

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 27 June 2016 commencing at 7.30pm.

Chris Robson
Town Clerk
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy, SG19 1JE
01767 681491
21 June 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 Minutes of Previous Meeting

To consider the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 16 May 2016 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

Previously
circulated

4 Public Participation Session

Members of the public may ask questions or make representations to the committee about items of business which are on the agenda.

Sandy Town Council

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|---|---------------|
| 5 Action List
To receive Action Report and any updates. | Appendix I |
| 6 Grass Cutting
To receive a report on the contractor grass cutting of Sandy green spaces. | Appendix II |
| 7 BRCC Community Agent Scheme
To receive and consider a proposal from BRCC. | Appendix III |
| 8 Tree Work
To receive a report from the Town Clerk. | Appendix IV |
| 9 Play Area Inspections
To receive a summary of the findings from the annual RoSPA Play inspections. | Appendix V |
| 10 Central Bedfordshire Libraries Opening Hour Review
To receive information on proposed changes to Sandy library's open hours. | Appendix VI |
| 11 Central Bedfordshire Neighbourhood Watch Association
To receive a communication from the Chairman of the Central Bedfordshire Neighbourhood Watch Association. | Appendix VII |
| 12 Health Care Provision in Sandy
To receive a response from NHS England in regards Sandy Town Council's concerns about health care provision in the town. | Appendix VIII |
| 13 Chairman's Items | |
| 14 Date of Next meeting: 8 August 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.	Awaiting information from CBC. Letter issued to CBC and Aragon housing asking what their plans for the estate are. No response at date of report.
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 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 Meeting with CBC on 29 th June to discuss project status. Clerk to report back to Council.
Meeting 22/2/16			
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 going as part match Fund Application.
Meeting 16/4/16			
Public Facilities at Sunderland Road recreation Ground	(8-2016/17)	Town Clerk to check on Town Councils obligations to supply public toilets.	The Council has the Power to provide public toilets but not an obligation or duty to do so.
Full Council Meeting 20/4/16			
Allotments	(22-2016/17)	Progress and update reports to go to the Community Services and Environment Committee	On-going

AGENDA ITEM 6

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Community Services & Environment Committee

DATE: 27 June 2016

AUTHOR: Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Contractor Grass Cutting

Summary

The Town Council's grounds team have noted issues with the quality and timing of grass cutting work by contractors on both Town Council land and Highways and Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) land. The Town Council has also received several complaints from residents about grass cutting on areas covered by the CBC's contractor.

The Town Clerk wrote to CBC expressing the council's and residents' concerns and subsequently met with CBC's Services Manager for Waste Operations.

Information

The following issues were brought to CBC's attention;

- The quality of grass cutting by CBC's contractor (especially Fallowfield)
- The long gap between cuts and follow up work
- Verge cutting frequency
- The level of weed spraying around the town, which was having a negative effect on grass and plants
- Reported higher than required speed of cutters and the possible dangers that created.
- The level of litter along the A1 and the lack of work to clear it

The current contractor was taken on last year and has previous experience of cutting in Sandy under Mid Beds District Council. CBC's Service Manager is addressing all the issues raised directly with the contractor and will ask that cutting and strimming are tied into the same week, with quick follow up work. The contractor will also be instructed not to over spray when dealing with weeds around obstacles. Grass cutting is carried out 15 times a year in areas in North Central Bedfordshire, with cuts happening roughly every two weeks over the summer.

A programme of litter picking and road sweeping on roads around Sandy has been agreed and litter picking on the A1 has now commenced. Litter picking on the A1 will only be carried out when traffic management is in operation. Highways are picking up vision displays outside 30 mph areas.

It was confirmed that CBC are keen to ensure town and parish councils have a channel to feed into the contract, and that any potential issues are quickly addressed. Should there be further on-going issues, a meeting can be facilitated between STC and the contractor.

The town council's grounds team leader will continue to monitor grass cutting within the town and will report back any issues to the Town Clerk to be brought to CBC's immediate attention.

Dedication Agreement - Fallowfield, Sandy

The previous Clerk began discussions with CBC over the maintenance and cutting of the bank and hedgerow around the Fallowfield Estate. STC are responsible for maintaining the bank and hedgerow, but do not have the equipment and staff to regularly carry the job out to a high standard. Highways are responsible for cutting the verge.

Following continued discussions, a Dedication Agreement has now been received whereby the maintenance of the area will fall to the Highway Authority.

Recommendation

That the Town Council enter into the Dedication Agreement and that the regular maintenance of the bank and hedgerow be carried out by the Highways Authority.

Sandy Town Council

**A Proposal for the appointment of a
Community Agent
for Sandy**

May 2016



Submitted by:

Cliff Andrews
Supporting Communities Manager
01234 832617
cliffa@bedsrcc.org.uk

BRCC is a registered charity no.1061538 and
company limited by guarantee and registered in England no.3327628

Registered address: The Old School, Cardington, Bedford MK44 3SX

1. Introduction

BRCC would like to invite Sandy Town Council to support the provision of a part-time Community Agent for the residents of Sandy.

2. What is a Community Agent?

A Community Agent is a trusted first point of contact for people in need or crisis, working to ensure that they can access the services and support they need. This involves working closely with the local community to identify support networks and address any gaps.

An Agent typically helps people to:

- access services and information
- obtain benefits to which they are entitled
- afford regular and better food and to pay bills
- remain living in their own homes for longer
- feel safer and less isolated while living alone
- cope and keep themselves well while being a carer
- link to local volunteers and organisations (including Good Neighbour Schemes) able to support and befriend them
- participate in, and contribute to, community life

BRCC currently employs a Community Agent in Potton, and 7 Village Agents across Bedford Borough, who are each employed for between 10 and 20 hours per week.

3. What can Community Agents achieve?

Agents assist in early intervention and prevention, helping people to continue living independently at home with a higher quality of life, and reducing pressure on local service providers. Agents act as facilitators, building local support networks, providing information and advice and promoting access to services.

Awareness of services among more isolated people can be fairly low, and statutory and voluntary organisations can struggle to reach many of the clients in need of their services. An Agent can act as a bridge between clients and these services.

Agents build relationships of trust with their clients, increase their awareness of the services, and help them to navigate the sometimes confusing array of different agencies. They provide time for people and respond to a wide range of issues, sometimes providing advocacy services to enable clients to access services or benefits where they have previously been turned down or where the client gave up through finding the process too complicated.

In addition to taking on clients who have self-referred with a specific problem, Agents' particular strength is the ability to work with people who have not yet asked for help. They can visit on the recommendation of a concerned friend or

neighbour, listen to a client's whole story and to help them identify the problems where they need advice and support.

Often living among affluent neighbours, isolated people may be unwilling to admit they are struggling. Similarly, potentially experiencing lack of opportunity stretching back several generations and with neighbours in the same situation, people may not realise some situations they take for granted could be changed. Without the support of an Agent these people might not take the steps to contact organisations that can help them.

4. Why does Sandy need a Community Agent?

Significant numbers of Sandy residents would benefit from a Community Agent service. 2011 census data shows that Sandy has:

- Nearly 900 people living in economic deprivation
- 370 households in fuel poverty
- 1,620 residents over the age of 65
- Over 375 older people claiming pension credits

Feedback from the Sandy Good Neighbour Group is that many clients require additional help beyond what volunteers can offer, to meet more severe and longer-lasting needs. A Community Agent for Sandy would help to support the most isolated and disadvantaged residents; increasing their wellbeing and enhancing the town.

By way of comparison, the figures below summarise the work of the Potton Community Agent, who is employed for 20 hours per week.

In 2014-15 the Community Agent for Potton:

- visited and supported 175 clients
- met and supported an additional 30 contacts per month at sessions organised by the Agent – including IT training in tablet use and indoor bowls
- had 50% of her clients referred by Local Authority, Health Professionals and other professional organisations who were unable to meet these clients' needs themselves.

Among the outcomes reported:

- 143 clients reported improved health & physical/mental well-being
- 134 clients reported that they were able to exercise more choice and control over services
- 116 clients felt better able to continue living independently at home

5. Proposal

BRCC proposes to lead a 1-year pilot for a Sandy Community Agent, commencing in April 2016.

Based on the Community Agent working 15 hours per week, the costs would be as follows:

Item	Cost
Salary (£24,000 pro rata) plus on-costs (NI, pension)	£11,500
Management and administration	£2,500
Running costs (e.g. publicity, travel, phone)	£1,000
Total	£15,000

The costs will be directly proportionate to the number of hours per week worked by the Community Agent. The hours proposed are considered appropriate for a pilot year for a community the size of Sandy; but are scale-able, up or down, dependent upon resources available.

BRCC would aim to find £5,000 in match funding from local sources, with Sandy Town Council contributing the balance.

A standard Community Agent Job Description is provided as Appendix A. This can be amended as appropriate to reflect the requirements of local partners.

<p style="text-align: center;">Community Agent 15 hours/week – or as funding permits Job Description</p>

Job Purpose

Community Agents seek to ensure that vulnerable and isolated people access the services and support they need. This involves building local support networks as well as acting to bridge the gap between individual residents and statutory organisations. Community Agents report to BRCC's Care & Support Services Team Leader.

Job responsibilities

Outreach and client support

- Carry out outreach and profile-raising activity to identify vulnerable, disadvantaged and isolated people in the community who may need targeted support in order to keep living independently
- Provide high quality face-to-face information, advice and support, helping clients to make informed choices about their future needs and goals
- Signpost clients to services, and put them in direct contact with the appropriate agency
- Where possible, identify ways of meeting client needs without needing to refer to statutory services (e.g. by assisting vulnerable people and their families to develop relationships with others in the local community)

Capacity-building

- Identify existing community supports (e.g. voluntary organisations, care schemes, informal networks) and address any gaps as appropriate
- Develop working relationships with service providers in order to negotiate appropriate service supports for vulnerable people and their families
- Recruit volunteers to assist in delivery of Good Neighbour Schemes or other support initiatives.

Management and reporting

- Maintain accurate and comprehensive client records ensuring compliance with the Data Protection Act
- Input data as required to monthly reporting system

General

- Attend relevant Community Agent progress meetings and training
- Actively pursue self-development, identifying training and Continuing Professional Development needs and potential solutions
- Adhere to BRCC's policies and procedures at all times
- Undertake other duties as may reasonably be requested

Person Specification

	Essential Attributes	Desirable Attributes
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS	Qualified to Level 3	Qualified in relevant discipline, e.g. Information, Advice and Guidance, community development
EXPERIENCE	Experience of giving advice, in either voluntary or professional capacity	Working with public and/or voluntary and community sector partners to deliver services Working with vulnerable adults
SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE	Strong interpersonal and communication skills Good organisational and IT skills Basic knowledge of relevant statutory services	Detailed knowledge of the local community Report writing skills Knowledge of community development approach Advanced knowledge of relevant statutory services
PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES	Ability to work on own and as part of a team Strong commitment to improving the lives of vulnerable people Commitment to community development approach Determined and hard working Willingness to learn	
OTHER	Own vehicle and full driving licence Able to work from home, using own IT equipment Prepared to work occasional weekends and/ or evenings Prepared to undergo Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check	First Aid at Work certificate and/or Fire Safety training Local networks and contacts

AGENDA ITEM 8

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Community Services & Environment Committee

DATE: 27 June 2016

AUTHOR: Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Tree Surveys

Summary

Sandy Town Council carried out a series of tree inspections in 2012 to determine whether any tree work was required, a review is now required. This service was carried out by Central Bedfordshire Council. Central Bedfordshire Council no longer offers a tree survey service, the Council must therefore consider a programme for carrying out tree surveys and appointing a contractor to carry out the job.

Information

Areas which will require tree surveys are identified as;

- Cemetery
- Churchyard
- Car park – trees at entrance
- Bedford Road Recreation Ground
- Sunderland Road Recreation Ground
- Fallowfield Recreation Ground
- Beeston Green
- The Limes Play Area – including trees to rear of Lime Avenue and Ash Close
- Disused railway embankment
- Town Centre roundabout

The following is also being checked;

- The Riddy – ensure the management agreement includes tree inspections
- The Pinnacle – ensure the management agreement includes tree inspections.

Members will appreciate that this is a large area with an unidentified total number of trees for inspection. As well as listing all trees under STC ownership they will need to be categorised as those which are subject to frequent public access and those which are not.

The Council previously had all tree inspections carried out at once, it may be more appropriate to have an agreed programme whereby tree inspections are carried out each year, covering a scheduled smaller section of trees each time. This would have

the benefit of spreading survey costs over each year, rather than incurring a large cost for all trees once every several years. It would also ensure regular checks were being carried out and that if any trees of concern were noted they could be included in that years inspection.

Members will appreciate that mapping and cataloguing the trees will be a large job which the grounds team would need to look at after the busy summer period has ended.

The office has approached contractors to establish estimates on the potential costs involved, the below estimate has so far been received;

Up to 50 trees, depending on size & condition, to include tagging (if required), a written report showing species, age/class, height, diameter, comments & recommendation, age & re-inspection date.	£280 (Ex. Vat)
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Recommendation

That the office and grounds team map and catalogue all STC owned trees and bring back a suggested programme of inspection for approval and recommendation to Council by the Committee.

APPENDIX V

AGENDA ITEM 9

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Community Services & Environment Committee

DATE: 27 June 2016

AUTHOR: Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Play Area Annual Inspections

The following report summaries the findings of the annual RoSPA play safety inspections for Members information. The report highlights only those areas where an action/task is recommended. Where any action is urgent (of a high risk) work is carried out immediately. Maintenance work will continue throughout the year and addresses low risk tasks, with jobs such as re-painting happening during winter months when parks are quieter.

The majority of tasks identified are Low Risk. However, members should note that the Skate and Youth Area is of overall High Risk.

Beeston Green Play Area			
Present Overall Risk Rating: Low			
Item	Risk	Finding	Action/Task
Bins	Low	Trees encroaching around the bins	Cut back trees
Seating - Sculpture	Low	Timber fungus growths	Remove fungus growth and treat timber with preservative
General Surface	Low	Surface uneven	Repair Surface
Log Walks	Low	Algae growth on surface giving slippery conditions	Power wash recommended
Rocker - Board	Low	Algae growth on surface giving slippery conditions	Power wash recommended
Swing – Mixed	Low	Projecting bolt threads	Cut off & file down to remove sharp edges
	Low	Wet pour surfacing is cracking	Repair Surface

APPENDIX V

Rocker - Motorbike	Low	Damaged spring cover	Replace rubber spring cover
Rocker/Rotator	Low	Worn grass areas	Make good
Runway-Rigid-Aeroskate	Low	Worn grass areas	Make good
Slide	Med	Slide entry tube	Repair item
	Low	Surface trip points between timber and concrete	Make good surface
Swing – Junior	Low	Chain wear	Monitor and replace at 40% wear
	Low	Algae growth on surface giving slippery conditions	Power wash recommended
Swing – Toddler	Low	Projecting bolt thread	Cut off and file down to remove sharp edges
	Low	Wet pour surface cracking	Repair surface

The Limes Playground

Present Overall Risk Rating: **Low**

Item	Risk	Finding	Action/Task
Gates	Low	Hard projections	Remove projections
Rocker – Motorbike	Low	Shrinkage/Separation giving trip hazard	Re-glue and fill gaps
Slide	Low	Edging/foundation is within the impact area	Extend surface so edging/foundation is outside the impact area
Swing – Junior	Low	Shrinkage/Separation giving trip hazard	Re-glue and fill gaps
Swing – Toddler	Low	Shrinkage/Separation giving trip hazard	Re-glue and fill gaps

APPENDIX V

Fallowfield Open Space		
Present Overall Risk Rating: Medium		
Item	Risk	Finding
Gates	Low	Projecting stop plate
	Low	Self-closing needs adjusting
Paths	Low	Weeds emerging from ground
General Surface	Med	Trip zones at edge of surface
Balance beams	Low	Surface wearing
Carousel - Hanging	Low	Trip zones at edge of wet pour surface
Climber Multi Play	Med	Trip zones at edge of wet pour surface
Combination Goal End	Med	Trip zones at edge of wet pour surface
Multi Play - Junior	Med	Surfacing Platforms
		Provide IAS with sufficient impact absorbing properties for Free Height Fall
	Med	Build up ground levels to remove trip hazard
	Med	Extend Impact Area
Rocker- Four Seat	Low	Re-glue and fill gaps
Rocker Seesaw	Low	Projecting bolt thread
	Low	Not pivoting correctly, rough action
	Med	Trip zones at edge of wet pour surface
Suspended Plan Walk	Low	Surface worn
		Build up ground levels to remove trip hazard
Replace Surface		
Swing Basket 1	Med	Rope – Metal core exposed
Swing Basket 2	Low	Some chain wear
	Low	Consider secondary support device to prevent collapse in the event of supporting component failure
	Low	Universal joint cover damage
	Low	Trip zones at edge of wet pour surface
		Replace item
		Build up ground levels to remove trip hazard
		Replace item
		Monitor for deterioration and replace at 40% wear
		Refer to manufacturer

APPENDIX V

Sunderland Road – Skate and Youth Area			
Present Overall Risk Rating: High			
Item	Risk	Finding	Action/Task
Bin	Low	Top rim damaged	Repair Item
General Surface	Med	Trip zones at edge of wet pour surface	Build up ground levels to remove trip hazard
Goal Posts	Med	Trip zones at edge of wet pour surface	Build up ground levels to remove trip hazard
Shelter	Med	Surface trip points	Make surface good
Grind Rail	Low	Supports are loose in the ground	Dig out and reset the supports
Grind Rail	Med	Rail ends not reaching ground	Discuss with manufacturer
Grind Rail	Med	Rail ends not reaching ground	Discuss with manufacturer
Half Pipe – Gravity	Med	Barrier – Gaps greater than 89mm	No action given the risk assessment



Your ref:

Our ref:

Date: 7th June 2016

Dear Chairman / Clerk

Re: Central Bedfordshire Libraries Opening Hours Review

The purpose of this letter is to draw your attention to a forthcoming review of library opening hours in Central Bedfordshire Libraries and to encourage you to comment on our proposals for the service.

The Library Service is contributing to efficiencies identified in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, of £85,000 from 1 April 2017. Overall, the Library Service is proposing to reduce opening hours by 30 hours a week.

The proposal includes a standard closed day for all libraries (Mondays) and standardised opening hours across the three tiers of libraries in the authority and will enable a more efficient approach to staffing.

The opening hour patterns are as follows:

Community Libraries (Amphill, Barton, Potton, Stotfold, Toddington)	Area Libraries (Biggleswade, Flitwick, Houghton Regis. Sandy, Shefford)	Main Libraries (Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard)
Tuesday – Friday 2pm – 6pm Saturday 9am – 1pm	Tuesday – Friday 9am – 6pm Saturday 9am – 1pm	Tuesday – Friday 9am – 6pm Saturday 9am – 4pm

The proposals for individual libraries are as follows:

Amphill Library – decrease of 11 hours
 Barton Library – decrease of 7 hours
 Potton Library – increase of 2 hours
 Stotfold Library – decrease of 1 hour
 Toddington Library – decrease of 1 hour
 Biggleswade Library – decrease of 0.5 hour
 Flitwick Library – decrease of 0.5 hour
 Houghton Regis Library – decrease of 6.5 hours
 Sandy Library – increase of 2.5 hours
 Shefford Library – increase of 3 hours
 Dunstable Library – decrease of 5 hours

Central Bedfordshire Council

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

Telephone 0300 300 8301

Email customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Leighton Buzzard Library – decrease of 5 hours

The proposals mean that no library in Central Bedfordshire will be closed. All libraries will retain professionally paid staff. The proposal will also allow us to keep libraries staffed, so that our popular activities and events can keep running such as children's reading and craft activities, IT help sessions, events for older residents etc.

As part of the proposed changes the Library Service is trying to find ways of opening libraries to communities outside normal opening hours so as to make the best use of the buildings. This includes evenings and weekends. Buildings could be used for activities such as health advice sessions, local meetings, or adult education. This is part of the Council's objectives in the Five Year Plan to foster self sustaining communities and support people to help themselves and others.

The Library Service would welcome suggestions from Town and Parish Councils to explore opportunities to develop library services locally, helping to create stronger communities and increasing participation in local services.

The consultation will be launched on Monday 13th June. All materials will be available in all libraries and online at:
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations until Monday 5th September 2016.

I would be very pleased to attend a Council Meeting to discuss the proposals. In the meantime, if you would like more information on any aspect of the library service or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Avery
Library Services Manager

Direct telephone 0300 300 5074

Email nicola.avery@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH- MESSAGE TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRS

You will know of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and it may already be an active organisation in your Town or Parish. This message is not primarily intended for those areas where this is so, although we would always seek to widen the NHW coverage.

It is an unavoidable fact that, across the County, the Police budget is under severe strain and Police priorities and resources are now, not surprisingly, directed to areas where there is a significant level of crime. Much of Central Bedfordshire is rural and is, statistically, a low crime area. However any significant increase in crime in the rural areas does create a greater public impact than in the towns.

NHW has the support of the Police and the Central Bedfordshire Council. We believe that it can play an important role in reducing the opportunities for and the fear of crime and that it promotes community safety and enhances community spirit. It has been proved by independent studies that active NHW areas are safer places in which to live. In essence NHW encourages residents to be good neighbours, but in a structured and organised way. It aims to be proactive, by setting up schemes before criminal activity has an impact on the Community, rather than reactive.

In some villages there has been a new approach to setting up NHW schemes by establishing village-wide NHW organisations, with the direct help of the Parish Council, rather than starting at the individual street level. We seek to recruit coordinators first, who then follow up by recruiting the individual members. The successful schemes in Caddington and Slip End are examples of this approach.

One of the difficulties we find in getting our message across is that there is no truly effective County-wide publicity media and this is one reason why I am asking for your help. It would be ideal if each Town/Parish council was seen to support NHW in their area, through it being a standard agenda item for your meetings. By publicising NHW by any means available, in particular through your website and Town/Parish magazine, and by providing any practical help, your Council could not only enhance the coverage of NHW but also further your own aim of improving the safety and security of your town or village.

We can provide tailored briefings for your Council, if you wish, and suitable adverts for your website and magazine. We are convinced that NHW, in co-operation with the Police and your Council, can be an effective force and I would be pleased to hear from you how we, in Central Bedfordshire NHW, can help you in your efforts to reduce crime. Please contact me if you wish to discuss NHW.

Tony Howells Chairman

Central Bedfordshire Neighbourhood Watch June 2016



Our Ref: 16-087

Midlands & East (Central Midlands)

Charter House

Parkway

Welwyn Garden City

Hertfordshire

AL8 6JL

Tel: 0113 824 8885

Elliot.howard-jones@nhs.net

Sent via email

Mr Chris Robson
Town Clerk
Sandy Town Council
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy SG19 1JE

14th June 2016

Dear Mr Chris Robson

Re: Health Care Provision in Sandy, Bedfordshire

Thank you for your letter dated 4th May 2016. Please accept my apologies for the delayed response. NHS England (Central Midlands) is also aware of the current pressures on primary medical services within Sandy, Bedfordshire, and as a consequence there has been ongoing dialogue with the practices.

NHS England (Central Midlands) has approved a £200k capital investment to support the refurbishment of new premises and the relocation of a practice in Sandy; it is intended that relocation will take place in Oct 2016. A patient list closure has also been granted to a practice in Sandy.

As part of the Supporting Vulnerable Practices Programme, we will be fast tracking a practice to a diagnostic review and to move forward as one of the early pilot practices for the SVP programme, which is due to take place in mid to late July 2016. NHS England and the CCG are encouraging the collaborative working of both practices and if they agree to this approach, the diagnostic review could be undertaken as a collective/joint process.

We will also be discussing the recently launched 'Targeted Investment for Recruiting Returning Doctors pilot for 2016' and whether they are eligible to apply for this scheme. The pilot will allow designated practices to access up to £10k in relocation allowances and an educational bursary for GPs they are able to recruit, to access advertising and marketing support to assist them to promote their vacant posts, and it will provide a small allowance to cover locum costs whilst the new GP engages in educational activity in the first 12 months.

The impact of the national shortage of GPs is now being experienced within Bedfordshire. NHS England has released the 'General Practice Forward View' in which there are a several initiatives to address the national shortage of GPs with the aim of improving GP access and reducing the pressure on general practice.

I hope this brings some assurance to the Town Council that the issues within Sandy have been identified and are being addressed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elliot Howard-Jones'.

Elliot Howard-Jones
Director of Commissioning Operations