

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 in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 1 November 2021 commencing 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
26th October 2021

Following the easing of Covid19 restrictions the government has stated that it is 'expected and recommended' that people should wear face coverings (unless exempt) in crowded public settings. Due to the size of the Council chamber and the potential number of people present, Councillors, officers and members of the public continue to be strongly encouraged to wear face coverings before, during and following the meeting except when invited to speak.

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

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

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

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

Sandy Town Council

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 Minutes of previous Town Council meetings

- i) To receive minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 20th September 2021 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.
- ii) To receive minutes of an extraordinary meeting of Sandy Town Council held at 7.00pm on Monday 11th October 2021 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

5 Minutes of committees and recommendations therein

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

- i) Development Scrutiny Committee held on 4 October 2021 and 18 October 2021
- ii) Community, Services and Environment Committee held on 4 October 2021
- iii) Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 18 October 2021

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Council accepts the legal advice received from NALC and agree to the ongoing responsibility for maintenance of two tracks across Beeston Green. **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND** that additional quotes for repair work be obtained.

- iv) Human Resources Committee held on 20 September 2021

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that two employees on minimum wage be moved to the NJC pay scales at SCP1 and that this be effective from October 2021. Associated costs are to be factored into the budget setting process.

6 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors

To receive reports or points of information from Sandy's Central Bedfordshire Ward Councillors.

7 Action List

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

Sandy Town Council

8 Motion – Cllrs N Aldis, R Lock

“That this Council welcomes the new Bus Strategy for Central Bedfordshire Council introduced following the Government’s initiative to encourage greater bus use which was recently approved by the Council’s Executive. That the Town Council recognises the importance of bus services to reduce reliance on car use and to cater for the mobility needs of those sections of the local community who cannot drive or do not have access to a car.

That the Council notes that under the Strategy some Sunday services may be re-introduced on core routes. That the Council considers that the Biggleswade to Bedford route via Pottton, Sandy, Blunham, Moggerhanger and Cople and via the hospital in Bedford should be designated as a core service under the plan.

That the Council instructs the Clerk to contact the Executive Member for Transportation and the Director for Sustainable Services at Central Bedfordshire Council stating that Sandy Town Council fully supports the re-introduction of Sunday bus services as outlined above in this motion. Copies of the communication be sent to the Honourable Richard Fuller MP, Central Bedfordshire Councillors for Sandy and the clerks of neighbouring parishes along the route of the service asking for their support.”

9 Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2020/21

A copy of the External Auditor’s Certificate and completed Annual Return for year end 31st March 2021 was previously circulated to members with the Policy, Finance and Resources Agenda. The Full Council must formally receive and accept the completed Annual Return.

10 Jenkins Leisure Extension Proposal

To receive and consider a recommendation from the Leisure Services Working Group on Central Bedfordshire Council’s proposed extension to the Jenkins Pavilion.

Appendix II

11 Street Audit

To receive a summary report from Cllr Martin Pettitt on the Councillor Street Audit.

Appendix III

12 Neighbourhood Development Plan

To receive a report from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Appendix IV

13 Correspondence

- i) To receive and note email correspondence about the former Cravin Coffee site at the Sandy train station.

Appendix V

Sandy Town Council

- ii) To receive further correspondence from Central Bedfordshire Council's Democratic Services Manager on Councillor Numbers and Wards.

Appendix VI

14 Consultations

- i) To receive and consider a public notice from Central Bedfordshire Council on proposed waiting restrictions at Medusa Way and Shannon Court.

Appendix VII

- ii) To receive and consider a recommended response from the appointed Working Group to the Highways England A1 Consultation

Appendix VIII

15 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 IX

- ii) Report from Cllr A Gibson on the Sandy Green Wheel Working Group.

Appendix X

- iii) Report from Cllr A Gibson on the Carnival Committee.

Appendix XI

- iv) Report from Cllr M Hill on the Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights Committee.

Appendix XII

- v) Report from Cllr M Hill on the Sandy Twinning Association.

Appendix XIII

- vi) Report from Cllr M Hill on the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity AGM.

Appendix XIV

- vii) To note from Cllr M Hill that there is no further news on the Talk of the Town (TOTT) minibus. The bus is still being used regularly as back-up to the ivel Sprinter.

16 Vulnerable Puffin Training Exercise

To receive and consider information from Central Bedfordshire Council's Emergency Planning Manager. To consider whether the Council wishes to appoint a representative to attend Vulnerable Puffin Training.

Appendix XV

17 News Release

18 Chairman's Items

19 Mayoral Engagements

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

Sandy Town Council

- Monday 27 September - Mayor and Mayoress attended Huntingdon Town Council's Police Memorial Day Service.
- Sunday 10 October - Mayor and Mayoress attended Rushden Civic Service.
- Sunday 10 October - Mayor attended Lord Lieutenant's Thanksgiving Service held at St Pauls Church, Bedford.
- Thursday 14 October - Mayor attended BRCC AGM.
- Saturday 16 October 2021 – Mayor and Mayoress attended Pride of Stevenage Awards.
- Sunday 17 October - Mayor and Mayoress attended Potton Civic Service.
- Sunday 17 October - Deputy Mayor attended Ampthill Civic Service.
- Wednesday 20 October - Mayor attended Sandy RBL AGM.
- Wednesday 27 October – Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllr Blaine attended Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils' AGM.
- Thursday 28th October 2021 – Mayor attended the unveiling of a new memorial bench in front of the sorting office, donated by the Sandy Branch of the RBL.

20 Date of Next Full Council Meeting: 13th December 2021

Town Council - Action list

Subject	Action to be taken		Response/ Agenda no.
	Minute	Action	
Meeting 9/11/15			
East West Rail Link	(89-15/16)	Town Council strongly support the East West rail link coming through Sandy and to lobby the relevant authorities.	The Council submitted a response to the most recent EWR consultation on 9th June 2021. Letter issued to MP's office reaffirming Council's view. No further update at time of issuing agenda.
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.	Representatives of STC previously joined a meeting with a representative from Highways England, facilitated by local MP Richard Fuller. Notes were received by Council. R. Fuller's office is pressing for a response from Highways England to matters raised at the meeting. Working Group response to Highways England consultation on agenda for consideration.
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.	Members received briefing notes from CBC on the process involved in getting the SPA site released from the DfE and educational use. Following the last meeting of the Council a response was issued to a letter received from CBC's agent in relation to educational use at SPA. Extra ordinary meeting of Council considered the CBC public consultation on SPA. Response sent re-stating Council's previous position and emphasising value of site as a community asset.
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.	Report from Cllr Pettitt included on agenda.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

Date:	1st November 2021
Title:	Jenkins Leisure Extension Proposal
Contact Officer:	Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide a recommendation from the Leisure Services Working Group on the next stage of the Central Bedfordshire Council Jenkins Leisure Proposal.

Recommendation

2. The following recommendation comes to the Council from the Leisure Services Working Group;
 - That the Council resolves to progress with Central Bedfordshire Council's proposed extension of the Jenkins Pavilion, subject to confirmation of the upgrade of Village Hall changing rooms as part of the overall project and ongoing discussions on future operational arrangements for the facility, along with continued stakeholder engagement.
 - That the Council express a preference for a lease option whereby a single lease covers the existing facility and the extension, providing a joined up operational, management and maintenance arrangement. That this is subject to seeing heads of terms and future discussions on operational arrangements.

Background

3. The Council was previously approached by Central Bedfordshire Council with a proposal to extend the Town Council owned Jenkins Pavilion to create a new gym, spin studio and workout studios. The Council agreed to work with Central Bedfordshire on the proposal in principle, subject to further feasibility work and consultation.
4. Central Bedfordshire Council has undertaken surveying and feasibility work on site, commissioned a condition survey, engaged a designer and project manager to develop the proposal, carried out a public consultation and liaised with sports clubs who use the existing Jenkins facility. The results of the consultation were shared with the Council and further discussions held. The Town Council now needs to indicate to Central Bedfordshire Council whether it wishes to proceed with the proposal and a preferred lease option, subject to further discussion and resolution on organisational and lease matters.

Proposals/Information

5. The Council has continued to engage with Central Bedfordshire Council officers as part of the extension proposal. If the project is to continue to move forward, Central Bedfordshire Council will require a resolution by the Town Council that they wish to continue with the project and what lease option, the Town Council would prefer in principle.
6. The Leisure Services Working Group has sought assurances from Central Bedfordshire Council that an upgrade to the Village Hall changing rooms can be included as part of the proposed project, thereby allowing for two more changing rooms in the 'leisure hub' area and helping address pressures on

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changing facilities. Central Bedfordshire Council have agreed to include this within the project and are to engage with the Village Hall about requirements/needs for the changing rooms.

7. Councillors have considered the ongoing feasibility of the existing pavilion, the proposed new facility and known operational issues when putting forward the recommendation to Council. The Working Group wishes to progress with the proposal to secure new and much needed indoor leisure facilities for the town, while securing operational changes that ensure the existing Jenkins facility focuses on sports club use. The Council has also considered the ongoing financial feasibility of the facility subject to an extension and differing lease options.

Financial Implications

8. There are no immediate financial implications to the Council at this stage. However, the Council will need to incur legal costs in the development of any lease agreement and surveying work that might be undertaken.

Legal Powers

9. 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:	1st November 2021
Title:	Street Audit
Contact Officer:	Cllr M Pettitt

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update and to give notice that this will be the final report, at least for the time being.

Recommendation

2. The Council receives and notes the report and accepts it to be the final report, in this particular format, for the time being.

Background

3. This initiative arose from a perception that the general state of the roads in the town had deteriorated, that CBC's programme of planned and emergency maintenance and repairs had fallen behind what was required even to stand still, and there was under-utilisation by the public of the FixMyStreet online tool to report and actively contribute towards reversing the situation.

That was more than 12 months ago.

All members of STC were invited to survey a part of the town and to feed information back to myself or to use the FixMyStreet tool themselves to report the defect, with photographs if possible and to collate and report back to enable me to try to maintain some statistics over the ensuing months.

The majority of Members responded positively, and a few came back asking to be allocated a second and even third area to report on.

However, the ongoing monitoring and reporting, not to mention preparation, of these regular reports has become too time consuming. I have put a note in my 2022 diary to review the overall situation in 12 months' time and will decide then whether to consider resurrecting it.

Information/Proposals

4. Approximately 150 new reports have been made to FixMyStreet as a direct result. These all relate to defects in roads, potholes, dropped kerbs, sunken manholes, etc. and are separate to road markings, either at junctions or elsewhere, of which there have been approximately 20. There have been a significant number (difficult to accurately confirm) of duplicate and follow up reports where a particular defect has either been declined initially for action by CBC or follow up work was promised but did not happen within a reasonable period of time. In quite a number of instances the first decision not to act was reversed, perhaps as a result of an additional report or reports from near residents, or there has at least been an undertaking from CBC Highways to, "monitor the situation".
5. At least 4 stretches of footpaths have been fully repaired as a result of reports and chase ups assisted in each case by support from one of our Ward Members.
6. Regular scrutiny (at least fortnightly) of the number of active and closed reports on the FixMyStreet site would strongly suggest that more and more residents have become aware of its existence and are

turning to it as their preferred first option. I suggest Stratford Road and more recently Sunderland Road, would be good examples of this.

7. Just as it was originally the perception that the state of the roads in Sandy were deteriorating, so the reverse is now perhaps true. Works done in the past few months whether planned or otherwise in Station Road, the High Street and Bedford Road and with Sunderland Road and Cedar Gardens to come, would suggest a welcome reversal to the previous trend.
8. That is not to suggest CBC are, "off the hook". There are streets, St Swithun's Way perhaps above all others, where major structural works must be undertaken soon and where no end of reports to FixMyStreet would provide a satisfactory solution.
9. The FixMyStreet tool is not limited to simply reporting potholes in roads and footpaths; it can and has been used effectively to report overgrown trees, poor signage, blocked drains and so on and with the option to provide photographs, add text etc. and add follow up information, makes it semi-interactive, useful and effective.
10. Finally, I hope that as an off shoot of this exercise and after initial discussions I had with the husband of a disabled resident, Cllr Maudlin's own initiative working with a resident of Quince Court, and CBC Officers, may spawn progress towards improving disability access into and throughout the town.

Author: Cllr Martin Pettitt

Sandy Town Council

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

Purpose of the Report

1. This is the 8th Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group report for Council. The purpose is to provide Members with an update on progress that is being made and the key decisions made at each Council meeting as agreed in the Terms of Reference.

Recommendation

2. That the Council note the information within the report.

Background/Information

3. The following report provides an overview of progress made since the last report at Full Council on 20th September 2021.

Initial Consultation Survey

- The initial consultation survey is now closed and the Steering Group have analysed the results of the 310 completed questionnaires with over 750 unique comments from residents which have been categorised into the key issues raised.
- From these responses the Vision and Aims of the Plan will be created and tested at upcoming community events before being finalised and published.
- The Key focus areas identified by the survey are:
 - Town Centre & High Street
 - Environment and Green Space
 - Infrastructure
 - Leisure & Culture, including Sandye Place
- The Steering Group also want to consider the inclusion of policies on Housing, Design Codes for future development, Heritage and Crime Reduction.
- Working Groups will be set up to progress each topic making their policy recommendations to the Steering Group before being presented to STC.

Business Consultation

- We have also consulted with businesses based in Sandy, hand delivering an invitation to participate in a survey to the High Street, Sunderland Rd and Sand Lane Industrial areas. To date we have received 26 responses.

Green Infrastructure Plan Update

- The Steering Group agreed on 21st October to proceed with an update to the Sandy Green Infrastructure Plan and engage with BRCC to complete the Green Infrastructure Survey.
- BRCC bring the expertise and tools to help us to complete this very important task and ensure that we comply with requirements for any designated sites in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The Cost of this is £3300 + VAT. In addition to this if we want to include designated green spaces in the plan a further estimate of up to £1,000 + VAT should be budgeted for depending on the number of sites to be assessed.
- A funding grant request will be made to Locality for the Green Infrastructure Survey to be undertaken by BRCC.

Sandy Town Council

Date: 1st November 2021
Title: Train Station Coffee Shop
Contact Officer: Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Councillors with further communication received on the closure of the coffee shop at Sandy Train Station.

Recommendation

2. That the Councillors note the communication.

Background

3. The Council previously received and considered communication between the Sandy Rail Users Group and into which it had been copied. The communication related to the closure of the 'Cravin Coffee' shop at the train station.
4. Members shared concerns raised by the Rail User Group in relation to the coffee shop closure. Members instructed the Clerk to write to Thameslink and Great Northern Railways (TGNR) outlining the Council's concerns, including about the reported level of rent required to be paid for the coffee shop unit.
5. Following the issuing of a letter to TGNR the Clerk received an email response from their Stakeholder Manager and was copied into further communication between the Stakeholder Manager and the Sandy Rail user Group.

Information

6. The following email communications were received by the Clerk and are provided to Members by way of update;

Sent: 13 October 2021 22:52

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

Subject: FW: Concern over unexpected closure of Cravin' coffee, Sandy.

Chris, you sent a letter in to GTR on the 21 September regarding the closure of Craven Coffee at Sandy station. I hope my email to Marc which you were copied in on provides you with an explanation as to why Craven Coffee left the unit.

If you require any further information please let me know.

With regards
Patrick

Patrick Ladbury
Stakeholder Manager
Thameslink and Great Northern Railways

From: Patrick Ladbury [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 October 2021 22:47
To: marc webber [REDACTED]
Simon Ford (Cllr) <Simon.Ford@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk>
Cc: Admin <Admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk>; Richard Fuller <richard.fuller.mp@parliament.uk>
Subject: RE: Concern over unexpected closure of Cravin' coffee, Sandy.

Thank you for the email. As mentioned in my previous email, we want to see all of our retail units occupied and providing a service to our customers and local residents.

Our commercial team are currently talking to a coffee vendor who runs a unit at one of our other stations regarding the vacant unit at Sandy. I hope to be able to provide you with more details about those discussions soon and, when my colleague returns from leave next week, about the response to the approach from the mobile vendor you mention in your email.

Regarding the rent costs you quoted in your email, our commercial team have given me permission to provide you with the figures we charged Craven Coffee for the unit, provided they are not shared publicly. [REDACTED]. During the pandemic we changed the way we charged rent and based the charges on the station footfall to reflect the drop in customers for our tenants. This reduced the rent by around two thirds for Craven Coffee during this period. We also worked on a number of deferred payment schemes with tenants during the pandemic.

Following their departure, Craven Coffee informed us that the unit at Sandy was one of their least profitable units, which, with the impact of the pandemic on business, was the main reason they left the unit.

I will be in touch again as soon as I have further information about the tenancy discussions.

With regards
Patrick

Patrick Ladbury

Stakeholder Manager
Thameslink and Great Northern Railways

Sandy Town Council

Date:	1st November 2021
Title:	CBC Democratic Services Manager – Councillor Numbers and Wards
Contact Officer:	Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Councillors with further communication received from Central Bedfordshire Council's Democratic Services Manager following an initial question received and considered at the last Full Council meeting about Councillor numbers.

Recommendation

2. That Councillors consider the latest response from CBC's Democratic Services Manager on warding of large parishes and advise the Clerk if they wish to pursue the matter of warding further with CBC.

Background

3. The Council previously received and considered the below communication from CBC;

Subject: Number of Councillors

Dear Colleague

You may recall that in 2018 we carried out a Community Governance Review (CGR) where, as part of the review, you were invited to consider the number of Councillors that you have to represent your Parish. My purpose in writing to you today is that notwithstanding the fact that normally we would not have expected to carry out a further CGR for a least 5 years (i.e. 2023), we have now received a request from one of the Town Councils seeking to reduce their Councillor numbers and as a consequence, I thought I would ask if any other Town or Parish also wished for their numbers to be reviewed.

Normally, a Town or Parish Council would have a minimum of 7 members and we would not be starting the process of carrying out a review until 2022 with any resultant changes being made in time for the 2023 elections.

4. The Council resolved that it did not wish to change the number of Councillors elected to Sandy Town Council and that this remains at 15. Councillors queried whether this would also be an opportunity to consider whether Councillors should be elected by wards, or if wards could be removed and Councillors just be elected on a town wide basis. Members noted that the correspondence was not asking about warding and asked that the Clerk write to CBC's Democratic Services Manager for clarification.

Information

5. The Clerk wrote back to CBC raising Member's query about Wards and received the following reply;

Dear Chris

There are several benefits of warding a large parish, but I can understand why it was suggested to abolish the wards in your particular case. Specifically, because I don't think that we have had

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elections in all your wards since the formation of CBC meaning that some members were elected without contest while others had to go to poll.

The idea of the ward is that a member can represent a definitive area making it easier for the electorate to associate/complain/seek assistance with their particular representative rather than the collective body. Additionally, it also helps the democratic process where a parish council is politically elected taking in to account the traditional voting pattern within certain demographics. The final and most important factor is the cost of elections. Currently we quote £3,000 to £4,000 per polling station for a by-election consequently a vacancy for the whole of the town could be as high £25,000 whereas a vacancy in a ward would probably be a quarter of the price. Any change to the existing warding would require a governance review.

Regards

Brian Dunleavy

Democratic Services Manager

Resources Directorate

PUBLIC NOTICE



CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE WAITING RESTRICTIONS ON MEDUSA WAY AND SHANNON CLOSE, SANDY

Reason for proposals: These markings are intended to prevent obstructive parking effecting the free flow of traffic and to address and to address indiscriminate parking in the vicinity of the school to improve the safety of pupils travelling to and from school.

Effect of the Order:

To introduce No Waiting at any time on the following lengths of road in Sandy:-

1. Medusa Way, west side, from the junction with Engayne Avenue and extending in a northerly direction for approximately 82 metres up to a point approximately 9.5 metres south of the property boundary between No. 18 and No. 20 Medusa Way.
2. Medusa Way, east side, from the junction with Sandy Bridleway No. 20 and extending in a northerly direction for approximately 6 metres, ending at a point where the existing School Keep Clear Markings begin.
3. Shannon Close, north-west side, from the junction with Medusa Way and extending in south-westerly direction for approximately 10.5 metres up to a point in line the south-western flank wall of No. 7 Shannon Close.
4. Shannon Close, south-east side, from the junction with Medusa Way and extending in south-westerly direction for approximately 10.5 metres up to a point in line the western flank wall of No. 2 Shannon Close.
5. Medusa Way, south-west side, from the north-western side of the junction with Shannon Close and extending in a north-westerly direction for approximately 20 metres.
6. Medusa Way, west side, from the south-eastern side of the junction with Shannon Close and extending in a south-easterly direction for approximately 25 metres, ending at point in line with the rear boundary of No. 1 Shannon Close.

Details may also be viewed online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices.

Comments should be sent by e-mail to highways.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk by 12 November 2021. Any objections must state the grounds on which they are made **and must quote unique reference number A00160**. If you want to send in your comments in writing please send them to the address shown below FAO Emily Hirst.

Please note that any comments received will be redacted of personal information and uploaded onto the Central Bedfordshire Council website as part of a report on the scheme a few days before the proposal is discussed at the relevant Traffic Management Meeting, where it will remain in the public domain. If you do not wish for your comments to be part of the report please state this explicitly within your response.

Order Title: If made will be "Central Bedfordshire Council (Bedfordshire County Council (District of Mid Bedfordshire) (Civil Enforcement Area and Special Enforcement Area) (Waiting Restrictions and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2008) (Variation No. *) Order 202**"

Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Chicksands
Shefford SG17 5TQ

Jill Dickinson
Assistant Director of
Community Services

22 October 2021

Medusa Way Proposal



Sandy Town Council

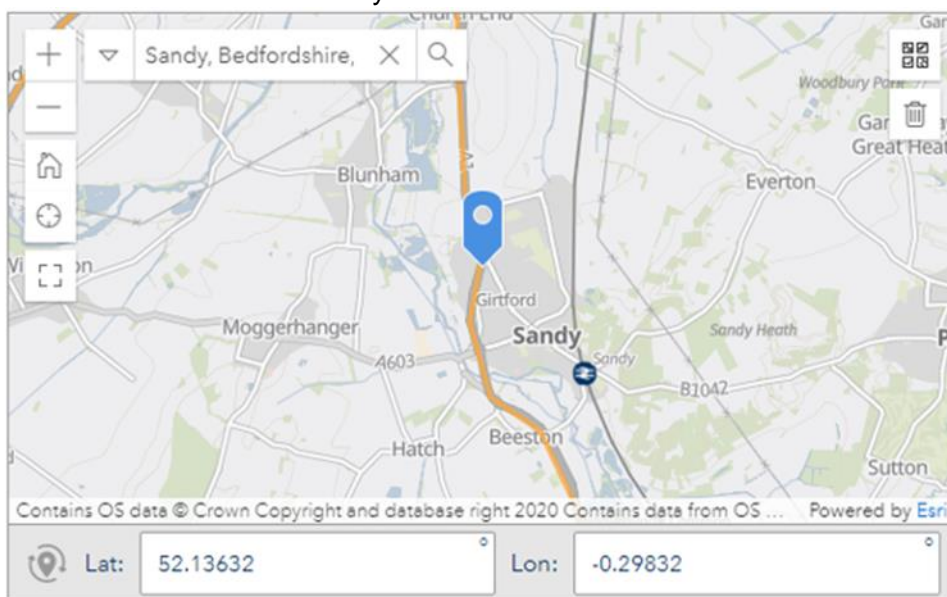
Date:	1st November 2021
Title:	Proposed Response for Sandy Town Council to National Highways Route Strategies Consultation
Contact Officer:	CLRs Blaine, Gibson, Hewitt & Sutton

Purpose of the Report

To provide Sandy Town Council with a draft response to the National Highways Route Strategies Consultation that highlights the ongoing issues with the A1 through the Parish. For Councillors to have the opportunity to review and make any amendments so that council can reach agreement on the response.

Introduction

Sandy is a Market Town in Bedfordshire where the Town Council has for many years been raising concerns regarding the A1 and its proximity to the Town. We have made multiple representations to National Highways highlighting safety of junctions, pollution and congestion all of which affects the quality of life of Sandy residents. We have asked for solutions from National Highways to address our concerns and requested improvements to be made at multiple locations of the A1 that bounds the town to the west and causes separation within the main settlement area with the communities of Beeston and Seddington both divided by the road. An unbiased person would look at this situation and say how can this be allowed to continue in the 21st century.



The problems that we as a community face daily are very well documented and have been presented multiple times with little or no improvements coming forward from National Highways. The last upgrade to the A1 at Sandy was in the early 1980's when a staggered junction controlled by traffic lights was replaced with a roundabout. This in itself is now a major problem.

Sandy boasts one of only 5 remaining roundabouts on the A1. Where other communities to the south and north have had bottlenecks removed and have effectively been bypassed the A1 at Sandy remains largely unchanged.

The RIS2 A1 East of England Strategic Study Stage 3 report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a1-east-of-england-strategic-study-stage-3-report> that was published in November 2016 shows all of the Sandy Issues very clearly, and makes a strong case for change.

The work carried out for RIS2 is still relevant today. There have been no improvements made to alleviate the problems identified in 2016 and in fact these are likely to become a lot worse because of the upgrades being carried out to the North with the Black Cat Roundabout being removed from the A1 traffic flow. This improvement will remove a major cause of congestion but as a consequence in 2025 Sandy will become the main bottleneck for traffic flow on the A1. This now needs urgent consideration to ensure that the road is fit for purpose, is safe and reliable for all users and that economic growth in the area is not negatively impacted by outdated road infrastructure.

Congestion and Safety

With the removal of the Black Cat roundabout it is estimated that there will be an additional 5200 vehicle movements per day on the A1. At peak times the A1 at Sandy is already over capacity and the roundabout is a major bottleneck both in the morning and evening. In the mornings traffic builds up 6.30 am until well after 9am causing slow moving traffic in both directions of the A1 and also the route where traffic enters and exits Sandy the B1042/A603 that crosses the A1. These queues cause road users, including HGVs, onto residential roads and B roads in an attempt to improve their journey times and creates a gridlock in Sandy town centre as a result.

It is the perception of residents that the A1 is becoming less safe for all users. Over the past few years there has been an increase in the number of accidents and road closures on the A1 at Sandy. Most of these are either at the Sandy roundabout or at the New Road junction to the south of Beeston where local and unnumbered junctions cross both carriageways of the A1. There are very few similar crossings left on the A1 to the North or South of Sandy. Most of these historical junctions have been closed, by passed or have had proper over pass junctions installed served by slip roads. Sandy should not be overlooked and the improvements that have been made elsewhere should be made here also.

Sandy, Beeston and Seddington are also somewhat unique in that there are houses and vehicle access points directly on the main A1 carriageway. This means that pedestrians also have to walk along the carriageway where there are no safety barriers between them and the traffic. The images below are taken from the RIS2 Stage 3 report, referenced above, show how hazardous and narrow the poor quality the pavements are.



There is one pedestrian footbridge at Beeston that is unsuitable for vulnerable users and cyclists which leads to many foot crossings of a dual carriageway that in 2017 recorded ~36,000 vehicle movements per day. <https://roadtrafficstats.uk/traffic-statistics-central-bedfordshire-a1-sandy-6079#.YXqR6xrMLIV>

The speed restriction of 50 miles per hour through Sandy and Beeston is not adhered to and with multiple vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians waiting to use the crossing points. This creates a more dangerous road where opportunity for human error is high. At many of the crossing points there are signs indicating no right turn, no U-Turn, again these are frequently ignored by road users causing other drivers to take avoiding measures for un-anticipated actions.

The recent increase in the number of accidents leading to road closures that can last several hours has a major impact on local roads and journey times for road users and has an adverse impact on the economy in the region.

Pollution

The pollution and Environmental issues through the Parish of Sandy are well documented in a series of reports from Central Bedfordshire Council and National Highways.

- 2015: Central Bedfordshire Council Air Quality Action Plan In fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 Local Air Quality Management 2019 – 2024

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/52/types_of_pollution/292/air_quality/3

<https://centralbedfordshire.app.box.com/s/3fnwcveo6d2jt15gnkta222palueg73h>

- 2016: A1 East of England Strategic Study Stage 3 report, link above
- 2017: Central Bedfordshire Community Plan, Section 8 covering parishes of Blunham, Moggerhanger, Sandy/Beeston, and Tempsford

<http://www.sandytowncouncil.gov.uk/upload/ckfinder/downloads/Appendix%20%20-%20Central%20Bedfordshire%20Council%20Community%20Plan%20for%20Sandy%20.pdf>

The monitoring of the A1 pollution at Sandy started in 1995 by Mid Beds Council and has continued under Central Bedfordshire Council.

In 2015 Central Bedfordshire Council identified two areas within the Authority that were designated as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) due to levels of nitrogen dioxide exceeding the Governments Air Quality Objectives. One of these was the A1 at Sandy (adjacent to the A1 from the Bedford Road/A603 roundabout to the Georgetown exit) in relation to breaches of both the hourly and annual NO₂ objectives.

Pollution has been measured in Sandy for 26 years and during that time has recorded successive breaches in levels of Nitrogen dioxide NO₂ which is acknowledged by Defra to be caused by transport. 2020 appears to be the only year that the government's aim to reduce traffic pollution occurred. This was of course an effect of Covid 19 and greatly reduced traffic movements. The amount of traffic is now returning to pre-Covid levels. With an increase in traffic levels predicted this will only get worse.

Sandy parish residents that live in close proximity to the A1, some within 1 metre from the main carriageway, are subjected to levels of pollution that are far in excess of the limit set by the World Health Organisation guidelines.

In the 2017 community survey responders asked for improvements to be made to the A1 to reduce pollution and improve the environment within the town caused by heavy traffic.

Summary /Conclusion

Sandy Town Council on behalf of the residents of Sandy ask that RIS3 gives full consideration the issues that identified in RIS2 stage 3 report and puts in place a strategy that will improve the A1 at Sandy for both users and the residents that live in close proximity to the current route.

The problems are well documented by government departments and our expectation is that Sandy will become a priority for National Highways, that funding will be made available to make the changes necessary to the A1 through our parish to improve air quality and safety for residents.

Sandy Town Council

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the latest updates from the Secretary of Sandy Sports & Leisure Association (SSLA).

Summary & Key Bullet Points

2. Summary below:

A great deal has happened with the pitch over the past month or so. There have been a couple of crises and disappointments, but the overall picture is now much more encouraging:

- The most important thing is that the new playing surface has been well received and welcomed especially by the members of the hockey club and their visitors.
- Creation of the spectator area on the north side has vastly improved things and linked with the enlarged recess on the south side accommodating the shelters should serve to make the facility a much more user-friendly playing and viewing experience. (The two brand-new larger player shelters were due to be delivered mid-October) and installed by SIS. Delivery and installation is now promised in week commencing 1s November 2021.
- The new winch cable and division net was initially a disappointment and gave rise to serious health and safety concerns. SIS have partly addressed these and made modifications but the new winch on the north side is still located outside the perimeter fence adjacent to the public bridleway and gives cause for concern.
- 2 weeks ago, all of the existing goals, 4 x hockey, 2 x full size football and 4 x 5 a- side were refurbished and fitted with new nets and in some cases new wheels. Thanks to SLL and Phillip in particular for organising and funding this work which was outside the scope of the main refurbishment project.
- Brian Page has kindly been working hard over the past few weeks to inspect all of the wooden rebound boards (around 300) and tightening and where necessary replacing missing nuts and bolts.
- An ex-demo Electric Vehicle, with only 9 hours on the clock manufactured by Etesia has been purchased and will be used in conjunction with the new drag mat on order from SIS, (delivery date to be confirmed) and replaces the stolen Kubota tractor. A representative of SIS was present at the original demonstration and confirmed the suitability of the Etesia unit for use on the new carpet without compromising their pitch warranty. SSL staff have been given the appropriate training on the use of the vehicle. A claim for the theft of the Kubota is being handled by SLL's insurers whose proposals are presently awaited.
- All of the trees in the car park have been pruned and several loads of branches, prunings and other debris removed from site. The school was informed that a number of branches inevitably fell across the fence onto their land and could not be retrieved. To date these remain where they fell.
- Phillip at SLL has been provided with a document / manual supplied by SIS outlining all day-to-day maintenance and special procedures. This includes an online record keeping tool which SIS can monitor to ensure work is being carried out in compliance with the manual and with their warranty.

On a disappointing note, at our last scheduled full Council meeting held on 20 September MP stated optimistically that he hoped an official re-opening event for the newly refurbished all weather pitch would take place on Saturday, 25 October. Such an event would have served as a timely opportunity to showcase and promote the facility anew and also to mark 26 years since Sir Trevor Brooking first opened the pitch on Sunday 17 September 1995.

Alas, it will not be happening; It's difficult to put a finger on quite why but it does seem to represent a missed opportunity. There has been some discussion around organising something in the Spring and this will certainly be discussed at the next meeting of SSLA Committee, which is being organised to take place, probably by Zoom, early in November.

Outstanding to be done.

- Payments for the project need to be progressed pending receipts of grants from Sport England and CBC.
- 2 x new player shelters to be delivered and installed, hopefully at the start of November.
- New drag mat to be delivered.
- Repairs to the wooden seats in the existing player shelters to be carried out by Sandy & Shefford Hockey Club.
- 3 x new signs to be fixed to the perimeter fence.
- Concerns around the winch on the north side to be addressed.
- All of the wooden rebound boards need a treatment with a wood preservative. The recommendation is that a knapsack sprayer or similar be used in conjunction with a suitable preservative.
- More clearance work etc. is required in the car park. Then the grass verges strimmed / cut which has in the past been undertaken routinely by The Secondary School / their contractors.
- The bases of the 8 x floodlight columns need to be inspected. Pre Covid quotes to be updated and suitable contractor instructed.
- Subject to our financial position when the, "dust has settled" and we have a full picture from the Treasurer then remedial works to the perimeter fence, notably on the north side either side of the various entrances will be required. Sandy Town Council has received comments and complaints from several residents concerned about protruding sections of wire mesh and single strands of wire low down causing potential harm to their dogs.
- SSLA committee to reconvene in early November.

Sandy Town Council

Date:	1st November 2021
Title:	Sandy Green Wheel Development
Contact:	Cllr Amanda Gibson

Purpose of the Report

1. To Provide members of Sandy Town Council with an overview of the plans for development and promotion of the Sandy Green Wheel following a Development Group Meeting on 13th November.

Recommendation

2. That Council receive and note the report.

Background/Information

3. There are multiple opportunities for improvement to Sandy Green Wheel. The development group meets every 3 months to discuss and agree the actions on how to progress each. There are multiple stakeholders and departments at CBC that we have to liaise with in order to get action taken.
4. Improve Crossing at A603 – at present the dropped kerb on the A603 outside The Meadows leads to a grass bank with no footpath. The current route follows the line of the kerb for cyclists and walkers and needs improvement. Currently negotiating with the contractor to reduce costs for a linking path.
5. Sandcast Wood disabled fishing platform – this is raised at every meeting and we have asked that this now be considered urgent. Funding has been in place for several years and we have asked for a project plan and installation timetable to be provided.
6. Beeston – Girtford – continue to explore an improvement to route and access from Beeston linking up with the path at Girtford.
7. Girtford to South Mills – Aspiration to upgrade the surface to be suitable for cyclists and mobility scooters. Path surfacing – one access point has been agreed to get materials to the northern part of route. Likely to need to transport the rest up/down the route using dumper trucks which will increase the cost. However, funding should be available. Aim for summer 2022 delivery but will be resource dependent.
8. Bailey Bridge – has had the surface repaired and is now safer to use for both walkers and cyclists. However, The Environment Agency want CBC to take ownership for the bridge. Negotiations are underway to agree the way forward which may include provision for a new bridge.
9. Tree planting and volunteer opportunities - Additional tree planting/habitat works to enhance the areas visible from the Green Wheel route is an aim with some funding from BRCC available. BRCC is happy to assist via the Ivel Valley Conservation Group using the core group and opening it up more locally for Sandy residents to be involved.

10. Planting due to take place this winter on Sandcast Meadows – including specimen parkland trees and a hedge around the edge. Sandcast Wood improvement is also to be considered as it's looking very poor in places and in need of works to improve.
11. 3 GW Challenge feedback - The challenge took place on Saturday & Sunday 11th/12th September. The event was deemed to be a success and is likely to become a feature of the Bedfordshire Walking Festival. 30 People attended at Sandy in the Morning of the 11th, with approximately 40 at Biggleswade in the afternoon. On Sunday 12th a smaller group of about 12 set out at Etonbury, not all completed the whole route.
12. Five people completed all three walks and all walkers received a 3GW Challenge badge thanks to Sandy TC which they appreciated. For future years potentially change the order of the walks: Etonbury first, then Biggleswade, then Sandy. Also factor in Potton once it has been launched.
13. Planning Issues – we agreed to include a review of planning applications at future meetings. This has two purposes.
 1. To get developer contributions for future enhancements
 2. To ensure that there are no ROW issues caused by new applications.
14. The application for the development at 6 Bedford Rd was discussed and noted that no S106 request was made for GW. Future large applications will be flagged so that GW can be included in any S106 or CIL discussions, infill developments or change of use may also trigger contributions in future.
15. Sandy Green Wheel Winter walk will be on the 9th January 2022
16. Next meeting will be on 19th Jan 2022 at STC

Sandy Town Council

Date:	1st November 2021
Title:	Sandy Carnival AGM
Contact:	Cllr Amanda Gibson

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide STC with an overview of the structure of Sandy Carnival Committee and the plans for the Carnival in 2022.

Recommendation

2. That Council receive and note the report.

Background/Information

3. The Sandy Carnival Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 19th October 2021 at the Village Hall. The meeting was open to the public but only committee members attended.
4. Due to Covid-19 restrictions there has been no Carnival, Events or significant changes to the Carnival financial position since 2019.
5. The Treasurer reported the current bank balance stands at £6586.13. Additional income in 2021 was from donations from businesses that didn't want the funding returned. There is also an outstanding deposit of £104.40 with the toilet hire company that we hope will be honoured in 2022 as no refund for 2020 was given.
6. Election of Offices for the coming year:
Chair - Hayley Stewart
Vice Chair – Tracey Fountain
Treasurer – Lorna Tucker
Minutes – Linda Swain
7. Role allocations were confirmed for the Carnival which will take place on 11th June 2022. The theme will be Anything Goes.
8. CBC have agreed in principle that the Carnival can be held at Sandye Place. There will be a meeting with CBC to review the site in the next few weeks. CBC has also agreed to make sure that the grass is cut and any debris from trees cleared ahead of the event. Sandy Carnival committee is grateful for the support from STC in this matter.
9. Sunday 21st November 2021 will be the delayed Prince and Princess competition to be held at Sandy Village Hall registration from 2pm. The winners will switch on the Christmas lights the following week.
10. Sandy Carnival will have a fundraising stall at the Christmas Lights event.
11. Next committee meeting – TBC in January 2022

Sandy Town Council

Date:	1st November 2021
Title:	Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights (FoSCL)
Contact:	Cllr Max Hill

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the latest updates from the Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights Committee (FoSCL)

Summary & Key Bullet Points

2. Summary below:
 - The annual switch-on event for the Sandy Christmas lights will be held on Sunday November 28th from around 13.30 to 17.30.
 - There will be more festive stalls than ever before, and all the usual attractions such as Santa's grotto, the funfair and a variety of stage acts. However, for obvious reasons only two of the local schools have agreed to take part this year.
 - The event will also coincide with the Christmas tree spectacular at St Swithun's church. As usual the actual switch-on will occur at 16.30.
 - All Councillors are warmly invited to attend and spend plenty of money! Any help on the day with setting up and clearing up would also be greatly appreciated.

Sandy Town Council

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the latest updates from Sandy Twinning Association

Summary & Key Bullet Points

2. Summary below:
 - A difficult situation exists at present. Our two partner towns are anxious for activities to resume in 2022 with the 40th celebrations to mark the Malaunay link next May the principal focus. The problem is that both France and Poland have very low Covid infection rates at present and whilst life is almost back to normal in both countries, there are more restrictions still in place than here as regards mask wearing and social distancing.
 - With infection rates back to almost epidemic levels in the UK, there is little interest at present in activities associated with twinning. I have had no response from either secondary school as regards the possibility of restarting the English summer schools in Poland and no suggestions at all as regards the Malaunay celebratory weekend.
 - Definitive decisions on what might be possible in 2022 will have to be made well before Christmas and I suspect the state of the pandemic will be the principal determinant.

Sandy Town Council

Date:	1st November 2021
Title:	Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) AGM
Contact:	Cllr Max Hill

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide a report from the AGM of the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity.

Summary & Key Bullet Points

2. Summary below:

This took place via Zoom on October 14th 2021. There were around 30 delegates present from across the County.

The chair commented that the organisation had coped amazingly well during the pandemic and many communities have made significant contributions.

BRCC is a surprisingly large organisation employing over 90 people. Its accounts are managed by BRCC Trading Services, whose accounts are approved annually by the Board with a covenant in place for any surpluses to be passed on to the charity. Income for the past year was just over £2 million with expenditure slightly less.

The Chief Executive then gave her overview of 2020-21. She believes Covid made them work harder and smarter. The 90 staff work across 5 broad areas and there are three main assets:

- The Barn shop at Cardington,
- The tea-room and museum at Ridgmont station
- The Warden vineyard.

Activities:

- Supporting communities; help given to 47 Good Neighbours groups. 35,000 tasks undertaken involving over 11000 volunteers. Cheering Voluntary Awards and Events 2020.
- Community and well-being; 5 villages targeted and community agents supporting nearly 1600 clients.
- Village and Community halls; Advice given to 79 during lockdowns.
- Green infrastructure; leading on 4 Green Wheels.
- Paused projects; Health walks, mobility hubs and conservation volunteering suspended during lockdowns but gradually restarting.
- Rural Development; Partner organisation in Eastern Community Homes. Active support given to 13 Neighbourhood Plan groups.
- Community transport; in partnership with Bedford Borough. Delivery of food parcels and trips to vaccination centres etc.
- Greensand Country Landscape partnership; now into its final year. Funding extended to November 2022 to enable completion of projects.

- Warden Abbey vineyard; kept running by volunteers. Antiques Road Trip visited in July.
- Bedford to St Albans Community Rail Partnership; more recent involvement with the Marston Vale CRP.
- Ridgmont station Heritage Centre; museum reopened in July 2020. Tea-room opened in December 2020.
- The Barn farm shop in Cardington; remained open throughout the lockdowns.

Sandy Town Council

Date: 1st November 2021
Title: Vulnerable Puffin Training
Contact: Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive communication from Central Bedfordshire Council's Emergency Planning Manager.

Recommendation

2. That Council consider the communication and whether it feels Sandy Town Council needs to have a representative partake in the training.

Information

3. Councillor R. Lock is the Council's representative on BLEVEC but is unable to make the training detailed below due to work commitments.

Mark Conway <[REDACTED]>
Tue 26/10/2021 14:29
Dear all (All BLRF Groups, BLEVEC)

The first Vulnerable Puffin Training Exercise will be held on Wed 10th Nov from 09:30 – 15:30. I am writing to ensure that you have nominated delegates and if not to please do so.

Vulnerable Puffin is an emergency training session, which includes an exercise element to help delegates learn. It is focused on the recovery phase after an emergency. Delegates will get awareness training on vulnerable people procedures (Bedfordshire Local Resilience Forum (BLRF) Vulnerable People Plan) and exposure to a scenario that highlights the importance of quickly being able to identify vulnerable people, settings/premises.

The aim is: To expose delegates to the challenges of working in a multi-agency Vulnerable People Cell in an emergency, test your internal arrangements for accessing your vulnerable people data and familiarising you with the BLRF Vulnerable People Plan to ensure you are better prepared and informed to take on a role in helping the most vulnerable in a real emergency.

Who should attend?

Vulnerable Puffin does not have a set limit on the number of attendees that can attend from each organisation. It is suggested that you open invites out to all relevant departments that are involved in dealing with vulnerable people, settings/premises. It is expected that:

- Each organisation nominate at least one person that would likely attend a Vulnerable People Cell.
- Local Authorities should consider having at least one person from Adult Services and one person from Children's Services. Local Authorities could include delegates from other areas such as Housing, Sheltered Housing, Care Commissioners, Care Providers, Children's Centre managers, Care home managers etc.

- Utility companies vulnerable people leads would benefit from attending this exercise and are built into the scenario; this will be an excellent learning opportunity and any utility companies that operate in Bedfordshire should attend this training exercise.
- Members of the BLRF Command Support Team including secretariate support and Decision Loggists etc.

Recommendations for who else should attend:

- Each organisation who are members of the Vulnerable People Cell detailed in the BLRF Vulnerable People Plan should provide a representative to represent their organisation
- Any person who is likely to be a Support/Staff Officer for an officer attending a Vulnerable People Cell
- Any person that could be a Chair of a Vulnerable People Cell.
- Any BLEVEC Commanders that are likely to represent BLEVEC on a Vulnerable People Cell
- Any coordinators of a Bedfordshire Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for example a Town or Parish Council representative
- DHUCL to understand local vulnerable people issues and gain experience.

Please send any names or nominations to LRF.Mailbox@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Kind regards

Mark Conway
Emergency Planning Manager
Public Protection