

Sandy Town Council

To: Cllrs N Aldis, J Ali, T Cole, A M Hill, G Leach, C Osborne, D Quick,
M Scott, J Sparrow, S Sutton (Chairman)
c.c. Cllrs P Blaine, W Jackson, M Pettitt, D Sharman, P Sharman

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council to be held in the Council Chamber at 10, Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 16 May 2016 commencing at 7.30pm.

Chris Robson

Town Clerk
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy, SG19 1JE
01767 681491
10 May 2016

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for absence

2 Declarations of interest

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

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

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

3 Election of Vice Chair

To receive nominations and elect a Vice Chair for the municipal year 2016/17.

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

To consider the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 22 February 2016 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

Previously
circulated

Sandy Town Council

- 5 Public Participation Session**
Members of the public may ask questions or make representations to the committee about items of business which are on the agenda.
- 6 Action List**
To receive Action Report and any updates. Appendix I
- 7 Cycleway – Sustrans**
To receive a presentation from Peter Bate of Sustrans.
- 8 Public Facilities at Sunderland Road Recreation Ground**
To consider a request from a member of public that the town council consider providing toilet facilities at Sunderland Road Recreation Ground
- 9 Finger Posts** Appendix II
To receive and note a report from the Town Clerk.
- 10 Sandy Greenwheel** Appendix III
To receive and note report from the Town Clerk.
- 11 Sandy Market** Appendix IV
To receive a report summarising the market's performance over the last six months.
- 12 Central Bedfordshire Council's Passenger Transport Strategy** Appendix V
To receive and consider the draft Central Bedfordshire Passenger Transport Strategy.
- 13 Chairman's Items**
- 14 Date of Next meeting: 27 June 2016**

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

| Subject | Action to be taken | | Response /Status |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| | Minute | Action | |
| Meeting 1/6/15 | | | |
| Engayne Avenue Estate | (6-15/16) | Cllrs Aldis and Ali research and gather information about the area and report back to the Council in six to nine months' time. | Report due December-March 2015/16 |
| Bus Turning Circle | (12-15/16) | Defer a decision on whether the bus shelter outside Quince Court be moved until after the meeting with CBC had taken place. | Consultation on Bus no 73 completed by CBC. Awaiting publication of results and further advice. |
| Bus Shelter in Fallowfield | (15-15/16) | Defer this item until the bus route is decided. | Ongoing |
| Meeting 13/7/15 | | | |
| Potton – Sandy Cycle way | (24-15/16) | Cllr Aldis was appointed Sandy Town Council representative on the Potton – Sandy cycle way group. | On Agenda |
| Meeting 5/10/15 | | | |
| Beeston Green | (44-15/16) | The Town Clerk prepare a draft Management Plan. The Town Clerk to contact CBC about the possibility Community Orchard project. | Ongoing Confirmation of funding & that the project is going ahead received. Awaiting details on timescales. |
| Meeting 22/2/16 | | | |
| Market Town Regeneration | (84-15/16) | That Sandy be the lead town in the Mosaics Project application process. The Town Clerk submit an application form as advised by CBC. | Application to be decided on by CBC Executive on 7 June 2016. |
| A1 Clean up | (85-15/16) | To write to the appropriate authority to request a clean up on the A1 in the near future. | Acknowledgment received from Amey. Chaser issued to CBC and new contractor Ringway Jacobs. |
| Fingerpost Signs | (89-15/16) | Investigations proceed to have a finger post in the Town Centre and that this could be included in the bid for Market Town Regeneration funding. | On Agenda |

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 16 May 2016

AUTHOR: Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Finger Posts

Summary

At a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee on 22 February 2016 Members agreed to continue investigations into finger post signage in the Town Centre and that this should be included in the bid for the Market Town Regeneration Funding.

Information

Finger post signage for the town centre was included in Sandy's application to the Central Bedfordshire Council's (CBC) Market Town Regeneration Fund, which was submitted on 29 February 2016. Initial feedback from CBC was that this element of the application will be recommended for approval to the Council's Executive and a decision will be made on 7 June 2016.

After 7 June 2016, CBC will contact the Council to inform them of the outcome of the application and the procedure for releasing funds from the funding program for application related projects, and the timelines involved.

The Town Clerk will bring back this information to the committee meeting on 27 June 2016 along with location and design suggestions, quotes and installation details.

AGENDA ITEM 10

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Community Services & Environment Committee

DATE: 16 May 2016

AUTHOR: Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Sandy Green Wheel

Summary

The following report serves as an update for Councillors following a meeting between the Town Clerk and Cliff Andrews of Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) on the status of the Sandy Greenwheel Project.

Background

The Sandy Green Wheel is a proposed walking and cycling route around the town, passing through areas of landscape, heritage and wildlife interest. The proposed route will link up and upgrade existing cycle and path ways to create a complete circular route around the town.

The project is led by BRCC and CBC and received support from Sandy Town Council. The officer at CBC who had been leading on the project is no longer in position and BRCC are currently looking at moving the Sandy Green Wheel forward.

The first phase of the project, to which STC provided some support funding, was the research, design and consultation on a proposed route for the Green Wheel. This resulted in the publication of a Green Wheel Master Plan in 2014.

Information

The project is now in its second phase, which is the implementation of the route. For this phase of the project BRCC are securing funding to carryout work to various projects along the route. These projects include surfacing works as well as landscaping. Much of this funding is coming from the CBC Green Infrastructure funding (Developer contributions). Funding to complete the entire project would not be granted, instead BRCC look to find funding for individual elements. These projects then stand in their own right as good individual projects, providing improvements and enhancements.

The route of the Green Wheel follows existing rights of way, some of which are in good condition while others require upgrades in surfacing or from a status point of view (i.e upgrading paths to mixed use). The project also involves getting new rights of way granted in some sections.

Two years ago BRCC secured funding for a couple of discreet projects along the route, including improvements to trackways, basic enhancements and planting of

trees. It was hoped work would have been completed in 2015, however the projects were halted due to higher than anticipated costs to improve surfaces and changing permission from landowners.

Funding was also secured for work to an area of land near Beeston. This would include a soft surface path, trees, benches, information board and small woodland. Unfortunately following funding approval, the land changed hands and permission for the works was not granted.

Discussions have been on going with land owners on these specific projects and although this has been a slow process progress, is being made and it is hoped that some work can start in this calendar year.

BRCC are also looking at the proposed Beeston Orchard and have secured funding for the trees, information board and benches.

Funding for some work to Sandcast Wood has also been sourced. Work would include disabled angling platforms and path improvements. It is hoped this work can be progressed this summer.

Further discussions are on going with CBC, landowners, and the Rights of Way team on other sections around the route.

Next Steps

BRCC are currently negotiating additional funding and it is intended that part of this will cover the creation of a Steering Group to move the project on. A similar group was created for the Biggleswade Green Wheel, which now has large sections completed. Sandy Town Council would be invited to send representatives to the group. Mr Andrews will update the project action list and inform the Clerk of the funding application results. Once this is in place he would be happy to speak to the committee.

AGENDA ITEM 11

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Community Services & Environment Committee

DATE: 16 May 2016

AUTHOR: Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Markets

Summary

The following report provides a summary of the stall numbers and income generated from the Sandy markets over the last six months for Members information and consideration.

Background

Sandy Town Council operates a weekly Friday market and a monthly farmers market on the first Saturday of the month.

The Market was previously located in the Town Centre car park but was moved to its current location on the high street as a trial following disappointing turnout. It was hoped that having a more visible presence on the high street would result in increased footfall for traders and as a result see more traders attending the market.

Information

The weekly Friday and monthly Saturday markets have declined over the past year.

In the last six months there has been only one permanent Friday stall with an occasional stall attending for one week and not returning. The Saturday market has had only two stalls attending each month and sometimes only one.

The income for the Friday market from November 2015 to April 2016 has been £240.00, with only £32.00 from the Saturday market.

In the last six months there have been 7 queries from potential stall holders. Only two of these have gone on to attend once receiving information about the market.

There is currently no advertising budget linked to the markets. The markets are advertised freely in the monthly issue of the Bulletin on the town council's page and on the Council website.

The Council pays rates of £1,161.60 for the Market and Premises. If it is concluded that the market is not to move back to the car park area the Council could make a saving on its overall rates bill. A written request with plans has been submitted to the valuation office for the review of the markets rateable value.

Consideration

Following the trail relocation of the market Members are asked to consider its short and long term future.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**DATE: 16 May 2016****AUTHOR: Town Clerk****SUBJECT: Central Bedfordshire Council Passenger Transport Strategy**

Central Bedfordshire Council are currently carrying out consultation on their Passenger Transport Strategy. The below information summarises the changes proposed to the strategy and has been taken directly from CBC's website for Councillor's information.

Members are asked to consider the consultation and whether any comments should be submitted.

Passenger Transport Strategy overview

We currently provide funding (subsidises) for over half of the bus routes in Central Bedfordshire. These are bus routes which are no longer commercially viable for bus companies to run. We also cover the costs for 43,000 bus pass holders every time they use their bus pass.

Our current approach is no longer affordable so we need to rethink how bus transport is provided.

We are proposing to change how we make decisions on funding bus routes which are no longer viable for commercial bus companies to run. Decision making will be fair, transparent and affordable. We will consider demand and possible alternatives.

We are proposing to facilitate a new process where community bus providers can compete to provide whole or parts of routes if there is enough demand.

We are also proposing to make changes to concessionary fares such as when people can use their bus passes. This will bring us in line with the English National Concessionary Pass Scheme. Changes are also proposed for applications for bus passes and how they are renewed.

These changes are included in the new draft Passenger Transport Strategy (PTS) and we want to hear your views on these proposals before we make a decision.

Why we are looking at our Passenger Transport Strategy

At a time when council spending is being reduced (the Government has reduced our funding by £12m for 2016/17) and demand for our services, such as social care, are increasing we need to scrutinise and prioritise our spending in order to protect our frontline services and the vulnerable.

In previous years the council and therefore council tax payers, have funded, (subsidised) commercial bus routes that are no longer financially viable for bus companies to run.

We spent £1.2million funding bus routes last year.

In the current financial climate and period of austerity this approach is no longer affordable or sustainable. We need to rethink how bus transport is provided.

Subsidised buses - proposed changes

We subsidise 53% of the bus services in Central Bedfordshire.

This cost us (and therefore tax payers) £1.2 million in 2015/16. A subsidy for a single journey can cost up to £17.50.

This is a discretionary service; we are not obliged to do this but historically, we have. This is no longer affordable or sustainable.

We are looking at developing a fair and transparent process to decide whether or not to fund a bus route that is rarely used, including whether it is financially viable to run commercially.

The decision making process will take into account:

- available alternatives (duplication of routes, alternative provision available)
- accessibility – demand from older people or disabled people
- reducing congestion – based on passenger numbers
- affordability – value for money assessment based on passenger numbers
- network coverage – priority will be given to buses running on core and second network roads

Subsidies will only be provided to buses running at the following times of high passenger demand:

- 8am to 6:30pm weekdays
- 8am to 3pm Saturdays
- no subsidises for Sunday buses

Community transport - proposed changes

There are a range of voluntary and community transport providers. Examples include Dial-a-Ride services, Flittabus, Wanderbus, Ivel Sprinter and Road Runner.

We fund some of these providers and:

- some use volunteers
- some pay their drivers and staff

Services vary with some providers offering door to door services, whilst others have regular routes and timetables. Fares range in price.

These services are particularly popular with people living in rural areas, older and disabled people. We know from a recent survey how important these services are to customers; they really value them and most would be prepared to pay more for the individual service.

We are already seeing community transport solutions stepping in to provide services and we want to encourage more of this. To this end, we are proposing a new tender process where community transport providers can enter a competitive process to provide all or part of the route.

We will continue to provide financial support to these services but it will be through the new tender process.

Concessionary fares - proposed changes

Concessionary travel is a discount on fares for older people (bus passes), people with disabilities and unemployed people (travel aid). These will continue to be available.

43,000 residents hold a buss pass and they represent 40% of all bus journeys in Central Bedfordshire. We currently pay for every journey where a bus pass is used. Nearly £2.4 million was spent on covering these fares in 2015.

We are proposing to adopt national time regulations as set by the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme, when users can use their bus pass.

Bus pass holders will only be able to use their bus passes between:

- 9:30am and 11pm on weekdays
- all day Saturday
- ail day Sunday
- all day on Bank Holidays

Our data about current usage suggests that most people using bus passes use them within these times already.

There are no proposed changes to companion passes.

We would like to modernise how we run this service and make it more efficient:

- by 2030 you would only be able to apply for a bus pass online
- bus passes would no longer automatically renew every five years
- you would also have to apply to renew your bus pass, like you do when you tax your car

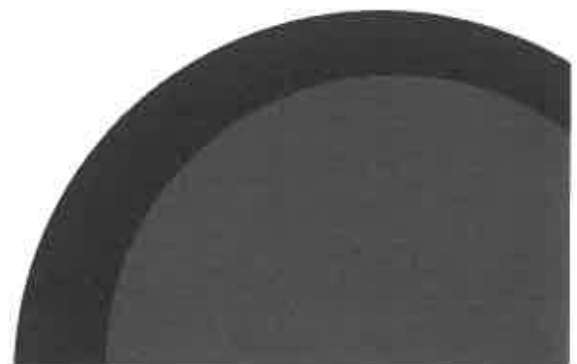
We also provide discounts for unemployed people via a travel aid scheme. The council would no longer fund this scheme, but it could continue for bus companies wishing to participate.



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Subsidised bus services

| Service provider | Number | Route |
|------------------|---------|--|
| Arriva | D1 | Leighton Buzzard Town Services |
| Arriva | 32 | Leighton Buzzard Town Services |
| Arriva | 33 | Leighton Buzzard Town Services |
| Arriva | 38 | Toddington - Houghton Regis - Salters Way - Dunstable |
| Arriva | 61 | Dunstable - Totternhoe - Eaton Bray - Edlesborough - Ivinghoe - Tring - Aylesbury (part subsidised by Central Bedfordshire Council and Buckinghamshire County Council) |
| Arriva | 96/ 96A | Letchworth - Stotfold South - Arlesey - Letchworth |
| Arriva | 97 | Arlesey - Stotfold - Fairfield Park - Letchworth - Hitchin (part subsidised) |
| Arriva | 150 | Aylesbury - Wing - Leighton Buzzard - Heath & Reach - Milton Keynes (some Monday to Friday journeys) |
| Centrebus | B | Luton - Dunstable - Downside (part subsidised between Dunstable Town Centre and Downside) |
| Centrebus | X31 | Luton - Dunstable - Kensworth - Whipsnade - Studham - Hemel Hempstead (subsidised by Central Bedfordshire Council & Hertfordshire County Council) |
| Centrebus | X31 | Luton - Dunstable - Hockliffe - Bletchley - Milton Keynes (part subsidised by Central Bedfordshire Council and Milton Keynes Council) |
| Centrebus | 20 | Pulloxhill - Flitton - Greenfield - Flitwick - Westoning - Toddington - Chalton - Sundon - Luton |
| Centrebus | 49 | Ridgmont - Husborne Crawley - Aspley Guise - Woburn Sands - Woburn - Hockliffe - Eggington - Leighton Buzzard |
| Centrebus | 79 | Upper Gravenhurst - Campton - Shefford - Meppershall - Shillington - Barton-le-Clay - Streatley - Luton (part subsidised) |
| Centrebus | 85/ 85A | Biggleswade Town Services |



| | | |
|--------------|---------|--|
| Centrebus | 89 | Henlow Camp - Lower Stondon - Meppershall - Shillington - Pirton - Hitchin (subsidised by Hertfordshire Council and Central Bedfordshire Council) |
| Centrebus | 188 | Blunham - Sandy - Potton - Wrestligworth, Eyeworth, Dunton - Biggleswade - Langford - Henlow - Hitchin (subsidised between Blunham & Biggleswade) |
| Centrebus | 190 | Sandy - Everton - Gamlingay - Potton - Sutton - Biggleswade - Langford - Henlow - Hitchin (partly subsidised) |
| Centrebus | 231 | Dunstable - Caddington - Woodside - Slip End - Pepperstock - Luton (part subsidised) |
| Centrebus | 391 | Stotfold - Baldock - Stevenage (subsidised by Hertfordshire County Council and Central Bedfordshire Council) |
| Flittabus | 140 | Toddington - Milton Bryan - Eversholt - Tingrith - Flitwick - Steppingley - Flitwick - Ampthill |
| Grant Palmer | C | Luton - Dunstable - Ashcroft - Weatherby (part subsidised between Dunstable and Weatherby) |
| Grant Palmer | 36A/36C | Leighton Buzzard & Linslade Town Services (partly subsidised) |
| Grant Palmer | 37 | Leighton Buzzard - Heath & Reach |
| Grant Palmer | 42 | Dunstable - Toddington - Harlington - Westoning - Flitwick - Ampthill - Houghton Conquest - Bedford (partly subsidised) |
| Grant Palmer | 44 | Silsoe - Flitton - Pulloxhill - Greenfield - Flitwick - Ampthill - Maulden - Clophill - Bedford (partly subsidised) |
| Grant Palmer | 77 | Toddington - Harlington - Westoning - Flitwick - Maulden - Clophill - Silsoe - Barton Le Clay - Hexton - Pegsdon - Hitchin |
| Grant Palmer | 197 | Biggleswade - Langford - Henlow - Clifton - Shefford - Campton - Upper Gravenhurst - Clophill - Maulden - Ampthill - Flitwick - Westoning - Toddington - Milton Keynes |
| Grant Palmer | 200 | Biggleswade - Broom - Southill - Stanford - Clifton - Shefford - Campton - Upper Gravenhurst - Clophill - Maulden - Ampthill - Flitwick (partly subsidised) |
| Herberts | 83 | Sandy Town Service |

| | | |
|----------------|------|---|
| Herberts | 95 | Biggleswade - Langford - Shefford - Clifton Park - Henlow - Letchworth |
| Ivel Sprinter | 112 | Biggleswade - Tempsford - Blunham - Great Barford - Chawston - Wyboston - St Neots |
| Ivel Sprinter | 193 | Biggleswade - Sutton - Potton - Everton - Sandy - Little Barford - St Neots |
| Ivel Sprinter | IS1A | Biggleswade - Upper Caldecotte |
| Red Kite | 73 | Totternhoe - Eaton Bray - Billington - Leighton Buzzard |
| Red Kite | 162 | Bletchley - Great Brickhill - Soulbury - Leighton Buzzard - Billington - Edlesborough - Dagnall - Slapton - Leighton Buzzard - Stewkley (subsidised by Buckinghamshire County Council and Central Bedfordshire Council) |
| Red Line | 164 | Leighton Buzzard - Billington - Eaton Bray - Slapton - Ivinghoe - Tring - Aylesbury (subsidised by Buckinghamshire County Council and Central Bedfordshire Council) |
| Red Kite | 167 | Leighton Buzzard - Ledburn - Cheddington - Ivinghoe |
| South Beds DAR | 48 | Harlington - Tingrith - Eversholt - Milton Bryan - Woburn - Woburn Sands - Milton Keynes |
| South Beds DAR | 62 | Dunstable - Ridgeway Avenue - L&D hospital - Caddington - Aley Green - Woodside - Slip End - Pepperstock |
| South Beds DAR | 74 | Toddington - Tebworth - Wingfield - Houghton Regis - Dunstable |
| Stagecoach | 72 | Bedford - Haynes - Shefford - Clifton - Henlow - Arlesey - Hitchin (evening & Sunday journeys subsidised) |
| Stagecoach | 73 | Biggleswade - Beeston - Sandy - Moggerhanger - Willington - Bedford (evening & Sunday journeys subsidised) |
| Stagecoach | 81 | Bedford - Clophill - Silsoe - Barton - Luton (evening & Sunday journeys subsidised) |
| Z & S | 165 | Leighton Buzzard - Wing - Cublington - Wingrave - Aylesbury - Stoke Mandeville (subsidised by Central Bedfordshire Council and Buckinghamshire County Council) |