

Sandy Town Council

To: Cllrs P N Aldis, P Blaine, S Doyle, A Gibson, J Hewitt, A M Hill, W Jackson, T Knagg, R Lock, C Osborne, M Pettitt, M Scott, P Sharman, S Sutton and N Thompson

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Sandy Town Council to be held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 5 August 2019 commencing at 7.30pm for the purpose of transacting the items of business below



Chris Robson
Town Clerk
10 Cambridge Road
Sandy
SG19 1JE
01767 681491
31st July 2019

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS MEETING

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations

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 Pecuniary Interests*
- iii) Dispensations*

3 Public Participation Session

To receive questions and representations from members of the public.

Sandy Town Council

4 Minutes of previous Town Council meetings

To consider the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Sandy Town Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 15 July 2019.

5 Minutes of committees and recommendations therein

To receive and note the minutes of the meetings of the following committees and sub-committees and (if applicable) to approve recommendations therein which do not arise elsewhere.

- i) Development Scrutiny Committee held on 1 July 2019 and 22 July 2019
- ii) Community, Services and Environment Committee held on 1 July 2019

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Council upgrade all its existing cameras to new infra-red record only cameras and end 24/7 live monitoring of its cameras. That the PF&R committee consider quotations and specifications for new cameras and the annual revenue costs. That new infra-red CCTV cameras be installed on the external entrance of 10 Cambridge Road and that quotations be considered by PF&R. That new infra-red record only CCTV cameras be installed on the external entrance of the new council depot and quotations be considered by PF&R.

- iii) Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 22 July 2019

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Council support the 2019 Fireworks event via a loan of up to £4,000 for the cost of running the event and that the Council is repaid from ticket sales for the event.

6 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors

To receive reports from Sandy's Central Bedfordshire Councillors.

7 Action List

To receive any updates and note the action list.

Appendix I

8 Sandye Place Academy

To receive and consider a report from the Community Plan working group on the Town Council's vision for Sandye Place and how it can engage with Central Bedfordshire Council on the future of the facility.

Appendix II

Sandy Town Council

- 9 Traffic Calming Measures – Station Road, Sandy**
To consider and respond to speed bumps and a crossing which are to be installed on Station Road, Sandy. Appendix III
- 10 Street Naming and Numbering 27A Kings Road, SG19 1EJ**
To receive and respond to correspondence from Central Bedfordshire Council on the proposed naming of a new street. Appendix IV
- 11 Sandy A1**
To receive notes of a meeting with the Rt. Hon. A Burt M.P, SG19 and a representative of Highways England. Appendix V
- 12 Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Council’s AGM**
To receive communication from BATPC on the 2019 AGM and nominations to the BATPC committee. Appendix VI
- 13 Central Bedfordshire Town and Parish Council Conference**
To receive and note a brief report from Cllrs Gibson, Doyle and Hewitt on the town and parish Councillors conference. Appendix VII
- 14 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**
- i) To receive a report from Cllr M. Hill on the Skarzewy Summer School. Appendix VIII
 - ii) To receive minutes of a meeting of the SSLA held on 16 July 2019. Appendix IX
- 15 Police and Crime Commissioners Annual Parish Conference**
To note that the PCC’s annual conference is to be held on 1st October 2019 and is open to all Parish and Town Councillors. Those attending must register their attendance through the Eventbrite website or inform the Clerk.
- 16 Mayor’s engagements**
To note a list of recent Mayor’s civic engagements carried out since the last meeting of Council;
- Saturday 29 June – Higham Ferrars Charter Celebration Day
Saturday 29 June – Royal Society of St George Summer Reception
Wednesday 3 July – 1st Swan Beavers Chief Scout Bronze Award Presentation
Sunday 7 July – High Sheriff’s Garden party
Tuesday 9 July – Bedfordshire Games
Wednesday 10 July – Sandy Fire Cadets Passing Out Parade
Friday 12 July – Hosted Charity Quiz at Sandy Conservative Club
Saturday 20 July – Community Stand Opening
Tuesday 23 July – Visit to the Sandy Fire Station
Friday 26 July – Leprosy Mission Ukulele Concert

Sandy Town Council

Sunday 28 July – Rushden Civic Service

Sunday 28 July – Huntingdon Town Council Afternoon Tea

17 News Release

18 Chairman's Items

19 Date of Next Full Council Meeting: 16 September 2019

Town Council - Action list

Subject	Action to be taken		Response/ Agenda no.
	Minute	Action	
Meeting 9/11/15			
East West Rail Link	(89-15/16)	Town Council strongly support the East West rail link coming through Sandy and to lobby the relevant authorities.	Town Council has responded to the First stage of the consultation. No further updates
Meeting 21/5/18			
A1 – Local Issues	(19-18/19)	To push for decisions on the future of the A1 and action on safety and environmental issues.	Notes from a meeting with HE representative on agenda.
Meeting 17/12/18			
Sandye Place Academy	(142-18/19)	That the Town Council place on record its opposition to any future residential development on the site and all other aspects the site could be used for as highlighted in the Council’s Community Plan and that CBC Ward Councillors support the Council’s position.	Report from the Community Plan group who considered the Council’s long-term vision for Sandye Place is covered on the agenda. Clerk progressing proposals with CBC that STC take on some grass cutting and line marking to keep the SPA football pitches in use. CBC Awaiting legal advice.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**DATE: 5 August 2019****AUTHOR: Town Council****SUBJECT: Sandye Place****1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Community Plan Working Group met on Thursday 25th July to consider the Sandye Place section of the Council's Community Plan in light of the closure of Sandye Place Academy. The purpose of the meeting was to consider and develop these ideas within the plan and give the Council a more complete vision for how it would like to see Sandye Place utilised in the future. The following report represents the groups initial discussions on the Council's vision for Sandye Place.
- 1.2 As Members are aware Sandye Place is a Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) asset and is not one over which the Town Council has any direct control. However, given the importance of the facility to the community the town's future, and the potential opportunities it offers, the Council has supported its recognition as an Asset of Community Value and actively engaged with CBC to press for ongoing community use of the facility.
- 1.3 The Town Council has considered how it might be able to use its resources to push for community use of the site in both the short-term and the long-term future. The Council is due to meet with CBC's Mr Keaveney in early September 2019 to hear more on CBC's ambitions and any restrictions placed on the use of the site by the Department for Education (DfE).

2. Short-Term Action

- 2.1 At an extraordinary meeting of the Council it was resolved to put forward a proposition to CBC based on Sandy Town Council using some of its resources to maintain sports fields at Sandye Place. The purpose of this proposition was to begin a process of working with CBC to hopefully secure some ongoing use of one aspect of the facility in a relatively short time period. Discussions are ongoing between the Clerk and CBC Assets, who are currently waiting for advice from their legal department on the matter. An item on Sandye Place will be allowed for on each of the Council's meeting agendas to ensure updates can be provided as they become available.

3. Long-Term Future of Sandye Place

- 3.1 The Council previously received communication from CBC indicating that the CBC have a number of ambitions for Sandy, such as offering a new care home and enhanced leisure facilities. CBC have indicated that over the next few months they intend to work out how the Sandye Place site might be used to help them achieve their ambitions and understand any constraints which may be imposed by the Department for Education regarding the use of the land.
- 3.2 The Community Plan Working Group reviewed ideas set out in the Sandye Place section of the Council's Community Plan and considered other resources/spaces that are needed in Sandy. The group felt that there were a series of community provisions for which the site could be put to use which could also benefit the town centre by creating increased activity and footfall.
- Exhibition/performance space
 - Museum
 - Sports provision (cricket, football)
 - Leisure land for parkland and events
 - Leisure land for nature (possible link to The Riddy and partnership with RSPB)
 - Allotment land
 - Community space/rooms
 - Meeting/conference space
 - Possible parking associated with use of the site

The group felt that the facility should be made open to all aspects of public activity as opposed to becoming the home for any particular body or institution.

- 3.3 Overall, the group agreed that Sandye Place had the potential to help meet many of the community needs highlighted above if it was to be developed into a community hub, successful examples of which have been established by communities elsewhere.
- 3.4 The Community Plan Working Group recognised that to be a viable site which could facilitate the ambitions mentioned and the creation of a hub it would require capital and ongoing revenue funding streams. The group concluded that the size of the site and the facilities opened up the potential for ongoing revenue from a business operating from the site, potentially via lease arrangements for the mansion house. This may be able to link into wider ambitions for the site and town centre.
- 3.5 The Community Plan Working Group acknowledged that it is unknown what conditions the DfE might apply to the use of the site and as such, use as an

education facility may still be a key role for Sandye Place. The group felt that the site could support other community uses, such as adult education and vocational training. It was felt that education could be achieved on a mixed-use site via further education, such as;

- University of the Third Age
- Training or vocational academy (possibly linked to a revenue generator, such as catering training)
- Apprenticeships via other on-site activities
- The need for a special need's facility was also highlighted.

3.6 The Community Plan Working Group also acknowledged that as the site ultimately belonged to CBC its future use must satisfy some of their strategic service ambitions, potentially around the need for elderly care and leisure provision as indicated in the earlier communication from CBC. The group felt that the site could incorporate both the needs of CBC and provide many of the community or further educational facilities required as a multi-use site. The provision of facilities for all ages could help foster community inclusion and adherence across multiple generations. An example was allotment provision, which has many social and mental health benefits and could compliment other activities on the site, such as care provision.

3.7 There would clearly be a variety of access and safeguarding issues that would need to be addressed as part of a multi-use proposal, especially if education is to continue on the site. However, overall the Community Plan Working Group reiterated that Sandye Place was an extremely important and valuable site which offered many opportunities and that ideally a partnership between the two councils could allow for CBC to deliver its ambitions while also creating space for a community hub and activities which would drive increases in town centre footfall.

4. Recommendation

4.1 It is recommended that this Council continue to develop its vision for the long - term future of Sandye Place around the premise of a community hub multi-use site which incorporates the community facilities identified while realising Central Bedfordshire Council's ambitions for the site.

4.2 That the Council continues to engage with Central Bedfordshire Council to fully understand its ambitions for the site and put forward the Town Council's own vision for a joined-up community hub.

4.2 That the Council continue to engage with CBC Ward Members to reach a shared vision on Sandye Place and get feedback on their engagement to find out the public's views on future use of the site.



PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INSTALL TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES IN STATION ROAD, SANDY

Notice is hereby given that Central Bedfordshire Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 90 A-I of the Highways Act 1980 and all other enabling powers, propose to construct Sinusoidal speed humps on Station Road, Sandy. These proposals are part of a scheme to reduce traffic speeds and create a safer environment for all road users.

Sinusoidal speed humps, extending across the full width of the road is proposed to be sited at the following location in Sandy:-

1. Station Road, at a point approximately 18 metres north of its junction with Willow Rise.
2. Station Road, at a point approximately 30 metres south of its junction with Willow Rise.

An uncontrolled crossing point is proposed to be sited at the following location in Place:-

1. Station Road, approximately 2 metres south from its junction with Willow Rise, crossing Station Road.

Further Details may be viewed online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices.

Comments should be sent in writing to the Traffic Management team at the address below or e-mail traffic.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk by 2nd August 2019.

Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Chicksands
Shefford SG17 5TQ

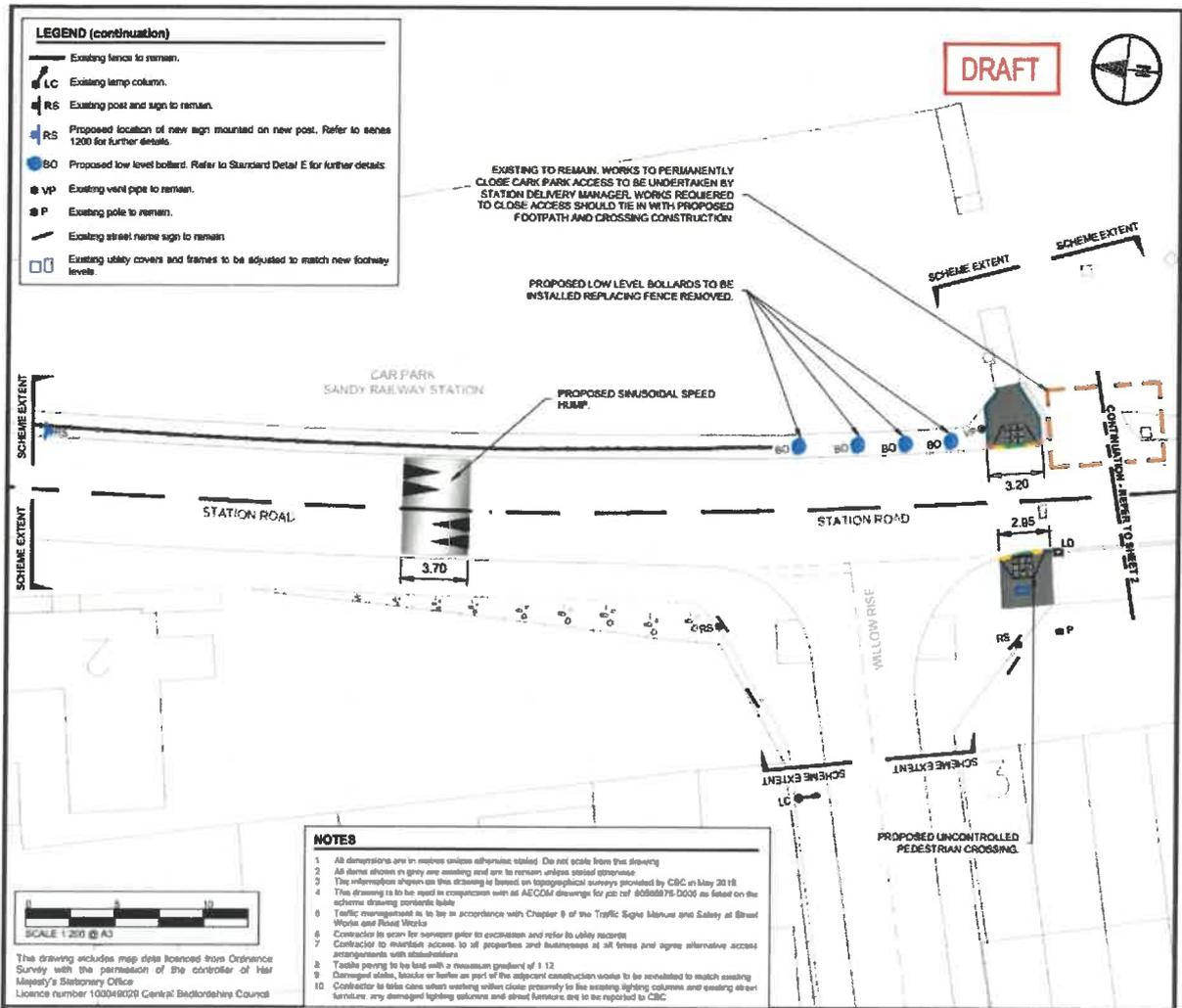
Marcel Coiffait
Director of Community Services

12th July 2019

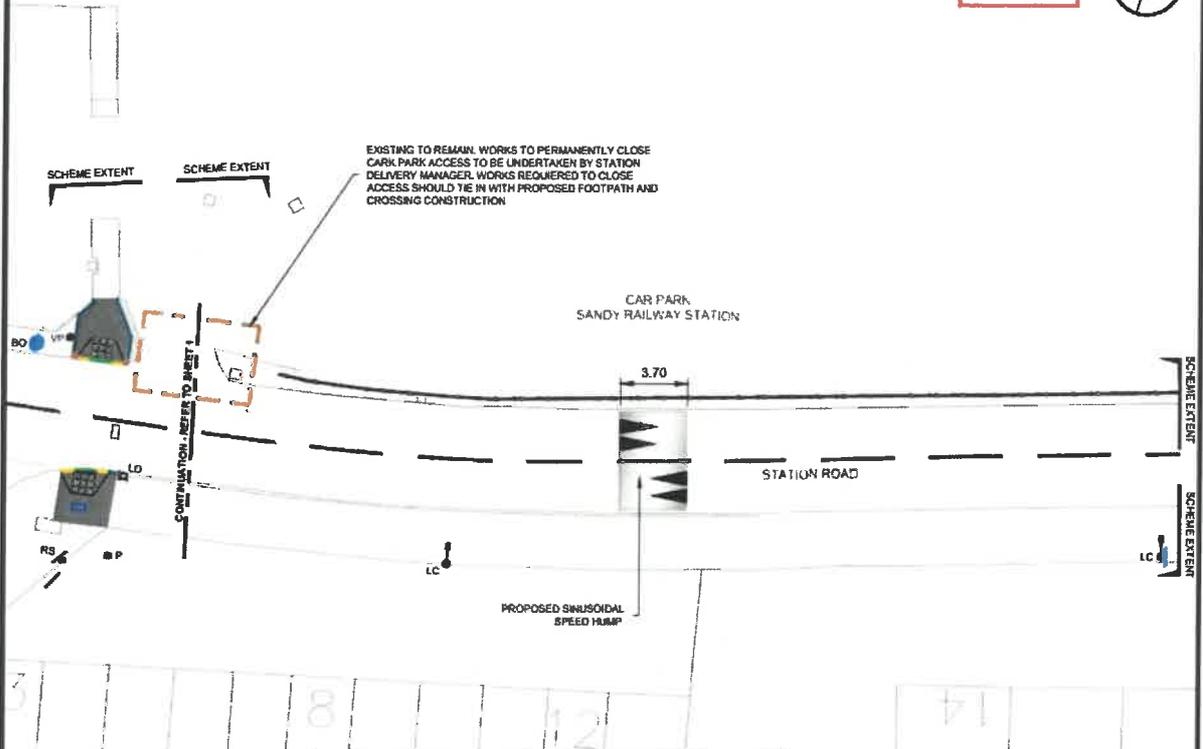
Statement of Reasons

These proposals are part of a scheme to reduce traffic speeds and create a safer environment for all road users.

Drawing



DRAFT



The drawing includes map data licensed from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office.
Licence number 100049229 Central Bedfordshire Council

- NOTES**
- 1 All dimensions are in metres unless otherwise stated. Do not scale from the drawing
 - 2 All items shown in grey are existing and are to remain unless stated otherwise
 - 3 The information shown on this drawing is based on topographical surveys provided by CSC in May 2018
 - 4 This drawing is to be used in conjunction with all AECOM drawings for job ref 6056675 D005 as listed on the scheme drawing contents table
 - 5 Traffic management is to be in accordance with Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual and Safety at Street Works and Road Works
 - 6 Contractor to scan for services prior to excavation and refer to utility records
 - 7 Contractor to maintain access to all properties and businesses at all times and agree alternative access arrangements with stakeholders
 - 8 Tactile paving to be laid with a maximum gradient of 1:12
 - 9 Damaged signs, blocks or kerbs as part of the adjacent construction works to be reinstated to match existing
 - 10 Contractor to take care when working within close proximity to the existing lighting columns and existing street furniture. Any damaged lighting columns and street furniture are to be reported to CSC



Peter Keates
Head of Development & Regulation

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

please ask for Sian Cobb
direct line 0300 300 4378
e-mail building.control@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
web-site www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
your ref 41
our ref CB/SN/19/0094
date 18 July 2019

Dear Mr Robson

Local Government Act 1985
Street Naming and Numbering
Location: 27A Kings Road, Sandy, SG19 1EJ
Proposal: 5 New dwellings following demolition of 27A & 27B Kings Road

I write to inform you that the Council has received the above application for Street Naming. The proposed Street Names is:

Beaumont

Please could you discuss this proposal at your next meeting of the Town/Parish Council and confirm whether or not you are in agreement by 9th August 2019.

Yours sincerely

Peter Keates
Head of Client & Development Services
Regeneration and Business Directorate

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 24 June 2019
AUTHOR: Town Council
SUBJECT: A1 Sandy Section

1. Summary

- 1.1 Representatives of Sandy Town Council and SG19 group met with Rt. Hon. A. Burt M.P, Central Bedfordshire Council Ward Members and Mr Martin Fellows of Highways England on 19th July 2019 to discuss matters around the A1, including average speed cameras, the recent number of accidents and wider strategic thinking on this section of the A1. Also present were observers from the Blunham A1 Group.
- 1.2 Cllrs Mike Scott (Mayor), M Pettitt (Deputy Mayor) and N Aldis (SG19 representative) attended the meeting on behalf of Sandy Town Council. The following report is a brief overview of the meeting for Members' information.

2. Introduction

HE = Highways England DFT = Department for Transport

- 2.1 Martin Fellows from Highways England introduced himself as Regional Operations Director for the east. Mr. Fellows has been in the role for two years and covers a large area, including sections of the M25, M40 and M4.
- 2.2 RIS1 (Road investment strategy) is now due to end and RIS2 is due to start next year and will cover works up until 2025.

3. Petition for more Investment to Improve the A1

- 3.1 SG19 and the Buckden A1 safety group outlined their new joint petition which will soon be launched. The petition to parliament must be on a national issue, not a local concern to Sandy or Buckden. The petition therefore calls for more funding to support the improvements needed to the A1. It has received the support of Rt. Hon. Jonathan Djanogly M.P. for Huntingdon. Mr Burt welcomed the petition.
- 3.2 The petition differs from a local petition as it is run by a professional parliamentary lobbyist and will go out via a variety of groups, such as A1 user groups, the Society of Motor Manufactures and Traders (SMMT) and other overarching bodies. The aim is to get excess of 1,000,000 signatures.

3.3 Mr. Burt suggested that it would be good to hold an adjournment debate to set out what the problems with the A1 are. This would make it easier to speak on the petition as well as any motions that might be put forward. Mr. Burt is to speak with Mr. Djanogly about the petition. As a new Transport Minister is likely to be in place in the next couple of weeks it is important to move quickly to get the matter raised at high level.

4. Strategic Changes to the A1

4.1 Mr Fellows explained that;

- Highways England make decisions in conjunction with the Department for Transport (DfT) on strategic matters. The DfT make the overriding decisions which Highways England must then implement.

The way in which works are planned and scheduled has recently changed to allow for a better system of planned works. Planning takes place for a five-year period. RIS2 is about to start, which covers the period 2020-2025. Therefore, no work would happen before RIS3 in 2025 and realistically this is the period of works the interested parties should be looking to influence.

- Legislation to change agreed planned action/works to be completed in a five-year period is difficult.

4.2 Mr. Burt commented that a recent survey suggested that there was not enough traffic movement to justify changes to the Sandy Section of the A1. Mr. Burt questioned this as it was clear to all those familiar with the area that there are high levels of traffic.

Mr. Fellows responded that a business case was carried out and did not show strong enough case for substantial investment on a cost 'v' benefit basis. Substantial growth in the area would strengthen the business case for investment into the A1.

4.3 SG19 stated that they felt there was too much emphasis on new housing development as opposed to environmental factors as a requirement for investment into the A1.

Mr. Fellows agreed that was partly correct for RIS1, but that there is now more concentration on environmental and safety as justification for works. However, the government do include growth as a major consideration.

Mr. Burt stated that this region is one of the fastest growing and questioned how lack of growth could now be a limiting factor in getting action taken. Both environmental matters and safety should be high on the agenda when

considering the priority and justification for work. This would be a political argument he would need to take forward.

- 4.4 Annoyance was expressed at the fact 'tinkering' with the A1 would not solve the issues and ultimately a bypass is needed. Over the years there has been development in adjacent areas which has impacted on the A1. It was questioned what had been done to mitigate this. The roundabout issue needs resolving if meaningful improvements are to be made.

It was commented that such major changes are the decision of the Government and not HE. Mr. Burt responded that Ministers are guided by professionals such as HE and queried how the parties at the table could influence priority works. So far, the process of awaiting studies and reviews has been followed, with no resulting action.

- 4.5 It was reiterated that growth is a driving factor for making decisions on road infrastructure and historic growth is not factored into this. HE's job is to operate the network safely.

5. Pollution

- 5.1 Cllr Stock commented that the DfT has already stated that the Sandy section of the A1 was not fit for purpose and that pollution in the area was one of the highest in the country. CBC's power is limited in getting action to address these environmental concerns and surely the only answer is a re-alignment of the A1.
- 5.2 The work at the Black Cat roundabout will only make matter worse and will undoubtedly have an impact on Sandy, despite HE and DfT suggesting it won't. The Sandy roundabout is a fundamental issue that needs addressing.
- 5.3 It was commented that it is not HE's responsibility to solve issues around pollution, which is a fleet issue (policies around cars on road and emissions) HE's role is to manage the fleet in the interim until vehicles get cleaner. There are a series of measures that can be looked at, such as pollution barriers or extractor fans in homes next to major roads. However, these may not be appropriate for the Sandy stretch of the A1. Changes to the Black Cat may have impacts on other areas and this will then need to be reviewed to see how improvements could be made.
- 5.4 It was advised that parties contact DEFRA to get access to their data on direct links between roads and health. Sandy does not feature as a problem spot on their map.

6. Speed Cameras

- 6.1 Cllr Stock asked why the speed cameras on the A1 have been out of action for so long. The police have informed her that it is due to the film used in the camera being discontinued and that there is a health and safety concern over the door on the camera case.
- 6.2 Mr. Fellows informed the group that the film was to be discontinued but was currently still available, therefore he was surprised the police had used this as a reason. Highways England can adapt the cameras, so they are suitable for the new film.
- 6.3 Mr Fellows stated that Highways England's job was to provide the infrastructure and it was down to authorities, such as the police to operate speed cameras. A conversation with police on why this wasn't happening at Beeston was needed.
- 6.4 HE will look to ensure the cameras are adapted for new film.

7. Average Speed Camera Scheme

- 7.1 Mr. Fellows was questioned about the proposed average speed camera scheme, which was now cancelled due to a lack of funds. Mr. Fellows indicated that he believed a scheme such as the one discussed would cost between 1.8million and 2million pounds.

All parties present expressed surprise at the figure quoted as a letter from Mr. Chris Grayling on 5th September 2018 had indicated that a budget of £464,000 had been set aside for the scheme.

- 7.2 Mr. Fellows was not able to say where the costings detailed within Mr. Grayling's letter had come from and stated that he was not aware that a scheme was ever actually designed or intended to go ahead for the Sandy section of the A1.
- 7.3 It was pointed out that at a meeting between STC and HE on 12th July 2018 it was stated by HE representatives that there was a scheme and budget for average speed cameras.
- 7.3 HE does not have the budget to implement an average speed camera scheme on this section of the A1. There are other potential ways to access funding, such as local authority funding. As well as considering the capital cost of a scheme the ongoing revenue cost for maintaining any cameras must also be factored in. There is currently a lot of pressure to keep revenue budgets low.
- 7.4 Mr. Fellows suggested that there may be other solutions which are more appropriate to addressing concerns than the implementation of an average speed camera scheme.

7.5 Mr. Burt said he would take the matter forward on a political level to argue the need for a scheme. All parties around the table had understood that the case had already been made and decided and that the issue was just down to funding.

8. Beeston Gap

8.1 The group discussed the cross-over gaps on this section of the A1 and the positives and negatives for closing the gaps to traffic. Mr. Burt would like to see a consultation on closing one or more of the gaps. Any gap closures would be on a temporary basis with a view to move to a permanent basis and would need to be a local decision.

9. Summary

9.1 Housing growth is still the major factor in justifying infrastructure expenditure, however environmental and safety concerns now have more weight in RIS2 and RIS3 and this should form part of any push made to the government for action to be taken. A united front from various parties involved (public, Councils, MP) is more likely to have an impact.

9.2 HE will look to ensure the current speed cameras are working and that they are adapted to take new film.

9.3 Mr. Burt will approach the Ministers for Transport and Homes and Communities to try and get both to visit Sandy to discuss improvement issues, such as average speed cameras and wider strategic matters. Alternatively, he will push for a London based meeting.

9.4 Mr. Burt will liaise with Rt. Hon Mr J. Djanogly on the petition to be launched by SG19 and the Buckden A1 Group.



*Bedfordshire Association
of Town & Parish Councils*

The Clerk - BATPC Member Councils

18th July 2019

Dear Colleague

Further to articles published in the *Bedfordshire Bugle* I am writing to give formal notification that 2019 is an election year for the Association's County Committee. All 21 seats fall vacant in October 2019. The Committee comprises 21 representatives, seven from Parish Councils in the Bedford Borough area, seven from Parish Councils and seven from Town Councils in the Central Bedfordshire's area.

Councillors who enjoy their role within their own council and would like to take their involvement in the sector further by representing councils in their area of the county are encouraged to stand for election. The County Committee is responsible for management of the Association, and appoints a number of representatives on outside bodies. The Committee meets quarterly in the evening, currently in Biggleswade.

All nominations must be endorsed by a parish or town council from the appropriate area. If more nominations than vacancies are received by the deadline of **Tuesday 24th September 2019**, a ballot will be held at the AGM.

The AGM will take place on Thursday 17th October 2019, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm in Cople Village Hall. If your council would like to put forward a motion for debate at the AGM, please let me have it **by noon on 11th September 2019**. We have two confirmed guest speakers this year – Martin Tugwell (England's Economic Heartland) and Will Gallagher (East West Rail). It promises to be an interesting meeting. I will be writing to you again when delegate registration opens in September.

I attach a County Committee nomination paper and hope that a councillor from your council may be willing to stand.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Louise Ashmore'.

Louise Ashmore
County Officer

Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils
Suite 11, Baystrait House, 15 Station Road, Biggleswade Beds SG18 8AL
Tel: 01767 312669 email: louise.ashmore@batpc.co.uk

Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils

Elections to the County Committee

Nomination Form 2019

Each member council may nominate a councillor from its own, or any other member council in its unitary council area. County Committee members serve a term of four years. Meetings are held quarterly in the evening, in Biggleswade.

There are 21 elected members, seven from the Bedford Borough area and fourteen from the Central Bedfordshire area (seven Town and seven Parish). In Central Bedfordshire, should there be fewer than seven Parish nominees and more than seven Town nominees, or vice versa, vacancies may be filled from the alternative group. In the event of there being more than seven nominees in the Bedford Borough area, and/or more than fourteen nominees from the Central Bedfordshire area there will be a ballot. This will be held at the Association's Annual General Meeting which will take place at Cople Village Hall on Thursday 17th October 2019.

Name of Nominee

Address

.....

Email:

Member of Parish/Town Council

Nominated by Parish/Town Council

Brief résumé of candidate (please type or print)

Nomination forms must be received by Tuesday 24th September 2019

Please return to: louise.ashmore@batpc.co.uk

BATPC, Suite 11, Baystrait House, 15 Station Road, Biggleswade Beds. SG18 8AL

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 5 August 2019

AUTHOR: Cllr A Gibson

SUBJECT: Town & Parish Council Conference

1. Summary

1.1 A town and parish council conference was held on Tuesday 16 July 2019.

Delegates received presentations on:

- Introduction to Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) for newly elected parish councillors
- Future challenges and opportunities
- New approaches to community engagement
- Central Bedfordshire Council electoral review
- Full presentation can be found at:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/27/about_your_council/208/councillors_political_control_constitution_and_webcasting/5

The conference was attended by Councillors S Doyle, J Hewitt and A Gibson

1.2 Councillors were given an overview of Central Bedfordshire Council and how it works by the Chief Executive, Richard Carr.

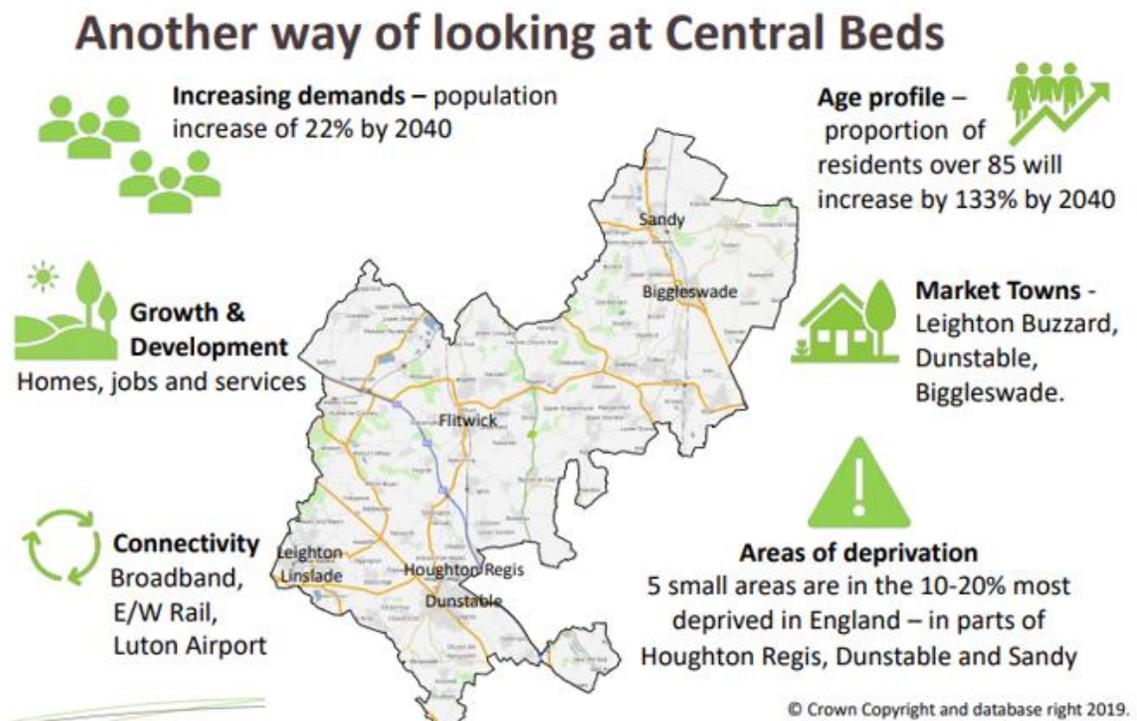
2. Central Bedfordshire Council

2.1 Central Beds Council receives about £200m in funding per year and most of this is spent delivering social care services - safeguarding vulnerable children and the elderly.

2.2 A breakdown of major spend items was presented.



- 2.3 CBC are shifting from a reactive model to a prevention/early intervention philosophy with the aim of enabling people to help themselves to live better and remain independent for as long as possible. We are encouraged to promote health and wellbeing in the community, and to be good neighbours looking out for the more vulnerable in our communities.
 - 2.4 Decision making was also discussed, and the Policy Framework and Scheme of Delegations was explained. There followed a lot of discussion about planning decisions as this is clearly a hot topic for all Town/Parish Councils. There will be training and better engagement from Planners and Town Councils.
 - 2.5 James Jamieson – Leader of the Council – then talked about the Council’s vision for Central Bedfordshire, with aims and objectives for the next four years. Clearly there will be a lot of expansion to prepare for the expected increase in population and mix.
3. **Another Way of Looking at Central Bedfordshire**



- 3.1 As you can see, Sandy gets a ‘dishonourable mention’ as an area of deprivation, however what was not mentioned was what investment is going to be found for the areas most in need. This is something that should be followed up with Sandy Ward Councillors.

- 3.2 CBC has lofty goals of creating 'great communities' with good urban design, being a carbon-neutral region by 2030, building cohesive and integrated services in health, education and care, embracing technology and preserving green spaces. These are great goals but there was little detail as to how these targets can be achieved.
- 3.3 We were all alarmed at the example provided of the new leisure centre built at Flitwick which has been funded by re-purposing the old site for housing development. This was seen as a 'win-win', however we saw it as an indication of how Sandye Place Academy could be viewed.
- 3.4 CBC Cllr Tracey Stock then spoke about the Community Engagement Initiative and shared the results of a 'satisfaction survey' that CBC had carried out. On the whole, CBC was about at the national average in all categories with the exception of 'Value for Money' and whether CBC acts on residents' concerns.

4. CBC Schemes

- 4.1 The '**Community Councillor Grant Scheme**' is in the process of being launched. Each Ward Councilor will have £2,000 that can be awarded to support local community groups such as sports, the arts etc. The application and oversight process is still being developed, but will be subject to the usual scrutiny, with CBC officers processing the payments. Concern was raised as to the transparency of the scheme for any Ward Councillor grants made, to avoid negativity from those who were unsuccessful.
- 4.2 There are two other schemes being launched where funding can be applied for:
- **Community Assets Scheme** – allowing community groups to bid for larger capital funding to enable local improvements.
 - **Public Realm Improvement Scheme** – enabling access to capital funding to support local action keeping areas green and clean.

Details on these were sketchy however more detail will follow, but Sandy Town Council should consider drawing up a list of areas to propose, in order to be ready for when those details become available.

5. Community Engagement

- 5.1 There was a call for volunteers to support improving community engagement, and a proposal to develop more community engagement by establishing a local Area Board. It is anticipated that there will be four meetings per year, with CBC Ward Councillors, the Town Council and also open to the local community. The aim is to develop:

- **A more inclusive approach** – enabling the public to have more participation and involvement in community developments.
- **A more dynamic approach** – to enable on-going dialogue between residents and stakeholders, using a combination of digital and conventional communication channels.
- **More accessibility** – aiming to work with all towns and parishes to explore the means of building engagement.

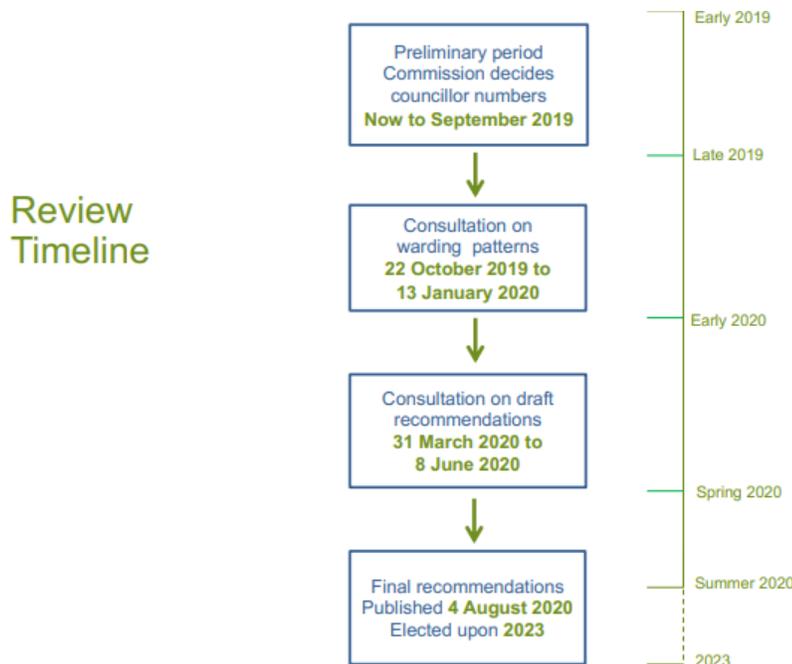
5.2 This is an emerging initiative and Cllr Stock mentioned that it will be trialled in Sandy, which is good news as STC can help to shape the initiative and ensure that Councils are included in planning to maximise engagement with the community. There is clearly a lot to do in this area to build trust with the electorate based on the survey results.

6. Local Government Boundary Commission

6.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission made a presentation about the review it is undertaking in Central Bedfordshire to establish the correct number of councillors required and to ensure electoral equality – where every vote has equal weight.

6.2 The boundary review will take place from now until the draft boundary recommendations are made at the end of June 2020, which will come into effect at the next election in 2023. Parish boundaries will not be affected, but CBC wards may alter. Consultation is not launched yet but begins in October and running through to January 2020. It will be online at:

<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/>



7. Summary

It was a very well attended evening, with lots of questions and engagement with the presenters. The next conference is 13th November 2019 and we were asked to submit topics for the agenda, and are inviting all Councillors to make recommendations that can be submitted.

SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**DATE: 5 August 2019****AUTHOR: Cllr M Hill****SUBJECT: Sandy Twinning - English Summer School****1. Summary**

1.1 The following is a brief report for Members' information on the Summer School held in Skarszewy as part of Sandy's long standing relationship with the town.

2. Report

2.1 This year saw the 23rd English Summer School held in Skarszewy during July with 11 year 13 volunteers from Stratton School taking part. This year more Polish children than ever were enrolled (80+) aged 5-16, and there were also a sizeable number of older Polish students with English-speaking skills who could help with the varied classroom activities.

2.3 Classes were held for 3 hours each weekday morning over a 2-week period and on the last day there was a presentation to parents and local dignitaries of some of the activities undertaken. The fact that more Polish children than ever took part this year speaks volumes for the success of this initiative and the very real desire of Polish children generally to learn English. No formal teaching occurs as the English students are not qualified to do this but there are a variety of games and fun activities organised according to the ages and aptitudes of the Polish children. Weekend outings and picnics are also organised.

2.4 Next year, all being well, a second English Summer School will be started in the nearby cathedral town of Pelplin, this time using year 13 students from Sandy Secondary.

