

# 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 2 March 2020 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  
25<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**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*

# Sandy Town Council

## 3 Motion

Proposed by Cllr Aldis; Seconded by Cllrs Doyle and Lock

That following the Government's announcement of additional funding for bus services and cycleways, this Council instructs the Clerk to write to Richard Fuller MP, the Transport Minister - the Right Honourable Grant Shapps MP, Richard Carr (Chief Executive) and Cllr James Jamieson (Leader) of Central Bedfordshire Council informing them that:

- a. There is a strong local need to re-instate the local bus service on Sundays and Bank Holidays between Sandy, Biggleswade, Bedford and intermediate villages.
- b. The National Cycle Route 12 needs to be completed between Sandy to Biggleswade with further extensions north and south of the respective towns.

## 4 Public Participation Session

To receive questions and representations from members of the public.

## 5 Minutes of previous Town Council meetings

To receive the Minutes of the meeting of Sandy Town Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 20 January 2020 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.

## 6 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) Community, Services and Environment Committee held on 27 January 2020

**RESOLVED to RECOMMEND** that the Council order 500 re-printed Green Wheel maps/leaflets at a cost of £133. That the costs of the purchase come from underspend in the Council's Nature Reserve management budget.

- ii) Development Scrutiny Committee held on 27 January 2020 and 17 February 2020
- iii) Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 17 February 2020

# Sandy Town Council

**RESOLVED to RECOMMEND** that a grant of £1,000 be awarded to the Sandy Fire Station towards the costs of providing a refurbished area for a cadet room. *The granting of the award from the Community Grants budget will result in an overspend of £130 for the current financial year.*

**RESOLVED to RECOMMEND** that the Council adopt the draft CCTV Policy.

**RESOLVED to RECOMMEND** that the Council adopt the draft CCTV Procedure subject to the amendment in section 8.1. That the Scheme of Delegations be changed to allow a CCTV working group to meet the role set out in the procedure.

**RESOLVED to RECOMMEND** that the Council adopt the draft CCTV FAQ subject to the amendments detailed.

## **7 Financial Matters**

- i) To note a balance sheet and detailed financial report showing income and expenditure against the revenue budget for the year to January 2020 (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 17 February 2020).
- ii) To note a budget overview report (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 17 February 2020).
- iii) To note a list of payments made since the last Town Council meeting (previously circulated and scrutinised at a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee on 17 February 2020).

## **8 Reports from Central Bedfordshire Councillors**

To receive reports from Sandy's Central Bedfordshire Councillors.

## **9 Action List**

To receive any updates and note the action list.

Appendix I

## **10 East West Rail**

- i) To receive and note correspondence previously circulated on the Government's announcement of the preferred East West Rail corridor.
- ii) To receive and note communication from EWR on a series of engagement events, including an event to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in Sandy Village Hall.

Appendix II

Appendix III

# Sandy Town Council

## 11 Sandy Show 2020

To receive and note communication from the organisers of the Sandy Show. Appendix IV

## 12 Support for Additional Crossing in High Street

To consider whether the Town Council would support efforts to seek the installation of a crossing on the High Street at the point near St Swithun's School. Appendix V

## 13 A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet

To receive a project update and note that the next Western Area Community Forum will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7pm in Wyboston Village Hall. Appendix VI

## 14 End Business Rates on Public Toilets

To receive correspondence from the Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils and note the Clerk has responded to the survey. Appendix VII

## 15 Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management

To consider approving that the Council join the ICCM. Appendix VIII

## 16 Police and Crime Commissioner

To receive a summary of a meeting held with the Police and Crime Commissioner on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Appendix IX

## 17 Councillor Surgeries

To consider scheduling dates for further Councillor Surgeries. Appendix X

## 18 Reports from Representatives

To receive and note the following reports;

- i) A report from Cllr M Hill on the Sandy Twinning Association visit. Appendix XI
- ii) A report from Cllr A Gibson on the Sandy Carnival. Appendix XII
- iii) A report from Cllrs Scott and Pettitt on a meeting with Richard Fuller MP Appendix XIII
- iv) A report from Cllr Pettitt on the Pigeon Appeal hearing. Appendix XIV
- v) A report from Cllr M Hill on Sandy Sports and Leisure Association. Appendix XV
- vi) A report from Cllr Hewitt on the Sandy Centre Group. Appendix XVI

# Sandy Town Council

vii) A report from Cllr Aldis on the Talk of the Town

To follow

## 19 Royal British Legion Awards

To receive information on awards recently received by the Sandy Royal British Legion.

Award	Recipient	Citation
The Excellence Cup, Small Branch Efficiency Trophy	Sandy and District Branch	Awarded by the County Committee to the Small Branch deemed to have been most efficient in the year 2019.
Lawrence Gillet Cup	Hayden Stevens	Runner up in the County Standard Bearers competition 2019
County Chairman's Certification of Appreciation	Roger Sparks	His underlying commitment in assisting in the Family Fun day and his dedication to Members and Beneficiaries in Bedfordshire

## 20 Mayor's Engagements

To note a list of recent Mayor's civic engagements carried out since the last meeting of Council:

Wednesday 22 January 2020 – Mayor & Deputy Mayor at Central Bedfordshire's Town & Parish Council

Saturday 1 February 2020 – Higham Ferrars Sounds of the Sixties

Sunday 9 February 2020 – Mayor & Deputy Mayor attending ATC Service at St Swithun's Church

Sunday 23 February 2020 – Leighton Linlade Civic Service

Friday 28 February 2020 – High Sheriff Choir-fest

## 21 News Release

## 22 Chairman's Items

## 23 Date of Next Full Council Meeting: 6 April 2020

**Town Council - Action list**

Subject	Action to be taken		Response/ Agenda no.
	Minute	Action	
<b>Meeting 9/11/15</b>			
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.	<p>On agenda.</p> <p>Route E announced as preferred corridor. EWR engagement event to take place in Sandy on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020.</p> <p>EWR to hold meeting with Councillors in cluster areas.</p> <p>M.P Fuller organising further engagement meetings for local area.</p>
<b>Meeting 21/5/18</b>			
A1 – Local Issues	(19-18/19)	To push for decisions on the future of the A1 and action on safety and environmental issues.	Mayor and Deputy Mayor met with MP Mr Richard Fuller to put forward Sandy’s concerns relating to the A1 and other matters. Report from meeting on agenda.
<b>Meeting 17/12/18</b>			
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.	<p>The Council previously met with Mr Keaveney and continued to engage with CBC to put forward residents’ concerns and Sandy’s needs as part of CBC’s Option Appraisal for its Sandy Sites. An update was anticipated in early 2020.</p> <p>Oversight of the project has now been passed to CBC’s Director for Community Services, Mr M Coiffait.</p> <p>Clerk awaiting contact from Mr Coiffait and further information on the current status and how the process will move forward.</p>

## In February and March, East West Railway Company will be running a series of community events in venues across the area between Bedford and Cambridge.

In January, the Preferred Route Option for the section of East West Rail between Bedford and Cambridge was announced by the Secretary of State for Transport, the Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP. It would link existing stations in Bedford and Cambridge with communities in Cambourne and the area north of Sandy, south of St. Neots.

Everyone living and working in the area, or with an interest in the railway is invited to join the East West Railway Company team at any of the events we will be holding in February and March this year. You will be able to find out more about us, talk about the next steps for the railway, share your views, and meet experts from across the East West Railway Company.

Beginning next week, the events are being held over six weeks in fourteen locations across the area, at varying times of day and days of the week, so we hope everyone can find an event to suit them.



1. **19 February:** The Hub, Cambourne, CB23 6GW, 11:30am - 3:00pm
2. **25 February:** Shelford Rugby Club, CB22 5JJ, 1:30pm - 5:00pm
3. **29 February:** Little Gransden Village Hall, SG19 3DP, 11:30am - 5:00pm

4. **6 March:** The Priory Centre, St Neots, PE19 2BH, 2:30pm - 7:00pm
5. **7 March:** Great Barford Village Hall, MK44 3HA , 11:30am - 3:00pm
6. **10 March:** Ravensden Village Hall, MK44 2RL, 1:30pm - 5:00pm
7. **13 March:** Sandy Village Hall, SG19 1BN, 12:30pm - 4:00pm
8. **16 March:** Scott Hall, Bedford, MK42 0DS, 2:30pm - 7:00pm
9. **19 March:** Clapham Village Hall, MK41 6BP, 4:00pm - 8:30pm
10. **20 March:** Ross Street Community Centre, Cambridge, CB1 3UZ, 2:30pm - 6:00pm
11. **24 March:** Bedford Blues Rugby, MK40 3NF, 4:00pm - 9:00pm
12. **28 March:** Comberton Village Hall, CB23 7DY, 3:30pm - 7:00pm
13. **30 March:** Webb Library, Cambridge, CB5 8BJ, 11:30am - 5:00pm
14. **31 March:** Barrington Village Hall, CB22 7QX, 11:00am - 3:00pm

Event listings are also available at [eastwestrail.co.uk](http://eastwestrail.co.uk), alongside detailed reports on how we chose the Preferred Route Option, a full account of the public consultation we held in 2019 and a number of helpful documents explaining our commitments to landowners, our approach to the environment and our approach to procurement.

Although these events are not a formal consultation, we want to get to know you better, and build a relationship based on trust, transparency and mutual respect.

From everyone at East West Railway Company, we look forward to seeing you soon.

Kind regards,

The East West Railway Company team



# Sandy & District Horticultural Association



## The Sandy Show

In 1868 the Sandy Show was born after several leading gentlemen in the locality wished to showcase the quality of the crops and produce being grown in our local area, to the widest audience. A cat, dog and bird show was added over the following years to create the Feather & Fur Festival with the Flower & Produce Show, and this lasted up until the start of World War II, apart from a break during the World War I.

Following World War II the Show was restarted until 1954. Then in 1966 the Show was resurrected once more at the now-defunct Bickerdike's Nurseries, and it remained there for a number of years before moving back to its original home at Sandye Place.

During recent years the Show has grown to be known across a wide area of the country, with entrants coming from many neighbouring counties to exhibit their produce, flowers and crafts and be judged to exacting national standards.

In the summer of 2019 the Sandye Place Academy closed and the unavailability of the Academy's premises to anyone has caused a loss of venue to the Horticultural Association who promote and organise the Show. Since last August we have been searching for an available site within the town. Many locations have been discussed but none have been found which is of a suitable size and standard. Options outside of the town have also been considered but no satisfactory venue has arisen that has appeared to be financially viable. We have also considered changing the day of the week and also the month of the Show, in an effort to continue with the event.

Also, the number of available helpers to run the event is decreasing as age catches up with us all.

It is therefore necessary to say that the Horticultural Association will be unable to put on the Sandy Show in 2020. If more help can be found and a suitable venue then we would hope to return with a re-invigorated Sandy Show.

Andrew Havergal

**Chair of Sandy & District Horticultural Association**

## SANDY TOWN COUNCIL

**DATE:** 2 March 2020  
**AUTHOR:** Town Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** High Street Crossing

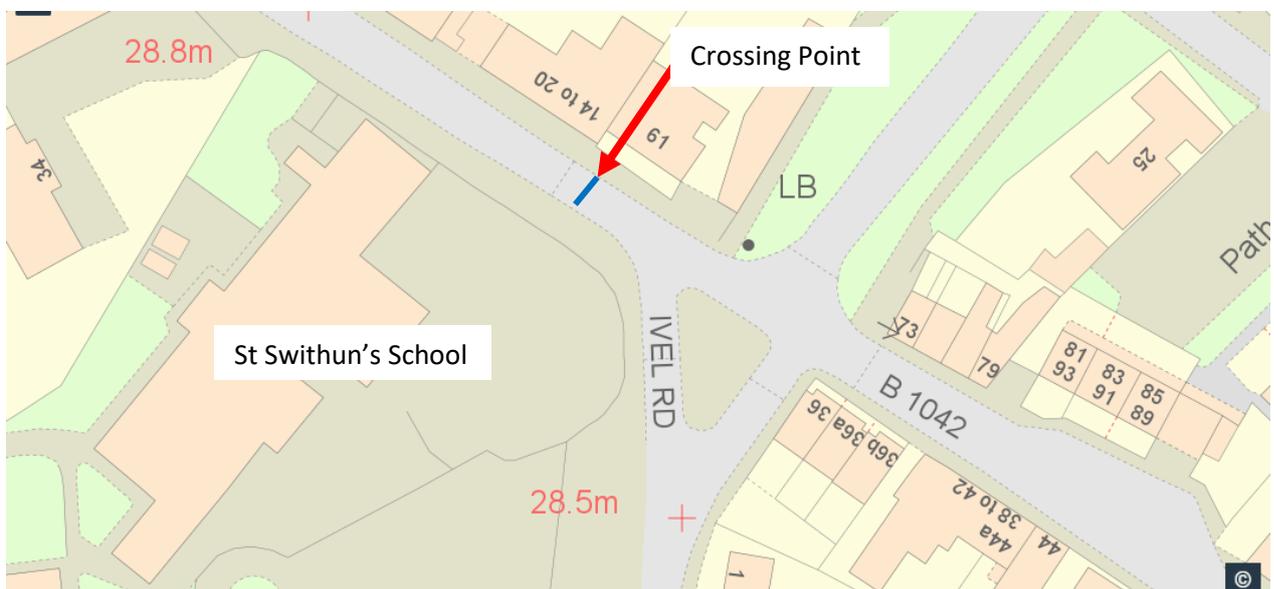
## 1. Summary

- 1.1 Earlier this year the Council received information that a young boy had been knocked off his bike while crossing the High Street at the point near St Swithun's School. Concerns over safety at this crossing point have previously been expressed.
- 1.2 Central Bedfordshire Ward Councillors have queried with Highways the possibility of having some form of pedestrian crossing installed at this point to improve safety, and/or install railings to highlight that a crossing point is positioned there.
- 1.3 Sandy Town Council are asked to consider if they would support requesting that a pedestrian crossing be installed at this location.

## 2. Information

- 2.1 The area in question is heavily used by parents and children attending and leaving St Swithun's School. A lollipop lady is in place to ensure children cross safely during school drop off and pick up times. Currently lowered kerbs and tactile paving indicate the positioning of the crossing point.
- 2.2 The Clerk understands that when proposals came forward to make the High Street a 20-mph limit, a crossing at this location was included in the scheme. However, due to an objection, it was removed from the scheme at that time.

The images below show the location of the crossing point;



View down the High Street towards Potton Road



View down the High Street towards the town centre





# A428

## Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements

Project update: February 2020



We're bringing more young people into the planning process using Minecraft, the world's most popular video game. Here pupils from Castle Newnham school tell us what they think to our plans.



## Welcome to our project update



During the summer of 2019 we carried out an extensive consultation including 17 events across the region. Over 2,500 people took the time to come and talk to us about our plans to improve journeys between Milton Keynes and Cambridge. Thank you to everyone who came to see us and got involved. The feedback shows

there is overwhelming support for both the proposals and our consultation process. This is something we are very proud of as we deliver a scheme that has the support of the local community and creates real benefits for the region.

Our consultation also looked at new ways to present our plans and engage people in our proposals. One of these was to use Minecraft, the world's biggest selling video game, to engage younger people. The scheme has been built in Minecraft, a virtual land where players create and build using 3D building blocks. The model – a first for a major UK road scheme and the biggest of its kind – lets young people freely explore the plans and share with their friends online.

We also ran our first workshop using Minecraft in a local Bedfordshire school. It was great to see so many young people take an interest in our proposals. Inspiring our next generation of engineers is something we take seriously and we intend to do more workshops with local schools in the year ahead.

Since the consultation, we have been reviewing your feedback which includes over 900 responses. We will consider each and every response as we develop our final proposals ahead of submitting the Development Consent Order application.

We remain committed to opening the new road in 2025/26. We will continue to share updates with local communities, customers and stakeholders as the project progresses.

To sign up for email updates on the project, visit our website: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/a428](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/a428)

**Lee Galloway**  
Programme leader

Your feedback is valuable and helps the ongoing development of the scheme.

## What have we been doing?

Since the consultation, we have been carrying out ground investigations and surveys along the proposed route. These are important and will give our team a clear picture of the type of soils, rock and groundwater to help us design structures and plan how we build them.

We are also starting archaeological trial trenching in the area. The investigations will help us understand the significance of the archaeological resource and inform how we can avoid or minimise harm through design and mitigation. The first phase will begin in early 2020 and will run until the end of summer.

At the same time, we have continued to engage with the local community and other interested parties. We hold regular Community Forums and Technical Working Groups. These are an important way to gain feedback from key stakeholders as we develop our proposals.



17  
events



2,500+  
attendees



27,000+  
invitations

## The consultation

An eight week consultation ran from Monday 3 June to Sunday 28 July 2019 providing the opportunity to have your say on our proposals for the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements scheme.

### Working with stakeholders

Over recent months we have attended meetings with stakeholders across the region including local authorities, parish councils, landowners, statutory bodies, elected representatives including MPs and ward councillors.

### Promoting the consultation

Consultations typically resonate with an older audience. Parents, workers and young people are often more difficult to reach.

To gain the views of all our customers, we did a number of things differently. We held Minecraft workshops at all consultation events to encourage families to attend and partnered with Mumsnet to promote them.

Pop up events at service stations and shopping centres as well as at community centres gave us the chance to talk and listen to the views of a broad mix of people.

We also promoted the consultation through news releases, social media, advertising, media interviews, a postcard sent to over 27,000 addresses and our dedicated project website.



24,500+  
visitors to  
the website



17,000+  
views of flythrough  
on You Tube



3.2m+  
people reached  
by media coverage



## Your responses

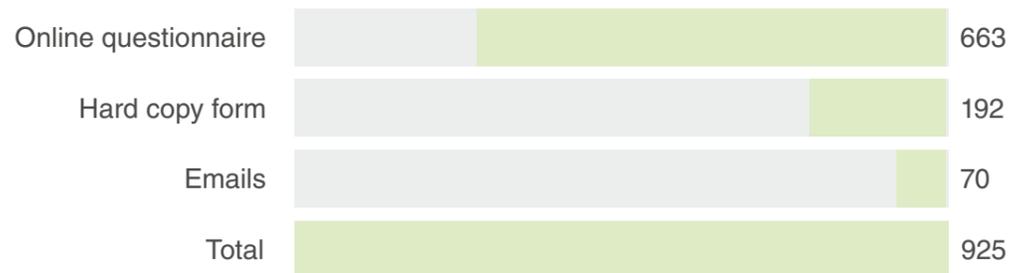
925  
responses received

**Please note:**

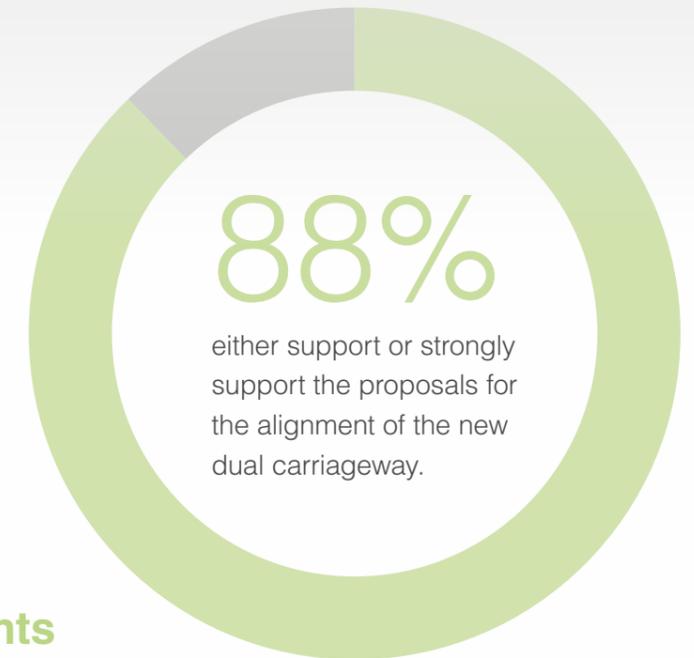
Percentages on the charts may not add up to 100%, as they are rounded to the nearest percent. Where a figure is less than 0.5% we have displayed that figure as <1% as this is preferable to 0%.

The consultation responses were received and analysed by Traverse, a specialist independent company. The full statutory Consultation Report providing detailed information about the consultation process, the issues raised and our responses to them will be published as part of our Development Consent Order application this summer. The following pages provide a summary of the responses from the consultation.

### How people chose to respond



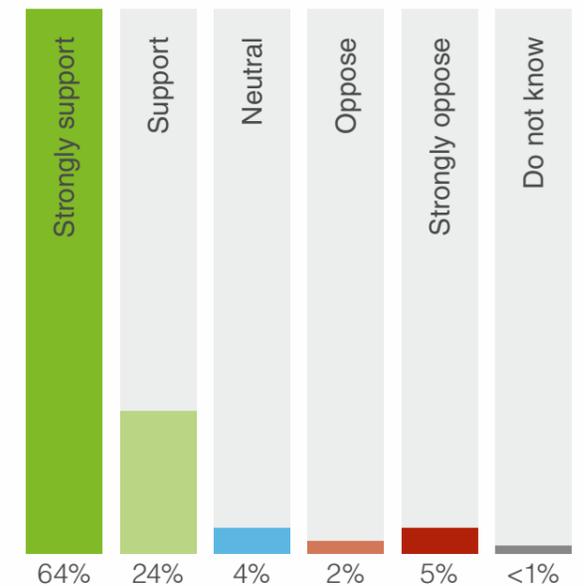
## Do you support or oppose the detailed alignment of the new dual carriageway?



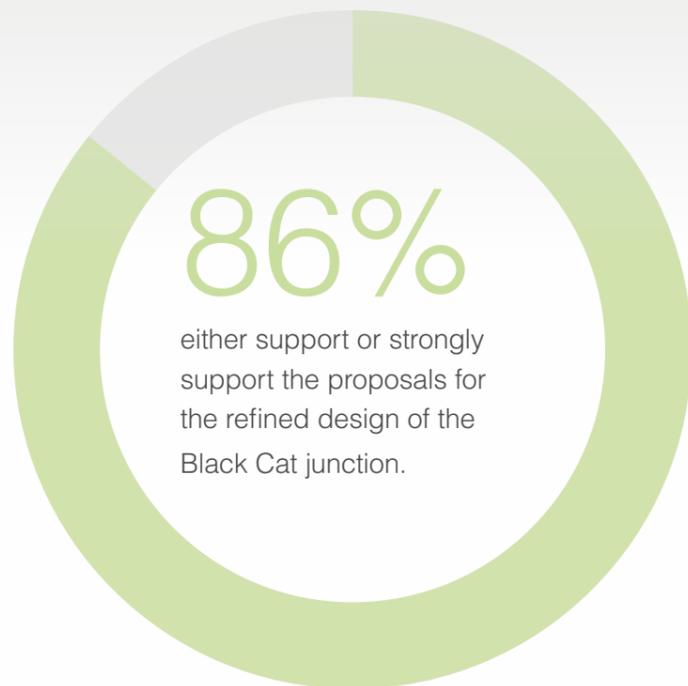
### Highlighted comments

Your comments reflect high support for the scheme. A brief overview is below:

- ... The scheme will have a positive impact on traffic, safety and reduce the number of drivers using village roads as rat runs.
- ... People felt the roundabout will address the present situation in relation to congestion, safety, and connectivity between Bedford and Cambridge.
- ... A small number commented on the impact on local communities during construction. This included concerns over additional rat running and construction noise.



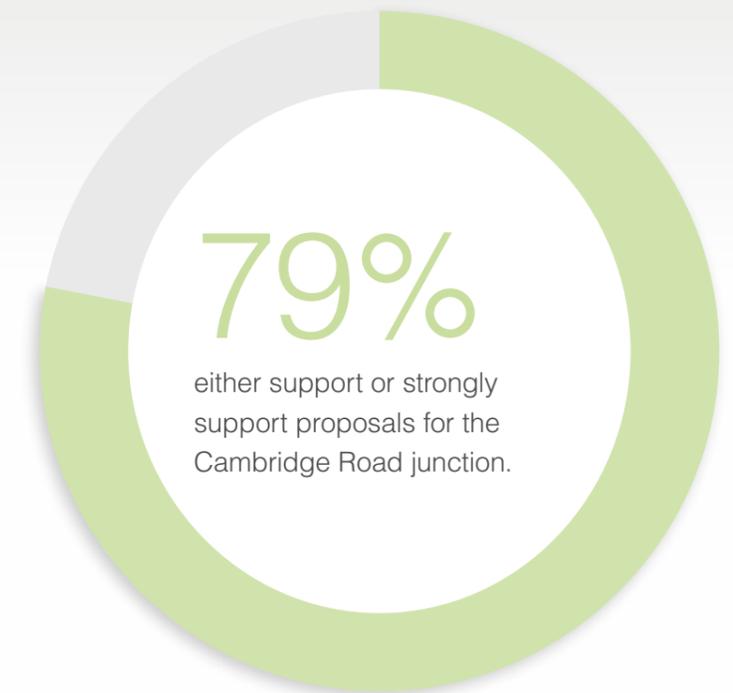
## Do you support or oppose the refined design for Black Cat junction?



### Highlighted comments

- People felt the new design of the Black Cat junction will reduce congestion at this critical point on the road network.
- The new design will reduce traffic congestion at the junction as well as alleviating rat running in surrounding villages while improving road safety.
- A small number of people felt the design will fail to address existing issues with the A1, such as the bottlenecks at Sandy and Buckden.

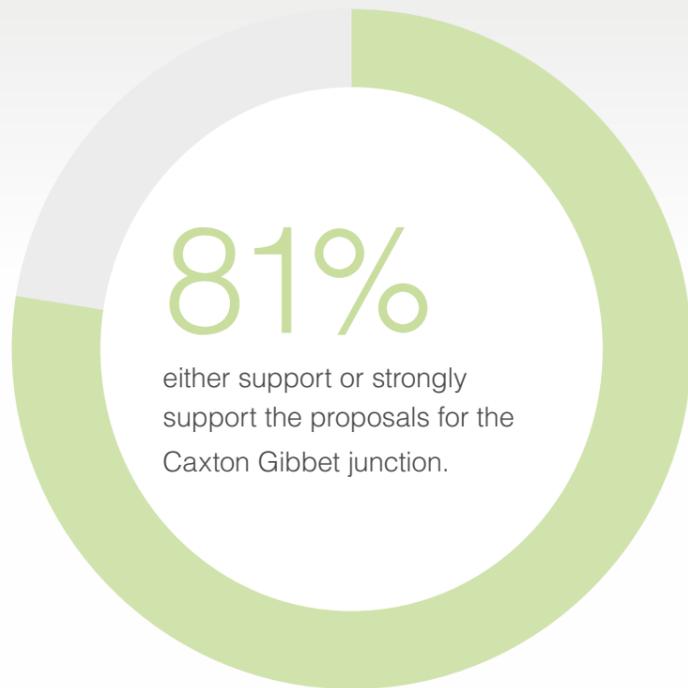
## Do you support or oppose the design for Cambridge Road junction?



### Highlighted comments

- The junction will meet the needs of the local area with enough capacity to deal with any increase in traffic that may arise as a result of the new housing developments.
- A small number of concerns were raised that the junction has not been designed with adequate capacity for the Loves Farm or Wintringham development.

## Do you support or oppose the design for Caxton Gibbet junction?

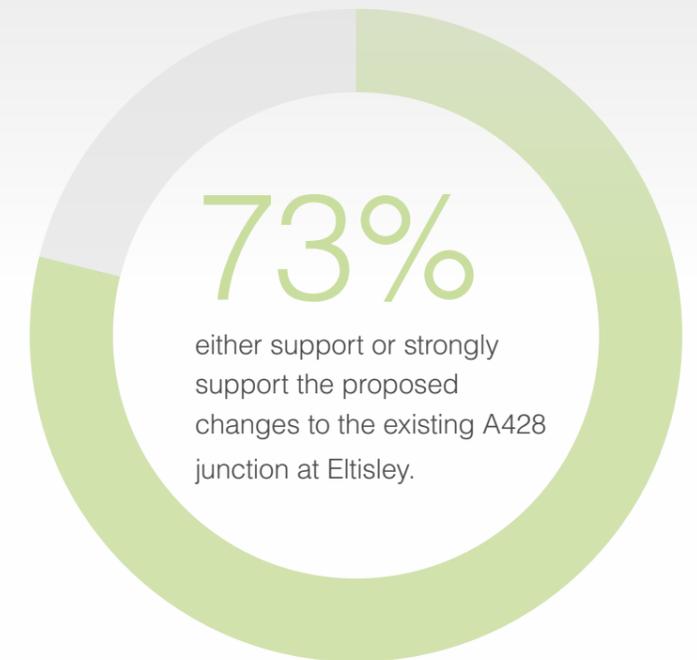


### Highlighted comments

Some people highlighted that the Caxton Gibbet junction will reduce congestion, journey times, traffic and the number of vehicles using unsuitable local roads, as well as increase safety.

A small number of people raised concerns that congestion levels at the new Caxton Gibbet junction will be worse than they are currently due to large volumes of traffic needing to navigate two roundabouts.

## Do you support or oppose the changes to the existing A428 junction at Eltisley?

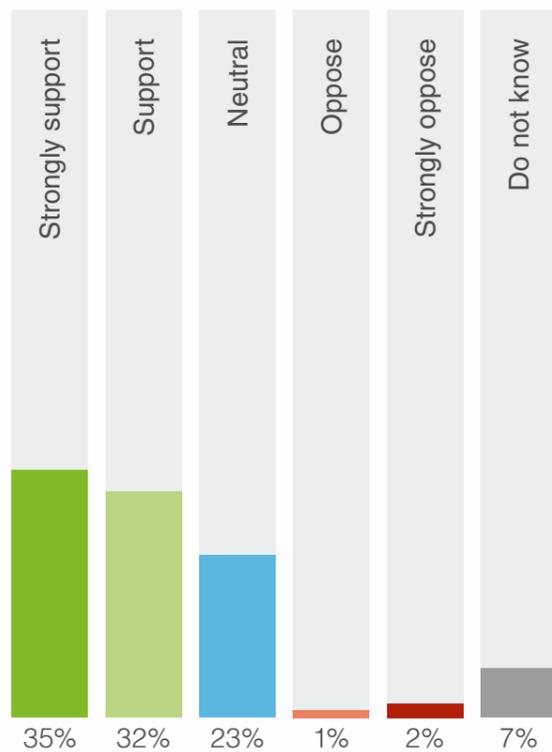
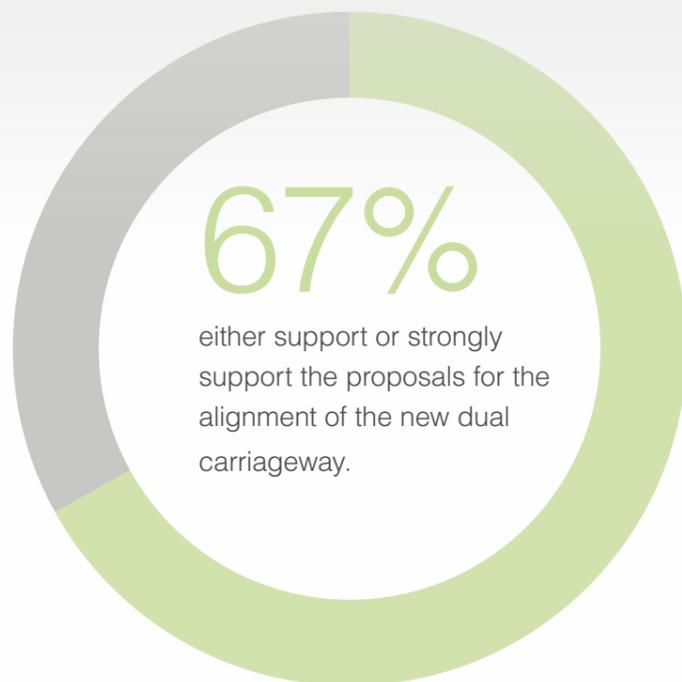


### Highlighted comments

Respondents said there will be a positive impact on traffic in the area, particularly in terms of safety and congestion both at the new junction and on surrounding roads.

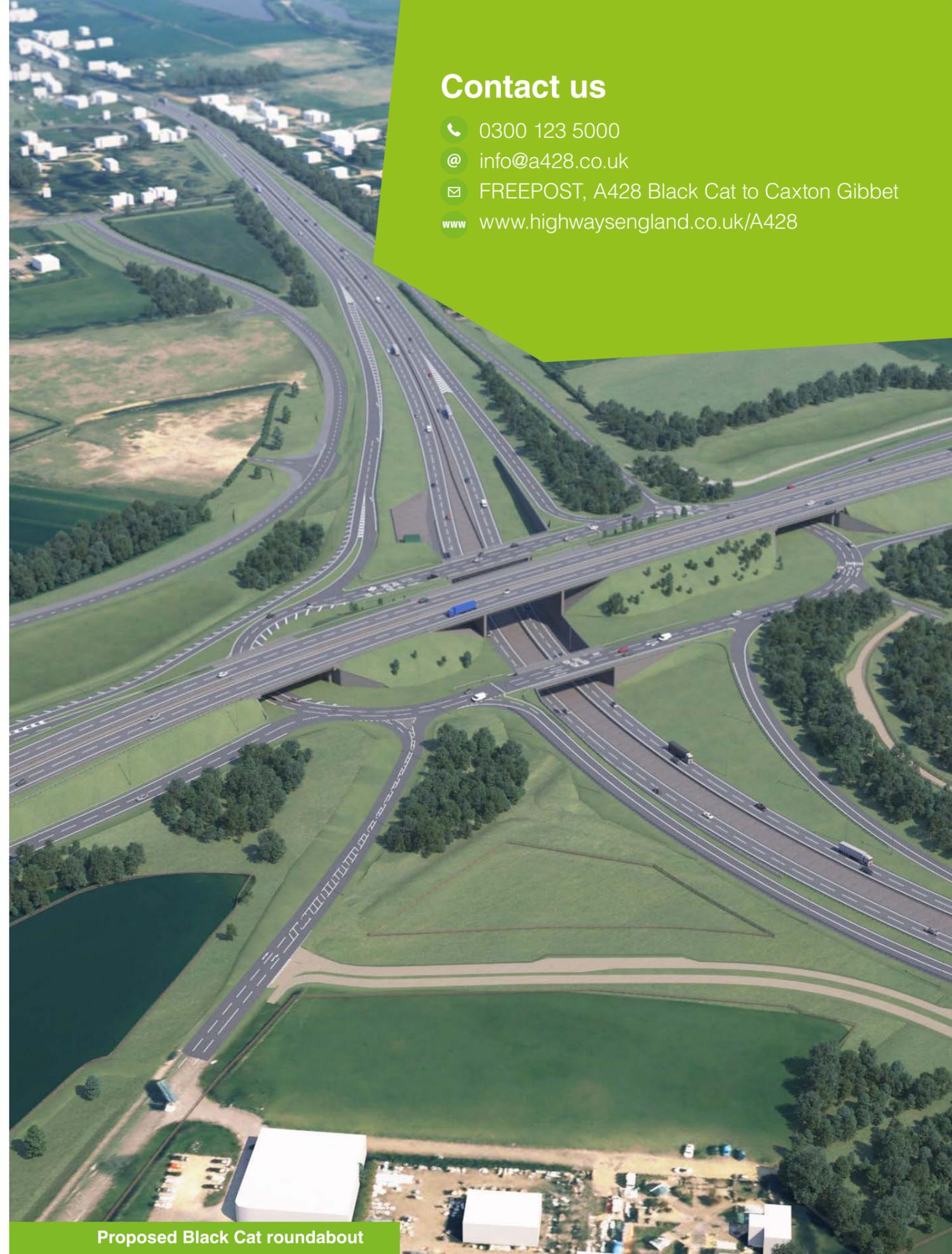
A small number of people felt the design of the junction was overly complex which could be difficult to navigate. Some also raised concerns about the potential for rat running through Eltisley during construction and once the new road is opened.

## Do you support or oppose the proposed routes for walkers, cyclists and horse riders?



### Highlighted comments

- The scheme will improve the safety of cyclists, walkers and horse riders because of the segregation from motorised traffic.
- A small number of people felt that insufficient consideration has been given to cyclists including concerns about the crossing proposed at Caxton Gibbet.



### Contact us

- 0300 123 5000
- [info@a428.co.uk](mailto:info@a428.co.uk)
- FREEPOST, A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet
- [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A428](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A428)

Proposed Black Cat roundabout

# Next steps

We're continuing to work through people's comments in detail and as we consider the responses, we may make changes to the scheme. If we make significant changes to the design, we may carry out further consultation on those changes. We will keep you informed if this happens.

It is vital we get all aspects of the design right to ensure we maximise the benefits of the scheme while also minimising any impacts on communities and the environment. We will continue to work closely with stakeholders to shape the design and understand the impact on local communities.

We remain committed to opening the new road in 2025/26.

We now expect to submit our Development Consent Order (DCO) application in Summer 2020. This will give us additional time to consider local concerns around the wider impacts of the scheme at key points on the road network.

It will also give us time to ensure our assessments around noise and air quality from the changes in traffic patterns are as detailed as possible.



Considering feedback from the consultation, developing the design and preparing our submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

We will make our submission to the Planning Inspectorate, which will include feedback from the consultation. This is called the DCO application.

The Planning Inspectorate has 28 days to decide if the application meets the required standards to proceed, including whether our consultation has been adequate.

You can register with the Planning Inspectorate as an interested party and make formal representations about the project. You will then be kept informed of progress and opportunities to be involved.

The Planning Inspectorate has six months to examine our application. This is called the DCO examination period. Registered parties can send written comments to the Planning Inspectorate and can ask to speak at a public hearing.

The Planning Inspectorate will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport within three months of the end of the examination period.

The Secretary of State then has three months to issue a decision. This will be followed by a public announcement. If approved, construction could begin soon after.



**From:** Louise Ashmore <[louise.ashmore@batpc.co.uk](mailto:louise.ashmore@batpc.co.uk)>  
**Sent:** 26 February 2020 09:42  
**To:** [louise.ashmore@batpc.co.uk](mailto:louise.ashmore@batpc.co.uk) <[louise.ashmore@batpc.co.uk](mailto:louise.ashmore@batpc.co.uk)>  
**Subject:** End business rate levy on public toilets

The Clerk – BATPC Member Councils

Dear Colleague

NALC and the British Toilets Association (BTA) recently met and both organisations are committed to ending the business rate levy on public conveniences owned or run by parish and town councils.

Both organisations were sorely disappointed that the Non Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Bill did not make it past committee stage in the House of Lords in September last year due to the pro-rogation of parliament – despite unanimous cross party support in the House of Lords. This follows the Local Government Finance Bill of 2016 also falling due to a lack of parliamentary time.

Meanwhile local councils taking on the management of public conveniences have saved these vital local assets from closure (helping meet one of BTA's key strategic aims of keeping public conveniences open) – but in so doing have notched-up between them several hundreds of thousands of pounds of costs of business rate charges for the privilege. The Government committed in the Budget of 2018 to end the toilet tax from 1 April 2020 and it is about time this happened.

If you are affected by this issue please help NALC and BTA secure more evidence as to why your council needs an end to the toilet tax by taking 5 minutes to complete this simple survey by 17:00 on Friday 1 May 2020 <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JQV5RFZ>

Thanks for your help with this.

Regards

Louise

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Louise Ashmore  
County Officer - Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils  
Suite 11, Baystrait House  
15 Station Road, Biggleswade, Beds SG18 8AL  
Tel: 01767 312669

**SANDY TOWN COUNCIL****DATE: 2 March 2020****AUTHOR: Town Clerk****SUBJECT: Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management****1. Summary**

1.1 Council employees recently attended a Cemetery Management training day organised by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM). Members of the team who attended felt that the training and information provided was valuable and the Council are asked to consider becoming a Member of the ICCM to ensure it receives the most up to date cemetery management information and that officers have professional support on cemetery matters.

**2. Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management**

2.1 The ICCM was founded in 1913 and since that time has provided policy and best practice guidance to Burial and Cremation authorities, Town and Parish Councils and its corporate members. It represents its members at government level. It is a provider of accredited education and training opportunities for those working within the service.

2.2 The aims of the ICCM are;

- To promote the development, advancement and welfare of our members to facilitate the better provision, operation, administration and management of cemeteries, crematoria and bereavement related services.
- To promote the improvement of cemeteries, crematoria and public services for the disposal of the dead.
- To promote the advancement and welfare of people employed in the above undertakings.
- To encourage technical and other studies in relation to the above and to improve and develop the technical and general knowledge of the profession.
- To provide education and training, including lectures and conferences.
- To provide library facilities.
- To distribute a journal and papers produced by the Institute.
- To undertake investigations.
- To engage people to act in a technical and advisory capacity.
- To distribute trust funds.
- To promote, support or oppose initiatives (including proposed legislation) relating to burial, cremation and ancillary public services.

**3. Membership**

3.1 Town and Parish Council membership costs £95 per year.

3.2 Membership provides the Council with support in the administration and management of its cemetery, including;

- Best practice guidance and information on a vast range of subjects.
- Information and updates on changes to legislation.
- Access to support, help and advice from full-time officers (Diploma Qualified).
- Comprehensive website membership section.
- E-newsletters designed to keep members up to speed.
- Access to accredited training and educational initiatives.
- Reduced rates for short training events.
- Access to branch meetings to discuss common issues/problems.
- Four quarterly copies of The Journal.
- An editable entry for your service(s) on the Bereavement Services Portal.
- Representation at government level.

#### **4. Recommendation**

4.1 It is recommended that the Council join the ICCM for a 12-month period. That an overspend of £77 is incurred in the 2019/20 subscriptions budget.

That a review of the benefits of membership is provided prior to finalising the 2021/22 budget. If the Council agree to continue to maintain Membership, an allowance is allowed for in the 2021/22 subscriptions budget.

**SANDY TOWN COUNCIL****DATE: 2 March 2020****AUTHOR: Town Clerk****SUBJECT: Police and Crime Commissioner Meeting****1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner attended a meeting with STC and CBC on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Also present at the meeting was Sergeant Simon Butler of the North Rural Community Policing Team which covers Sandy, Potton, Biggleswade, Shefford and surrounding areas.
- 1.2 The following report is a brief outline of the main points covered by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Kathryn Holloway.

**2. Overview**

*The PCC spent some time providing an overview and update on Bedfordshire Police's achievements and projects undertaken over the last year. Points of interest included;*

- 2.1 The recent report by a new Inspector found that Bedfordshire Police ranked 'Good' and showed a vast improvement on a previous Inspector's review of the force. The PCC felt that the previous inspection was flawed, and the data sets used were wrong. Previous reports did not take into account the fact Bedfordshire Police was rolling out a community policing programme. The PCC challenged the results of previous reports.
- 2.2 The recent report particularly praised the Bedfordshire Police control room and the process of victim engagement and support the force undertakes. Practices carried out by Bedfordshire Police in relation to victim support are now being recommended for all forces.
- 2.3 The development of officers to directly address rural crime has helped tackle crimes which happen because of their rural nature. The force is now in greater direct communication with farmers and parishes in identifying and reporting rural crime.
- 2.4 The force continues to operate facing funding challenges and a wide variety of crime. The PCC maintains that the government funding formula for policing is wrong. Funding is currently based on population numbers and fails to take into account the level and types of crime forces are dealing with. Bedfordshire may have many rural areas, but there is also an airport and large populations such as Bedford and Luton. Crimes range massively and can include drug, knife and terrorism.
- 2.5 The relationship with smaller parish councils has changed and there is more joint working and understanding between those councils and the force via community policing.

- 2.6 The set-up of a Direction Hub helps those recently released from prison find out information on benefits, work and accommodation as a focus on rehabilitation and preventing re-offending. There is now a dedicated call centre and points within job centres.
- 2.7 Close work with the Governor of Bedford Prison has resulted in 'switching off' drug supply and other banned items into the prison.
- 2.8 County lines drugs continue to be an issue with gangs becoming more brutal. Bedfordshire Police have 1,228 officers with the county having over 38,000 regular drug users (16-30 yrs old). The drugs value equates to £113m. The PCC stated that she would not support legalising cannabis, which creates many problems and is linked to knife crime over dealing - 'turf' wars. Focus on preventative measures by engaging with young people and working with charities such as 'Faces'.
- 2.9 Crime continues to be a small part of what the force actually has to deal with. Prevention, social care, road traffic etc are all part of modern policing.

### **3. Policing Numbers**

- 3.1 The PCC had previously promised 160 new police officers. 100 of these were to replace officers leaving and 60 were to be new posts. The government then gave a further 18 officer posts and the PCC was able to secure a further 18. The total number of new officers recruited is therefore 198.
- 3.2 Out of the Government's promised 20,000 new officers, the first 6,000 are due to come forward. Bedfordshire will receive 36 of those 6,000 officers. Again, this is due to the way the funding formula concentrates resources on higher populated areas. The PCC asked that Town and Parish Councils continue to write to the Government and request that the funding formula is reviewed.

### **4. Sandy Figures**

- 4.1 The PCC provided a number of year-on-year crime figures. The Clerk has asked for a copy of this information which can be circulated once received.

The figures reported stated that the following crimes were down in Sandy;

Robbery – down 50%  
Burglary – down 31.4%  
Other Theft – down 23%  
Vehicle Crime – down 11%  
Shoplifting – down 16.9%

The figures reported stated that the following crimes had gone up in Sandy;

Violence without Injury – Up 47%  
Violence with Injury – an increase from 167 incidents to 189

- 4.2 Sgt Butler explained that a lot of the incidents would be related to domestic violence and are not random or targeted attacks on the public.

- 4.3 Members queried why the crime stats do not appear to correlate with reports on social media. Sgt Butler explained that some posts on Facebook are repeated, so one incident appears to be more. It was noted that some crimes are seasonal.

The PCC stated that all contact made with the police is recorded and can be recalled as needed. While people may state they have called the police on several occasions, the recordings have shown that is not the case. The PCC reiterated again that calling 101 or the Community Policing team to report information on crime was critical.

- 4.4 Members queried a spike in vehicle break-ins and residents feeling that the police do not care. The PCC stated that officers have to continue to weigh priorities and serious crimes such as rape or violence will need to take priority over vehicle break-ins when it comes to immediate attendance by police.

## **5. What Can Councils do to work with the Police?**

- 5.1 Shefford Town Council identified that the cut in funding for afterschool activities was leading to an increase in anti-social behavior and crime. They focused on recruiting youth engagement officers and developed a youth engagement programme and activities with funding from the PCC. The focus on the work was preventative to stop young people turning to crime.

The PCC queried what resources Sandy had that it could work with to engage with young people, such as community groups and who could STC work with to keep young people 'off the streets'?

- 5.2 The PCC has a grant scheme to which Town and Parish Councils can apply to support crime prevention activities/projects. More information can be provided on the scheme via the PCC's Chief of Staff.
- 5.3 Every Councillor on Shefford and Houghton Regis Town Councils hold regular monitoring groups to share information on crimes taking place in their towns. Because these have become established meetings, officers also attend to gather information on where hotspots are.
- 5.4 The PCC suggested that Councils can invest in mobile CCTV and work with police on where to locate the cameras to best assist the police in tackling crime.
- 5.5 Councils could look to spearheading volunteer-based schemes Streetwatch and Speedwatch in their communities. It was suggested that the head of volunteers could come and speak with the Council about the schemes.
- 5.6 The PCC stated that there were 1,000 volunteers working as part of Streetwatch and cited Marston Moretaine as having an active group. Volunteers are visibly out and about in their communities. In Leighton Linlade Town Councillors are Streetwatch volunteers.

**6. Concluding**

- 6.1 The PCC concluded by stating she will not be running for the position again in May 2020. A new, young Chief Constable had been appointed who she felt would be in the role for some significant time and would ensure that many of the initiatives currently underway would continue for the benefit of policing in Bedfordshire.
- 6.2 The funds the PCC has achieved for the force are single payments and there still needs to be a change in the funding formula the government use. She asked that Councils continue to push government to see this happen.
- 6.3 The College of Policing will be introducing criteria that all officers are educated to degree level. The PCC expressed her disagreement with this as it meant many serving officers would need to go back into education when they should be out operating in their roles. She asked that the Council consider writing to express their concerns about the new criteria.

**SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**

**DATE:** 2 March 2020  
**AUTHOR:** Town Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Councillor Surgeries

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 Councillors previously resolved to hold a series of Councillor surgeries to take place every 5 to 6 weeks. Over recent months, the surgeries have operated from the Chemist in the Market Square and have run from 10am to 12pm. It was previously agreed that when the weather was appropriate, the surgeries would take place in the Community Stand in the High Street.
- 1.2 The final scheduled surgery is to take place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020. Members are asked to provide their feedback on how surgeries have gone and consider whether they wish to continue with the surgeries and if so, agree dates and volunteers for the remainder of 2020.

**2. Future Surgeries**

- 2.1 If Members wish to continue with Councillor surgeries it is suggested that they be held on the following dates;
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – Community Stand  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Community Stand  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – Community Stand  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September – Chemist  
Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Chemist  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December - Chemist
- 2.2 It is suggested that reports of issues raised at Councillor surgeries go to the Community Services and Environment Committee.

**SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**

**DATE:** 2 March 2020  
**AUTHOR:** Cllr M Hill  
**SUBJECT:** Sandy Twinning Association

**Summary**

Next May we will be receiving a particularly large group of 52 from Malaunay, who will be travelling here by coach. They will be arriving on the afternoon of Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> (a Bank Holiday in France!) and will depart early on the following Sunday morning.

If any members of the Council or staff would be in a position to host French guests over the stay, that would help enormously. We currently have three retired couples and two mothers and daughters to accommodate.

The Twinning Association will organise the entire weekend and endeavour to keep the onus on hosts to a minimum. We expect the Friday to be a day out in Bedford with picnic and on the Saturday, there will be an optional guided walk – for members of a walking group who are coming with the party – with a social event in the evening – probably in Moggerhanger Village Hall.

Please let Martin or Max know if you can help with hosting or would like to be involved in the visit in some way.

**SANDY TOWN COUNCIL****DATE: 2 March 2020****AUTHOR: Cllr A Gibson****SUBJECT: Sandy Carnival Committee Meetings – January/February****Summary**

Sandy Carnival committee meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday of the month. The following notes have been made as a result of those meetings held to date in 2020.

**Carnival Prince and Princess**

The competition for the 2020 Prince and Princess will be held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at Sandy Roundabout Club. Sandy Town Council will be promoting this on their website and Facebook and the committee have also created posters that will be circulated to all schools and will be placed on town noticeboards.

The competition starts with registration at 1.30 pm and there will then be photos taken and a lucky dip prize for all entrants.

**Carnival Day**

The 2020 Parade is confirmed for 6<sup>th</sup> June with the theme of 'The Swinging 60s'. The rolling road closure has been booked and the traffic management request is in progress.

There has been some interest in floats for the day, and the band and the Stotfold Twirlers have been booked. The Community Stand in Sandy has also been booked for a '60's' band performance to entertain before the start of the parade.

Suitable access to Sandye Place grounds has been confirmed by CBC to allow the usual arena event with stands from local community groups and traders. Some stall holders are not available due to the change of week. Food will be supplied by Claytons of Potton and King's Arms in Sandy will provide the bar.

The Carnival committee will invite Sandy Horticultural Society to run the craft element of Sandy Show during the afternoon event at SPA.

Portable toilets have been organised and a big 'thank you' goes to Sandy Town Council for providing a community grant to help fund this additional cost.

A grant request is to be made to CBC Councillor Community Funds to replace the gazebo damaged last year by the high winds and also provide a larger and more robust first aid tent.

Sponsorship requests to local businesses will start in March.

**Raffle**

Need to replace Tesco as a location to sell tickets. This has been the best site by far for revenue generation. The committee will approach Sainsbury's at Biggleswade, Roxton Garden Centre etc. They will also sell at the EAT Feast events in April and May.

**AOB**

The fashion show has been organised again this year with All Seasons' support. The Roundabout Club will also hold a fundraiser with a quiz or a race night being proposed. The vision is to try and make the carnival a week-long event in the future with multiple participating pubs and clubs.

**SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**

**DATE:** 2 March 2020  
**AUTHOR:** Cllrs Scott and Pettitt  
**SUBJECT:** Meeting with Richard Fuller MP

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Clerk wrote to Mr Richard Fuller, the newly elected Member of Parliament for North East Bedfordshire following his election in December 2019. The Clerk invited Mr Fuller to visit Sandy and meet with the Mayor and Deputy so they could discuss with him a number of issues of particular importance to the Council and the community. The Council had previously issued a briefing document to Mr Fuller's predecessor to be included in a handover.
- 1.2 Mr. Fuller met with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on Thursday 23 January 2020 at Sandy Town Council's offices.
- 1.3 The purpose of the meeting was to give an opportunity to bring Mr Fuller up to date on a number of issues and press the Council's wish to have support from its MP in moving a number of matters forward. The areas covered included;
- Developing the case for the re-alignment of the A1.
  - Addressing more immediate safety concerns on the A1, including the Average Speed Camera Scheme.
  - East West Rail announcement and protection of Sandy Station.
  - Future of Sandye Place Academy and CBC's approach to the site.
  - Provision of leisure services in Sandy and the issues involved.
  - Removal of public toilet rates.
  - Vacant units and the state of the High Street.
- 1.4 Following the meeting, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor showed Mr Fuller around the town centre and areas relating to the above, such as Sandye Place.

**2. Updates from the MP's Office**

- 2.1 On 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Mr Fuller's office provided the Clerk with the following updates;

**East West Rail** – Following the meeting, the Government announced the preferred corridor for EWR. Mr Fuller's office recognise that a priority for Sandy Town Council and the community is establishing what implications the route has for Sandy and ensuring there are no negative impacts on the existing station.

Mr Fuller has approached EWR and is arranging to hold a series of engagement events which he will chair. It is envisioned there will be such an event held in Sandy and Mr Fuller's office will advise us of the dates once this is arranged.

**A1 Realignment** – Mr Fuller's office are attempting to find the original realignment plans as proposed in the 1990's and are liaising with Highways England.

Mr Fuller is continuing to raise matters around the A1 and realignment in The House. Transport Secretary Grant Shapps MP has agreed to meet with Mr Fuller to discuss our section of the A1 and matters around the case for re-alignment of the road.

**A1 – Safety Matters** – Mr Fuller's office is in discussion with Highways England (HE) on the outcomes of a meeting they had with Alistair Burt MP. This includes the average speed camera scheme which did not come forward. Mr Fuller's office have stated that they are continuing to push this and other matters and seek actions which came as a result of Mr Burt's meeting with HE and his speech in an adjournment debate shortly before the end of the last Parliament.

**Public Toilet Rates** – Mr Fuller has raised a parliamentary question on the removal of public toilet business rates. Mr Fuller's office will let the Clerk know the outcome.

**Reception for STC** – Mr Fuller wishes to arrange a date to meet with Sandy Town Councillors and his office is currently looking to set up a suitable time. They will be in touch with the Clerk to advise further.

**Leisure Services** – Mr Fuller will be looking to meet with other stakeholders to discuss the provision of leisure services in Sandy and the issues around its delivery as highlighted by Sandy Town Council. Mr Fuller's office is looking to agree dates with the Secondary School and CBC's James Jamieson.

**SANDY TOWN COUNCIL****DATE: 2 March 2020****AUTHOR: Cllr M Pettitt****SUBJECT: Planning Appeal by Pigeon Land Ltd & Others on Land North of Sunderland Road, Sandy****Summary**

This appeal hearing first opened at Priory House, Chicksands on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 but was adjourned by the Inspector early on the third day to enable additional evidence to be considered by the parties.

The appeal resumed at 10am on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February – until Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February inclusive – in The Ouse Room, Jordans Mill and was presided over by Senior Planning Inspector, Dr Roger Catchpole.

In attendance from STC were Cllrs P Blaine and Mrs S Doyle who had given verbal evidence at the first stage of the appeal heard at Chicksands, along with Cllrs M Pettitt and N Aldis.

**The Appeal**

- At around 11am, the Inspector ordered a further two-hour adjournment, and so the appeal did not really resume in earnest until 2pm on Tuesday afternoon.
- Cllrs Blaine and Pettitt remained and returned for the following two days to hear all the evidence, witness cross examinations and lengthy closing submissions.
- The appeal was closed by the Inspector at around 3pm on the Thursday and speaking to one of the barristers then, he speculated it is likely to be between 4 and 6 weeks before the Inspector's decision is known.
- The questioning and cross examination of witnesses was at times quite robust on both sides, but especially aimed at the appellants expert, Mr Tiley, and this I'm sure is reflected in the closing submission - especially that on behalf of CBC.
- Members have been provided with the respective closing submissions presented by Counsel for both sides and while these do in part make 'heavy' reading, the main issues are clearly highlighted - notably towards the end of Mr Booth's submission on behalf of CBC, and members will read and form their own views. I'm quite certain that Cllr Blaine would join me in resisting the temptation of trying to forecast which way the decision will go.

**SANDY TOWN COUNCIL****DATE: 2 March 2020****AUTHOR: Cllr M Hill****SUBJECT: Sandy Sport and Leisure Association (SSLA) Report****Summary**

A special meeting of SSLA officers was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to address a number of issues pertaining to the planned refurbishment works to the all-weather pitch next summer and seek to make relevant and appropriate recommendations to all members of the SSLA committee at its next full meeting and keep Sandy Town Council, in its role of Sole Trustee, fully appraised and up-to-date.

**Key issues discussed**

- VAT and the potential impact of SSLA not being able to recoup the VAT on expenditure connected to the proposed refurbishment. Some uncertainty remains but Martin to seek advice from Excel Accountants.
- Planning consent not to be delayed despite the VAT uncertainty.
- Martin Pettitt to consult with the new President of Sandy Cricket Club over minor changes to the boundary line resulting from the refurbishment.
- Dr James to continue with stages 2 and 3 of the project, and then come back with suitable companies from which to invite tender bids.
- The lease with STC needs to be progressed as quickly as possible.
- CR not yet a signatory on SSLA accounts. MP to chase up Barclays.
- SSL's payment for the management fee (£13,494.00) for the present financial year not yet received into SSLA accounts. This needs to be chased by the treasurer.
- Confirmed that for the purpose of completing the Sport England Offer letter the Biggleswade branch of Barclays should be shown as the holding branch.

**SANDY TOWN COUNCIL**

**DATE:** 2 March 2020  
**AUTHOR:** Town Clerk / Cllr J Hewitt  
**SUBJECT:** Sandy Centre Group Update

**1. Summary**

1.1 The Sandy Centre Group is made up of representatives from businesses, organisations within the town, the Town Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and members of the public who are interested in helping find ways to invigorate Sandy town centre. The group has been operating since October 2018 but has become a lot more active over the last 12 months as it has developed a committed membership of individuals with a variety of skills and backgrounds.

1.2 The Sandy Centre Group's objectives are;

- To work towards increasing footfall in Sandy town centre
- To work towards a reduction in the number of empty retail and business units
- To support the achievement of financial investment in the town through grant funding and engagement with improvement and enhancement schemes
- To improve the communication and publication of local information, events, attractions and activities happening in Sandy
- To market the advantages Sandy offers as a location for business and investment
- To support new business ideas in Sandy

**2. Projects**

2.1 The group is currently working on a number of projects or ideas, some of which help address issues raised by the 2016 and 2019 Town Centre Bench Marking Surveys which were carried out by CBC.

The group is currently focusing on;

- How it can assist with town signage improvement, including at entry points to the town and an audit of current signage with proposals for any changes or updates to be sent to Highways/CBC/STC for consideration.
- A Town Centre marketing plan and linking it with the station/RSPB, etc. Also creating a leaflet/poster illustrating town centre businesses on a map, which could be displayed at key points (i.e. train station and car park).
- Considering ways in which the group could help progress smartening up the High Street, shop frontage and footways; liaising with shops and landlords and keeping pressure on CBC and landlords for bins to be kept off the street.
- Working towards supporting better advertisement and publicity for events happening in the town, using all available mediums: Biggles FM, Facebook, Instagram, etc. To be linked in with the marketing plan.

- Facebook posts, including shop profiles, advertising new businesses, etc.
- Meanwhile Spaces: use of empty shops to test new businesses for 3 to 6 months. Linking with CBC to speak with landlords and work on a proposal.
- Easter Eggstravaganza: a Facebook campaign to follow on from the Christmas Advent campaign. To involve an Easter bunny hunt via placement of knitted bunnies in town centre businesses.
- Promoting use of the Community Stand for music, events, businesses etc.

### **3. Support from Town Council**

- 3.1 The group has a good level of active members, however its resources are limited and to help move some projects/ideas forward it may at times require the assistance of Central Bedfordshire Council or Sandy Town Council. At present there are two main areas in which the Group would like to ask that the Town Council consider supporting them.

#### **1) Town Centre Signage Audit**

To consider the findings of a signage audit and support the group in pressing Highways for any recommended changes that may be put forward.

To support the group's efforts in improving signage via the Council's already proposed new town entry signage.

To consider helping promote the link with the RSPB by including mention that Sandy is home to the RSPB on the town entry signage. I am aware that the Clerk has spoken with the RSPB who have initially responded positively to the idea.

#### **2) Meanwhile Spaces**

The group has heard from an officer at CBC about developing a 'Meanwhile Spaces' project. This would require working with landlords to establish short term lets for pop up shops or startup businesses. This could provide an avenue for addressing use of vacant units in the town.

Representatives from the group feel the project could be a worthwhile one and are happy to join any required discussions with landlords. Should a project be feasible, they could provide advice and support based on their knowledge of establishing and running businesses.

Moving the project forward will require some time working with officers at CBC and arranging meetings with landlords to see if a project is possible.

The group are asking whether the Town Council could support the principle of developing a Meanwhile Space project and help take the lead by allocating some of the Clerk's and office time to work with CBC officers on bringing a proposal forward. Discussions with the Clerk, who is already in contact with the relevant officers, have suggested that there would be scope to do this if this were a project the Council were minded to support.