

2015

Sandy Town Council



ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

Foreword from the Mayor

On behalf of Sandy Town Council it is my pleasure to introduce our report to the electorate of Sandy and Beeston after a very busy and challenging year.

Once again we had a very successful day at the end of November when our Christmas lights were switched on. Many organisations had stalls at this event to raise funds and there was a very good selection of stage entertainment from around the area. The weather was good and approx 3000 people supported the event again. What a wealth of talent we have around the town. Sandy Town Council is committed to continue supporting this very successful event and providing the Christmas lights for the benefit of the local community and we look forward to next year. If your organisation is interested in helping organise this event please contact the council offices, we would be very glad to hear from you.

Once again I have to report that we have had some coming and going of councillors. Taking on this role is a very big commitment in time and energy and is done on a voluntary basis. Local Councillors receive no reward for this office.

For the second year Sandy Town Council received no mitigation funding from Central Beds Council which would have been almost £50,000 this year, but despite this we have managed to keep our precept rise to only 2.53% which has meant on a band D property a rise of £3.05 per year or 6p per week.

Our new cemetery extension has now reached the planning application stage so work on that should start later in the year. We have accepted the quotes for the relaying and resurfacing of the path in our existing cemetery. The reorganising of our office is now well under way and our new information point will open soon. As I type this report I have just learned that soil testing on the probable new allotment site is completed and we await the report so let's hope it is ok and we can start work soon. I am delighted that I have managed to purchase two defibrillators for the town. One will be sited at the library and one I hope at Fallowfield. My thanks go to CBC and the Fire service who have provided the largest part of the funding, my grateful thanks also goes to all those who have contributed to the mayors charity fund this past year. Funds raised have also gone towards the defibrillators and to helping two Scouts from Sandy who are going to the world Scout Jamboree in Japan in June.

May I thank all the organisations for the warm welcome my wife and I have received when we have visited them and thank them for all their kind invitations and hospitality. We have enjoyed meeting so many people on our visits.



Cllr Will Jackson, Town Mayor

The Council

Sandy Town Council exists to serve and represent the interests of the whole community of Sandy and to work for provision of services for its residents. Sandy Town Council will work with organisations or people willing to improve the well-being and prospects of the community.

The Council has had a full schedule of meetings including

13 Full Council Meetings

17 Development Scrutiny Committee Meetings

8 Policy Finance and Resources Committee Meetings

6 Community Services and Environment Committee Meetings

These meetings were the forum for detailed discussion and strategic decision making. Members of the public attended many meetings and this is always welcome and leads to much more informed decisions being taken. Our local PCSO gave regular reports to the council and the officers of different public agencies and service providers gave presentations and reports to the council during the year.

Members have acted as representatives on a number of outside bodies:

Talk of the Town Transport Committee

Sandy Village Hall Management Committee

Sandy Twinning Association

Sandy Sports and Leisure Association

Sandy Young Peoples Youth Club

Sandy Town Team

22 Squadron Air Training Corps Parents and Friends Committee

Sandy Charities

Sandy Walkers are Welcome

Friends of Sandy Christmas Lights

Walkers are Welcome

The Diamond Jubilee Central Bedfordshire Community Task Force

Community Services and Projects

Allotments

The Council has not ceased its search for a new allotment site and has continued consultations with Central Bedfordshire Council in an attempt to secure suitable land from their estates. We are maintaining a waiting list of potential tenants so that we can provide evidence of demand for a new site.

Cemetery and Churchyard

The council is now at the design and planning stage of the cemetery extension project. Topographical work has been done and environment agency approval has been secured. It is hoped to have a design to take through the planning process during the next few months.

The council recognises the importance of the cemetery to our community. Many people visit it daily and every effort has been made to maintain the cemetery to the highest possible standard so we provide a pleasing and tranquil environment for mourners.

Our burial regulations have been revised after consultation with the public. The regulations have been amended to allow some grave goods for those that wish them but to be restricted in quantity so as not to impede maintenance and to preserve the overall peace and tranquillity of the site which is very much valued by the majority of residents and visitors to the cemetery.

During the past year there have been 25 burials and 13 interments of ashes. The chapel has been used for civil and religious funeral services. The council is aware that improvement to the paths is needed and quotes have been accepted and will be carried out as soon as possible.

We are grateful for donations of benches and other memorials to the cemetery although at present there is no space for any additional seating. If the new cemetery extension is approved there may be the opportunity for donations of items in the new part of the grounds.

The council also maintains the closed churchyard at St Swithun's Parish Church.

Public open space and recreational facilities

Sandy Town Council provides sports facilities at Sunderland Road and Bedford Road Recreation Grounds.

At Sunderland Road Recreation Ground the council continued to provide beneficial leases and subsidised pitch fees to several sports organisations. In return volunteers from the sports clubs contribute to the upkeep of the facilities which are also available for use by the

public. The Jenkins Pavilion continues to be managed for the council by Stevenage Leisure Ltd and community use of this building has increased year on year.

Play equipment at Bedford Road, Sunderland Road, Beeston Green, the Limes Play area and Fallowfield Recreation Ground has been maintained during the year and inspected weekly. The Town Council developed a work plan for all its public open space in the Fallowfield estate and has been gradually working towards bringing this area up to a higher standard of appearance since adoption in April 2012. Residents should be mindful that not all the public open space in the estate belongs to Sandy Town Council and this accounts for some discrepancies in maintenance treatment.

Public open space at Pinnacle Hill, Pinnacle Field and Bedford Road/ Sunderland Road was maintained and made available for individual events during the year. Several “pop-up” events in the recreation grounds were held throughout the year as well as a fair on Pinnacle Field.

The Riddy Nature Reserve has been managed by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire in conjunction with Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity. The reserve is a haven for native flora and fauna and visitors have enjoyed spotting different species throughout the seasons including a colony of water voles. Essential maintenance works have been undertaken and the area was grazed during the summer months.

The Town Council has been working with Central Bedfordshire Council and community groups in Beeston and Sandy to develop a Sandy Community Orchard project which it is hoped will be located on CBC land off Beeston Green. Beeston Green is a registered village green and has suffered during the year from increasing parking problems and heavier traffic on the roads nearby which have resulted in damage to the surface of the green. The council stated its intention to review the scheme of regulation for Beeston Green with a view to addressing some of these problems. It is anticipated that new bye laws may be needed.

Market and Town Centre Facilities

Sandy’s regular Friday market has continued to decline during the past year and experience with the monthly Farmers’ Market on the first Saturday of the month has been mixed. The Town Team also held car boot sales in the car park. However footfall for the regular markets and car boot sales remained limited. The council will be reconsidering the future of the markets during the next year.

The council continued to provide free public car parking in the town centre car park with the aim of supporting local businesses. The car park includes public conveniences which are owned and operated by the town council as are the public conveniences at Bedford Road Recreation Ground. Repairs to the barrier and the public conveniences have been undertaken.

Town Council premises at 10 Cambridge Road have been regularly used for civic events and also by Central Bedfordshire Council eg to provide a local Housing Needs service and by charities eg Relate to provide a local counselling service for young people. Local businesses and networking organisations have run training and other meetings from the chamber.

Street lighting provision was maintained and additional bins and benches were added to the town's facilities.

Tourism and Visitors

At a Council meeting in Autumn 2014 it was decided to close Sandy Tourist Information Centre and integrate a local information centre into Sandy Town Council Offices. The Information Centre should be fully functional by Summer 2015.

The changes currently being implemented should ensure that as many as possible of the services previously provided will continue into the future and where possible enhanced.

Our tourism advisors have provided information and advice to visitors to Sandy and to residents and have sold local merchandise as well as train tickets, theatre vouchers and taken coach and holiday bookings.

The focus of the Tourist information Centre has been to encourage and support visitors to Sandy and to promote access to the countryside in the area as well as providing information to local residents

The Centre has organised and led eight local walks during the year, in which over 230 people have taken part. Also during the winter three local talks took place which were heard by nearly 200 people.

Sandy's status as a Walker's are Welcome town has encouraged walkers to visit and participate in the guided walks and also individual, family and group walking.

The TIC produced two local guides and a visitor's guide over the year and assisted with the production of the Bedfordshire Walking Festival guide. A What's on section is also kept updated on the council's website

They have worked with colleagues at Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charities, Bedfordshire Tourism, Bedfordshire Ramblers and Walkers are Welcome.

The Town Council has hosted an increased number of visits from local schools to the Roman Sandy exhibition in the council offices as well as welcoming individual visitors to view the exhibits on display

GUIDED WALKS

JANUARY - Winter Walk at Sandy Lodge

MARCH - A guided tour of Sandye Place

MAY – The Everton Walk

JUNE – A guided tour of Sandy Lodge

JULY – The Tempsford Walk

AUGUST - A guided walk through Southill Park

SEPTEMBER - Willington guided walk

SEPTEMBER - Potton-Sutton walk

TALKS

October - The life and times of Francis Pym a talk by Andrew Pym

November - The Great War a talk by Steve Fuller

December - Cardington airships a talk by David Fowler

Christmas Lights and Switch on event

Despite several set-backs the Christmas Light's switch on event was a great success.

The office staff worked really hard on this event despite their already very heavy workload. The outdoor staff also worked hard on the event before and on the day.

Sandy Scouts and Air Cadets gave invaluable support to set up and dismantle the site and the Scouts provided lighting and refreshments too.

All the stalls were sold in a couple of weeks, unfortunately some people had to be turned away. All the stallholders turned up on the day and were complimentary about the whole event.

The entertainment, Santa's grotto, mulled wine and raffles were again very popular with the community.

There was excellent support from volunteers.

Once again the weather was kind and there were more visitors than the previous year. The changes to layout of the activities in the market square eased congestion and made the day more manageable and enjoyable.

St John's Ambulance only had 1 minor incident to deal with and were very happy with their location at the event. There were no 'lost children'.

Feedback from the community has been very positive.

Community Grants

Sandy Community First provided funding for small community projects in the Ward of Sandy, Bedfordshire.

The panel comprised members of the community and Sandy Town Councillors.

The Sandy Community First Panel distributed small grants of between £250 and £2000 to local organisations and people with brilliant ideas for making Sandy ward an even better place to be. Our funds came from central government's Community First Programme and from Sandy Town Council's community grant programme.

Sandy was awarded £16, 985 in 2011 to be allocated and spent over 4 years. Year 1 £2812, Year 2 £4245, Year, 3 £4244, Year 4 £5654.

The scheme came to an end in March 2015.

Sandy Pre-school	£500
Sandy Air Training Corp	£250
Sandy Historical Research Society	£856
Dragons Thai Boxing Gym	£1200
Sandy Helping Hands	£363.39
Shefford and Sandy Hockey Club	£300
Kings Road Patient Participation Group	£392
Kestrels Archery Club	£380
Viv's Bingo	£400
Blunham Playing Fields Association	£500
Sandy Carnival Association	£955
Sandcastles Playgroup	£250
Full House	£350
St Swithuns Community Choir	£350

Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club	£500
Fit & Fabulous	£300
Pamax Afternoon Club	£300
Sandy Young Peoples Youth Club	£823
Sandy Christmas Lights	£1000
Sandy Army Cadets	£500
Sandy Skating & Youth Association	£250
Sandy Pre-school	£500
Link a Ride Community Transport	£800
Sandcastles Playgroup	£250
Sandy & District Amateur Boxing Club	£634
Nexus Drum & Bugle Corps	£500
Sandy & District Horticultural Association	£400
Biggles FM	£250
Sandy Townswomens Guild	£310
Sandy Christmas Lights	£1500
1 st Sandy Scouts Group	£1000
Kings Arms Angling Club	£500

Sandy Town Council Grant programme awards have been granted to:

Biggles FM	£230
Sandy Twinning Association	£250
Audrey Boothby Award	£20
Sandy Good Neighbours Scheme	£500
Sandy Carnival Association	£325

Planning and Development

The Development Scrutiny Committee has reviewed and commented on 103 planning applications during the year undertaking site visits to many of the proposed developments. There have been few applications for major developments this year although the council has reviewed a variety of applications including fitting solar panels to existing factories, improvements to Sandy Baptist Church, The RSPB, The Kings Arms Public House and St Swithun's School, numerous tree works and the usual domestic extensions. The year has seen the near completion of developments on Sunderland Road and New Road with some of the houses being occupied already.

Residents have viewed planning documents at the Town Council offices (rather than using CBC's online facilities or travelling to Chicksands for the purpose) and have attended committee meetings to share their views with the council.

Finance

The Council's financial affairs were managed by the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee although the setting of the budget and precept and responsibility for all accounting matters resided with the full Council. The Town Clerk was the Responsible Financial Officer.

Draft income and expenditure accounts only have been produced within this report. As always the formal accounts for the year will be published no later than 30 June 2015.

Accounts 2014/15

31 March 2014 Income Summary

31 March 2015

398,491	Precept on District Council	455,704
42,378	Council Tax Benefit Support Grant	-
2,159	Capital Grants rec'd not deferred	106
7,101	Interest and Investment Income	4,770
6,647	Recreation Grounds and Open Spaces	7,057
25,995	Cemetery	26,051
12,010	Tourist Information Centre	10,344
4,446	Car Park and Market	1,478
17,478	Establishment/General Administration	7,639
6,349	Christmas Lights	5,660
-	Proceeds From Sale Of Fixed Assets	300
-	Investment Sale Proceeds	1,509
523,054	Total Income	520,618

Expenditure

301,252	Establishment/General Administration	278,430
12,066	Capital Expenditure	30,253
608	Loan Interest and Capital Repayments	609
	Operational Expenditure:	
72,322	Recreation Grounds and Open Spaces	47,100
800	Allotments	2,688
11,175	Cemetery	9,247
32,387	Tourist Information Centre	29,180

31 March 2014		31 March 2015
4,358	Public Toilets	4,470
14,815	Car Park and Market	34,667
9,968	Lighting and Street Furniture	6,863
6,710	Civic and Democratic Costs	3,605
2,192	Grants and Donations	2,000
16,285	Christmas Lights	15,290
22,947	CCTV Fees	-
27,821	Outside Services	29,314
535,706	Total Expenditure	493,716
	General Fund	
30,525	Balance at 01 April 2014	20,764
523,054	Add: Total Income	520,618
553,579		541,382
535,706	Deduct: Total Expenditure	493,716
17,873		47,666
2,891	Transfer (to)/from Capital Receipts Reserve	-
-	Transfer from/(to) Earmarked Reserves	32,440
20,764	General Reserve Balance at 31 March 2015	80,106
	Current Assets	
4,435	Stock	2,556
35,385	Debtors and prepayments	7,303
526,057	Cash at bank and in hand	546,593
565,877		556,452
	Current Liabilities	

31 March 2014		31 March 2015
(48,318)	Creditors and income in advance	(11,991)
517,559	Net Current Assets	544,461
517,559	Total Assets Less Liabilities	544,461
	Capital and Reserves	
72,795	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	72,795
424,000	Earmarked Reserves	391,560
20,764	General Reserve	80,106
517,559		544,461

Councillors

Current Members of Sandy Town Council

Beeston Ward

Cllr M P Scott
"The Gowans"
Seddington Nursery
Great North Road
Seddington
Sandy
SG19 1NZ

Home 01767 681457
Work 01767 680983

scott729@btinternet.com



Ivel Ward

Cllr W Jackson
14 Westfield Gardens
Sandy
SG19 1HF

01767 682549
will.jackson662@btinternet.com



Cllr M J Pettitt
42 Swansholme Gardens
Sandy
SG19 1HL

01767 680082
martin.pettitt@virginmedia.com



Cllr Mrs M B Runchman
4 Cedar Gardens
Sandy
SG19 1EY

01767 690093
marionbeverley@outlook.com



Cllr R J Smith
10 Glebe Road
Sandy
SG19 1LS

01767 681672
bob.sandy@live.co.uk



Cllr Mrs S J Sutton
33 Bedford Road
Sandy
SG19 1EP

01767 227589



Fallowfield Ward

Cllr D W J Sharman
21 Falcon Close
Sandy
SG19 2TA

01767 683868



Two vacancies

Pinnacle Ward

Cllr P N Aldis
7 Mayfield Court
Sandy
SG19 1NF

01767 691333
nigel.aldis@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Cllr J Ali
22 Market Square
Sandy
SG19 1JA

01767 689743
07962 361102



Clr C Butterfield
27 Glebe Road
Sandy
SG19 1LN

01767 691130

Chris_butterfield2111@hotmail.com



Clr C Osborne MBE
Summercourt
2 Leeds Smith Drive
Sandy
SG19 1LU

01767 682032



Clr P Sharman
3 Swallow Crest
Sandy
SG19 2SN

07889 599556



One vacancy

Electoral Wards

Beeston Ward includes properties in:

Ash Close, Brook End, East Side, Elder Close, Girtford Bridge, Grange Gardens, Great North Road, High Road, Hillview, Lime Avenue, London Road, Nursery Drive, Meadow Close, New Road, Orchard Road, Tempsford Road, The Baulk, The Cloches, The Crescent, The Green, The Knolls, West View, Whitestones

Ivel Ward includes properties in:

Albion Court, All Hallows, all Saints Way, Bedford Road, Bickerdikes Gardens, Birch Grove, Brandreth Place, Braybrook, Carter Street, Cedar Gardens, Church Path, Coopers Close, Deepdale, Edgcombe Court, Elm Tree Road, Filland Court, Foster Grove, Girtford Crescent, Greyhound View, Harvey Court, Heron Close, High Street, Ivel Road, Kings Road, Laburnum Road, London Road, Manor Road, Market Square, Mayfield Court, Mill Lane, Monoux Place, Ongley Court, Ivel Road, Park Court, Park Mews, Park Road, Poplar Close, Potton road, Queens Road, Rivermead Gardens, Robert Hunt Gardens, Roman's View, Sandford Rise, Sandpiper Court, South Road, Spencer Road, Spring Grove, Station Road, Stratford Road, Swan Lane, Swansholme Garden Court, Swansholme Gardens, The Avenue, West Road, Western Way, Westfield Gardens, Willow Rise, Woolfield

Fallowfield Ward includes properties in:

Avocet Close, Brambling Close, Crow Hill, Cuckoo Close, Dove Close, Falcon Close, Fieldfare, Goldfinch Drive, Hawk Drive, Kestrel Way, Kingfisher Close, Larks Rise, Linnet Close, Merlin Drive, Osprey Close, Owlswood, Partridge Piece, Pipit Grove, Plovers Field, Robin Close, Rothbury Close, Starling Close, Swallow Crest, Swift Close, Tempsford Road, The Buntings, The Finches, The Harriers, The Jays, The Rookery, Weavers Green, Woodcock Close, Woodpecker Way, Wren Close

Pinnacle Ward includes properties in: Abbey Grove, Alfred Cope Road, Alnwick close, Arran Close, Balmoral Close, Banks Drive, Belam Way, Berwick Way, Brickhill close, Brickhill Road, Brindley Close, Bunyan Road, Cambridge Road, Carlisle Close, Cauldwell Court, Cherrycroft, Churchill Way, College Road, Dapifer Drive, Deepdale, Delamare Close, Downing Court, East Road, Edward Close, Engayne Avenue, Everton Road, Faynes Court, Friars Walk, Hadley Court, Havelock Close, Kingsley Court, Glebe Road, Greens Close, Leeds Smith Drive, Lindisfarne Close, Longfield Road, Magnolia House, Malaunay Place, Maple Road, Market Square, Medusa Way, Middleham Close, Midland Road, Mills Walk Moores Court, Newton Way, Northcroft, Oak Close, Peels Place, Pentland Close, Powers Close, Pickering close, Pleasant Place, Potton Road, Quince Court, Rectory Court, Rowan Court, Rutland Gardens, Sand Lane, Sandon Close, Shannon Close, Skipton Close, St Neots Road, St Swithuns Way, Stirling Close, Stonecroft, Sunderland Road, Swaden, Talisman Close, Warkworth Close, Waverley Avenue, Wesley Road, Winchester Road, Windsor Way, Wynnefield Walk.

Table of Members attendance at meetings 2014/15

Town Council	
Councillors	Meetings attended (Total 13)
Clr Aldis	10
Clr Ali	8
Clr Butterfield	10
Clr Cole ¹	4
Clr Groom ²	5
Clr Jackson	11
Clr Osborne	10
Clr Pettitt	8
Clr Mrs Runchman	9
Clr Scott	10
Clr D Sharman	12
Clr P Sharman ³	8
Clr Sharp ⁴	3
Clr Smith	7
Clr Mrs Sutton	9
Clr Ms Walsh ⁵	2
Development Scrutiny Committee	
Councillors	Meetings attended (Total 17)
Clr Ali	9
Clr Cole	6
Clr Groom	8
Clr Jackson	15
Clr Pettitt	13
Clr Runchman	12
Clr D Sharman	15
Clr P Sharman	8
Clr Sharp	3
Clr Mrs Sutton	13
Clr Walsh	0

¹ Cllr Cole was co-opted on 19 May 2014 and resigned on 15 December 2014

² Cllr Groom was co-opted on 19 May 2014 and resigned on 15 December 2014

³ Cllr P Sharman was co-opted on 22 September 2014

⁴ Cllr Sharp was co-opted on 22 February 2014 and resigned on 15 December 2014

⁵ Cllr Walsh resigned on 1 July 2014

Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

Councillors	Meetings attended (Total 8)
Clr Aldis	8
Clr Butterfield	7
Clr Groom	5
Clr Jackson	8
Clr Osborne	6
Clr Pettitt	7
Clr Scott	8
Clr D Sharman	8
Clr Sharp	3
Clr Smith	5

Community Services & Environment Committee

Councillors	Meetings attended (Total 6)
Clr Aldis	6
Clr Ali	2
Clr Butterfield	5
Clr Cole	2
Clr Osborne	2
Clr Runchman	5
Clr Scott	4
Clr P Sharman	3
Clr Smith	2
Clr Sutton	5
Clr Walsh	0

Council Contact Details and Addresses

Information current at 24 April 2015

Town Council and Information Office

10 Cambridge Road, Sandy SG19 1JE

Tel: 01767 681491

Fax: 01767 692527

General Email: admin@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Council Staff:

Town Clerk

Delia Shephard BA (Hons), BSc (Hons), MILCM – left Sandy Town Council on 30 April 2015

Administration Team

Carol Baker-Smith – Administration Team Leader

Anne Elliott-Flockhart - Administrator

Barry Groom - Administrator

Brian Leonard - Caretaker

Valerie McFarlane - Administrator

Karon Sizer – Office Cleaner

Rosalind Crossman – left Sandy Town Council on 24 April 2015

Grounds Team

Richard Gilbert – Grounds Team Leader

Colin Eaton - Groundsman

Richard Loake - Groundsman

Chris Smith – Groundsman

Stratford Road Depot

Stratford Road, Sandy SG19 2AA

Cemetery and Former Allotment Site

Potton Road, Sandy SG19 2AA

Play Areas

Bedford Road Recreation Ground, Bedford Road, Sandy SG19 1EY

Beeston Green, The Green, Beeston, Sandy SG19 1PY

Sunderland Road Recreation Ground, Sunderland Road, Sandy SG19 1TH

The Limes, Elder Close, Beeston, Sandy SG19 1GF

Merlin Drive, Fallowfield, Sandy SG19 2UN

Jenkins Pavilion

Sunderland Road Recreation Ground, Off Medusa Way, Sandy SG19 1TH

Public Conveniences

Bedford Road Recreation Ground, Bedford Road, Sandy SG19 1EY

Town Centre Car Park, High Street, Sandy SG19 1AG