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Sandy Ward CBC Councillors Update

Electronic update with links

Issue no 36: July 2014

Town and Parish Council Conference

The next Town and Parish Council Conference will be held on 3 July at Priory House, Chicksands.

The theme for this event is 'Planning' which includes a brief on the pre-submission consultation draft of Development Strategy; the strategic plan for Central Bedfordshire.

The following workshops will be held:

- Workshop 1: Affordable Housing
- Workshop 2: Protecting and enhancing the environment & local area
- Workshop 3: The Planning Application Process from Pre Application Advice to Determination
- Workshop 4: Neighbourhood planning

NB This event is now fully booked, for more information on future events please contact [Peter Fraser](#) on 0300 300 6740.

Partnership Community Defibrillator Scheme

At the Town and Parish Council Conference in April, the council told you about a community emergency defibrillator scheme being launched.

The feedback from the conference showed significant interest and support. Letters to all Town and Parish Councils were sent out in June with full details about the scheme.

If you would like to take part in the scheme, please ensure that your Expression of Interest Forms are returned to [Karen Lang](#) by the 31 July deadline. Karen can also be contacted if you require any further information on the scheme.

Charity of choice

Council Chairman Cllr Caroline Maudlin has announced that the Alzheimer's Society has been voted the charity of choice for her second year as Central Bedfordshire Council's Chairman.

During 2014/15 the council will be seeking to raise awareness, increase understanding and generate lots of money for the Alzheimer's Society.

This charity combines medical research objectives with very practical support services such as a helpline and on line discussion forum for those affected by dementia.

Charity champions are already thinking about events and activities to support Alzheimer's, including a Memory Walk in the autumn, and other fundraising events.

If you'd like to join those planning the events, please contact [Ingrid Male](#) on 0300 300 5214.

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Help Stop The Hate...

The Central Bedfordshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) are asking for help from all Town and Parish Councils to help them spread the message about Hate Crime.

Hate crime is motivated by prejudice or intolerance of disability, race or religion, and includes physical attacks to someone or their property, offensive letters or phone calls, verbal abuse or insults, and bullying at school or work. It's also grossly under-reported in our area, and is hurting those who are vulnerable.

The CSP would like all Town and Parish Councils to feature a short piece in their local newsletters highlighting what Hate Crime is, and where people can go for help if they think they have been a victim.

For more information, and to be sent the short piece the CSP would like you to include in your local newsletters, please contact [Joy Craven](#) on 0300 300 4649. You can also find out more about Hate Crime on the council [website](#).

LIGHTS OUT

At 11pm on 4 August 1914 Britain declared war on Germany, ushering in one of the darkest periods in our history. (Sandy Royal British Legion is taking part in this event)

In a dramatic UK-wide event, LIGHTS OUT is an invitation to everyone to turn off their lights from 10pm – 11pm on 4 August, leaving on a single light or candle for this shared moment of reflection.

Working closely with the Royal British Legion, LIGHTS OUT will be one of the largest participatory events of its kind ever seen in the UK, and will complement the candlelit vigil held at Westminster Abbey on 4 August.

Central Bedfordshire Council is supporting LIGHTS OUT - if you are planning to support it in your area, please let us know by contacting Emel Morris on 0300 300 5827.

You can find out more about LIGHTS OUT on their [website](#).

DfT confirms Central Bedfordshire's roads are good

The Department for Transport (DfT) surveys the condition of roads across the country every year. The condition of roads in Central Bedfordshire, in comparison to the national average, is good.

The latest report (released in Spring 2014) showed that:

- Only 2% (same as last year) of our A roads needed repair, compared to 6% nationally;
- Only 2% (down 1% since last year) of our B and C roads needed repair, compared to 8% nationally; and
- Only 6% (down 1% since last year) of our unclassified roads needed repair, compared to 17% nationally.

For more details, go to the [DfT website](#).

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Dementia Friends and Dementia Friendly Communities

Dementia will affect us all. One in six people over 80 will have dementia and it is likely that we all know someone that has the condition.

Dementia Friends is an initiative from Alzheimer’s Society launched in 2013 with the aim of recruiting one million friends by 2015. Central Bedfordshire Council is working hard to support this target and on the 25 July all elected councillors will receive Dementia Friends training.

For further information on the campaign and how to become a Dementia Friend, please visit the [Dementia Friends website](#).

The **Dementia Friendly Communities** programme focuses on improving inclusion and quality of life for people living with dementia.

The council is committed to supporting Town and Parish Councils wishing to make their community dementia friendly.

If you’d like to learn more about the Dementia Friendly Communities programme or have already made a start please contact [Victoria Clout](#) or [Mark Fensome](#).

Care Home choices

How do you choose the right care home for you, for a family member or a friend?

Healthwatch Central Bedfordshire are conducting a series of focus groups across Central Bedfordshire to better understand the qualities people look for in a residential or nursing care home and their priorities for choosing one care home over another.

Dates and times of focus groups are:

01.07.14	10.15am – 11.45am	Dunstable Fire Station
02.07.14	5.45pm – 7.15pm	Toddington Fire Station
09.07.14	10.15am – 11.45am	Stanbridge & Tilsworth Village Hall
10.07.14	5.45pm – 7.15pm	Leighton Buzzard Day Centre

Residents interested in taking part in one of these focus groups to share their priorities for choosing a care home should contact Healthwatch Central Bedfordshire on 0300 303 8554, email [Steve Nash](#), or visit the [website](#) for further information.

‘Just Ask’ Events

Healthwatch Central Bedfordshire, working in partnership with the council, will be visiting an area near you to provide information, advice and guidance about social care, health, housing and additional services.

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The next event will be held in Stotfold on Friday 8 August in the area of the High Street and Mulberry Close (near the Co-op).

Please contact [Steve Nash](#) for more information on 0300 303 8554.

Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes Healthcare Review

As part of the Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes Healthcare Review, a 'working session' specifically for voluntary sector organisations has been organised for Wednesday 9 July (2pm-5pm) in Bedford.

The working session will enable the review team to have early conversations with potential providers so that they can understand what services providers may be in a position to deliver in Milton Keynes and Bedfordshire.

Please contact communications@bedfordshireccg.nhs.uk or 01525 864406 if you have any meetings, surgeries or other events that you would like the review group to come along to.

For more information on the working session, visit the [Voluntary Works website](#).

To keep up to date with what is happening with the review, please visit the 'Your Health In Bedfordshire' [website](#).

Safeguarding Awareness

Community and Voluntary Service (CVS) is offering a free evening course for those working or volunteering in small voluntary organisations and community groups to understand what is meant by 'safeguarding'.

The course will be held from 6pm-9pm on 10 July in Moggerhanger. To book your place or for more information contact [Lucia](#) at CVS.

Stevenage Leisure Limited – Customer Forums

Stevenage Leisure Limited holds regular customer forums at Sandy Sports Centre, Saxon Pool, Flitwick Leisure Centre and Houghton Regis Leisure Centre.

The forums are open to any users or interested parties to come and find out more about how the centres operate, offer feedback and discuss customer issues.

Dates for forthcoming meetings – all start at 7pm:

09.07.14	Sandy Sports Centre and Jenkins Pavillion
16.07.14	Saxon Pool - Biggleswade



Updated Health and Safety Guidance

The Health and Safety Executive has updated its guidance and website sections for those involved in leisure activities relating to [Amateur Sports Clubs](#) and [Village Halls](#).

The Waste Prevention Fund

The Waste Prevention Fund is a two-year £800,000 grants programme from DEFRA, offering grants of £5,000 - £50,000 which must be match-funded.

It will support community partnerships that generate more action to prevent waste.

It specifically supports communities to take forward innovative waste prevention, re-use and repair activities in their local areas, working in partnership with local businesses, councils, charities and voluntary groups.

Deadline for the first round is 1st September 2014. For more information visit the [WRAP](#) website.

Leisure Strategy – Parish Schedules Consultation

Since the adoption of the Leisure Strategy in March 2014, Leisure Services has been working with consultants to prepare the Parish Schedules.

These provide a statement of the current recreation, open space and sporting facilities in each Parish of Central Bedfordshire and identify what facilities are required to meet the needs of the current and future population.

Further details can be found [here](#), or for more information contact [Lisa White](#) on 0300 300 4489.

Dog control order consultation

A public consultation on proposed dog control orders for Central Bedfordshire starts on 20 June.

Residents can have their say online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations, or by picking up a paper copy of the consultation at either Watling or Priory House council offices.

A paper copy of the consultation can also be requested by calling 0300 300 5639.

For more information, contact [Steve Barrett](#) on 0300 300 5639.



Twitter and Facebook

Don't forget to follow @letstalkcentral on [Twitter](#).

You can also keep up to date with what [Central Bedfordshire Council](#) is up to on [Facebook](#).

Central Bedfordshire Council consultation activity update

The Communications team is responsible for the coordination of council consultation activity and provides advice and support across the organisation. All service areas are asked to inform the Communications team of consultation activity they are planning.

Read the latest [fortnightly update](#) of consultations, which provides a summary of current council consultation activities and those that will be starting over the next month. Details of all consultation activities can be found on the council's [consultation database](#).

Details of current and upcoming consultation activity being undertaken by the Council are provided by the Communications Team. Please contact Joanna Lang for more information about this update on ext. 75334 or email <mailto:joanna.lang@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk>.

Current consultations

Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer
Allocation of older person's Accommodation (2014-2015)	Consultation on the allocation of older person's accommodation within the Housing Allocations policy.	2 June 2014	30 June 2014	Caroline Tate 0300 300 5744
Cemeteries and Allotment Land needs survey	Consultation with Town & Parish Councils over need for land for allotments and cemeteries	22 April 2014	3 July 2014	Lisa White 0300 300 4489
Stat notice for Dunstable school closure	Statutory notice period for the closure of Dunstable schools (Ashton CofE VA, Brewers Hill & Streetfield)	9 June 2014	7 July 2014	Sue Barrow 0300 300 5700
Business Survey 2014	BMG are carrying out telephone interviews with a sample of 250 local business in the area, as well as an online survey with the general business community	16 June 2014	21 July 2014	Sarah Michael 0300 300 5558
Dog Control Orders Public consultation	Consultation with general public following town & parish consultation on potential adoption of dog control orders	20 June 2014	28 July 2014	Steve Barrett 0300 300 5639
Children's Centre consultation	Consultation on changes to the children's centre's services in CBC	28 May 2014	19 Aug 2014	Sue Tyler 0300 300 6553

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National Highways & Transport survey	National satisfaction survey with random sample of 3300 residents. 77 other councils are taking part.	23 June 2014	tbc	
Library Link Market research	Consultation with customers to gather information on their satisfaction with the various elements of the library link service and what we could do to better serve customers.	17 July 2013	On going	Nicola Avery 0300 300 5074
Children's services feedback form	Feedback form about experience with social services	31 March 2014	On going	Pete Hardy 0300 300 4955

Upcoming consultations

Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer
Development Strategy Consultation	Consultation on adoption of the development strategy 2014	30 June 2014	26 Aug 2014	Simon Andrews 0300 300 4352
Landscape Character Assessment	Feedback on the Landscape Character Assessment document	July	July	Rachael Brydges 0300 300 5197
Leighton Linslade land consultation	Consultation on land between Miles Ave & Regent St in Leighton Linslade after requests for biodiversity planting	Tbc	Tbc	Sarah Hughes 0300 300 6166



