

Sandy Town Council

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

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Sandy Town Council to be held online on Monday 1 March 2021 at 7.30pm for the purpose of transacting the items of business below.



Chris Robson
Town Clerk
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy
SG19 1JE
01767 681491
23rd February 2021

Notes:

- (1) Due to the current Covid-19 Coronavirus situation, the Town Council will meet virtually via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/>) as permitted in The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the 2020 Regulations”).
- (2) Meeting ID: 861 6494 6055

Press and public are cordially invited to attend. Those wishing to join the meeting should contact the clerk on clerk@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk in advance for the meeting password.
- (3) Members of the public wishing to address the Council during the public participation part of the formal meeting must make the Clerk aware of their intention before the meeting starts.

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

Under the Localism Act 2011 members of Council are not required to make oral declarations of interest at meetings but may not participate in discussion or voting on any items of business in which they have a Declarable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) and under Sandy Town Council’s Standing Orders must leave the room for the duration of all discussion on such items. (All members’ register of interests are available on the Sandy Town Council website or on application to the Clerk.)

Sandy Town Council

*This item is included on the agenda to enable members to declare new DPIs and also **those who wish to do so** may draw attention to their stated DPIs and also any non-declarable personal interests which they have declared under Sandy Town Council's adopted Code of Conduct and which may be relevant to items on the agenda.*

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

3 Public Participation Session

To receive questions and representations from members of the public. Members must raise their hand to indicate they wish to speak and the Chairman will advise them when it is time to do so.

4 Guest Speaker

To receive a presentation from Wild East.

5 Minutes of previous Town Council meetings

To receive the Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 18 January 2021 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

6 Minutes of committees and recommendations therein

To receive and note the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub-committees and (if applicable) to approve recommendations therein which do not arise elsewhere.

- i) Community, Services and Environment Committee held on 25 January 2021
- ii) Development Scrutiny Committee held on 25 January 2021 & 15 February 2021
- iii) Extraordinary meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 27 January 2021
- iv) Policy, Finances and Resources Committee held on 15 February 2021

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND the Internal Audit Report to the Full Council for approval.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND the 2021/22 calendar of meetings to Full Council.

7 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors

To receive reports from Sandy's Central Bedfordshire Councillors.

Sandy Town Council

8 Reports from External Meetings

- i) To note a summary of a meeting between representatives of Sandy Town Council and the Hon Richard Fuller MP Appendix I
- ii) To receive a verbal report from the Town Clerk on a meeting with Cllr Richard Wenham, the new Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council.

9 Annual Meeting of Council

To consider approving the potential to change the date of the scheduled Annual Meeting of Council. Appendix II

10 Action List

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

11 Neighbourhood Development Plan

To receive and consider a report from the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group. Appendix IV

12 Street Audit

To receive and note a written update from Cllr Pettitt on the street audit carried out by Councillors. Appendix V

13 Leisure Services

To receive any updates from the Clerk on the Jenkins Pavilion and Leisure Services in Sandy as a result of previous communication with Central Bedfordshire Council.

14 Correspondence

- i) To note correspondence from Central Bedfordshire Council's Environmental Protection Officer. Appendix VI
- ii) To note correspondence from Central Bedfordshire Council's Safer Communities and Partnership Team and consider a supporting report from the Town Clerk. Appendix VII

15 Consultations

- i) To note Central Bedfordshire Council have opened a consultation on Home to School and Travel Policies. Consultation closes on 22nd April 2021. Appendix VIII
- ii) To note correspondence on Central Bedfordshire Council's Changes to Special Schools and Additional Resource Provisions within mainstream schools consultation. Consultation closes 5th May 2021. Appendix IX

Sandy Town Council

- iii) To note correspondence regarding consultation on forest management carried out by The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Consultation closes on 5th April 2021. Appendix X

16 Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies

To receive the following reports from Council representatives on outside bodies;

- i) Report from Cllr M Hill on the Sandy Sports and Leisure Association (SSLA) committee Appendix XI
- ii) Report from Cllr M Hill on the Sandy Twinning Association committee Appendix XII

17 News Release

18 Chairman's Items

19 Date of Next Full Council Meeting: 12th April 2021

Sandy Town Council

Date:	1st March 2021
Title:	Richard Fuller MP meeting with representatives of STC
Contact Officer:	Chris Robson, Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive notes from a meeting between Richard Fuller MP and representatives of Sandy Town Council.

Recommendation

2. To note the report and the information within it.
3. To agree further discussion on the Council response to Mr Fuller's query on what the Council believes the main short-term priority for the A1 is and to communicate this to Mr Fuller's office.

Background

4. The Council previously asked that a meeting with the Hon Richard Fuller MP be set up so Mr Fuller could share any updates he had on a number of topics following a meeting with the Mayor and Deputy in early 2020. As well as hearing any relevant updates from Mr Fuller, the Council wished to ensure he was up to date on the current status of matters related to Sandye Place and Leisure Services in the town centre. Contact was made with Mr Fuller's office and he was able to meet with representatives of Sandy Town Council on 11th February 2021. For the purpose of this meeting, the Council's elected Chairmen represented the Council at the meeting.

Proposals/Information

5. The following report summarises points raised and discussed at the meeting for the information of all members.

Updates from Mr Fuller MP

The meeting heard from Mr Fuller on any points he felt relevant to the Council, Sandy and its residents. Mr Fuller informed the meeting;

- The pandemic has of course resulted in an unusual year, with natural actions eliminated by the focus to control and respond to COVID19, its risks and impacts. At some point it will be necessary to take stock and review governance over the last year.
- A large focus of the MP's work over this last year has focused on dealing with individual, often very personal issues for constituents. Over the year, the MP's office has received almost 25,000 emails from constituents, this is a mammoth amount in comparison to other years. The volume of communications has made it harder getting back to everyone within the usual timescales. For Sandy and its surrounding areas/towns, the risk posed to jobs and income is perhaps less than other areas, but the pandemic has hit a lot of people hard. For example, Bedfordshire has a lot of freelance workers who have been negatively impacted by the pandemic.
- There are two important occasions coming up, the Prime Minister's statement and the Chancellor's Budget. Within these, there may be more indication on how the country is going to manage 're-

opening' and reduction of lockdown correctly. How this happens is very important and Mr Fuller expressed his desire to hear people's thoughts on this.

- Mr Fuller spoke on the proposed housing numbers the government were requesting, stating that he felt the national target for Bedfordshire was far too high and that he was pushing back on this.

Sandy's Relationship with the A1

Members informed Mr Fuller that there were still safety issues in relation to the A1 that had not been addressed. Despite the lower traffic rates that may have resulted from the pandemic, the issues are still relevant.

Mr Fuller informed the meeting that he had received through A1, statistics from Bedfordshire Police, but he did not have permission to share these. Sandy Town Council could request figures directly from the police. As towns expand, there is an increasing safety concern for Sandy and the surrounding area and the Town Council are right to push for action in relation to the A1.

Mr Fuller stated he continues to raise the re-routing of the A1 when the opportunity arises. It is not easy or cheap. The removal of roundabouts has been suggested, and while this would help with transition through the area, it does not address some of the local safety issues. Emerging housing growth around the route of the proposed EWR will place more pressure on road infrastructure and Mr Fuller has asked Highways England how they will deal with the A1 in this context. Any re-alignment of the A1 would be very expensive, but if there is to be more housing, it must at some point reach the stage when that investment should be made. If housing does come forward as a result of the EWR project, Mr Fuller will argue for the re-routing of the A1.

Mr Fuller spoke in regard to the average speed cameras and changes to the speed limits that were previously proposed. Do Members feel this would have helped improve this stretch of the A1? Mr Fuller asked Sandy Town Council to send him details of its key short-term priority in addressing current safety issues with the A1. He will then lobby on our behalf to get action taken in regard to this priority.

Action – *Sandy Town Council to consider its priority action for the A1 and inform Mr Fuller so he can lobby on the Council's behalf.*

East West Rail

Mr Fuller informed the group that he had been shocked at the EWR corridor decision, as he had previously been briefed that a different corridor option was to be chosen. EWR is interacting with those councils who are likely to be directly impacted by the proposed route. A consultation on a more detailed route for the line is imminent and it is expected that this will provide more information on where exactly the line is to go.

It was queried whether Covid19 would have an impact on such infrastructure projects going ahead. Mr Fuller said that the Chancellor's budget refers to the EWR line and it is expected to go ahead and move relatively quickly. Mr Fuller asked that the Council let him know its thoughts on the consultation when it is published, including any concerns regarding the existing Sandy station. Any concerns will be passed to the Rail Minister. Mr Fuller confirmed he will ask for the status of Sandy station within the EWR plans when he next meets with the Minister. Due to the chosen corridor and probable route of the line, the risk to Sandy station is low.

Sandye Place

Members explained that the issue of Sandye Place was linked to leisure provision and the Town Centre. The Town Council is aware of issues around DfE holding the lease to the site. However, this is an extremely important site, and its community use could benefit the entire town. Members expressed their

frustration at the lack of communication from CBC and noted that it seems difficult to get things moving forward. The Council and residents of Sandy would not want to see this important site sat vacant for an increasing number of years.

Mr Fuller expressed his view that towns will need to adapt to meet the changing needs of residents. With the potential of increased homeworking, struggling retail, less commuting and a change in work-life balance, people will want community space within their towns. As such, small towns may be in high demand. They have reasonable priced houses, good commuting links and a nice ambiance for a better work-life balance. There needs to be an ambitious plan that looks at Sandye Place and other sites to see what opportunities could be provided to benefit the town now and in the future. Retail is only part of a town centre and the development of 'dwell space', which is going to become increasingly important. Not to be ambitious at this stage would do the town a disservice.

It was noted that the DfE does present some obstacles. However, 18 months ago STC presented its plan/vision for the site to CBC. To date STC have had no formal response to the plan or any information on how discussions in relation to the site are developing. The vision put forward considered many of Sandy's needs, including ambitions CBC will no doubt have, such as a new care home. There is concern that there are no plans in place for the site that would allow CBC to move forward when they are able to do so. If CBC could approach the DfE with an agreed plan it would start the progression of the site.

Mr Fuller felt that STC and CBC needed to be brought together to get a plan in place that all parties could work towards. Mr Fuller is happy to assist in pushing for such joint working and vision. Now is the time to look at options together and make a plan that might attract funding. Mr Fuller reiterated that he is happy to be used as a resource during meetings between CBC and STC. It was agreed that the matter would be raised with Cllr Wenham, Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council.

Leisure Services

Members updated Mr Fuller on the background and current status changes to leisure in Sandy and the concerns that the leisure proposal does not meet the town's need. It was pointed out that although the town has not benefited from development contributions, there is a large population which pays its council tax and should be provided with the leisure services they need. Following an initial meeting with CBC in regard to the future of leisure, progress has since been slow.

Mr Fuller stated that he saw his role as a facilitator to bring parties together to discuss issues and that it was clear some open discussion was needed between CBC and STC. He would include Councillors' concerns in his meeting with the Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council.

Struggling High Streets

The meeting discussed the challenges facing high streets and the additional pressure COVID19 has placed on the local economy. Mr Fuller shared his view that work must be undertaken to help smaller businesses and that he would like to see business rates replaced with a digital rate tax. This would provide a far better rate for local businesses.

Social Care Funding

The Clerk brought to Mr Fuller's attention a previous Council discussion on social care funding as part of Local Authorities precepts. Councillors had raised concerns that dealing with growing social care costs should be addressed nationally, rather than through each individual authority's precept. Mr Fuller said there had now been an NHS restructure announcement and while there are some issues around bringing together social and primary care at a local level, consideration of social care costs may play a part in this new structure. It is too early to say, and we will need to see what evolves from the bill.

Future Meetings with Councillors

It had previously been agreed to hold a meet and greet between Mr Fuller and all Councillors. Due to COVID19, this was not able to happen. Mr Fuller stated that he was happy to have a meeting with Councillors and suggested that it might be best to do this after the next budget announcement. This will need to be a virtual meeting.

Additional Points

Flight paths – Mr Fuller has contacted the Minister in regard to Luton airport and is looking to put an amendment to a bill asking that all consultations on flight paths are stopped for the present time.

Police Funding – Mr Fuller has met with other MPs for Bedfordshire to discuss the formula for funding Bedfordshire Police. Together these MPs will be pushing the government for a review on the way Bedfordshire Police are funded as the current formula does not take into account crime levels linked to large areas such as Luton and Luton airport.

Beeston Community Land – The Clerk updated Mr Fuller on the difficulties experienced in getting a lease in place with CBC for community land at Beeston. Mr Fuller asked that details and a timeline be provided to him and he would raise the matter with the Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council. Action completed.

Sandy Town Council

Date:	1st March 2021
Title:	Annual Meeting of the Town Council
Contact Officer:	Chris Robson, Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive a report from the Town Clerk on the Annual Meeting of the Town Council and to consider granting authority to the Chairman and Town Clerk to re-schedule the meeting if required.

Recommendation

2. To delegate authority to the Chairman and Clerk to change the date of the scheduled Annual Council Meeting should the need arise.

Background

3. At the outset of the Government's first national coronavirus lockdown, Council meetings were suspended due to restrictions on meetings taking place. The Government brought into force the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) Regulations 2020. These will be referred to as "the 2020 Regulations". The regulations permitted Town and Parish Councils to conduct Council meetings virtually to allow business to be transacted and the work of Councils to continue within Covid restrictions. These regulations run until 7th May 2021.
4. The Annual Meeting should be held between 1st March and 1st June and the pandemic meant that the Council was not able to hold its usual Annual Council Meeting, at which it would have elected a Mayor and made committee/representative appointments. Regulation 4 of the 2020 Regulations provided that where an appointment would have otherwise been made or was required to be made at an annual meeting of a local authority, the existing appointment would instead continue until the next annual meeting of the authority or until such time as that authority may determine (Regulation 4 (2)). As such all appointments have continued on over the past year as previously appointed.
5. The next Annual Meeting of the Council, at which the election of the Mayor, Deputy and Committee Chairs and membership will occur, is scheduled for 24th May 2021.

Proposals/Information

6. The Government is not currently planning to extend the remote meeting regulations beyond 7th May 2021. NALC, along with other local government bodies, is continuing to press for an extension in case there are still restrictions in place which make transacting council business at meetings difficult. Guidance on preparing for and managing the return of physical meetings in May and beyond is also under development.

7. Councils must hold an Annual Meeting of the Council before 1st June 2021. It is advised that Councils look to hold their Annual Meetings before 7th May 2021 so that they are able to ensure they are legally carried out under the 2020 Regulations in case regulations are not extended and some restrictions on meetings are still in place between 7th May and 1st June 2021.
8. The Council are asked to consider delegating authority to the Chairman and the Clerk to re-schedule the Annual Meeting of Council to an earlier date, potentially to the 12th April when a Full Council meeting is currently scheduled or the 26th April when the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled, should the need arise.

Financial Implications

9. There are no financial implications

Policy Implications

10. There are no direct policy implications, but the Council must hold an annual meeting and allowing for this meeting to be brought forward will ensure it takes place legally and that the Council meets its statutory obligations.

Legal Powers

11. The following powers apply;
 - The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) Regulations 2020.
 - Local Government Act 1972, sch 12

Risk Management

12. The Annual Meeting of the Council will meet points set out within the Council's Corporate Risk Assessment which has been reviewed and agreed by the Policy, Finance and Resources advisor.

Town Council - Action list

Subject	Action to be taken		Response/ Agenda no.
	Minute	Action	
Meeting 9/11/15			
East West Rail Link	(89-15/16)	Town Council strongly support the East West rail link coming through Sandy and to lobby the relevant authorities.	Route E announced as preferred corridor. EWR recently launched 'The Hub', an online space to engage with EWR. No further direct communication to STC. Matter raised with R Fuller at meeting on 11/02/21 – notes on agenda for Members information.
Meeting 21/5/18			
A1 – Local Issues	(19-18/19)	To push for decisions on the future of the A1 and action on safety and environmental issues.	Mayor and Deputy Mayor previously met with MP Mr Richard Fuller to put forward Sandy's concerns relating to the A1 and other matters. Matters raised again at meeting with Mr Fuller on 11/02/21. Notes on agenda for Members' information.
Meeting 17/12/18			
Sandye Place Academy	(142-18/19)	That the Town Council place on record its opposition to any future residential development on the site and all other aspects the site could be used for as highlighted in the Council's Community Plan and that CBC Ward Councillors support the Council's position.	The Council previously met with Mr Keaveney and continued to engage with CBC to put forward residents' concerns and Sandy's needs as part of a CBC Option Appraisal. Lack of formal response to STC's options report raised in a letter to CBC's Director of Children's Services and in meetings with Richard Fuller MP and Cllr Richard Wenham, Leader of CBC. Notes from meetings will be circulated to Members.
Meeting 14/12/20			
Councillor Street Audit	(77-20/21)	Members to carry out an audit of streets and report back concerns or areas in need of attention to Cllr Pettitt, who will compile a report.	Members submitted audit feedback to Cllr Pettitt. Update report including in Agenda Item 12.

Sandy Town Council

Date:	1st March 2021
Title:	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Contact:	Cllr Gibson, Chair of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Purpose of the Report

1. This is the second Neighbourhood Steering Group report for STC. The purpose is provide Members with an update on progress that is being made and the key actions at each Council meeting as agreed in the Terms of Reference. Since the last full meeting of Council, the Steering Group has met twice and this report covers the highlights from both meetings.
2. Following further interest from the residents in Sandy to join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, to request that the number of members be increased from 10 to 12.

Recommendation

3. That the Council agree to amend the Scheme of Delegations for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to allow for 12 members as opposed to 10.

Background

4. The following provides background information on progress since the last meeting.
 - The Parish of Sandy has been accepted by CBC as the area that will be covered by the Neighbourhood Plan.
 - At the meeting on the 21st January, CBC representatives responsible for supporting parishes with Neighbourhood Planning made a presentation and responded to questions from the group. There are 79 parishes in Central Bedfordshire of which 39 are currently undertaking a neighbourhood plan, with 8 having held a successful referendum.
 - Two additional residents came forward during January and expressed an interest in working on the Neighbourhood Plan. It was decided at that meeting that both had skills that would be extremely useful, and the group unanimously agreed to request that that the Steering Group number be increased from 10 to 12. This will give us more resources to work in parallel on aspects for the plan.

Detailed Information

5. We have now begun to form Working Groups to focus on specific areas and can meet to progress tasks outside of the formal monthly meeting.
 - IT & Communications – recommended we Drop Box - a cloud-based document sharing and repository, to share evidence and working documents - this will be free to use and accessed by invitation only. We have also created a Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page that will be one of our primary tools to connect with the community and stakeholders. Twitter and Instagram accounts have also been created.

- Project Plan & Budget Management – will recommend the project plan tool to be used and report back at the next meeting.
- Community Engagement – our first opportunity to meet with residents face to face will be 31st May, we will take a stand at the Spring Craft Market to be held in the Market Square.
- NP Subject Headings – to scope the topics to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. Once we have agreed the topics, further Working Groups will be established with leaders for each.

Date of Next Meeting

6. The next meeting is on 18th March - we will continue to meet on Zoom for the next few months, then hopefully be able to meet in person from July.

Author: Cllr Amanda Gibson

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 1 March 2021
AUTHOR: Cllr Martin Pettitt
SUBJECT: Street Audit

This update is based on the 8 reports referred to previously while hoping further reports will be received from other Members in due course relating the areas of Sandy allocated to them.

Reports received to date have been separated into categories and set out on 4 spreadsheets which I have headed:-

1. Specific Highways Defects, notably potholes, broken / worn / rutted carriageway requiring resurfacing, sunken or broken kerbs, loose / broken or missing drain covers and blocked drains.
2. Road Markings.
3. Pavements & Verges.
4. STC, Aesthetic and Other Issues.

I have endeavoured to prioritise by the description provided and in some cases by going out to look for myself and have usually taken one or more photographs to accompany the report when submitted online to 'FixMyStreet'.

To date, 17 matters have been reported to CBC in Category 1, 3 in Category 3 and 1 in Category 4. Almost all acknowledged with an individual Reference Number in order that progress (or otherwise) can be tracked to establish the up-to-date position. Some positive progress has been made with evidence of white paint around some defects etc. and an indication on the website that remedial action has been scheduled.

In a few cases the message is that CBC will take no immediate action but will monitor or intervene when considered appropriate.

There are 2 matters where CBC Highways has declined to take any action at this time and which I believe merit special noting:-

- **Category 1.** Deep Pothole where the northern exit from Beeston joins the A1 northbound into left turn slip road. Cllr Hill and I agree that this is almost certainly not a Highways England (HE) problem. However, it was reported on 'FixMyStreet' on 29 January but rejected and I was recommended to redirect via a link provided to HE which happened the same day. HE similarly rejected it and advised it be redirected back to CBC which was done, but with the same outcome and with no Reference allocated. All emails etc. were forwarded to Ward Councillor Stock also on 29 January seeking her intervention.
- **Category 3.** 40 metre length of footpath between Nos 28 & 30 Swansholme Gardens. I should declare a personal interest living in the near vicinity. The tarmac surface is degraded across a large part and is in a generally poor

condition. The sublayer is breaking up, creating trip and slip hazards. Matters are made worse by a bordering Leylandii hedge encroaching and narrowing the width and contributing to the build-up of moss. The condition of which I was already fully aware has been reported to me by several residents who do not live in the immediate vicinity, including one who is disabled and uses an electric wheelchair. The condition was reported in August 2020 and rejected for action. Reported again on 28 January 2021, and given Ref No 350168. CBC's response was that having inspected the defect, they did not judge any repair work was necessary but would continue to monitor. I suggest this is not a sound decision and would urge we invite one of our Ward Members to intervene and pay a visit.

There are presently 12 further matters to report in Category 1, and 2 each in 3 & 4 which I felt to be of less urgency, but these will be reported in the coming fortnight.

To date no matters regarding Road Markings have been reported to CBC, not because there are none and to the contrary, there seemed to me too many to submit, en bloc! Spreadsheet 2 'Road Markings' does currently have only 13 locations where Members identified the need for lines with clear safety implications to be re-marked and it currently includes none in the area I allocated to myself. That is because there are so many.

Summary

I look forward to receiving further reports, the findings of which I will seek to integrate onto the 4 spreadsheets in the coming weeks.

- I will work through the remainder of the potholes and other defects on spreadsheets 1,3 & 4, submitting more reports a few at a time to 'FixMyStreet'.
- I suggest that when a more complete list of where fresh road markings are required, that it be provided to our Ward Members with a request that the matter be raised in the whole in preference to a very significant number of individual reports, certainly 50 + being logged using the 'FixMyStreet' tool.
- That in regard to the two matters referred to in detail above, that our Ward Members be invited to try to: 1) Resolve the apparent impasse with HE and 2) Look at the footpath concerned and offer an objective opinion on the merits or otherwise of remedial work being required.

Finally, I'm sure all Members will have been encouraged to read the Department for Transport paper published on 15 February 2021 circulated by our MP entitled, 'Funding Allocated to Local Authorities to Fix Potholes'.

In his covering note, Richard Fuller welcomed CBC having been allocated £2.473m adding, "This funding will mean our councils can ensure that local roads are both safer and easier to drive and cycle on , as well as reducing the risk of damage to vehicles for road users".

I can only urge that we do all we can to ensure that a fair share of this funding comes to Sandy to bring our roads up to a safe and acceptable standard.

Fly-tipping

Peter Byrne

To: Clerk <Clerk@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk>

Dear Clerk to The Parish Council,

I am writing to all parish councils (79) in Central Bedfordshire, asking for some assistance.

I am an environmental protection officer. One of my roles is the investigation of fly-tipping incidents. I am looking at innovative/new tactics to assist in reducing this type of offence. No one tactic alone will seriously reduce fly-tipping, but by using all tactics we can make a difference.

Explanation - There are many reasons fly-tipping occurs. One reason is householders paying unlicensed waste collectors to remove waste. The unlicensed collector does not want to pay waste deposit fees at waste centres, so they tip the waste anywhere. Normally, transactions between householder and waste collector are done in cash. There is a hidden economy, with no income tax being paid. There is the cost to the local authority and council tax payer (on average £135,000.00 a year in Central Bedfordshire), to remove fly-tipped waste from public land. There is the unknown cost to private landowners.

I like many these days belong to village/town Facebook (FB) groups. I regularly see posts from people asking "can anyone collect some waste?" This is usually met by several replies from would be waste collectors. Many replying state they have a waste transfer licence, fully legit etc. Most will not be. Not living in the respective villages I cannot be part of the local FB group.

The idea – to persuade FB admins, **every time** when they see communications, people offering to collect waste or replying to people asking for waste to be collected, every time, they ask to person to upload an image of their waste carriers licence (credit card size). This will help to protect local communities from using these clandestine and illegal operators. Individual householders are issued £300 fines if fly-tipped waste is proved to have come from their address. It will identify those who do not have a waste carriers licence, so communities can avoid those. It will help in the overall objective of keeping our country-side, villages and towns clear of illegal fly-tipped waste. In many respects it is a digital type of No Cold Calling Zone initiative.

How can you help? If you are part of your local FB group, please forward this to whoever is the FB Group admin. Please pass my contact details and this idea. Would the parish council be my bridge on this please?

I appreciate any help you may be able to give.

Kind Regards

Peter Byrne

Environmental Protection Officer

Community Safety

Central Bedfordshire Council Watling House, High Street North, Dunstable, LU6 1LF

Direct Dial: 0300 300 4437 | Internal: 74437

Email: peter.byrne@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

www.safercentral.org

Twitter: [@safercentral](https://twitter.com/safercentral)

Facebook: [Safer Central](https://www.facebook.com/safercentral)



SaferCentral

Community Safety Partnership

*Information security definitions:



Dear Clerk

I am writing to you to introduce myself, I am Julia Hobson-Cooper and I am a Safer Communities Involvement Officer working within Central Bedfordshire Council's Safer Communities and Partnership Team and I have been allocated as your Single Point of Contact for the team, to enable you to have an individual person who you can contact regarding any community safety queries or issues you may have.

As part of my role I would like to work with you to co-produce a Community Safety Plan. The aim of this plan would be to work together, and with our partners, to tackle long term community safety issues which you face in your area. In normal circumstances, I would arrange to come and meet you at your offices, however, with the current restrictions in place this is not possible, so I would like to arrange a Microsoft Teams meeting with you, to introduce myself and my role, to talk through our Community Safety Plan idea and to learn about the community safety issues you have in your area.

If you are open to meeting with me, then please contact me, my details are in my signature, so that we can arrange a mutually convenient time for us to meet. I look forward to hearing from you and hopefully working with you in the near future.

Kind Regards,

Julia Hobson-Cooper
Safer Communities Involvement Officer
Safer Communities & Partnership Team
Community Safety, Parking & Programmes

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

Direct Dial: [0300 300 6271](tel:03003006271) | Internal: 76271 | Mobile: [07388372416](tel:07388372416)

Secure email: Julia.Hobson-Cooper@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Sandy Town Council

Date:	1st March 2021
Title:	Community Safety Plan
Contact:	Chris Robson, Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive a report from the Town Clerk in relation to communication received from Julia Hobson-Cooper, Safer Communities Involvement Officer at Central Bedfordshire Council.

Recommendation

2. To agree that the Town Council work with Central Bedfordshire Council to co-produce a Community Safety Plan for Sandy.
3. To appoint a Councillor/s to act as main liaison/point of contact with the Safer Communities Involvement Officer alongside the Clerk to help co-produce a Community Safety Plan. That those Councillors act as representatives of the Council in feeding back the Council's safety concerns to the Safer Communities Involvement Officers.
4. That updates relating to the progress of the plan be reported to the Community, Services and Environment Committee.

Background

5. The Clerk has held initial discussions with Julia Hobson-Cooper on the development of a plan and highlighted current community safety concerns in Sandy. Safer Neighbourhood Officers are now operational and patrol up to 10pm at night. Safer Neighbourhood Officers have included areas in Sandy reported to them by the Clerk in their patrols, these include areas where residents had reported concerns to the Council office.
6. As detailed in her letter, Julia Hobson-Cooper will be the Council's key contact and will be spending time in Sandy each week out in the community and liaising with the Council.
7. The Community, Services and Environment committee previously discussed creating a rota of Councillors to attend fortnightly sessions with Central Bedfordshire Council's Community Safety Team. This was before information on developing a Community Safety Plan was received and an alternative approach may work better for the Council and Councillors.

Proposals/Information

8. That the Safer Communities Involvement Officer work with the Town Council to produce a short document which highlights safety concerns in Sandy and actions that can be taken in response to those concerns. The document will look at short-term and long-term issues and may take the format of an action list/table. The details within the plan will of course need to be developed but may include how information will be fed into the team and may also involve the

production of shared template letters, leaflets or information documents that can be used by either Council to advise and inform residents. Where there are community safety concerns that do not fall under the remit of the Safer Communities Team (i.e parking issues), signposting to the correct departments for action/support can be included in the plan.

9. The Council need to feed in its community safety concerns and the Clerk and Safer Communities Involvement Officer feel it would be useful to have an appointed Councillor/s who could work with them on the development of the plan and build up an ongoing relationship representing the Council with the Safer Communities Team in reporting concerns. Drop in sessions with the Community Safety Team will continue and any member can sign up for a drop in session if they wish to do so. However assigning a Councillor/s to work directly with the Safer Communities Team and report issues/concerns within Sandy would be a more effective approach in building a relationship between the Council and the Safety Team.

Financial Implications

10. At this stage there are no financial implications, and it is not envisioned that a Community Safety Plan would result in the commitment of finance from the Town Council. It is likely there will be some implications in the form of printing of posters/advertising material which can be accommodated within the Council's existing printing budget.

Policy Implications

11. The production of a plan will help the Council meet some of the objectives within its Community Engagement strategy through partnering with CBC Community Safety to find ways of engaging with and informing residents within our community.

Legal Powers

12. To be reviewed during development of the plan and any proposed actions for the Town Council within that plan. Council holds the General Power of Competence, for which Sandy Town Council is eligible and is a power of first resort (Localism Act 2011, s.1)

Risk Management

13. Not applicable at this stage. May be risk management issues that arise within a plan which will be addressed and reported back to the Community, Services and Environment committee as part of a progress report.

Sandy Town Council**Date: 1st March 2021****Subject: Central Bedfordshire Council Home to School Travel Consultation****About our home to school and college travel assistance policies consultation**

Where they meet certain criteria, we currently provide transport assistance to pupils of school age and those attending post-16 education.

Our home to school or college travel assistance policies for Central Bedfordshire are being reviewed. As part of this, we held a number of listening events for parents, carers and professionals, and the feedback highlighted a number of improvements that could be made to ensure they are clearer and fairer.

We've considered the feedback and efforts have been made to create updated draft policies that are consistent and concise, where the eligibility criteria for home to school transport is clear to the reader. In reviewing the policies, we closely followed Department for Education (DfE) guidance and looked at policies from other local authorities.

Reasons for updating the policies

During our engagement sessions, parents told us that:

- the eligibility criteria for school transport is unclear
- policy information is too long and does not have enough emphasis on children's needs
- for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), the policy focuses too much on their education, health and care plan (EHCP), rather than the individual's specific needs
- there is no guidance for people over the age of 19 and in education
- if parental mileage is to be considered as an alternative to commissioned transport, there needs to be a simpler process and parents need time to consider their options
- flexibility needs to be considered if a child lives in two homes

We also heard from professionals, who said that the policies were hard to find and that it was difficult to interpret what a child should be entitled to.

In response to the feedback, we're proposing to:

- updating our policy for children under the age of 16, extending the eligibility criteria to cover more groups of children
- update our policy for 16 to 19 year olds so that it is clearer for parents to understand, with the eligibility criteria remaining the same
- create a policy document outlining the eligibility criteria for people over the age of 19

This consultation seeks to understand the public's views on our review of these policies. Responses to the consultation will help to inform the updated policies, before we adopt them.

Timescales

The consultation is open from 28 January until 22 April. The consultation feedback will be considered at our Executive Committee meeting on 8 June before finalising the new policy.

Any changes to the policies will come into effect for the September 2022 intake of pupil admissions.

How we're consulting

Anyone can respond to the consultation. Please [view or download the consultation document \(PDF\)](#), which we encourage you to read before responding.

Our proposals for our home to school or college travel policies, in more detail**Travel support for 5 to 16 year olds**

The policy for 5 to 16 year olds covers the majority of pupils who receive home to school transport support. Based on our feedback, this is where the majority of changes will be made. We are also rewording the eligibility criteria to make it clearer for parents – this wording can be found in the consultation survey.

We are proposing the following:

- travel assistance will be offered from two homes for any eligible children who live in a joint custody arrangement with both parents; this should enable children to spend time with both parents without being impacted by transport to school and is in the child's best interests (limitations will be placed on this so that travel assistance from a second home will only be offered **where a** route already exists, or where re-routing a current special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) route would not have an additional cost or be detrimental to other children)
- applications for SEND pupils will be assessed by need, rather than solely on their education, health and care plans (EHCPs)
- the fact that distance criteria will not apply for pupils with SEND will be made clearer
- passenger assistants on SEND transport will be trained to administer medication in an emergency and to support children and young people with challenging behaviour
- emphasis will be put on modes of travel assistance other than bus and taxi, where it is financially beneficial to us (for example, parents may be offered mileage payments to enable them to transport their children to school)

Travel support for 16 to 19 year olds

We are not making any changes to the eligibility criteria in our existing 16 to 19 travel assistance policy, but we are rewording it to make it clearer for parents and practitioners. The proposed wording can be found in the consultation questionnaire.

The policy ensures that those most in need of support receive it and those who are able to pay the cost of their transport do so. This includes those aged 16 to 18 and those who started their course before their 19th birthday.

We prioritise the following groups:

- those on a low income
- those with SEND
- those with medical needs
- looked after children and young people

Travel support for 19 to 25 year olds

The introduction of the over 19 policy ensures that young adults with significant SEND, who would be unable to travel to their education placement independently, get the right support to remain in education, while increasing their independence. The eligibility criteria for this policy is outlined in the consultation questionnaire.

As adults, the majority of learners will be able to make their own transport arrangements. However, in circumstances where a young adult is unable to make the journey, we will consider whether transport assistance should be provided.

Our ref: SH/HYS/SEND
Tel no: 0300 300 4383
Email: sue.harrison@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Date: 4 February 2021

Dear Clerk,

I am writing to inform you that, following approval from Executive last month, we have launched a public consultation on proposals to make changes to Central Bedfordshire's four Special Schools and create additional places for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) within mainstream schools.

This is part of the Schools for the Future programme, which is a long-term plan to raise education standards and make sure Central Bedfordshire has the right schools, in the right places, delivering the best education.

Residents and stakeholders will be able to have their say on proposals to increase places from around 700 to 950 across the Special Schools – The Chiltern School, Ivel Valley School, Oak Bank School and Weatherfield Academy. These schools would also relocate or expand between 2023 and 2026.

For SEND places in mainstream schools – known as Additional Resource Provision – the proposals are to create a further 92 places between 2023 and 2025, with a greater geographical distribution across Central Bedfordshire. This would be in line with future need in Dunstable and Houghton Regis; Harlington; Sandy; Shefford and Stotfold; Biggleswade; and Leighton-Linslade.

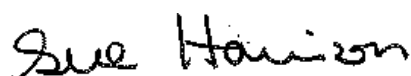
In mainstream schools, the aim is to also include multi-use/nurture spaces, where there is space to do so.

Further information, including the consultation questionnaire, can be found online at www.schoolsforthefuture.co.uk/send. We will also provide the schools with a range of consultation and communication materials, including leaflets, questionnaires, posters and letters to help inform their staff, governors and parents about the consultation.

Additionally, we will be informing other key stakeholders including our Ward Members and MPs. We will also promote the consultation to the wider community via social media and our email alert subscribers.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to come back to me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Harrison".

Sue Harrison
Director of Children's Services

From: ForestryConsultation <ForestryConsultation@soilassociation.org>
Sent: 22 February 2021 17:12
To: ForestryConsultation <ForestryConsultation@soilassociation.org>
Subject: Forest Management carried out by The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) SA-FM/COC-005221

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Forest Management carried out by The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) SA-FM/COC-005221

In April we will carry out a Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) Forest Management assessment of forest management by The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in UNITED KINGDOM. They will be assessed against the requirements of the FSC-STD-GBR-03-2017 V 1-0 EN; UKWAS 4.0 (2018)

A full list of the forest / woodland locations within their Group Scheme will be available on request and feedback regarding management practices at any of these sites is welcome.

We would welcome any comments you have on;

- a. forest management carried out by The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and/or sites within their Group Scheme and/or
- b. the FSC Standard being used (you can view this standard at <https://ic.fsc.org/en/certification/national-standards> / <http://ukwas.org.uk/>)

To comment, please complete our online stakeholder feedback form, using the link below:

www.soilassociation.org/stakeholderconsultation/

The deadline for comments is 05-Apr-2021.

If your comments are site specific, please state very clearly which site they refer to.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Yours faithfully

Andy Grundy

Kind regards

Forestry Consultation team | Soil Association Certification | Tel: +44 (0)117 914 2435 | www.soilassociation.org/forestry

Sandy Town Council

Date:	1st March 2021
Title:	Sandy Sports & Leisure Association (SSLA)
Contact:	Cllr Hill

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the latest updated report from the Secretary of Sandy Sports & Leisure Association (SSLA) produced in February 2021.

Summary & Key Bullet Points

2. Summary below:
 - Beginning with the planning consent required for the proposed fence realignment as part of the refurbishment project. Martin Pettitt believed he had emailed CBC Planning Department in late December with all the outstanding paperwork which Chris and he expected would take around 21 to 28 days to be processed etc. However, a technological blip meant this did not happen, but it has now. Hopefully this will not hold matters up or result in any delay to the tendering process.
 - MP has kept in touch by phone with Matt Young and they spoke twice recently. Matt's advice is that it would be appropriate to recommence the tendering process in early March. He would propose initially to invite 4, maybe 5 companies to tender, subject to Planning Consent. Each interested company would probably decide to send a single representative to look at the site and carry out a survey. Arrangements would have to be made for access to the pitch and someone, perhaps himself would meet, well socially distanced, to let them in and out. Ahead of that there would need to be discussions with Phillip at Stevenage Leisure in order to obtain the necessary keys, for necessary sanitising etc. Any SSLA members unhappy with this timescale should let the Secretary know as quickly as possible.
 - Assuming the decision is to proceed, then once all tender bids were in, Matt would envisage attending a virtual meeting involving everyone, at the end of which the bids would be opened. Such a meeting would also provide an excellent opportunity to conduct other business, notably perhaps an AGM, to receive accounts, assess our financial position and so on. That might take place sometime in early April. Hopefully, all SSLA members would be in a position to join and participate in such a virtual meeting using the Zoom platform.
 - Malcolm Oxley, our Case Manager at Sport England sent an email in early February seeking an update on plans for the refurbishment. This was sent and the following reply received: "Thanks for your email – it's great to hear that things are progressing. I'll look forward to receiving further updates as you have them."
 - There have been a number of further exchanges and virtual meetings with CBC Officers and on Tuesday 17 February Andrzej Juraszek, the Leisure Services Contract Manager emailed to say; "I have chased the lease and will get you an update by next week".

- The Charity Commission has recently reminded the secretary that a return for the financial year up to 31 March 2020 is due. MP has asked Treasurer Phil to collate some figures which should enable him to provide the CC with sufficient information even if as is the case we do not at this time have a set of audited accounts available.
- **Author: Cllr Max Hill**

Sandy Town Council

Date:	1st March 2021
Title:	Sandy Twinning Association
Contact:	Cllr Hill

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on the situation around Sandy Twinning Association and twinning links going forward.

Much of the following article is to be used by the monthly publication France magazine which is seeking to promote a national campaign about the future of twin links with France.

Will town links with France survive Brexit and the pandemic?

Sandy's Twinning Links

2. Summary:

It is hoped that the town of Sandy will celebrate 40 years of its twinning link with the Normandy town of Malaunay in 2022, but after two whole years of no exchange visits whatsoever, there are concerns that long-established town links will not survive the double whammy of Brexit and the pandemic or at best will continue at a much lower level than in the past.

Even before the pandemic and Brexit, town links like ours were struggling. The main reasons for this were obvious:

- Traditional links with countries such as France and Germany were established after the last World War to help rebuild bridges between communities across the continent. This is no longer relevant to many in the population.
- A weekend trip to Normandy no longer has the attraction it did forty years ago, and budget holidays are much more appealing to the younger generation.
- Fewer and fewer students are studying French to a meaningful level in state schools and interest in links with foreign communities and exchange visits has waned greatly. For both students and workers, asking for a day off to take part in a cultural visit abroad is nowadays very much more difficult than it used to be.
- Many traditional twinning links became nothing more than social jollies back in the 80s and have found it difficult to move on from this.
- Trying to agree a suitable long weekend for a coach visit to France is increasingly difficult as we have hardly any Bank holidays in common. Take away Christmas and Easter and there is not much left.

The impact of Brexit is as yet difficult to calculate but there are potentially further nails in the coffin:

- From October 2021 Europeans will need a passport to visit the UK and will no longer be able to simply use their identity cards as they can for travel throughout the Schengen area. Many will be reluctant to pay around 90 Euros just for the privilege. It is not known how many French nationals do not possess a passport, but we are told there are quite a lot.
- For UK residents travelling to Europe, we will have to return to the days of the green card, if we want to travel with our cars, and from the end of 2022 we will also need to get an ETIAS form (a kind of visa waiver) which will cost us around 7 Euros and will last for 3 years. Not over-onerous but just another niggling chore.
- New customs and passport regulations will inevitably slow up the crossing of borders from the UK to France however you travel.
- As for the pandemic, this has already put paid to all twinning-type activities for effectively two years at least, and given that a sizeable percentage of those who take part in traditional visits are in the senior age-group bracket, it is likely that there will be some reluctance to travel to the continent for the foreseeable future.

All in all, the future looks increasingly uncertain. It may well be that traditional twinning links will become nothing more than small-scale exchanges between families and interest groups. Better than nothing but a long way from how things used to be, and given that such links are capable of providing personal enrichment in so many different fields: cultural, social, linguistic, aesthetic etc., it is difficult to conclude that our own quality of life won't be significantly impoverished.

It is worth adding that our Polish link with Skarszewy perhaps stands more chance of surviving long-term than the Malaunay connection. This is because it is not dependent upon family exchanges and has only involved small numbers. Small interest groups such as fishing and bird watching may wish to continue and much will depend on whether or not the schools wish to continue to be involved in the English summer schools after a two-year break.

Both links were founded on declarations of co-operation drawn up by Town Councils in all three countries and any decision to terminate the links would need to be taken at council level.

Author: Cllr Max Hill