

Sandy Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee of Sandy Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 10, Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 23 June 2014 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs N Aldis (Chairman), C Butterfield, T Cole, M Runchman, M Scott, and S Sutton

Absent: Cllrs J Ali, C Osborne, R Smith and S Walsh

In attendance: Town Clerk, Cllr Pettitt, Cllr Jackson

- | | | Actions |
|----------|---|----------------|
| 1 | Apologies for absence (010-14/15)
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Osborne, Smith and Walsh. | Admin |
| 2 | Declarations of interest (011-14/15)
i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests - None
ii) Non-disclosable Interests - Cllrs Aldis, Butterfield, Cole, and Runchman drew attention to their membership of the Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights. Cllrs Aldis, Cole and Jackson drew attention to their membership of Sandy Skating and Youth Association 2000 and Cllrs Aldis and Sutton drew attention to their membership of SEG. | |
| 3 | Vice-chairman (012-14/15)
RESOLVED to elect Cllr Butterfield as vice-chairman of the committee. | Admin |
| 4 | Minutes of previous meeting (013-14/15)
RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Community Services and Environment Committee held on Monday 14 April 2014 as a correct record of proceedings. | Admin |
| 5 | Sandy Parish Schedule – CBC Leisure Strategy (014-14/15)
Members reviewed the CBC Leisure Strategy and noted contradictions and errors within the document.

RESOLVED to note the Central Bedfordshire Council Leisure Strategy Parish Schedule for Sandy and to make the corrections to errors and omissions and to highlight local priorities for deliverable projects facilities as shown in the attached document. | Town Clerk |

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6 **Sandy Cricket Club Licence (015-14/15)**

RESOLVED to note a report from the Town Clerk regarding negotiation of a licence for use of Jenkins Pavilion and the cricket square and outfield at Sunderland Road Recreation Ground by Sandy Cricket Club. Members noted the comments from the IOG regional pitch adviser that the cricket square and the bowling green were kept to very high standards.

7 **Skate Park Project (016-14/15)**

Reports from the Town Clerk and Groundwork on options for improvement of the site partly occupied by skate park equipment leased from Sandy Skating Association 2000 had been circulated in advance of the meeting and these were discussed in some detail. Members of the Skating Association present at the meeting indicated the Association's willingness to contribute funds to the feasibility study. Members discussed the different options for consultation and feasibility studies including whether alternative facilities for young people should be considered for this site. The Clerk noted that the site could not be left in its current condition indefinitely; the remaining play surface where equipment had been removed was unsatisfactory and would degrade further. After extensive discussion it was **RESOLVED to recommend to Town Council** that the Groundwork proposal for a feasibility study should be accepted on condition that the Sandy Skating and Youth Association 2000 provided half of the cost of the study ie the Association would be asked to contribute £2,000.

The Clerk was asked to secure attendance from a representative of Groundwork at the meeting when the recommendation would be considered.

8 **Redevelopment of depot at Stratford Road (017-14/15)**

Reports from the members' working group on redevelopment of the depot at Potton Road and the implications for the storage of Town Council equipment, vehicles and location of mess room had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Town Clerk had not been involved in the discussions or report and had provided some additional comments in writing which had been circulated before the meeting.

The general principles as well as the details of what members considered most important in redeveloping the depot were discussed at some length. It was noted that the alternative leasing of premises had not been considered in detail and that further financial information and detailed work was required in order to justify any decisions made but members were anxious to expedite progress and

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therefore it was **RESOLVED to recommend** to Town Council that

- i) The existing cemetery chapel should be preserved and enhanced and used for the provision of burial services.
- ii) An environmentally friendly storage building should be provided at the cemetery in the area next to the hedge between the existing cemetery and the depot area. Facilities should include:
 - a toilet which is suitable for the outdoor staff and visitors to the cemetery during working hours (there is no obligation to provide a toilet for visitors but it is a much requested facility).
 - suitable bins for composting materials, top soil, grave soil and other items which are constructed of an aesthetic material and screened as far as possible from the cemetery by hedging.
 - refurbishment of the cemetery shed to store some tools
 - garaging for one vehicle
- iii) A large building (larger than the current depot building at Stratford Road) should be provided at Sunderland Road Recreation Ground with storage facilities for one vehicle and all other Town Council equipment not used at the cemetery. Facilities should include
 - a secure, fenced yard area for outdoor work
 - removal and relocation of the existing mess room from Stratford Road
 - creation of a vehicular access from Sunderland Road to the storage building at Stratford Road.

Working
Group/
Town
Council

The Town Clerk noted that the committee did not have any financial information about any of these changes and that the totality of the likely expenditure alongside the cemetery development project and the impact of change of use of space at Sunderland Road (currently committed to recreation) would need to be fully considered, explained and justified to the community. Therefore a range of options should be fully costed to assist in the decision making process. It would also be important to consult with the staff team.

9 Cemetery Extension (018-14/15)

A progress report on the cemetery extension project had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Members noted that a revised design was awaited from Cemetery Development Services.

RESOLVED to note the report.

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10 Sandy Enhancement Group (019-14/15)

Members considered a report from Sandy Enhancement Group which had been circulated in advance.

RESOLVED to note the report and **to recommend** that Sandy Enhancement Group become an independent community group which would be permitted to keep the funds it already had in its account. The sum allocated for SEG use in the Council's 2014-15 budget should be held within the Town Council's accounts and SEG would be able to apply for these funds should a suitable project arise during the course of 2014-15. In future years it was proposed that SEG should apply for community grant funding in the same way as any other community group in Sandy.

C Baker
Smith

The committee noted its thanks and appreciation of the work which SEG had carried out in previous years.

11 Christmas Lights (020-14/15)

A report from the Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights which had previously been circulated was discussed and the role and need for volunteers to assist with the switch-on event was explored. Members of the Friends Group were anxious that Sandy Town Council should understand the support needed to ensure the event was successful.

RESOLVED to recommend that Sandy Town Council should consider this report at its meeting on 30 June 2014. The Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights would be holding a further meeting on 24 June 2014 and amendments/additional information might be added to the report.

Friends of
Sandy
Xmas
Lights

12 Pavements (021-14/15)

A report on the condition of pavements in Sandy had been prepared by a group of councillors including Cllrs Aldis, Groom and CBC Cllr Maudlin and this was discussed. Members noted their concern at the apparent lack of maintenance of pavements/footpaths over a period of years.

RESOLVED to endorse the report (with the addition of Westfield Gardens as one of the footpaths most in need of repair) and submit this to Central Bedfordshire Council for attention.

CBC Ward
Members
Aldis and
Maudlin

13 Workshop with Highways Agency (022-14/15)

Follow up correspondence received from the Highways Agency following the Council's workshop with the HA and CBC earlier in the year was discussed. Members expressed their disappointment that the correspondence promised nothing to address the key issues which had been raised at the workshop meeting.

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RESOLVED to ask the Town Clerk to respond to the letter conveying the Council's disappointment and reiterating the key concerns. The response would include comments about

Town
Clerk

- the state of the meadow path to the Baulk which was underused because of its poor condition and lack of lighting
- the committee did not wish to see the gap on the A1 at Orchard Road closed
- concerns about people walking on the A1 particularly those walking to and from the two bus stops on the southbound carriageway in poor weather conditions because there was no footpath

RESOLVED to ask the Town Clerk to write to Central Bedfordshire Council about the need to improve the Baulk route in the light of the HA's decisions.

Town
Clerk

14 Healthcare Review (023-14/15)

Correspondence received from Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group requesting participation from councillors in its healthcare review had been received.

All
members

RESOLVED to note the correspondence.

Settlement Name	Sandy
Settlement Hierarchy	Major Service Centres
Placemaking Area	North
2013 Population	11700
2022 Population	11654

Settlement Description

Sandy is a small market town which expanded extensively in the 1960's - 1970's as a result of G.L.C overspill. Substantial parts of the built up area comprise estate-scale development, much of which is high density. It is dominated by the nearby Sand Hills, which surround the settlement.

Open Spaces within Town

Site Name	Typology	Site Size (Ha)	Site ID
Potton Road	Allotments & Community Gardens	0.7044	4046A
St Swithun C of E Church	Cemeteries & Burial Grounds	0.72615	4072
Ivel Park Play Area	Children's Play Space	0.01925	4029
Sunderland Road Play Area	Children's Play Space	0.03235	4033
Bickerdikes Gardens Play Area	Children's Play Space	0.03095	4043
ST Neots Road Play Area	Children's Play Space	0.0344	4047
The Limes Play Area	Children's Play Space	0.07045	4060
Bedford Road Recreation Ground Play Area	Children's Play Space	0.16445	4064
Beeston Green Play Area	Children's Play Space	0.0306	4071
Merlin Drive Play Area 2	Children's Play Space	0.03535	4192
Merlin Drive Play Area 1	Children's Play Space	0.06285	4191A
Goldfinch Drive/Crow Hill	Children's Play Space	0.03845	4023A
The Lodge	Countryside Recreation Facilities for Young People & Teenagers	134.8848	4069
Sunderland Road Skateboard Park	Facilities for Young People & Teenagers	0.05785	4191
The Pinnacle	Informal Recreation	5.82715	4054
Mill Meadows	Informal Recreation	1.7245	4057
The Riddy	Informal Recreation	7.0647	4058
Fallowfield Recreation Ground	Larger Recreation Spaces	1.85465	4024
Sunderland Road Recreation Ground	Larger Recreation Spaces	5.20365	4032
Bedford Road Recreation Ground	Larger Recreation Spaces	1.96	4063
Goldfinch Drive/Crow Hill	Small Amenity Spaces	0.5216	4023
Fallowfield Estate	Small Amenity Spaces	0.1177	4026
Fallowfield Estate	Small Amenity Spaces	0.0963	4027

Comment [DS1]: Allotments closed in 2013, now cemetery land

Comment [DS2]: Play equipment removed from Goldfinch Drive in 2011

Comment [DS3]: NB only one skate ramp remaining, remainder removed in 2012

Comment [DS4]: Town Council not sure what is meant by this?

Fallowfield Estate	Small Amenity Spaces	0.0921	4028
Engayne Avenue Estate	Small Amenity Spaces	0.18865	4034
Engayne Avenue Estate	Small Amenity Spaces	0.37835	4035
Engayne Avenue Estate	Small Amenity Spaces	0.68575	4036
Fallowfield Estate	Small Amenity Spaces	0.9843	4038
Balmoral Close	Small Amenity Spaces	0.17755	4040
on Engayne Avenue (between Waverley Avenue and Medusa Way)	Small Amenity Spaces	0.15915	4041
Engayne Avenue Estate	Small Amenity Spaces	0.1156	4042
Land between Winchester Road and Berwick Way	Small Amenity Spaces	0.8567	4044
Glebe Road/Churchill Way	Small Amenity Spaces	0.098	4046
Westfield Gardens	Small Amenity Spaces	0.05745	4048
Sunderland Road/Newton Way	Small Amenity Spaces	0.2757	4050
Land between Sunderland and railway line	Small Amenity Spaces	0.2702	4051
Dapifer Drive	Small Amenity Spaces	0.2753	4052
Friars Walk	Small Amenity Spaces	0.28285	4053
The Limes	Small Amenity Spaces	0.76705	4059
	Small Amenity Spaces	0.2511	4061
Bedford Road/Swan Lane	Small Amenity Spaces	0.1357	4062
Swansholme Gardens	Small Amenity Spaces	0.0478	4066
Swansholme Gardens	Small Amenity Spaces	0.06585	4067
Swansholme Gardens	Small Amenity Spaces	0.04755	4068
Beeston Green	Small Amenity Spaces	3.69825	4070

Comment [DS5]: This includes a children's play space with equipment

Table 1 – Adequacy of Provision (balance between quantity / quality and accessibility)

Type of Open Space	Current Provision	Standard	Current Surplus / Shortfall	Future Surplus / Shortfall	Accessibility	Quality Issues	Other Issues
Countryside Recreation Sites	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Town located within 20 minute catchment of RSPB Lodge.	RSPB Lodge has restricted visitor capacity due to its environmental and conservation sensitivities. Site offers more limited recreational functions (children's play etc) than other countryside recreational sites.	Green infrastructure plan sets out the aspiration to create a green wheel around Sandy
Urban Parks	0.00	0.22	-2.57	-2.56	No existing provision and therefore residents outside of catchment to a formal urban park. Sunderland Road Recreation Ground does however fill role to an extent.	N/a	Sunderland Road Recreation Ground (Formal recreation ground) is often considered by residents as an urban park, but it does not provide the same setting or provide the facilities of a site in this category.

Large Recreation Areas	Formal		9.02	1.20	-5.02	-4.96	Good level of access to facilities, some small gaps in provision to the south (although residents are able to access informal open spaces and small amenity spaces)	Green Infrastructure Plan highlights aspiration for new landscaped green space for recreation
	Informal		14.62	2.60	-15.80	-15.68	Some access to informal recreation areas and small amenity spaces)	Green infrastructure plan identifies potential to create / improve public access to Cox Hill
Small Spaces	Amenity						Lack of small amenity spaces in the south east of the town, although to an extent demand negated by the presence of larger sites	
			10.12	0.55	3.69	3.71	Capacity of sites limited by environmental / conservation functions – all sites have dual function. All sites above target quality standard, but scope to increase the recreational functions of Mill Meadows	
Play Areas for Children							Gaps in access to the east of the town	
			0.52	0.11	-0.77	-0.76	All sites just above target quality standard but opportunities to	Green Infrastructure plan indicates that there is demand for

Comment [DS6]: ?

								improve. Facilities at Bickerlike Gardens, St Neots, Sunderland Road and The Limes are the poorer facilities.	additional play space
Facilities for Young People	0.06	0.01	0.00	0.00	Limited access to facilities – almost all residents outside of target 10 minute catchment area	Range of facilities but site is relatively basic overall, particularly the skatepark where it appears that some equipment has been removed. Potential to improve functionality of facility	Green infrastructure plan indicates that there is demand for potential additional facilities for children and young people in particular adventure play (Sand Hills) and Moto / BMX tracks in the quarry		
Allotments					Current allotment site at Staford Road (48 plots) to close November 2013 to accommodate cemetery extension	Site to close and no new site yet secured	New site sought to accommodate existing and potential allotment holders. Green infrastructure study also highlights aspirations for new allotments.		
Cemeteries and Churchyards	0.70	0.37	-3.63	-3.61	Current site at Patton Road is nearing capacity. Allotments will close in November 2013 in order to facilitate extension to this site for burials. St Swithuns Churchyard is full and closed.				

Comment [DS7]: The Town Council in conjunction with Sandy Skating and Youth Association 2000 is currently considering use of the site formerly occupied by equipment which became unsafe. The Town Council would object very strongly to any use of the Sand Hills for adventure play, this is a fragile environment characteristic of the Green Sands ridge and is already degraded by unofficial 'adventure play' involving motor bikes etc. The Town Council also has concerns about the provision of Moto/BMX tracks in the quarry

Comment [DSS]: The site did close in 2013. Why does the parish profile not mention the Leisure Strategy's statement that allotment provision falls below that which is ideal? A private allotment site opened at Seaddington Nursery (within the parish boundary) in 2012.

Table 2 – Sports Facilities Available and Adequacy of Provision

Sport / Facility	Site and Comments
AGP	Sandy Sports and Recreation Centre – important site for hockey
Football	Sunderland Road – new pavilion and issues with parking, but scope to increase use Bedford Rd, Sandy – some availability at peak time, poor parking Sandy Recreation Ground – capacity as pitches not used for formal play
Cricket	Sandy CC – suffers from poor drainage
Rugby	n/a served by Ampthill RUFC
Hockey	Sandy and Shefford HC – important facility at Sandy and Shefford Sports and Recreation Centre
Tennis	Sandy Sports Centre, no club
Bowls	Sandy Conservatives BC, Sandy Town BC

Comment [DS9]: Not aware of current problems with parking

Comment [DS10]: Poor parking is now more of a problem due to parking restrictions in Albion Court and on Bedford Road

Comment [DS11]: Biggleswade suerely?

Comment [DS12]: The athletics track has not been mentioned also netball or any of the indoor ports which take place in Sandy

Table 3 - Key Issues and Priorities

Type of Open Space	Key Issues	Typology Specific Priorities	Key Priorities
Countryside Recreation Sites	Town located within 20 minute catchment of RSPB Lodge. This site however has restricted visitor capacity due to its conservational functions and is unable to accommodate the high levels of demand that are evident	Investment into RSPB Lodge	1.Replacement allotment provision 2.New cemetery 3. New facilities for young people 4.New destination play area and new play facilities in areas of deficiency 5.New park / large recreation area 6. improvements to quality of football and cricket facilities
Urban Parks	No existing urban park, although Sunderland Road Recreation Ground to an extent fulfils this	Creation of an urban park, either by upgrading Sunderland Road Recreation Ground (and creating new	

		requirement	formal recreation areas) or new provision)	
Large Recreation Areas	Formal	Good level of access to facilities, some small gaps in provision to the south. Significant quantitative deficiencies and identified aspirations for additional landscaped green space.	Enhancement of existing sites Creation of new sites in areas where provision is limited – particularly the south of the town	
	Informal	Some access to informal spaces but capacity of sites limited by dual function between recreation and conservation. Large quantitative deficiencies.	Creation of new sites (or improved access to existing sites)	
Small Amenity Spaces		Some small deficiencies, quality above target levels although scope to improve functionality. Sufficient provision in quantitative terms	Priority on enhancing existing spaces.	
Play Areas for Children		Limited access for residents in the east of the town. Requirement for additional provision also identified in Green Infrastructure plan and through Town Council consultation. Quantitative deficiencies, some play facilities require improvement	New provision required in the east of the town. Strategy also indicates that a destination facility is also required– ie. higher calibre conveniently located facility which attracts users from across the town	
Facilities for Young People		Limited access to facilities for young people for almost all residents with large quantitative deficiencies. Existing provision relatively	New provision identified as a key priority	

Comment [DS13]: The aspirations to create an urban park seem to contradict the highlighted comments above which suggest development of more football on these sites. There is a tension between pitches and alternative provision

Comment [DS14]: Where?

Comment [DS15]: Where?

	basic		
Allotments	Existing allotments to be closed. Current capacity is 48. No replacement provision yet found but loss of site will create unmet demand. Future population growth will enhance this.	New site required	
Cemeteries and Churchyards	One existing cemetery is full and other is nearing capacity.	Requirement for additional provision - Extension to existing cemetery scheduled which will address the issue.	
Connectivity	Connectivity is one of the key principles of the Sandy Green Infrastructure plan, with the majority of actions relating to the improvement of existing and / or creation of new footpaths. In particular there are aspirations for links to Potton and Biggleswade.		
Outdoor Sports	Important site for hockey, some quality issues for both football and cricket. Sufficient capacity overall. Key Priorities Football pitch quality Sandy CC – requires improvement (drainage) Sandy Sports Centre AGP to be retained as sand based		

Comment [DS16]: Already closed

Comment [DS17]: Cemetery extension is currently at planning and design stage

Comment [DS18]: And aspirations for Sandy Green wheel to improve connectivity within the town