

# 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 24 May 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  
18<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## **Notes:**

(1) Due to social distancing guidance that remains in place as part of Covid19 prevention the following meeting will take place remotely over the Zoom platform. The Council has adopted a scheme of delegation to permit the Town Clerk to enact agreed actions from the meeting.

(2) Meeting ID: 293 491 7858

Press and public are cordially invited to attend. Those wishing to join the meeting should contact the clerk on [clerk@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto: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.)*

*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*

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*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 Minutes of previous Town Council meetings**

To receive the Minutes of the annual meeting of Sandy Town Council held at 7.30pm on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 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 26 April 2021 and 10 May 2021
- ii) Community, Services and Environment Committee held on 26 April 2021
- iii) Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 10 May 2021

## **6 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors**

To receive reports from Sandy's Central Bedfordshire Councillors.

## **7 Action List**

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

Appendix I

## **8 A1**

To receive and consider a question from the SG19 group and receive information on a suggestion made by the Hon. Sir Edward Leigh, MP related to the A1.

Appendix II

## **9 Street Audit**

To receive an update from Cllr M. Pettitt on the street audit completed by Councillors.

To Follow

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## 10 Neighbourhood Development Plan

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

## 11 Correspondence to Receive

- i) To receive and note correspondence from the office of the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner. Appendix V

## 12 Consultations

- i) To receive communication from Central Bedfordshire Council on the East West Rail consultation. Information on the consultation can be found at; <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation> Appendix VI
- ii) To note that Central Bedfordshire Council have extended the temporary road closure to support the safe opening of schools outside Robert Peel until 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
- iii) To note that Central Bedfordshire Council are currently running a survey on their Short Breaks Statement for carers until 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021. [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/38/consultations/955/short\\_breaks\\_statement\\_survey](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/38/consultations/955/short_breaks_statement_survey)
- iv) To note that Central Bedfordshire Council are consulting on changes to the educational support and provision for children and young people identified with SEND until 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021. [www.schoolsforthefuture.co.uk/send/consultation/haveyoursay](http://www.schoolsforthefuture.co.uk/send/consultation/haveyoursay)

## 13 Leisure Services

To receive any updates from the Clerk or Leisure Services Working Group on Leisure Services in Sandy.

## 14 Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies

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

- i) To receive and note a report from Cllr J Hewitt from the Sandy Town Centre Group. Appendix VII
- ii) To receive a report from the Town Clerk detailing the Sandy Centre Group's Welcome Back Fund proposals. To Follow

## 15 News Release

## 16 Chairman's Items

## 17 Date of Next Full Council Meeting: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**AGENDA ITEM 7**

**APPENDIX I**

**Town Council - Action list**

Subject	Action to be taken		Response/ Agenda no.
	Minute	Action	
<b>Meeting 9/11/15</b>			
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.	Consultation on potential routes has been launched. Consultation on agenda for discussion.
<b>Meeting 21/5/18</b>			
A1 – Local Issues	(19-18/19)	To push for decisions on the future of the A1 and action on safety and environmental issues.	5/3/21 - Letter issued to local MP's office on issues around New Road junction and potential action which could be taken. Request that MP supports and lobbies for action. Letters issued but no update at time of issuing agenda.
<b>Meeting 17/12/18</b>			
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. Council has pushed for updates from CBC and a meeting to discuss. Clerk meeting with AD od Assets for CBC to start building 'single point of contact'.
<b>Meeting 14/12/20</b>			
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 9.

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>A1 Roundabouts – Statement in the House of Commons</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Chris Robson, Town Clerk</b>

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To receive and consider a question from the SG19 Group.
2. To receive and note information on a statement made in the House of Commons by the Hon. Sir Edward Leigh MP in relation to the A1.

**Recommendation**

3. That the Council consider and respond to SG19's question to the Council in context of the information provided on

**Background**

4. The Council have raised several concerns around the safety of the A1, including roundabouts, crossings, and pollution. The Council have written to the Hon. Richard Fuller MP and are awaiting further updates from his office. The removal of roundabouts and safety matters around the A1 were raised in the House of Commons on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Details on the statement made are included in this report for Members' information on the to provide context to SG19's question.

**Information**

5. Mr Stephen Allen of the SG19 Group has asked the following question of the Council;

*Is the Council aware of Sir Edward Leigh's statement in the Commons regarding the A1? If so, how does STC intend supporting him/his idea?*

6. In a statement in the House of Commons the Hon. Sir Edward Leigh MP stated;

*The A1—the Great North Road—is a beautiful road linking Scotland and England, and I think that to honour the upcoming jubilee we should rename it The Queen's Highway. Why not? But it is not an entirely safe road. I have spent hundreds of hours on it, and there are many fatalities on it. I cannot understand why all the roundabouts have been stripped away between Newark and the Black Cat roundabout, but going south from the Black Cat to the north circular there are still roundabouts. There are also many crossing points in Lincolnshire and other places. Will the Minister now commit to really upgrading the A1 to make it entirely safe by getting rid of all the traffic lights, roundabouts and crossing points? Let us make it a true Queen's Highway.*

7. In response the Hon. Rachel Maclean MP, Parliamentary Undersecretary for the Department for Transport stated;

*I fully agree with my right hon. friend's suggestion for renaming that beautiful road, and I am sure that the Transport Secretary, who is listening carefully, will take that away and consider it. I am happy to say that we are investing significant sums in making the A1 safer and more reliable as a result of our near-£1 billion A428 improvement scheme, and there will be a major reconstruction of the Black Cat junction on*

*the A1 so that north-south traffic will flow freely underneath it. There is potential for further enhancement along the A1, which will be considered in the light of Highways England's work to update its route strategies, starting this year, and I fully expect my right hon. friend's journeys to be very pleasant indeed in the future.*

**Financial Implications**

N/A

**Legal Powers**

N/A

**Risk Management**

N/A



court. The Duke and with the Prince of Wales after grandfather Sir John Kelk built give the family more privacy A pergola was added over a pursuits. Victoria Ward

**The A1 should be Queen's Highway, says MP**

By Tony Diver  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A CONSERVATIVE MP is campaigning to rename the A1 the "Queen's Highway" to mark the monarch's platinum jubilee.

Sir Edward Leigh, who was knighted by the Queen in the 2013 Birthday honours, told the Commons the "beautiful" Great North Road should be renamed to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 75 years on the throne next year. Sir Edward said: "The A1, the Great North Road, is a

beautiful road linking Scotland and England and I think to honour the forthcoming jubilee we should rename it the Queen's Highway. Why not?"

Rachel Maclean, a junior transport minister, said Grant Shapps, the Transport Secretary, would consider it.

The A1 replaced the London to Edinburgh Great North Road, used by mailing coaches. The 18th-century highwayman Dick Turpin is said to have ridden from London to York along the road in under 15 hours.

Yesterday Sir Edward said the modern

A1 should be upgraded to make it safe. "Get rid of all the traffic lights, the roundabouts, the crossing points, and let's make it a true Queen's Highway," he said.

Local highways bosses have previously called for the A1 to be given motorway status to help it cope with the high volumes of traffic. Sir Edward's constituency of Gainsborough, Lincs, is not far from the 410-mile long thoroughfare.

Ms Maclean said: "I am happy to say we are investing significant sums in making the A1 safer and more reliable."

**Sandy Town Council**

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Development Plan</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Chris Robson, Town Clerk</b>

**Purpose of the Report**

1. This is the fourth Neighbourhood Steering Group report for STC. The purpose is to 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 held further meetings and a series of working group meetings to progress actions agreed.

**Recommendation**

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

**Background/Information**

3. The Steering Group's project plan has been reviewed by the CBC NP Officer. We've received good feedback and a request to share this as a good example with other NP Steering Groups.
4. The Steering Group's focus for the past 6 weeks has been to prepare for the initial community engagement at the Spring Craft Market on 31 May. We will be at the community stand throughout the day and will have display boards that explain what a Neighbourhood Plan is, and why it is important for Sandy residents to engage and let their views on planning be known. We will also have a simple questionnaire for people to complete that will also be available online as part of our evidence gathering.
5. We hope to see you all on the day, however we will also circulate the questionnaire to all Councillors to ensure we get input.
6. Ahead of the day we will launch our Facebook page that will have a short video as a way to introduce the topic as well as eye catching and thought provoking posters, how to contact us and get involved. Our Logo will be on all collateral with a recognised brand that people can easily identify.
7. We envisage that this will be the first of a series of engagements with the community over the next few months to help us shape the Vision and Aims of the Neighbourhood Plan based on the evidence gathered.
8. We have made our first grant application for bespoke High Street Regeneration and Social Infrastructure Grant. This is a new funding stream that we felt we should try and take advantage of even though we are quite early in the development of the plan. This is only for Plans that include High Street regeneration plans, so we used the output of the People and Places survey and feedback from the community focus meeting to develop an outline of a scheme. If we are successful, the next step will be an evaluation of the project to ascertain if it would be likely to be successful. If this phase is passed, then we could get a grant of £15k for technical support to develop a more formal proposal.
9. Next meeting of the Steering Group is 17<sup>th</sup> June.



**SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**

**DATE:** 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**SUBJECT:** Communication from OPCC

*The following communication has been received from the OPCC. Members are advised that the Clerk will respond with the dates of Sandy Town Council's Full Council meetings.*

**RASER, Zoe-Jade 7531 <Zoe-Jade.Fraser@beds.police.uk>**  
OPCC Meeting - Engagement Request Form.docx

Good Afternoon,

Every year the Police and Crime Commissioner releases a report detailing the progress Bedfordshire Police and the PCC have achieved together against the pledges they will make to the county concerning the priorities that will be set for the Chief Constable of Bedfordshire Police and the Force.

The OPCC would like the new PCC to attend one of your Local Parish Council meetings this year once they have been appointed.

Prior to the meeting, the OPCC would like the new PCC to be able to have some 'Meet the PCC' sessions, where members of the public can book a free time slot with the PCC on Eventbrite and can come and ask them questions.

In previous years, each time slot is usually around 15 minutes long with a maximum of 6 appointments in total. After the private sessions, the PCC would then like to meet the town council for 30 minutes to discuss further.

The OPCC plan to hold these events county wide.

Could you please let me know multiple dates that the new PCC could potentially attend your local parish council meeting. The more dates to choose from, the better.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Zoe-Jade Fraser  
OPCC Events & Community Engagement Officer  
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner



In order for your event/meeting to be accepted, this form must be return to [pccevents@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pccevents@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk) (at least 5 working days before).



## OPCC Meeting/Engagement Request Form

OPCC Meeting/Engagement Request Form	
Event	
Date	
Time Required	
Address attending	
Parking availability	
Exits	
Equipment available & Refreshments	
Contact Details	
Agenda and/or questions	
List of names of all those attending	
Is this a public meeting (Please attach your public liability and the number expected)	

Facebook: [@bedspcc](https://www.facebook.com/bedspcc)

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

Website: [www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk](http://www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk)

Office Phone: 01234 842324

**Sandy Town Council**

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>East West Rail Consultation</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Chris Robson, Town Clerk</b>

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To receive communication from Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) on the East West Rail Link (communication attached to report)
2. To receive information on proposed development corporations which are mentioned in the East West Rail (EWR) consultation documentation.

**Recommendation**

3. That the Council consider the EWR consultation documentation, which can be found at; <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation>
4. That the Council advise on any comments or feedback it may want to submit into the consultation.

**Background**

5. The EWR consultation was included on the last Full Council agenda on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Members asked that the Consultation be included for discussion again on a Full Council agenda to allow Members more time to consider the consultation and allow more meeting time to discuss the Council's input/response.
6. A Member raised a query about development corporations, which are mentioned within the consultation technical documents. The Clerk raised a query about the purpose of development corporations with EWR and the MP's office.

**Information**

7. The Clerk received the following information on development corporations;

**1. Response from Rt Hon. R Fuller, MP's office;**

The government in the Chancellor's March 2020 Budget and in the same month through a DHCLG policy paper (['Planning for the Future'](#)), signalled its intention to develop the case for up to four new development corporations in the Ox-Cam Arc in or around Bedford, St Neots / Sandy, Cambourne and Cambridge.

It came from the work of the NIC's Partnering for Prosperity: A new deal for the Cambridge Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc study in 2017 after the government had asked the National Infrastructure Commission to look at how infrastructure development in the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc could maximise the potential of the area.

In February this year, the government published the [Planning for sustainable growth in the Ox-Cam Arc: an introduction to the spatial framework](#). In 1.23 of the document, it states "We have also made a commitment to examine the case for development corporations, linked to the new transport hubs around East West Rail stations."

If you read on in the document it provides indicative timelines with a consultation expected this summer. I suggest this is the paper to look at but that there will be more to come in future months.

## **2. Response from EWR Corporation Team**

The government is examining the case for up to four new Development Corporations in the Ox-Cam Arc in or around Bedford, St Neots/Sandy, Cambourne and Cambridge.

More information can be found within the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's planning White Paper [here](#) and their Spatial Framework [here](#).

Thank you again for taking the time to contact us. We look forward to receiving feedback from your Council in relation to our consultation, as well as continuing our engagement with you as the railway progresses into the next stages of design.

## East West Rail (EWR) Consultation

Partnerships Community & Engagement Team <Partnerships.CommunityEngagementTeam@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk>

• Partnerships Community & Engagement Team  
<Partnerships.CommunityEngagementTeam@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk>

Dear Chair and Clerk,

The East West Rail Company, which was established by the government to deliver the East West Rail link between Oxford and Cambridge, has launched its non-statutory public consultation on their proposals for the new railway between Bletchley and Cambridge, via Bedford.

You can view the consultation here <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation>

We welcome this significant investment in transport infrastructure, particularly if it supports the delivery of a wider network of sustainable transport links that will benefit our existing and expanding communities. This investment will also be important for the development of our existing local economy and make us an attractive area for new businesses which will also benefit our residents. We are concerned about the impact some of the options being considered would have on the communities on the Marston Vale line. Whilst we understand there is a balance to be struck between connecting thriving communities for the future and making some compromises, we want the best for our communities. This is a once in a generation investment in infrastructure and there is a real opportunity to explore truly ambitious solutions to maximise the benefits to our residents and businesses and minimise the impact as far as possible.

The East West Rail Company's consultation is open until 9 June 2021 so we will consider the proposals fully and listen to the community before responding to the consultation. We would encourage you to share the proposals with your communities as far and as wide as possible. The East West Rail Company will continue to carry out briefings with ward and parish councillors, as well as residents and community groups, along the proposed route.

Regards

Andrew

**Andrew Davie**

Assistant Director - Development Infrastructure  
Place and Communities Directorate

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

| Email: Partnerships Community & Engagement

Team [Partnerships.CommunityEngagementTeam@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Partnerships.CommunityEngagementTeam@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

**Sandy Town Council**

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Sandy Town Centre Group</b>
<b>Contact:</b>	<b>Cllr J Hewitt</b>

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To receive and note updates on the activity of the Sandy Town Centre Group

**Recommendation**

2. To note the updates and approve the Group's ideas for the Welcome Back Fund.

**Background**

3. The Sandy Town Centre Group is an external group to the Council, comprised of volunteers. Cllr. J Hewitt sits on the group as a representative of Sandy Town Council. The aim of the group is to consider the town centre and issues related to it and look at ways to improve and enhance the centre of Sandy.

**Information**

4. The group continues to meet monthly, with regular attendance from a core group of volunteers. At a meeting of the group on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 the group considered the 'Welcome Back Fund' and how this funding could be used to benefit the High Street. The group considered the funding application criteria and spend categories, and after discussion it was agreed to put forward the following recommendations to STC;

**4.1 Make the High Street /Market Square more attractive for visitors**

- Additional mobile flower planters to be installed outside Shannon Court. (Wood Green has volunteered to help keep these watered and maintained).
- Potential replacement of existing planters in the town centre with newer planters. This would need to be done later in the year, after the summer planting season. *Further review established that this would be too costly for the current grant fund one planters were purchased and the highway 'made good' under the existing planters.*
- Light up the trees in the Market Square with pea lights – these would remain in place to enhance our Christmas lights too. Additional three trees in total.
- Add bunting to make the High Street more festive this summer.
- Promote the use of the Community Stand.

**4.2 Promote the High Street and local businesses within it**

- Lamp post flags to be installed - "Shop Sandy" & promotion events and features of Sandy such as Green Wheel /RSPB. Overall themes and designs to be decided, with possibility of businesses using the banners for advertising if a contribution is made.

- Shop Sandy – Promotion Week/month, print a leaflet to be delivered to every household encouraging people to use the town centre and include vouchers/offers from retailers in the town to be used for a defined period. Businesses on the call felt that this would have the most impact on footfall – several have already committed to participate, including All Seasons, The Flower Room, JS Alford. Cllr Gibson will be contacting others in the High Street this week to gauge interest in participating. We will have a mockup of a leaflet to share with the businesses.
- Get our High Street Map and Directory professionally printed and displayed in the Town. Alternatively have a new centre map and directory designed, potentially as a wider community engagement activity. Other towns, such as Buntingford use town centre maps and directories effectively to advertise what it in the town. The Clerk has contacted an artist who is running a community project to create a map of a nearby town to see if a similar project could be run in Sandy. The project would use community engagement to produce a map that used residents' drawings to develop a map highlighting key features in Sandy.

### **4.3 Events**

- If events can take place when businesses are open during normal trading, then these will increase footfall. At present we can only safely have small events at the Community Stand or on a large event on a Sunday/Bank Holiday. To have impact it was agreed events need to be on a regular schedule or people forget to come. We will see what impact we get from the 31st May event and then may look to add others later in the year dependent on resources.

### **Next Steps**

5. The Town Clerk is to cost the proposals and make a report for the STC Full council meeting on 24th May. The grant funding will need to be applied for by 27th May.

### **Other Items**

6. The only other news is that for the time being, Eat Feast will not be resuming their monthly visit to Sandy which is a real shame as this did bring people into town on the Friday evening when they were operating. This is due to the difficulties in meeting COVID19 guidelines and queuing systems in the space available to them.
7. Our next meeting will be on 8th June at 5.30 on Zoom again.