

# Sandy Town Council

To: Cllrs N Aldis, J Ali, T Cole, A M Hill, G Leach, C Osborne, 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 26 September 2016 commencing at 7.30pm.

Chris Robson  
Town Clerk  
10 Cambridge Road  
Sandy, SG19 1JE  
01767 681491  
20 September 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 8 August 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

- 5 Action List**  
To receive the Action Report and any updates. Appendix I
- 6 River Ivel**  
To receive and note an update report from the Town Clerk on the River Ivel Project. Appendix II
- 7 Sandy Green Wheel**  
To receive and note a report following a meeting of the Green Wheel Steering Group. Appendix III
- 8 Riddy Grass Cutting**  
To receive a report from the Town Clerk on a Central Bedfordshire request to take carry out some additional strimming work at The Riddy nature reserve. Appendix IV
- 9 Bus Shelter in Fallowfield for Sandye Place Academy Pupils**  
To consider whether a bus shelter is required on Sunderland Road, Fallowfield which could serve the number 73 bus and Sandy Place Academy Students.
- 10 Dogzaloud Dog Obedience Training Classes**  
To receive feedback on recent free dog training classes held in Sandy. Appendix V
- 11 Specialised Markets**  
To receive a report and recommendation from the Town Clerk on holding future specialised markets in the town. Appendix VI
- 12 Fallowfield Play Area**  
To receive a report and recommendation from the Town Clerk. Appendix VII
- 13 Chairman's Items**
- 14 Date of Next meeting: 7 November 2016**

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

Subject	Action to be taken		Response /Status
	Minute	Action	
<b>Meeting 1/6/15</b>			
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 issued to Full Council and Clerk to continue to press Aragon for progress.  CBC Cllr. P Smith will now be liaising with Aragon and CBC matters.
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.	CBC liaising with Stagecoach to reintroduce 73 service following completion of work in November.
Bus Shelter in Fallowfield	(15-15/16)	Defer this item until the bus route is decided.	On Agenda
<b>Meeting 5/10/15</b>			
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.	On going  Town Council agreed to support the project on 1/8/16. Town Clerk in discussions with CBC to move matter towards a planning application.
<b>Meeting 22/2/16</b>			
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 To form part of CBC Match funding project.  Initial review by CBC to inform Ringway Jacobs occurred in September. Ringway Jacobs to produce advisory report on and street furnishing, potential changes and locations.

<b>Full Council Meeting 20/4/16</b>			
Allotments	(22-2016/17)	Progress and update reports to go to the Community Services and Environment Committee	On going. BRCC drawing up management plan for Orchard/Allotment which is required for planning submission. CBC officers are currently working with Planning ahead of a submission.
<b>Meeting 16/5/16</b>			
Specialised Markets	(11-2016/17)	Develop a programme of specialised event markets.	On Agenda

**AGENDA ITEM 6**

**SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE:** Community Services and Environment

**DATE:** 26 September 2016

**AUTHOR:** Town Clerk

**SUBJECT:** River Ivel Restoration Work

**Summary**

At a meeting of the Full Council on 30 March 2015 Members received a presentation from Mr G. Inwood on proposed work to structures along the River Ivel, including Lock Corner Weir and the potential impact this would have. It was resolved to write to the Environment Agency expressing the Council's concerns regarding the impact of the closure of the weir to Sandy and its residents.

On 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015 a meeting was held with Mr. G. Inwood, the Environment Agency (EA) and representatives of Sandy Town Council (STC). Mr. Inwood arranged an update meeting with the Environment Agency on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 with the EA and those same STC representatives; the purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview on project progress.

The following report is meant as a summary of matters discussed at that meeting for Members information.

**Information**

- The EA have made the decision to split the project into different phases. Phase 1 will focus upon Tempsford looking at the stretch between Tempsford and South Mills weir close to Blunham, and will involve opening the sluice gates. The trial has not yet started but the business plan is complete and final approval is being awaited. The whole River Ivel project is to be spread over a 6 year period.
- Lock Corner Weir is to feature in Phase 2 which is likely to take place in 2017-18, however dates will be dependent on the delivery of Phase 1.
- The EA explained that the reason for the phased work is that there are too many structures and variations to assess in one piece of modeling, with the alteration of any one structure having a variety of impacts that would need to be studied and understood. The EA is currently looking at combinations of different options along the river and stressed the importance of looking at the profile of the river.

- It is important to understand how each structure impacts on the next one and the effects the structures have upstream. When studying options the EA stated that any option whereby removal/alteration of a structure will result in a high and dry channel represents a negative impact and would not be considered an acceptable option.
- There is no point in maintaining a structure which serves no purpose and part of the EA's modeling will look to identify such structures.
- A range of restoration models will be looked at along the river and the impact of each option will be reviewed. A number of options will be looked at for Lock Corner Weir, which could include consideration of a rock waterfall instead of the weir; this would maintain the level of water in the side channel.
- The removal of a weir without any restoration work is unlikely to be a workable option if there is a negative impact, i.e. increased flooding or environmental. The EA will not propose a restoration option that will harm the environment and that in the case of Lock Corner Weir the continued flow of water through the side channel will be maintained to an agreed level in any option presented.
- All the following options will be considered for each structure and the result of each measured against the project's objectives, flood risk benefits, costs, maintenance, fish movement, recreation and aesthetics.

- Doing nothing
- Review current situation
- Increase monitoring
- Remove structures without restoration
- Remove restoration
- Create fish passes

- It was queried whether the EU's Water Framework Directive was still relevant in the light of the European Union referendum. The EA stated this was an assessment framework which the EA would want to apply anyway.

## **Flooding**

STC Members queried what impact the last few years wide scale winter flooding had had on the EA's strategy and policies. The EA stated that the events of the past few years had raised public awareness of flooding nationally and as a result more funding had been available. Dredging is carried out, but this is often not the best solution to avoiding flooding, with emphasis now on the need to create additional flood plains. On a national level the EA is looking at river pinching and the removal of river banks which do not serve a purpose. Maintenance work has also changed to focus on flood reduction, with particular success by adopting zigzag cutting of weed growth.

### **Future Action**

The EA stressed that there is a need to learn from what happens at Tempsford during Phase one. Once the sluice is opened the river will be monitored over a year to reflect the different seasons. There will be a need to monitor the effect upon species along the river, for example whether alien species will migrate upstream. As part of the EA initial assessments and consents, mitigating actions have been identified to reduce this risk. The greatest concern for the EA is the potential invasion of shrimp species.

It was agreed that a meeting would be held in spring 2017 to review the situation and hear updates following the study of Phase one.

**SANDY TOWN COUNCIL****COMMITTEE:** Community Services and Environment**DATE:** 26 September 2016**AUTHOR:** Barry Groom**SUBJECT:** Sandy Green Wheel**Summary**

At a meeting of the Full Council on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016 it was resolved that the Council confirm its commitment to the Green Wheel project and that Cllrs N Aldis and D Sharman be appointed to sit on the steering group. This report is meant as an update for Members following a meeting of the steering group on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2016.

**Information**

The 'Sandy Green Wheel' is a long term vision for the linking of publicly accessible green spaces and routes around the town to create a 'rim' which is supported by 'spokes' of linear paths and corridors leading from the settlement out to the 'rim' and the wider surrounding countryside.

The Wheel is considered 'green' due to both the natural and historic environment components forming it; and the promotion of recreational trips using healthy, non-motorised forms of sustainable 'transport'. The Green Wheel will cater for a wide range of users, meeting recreation, commuting and other service needs.

The Wheel will circle the town, creating a continuous accessible corridor. Ultimately it should be freely available to walkers and cyclists, while also providing appropriate links to the wider bridleway network for horse riders. In the short term, some sections may only cater for walkers, but the long term aim is to create a complete circuit available to cyclists, including the provision of links to the National Cycle Routes 12 and 51.

**Green Wheel Progress**

A completed fully cycleable route will be many years off. A version of the route already exists for walkers and it may be possible to launch the Green Wheel for walkers sooner.

**Current Projects and Funding**

Sections of the proposed Wheel include the linking of national Cycle network Route 12 & 51 with the southern section incorporating the Kingfisher Way, the preferred surface of chippings (similar to sections of the Biggleswade Green Wheel) and the crossing of the A603 at Girtford Bridge will need to be improved.

Funding has been secured through section 106 green infrastructure funding and through BRCC and CBC for some surfacing, access and signage work to be carried out in autumn 2016.



In areas where the original route is no longer viable discussions with landowners are currently taking place to look at alternative options.

An alternate route to the section of the Green Wheel alongside the A1 where it passes diagonally across a pasture which is owned by Cancer Research UK, is being looked at, with the possibility of the path going around the edge of the field. There is some funding available to carry out this work once the agreement has been finalised.

There will be scope for the creation of a 'Friends of Sandy Green Wheel' group, as in Biggleswade, with volunteers involved in tasks such as installation of a dipping platform at Sandcast Wood, hedge planting beside the railway, tree planting at South Mills etc.

Bridge and ramp improvements with cycle cattle grid between Biggleswade Common and RSPB land will be undertaken this autumn. Minor enhancements are planned for Stratford Road and a review of the funding available will be carried out.

***A further meeting of the Steering group is to be held at the start of October and Members will be kept informed of further progress.***

**AGENDA ITEM 8**

**SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE:** Community Services and Environment

**DATE:** 26 September 2016

**AUTHOR:** Town Clerk

**SUBJECT:** Riddy Grass Cutting

**Summary**

Central Bedfordshire Council's Rights of Way department have requested assistance from Sandy Town Council (STC) in keeping two short sections of the Riddy All User path clear throughout the year.

**Information**

Central Bedfordshire Council's (CBC) Rights of Way carryout two yearly seasonal vegetation clearance cuts along rights of way in The Riddy. The first of these cuts was completed in June; however reports of overgrown vegetation (mostly nettles) in the Sandy Weir area have been received by CBC.

Following a review in August it was found that the Weir to the Riddy Bridge section was clear in the middle with some side growth encroaching. The All User path which was installed for those with wheelchairs and mobility vehicles was clear enough for a walker to use, but not a wheel chair or mobility vehicle user, due to encroaching nettles. The Riddy All User path has knee high safety railings along the river bank and it is the only safe area for users with mobility issues.

It is requested that the STC outdoor team add a 1m wide path edge strim to the two routes marked on the attached map. The length of the cut would be;

- Riddy path – 121m
- Baulk Route – 77m

CBC cut in May/June and then again in September/October, it is requested that STC carryout a cut/s in between these times to ensure the routes remain useable by all. As the local operative STC would have advantage of being able to respond quickly to local demand with the vagaries of the growth cycles.

The Grounds Team Leader has assessed the requests and believes STC have the capacity to include this in their maintenance programme for the benefit of all path users.

**Recommendation**

The STC carryout seasonal strimming work on the two paths highlighted and that the Grounds Team Leader assess when the best time for this work will be and factor it into the year maintenance schedule.

**SANDY TOWN COUNCIL****COMMITTEE:** Community Services and Environment**DATE:** 26 September 2016**AUTHOR:** Town Clerk**SUBJECT:** Dog Training in Sandy**Summary**

At a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee on 22 February 2016 it was resolved that permission be granted for Bedfordshire dog training company 'Dogz Aloud' to hold free training and education sessions in Sandy. The purpose of this report is to provide some brief feedback following two free training sessions.

**Information**

Two free training and obedience sessions were held in Sandy on the 24<sup>th</sup> August and 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016. Sandy Town Council advertised the sessions and registered applications, with all work on the day carried out by Dogzaloud.

The 24<sup>th</sup> August session was held at Sunderland Road recreation ground and had 11 participants registered. Dogszaloud informed the Clerk that this was a good number and higher than they get when holding similar events for other organisations. Unfortunately only 7 participants attended on the day, this was in part due to the heat and some participants called on the day to cancel for that reason.

The 4<sup>th</sup> September session was held at the Fallowfield open space and had 9 participants signed up, however only 3 attended on the day.

Dogzaloud felt the sessions were worthwhile and positive feedback was received from those that attended. One of the key issues that emerged from the training was that there was confusion over signage and where dogs were allowed off leads. It was suggested that a leaflet with a map highlighting the different areas in the town that dogs were allowed off leads may be useful.

As with many Town Council's Sandy continues to receive complaints and concerns about dog behaviour, dog mess and dog bins. The sessions do help the Council to work with dog owners on a small scale and address some of the issues that are coming forward.

**Recommendation**

That the Council work with Dogzaloud and other local dog training organisations to hold a dog awareness event in 2017, which will include a dog show and a selection of information stalls, including dog officers, groomers, vets etc. To continue its engagement with dog owners and improving shared facilities for all residents.

**SANDY TOWN COUNCIL****COMMITTEE:** Community Services and Environment**DATE:** 26 September 2016**AUTHOR:** Town Clerk**SUBJECT:** Specialised Markets**Summary**

At a meeting of the Community Services and Environment Committee on 16 May 2016 it was recommended that the existing markets are wound up and special event markets are put on throughout the year. The following report puts forward potential specialist markets for the town.

**Information**

Market towns across the country are struggling with dwindling stall numbers and many councils have found themselves in a similar situation to Sandy. In some cases focused, themed/specialised markets have helped keep the presence of a market going and generate activity in the town. Sandy Town Council could therefore look to hold a selection of specialised markets, which incorporate community groups. There are a variety of themes the Council could consider;

Continental	Vintage	Health and Wellbeing
Artisan	Retro	Crafts
Food & Drink	Antiques	Community Stalls
Charity	Heritage	Farmers

**Resources**

Depending on the type of specialised market there would be an impact on the Council's resources. Community, heritage and local food markets would require work in generating interest from stalls, booking stalls, advertising, and setting up the market, which may include the loaning of gazebos. If this was on a weekend there would also be the need for a Council presence during the set up and shut down.

Themed markets, such as Continental or Artisan Markets, would require less resources as the markets have their own stalls and organisers who will set up, manage and shut down. The Council would need to arrange the booking, ensure the car park was free for set up and advertise. There would be no cost to the Council the market coming. Initially the Council could look to include community stalls as part of such markets, rather than focusing on themed community market.

The Council could initially look to mix continental markets with craft and local food and drink markets, building in a community and heritage element by working with local groups that could set up as part of the market.

**Recommendation**

That the Council moves towards holding quarterly themed Markets with an initial Continental market, incorporating community stalls, to be held and the markets success monitored and reported back to Councillors.

**AGENDA ITEM 12**

**SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE:** Community Services and Environment

**DATE:** 26 September 2016

**AUTHOR:** Town Clerk

**SUBJECT:** Fallowfield Play Area

**Summary**

The Town Council previously agreed to continue with short term health and safety work on playground equipment with a long term view of working with playground companies on projects for each of the play areas. The following report is meant as a brief update for Members.

**Information**

The outdoor team has dealt with issues highlighted in the previously circulated ROSPA report and continued to address issues and replacements that arise, such as the recent replacement of a basket swing seat at Fallowfield and wobble boards at Bedford Road, this falls under the Councils play parks maintenance budget.

The Clerk has visited sites with a play company representative to seek guidance on both the replacement of equipment and the enhancement of the play areas and play experience. Fallowfield play area was identified as a good starting project with a potentially large impact. The play area is the second most frequently used after Bedford Road and the Council receives regular feedback on the play equipment from the community.

The site comprises two play areas and a MUGA. The equipment in the younger play area is in better condition than that of the older children's area and it is proposed that this site would benefit from the update of a couple of pieces of equipment, specifically basket swings. The incorporation of some picnic benches next to the path could also improve the experience for families.

The older play area would benefit from a larger project with more considered thought over play development and experience. The current equipment does not offer play development for children as they progress from the younger equipment onwards, in addition it was noted that the equipment is not interactive and does not encourage play.

Residents have previously raised lack of consultation on play parks as an issue, which leads to the inclusion of equipment that is then not fully used. The Clerk has already spoken with some residents who would be happy to get involved with consultation work. The results of the consultation can be reported back to Council

and shared with play provides so a project can be drawn up and the Council can consider the costs and a sc106 application.

The Clerk is currently taking advice from CBC sc106 and once a project is agreed and quotes received a Sc106 application could be submitted.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Fallowfield play area be in the initial play park project to be explored and that the Clerk begins carrying out consultation work with residents.

That the results of the consultation and proposals with projected costs are brought back to Council for consideration.