
 [4] Timescale Likely date of implementation: Short 2023-25; Medium 2025-27; Long 2027+

STC* Sandy Town Council LO Landowner
 CBC* Central Bedfordshire Council IDB Internal Drainage Board
 BRCC* Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity SNPSG* Sandy Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
 SGWSG Sandy Green Wheel Steering Group (comprising asterisked * partners)

Ref	Aspiration	Possible Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
1a, 1b	Create cycleway route from Sandy to Potton, either 1a. along disused railway or 1b. using paths through the Lodge as appropriate	STC SNPSG	CBC LO (RSPB)	M-H	M-L	Liaise with LO's
2	Improve public access to The Pinnacle with surfaced path and more bins and benches <i>Note: current issue with steps / erosion</i>	STC SNPSG	LO BRCC	M	M	Investigate need and liaise with LO
3	Create new bridleway parallel to Everton Road linking Swaden and Stone Lodge, including a safe crossing of Everton Rd from Sand Lane - to link to BW28	STC SNPSG	CBC LO	M-H	M-L	Liaise with LO's, CBC

Ref	Aspiration	Possible Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
4	Enhance management and use of the River Ivel and adjacent watercourses	STC SNPSG	LO IDB BRCC	M-H	L	Liaise with partners
5	Upgrade Kingfisher Way permissive path to Public Footpath through County Farm Meadows north-west of New Road	STC SNPSG	CBC (LO)	M	M-L	Liaise with CBC
6	Create Public Footpath to complete Kingfisher Way link along river bank <i>Note: Drainage issue to be resolved</i>	STC SNPSG	CBC LO	M	L	Liaise with LO's, CBC
7	Create Public Bridleways along existing farm tracks and field boundaries to enhance access network and create a circular route	STC SNPSG	CBC LO's	M	L	Liaise with LO's, CBC
8	Create cycleway from Potton Road to Cherrycroft via footbridge over the railway <i>Note: Important to protect acid grassland habitat, but historical farm track could be used to keep cyclists on a clear path</i>	STC (lessee) SNPSG	LO	M-H	L	Liaise with LO
9	Secure the grounds of Sandye Place as a community green space	STC SNPSG	CBC	H	M-L	Liaise with CBC
10	Create Public Footpath alongside Riddy stream north-west of New Road <i>Note: Status of access check required</i>	STC SNPSG	CBC LO BRCC	M	M-L	Liaise with LO's, CBC

Ref	Aspiration	Possible Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
11	Enhance bridleway surface, linking Biggleswade Common & Stratford Rd as part of Great North Cycleway (NCN R12)	STC SNPSG	CBC LO	M-H	M-L	Liaise with CBC
12	Formalise access and management of Sandcast Wood	STC SNPSG	CBC	M	M	Progress with LO
13	Create Public Footpath alongside Sandy to Shefford road linking Bidlake Corner to existing footpath	STC SNPSG	CBC LO	M	M-L	Liaise with CBC, LO
14	Create new nature reserve adjacent to The Riddy to east of The Baulk	STC SNPSG	CBC LO	M-H	M-L	Liaise with LO
15	Provide some public access and bird viewing opportunities at Zwetsloot's Lakes	STC SNPSG	LO	M	M-L	Liaise with LO
16	Create new Public Footpath to link Sand Lane to existing dead-end footpath at base of the Pinnacle	STC (lessee) SNPSG	CBC LO	M	M-L	Liaise with CBC, LO
17	Create landscaped community green space to include informal recreation and habitat creation (and possibly allotments)	STC SNPSG	LO BRCC	M-H	L	Investigate feasibility, liaise with LO
18	Enhance footbridge over A1 to enable use by cyclists, buggies, wheelchairs and mobility scooters	STC SNPSG	National H'ways Agency, CBC	H	M-L	Liaise with National H'ways Agency, CBC

Ref	Aspiration	Possible Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
19	Provide safe crossing of A1 to filling station / supermarket and Rights of Way network to the west	STC SNPSG	National H'ways Agency, CBC	H	L	Liaise with National H'ways Agency, CBC
20	Create roadside footpath along New Road	STC SNPSG	CBC	M-H	M-L	Liaise with CBC
21	Create cycleway along St Neots Road	STC SNPSG	CBC	M-H	M-L	Liaise with CBC
22	Complete pavement and upgrade to cycleway along Sunderland Road to link Fallowfield to town centre (section of Sandy Green Wheel)	STC SNPSG	CBC BRCC	M-H	M-L	Liaise with CBC, BRCC
General GI aspirations – not site specific and so not shown on the map						
Seek opportunities to increase public access to, & interpretation of, features of local archaeological interest <i>Note: Map locations to be determined (in relation to existing access and possible improvements)</i>						
Enhance management of all greenspace and verges to increase biodiversity						
Undertake more tree planting (including fruit trees) opportunities; including woodland, road verges and edges of green spaces						
Create allotments – location to be determined						

Date: 17th July 2023
Title: Boundary Fence between Scout Hut and ATP Building
Contact: Ian Reed, Deputy Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive and consider the costs for the partial re-siting of the fence.

Recommendation

2. That the Council approves the quotation that provides the best quality product while considering value for money. The 2023/24 budget has only allowed a maximum £1,000 spend on recreation grounds so funding would need to come from Capital.

Background

3.0 The boundary fence has been severely damaged by mature trees on the boundary line.

3.1 The Deputy Town Clerk has had meetings with the MOD about this matter. The Scouts support the work. The Town Council as the landowner of the sites is responsible for the part replacement and re-siting of the fence.

Proposals/Information

4.0 The MOD is particularly concerned about the ongoing safety of the site and is very keen to see the fence repositioned and erected.

4.1 The following quotes were received:

Description	Company	Price
Take down, remove from site and dispose of approx. 9.2m close board fencing. Supply and install: Approx. 12.2m of 1.8m high close board fencing to include 2.4m 100 x 100mm timber posts with Postsaver sleeves fitted, 3m 2ex 125 x 50mm timber cant rails, 3m 150 x 22mm timber gravel boards and 1650mm 2ex 125 x 22mm featheredge.	A	£ 912.59 exc VAT
Take down and remove from site 9.0 Lin Metres of old 1.8mtr high close-board fencing c/w posts. Our price includes for all tipping charges.	B	£385.00 exc VAT

Legal Powers

6.0 The action undertaken is 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:	17th July 2023
Title:	Events Working Group
Contact Officer:	Deputy Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update report from the Events Working Group (EWG) of events planned for the second half of 2023 and into 2024.

Recommendation

- 2.0 To note the report.

Background

3.0 Following the approval of the Council to take over the management of the Christmas Lights Event 2024 this report provides an update on the list of events to be undertaken by the Council in the forthcoming months:

Skate Jam - 16th September

Following the successful opening event and the recent increase in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in the Skate Park an anniversary event will be held. The event will be managed by Maverick at a cost of £2,500. We will engage with (Central Bedfordshire Council) Safer Central, the Police and Grand Union Housing Association to widen the purpose of the event.

NB: Cricket season will have finished, and football matches are scheduled for Sunday.

Autumn Market - 1st October

The market will be run in the same format as previously. Seven vendors are signed up the list now open to previous vendors. Support from members will be required on the day.

Remembrance Sunday - 12th November

Planning for the event has commenced. The key issue this year will be the road closure as it is unlikely, we will receive support from the Police. This is a national issue. We will contact CBC Highways who supported the Carnival Parade this year with a rolling roadblock.

Noted from last year the issue of the dismissal and the salute will need to be reviewed.

Councillor Susan Sutton will liaise with the Royal British Legion (RBL) regarding the service content.

Samantha Wenn (ex-forces) wished to attend and join the parade with her horse, as she did last year. The EWG will work with her on to how to make this possible.

Christmas Lights Event - 3rd December

A save the date has been distributed via local networks. Councillors are requested to circulate around their own networks and indicate if they can support on the day.

Two members of the former Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights Group (FSCL) have volunteered to join the Working Group. Lynne Darlow joined the last meeting and will continue to act as liaison between the schools and library as in previous years.

A quote has been received from Event Production Live (PA/Compare Coronation Event) to provide the stage/ lighting/sound/power and grotto. This will be compared with previous providers. It should be noted that they will also be able to run the stage management of the event on the day, provide additional act/performers and liaise the SAG on our behalf.

Using one point of contact would reduce pressure on the office team ensuring business as usual is not derailed. This will be recommended subject to a cost review.

2024**D Day 80th Anniversary / Big Lunch – June 2024**

The actual D Day anniversary date is 6th June, a Thursday.

Consideration is being given as to how to combine both events.

Mosaic

We need to reach out to Carolyn (Project Co-ordinator) in September/October to agree the way forward.

The group has been advised a mosaic near the church has a couple of tiles missing.

Cemetery – Archaeology Report/ Event

The report is nearing completion. A public event displaying artifacts and the report is required.

The library has been approached and agreed to host. A programme of events for adults / children will need to be developed in conjunction with the library.

Other dates to note:

Saturday 15th July 2023 - Sandy Community Day (Let's Get Going) Sunderland Rd

Saturday 15th June 2024 – Sandy Carnival - location to be confirmed.

Financial Implications

4.0 Skate Jam £2,500 – The Town Council will approach CBC Ward Councillors to assist from their Ward Councillor budgets and also the Police in relation to ASB prevention.

4.1 The Christmas Lights event is covered from the allocated budget of £4,000 plus £8,000 to be transferred from the FSCL. Costs will be monitored in order to form a required budget for 2024.

Legal Powers

The action undertaken is 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 & Environment Committee

Date:	17th July 2023
Title:	St Swithun's Parish Church Churchyard - Walls
Contact Officer:	Deputy Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider a report on the churchyard walls which are in poor condition and unsafe in places.

Recommendation

2.0 That the Committee recommends to Full Council that a condition survey is commissioned.

2.1 That on the basis of the report costings for the works be obtained for a complete refurbishment of the western wall.

2.3 That proposals for protecting the front brick wall from deterioration be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.

2.2 That funding of the works for the western remedial wall be submitted for consideration in the 2024/2025 budget setting process.

Background

3.0 The Council is responsible for the closed churchyard at St Swithun's Parish Church, Sandy. This includes boundary walls, trees, paths and the gravestones etc. For new Members of the Town Council under the Local Government Act 1972 S 215 (1) the Council must keep the churchyard in decent order. It must keep the walls in good repair and effective for their purpose.

3.1 The Committee is advised that the wall at the western perimeter of the churchyard is in a poor condition and unsafe in places with parts of the wall crumbling. Temporary repairs have been undertaken on parts of the wall but the materials used do not always match the stonework and the visual impact is poor. The wall at the front bordering the High Street is largely of brick construction but has a stone base that is crumbling. The western perimeter wall is 70 metres in length. The wall bordering the high street is 533 metres in length.

3.2 Also, regarding the wall at the western perimeter the neighbouring tenant and the landlord of the property has expressed their concerns over an extended period about the poor condition of the wall. From their point of view the lack of activity by the Town Council is of great concern to them.

Operational Issues

4.0 The work to the western perimeter wall will be of a specialist nature, to be in keeping with the character of the area. It is likely that a specialist contractor dealing with conservation and heritage work would be required.

4.1 All Councillors are invited to attend a site visit to the closed church yard on Monday 17 July at 5.30 pm. The Clerk and Deputy Clerk will be in attendance.

Financial Implications

5.0 There are considerable financial implications for carrying out the works required.

Following an initial survey, a ballpark costing will be required and it is likely that the project would need to go to closed tender as laid down in council financial regulations.

5.1 The Council would need to ensure that the necessary funding is available. There are three possible options or a combination of options as set out in Financial Regulations:

- Drawing on reserves – the Council has no capital replacement provision
- Increase the precept
- Borrow the required funds - Public Works Loan Board

Policy Implications

6.0 The Council has an obligation to manage and maintain the closed churchyard and therefore should consider policies to control capital reserves for renewals and replacements across the council.

Legal Powers

7.0 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 ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

A plan to work towards the protection and enhancement of Sandy's environment for the health of the town and its community



SANDY TOWN COUNCIL



Live. Work. Play. **SANDY**

What is an Environmental Plan?

The Environmental Plan is a **plan** to establish ambitions and intended actions, working towards the protection and improvement of the environment in and around Sandy for the long-term health and benefit of the town, its environment and its community.

The aim of the Environmental Plan is to help ensure that Sandy Town Council works with other relevant bodies to put in place actions to make Sandy a **green**, pleasant and healthy place to **live**, work and play. The action points in the plan set targets for the Council to meet in both the long and short term, providing measurable reference points to ensure progress is made.



Why do we need a Plan

The Council's Environmental Plan is the first step in demonstrating Sandy Town Council's commitments to make what changes it can to protect, enhance and save our environment as part of small local steps and wider national ambitions to make Sandy, Bedfordshire and the United Kingdom greener and more sustainable. Practical steps are needed if Councils are to make changes which will have a real positive impact.

In 2019 Central Bedfordshire Council voted to make tackling climate change a priority for the Council and a plan will be rolled out in 2020. The actions in this plan will work alongside CBC's plan for the benefit of the wider area of Bedfordshire. The plan will incorporate localized actions for Sandy to wider national ambitions.

Live. Work. Play. **SANDY**²

Actions Town Councils can take to help nature and the local environment

Based on guidance provided by Friends of the Earth

Be a Force for Good



Consider supporting small and large planning applications for new renewable energy in the area

It is estimated the UK needs to increase the amount of renewable energy it generates by around eight times. Planning decisions will be made by the local planning authority, however town councils can play an important role in supporting renewable energy applications in their parish.



Promote practical action by local people

People can often be at a loss about what they can practically do to reduce their own carbon footprint or support the natural environment. An impartial local guide that provides information on accredited local businesses can be invaluable and help keep money in the local economy. The guide could include information on local accredited energy assessors and renewable energy installers for solar panels, batteries, EV charging points and heat pumps. It can also encourage sustainable transport options.



Use our voice

Decisions on infrastructure projects are largely made by local authorities, Local Economic Partnerships, or national government. But many of these decisions may increase carbon emissions and/or harm nature. Town councils may consider voicing opposition to high-carbon developments, promoting sustainable alternatives instead. They can press local authorities and MPs to demand national changes to bus services regulations, so all areas can regulate buses as London does, and urban profit-making routes can cross-fund loss making rural routes.



Encourage the formation of Climate Action groups

Communities across the country are coming together to take climate action in response to the climate and nature emergency. Climate Action groups will encourage and support people to take local political action, build positive community solutions, and join together to demand national action. Parish, town and community councils could encourage and support the formation of these groups. Friends of the Earth can provide resources, training and advice to climate action groups (see takeclimateaction.uk).

Actions Town Councils can take to help nature and the local environment

Based on guidance provided by Friends of the Earth

Demonstrate leadership through practical actions



Save energy

Ensure any council buildings are as energy efficient as possible and any street lighting uses well-directed LED lighting. Getting an energy audit is the first step. Loans for projects in England that have a payback of less than five years are available through Salix funding. Projects with longer term paybacks should still be carried out.



Produce green energy

Install renewable energy generation equipment, like heat pumps and solar PV, at council buildings. Explore government grants to support the costs of work. Several energy companies provide a smart export tariff, which pays for any electricity generated that isn't used by the building, including offering top prices if the solar PV is used in conjunction with a battery. Funds can also be raised through Salix loans or through crowdfunding. Buildings using renewable energy should also be used as a showcase to help local people see these technologies first-hand, particularly less familiar technologies such as heat pumps. An electronic display showing how much energy has been generated and how much money and CO2 emissions saved is one way of demonstrating the benefits.



Reduce pesticide use and other harmful activities

It's possible to reduce activities that harm wildlife, from using peat-free compost to shunning pesticides and ensuring light pollution is controlled. Glastonbury Town Council has stopped using glyphosate weed killer and instead uses a hot foam system. These steps alone are not enough to protect and restore nature but they're an important first step. To encourage others, promote the actions you're taking, for example use signage on council-owned land where you use peat-free compost.

Actions Town Councils can take to help nature and the environment

Based on guidance provided by Friends of the Earth

Demonstrate leadership through practical actions



Manage land for nature

Parish, town and community councils can have responsibility for allotments, bridleways, burial grounds, commons, open spaces, and village greens. All of these can be managed to enhance nature, particularly through changing mowing regimes. Wildlife friendly corridors can be created through towns by managing individual sites. Council's can develop pollinator plans for planting of green spaces.



Increase tree cover

Friends of the Earth is campaigning for the UK to double tree cover. The Forestry Commission and others have suggested that even urban areas should aim for at least 20% tree cover. Parish, town and community councils should aim to double tree cover and, if necessary, go beyond this to reach the 20% minimum. Much of this will involve encouraging and supporting landowners to take part in tree planting. The Tree Charter, developed by the Woodland Trust, provides guidance on how to increase tree cover. The National Association of Local Councils website provides case studies where it has been used.



Buy green

Buying local can support the local economy and buying green can help protect the planet, rewarding businesses committed to a better future. Buying green electricity helps develop new renewable energy and ensures the council isn't supporting dirty energy financially. Buying green can also extend to any food and produce provided at events.

Actions Town Councils can take to help nature and the environment

Based on guidance provided by Friends of the Earth

Demonstrate leadership through practical actions



Use green transport

Employees and Councillors should be encouraged to walk, cycle or use public transport or car-share. The council should provide bikes or electric bikes for staff as they carry out any work-related trips. It could also provide zero-interest loans for buying bikes. Where a car or van is needed, councils can move towards electric vehicles.



Minimise waste going to landfill or incineration

Council operations can ensure all waste is recycled or composted, but also consider setting-up community recycling facilities for hard-to-recycle items when the local authority hasn't done so, for example in partnership with Terracycle, Bisley Parish Council has set up a community composting scheme. The best approach for waste minimisation is reuse (eg, reusable cups) or avoiding unnecessary purchases.



Ensure money is invested wisely

Across the UK, local authorities are investing tens of millions of pounds each into fossil fuel companies, despite having declared a climate emergency. Although town council investments will be tiny in comparison, they can still ensure any council funds are invested safely in low-risk sustainable banks or investment funds.

What STC is doing to protect and enhance our environment

There are a number of things Sandy Town Council has already done to support its environmental ambitions, however it is recognised that much more must be done in the coming years, as highlighted by the Action Points later in this report.



Actions the Council has already taken include;



Starting a scheme of streetlight conversion resulting in over 40% of Town Council owned streetlights now being low energy LEDs.



Installation of bird, bat and insect boxes on Council owned buildings.



Reduction in printing, postage and paper usage.



Regular servicing and high standard maintenance of Council vehicles.



Office recycling and works composting.



Developed land management plans to incorporate enhancement of nature and biodiversity



Agreeing in principle the installation of electric car charging points in the town centre car park.



Annual investment in the development and enhancement of the Sandy Green Wheel.



Tree Charter Membership and tree planting.



Participation in the Great British Spring Clean and supporting regular community litter picks.



Use of grey water at the Council's works depot site.

Green Action Points

Steps Sandy Town Council will take to...



Strive to Prevent Pollution and Enhance Biodiversity

	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINES
Reduce pollution from Council vehicles	Research the costs, efficiencies and practicalities of electric vehicles to replace Council work trucks sooner rather than later.	Office (O) to find out how old current vehicles are. WG can research ahead of replacement.	Complete
	Set target for the next newly purchased Council vehicle to be electric, based on the findings of the above-mentioned research work.		Complete
	Install electric car charging point at Council depot building to support electric vehicles.	CSE Committee	Complete
Reduce pollution from vehicles in the town	Install electric car charging points in town centre car park to enable and make it easier for the public to consider electric vehicles.	CSE Committee	Ongoing. Car Park to form part of CBC's charging point network
	Promote benefits of reducing speed and smart driving to reduce fuel consumption. Review and improvement of speed signage.	Office and CBC	2021/22 Financial Year to research and produce material. Ongoing promotion
Reduce Pollution on the A1	Liaise and lobby appropriate agencies in an effort to reduce pollution along the A1 corridor	STC CBC HE M.P	Ongoing monitoring
Support wildlife and natural habitats	Incorporate bee and insect havens into planting schemes and choose plant species to help support pollinators year-round. Reduce the use of chemicals. Identify additional areas to create bee and insect havens	WG research ideas of ways to incorporate havens & alternatives to chemicals. O to purchase DSO to carry out work	Delayed due to COVID and pressure on tea., Review in 2022/23

Green Action Points

Steps Sandy Town Council will take to...



Strive to Prevent Pollution and Enhance Biodiversity

	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINES
Plant trees	<p>Agree a target on the number of trees to plant over the next three years as part of the Council's role as a Tree Charter Branch Member.</p> <p>WG to Identify areas for planting and tree numbers. Advice to be taken from CBC tree officers to support a planting scheme.</p> <p>Initial focus on recreation grounds.</p> <p>Roads and avenues need replacement trees (flowering or fruit)</p> <p>Woodland Trust supply free saplings</p> <p>Encourage public interest and support via publicity and tree planting days.</p> <p>Research and apply for grant funding.</p>	<p>WG</p> <p>BRCC</p> <p>CBC</p> <p>Woodland Trust</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>60 trees planting in last tree planting season.</p>
River Ivel	<p>Engaging with other bodies and authorities on short term actions to improve pollution and biodiverse in and around the river Ivel.</p> <p>WG to consider current concerns and actions needed.</p> <p>To understand the long term plans of authorities and how these will impact on the future of the river Ivel</p>	<p>WG</p> <p>CSE</p> <p>EA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
Sandcaste Wood	<p>Work with CBC to influence the future maintenance and management of this area and how it can benefit local biodiversity and become an asset for the people of Sandy.</p>	<p>WG</p> <p>CSE</p> <p>CBC – Assets</p> <p>CBC – ROW</p>	<p>Long term matter</p> <p>Approach via SGW group</p>
Decision Making	<p>Include sustainability and biodiversity impacts in reports to Council to show how actions and decisions will impact on biodiversity.</p>	<p>Office</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Green Action Points

Steps Sandy Town Council will take to



Conserve Natural Resources

Lighting

	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINES
Reduce energy usage of internal lighting at Council-owned buildings	Replace all internal lighting at the Council's offices, depot and the Jenkins Pavilion with LED low energy lightbulbs.	Office	2022/23
	Install motion sensor lights on Council owned buildings to ensure safety when needed and less energy usage when not needed.		
	Turn lights off when not in use.	STC Staff	Ongoing
Reduce streetlight energy usage and light pollution.	Continue conversion of STC streetlights to lower energy LED lamps.	O /Streetlighting contractor	Ongoing. 70% complete
	Conduct a feasibility study into the cost, practicality and implications of dimming streetlights by 50% from midnight to 6am, timed switches and switching lights off between certain hours.	WG to make research and recommendation to Council	2022/23
	Where possible look at whether solar lighting will provide an alternative for new lighting scheme installations.	WG to research solar lighting scheme and make recommendation	2022/23

Green Action Points

Steps Sandy Town Council will take to



Conserve Natural Resources

Energy			
	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINES
Understand our energy consumption	Conduct an energy audit and report on findings. Incorporate results of report into action points.	WG to research how to conduct an energy audit	10 Cambridge Road report conducted. Recommendations need to be considered.
Reduce our energy consumption	Enact policy of turning off all electrical appliances when not in use.	O to identify which appliances can be switched off and get into the habit of switching off when not in use	2022/23
	Complete replacement of older computers with lower power units to reduce electricity consumption. Two computers still require updating.	O	Complete
Make energy production more environmentally friendly	Research costs, grants and benefits and practicalities of installing, solar PV and heat pumps at Council buildings including the Council Depot	WG to research feasibility	Long term
	Consider buying energy from renewable energy suppliers when renewing suppliers.	O to liaise with Utilities Manager	Complete. Now us renewable energy from YU Energy

Green Action Points

Steps Sandy Town Council will take to



Conserve Natural Resources

Fuel

	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINES
Minimise fuel usage	Ensure all our vehicles are serviced and maintained to a high standard, so that they run efficiently.	O/DSO	Ongoing
Reduce usage of fossil fuels such as petrol and diesel	Replace power tools with cordless electric versions where this is possible.	O/DSO	As and when new equipment is required
	Investigate and consider purchase of battery-operated mowers and trimmers when renewal of equipment is required.	O/DSO	

Water

	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINES
Reduce water usage	Increase use of recycling grey water.	WG- identify ways in which we can do this	1 st -3 rd Qtr 21/22 with recommendations for 22/23 FY
	Include use of grey water recycling in any building projects	Council	As and when projects emerge
	Use water retaining planters and hanging baskets	O- ensure this when putting planting order in	Complete

Green Action Points

Steps Sandy Town Council will take to



Minimise Waste

Reduce

	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINES
Understand opportunities to make reductions in carbon footprint and waste output	Conduct carbon and waste audits. Incorporate results into further action points.	O – quotations on carbon and waste audits	10 Cambridge Road report completed. Needs to be reviewed for advised actions.
Reduce paper usage and printing	Only print documents when necessary, and, when doing so, always print double-sided.	O to set this up as a default action	Ongoing
	Reduce use of hard copy documents and progressively move towards managing council records, documents and filing on computer systems only, reducing reliance on hard copy files.	O to use Covid-19 experience as an example on how to do this and continue when office working is 'back to normal'	Ongoing Report PFR summarising steps taken by office and estimated reductions
Reduce fly-tipping by initiating regular large disposal days where skips are located at agreed points in town for public use.	Research costs and need, then approach partner organisations (CBC, Grand Union) to draw up a proposal for consideration by committee.	WG to investigate interest and costs for PFR to consider	1 st -3 rd Qtr with recommendations to PFR for 21/22 budget

Green Action Points

Steps Sandy Town Council will take to



Minimise Waste

Reuse

	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINES
Reduce/eliminate Council use of single-use plastics	Commit to stopping the use of single-use plastics by the Council, including resources for events.	O/WG to research areas for reductions	Long Temr (22/23)
Promote refill schemes	Investigate the launch of a scheme to reduce plastic water bottle pollution by allowing refill of bottles at Council office and participating businesses around the town. Evidence suggests that such schemes can encourage increased footfall.	WG	Long term (22/23 FY)
	Provide grounds team with reusable water bottles for use around the town while carrying out their role.	Office/DSO	Completed
	Encourage Members and staff to carry refillable bottles and re-usable cups to conferences.	O/WG	As and when in person conferences return
Promote reuse or repair of old goods	Investigate working with community groups to organise community swap shops and repair workshops, where people can get electrical goods mended, rather than sent to landfill.	WG –To look at feasibility and local contacts who may want to be involved	Long term (22/23 FY)
	Promote local people who can help repair items.		

Green Action Points

Steps Sandy Town Council will take to



Minimise Waste

Recycle

	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINES
Improve our understanding of the recycling process and opportunities for more efficient recycling	Councillors to visit local recycling centre to learn about recycling. Work with schools to see if a visit for young people can be arranged.	WG to organise a visit.	As and when COVID19 restrictions allow.
Carry out recycling at Council premises and encourage participation by the public	Collection of used stamps for recycling. (RBL, Leprosy and Church take stamps)	Office	Already in place. Completed
	Collection and recycling of printer cartridges and batteries.	O to investigate recycling of printer cartridges.	Completed (needs more advertising)
	Ask FOSCL if they want the Council to become a collection point crisp packets. If agreed publicise and arrange collections	Office Friend of Sandy Christmas Lights	Cancelled.

Green Action Points

Steps Sandy Town Council will take to



Minimise Waste

Recycle			
	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINES
Recycle office waste	Strengthen office recycling scheme for all office/administration waste .	Office	Ongoing with report to PFR in 4 th Qtr 20/21 to advise on progress
	Move to actively purchasing more recyclable office supplies.	Office purchaser to look for recyclable office supplies when making purchases	Ongoing
Recycle waste from litter bins	Invest in bins that have dual compartments for recyclable and general waste. Source quotes for disposal of this waste.	Council Office	Cancelled due to cost and impracticalities of recycling waste and separating recyclables
Explore/Investigate going paperless for meetings	Research feasibility, costs and Members views on moving to more paperless meetings	WG Office Council	Long term. Council has previously opposed.
Investigate holding car boot sales	Research setting up car boot sales and whether there is an appetite within the community for such activity	WG	On hold until COVID19 restrictions allow further consideration
Lobby/request additional glass bottle recycling points in the town centre	Identify areas where they could be stored and communicated to CBC Waste Team	WG CBC	Ongoing. Concerns issued to CBC about level of glass recycling points

Green Action Points

Steps Sandy Town Council will take to



Purchase Environmentally Preferable Supplies

Office Supplies and Consumables

	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINES
Support environmentally friendly suppliers and reducing carbon footprint	Where possible, the Council will only purchase environmentally friendly products – paper, cleaning materials, etc. Use ‘Fair Trade’ sources. List of approved suppliers.	Office purchaser to purchase environmentally friendly products when placing orders	Long term /Ongoing
	Investigate using only recycled/unbleached paper and purchase paper made from wood pulp from sustainable forests.	Officer purchaser to purchase recycled/unbleached paper when placing orders	Complete
	Purchase milk for meetings/office via delivery with reusable glass bottles, as opposed supermarket purchase of plastic milk bottles.	Office	Postponed due to reduced office working during COVID
	Buy local where possible to reduce transport costs and impact.	Office purchaser to investigate local suppliers	Ongoing
Standardise purchasing to support green aims	Develop and agree on environmental procurement policy as part of wider environmental policy.	WG - draw up draft procurement policy	2022/23

Green Action Points

Steps Sandy Town Council will take to



Incorporate Environmental Factors in Decision Making

Using the Council's Voice and Power

	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINES
Use the Council's voice to influence other local organisations' and businesses' decisions and actions in environmentally-positive ways	Be outspoken in our support of planning and projects which would offer enhancements to Sandy's natural environments, and in opposing those which would be detrimental.	DS Committee/ Cllrs	Ongoing. Consider each application received.
	Account for impact on the environment and use of eco-friendly methods and developments when considering and commenting on planning applications.	WG/DS/Cllrs	Ongoing. Consider each application received.
	Encourage local businesses to make environmentally-friendly operating choices, e.g. stopping use of plastic bags.	WG – to research and draw up communication	22/23 or at a time when COVID19 allows.
Use the Council's decision-making and spending powers to improve our local environment	Protect and, where possible, enhance the quality, extent and accessibility of Sandy's open greenspace, trees and natural environments. See Council Recreation Ground investment plan.	O/WG	Ongoing – Recreation plan contributes to Council's ambitions

Green Action Points

Steps Sandy Town Council will take to



Promote Environmental Issues and Engage with Community

Promote			
	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINES
Promote steps we can all take, as individuals, to have a positive impact on environmental issues	Use social media to promote shopping locally and reducing speed whilst driving in the town to reduce vehicle emissions.	WG/Town Centre Group	Ongoing
	Vocally support and take part in Earth Day and Earth Hour.	WG – ideas on how to support Earth Day (April 22 www.earthday.org) & Earth House 8.30-9.30pm March 27 2021 www.earthhour.org	Proposition for 1 st Qtr 21/22
Promote sustainable community travel	Encourage more walking, cycling, car-sharing and use of sustainable public transport links.	WG – Draw up publicity	Ongoing
Promote tele-commuting and web-conferencing	Promote use of new technologies which enable remote meetings/working to limit travel.	WG	Ongoing

Green Action Points

Steps Sandy Town Council will take to



Promote Environmental Issues and Engage with Community

Encourage

	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINES
Encourage public use of green spaces and healthy living	Install and promote new adult gym equipment in recreation grounds.	CSE Committee	Complete
	Social media promotion of walking and cycling routes in and around Sandy.	O/WG/Green-wheel Group	Ongoing
	Promote environmental events such as Great British Spring Clean (litter picking)	Events Group/Office	May/August/September each year.

Community, Services and Environment Committee

Date:	17th July 2023
Title:	Sunderland Road Recreation Ground - Ditch
Contact Officer:	Deputy Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider a report on a proposal for the Council to declare itself the riparian owner of the ditch that runs the full length of Sunderland Road adjacent to the recreation ground.

Recommendation

2.0 That the Council declares itself the riparian owner of Sunderland Road ditch that runs the full length of the recreation ground.

2.1 That the Council approves the action set out in the report to clear and maintain the ditch.

2.2 That clearance and tree works be undertaken at a cost of £1,300.

2.3 That the option to pipe the ditch be submitted for consideration for funding in the 2024/25 budget

Background

3.0 The ditch has been of concern to the Council for some time. It is likely that the ditch has some effect on the drainage of Sunderland Road Recreation Ground. The ditch is completely blocked and overgrown with trees, shrubs, weeds, and reeds as well as litter and debris from the adjacent industrial estate.

3.1 The Council has sought advice from the Bedford Internal Drainage Board (IDB) on the ditch. It confirms that the ditch is blocked and therefore does not function as it should. It also advises it is not part of its network and therefore it is not sure of its function but it clearly meets up with main water drainage somewhere off site. The Deputy Clerk also consulted with Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) because he wondered if it was a highway drain. The portfolio holder for Highways has confirmed it is not in the ownership of CBC Highways. Members are reminded that Sunderland Road was created as a recreation ground, it is on clay and has a very limited drainage system in place. Therefore, the ground can only cope with so much rain before waterlogging. It is thought that if the drain was cleared it would assist in the drainage of the area.

3.2 As the riparian owner the Council would maintain the watercourse, clear any obstructions so water flow is not impeded. The TC would ensure upstream flow can flow downstream without obstruction.

3.3 Once the initial tree works and clearance works have taken place the ditch would be maintained as part of Sunderland Road Recreation Ground.

Proposed Works

4.0 The IDB would assist with the clearance of the ditch but there could be a six-month delay and costs of up to £1,000 plus the requirement to close the road to allow the works to be carried out safely. An alternative solution is to engage volunteers from Sandy Football Club and Sandy Cricket Club and other volunteers to initially clear the six metres of the drain where it goes under Sunderland Road at the junction with Berwick Way. It is also suggested a litter pick of the general area could also be organised. The IDB would provide clearing rods to unblock the drain. The Deputy Town Clerk is organising volunteers from Sandy FC and Sandy Cricket Club. Ward Councillor Simon Ford will also arrange for volunteers from the community to help as well. The work will take place in September/ October to ensure the nesting season is over and the work will not disturb reed buntings in the area. NB there are concerns locally, that although a litter pick of the area would be popular the manpower needed to carry out the work cannot be sustained and there could be issues relating to hazardous working.

4.1 Alternatively, the Council could look to mechanically clear the ditch at both ends (10 metre stretches) and try to locate any outlet pipes from the recreation ground. This could be done over a couple of days with a digger and grabber lorry at a cost of £1,500 - £2,000. It would be necessary to remove the ascot rail to ensure the vehicles could get access to the ditch. This could be done by the Grounds Team but would affect work schedules. Also, going forward maintenance of the ditch by the Grounds Team would need a risk assessment.

4.2 Another alternative would be to carry out the clearance works and have the ditch piped as it has been further upstream. Costs to be determined

Financial Implications

5.0 The initial works will be undertaken voluntarily There may be costs of providing refreshments for the volunteers. Works to remove bushes and trees in clearing the ditch may cost £500.

5.1 Mechanical works to clear the ditch could cost up to up to £1,000.

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.

Sandy Town Council

Date:	17th July 2023
Title:	Electrical Vehicle (EV) - Proposed Installations in Sandy
Contact:	Deputy Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider a report on proposed installation of EV charging points in Sandy for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Recommendation

- 2.0 That the Council agrees to go into partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), namely the Sustainable Transport Team, to provide EV charging points in the Sandy Town Council carpark choosing one of the outlined options.
- 2.1 That the Council agrees to remove the barriers at the carpark point of installation to facilitate the installation and use of the EV charging points.

Background

- 3.0 At the meeting of this Committee on 27th March 2023 following a presentation by Tom Price, Sustainable Transport Officer from CBC it was resolved in principle to support the plans to install EV charging points and requested final plans. It was also noted that the proposals could have implications for the running of the car park and a working group be set up.
- 3.1 An on-site meeting was held with Mr Price and 3 members on 22nd June to discuss locations for the EV points. The area alongside Keech was discussed and discounted due to lack of space and its close proximity to the pedestrian crossing. To reduce costs and improve the proposal it was concluded that the best site would be adjacent to Shannon Court using the concrete ledge for the siting of the points with the cars being either side. This would be close to services which are present alongside Shannon Court and Mr Price was confident that this would bring the project down in cost to meet the budget. Mr Price would contact the landlord of Shannon Court to assess the access to the services and ask the provider to re-cost on that basis.
- 3.2 At the March meeting Councillors were concerned about the required width for each bay which would reduce the amount of car park spaces. Mr Price informed the Group that the spaces required for each charging point was now the standard bay width, with only one needing to be wider for disabled access. This would reduce the impact of the bays as previously stated at the meeting in March.

- 3.3 Mr Price reiterated that in order to proceed with the installation STC would have to remove the barriers to allow 24-hour access. This part of the agreement is non-negotiable.
- 3.4 Sandy as a site for EV charging Point was not chosen in 2022/23 due to being over budget. However, Sandy was put on the list for further consideration in 2023/24 but due to limited budget available and negotiations progressing with other Town Councils this report has been brought to CS&E for consideration in order to reduce the timescale and increase the possibility of acceptance.

Proposals

- 4.0 Mr Price has provided Council with the following two proposals which are being explored by CBC and BP Pulse:
- PROPOSAL 1: A bank of 4 x dual socket 7kW 'standard' charge points over 8 bays largely for residential use – 50% Govt grant funded, 50 BP Pulse funded / 6-8 hour charge time / providing an option within a 5-10 walk for the clusters of residents who do not have off-street parking and thus can't charge at home and likely won't feel comfortable getting an EV / expected that majority of charging will be overnight.
 - PROPOSAL 2: A bank of 3 x dual socket 50kW 'rapid' charge points over 6 bays for convenient charging for Sandy residents and for drivers on the A1 to use – 100% funded by BP Pulse / expected investment of circa £150k in Sandy / 30-60 min charge time / gives Sandy the opportunity for drivers to choose their town to come in and charge, spending money in the town centre whilst waiting.

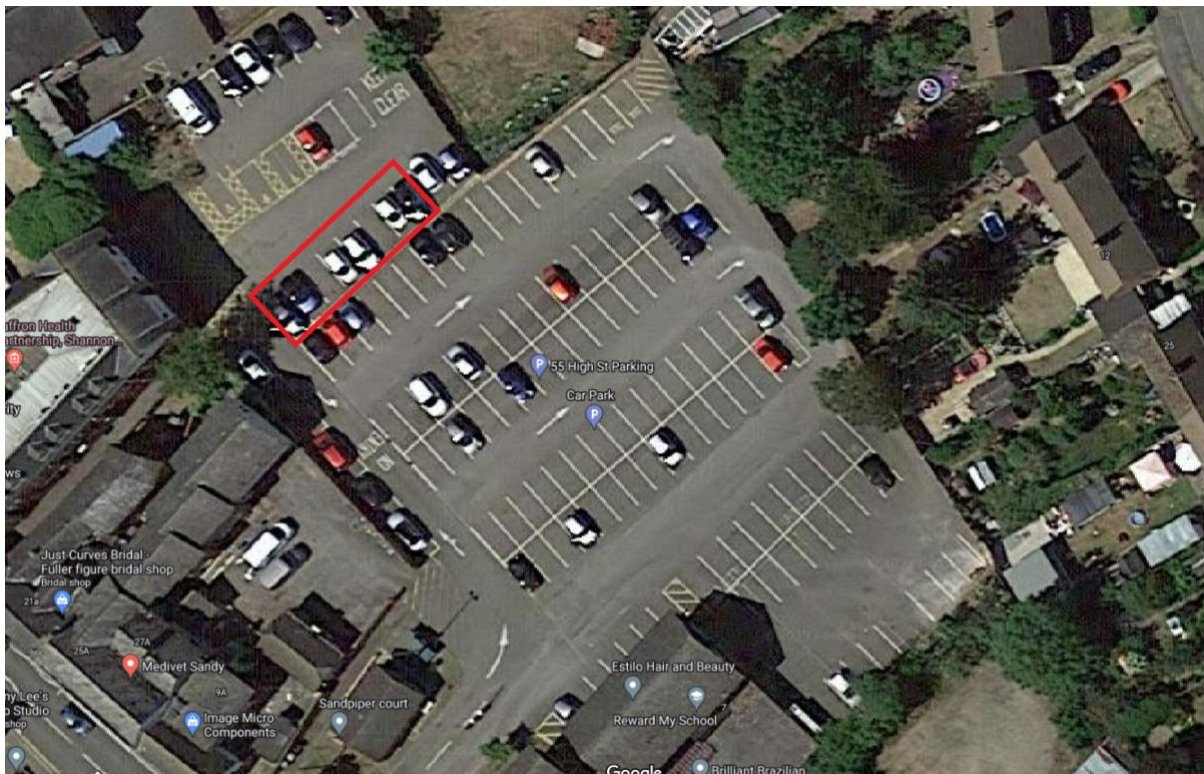
Two separate teams at BP Pulse are working on each project but we are trying to get synergy/joined up working on both where possible.

4.1 PROPOSAL 1

- This was previously costed and included in our last funding bid. The site had higher than average grid connection costs so CBC/BP Pulse are looking for ways to re-route the trenching, shorten the dig to reduce costs. Last funding bid was submitted at the end of 2022/23 financial year and was unsuccessful as the money in the pot had run out.
- CBC looking to submit a revised application into the latest version of that grant scheme (On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme), however high-cost sites are unlikely to be deemed acceptable by Govt under the latest grant criteria, hence the work to try and reduce the cost of putting these in at Sandy Car Park to try and get something in the ground for Sandy residents.
- One option for getting the point of connection to the grid is to trench down the alleyway next to Shannon Court building. Looking on the Land Registry, this seems to be in the ownership of the private company that own the freehold on that building. May be possible to undertake works here but could prove a challenge to get permission, will have to be explored. Will also look at other options for trenching. If that location does work, then the plan would be to

have a row of 8 bays adjacent to Shannon Court used (see red outline in image below). CBC will update in due course

- These 8 charge points would mean some revenue share from BP Pulse to Sandy Town Council as landowner, expected to be around 10-25%. Investment in the site is lower as it is 50% funded by grant funded and these 'standard' charge points are a lot less expensive to install, compared to rapids
- A Traffic Regulation Order would be proposed for the bays and proposed for enforcement by CBC Parking teams, with agreement by STC. On other sites, this has been max 6 hours during the day (8am-6pm), with no time restriction overnight. This stops people parking in the bays all day even when they have finished charging and don't want to move their car and stops commuters leaving the car in those specific bays all day whilst getting the train to work.



4.2 PROPOSAL 2

- This project has now moved over to the Implementation Team at BP Pulse and CBC are now in liaison following contract sign on this project. Sandy site is subject to full landowner agreement before any works will be progressed.
- This is for 3 rapid charge points over 6 bays (likely 5 standard sized and 1 accessible sized bays).
- No revenue share due to the level of investment from BP Pulse

- 4.3 For any these charge points to come forward, they need to be available 24/7 365 days a year to provide access at all times for residents and drivers. Without this, the Govt will not release grant funding and BP Pulse will not invest in sites. Please can Sandy Town Council discuss this matter and take a view either way as soon as possible so that we can continue to progress the site for both proposals.

Our main driver is to provide coverage in our settlements for residents who cannot charge at home, or who may need to charge in the town centre whilst shopping. It is also key to have a variety of charge types and speeds, hence the rapid charge points, and the benefit of drivers choosing Sandy to charge and spend money on coffee, groceries etc. rather than Baldock or Stotfold. We will also be looking for another site in the north of the town for more of the 'standard'/residential charge points, as well as looking to utilise pavement cable channels and lamppost charge points.

- 4.4 The responsibility for the equipment would be with BP Pulse. This would include repairs and replacements.
- 4.5 A letter of Acceptance has been provided by CBC for information and use if agreement progresses. It is attached as an annex to the report

Financial Implications

- 5.0 Proposal 1 includes a revenue share, whereas proposal 2 does not due to higher investment by CBC/BP pulse. We would not receive any income from the sale of car park passes once the points were installed and there may be costs involved in making repayments/refunds to cardholders.

Policy Implications

- 6.1 The Council car park currently has a barrier which was put in place to stop rail commuters from using the car park and therefore greatly reducing the available space for daytime users and visitors. A pass card system was introduced for those needing access prior to 8.30am. This pass was issued on a single charge/permanent basis rather than yearly. If agreement to install EV points goes ahead then no further passes should be issued and the Council be asked to consider the impact of compensating existing cardholders. It is unclear what impact the removal of the barriers would have as post-Covid the number of commuters has reduced with working from home being more prevalent. However, CBC would introduce Traffic Management Orders.

Legal Powers

- 7.0 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: 11th July 2023

To whom it may concern,

We, Central Bedfordshire Council, of Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford, BEDS, SG17 5TQ, can confirm that we are the local authority of the Central Bedfordshire unitary authority area and are working in partnership with Sandy Town Council, of 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, BEDS, SG19 1JE who are the freeholder of the named land enclosed within the attached title boundary plan.

Site Name: Sandy Town Centre Car Park

Site Address: High Street, Sandy, BEDS, SG19 1AQ

This letter confirms that Chargemaster Limited t/a BP Pulse, have been appointed by Central Bedfordshire Council as a registered CPO (Charge Point Operator) to install their electric vehicle charging infrastructure on this land and are permitted to install their own dedicated electricity supply points and services as is necessary for the purposes of charging electric vehicles.

BP Pulse are authorised to request new connection offers from the relevant Distribution Network Operator (DNO) and communicate directly with the DNO in respect of these services to be installed at this location.

Kind regards,

Insert Signature:

Iain Berry

Assistant Director of Assets

Iain.Berry@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

0300 300 4475

Insert Signature:

XXXXX, Sandy Town Council

POSITION

EMAIL

TELEPHONE

