



Ref: Agenda/Council-17122019

12<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

All Members of the Town Council are hereby summoned to the **Council Meeting of Biggleswade Town Council** that will take place on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019** at the **Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, Saffron Road, Biggleswade** commencing at **7.00 p.m.** in order to transact the under mentioned items of business.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob D McGregor'.

Rob D McGregor  
Town Clerk

Distribution: All Town Councillors  
Notice Boards (2)  
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The Editor, Biggleswade Today

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#### **AGENDA**

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive Statutory Declarations of Interests from Members in relation to:

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item.
- (b) Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item.

3. **TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
4. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

To adjourn for a period of up to 15 minutes to allow members of the public to put questions or to address the Council, through the Chairman, pertaining to matters listed on the Agenda.

Each Speaker will give their name to the Chairman, prior to speaking, which will be recorded in the minutes, unless that person requests otherwise. Each Speaker will be allowed **(one) three-minute slot**.

5. **INVITED SPEAKER**

None.

6. **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

7. **MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

- a. For Members to receive the minutes of the Council Meeting held on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019** at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- b. For Members to receive the **Recommendations** and **Resolutions** of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on **19<sup>th</sup> November 2019** at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- c. For Members to receive the **Recommendations** and **Resolutions** of the Public Lands and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on **10<sup>th</sup> December 2019** at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.
- d. For Members to receive the **Recommendations** and **Resolutions** of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on **7<sup>th</sup> November 2019** at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

8. **MATTERS ARISING**

- a. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019**.

9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a. **CB/19/03180/OUT – 8 The Fields, Langford, Biggleswade, SG18 9QX**  
Outline Application: Demolition of existing property and construction of 2No. 3 bedroom detached dwelling houses.
- b. **CB/19/03294/FULL – Unit 1, Albone Way, Biggleswade, SG18 8BN**  
Change of use to grass area to concrete/tarmac for use as external storage area.
- c. **CB/19/03953/FULL – 75 Dells Lane, Biggleswade, SG18 8LH**  
Proposed Rear Extension and Alterations to Existing Dwelling.
- d. **CB/19/04038/FULL – 75 Holme Court Avenue, Biggleswade, SG18 8PE**  
Single Storey Rear Extensions and Linked Granny Annex.
- e. **CB/19/03921/FULL – Land to rear of 33 Shortmead Street, Biggleswade, SG18 0AT**  
Converting the existing workshop into two dwellings, with partial demolition of existing workshop, and erection of detached mews house.

10. **ACCOUNTS**

No Items. There will be items to discuss on the January 2020 agendas.

11. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Financial Support – Biggleswade Green Wheel**

Members are asked to consider a request from Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity for financial support for the management of the Biggleswade Green Wheel Project. Correspondence is attached to this agenda.

Financial support of £2000 has been provided from the Grants budget in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

b. **Strengthening Police Powers to Tackle Unauthorised Encampments - Consultation**

Please attached details of a Home Office consultation.

This topic was the subject of a motion for debate passed at the BATPC AGM last month, it would be particularly useful to have responses from member council to feed into the BATPC and NALC response to the consultation.

To this end it would be helpful for us to have your council's response by the earlier date of 20 January 2020 to inform the BATPC response. NALC's deadline is 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

c. **High Sheriff Citizenship Awards**

Members are asked to consider correspondence which has been received with regards to the High Sheriff Citizenship Awards, (correspondence and application form attached). Additional information about these awards can be obtained from the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation:

<https://www.blcf.org.uk/high-sheriff-citizenship-awards-now-open/>

The deadline for entries is **Friday 31 January 2020** and the Awards Ceremony will be held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in Luton.

d. **Biggleswade Green Infrastructure Plan**

Members are asked to consider aspirations for a revised Green Infrastructure Plan for Biggleswade.

The Biggleswade Green Infrastructure Plan is currently in review with work being undertaken by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity. The previous GI Plan was compiled in 2010 and many of the aspirations and priorities have been progressed.

A map highlighting Green Infrastructure aspirations from the 2010 plan is attached to this agenda along with a list of the aspirations with annotations provided by BRCC.

e. **Committee Dates for 2020**

Members are asked to approve the 2020 committee dates as set out.

f. **Car Parks**

Members are asked to consider an extension of the free Saturday parking for the months of January and February 2020.

**g. Planning Appeal Reference APP/P0240/W/19/3236423  
Site at Land West of Langford Road, Langford Road, Langford SG18 9QU**

Members are asked to consider a request by Langford Parish Council to further support its objection to the above planning appeal by appointing a representative to attend an appeal hearing between 14 to 17 January 2020 (date to be confirmed).

At the Town Council meeting of 12 November, it was **RESOLVED** that Biggleswade Town Council will write to the Inspector with a letter of support of Langford Parish Council's objection to the Appeal, copied to CBC and Langford Parish Council.

A copy of correspondence from Langford Parish Council and the Town Council's letter to the Planning Inspector are attached to this agenda for information.

**12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**a. OPCC – News Letter**

To receive a newsletter from the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**b. Planning Application Outcomes**

Attached report of the Planning Application Outcomes as at 11/12/2019.

**13. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

To adjourn for a period of up to 15 minutes to allow members of the public to put questions or to address the Council, through the Chairman, in respect of any other business of the Town Council.

Each Speaker will give their name to the Chairman prior to speaking, which will be recorded in the minutes, unless that person requests otherwise. Each Speaker will be allowed **(one) three-minute slot**.

**14. EXEMPT ITEMS**

The following resolution will be **moved** that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed.

- 15.a. Security.
- 15.b. Stop and Search.
- 15.c. CCTV.
- 15.d. Health Provision.
- 15.e. Town Centre Vision Working Group.
- 15.f. Update on Traffic Surveys.
- 15.g. Staff Issues.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council **resolve** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.



**MINUTES OF THE BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2019  
AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL,  
THE OLD COURT HOUSE, 4 SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr D Albone  
Cllr K Brown  
Cllr G Fage  
Cllr L Fage  
Cllr F Foster (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr M Foster  
Cllr M North  
Cllr M Knight  
Cllr R Pullinger  
Cllr H Ramsay  
Cllr M Russell (Chairman)  
Cllr D Strachan  
Cllr C Thomas

Mr P Truppín – Locum Clerk  
Mr M Thorn, Deputy Town Clerk  
Mrs J Durn – Meeting Administrator, Biggleswade Town Council  
Members of Public 11, including Simon Newton, Town Centre Operations Manager, BTC

**B26/1101 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr I Bond, Cllr J Woodhead

**ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGIES**

None

**B26/1102 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

B26/1102.1 a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item - None

**B26/1103 3. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor together with Councillor colleagues attended the Christmas Lights Switch-on event on Friday 22 December and would like to record what an excellent event it was and to thank everyone involved in putting it together and ensuring the smooth running on the night.

**B26/1104 4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**B26/1105 5. INVITED SPEAKER**

None

**B26/1106 6. MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

B26/1106.1 a. Cllr M Knight: informed Members that following reports of concerning levels of crime in the town, he had emailed the Clerk, with copies to Councillors, requesting some information about the provision of CCTV in Biggleswade. Looking at the Council Accounts there is significant unspent budget available for CCTV. Cllr Knight requested an update from the Clerk and is awaiting a response.

B26/1106.2 b. Cllr R Pullinger: Facebook refers to a Planning Application for Unit 1 Albone Way, but this is not on the Agenda tonight. It has a deadline of 10 December 2019 so if it comes to next meeting, there be no time for the Town Council's response to be recorded.

The Locum Clerk said that this Application has not reached the Council, and he will be looking into it and seeking an extension to the deadline if required.

B26/1106.3 c. Cllr D Strachan: Some months' ago, Members were told that there were going to be improvements made to Biggleswade station as a result of compensation due to rail delays and requested an update.

Cllr R Pullinger reported that he has been informed that Biggleswade Station is in the first tranche of planned improvements.

Council asked if Network Rail could be contacted and a formal update requested. The Clerk will action this request.

**B26/1107 7. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS**

B26/1107.1 a. Members **received and approved** the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 12 November 2019 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

B26/1107.2 b. Members received the **Recommendations** and **Resolutions** of the Town Centre Management Committee held on 5 November 2019 at the offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

Cllr North went through the **Recommendations and Resolutions** of the TCM:

**The policy for the A Boards and Tables & Chairs** has been adopted and will now be implemented.

**The Car Park Working Group:** TCM are waiting for the final benchmarking information covering Saturday footfall before making a final decision.

**Biggleswade Town Centre Project ideas – the way forward:**

A document giving ideas for future projects for the regeneration of the town has been put forward to TCM and a Working Group has been set for 3 December to take these ideas forward.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the **Recommendation** that the Car Park Working Group hold a final meeting, following which a decision will be made.

**B26/1108 8. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the Town Council Meeting held on 12 November 2019.

**B26/1109 9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**B26/1109.1 a. CB/19/03704/FULL – Holme Mills, Langford Road, Biggleswade SG18 9JY  
Canopy Roof with no walls adjacent to Mill Building**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application.

**B26/1109.2 b. CB/19/03772/FULL – 19 Torquay Close, Biggleswade SG18 0FS  
2m rear garden ground floor extension to enlarge the existing kitchen/dining area**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application providing the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations.

**B26/1109.3 c. CB/19/03608/FULL –7 Holme Court Avenue, Biggleswade SG18 8PF  
Loft Conversion with Front Cottage Dormer and Rear Roof Velux  
**Deferred** from the Town Council Meeting of 12 November 2019 due to incomplete drawings being provided.**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application providing the neighbours are consulted and that any comments they may make are considered by CBC in their deliberations. In addition, the Council is to ensure that their guidelines on the size of the proposed dwellings are complied with to eliminate detriment in respect of light and privacy of adjacent residents.

**B26/1109.4 d. CB/19/03310/FULL – 50 High Street, Biggleswade SG18 0LJ  
External alterations including air conditioning units, kitchen extraction flue system and acoustic enclosures**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application.

**B26/1109.5 e. CB/19/03814/ADV – Retail Unit 3, Purcell Place, Sullivan Court, Biggleswade SG18 8SX  
1 x internally illuminated fascia signage 1 x internally illuminated projected sign 2 x Logo window vinyl's.**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town council has **NO OBJECTION** to this Planning Application.

**B26/1110 10. ACCOUNTS**

**B26/1110.1 Financial Administration**

Members received the following Accounts for adoptions:

- i. Detailed Balance Sheet to 31/10/2019.
- ii. Summary of Income & Expenditure to 31/10/2019.
- iii. Income and Expenditure by budget heading to 31/10/2019.
- iv. Current Bank Account, receipts and payment to 31/10/2019.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Accounts presented were approved.

Cllr Ramsay highlighted the fact that the current account balance stood at £709,080 and the bank will only guarantee up to £85,000, so the balance is not safeguarded. It was agreed in January 2018 that BTC would use the services of CCLA investment management.

CCLA manage investment for charities, religious organisations and the public sector. The Public Sector Deposit Fund offers a secure government backed fund with instant access and with nominal interest paid on the balance. You can request monies by 11am and it will be received by 4pm on the same day.

The Locum Clerk informed Members that there had been a change of personnel at CCLA, but new forms had been received. He added that after Derek Kemp, the Accountant, and the Clerk held the annual pre-budget meeting with the BTC Chairs, Derek Kemp and the Clerk were looking at alternatives to the Public Sector Deposit Fund.

Cllr Ramsay asked that in the meantime funds should be placed in the investment account as soon as possible.

**B26/1111 11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**B26/1111.1 a. Meeting Dates and Draft Minutes**

1. The proposed schedule of Council and Committee meetings was not approved. The Meeting Chairmen will meet with the Town Clerk to discuss this further.

2. The request to withdraw the requirement to publish draft minutes within 28 days of the meeting was not approved. This requirement will stay in place. The proposal, which was voted on and passed, with one abstention.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Mayor and Committee Chairmen will meet with the Town Clerk to set acceptable meeting dates.

**B26/1111.2 b. Boundary commission Electoral Review – Consultation period extended**

This information was **NOTED**.



B26/1111.3 c. **Concerns from Biggleswade Shopkeepers**

Following concerns reported by shopkeepers at the last Council Meeting, Cllr D Strachan reported that he had a meeting with Chief Superintendent Boyle and has taken these concerns forward.

He was informed that a number of "Action Plans" have been put in place by the police, who are working in partnership with the Town Centre Operations Manager to act on information received.

Inspector Nick Masters attended the recent Joint Committee Meeting to update Members on the situation around shop burglaries and vandalism. He reiterated the need for information to be passed on to the police and a crime number received. The police can only act when they are in receipt of information and the importance of reporting crimes cannot be emphasised enough as the statistics do not reflect fully what is actually happening in the town. Inspector Masters assured Members that the police are putting considerable resources into resolving this matter.

Issues regarding additional CCTV are being investigated by the Town Centre Operations Manager who is liaising with CBC and CCTV central operations.

It was suggested that building relationships with businesses such as Wetherspoons in the town may help to report incidents of drug dealing which is also an issue of concern.

**B26/1112 12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

B26/1112.1 a. **Planning Application Outcomes**

Members considered the report of the Planning Application Outcomes as at 20/11/2019.

This information was **NOTED**.

B26/1112.2 b. **Biggleswade Baptist Church Proposal for a Community Hub at Kings Reach**

This proposal was **NOTED** and is supported by Members who would be pleased to assist with the publicity on the Town Council website. The Church would like to implement this before Christmas.

B26/1112.3 c. **Land North of Biggleswade**

Members received a copy of the updated Development Brief from Hallam Land Management, who are preparing the outline planning application for the site. It was not clear from this document what changes had been made to the Brief as a result of consultation.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to Hallam Land Management to request clarification on changes from the original brief.

**B26/1113 13. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

Member of public – owner of Café 8:

Queried where he and his staff are able to park in Biggleswade as parking fees are affecting his business. The Chairman informed him of the availability of parking permits for business owners and workers in the town, of which he was unaware. He will visit the Town Council offices and obtain further information regarding permits. He also reported that his business had been burgled.

Mr Seddons spoke of his disappointment that, despite repeated assurances, there has still been no positive action by the police on the thefts and vandalism on shopkeepers' premises. Crimes have been reported to the police. Mr Seddons has viewed CCTV evidence of recent burglaries which were captured on Maxwell's CCTV, and passed this information on to the police two weeks ago. Not only did no-one come out, but there has still been no further communication from the police. Shopkeepers have not been kept informed and are becoming increasingly frustrated. Business rates are exorbitant and each time a crime number is issued it has to be passed on to the insurance companies, who in turn increase the business insurance premiums to a higher level as they are considered a risk.

Mr Sheldon asked if Cllr Strachan could send the crime information to Cllr Bond who can then pass this on to the Chamber of Trade to make them aware of the issues concerning Biggleswade businesses.

Amanda Cawthorne from the Biggleswade Community Safety Team also suggested using their Facebook page "Biggleswade Business Watch" to report incidents and promote awareness.

Mr Harris, Pictures of Lily Tattoo Shop, has been passing information to the police, including descriptions, and even names of those involved. The level of crime is now putting pressure on businesses as it is having an adverse effect on people visiting the town and shopkeepers are, therefore, losing business.

It was reported that, during one call made to the police to report an incident, the advice was "not to bother". Councillors were surprised to hear this comment and said that the police should be asked why this happened.

A previous conversation with the Chamber of Trade regarding the supply of walkie-talkies for the shops has not received a response. The Town Centre Operations Manager reported that he is currently looking into the latest handsets which allow communication and also take photographs. He will be liaising with shopkeepers with this information.

Mrs S Grayson, Biggleswade Community Group, was upset to hear these reports from the shopkeepers. The Community Group slogan of "See something, say something" must be reinforced to help people be aware of the importance of reporting these incidents

The Chairman said that all this information will be passed on to the police but would reiterate that both Inspector Masters and Chief Superintendent Boyle have asked that shopkeepers continue to report the crimes in order that statistics show the need for crime to be addressed with high priority.

Three points were noted by the Chairman:

1. The Council are unaware of what actions are being taken in the background by the police and they must be given some credit for dealing with the information they have to hand.
2. Cllr Strachan will feed back the information received tonight to the police as a matter of urgency.
3. Council do not like what is happening to the town at the moment and is fully in support of shopkeepers and workers in the town at this time. The Council is keen to work with businesses and the police in any way possible in order to have a resolution to these issues.

Mrs S Grayson would like to say a huge thank you to Council staff, including office and ground staff who worked closely with the Community Safety Group at both the Lights Switch-on event and the Remembrance event. She would like to acknowledge how hard the Council staff worked, and also the appreciation for all the extra hours they put in to ensure the smooth running of the event and the safety of the roads. She mentioned in particular the White Hart crossing which the BTC Office Manager helped to man.

Cllr H Whitaker: would like to confirm that Biggleswade has been put forward to receive passenger development funds. The first tranche of work is due to come forward, although no definite news has as yet been received.

**B26/1114 14. EXEMPT ITEMS**

The following resolution was moved that it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed.

- 15a. Exempt Minutes and Matters Arising from the Council Meeting 12/11/2019**
- 15b. Health Provision**
- 15c. Traffic Management Survey**

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council **resolved** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

## Recommendations and Resolutions of the Finance & GP Committee Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

### **6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### **a. Budgets**

Members welcomed Derek Kemp of DCK Accounting Solutions to the meeting.

Members were asked to review the two budget summaries presented and to decide on which budget to adopt for the 2020/21 financial year.

The following was noted:

- The budgets have been prepared with the unknown factors of salary awards and pension fund evaluations. The budget summaries allow for a 5% increase on salaries across the board and a 1% increase on employer contributions pension costs.
- The budgets have been drawn up to include the £20k allocated to the Neighbourhood Plan and the £15k allocated to Market Square Events. All other increases in the budget are purely on an inflationary basis.
- Expenditure has been examined when producing the budget, and members were reassured that there were no viable options to reduce the day-to-day running costs. Furthermore, members were informed that staff salaries accounts for over 50% of total net expenditure.
- The population of Biggleswade has increased greatly and is set to increase further with the proposed residential developments. This will result in any increase in the precept having a reduced impact per Band D household, despite this being the smallest increase in tax base over the last four years.

Members were made aware that the accounts are short of the desired general reserve level, in which it is advised to keep aside three months' worth of revenue. The budget summary, as set out in Option 2, addresses these concerns and allows for a £20k surplus. It was noted that if a surplus of £20k is accounted for over the next six financial years then this will rectify the £119k shortfall in the general reserve level.

Members reviewed the following budget options:

Option 1 is to require a precept increase of 15.39%, equivalent to 12.65% for a Band D household after adjustment for the increase in the tax base. This amounts to an increase per Band D household of £0.33 per week. It was noted that this budget option does not address the deficit.

Option 2 is to require a precept increase of 17.37% equivalent to 14.59% for a Band D household. This amounts to an increase per Band D household of £0.38 per week. It was noted that this budget addresses the deficit issue by allowing for a £20k surplus.

Members **RECOMMENDED** that Council use the budget summary that sets the precept required for 2020/21 at 17.37%.

## **b. Fees for 2020/21**

Members considered and approved the following fees:

- I. Allotment Fees: It was **RESOLVED** to keep the allotment charges the same.
- II. Memorial and Burial Fees: It was **RESOLVED** to keep all fees the same.
- III. Market Fees: It was **RESOLVED** to keep all fees the same and to review these charges again in October 2020.
- IV. Orchard Community Centre Fees: It was **RESOLVED** to raise the charge for the main hall to £20 per hour and the cost of setting up and/or clearing up the hall to £20 per hour; all other fees to remain the same.
- V. Sports Facility Fees: It was **RESOLVED** to keep all fees the same.

## **c. BTC Social Media Policy**

Members **RECOMMENDED** to adopt the BTC Social Media policy with the following alterations:

- The last bullet point on item 6.5 to read 'engaging in controversial or political debate'.
- To delete any repetition of points on page 11.
- To include 'Members should be cognisant of the code of conduct' in item 3.
- To replace the reference to the 'Data Protection Act 1998' in Appendix C to take account of the 'General Data Protection Regulation 2016' (GDPR).

It was further **RECOMMENDED** to set up the SMAT email address.

## **d. BTC Website**

Members considered the Working Group report.

Cllr Foster circulated recommendations to members to go alongside the BTC Website report.

It was suggested that consideration be given to conducting a separate exercise to decide on how to proceed with the website.

Members further suggested that the website is checked weekly to ensure that it is kept up to date, and to check that uploaded documents that are approved by Council are the latest versions.

Members **RECOMMENDED** to approve the report and recommendations as follows:

- To action the 'improvements or corrections' list produced by the Working Group.
- Update from FTP to a more secure transfer system.
- Review and readopt all 'Constitution' and similar documents.
- To continue the review process of the existing site.
- Set in motion the tender process for a new website to comply with the Website Accessibility Regulations.
- That Item 6 on the recommendations read 'Include a regular review process for all 'constitution' type documents'.
- To nominate an Administrator (with a deputy to cover sickness and leave) to be 'Website Controller'.

- To include a search box on the current website.
- That the new website is to be mobile and tablet friendly.

#### **e. Financial Regulations Review**

Members reviewed the draft Financial Regulations document. Members were asked to consider and adopt the alterations to the document.

The following was noted:

- That there have been recent issues in approving payments and paying salaries due to absence and lack of authority. The regulations have been reviewed and altered in light of these experiences.
- The new regulations will allow the Council to make payments without using a cheque if we wish to do so.
- Members attention was drawn to new items 6.15 – 6.20 that have been inserted into the document from the latest version of the NALC model regulations. Members were asked to consider and adopt these points.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to adopt the financial regulations with the following amendments:

- The maximum transaction value of the debit card issued should be changed from £500 to £300 (Item 6.18).
- To take out any reference to an RFO as the clerk is the RFO.
- That a pre-paid debit card be issued to the Office Manager with a limit of £200 (Item 6.19).
- To delete item 1.14 as this is in contradiction to item 4.
- To further delete items 2.2, 3 (preamble), and 6.6.
- To amend item 5.2 to reflect current practice whereby schedules of payments authorised is presented to Council replacing the current text.
- To delete item 5.7 as the internal auditors, control the risk of duplicated payment being authorised and / or made.
- To amend item 6.5 from 'cheque counterfoil' to 'supporting paperwork'.

It was further **RESOLVED** to discuss the procedures for authorising salary payments at the F&GP meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020. It was suggested for consideration that the salary payments could be wholly dealt with by George Hay Partnership LLP.

#### **f. Risk Management Scheme Review**

Members reviewed the Risk Management Review document put together by the Locum Clerk.

It was noted that under 'Data Protection' and 'Confidential Matters' the likelihood of risk requires review due to automatic forwarding of Councillors' emails to their personal accounts.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to approve the Risk Management Scheme and Review documents with the following amendments:

#### **Page 4**

1<sup>st</sup> floor office, Old Courthouse – delete as now no longer available to rent, now used as TC office space.

## **Page 5**

Grants – Power to Pay, likelihood M, impact M; as TC has GPC assessments to be reduced to L & L

Staff -loss of key personnel -likelihood L; recent events summer 2019 suggest upgrade to medium

## **Page 9**

Loss of key staff – likelihood L; recent events summer 2019 suggest upgrade to medium

New Community Centre – delete as is now operational.

## **Page 11**

Accounts and Annual Return -Likelihood L; recent events summer 2019 suggest an upgrade to medium.

To alter the likelihood of ‘Data Protection’ and ‘Confidential Matters’ to High.

### **g. Budget for Town Centre Events**

Members were asked to consider the budget for Town Centre events for 2020/21.

Members thanked the Town Centre Operations Manager for his informative Town Centre Events update. Members felt that it would be beneficial to see a long-term plan of events, and to replace the proposed VE and VJ events after 2020.

Members were encouraged to email the Town Centre Operations Manager with any suggestions of Town Centre Events.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to approve a £15k budget to provide for these Town Centre events.

### **h. Equipment Council Chamber**

It was **RECOMMENDED** to approve the purchase of a timer, and to purchase a device to record audio of meetings. It was **RECOMMENDED** to bring back into use the public microphone during meetings.

### **h. Neighbourhood Plan**

Members were asked to consider a budget for the NP group for 2020/21.

Cllr Russell proposed that £20k be allocated in next year’s budget to cover work relating to the Neighbourhood Plan.

The £20k would be used to cover Strategic Environment Assessments and all other assessments, consultancy fees and a further public engagement event. The Neighbourhood Planning Group have appointed a consultant from Place-Make to undertake a visioning exercise of Biggleswade with fees of £5.5k.

Members **RECOMMENDED** the proposal to allocate £20k in next year’s budget to cover Neighbourhood Planning work.

## Recommendations and Resolutions of the PLOS Meeting held on 10 December 2019

### 7. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

#### a. Request for Budget Virement for the hire of a Soil Sorter

Members considered requesting a budget virement of £1,316 to enable the hire of a soil sorter.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to arrange for a virement of £1,316 from budget 4136/902 (Renewals and Replacements) to budget 4041/902 (equipment hire).

#### b. Request to use Portable Flood Lights at Eagle Farm Road Recreation Ground

Members considered a request from Biggleswade United Football Club for permission to use their portable floodlights for football training at Eagle Farm Road.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the proposal to allow BUFC to use portable floodlights for football training at Eagle Farm Road Recreation Ground on a 3-month trial.



**From:** [Cliff Andrews](#)  
**To:** [Michael Thorn](#)  
**Subject:** Funding request to support BRCC's BGW work  
**Date:** 21 November 2019 12:23:44

---

Dear Mike

Further to recent discussions, please see the communication below regarding a request for a funding contribution towards our BGW work.

Please forward this to the appropriate individual/ committee for it to be considered in the upcoming budget setting process.

I look forward to receiving confirmation of the receipt of this request.

Many thanks

Cliff

Dear Biggleswade Town Council

As you are aware BRCC have led on the development and enhancement of the BGW for a number of years, initially with SLA and grant funding from CBC; and more recently with a contribution from yourselves.

It is clear from our own observations and from the responses to the Neighbourhood Plan consultations, that the community greatly values the Green Wheel, and continued care and development of the Green Wheel requires some staffing input from BRCC.

As we look ahead to the next couple of years, increased pressures on CBC budgets mean that there is less funding available to support our secretariat/ facilitation of the BGW. Pleasingly, we still have significant funding (secured from S106 and Green Infrastructure Planning Obligations GIPO) for practical works on the ground to further enhance the BGW; and some of this funding could be spent on appropriate Biggleswade TC owned/ managed sites. In recent times we have been able to undertake tree planting and the installation of bike racks at BTC sites around the GW; and have more tree and bulb planting planned for the future.

However, whereas our GIPO and S106 funds cover the capital costs of doing works on the ground, there are a number of areas of work that cannot be funded from these sources and have previously been funded by CBC, and more recently also by BTC. These areas include:

- Providing secretariat services to the BGW Development Group
- Supporting the Friends of Biggleswade Green Wheel – Volunteer wardens and tasks
- Site visits/ meetings and landowner liaison re further enhancements (incl seeking to fill the missing link in the BGW north of Mill Lane)
- Applying for funds for further capital works
- Commenting on planning applications which impact upon, or could contribute to, the BGW
- General BGW related admin/ correspondence

CBC's contributions have reduced in recent years but they are still committed to the GW concept and are seeking to allocate some funding towards each of the GW's BRCC is involved with. As with Biggleswade, in each of our other GW's (Sandy, Etonbury (Arlesey, Stotfold & Fairfield) and now Potton), the respective Town / Parish Councils have committed to provide ongoing match

funding, to enable our work to continue.

Accordingly, the purpose of this communication is to request that Biggleswade Town Council continues its support of the BGW by making a contribution of £2,000 pa for each of the next 2 financial years - 2020/21 and 2021/2022.

I look forward to hearing from you – and would be happy to call in for a chat if that would be useful.

Kind regards  
Cliff

**Cliff Andrews**  
Head of Supporting Communities

19 NOVEMBER 2019

## PC13-19 | STRENGTHENING POLICE POWERS TO TACKLE UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS

### Summary

The Home Office has issued a new consultation on strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments. The consultation covers criminalising the act of trespassing, broadening the existing categories of criminal trespass and broadening police powers to deal with trespassers. The main consultation document can be found [here](#).

### Context

The government previously consulted on unauthorised developments and encampments in April 2018. Responses to this made clear that significant problems are created by many unauthorised encampments, including the sense of unease and intimidation residents feel when an unauthorised encampment occurs, the frustration at not being able to access amenities, public land and business premises, and the waste and cost that is left once the encampment has moved on.

The government also heard compelling evidence that stronger powers are needed to address the issues and concerns identified and that the majority of respondents believe the government should consider criminalising unauthorised encampments in England and Wales, by creating an offence of trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment. The government would now like to test the appetite to go further and broaden the existing categories of criminal trespass.

### NALC's views

NALC is minded to use points made in response to the April 2018 consultation, as a steer to guide our new response. These include:

- All cases of unauthorised encampments should be criminalised on account of trespassing
- The police should have the power to direct trespassers to leave land as soon as it has been determined that they are there illegally
- The police should be able to take action regardless of the number of vehicles in the unauthorised encampment
- Principal authorities should have the power to demand the police attend as soon as an unauthorised encampment appears and to claim back costs incurred repairing damage caused by clearing up after unauthorised encampments

### Consultation questions

NALC will be responding to the below consultation questions and is interested in the sector's views:

Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that knowingly entering without the landowner's permission should only be made a criminal offence if it is for the purpose of residing on it?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q2. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the act of knowingly entering land without the landowner's permission should only be made a criminal offence if it is for the purpose of residing on it with vehicles?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the landowner or representatives of the landowner should take reasonable steps to ask persons occupying their land to remove themselves and their possessions before occupation of the land can be considered a criminal offence?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree that a criminal offence can only be committed when the following conditions have been met?

a) the encampment prevents people entitled to use the land from making use of it

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

b) the encampment is causing or is likely to cause damage to the land or amenities

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

c) those on the encampment have demanded money from the landowner to vacate the land; and/or

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

d) those on the encampment are involved or are likely to be involved in anti-social behaviour.

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q5. What other conditions not covered in the above should we consider?

Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree that police should be given the power to direct trespassers to suitable authorised sites in a neighbouring local authority area?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q7: Should this be subject to conditions around agreements being in place between local authorities?

Yes / No

Q8: Should there be a maximum distance that a trespasser can be directed across?

Yes / No If yes, what distance should that be?

Q9: Should there be any other conditions that should be considered when directing a trespasser across neighbouring authorities. If so, what should these be?

Yes / No

If yes, what should these be?

Q10. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the period of time in which trespassers directed from land would be unable to return should be increased from 3 months to 12 months?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the number of vehicles needing to be involved in an unauthorised encampment before police powers can be exercised should be lowered from six to two vehicles?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q12. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the police should be granted the power to remove trespassers from land that forms part of the highway?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q13: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the police should be granted the power to seize property, including vehicles, from trespassers who are on land with the purpose of residing on it?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q14: Should the police be able to seize the property of:

i) Anyone whom they suspect to be trespassing on land with the purpose of residing on it;

ii) Anyone they arrest for trespassing on land with the purpose of residing on it;

or iii) Anyone convicted of trespassing on land with the purpose of residing on it?

Q15. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed amendments to sections 61 and 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 contained in this consultation are sufficient measures to tackle the public disorder issues which are associated with unauthorised encampments without the requirement for introducing specific powers that criminalise unauthorised encampments?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree or disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

Q18. Do you have any other comments to make on the issue of unauthorised encampments not specifically addressed by any of the questions above?

Your views

Please email your responses to this consultation to [Jessica.Lancod-Frost@nalc.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.Lancod-Frost@nalc.gov.uk) by 17.00 on 19 February 2019. County associations are asked to forward this briefing onto all member councils in their area.

© NALC 2019

**Subject: High Sheriff Citizenship Awards Applications**

**Date:** 4 December 2019 at 16:53:22 GMT

**To:** Madeline Russell

Good afternoon,

This email is for the attention of The Mayor/Lady Mayor/Chairman

I would be very grateful if you would kindly forward the details below to the appropriate person as I am very keen to publicise the High Sheriff Citizenship Awards in your town and wonder if it would be possible to have this circulated to promote this excellent opportunity for individuals, adults or groups within North, Central and Luton & South Bedfordshire to submit applications and gain recognition.

I have attached the application form and additional information about these awards can be obtained from the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation:

<https://www.blcf.org.uk/high-sheriff-citizenship-awards-now-open/>

The deadline for entries is **Friday 31 January 2020** and the Awards Ceremony will be held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in Luton.

Many thanks indeed.

Best wishes,

Meryl Dolling  
High Sheriff of Bedfordshire





## High Sheriff Citizenship Awards 2020

### Nomination Form

There are three categories for the Award – the High Sheriff's **Adult** Citizenship Award, the High Sheriff's **Young Persons** Citizenship Award and the High Sheriff's **Group** Award. The criteria for the three awards are as follows:

#### **Adult Award:**

Somebody who gives of their time unstintingly, whether this be in an organising or caring capacity. Or to be a person that carries out help and assistance in any way, even though this might be seen as a minor role to that person, but in fact their loyalty and care makes a great deal of difference to the wellbeing of others.

#### **Young Person's Award:**

A young person being a member of their school, youth organisation or junior section of an adult society who has excelled or made an outstanding contribution, to the best of their ability to the well being of that school/club/organisation and whose willingness, determination and caring attitude in everything they do and achieve is an inspiration to others.

#### **Group Award:**

A group which has added value to the community on a small or large scale, but which has clearly made an impact in their chosen field. It might be a new group which has filled a gap for meeting needs or be long established.

Please complete the nomination form below and return (by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020) to:

**Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation**, Hart House, Kimpton Road, Luton LU2 0LA

E-mail: [Dipak.mistry@blcf.org.uk](mailto:Dipak.mistry@blcf.org.uk) --- Telephone: 01582 522422

The awards will be held on the evening of **FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020**. Please save the date and the venue will be confirmed with email invitations commencing 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2020.



**About The Person Making the Nomination: Please write clearly.**

Name of nominator:	Mobile number:
E-mail address:	
Address:	Relationship to nominee:

**About The Person or Group Being Nominated:**

*Please provide correct details as the name will appear on the certificate and invitations will only be made by email.*

**You should inform the nominee they have been put forward for an award.**

Name of nominee: (Correct Spelling)	Mobile number:
E-mail address: (Check Email address)	
Address:	
<b>Award nominated for (Please Tick <u>ONE</u>)</b> Adult   Young Person   Group	
<b>Which Area is this nomination for? (Please Tick <u>ONE</u>)</b>	
North Bedfordshire   Central Bedfordshire   Luton & South Bedfordshire	

**Organisation of nominee:**

**How do you feel the nominee fulfils the award criteria?**

*(Please use NO MORE than 200 words – That's about one side of A4 12 point font. Please try and use bullet points or key facts and information so it's clear and concise. If you need help with this section of the form please get in contact with us)*

**Publicity, marketing, press and media.**

*We publicise all nominations as case studies on our website. Using the details you have already provided above; please help us summarise your project by providing a 150 - word summary. This would be used for press release and announcing the winner!*

*This should highlight why this award should be given to the individual or group.*

Signature of nominator:

Date:

**Please return, no later than 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020**

Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation

Hart House Kimpton Road Luton LU2 0LA

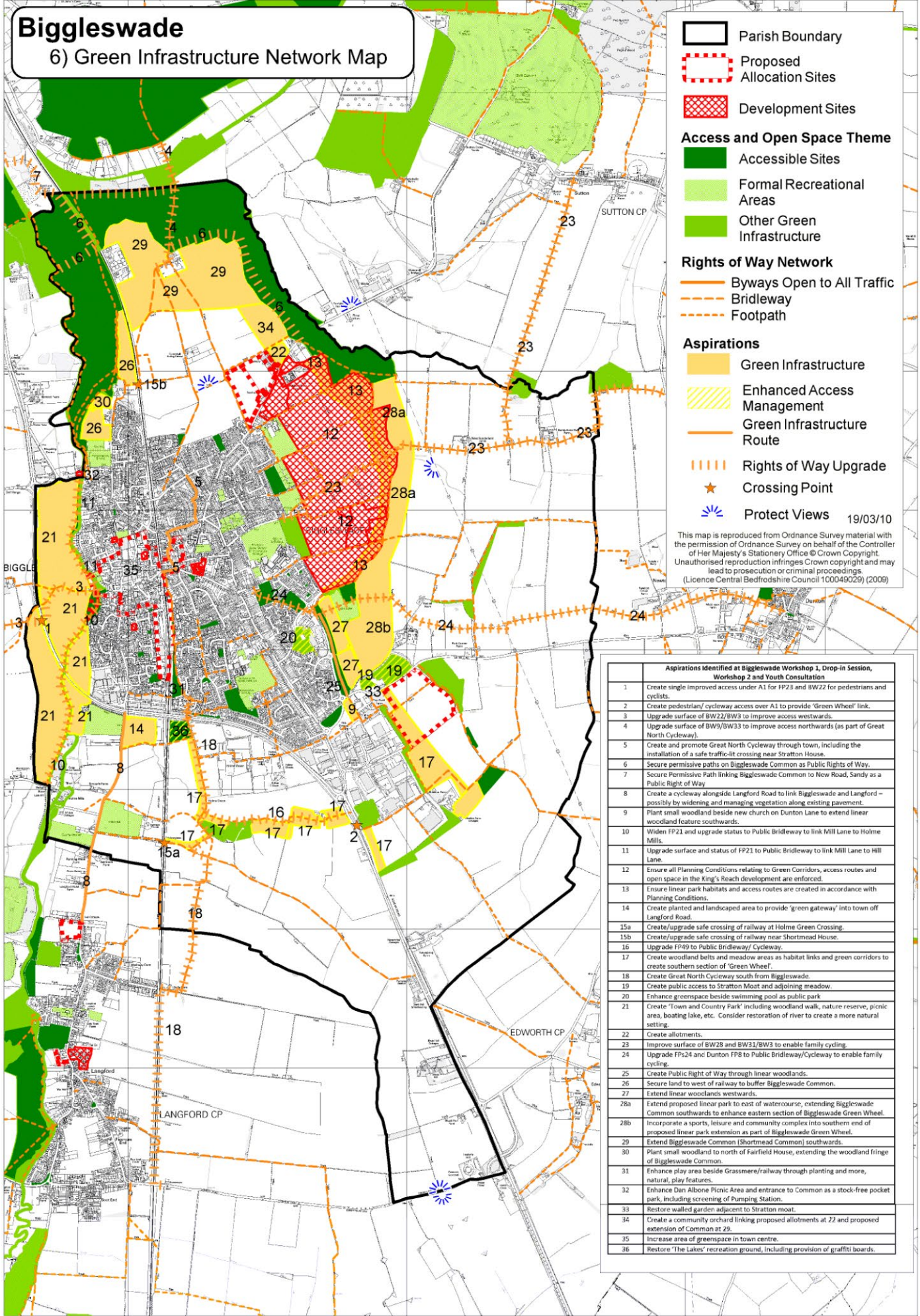
E-mail: [Dipak.mistry@blcf.org.uk](mailto:Dipak.mistry@blcf.org.uk)

## **Biggleswade GI Plan Review, Nov 2019**

	<b>Green Infrastructure Proposals</b>	<b>Possible lead partner</b>	<b>Other possible partners</b>	<b>Comments as at Nov 2019</b>
1	Create single improved access under A1 for FP23 and BW22 for pedestrians and cyclists.	CBC	BRCC	Retain
2	Create pedestrian/ cycleway access over A1 to provide 'Green Wheel' link	CBC	BTC BRCC	Retain
3	Upgrade surface of BW22/ BW3 to improve access westwards.	CBC		Retain
4	Upgrade surface of BW9/ BW33 to improve access northwards (as part of Great North Cycleway)	CBC Sustrans	BRCC	Done (so remove) (on N section of Common & section north of Common (outside of parish))
5	Create and promote Great North Cycleway through town, including the installation of a safe traffic-lit crossing near Stratton House	CBC TCEG Sustrans		Retain (minor works have been undertaken)
6	Secure permissive paths on Biggleswade Common as Public Rights of Way	CBC	BRCC BTC	Retain?
7	Secure Permissive Path linking Biggleswade Common to New Road, Sandy as a Public Right of Way	CBC	BRCC	<i>No longer even a Permissive Path Out of Parish</i>
8	Create a cycleway alongside Langford Road to link Biggleswade and Langford – possibly by widening and managing vegetation along existing pavement.	CBC Sustrans		Retain
9	Plant small woodland beside new church on Dunton Lane to extend linear woodland feature southwards		BRCC	Done (so remove)
10	Widen FP21 and upgrade status to Public Bridleway to link Mill Lane to Holme Mills	CBC	BRCC BTC	Done, (so remove) by creating additional path
11	Upgrade surface and status of FP21 to Public Bridleway to link Mill Lane to Hill Lane	CBC	BRCC BTC	Retain aspiration to link Mill Lane and Hill Lane, but with new route west of showground site
12	Ensure all Planning Conditions relating to Green Corridors, access routes and open space in the King's Reach development are enforced.	CBC BTC	BRCC	Done in part; but aspiration to be updated & retained
13	Ensure linear park habitats and access routes are created in accordance with Planning	CBC BTC	BRCC	Ongoing, Retain

	Conditions			
14	Create planted and landscaped area to provide 'green gateway' into town off Langford Road.			Retain
15a	Create/ upgrade safe crossing of railway at Holme Green Crossing	CBC NR/ FCC		Retain
15b	Create/ upgrade safe crossing of railway near Shortmead house	CBC NR/ FCC		Retain – new crossing via bridge is currently being planned
16	Upgrade FP49 to Public Bridleway/ Cycleway	CBC		Retain, although alignment may change if commercial development occurs in the area
17	Create woodland belts and meadow areas as habitat links and green corridors to create southern section of 'Green Wheel'	CBC BRCC		Retain, although alignment may change if commercial development occurs in the area
18	Create Great North Cycleway south from Biggleswade	CBC Sustrans	BRCC	Retain (northern section has been delivered by the BGW)
19	Create public access to Stratton Moat and adjoining meadow	BCB	BRCC BTC	Retain
20	Enhance greenspace beside swimming pool as public park	BTC CBC		Done(so remove) – Chambers Way play area and skate park
21	Create 'Town and Country Park' including woodland walk, nature reserve, picnic area, boating lake, etc. Consider restoration of river to create a more natural setting.	BTC	BRCC	Retain – but possibly amend detailed wording?
22	Create allotments	BTC		Retain, if still a need for allotments
23	Improve surface of BW28 and BW31/BW3 to enable family cycling	CBC		Retain
24	Upgrade FPs24 and Dunton FP8 to Public Bridleway/ Cycleway to enable family cycling	CBC		Retain
25	Create Public Right of Way through linear woodlands	CBC	BRCC	Done in part - BGW routes pass through linear woodlands, but no formal path status – should be upgraded to Public Bridleway
26	Secure land to west of railway to buffer Biggleswade Common		BTC	Retain ?
27	Extend linear woodlands westwards		BTC BRCC	Remove - Due to planning consent, this can no longer be achieved.
28a	Extend proposed linear park to east of watercourse, extending Biggleswade Common southwards to enhance		BTC BRCC	Retain – in part as greenspace provision of new village development east of Baden Powell Way.

	eastern section of Biggleswade Green Wheel.			
28b	Incorporate a sports, leisure and community complex into southern end of proposed linear park extension as part of Biggleswade Green Wheel.		BTC	Remove ? In part achieved by Saxon Pool & Leisure Centre expansion. Due to planning consent, some of this land is no longer available.
29	Extend Biggleswade Common (Shortmead Furzenhall Common) southwards		BRCC FRBC	Retain – although as non-common land buffer, rather than extending the common
30	Plant small woodland to north of Fairfield House, extending the woodland fringe of Biggleswade Common			Retain
31	Enhance play area beside Grasmere/ railway through planting and more, natural, play features	BTC	BRCC	<i>No longer play area; and as flood feature, limited scope for enhancement? What can be done with the site?</i>
32	Enhance Dan Albone Picnic Area and entrance to Common as a stock-free pocket park, including screening of Pumping Station	FRBC BTC	BRCC	Done (so remove)
33	Restore walled garden adjacent to Stratton moat			Retain
34	Create a community orchard linking propose allotments at 22 and proposed extension of Common at 29		BRCC	Propose to incorporate 34 within 29 (a Community orchard has been planted in Jubilee Wood)
35	Increase area of greenspace in town centre		BTC	Retain? as part of Town centre enhancements
36	Restore 'The Lakes' recreation ground, incl provision of graffiti boards	BTC		Done? In part? (so remove?)





## MEETING DATES FOR 2020



### MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

DATES	TIME	MEETING	TIME	2 <sup>ND</sup> MEETING
<b>2020</b>				
7 <sup>th</sup> January				<b>NP Meetings 9.00 am</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> January	7.00 pm	Council		8 <sup>th</sup> January
16 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00am	Personnel		
21 <sup>st</sup> January	7.00pm	Finance & General Purposes		
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	2.30pm	Biggleswade J C - Chicksands		22 <sup>nd</sup> January
28 <sup>th</sup> January	7.00 pm	Council		
4 <sup>th</sup> February	7.00 pm	Town Centre Management		
11 <sup>th</sup> February	7.00 pm	Council		5 <sup>th</sup> February
18 <sup>th</sup> February	7.00 pm	Public Land & Open Spaces		
25 <sup>th</sup> February	7.30 pm	Council		19 <sup>th</sup> February
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	7.00 pm	Finance & General Purposes		
10 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00 pm	Council		4 <sup>th</sup> March
12 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am	Personnel		
17 <sup>th</sup> March				
19 <sup>th</sup> March	2.30pm	Biggleswade JC - Biggleswade		18 <sup>th</sup> March
24 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00 pm	Council		
31 <sup>st</sup> March				1 <sup>st</sup> April
7 <sup>th</sup> April	7.00 pm	Town Centre Management		
14 <sup>th</sup> April	7.00 pm	Council		15 <sup>th</sup> April
21 <sup>st</sup> April	7.00 pm	Public Land & Open Spaces		
28 <sup>th</sup> April	7:00 pm	Annual Assembly		29 <sup>th</sup> April
5 <sup>th</sup> May	7.00 pm	Finance & General Purpose		
12 <sup>th</sup> May	7.00 pm	Annual Statutory		13 <sup>th</sup> May
14 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00am	Personnel		
19 <sup>th</sup> May	7.00 pm			27 <sup>th</sup> May
26 <sup>th</sup> May	7.00 pm	Council		
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	7.00 pm	Town Centre Management		
9 <sup>th</sup> June	7.00 pm	Council		10 <sup>th</sup> June
16 <sup>th</sup> June				
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	7:00 pm	Council		24 <sup>th</sup> June
30 <sup>th</sup> June	7.00 pm	Public Lands & Open Spaces		
7 <sup>th</sup> July	7.00 pm	Finance & General Purposes		8 <sup>th</sup> July
14 <sup>th</sup> July	7.00 pm	Council		
21 <sup>st</sup> July	7.00 pm			22 <sup>nd</sup> July
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	10.00am	Personnel		
28 <sup>th</sup> July	7.00 pm	Council		
4 <sup>th</sup> August	7.00 pm	Town Centre Management		5 <sup>th</sup> August
11 <sup>th</sup> August	7.00 pm	Council		
18 <sup>th</sup> August	7.00 pm	Public Lands & Open Spaces		19 <sup>th</sup> August
25 <sup>th</sup> August	7.00 pm	Council		
1 <sup>st</sup> September				2 <sup>nd</sup> September
8 <sup>th</sup> September	7.00 pm	Council		
15 <sup>th</sup> September	7.00 pm	Finance and General Purposes		16 <sup>th</sup> September
22 <sup>nd</sup> September	7.00 pm	Council		
24 <sup>th</sup> September	10.00am	Personnel		
29 <sup>th</sup> September				30 <sup>th</sup> September
6 <sup>th</sup> October	7.00 pm	Town Centre Management		
13 <sup>th</sup> October	7.00 pm	Council		14 <sup>th</sup> October
20 <sup>th</sup> October	7.00 pm	Public Lands & Open Spaces		
27 <sup>th</sup> October	7.00 pm	Council		28 <sup>th</sup> October





**From:** [Michelle Albone](#)  
**To:** [Michael Thorn](#)  
**Subject:** Appeal - Langford Road  
**Date:** 11 December 2019 10:02:30

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Hi Mike

I hope you are well!

The Appeal for the above planning application is taking place on 14th-17th January and we have managed to get it moved from Jordans Mill to Langford Village Hall. I am waiting to hear back from the lady at CBC who organises these appeals what day/s we can invite residents/ reps from other organisations to come along to speak (or just attend) as it is rather vague at the moment. She is waiting for the inspector to advise, so hopes to let me know on Friday/Monday.

In the meantime I know BTC very kindly submitted an objection letter to the Inspector and I wondered if you might be willing (and available) to come along also to speak on behalf of BTC reiterating your objections.

We could really do with all the help we can get in trying to get this application refused by the inspector.

If you could let me know if you could be available (sometime between 14th-17th January) I would be very grateful and I will let you know the schedule once I have more information.

Many thanks for all your help.

Kind regards

Michelle Albone  
Langford Parish Council Clerk and RFO

**When you contact Langford Parish Council**

The information you provide (personal information such as name, address, email address, phone number, organisation) will be processed and stored so that it is possible to contact you and respond to your correspondence, provide information and/or access our facilities and services. Your personal information will not be shared or provided to any other third party.

# BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL



The Old Court House  
4 Saffron Road • Biggleswade • Beds SG18 8DL

Tel: 01767 313134

e-mail: [enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk)

The Planning Inspectorate  
3/J Kite Wing  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

14 November 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

**Appeal Reference APP/P0240/W/19/3236423**  
**Site at Land West of Langford Road, Langford Road, Langford SG18 9QU**

I write to request that the views of Biggleswade Town Council are considered by the Planning Inspectorate in the above-mentioned appeal case.

Biggleswade Town Council were made aware of the appeal raised against Central Bedfordshire Council's decision to reject planning application CB/18/04873/OUT. The Town Council considered this appeal at its earliest possible opportunity on 12 November 2019.

**Biggleswade Town Council OBJECTS to the appeal on the following grounds:**

1. The neighbouring Parish of Langford has met and significantly exceeded its requirement to deliver housing against its allocation.
2. The proposed site is not allocated, planned or assessed for housing within the Central Bedfordshire Council emerging Local Plan.
3. Development of the proposed site is outside of the current residential development envelope and close to the Biggleswade parish boundary.
4. The development will cause coalescence between Biggleswade and Langford parishes.
5. Development of the proposed site will result in the loss of important countryside gap between settlements within Biggleswade and Langford parishes.
6. Preparations for a draft Neighbourhood Plan for Biggleswade affirm the importance of countryside gap to prevent coalescence of settlements between the neighbouring parishes of Biggleswade and Langford.

If you need any further clarification of the Town Council's views in this matter, please let me know.

Yours faithfully

Mike Thorn, Deputy Town Clerk

cc: Langford Parish Clerk  
Central Bedfordshire Council Planning

Monthly Newsletter

on the **RECORD**

*Making the money work*



 **Bedfordshire  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner**

Hello again everyone,

First let me confirm where Bedfordshire Police now stand on the 20,000 national uplift in officers that has been promised by Government. Both the Government and National Police Chiefs Council considered it too difficult a task to change the funding formula which dictates Bedfordshire Police's share of the national pot prior to deciding how many officers each force would get from the first part of the 20,000 uplift. It was decided, therefore, to divide up the first few thousand on the basis of each force's current portion of the national 'cake' (which, as you know, has always historically failed to favour Bedfordshire Police or reflect its level of serious crime such as terrorism, gang, gun and knife crime and serious organised crime).

After some confusion in the wording of the Home Office announcement, the fog has cleared and we have learned that we are to get an extra 54 officers in the first 18 months, of which 18 will be recruited this financial year. As you'd expect, while every extra officer is welcome, I have been very vocal to Kit Malthouse, the new Policing Minister, concerning my argument, and that of the Chief Constable, that we need 440 extra officers overall and 80 detectives.

By contrast, the Minister has written to me to confirm that I will receive a second Special Grant for Bedfordshire Police this year to cover the cost of the Force's specialist Op Boson team (which focusses on gun and gang crime) and I am waiting to see how much that will amount to as I've also asked for all the additional, and related, Child Sexual Exploitation costs to be met too as well as the overspend on last year's contribution. So please watch this space as I'm hoping to hear how much the Special Grant will be before Christmas.

This month one of the most important changes I could introduce as PCC to help drive down demand came into being. I'm delighted to be the first Police and Crime Commissioner to financially support the launch of Family Drug and Alcohol Courts (FDACs) which I believe will revolutionise how families in Bedfordshire can be kept together when parents have addictions, so that children who would normally be subject to local authority care orders can remain safely with their parents. Such parents have to pledge to undergo treatment to free them from addictions on a planned programme under the direction of a judge; Judge Patrick Peruško in Bedfordshire. Later in the newsletter you'll see details of this new initiative and how it will be a huge support to these families. This initiative now has the backing of all three local authorities who have supported it after a lot of work by my Chief of Staff, Clare Kelly, and the judge himself.

The FDAC is not a soft option as the participants have to be tested and see the judge every two weeks. It's shown very positive results in areas such as Milton Keynes where Judge Peruško previously presided over FDACs.

Also, as I've previously mentioned, the Force has been awarded a grant to tackle serious violence and the Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit (VERU) has been established to work with partner agencies to provide a dedicated programme to prevent violent offences as well as to stop exploitation of those young people drawn into gangs, county lines drug dealing and organised crime groups. The VERU launched grant funding specifically aimed at those organisations that can meet the Home Office VERU funding criteria to produce direct impact across communities to reduce violent offending.

I have also recently launched the annual PCC Grant Fund which is open for organisations to bid for funding. This year's process remains open until 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020. We've extended the timeline to ensure organisations have a good opportunity to prepare and present their bids. The two main themes for my funding streams this year are:

- Early intervention programmes for young people - 10 to 13 - with a focus on preventing them becoming involved or exploited in gangs, drugs and associated criminality.
- To combat domestic abuse with a focus on a strategy that operates across all of Bedfordshire so it is not a postcode lottery as to what sort of service victims receive.

I look forward to receiving your own bids. Do feel free to get in touch with my office to talk them through in advance but get them in quickly please.

Yours  
Kathryn



**Kathryn Holloway**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire**



# News from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

## **PCC and farmers get together to stamp out rural crime in Bedfordshire**

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway teamed up with the National Farmers Union (NFU) and Bedfordshire Police to fight rural crime in Bedfordshire in a tactics and planning session to "stamp out crime that takes place because of its country location".

The event at Scald Farm in North Bedfordshire on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 was the third annual conference held by the PCC with the NFU, working together to make full use of the farming community's network and local knowledge, as well as promoting better coordination, planning and information sharing to tackle crime. The aim of the event was to share knowledge and to plan a coordinated strategy for the upcoming year, with commitments from each group over the specific actions they will be taking.

The PCC was accompanied by Bedfordshire's Chief Constable, Garry Forsyth, and members of Bedfordshire Police's rural crime team, which is now the largest in the whole of the seven force Eastern region.

Commissioner Holloway said "My Police and Crime Plan specifies as a priority that we must give a fair share of policing to those who live in the country, just as we do to those who live in our towns so it's absolutely imperative that we work with farmers and residents of rural parishes and produce a consistent approach from policing to crimes which take place because they occur in these locations."

She pointed out that certain crimes in the country require specialist knowledge from officers encountering them, such as illegal hunting, hunt saboteur activity and hare coursing which the rural crime team is working to spread on a force wide basis.

The PCC introduced members of Bedfordshire Police's rural crime specialist team, known as Op Sentinel Rural, and explained that police need farmers to stand by them and give evidence after police action such as a recent countywide crackdown on hare coursers.

The event also publicised the launch of the Force's new rural crime handbook, put together by its Crime Reduction Officer, with contributions from partners including the National Farmers' Union (NFU), the Environment Agency, the Home Office and local farmers. The handbook contains advice on crimes which affect Bedfordshire's rural communities and how to recognise emerging crime types such as modern day slavery.

"Targeted operations concerning cars and vans that haven't been appropriately insured, taxed or which are without MOTs, have deprived those involved in criminality in the countryside of the use of the road. We've worked with neighbouring forces and have focused on matters such as hare coursing together to prevent damage to crops and the illegal betting of tens of thousands of pounds on the outcomes," said the PCC.

Chief Constable Garry Forsyth explained the wider demands of Bedfordshire Police, including details of the drugs mapping exercise carried out by the Force which had established that the Bedfordshire market for heroin and cocaine alone was equal to the entire force budget per year.

Oliver Rubinstein, from the NFU, said: "Rural crime is an enormous issue for farmers in Bedfordshire and nationally is estimated to have cost the UK £50m last year. Unfortunately many farmers have already had to take quite dramatic steps to limit their vulnerability, such as blocking off field entrances and digging ditches, however, this handbook is a valuable resource that we can share with members to help them make sure they've taken all the necessary steps."

The PCC also reminded the audience of the anonymous crime reporting line set up by the NFU and Crimestoppers on the freephone line **0800 7830137** and website - [www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk](http://www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk).

The rural crime team also raised the importance of the 'What3words' app. What3words was designed to be able to assign a 3m square to anywhere in the world to identify a location to police and other blue light services in an emergency. Officers explained that this is especially important for the farmers in Bedfordshire in remote rural locations as it allows the force control room to find them in seconds.

NFU members committed to using their dedicated WhatsApp group, which passes information to police, to give such details so it does not become over-crowded with comment instead.

"Before I became PCC, the NFU promised me that they would become a rural crime intelligence network, in effect, and that's exactly what they've done. They've even helped us in operations, linked by radio, to crack down on country crime like hare coursing or fly tipping and we couldn't do it as we are without them," said the PCC.

The Rural Crime Team can be contacted by email - [opsentinel.rural@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:opsentinel.rural@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk). There is also a WhatsApp group that is open for members of the rural community to join, for more information the team can be contacted on this same email address.



### **PCC gains outline planning permission for Greyfriars police station to achieve "the top price possible"**

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has won outline planning permission which should settle the future of Greyfriars Police Station in central Bedford once and for all.

She addressed a meeting of Bedford Borough Council's Planning Committee, at Borough Hall (on Monday 25 November 2019) to explain that Bedfordshire Police, its architects and planning officers had been working closely together for a year to come up with a scheme that fitted the council's plan for the town centre and neighbourhood, yet which allowed her to gain the maximum amount from the sale, for the public and policing.

“I have a statutory responsibility to get the best possible price for Greyfriars for the public purse and everyone knows that a site that is sold with planning permission already agreed, on an outline basis, is worth more,” said the Commissioner.

“We went back with a second proposal after planning officers suggested that the first version had too many storeys and we now have a plan that mixes the homes that are so desperately needed in the Bedford area with the sort of lively street level facility which planners wanted us to include. I cannot praise the officers more highly as they worked with us in true cooperation to allow me to sell Greyfriars in a way that preserves part of the building and extends it further and which allows me to get the top price possible.

“The sale of Greyfriars has not been like selling a conventional home, for example. We tried an open bid process and some bids were made which were not dependent on planning permission and others required it but, at the end of the day, bidders treated the amounts they’d said they were prepared to pay as if these were negotiable expressions of interest. That wasn’t good enough for me: I need a price I can rely on and the public need me to raise the maximum amount of money possible. It made it a no brainer to go for outline planning permission and it matters so much to me that I even travelled more than a hundred miles back from my annual leave to attend the meeting to try to leave nothing to chance!”, said Commissioner Holloway.

The outline permission means that part of the old Greyfriars police station will be converted and the remainder built as a new structure to create a mixed block of 23 flats, including three at ground floor with disabled access, and a ground floor shop or cafe, to add to the street scene in Bedford town centre, as planning officers had required.

“They, quite understandably, want the town centre to be a lively place yet, as we heard at the meeting, new housing is needed desperately and the council only has a three year supply plan currently, rather than the five years they need to identify. I’m particularly pleased that access for those who have mobility issues is being included and that the flats will be a mix of one to three bedroom homes,” said PCC Holloway.

The money raised from the Greyfriars sale will be used to fund the building of a new custody suite at Kempston Police HQ.

“Money raised from the sale of buildings can only be used on other buildings or capital investment, not on officers, according to public sector spending rules. We have a temporary custody block at the moment at Kempston, serving the north of the county, which needs to be replaced and the sale of Greyfriars will fund this. I fully intend to proceed with the plans concerning this new custody suite as soon as possible in 2020.

“Not only that but I intend to sell the temporary custody block when we have a new facility to raise extra funds for Bedfordshire Police,” said the PCC.





## **Signpost Hub teams up with Anne Frank Trust to tackle discrimination in schools**

Following a successful pilot project at The Linden Academy in Luton, the Signpost Hub and Anne Frank Trust UK will now roll out inputs tackling bullying, discrimination and prejudice in schools across the county using a restorative approach.

This week (17 – 24 November) is International Restorative Awareness Week, and the Signpost Hub and Anne Frank Trust UK are working on developing the innovative programme using the feedback given by the school. It is being funded by Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Kathryn Holloway.

During the pilot project, pupils from year five and six were trained to become peer mediators, acting as intermediaries to resolve conflict or disruptive behaviour within the school environment. Staff were also given information on how to implement restorative approaches in the school.

A restorative approach in schools can be used to challenge the prejudice and discrimination found in hate incidents or bullying, before they escalate. As facilitators, students will enable those harmed to communicate with the person who caused the harm.

Victim Care Co-ordinator Sunya Hussain said: "The training was very well received by the school and their pupils. Using a restorative approach addresses the needs of both parties - the person who has been harmed and the person who caused the harm. If the harmer takes responsibility for their actions and acknowledges the impact this has had on the person who they harmed, it leads to a change of behaviour and the opportunity to make amends."

Kerry Ward, Director of Inclusion and SENDCo at The Linden Academy, added: "Pupils were taught how to use a 'talking stick' and 'circle time' to develop positive relationships between themselves and improve communication and active listening skills. They were also shown how to use key questions when resolving conflict. It's going to be a real benefit to the school and our pupils using this new approach to resolving any conflicts."

The Linden Academy pupils are now working with the Signpost Hub and Anne Frank Trust UK to create a toolkit to support the rollout of the project into primary schools. The development and implementation of the project into secondary schools will follow.

Val Ross, Eastern Regional Manager for the Anne Frank Trust, explained: "Training young people in how to use restorative justice approaches is very much in keeping with our educational methodology which seeks to empower young people themselves with the knowledge, skills and confidence to confront and challenge prejudice. We are committed to working with Bedfordshire Police, the Signpost Hub and our partners, including our networks of ambassadors, to create a more cohesive, supportive and positive environment for us all to thrive."

Commissioner Holloway added: "I'm a huge advocate of restorative justice, as it's such a powerful process when used in policing in helping victims to get closure after a traumatic time and offenders to understand the impact their actions have had and provides them with the opportunity to make amends. By using this approach in our

schools, which promotes tolerance and respect, this will be another massive leap forward in taking a stand against hate in Bedfordshire. Research also shows a restorative approach can help with early intervention, resulting in less exclusions in school as well as avoiding offending later down the line.”



## **ERSOU wins at World Class Policing Awards**

Deputy Chief Constable Trevor Rodenhurst has praised officers from the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU) after they won a prestigious award yesterday (Thursday).

ERSOU were honoured for their work on Operation Polarity; a three year long investigation in to cracking a cyber-attack.

The team worked with the National Crime Agency, the FBI and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) during the investigation.

No operations on this level had ever been attempted before and cybercrime investigation was still in its infancy when the attack occurred.

The team had to deal with an enormous amount of seized data equating to 10 TB (around 50 million pages of A4) and ERSOU led on the work to get this data into a format that would meet Crown Prosecution disclosure requirements.

The awards evening, which was held in London, is the first of its kind and recognised policing work from across the globe. The force was one of 54 finalists, and beat over 100 entries from across the globe. The force were also nominated for a further three operations.

The awards celebrated and acknowledged the best in all aspects of 21st century policing and reflect that effective modern day policing requires partnership and collaboration. The awards also recognised that successful outcomes and developments in policing come from a blend of innovative, committed and well trained personnel, who serve, engage and protect the public, delivering good practice, using technology and systems to police efficiently and effectively.

Deputy Chief Constable Trevor Rodenhurst said: “It was a pleasure to attend the first World Class Policing Awards, and I am extremely proud of the work that went into the investigation that has resulted in this award.

“The awards evening has shown that there is incredible work going on all over the world to protect members of the public and continue to fight crime.

“I would like to thank everyone who was part of the investigation for their hard work during the investigation.”



**PCC pledges almost £100,000 to new court to revolutionise the lives of families with drug and alcohol problems - with a 50% better chance of keeping children and parents together and freeing parents from addictions.**

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, has become the first PCC in the country to fund Family, Drug and Alcohol Courts (FDACs) which have been proven to be 50% better than any other method of care proceedings at helping parents to shake off addiction and retain care of their children five years on.

Commissioner Holloway has agreed to provide £50,000 of funding and also to pay for a specialist Domestic Abuse Expert to support parents attending the Family Drug and Alcohol Court.

She also provided the lead Judge - Judge Patrick Peruško - with the services of her Chief of Staff to help other key partners across Bedfordshire, such as those in the NHS, Public Health, Mental Health services and Safeguarding leads of the three local authorities to work together to bring all these parties into partnership to fund and support the unique FDAC process.

Family Drug and Alcohol Courts require a parent with addiction to agree a formal rehabilitation plan and work very regularly with the Family Court Judge and an FDAC team of specialists over a 26 week period, to address their behaviour and build better relationships with both their children and themselves.

"It's fair to say that Judge Peruško had me convinced and signing on the dotted line where financial support was required within the first hour of meeting me. What was absolutely obvious was not only that Patrick was full of energy and a real passion for the benefits but, having run the Family Drug and Alcohol Courts in Milton Keynes, he'd seen the enormous benefits for himself," said PCC Holloway.

"Not only that, but Judge Peruško can produce evidence that this process works to lift parents out of addiction and helps them to re-build family life, keeping children in the home where it is safe to do so, as not one but two universities - Lancaster and Brunel - have evaluated the programme and the results speak for themselves," said the PCC.

Both university studies found that parents, five years on from graduating from the Family Drug and Alcohol Court, where they worked through their problems with a judge and specialist support workers linked to FDAC, were more likely by half to have controlled their addiction and retained care of their children compared with those who were subject to standard care proceedings.

"It was clear from the findings that parents felt they were being treated as individuals and being supported more than judged and that they built really strong relationships with the judges overseeing the programme and the specialists to whom they have access as a result of going into FDAC," she said.

The grant funding from the Commissioner is the single biggest financial contribution to the FDAC project in Bedfordshire. In another first, Bedfordshire's Clinical Commissioning Group has provided the services of a highly experienced psychiatrist to enable the psychiatric screening of parents, via the East London Foundation Trust (ELFT).

FDAC has also made arrangements for consultations with child and adolescent psychologists in support of the mental health of children.

Public Health in Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Bedford has also supplied a funding grant for a Substance Misuse specialist to support the court. They are also providing FDAC Parent Mentors who have experienced similar issues to provide a supportive voice to parents outside those hours usually worked by FDAC and its specialist workers.

All three local authorities' Directors of Children's Services in Luton, Bedford and Central Bedfordshire are supporting the programme and will refer suitable families to Family Drug and Alcohol Courts.

The charity, The Marks Trust, is also providing office space and room for parent assessments for the new courts and is committed to working with FDAC parents who 'graduate' the scheme, to help them gain employment as they rebuild their lives.

"I'm absolutely delighted that so many agencies have come together and seen the benefits that the Family Drug and Alcohol Court can bring to troubled families in Bedfordshire. Children belong in families. That is where they deserve to be. FDAC gives them the best chance to be with their parents by helping parents achieve and maintain abstinence in a problem solving, therapeutic, court process," said Judge Peruško.

"Bedfordshire Family Drug and Alcohol Court is the first FDAC nationally to secure support from our Police and Crime Commissioner who also recognised the benefits of funding a specialist Domestic Abuse worker to work within the team. That commitment has drawn in other partners to work alongside children's services in Bedford, Luton and Central Bedfordshire. Public Health in all three authorities and Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group are partners. No other FDAC has such a broad base of support. We also have funding from The Marks Trust, a local charity assisting people who have come across difficult times", he said.

There will be two Family Drug and Alcohol courts in Bedfordshire; one in Bedford, overseen by Judge Peruško, with Judge Spinks running the court in Luton.

The Bedfordshire Family Drug and Alcohol Court was launched by Judge Perusko, the PCC, FDAC manager Beverley Sorensen and the three local authority Directors of Children's Services, at a presentation for professionals at Bedford Magistrates' Court on Thursday (17 October), which was also attended by a number of judges who support the FDAC process. A similar launch event is to take place in Luton later this month. The first hearings are due to start next month in November.

There are 11 FDACs across the country, with the project in Bedfordshire the first to be established in conjunction with other agencies outside of local authority children's social services.



## Handbook aimed at helping cut crime in rural areas is launched

A Rural Crime Handbook which gives advice on a range of issues such as fly-tipping, hare coursing and sheep worrying has been launched in a bid to help tackle countryside crime.

Put together by our Reduction Officer with contributions from a number of partners, including the National Farmers' Union (NFU), the Environment Agency, the Home Office and local farmers, the handbook contains advice on crimes which affect Bedfordshire's rural communities, such as modern day slavery.

It was launched at a special event at the Rufus Centre in Flitwick on Thursday (10 October) as part of the Rural Crime Week of Action, and has been supported by Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway.

She said: "My Police and Crime Plan specifies as a priority that we must give a fair share of policing to those who live in the country, just as we do to those who live in our towns. Therefore, it's absolutely imperative that we work with farmers and residents of rural parishes and produce a consistent approach from policing to crimes which take place because they occur in such locations.

"This handbook marks an important step forward for Bedfordshire Police and the residents of rural communities alike and it's particularly timely that it's been launched in Rural Crime Week.

"Our rural crime team, Op Sentinel Rural, has chalked up very significant successes in the past year. Targeted operations concerning cars and vans that haven't been appropriately insured, taxed or which are without MOTs, have deprived those involved in criminality in the countryside of the use of the road. We've worked with neighbouring forces and have focused on matters such as hare coursing together to prevent damage to crops and the illegal betting of tens of thousands of pounds on the outcomes."

Rural businesses are often seen as a soft target by thieves for a number of reasons. Many farms, equestrian premises and industrial estates are remote, spread over a large area of land, unoccupied overnight and contain plant and materials of high value.

Also in attendance was Deputy Chief Constable, Trevor Rodenhurst, who said: "Rural crime can be complex and challenging to investigate. It isn't just low level offences, as a range of serious and organised crime can take place in our rural areas, so it's important we engage and work closely with our partners and communities.

"This handbook is an excellent example of the importance of such partnership working. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the handbook and Police and Crime Commissioner Kathryn Holloway for supporting its launch."

Oliver Rubinstein, from the NFU, said: "Rural crime is an enormous issue for farmers in Bedfordshire and nationally is estimated to have cost the UK £50m last year. "Unfortunately many farmers have already had to take quite dramatic steps to limit their vulnerability, such as blocking off field entrances and digging ditches, however, this handbook is a valuable resource that we can share with members to help them make sure they've taken all the necessary steps."



## **The PCC supports Operation Meteor with camera gear to crack down on nuisance bikers countywide**

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, is continuing to support Operation Meteor - the Force's response to the issue of anti-social riding, nuisance bikes and related criminality - by investing in new high-quality camera equipment to help deter repeat nuisance offenders.

"Sadly, many of our communities in our smaller towns and villages and farmers too have found their lives blighted by the total lack of consideration and damage caused by nuisance motorcycles, quad bikes and even hand bikes. The whole idea of funding this specialist camera gear is to allow Bedfordshire Police officers to capture images to evidential standards to make it easier to prosecute such individuals.

"They don't just deliver a tap on the wrist. Stolen bikes are easy to identify, as they usually have had the stock or registration details removed, and in these circumstances they are crushed by Bedfordshire Police," said the Commissioner.

Problems caused by nuisance motorbikes include: general anti-social behaviour, noise, damage caused to road signs and danger to themselves, other road users and pedestrians.

This year, Operation Meteor is looking to reduce the number of offenders and motorcyclists. They aim to do this by developing new strategies to identify and prosecute offenders and create innovative ways to disrupt those responsible. The Force has also invested in brand new off-road police motorcycles and have newly trained off-road police motorcyclists.

The officers who are on the Operation Meteor deployment respond to 101 and 999 calls from the public, with high-visibility patrols aiming to deter potential offenders.

"The Force has been building its capability to deter, disrupt and catch those responsible for nuisance biking, especially off road, where bikes can cause hundreds of pounds worth of damage to crops. I've seen for myself evidence of the success of the off-road police bikers in catching those responsible in Dunstable, for example, preventing them from getting away along the busway or bridle pathways out of town.

"The sad fact is that these crimes generally peak during the school holidays and Bedfordshire Police is ready for those who have such a blatant disregard for the safety and property of others," said Commissioner Holloway.

Constable Andrew Parsons said "Thanks to the PCC, Op Meteor having this new high-quality camera means that we don't need to get into any form of chase, conflict or confrontation now because we can capture what we need to on the camera.

"From these photos, we can identify known offenders. We then distribute the other images to the intelligence units of other forces to assist in identification as it is well-known that the majority of the offenders come from outside of Bedfordshire. Most commonly, from as far as London and Hemel Hempstead.

“This camera has already been used in the quarries in Sundon and Houghton Regis and is a really good bit of equipment as it has already proven very successful, giving good identification of the bikes.”

“I’m delighted of course that the camera equipment has already proved its worth in Sundon and Houghton Regis and I hope news of the continuing work of Op Meteor and the enhanced off road capability of the Force will send home the message that we will not tolerate this behaviour” said Commissioner Holloway.



### **Bedfordshire Police to recruit 54 officers as part of national uplift**

An additional 54 officers will be recruited into Bedfordshire Police in 2020-21, following the latest government announcement on its three-year police recruitment uplift.

The figure for Bedfordshire is part of the first wave of 6,000 new police officers to be recruited nationally, under the plans announced earlier this year to achieve an uplift of 20,000 officers over three years.

The first year target allocated for forces is based upon the existing funding formula for all police forces in England and Wales.

The force’s current recruitment window has so far seen high interest in people applying to become a police officer and registering their interest for further information about a career in policing, but there is still time to apply before applications close on 13 October.

Deputy Chief Constable Trevor Rodenhurst said: “We are thrilled to receive funding to employ an additional 54 police officers in the first year of the government’s campaign.

“We want to make Bedfordshire a safer place for all, and with this additional 54 officers we hope to make a real impact in the community.

“We hope to recruit officers from all backgrounds and walks of life to serve their neighbourhoods, and of course welcome applicants from further afield or those who want to consider a brand new career.

“Bedfordshire is a richly diverse county with a mix of urban and rural challenges. If you want to make an impact within Bedfordshire and help us protect the public and fight crime, apply today and help make the changes you want to see.”

Within Bedfordshire, the 54 officers will be recruited over and above those hired to fill existing vacancies and in addition to the extra 40 officers promised by the increase in the Council Tax precept.

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Kathryn Holloway said: “We had been told to expect around 18 officers so 54 is a significant improvement and reflects the fact that the Home Office is fully aware that Bedfordshire has to be treated as a

special case. I've evidenced the need for 440 officers and 80 detectives in total but the uplift has to start somewhere and I'm grateful for it, of course."

Police officers deal with a range of call outs daily, ranging from supporting vulnerable people, continuing the fight against drug and substance misuse, the exploitation of children and adults and many more. If you have the drive to help people and face issues head on, visit our website and find out more about how to become a police officer:

<https://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/apply/Recruitment-and-volunteering/Police-officers>



### **PCC hosts 4th Annual Parish Councils Conference to explain what Bedfordshire Police has been delivering across communities in 2019**

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway, hosted her fourth annual Parish Council Conference at the Rufus Centre, Flitwick, and thanked 84 separate parishes from across the county for their enthusiastic response to the chance to hear at first hand from the top police team and community officers (1 October 2019).

The PCC was joined by Chief Constable Garry Forsyth, Chief Superintendent David Boyle, Inspector Nick Masters of the Biggleswade Community Hub and Sergeant Ian Leeson as she wanted the parishes and their councillors to have the opportunity to ask questions of senior officers, to hear some examples of the best of their work taking place in Bedfordshire's communities over the past year and for the PCC to bring them up to date with news on funding and officer recruitment.

The PCC opened the conference by stating "First of all, this has been quite an extraordinary year for me in terms of what I have been able to bring into Bedfordshire Police with the assistance of the top team and the Chief Finance

Officer in terms of rewriting the traditional definition of Special Grants from the Home Office to bring home £4.571m to Bedfordshire which, together with further grants to tackle youth violence, represents the largest surge in central funding for the Force for over 20 years."

The Commissioner explained that, even before the current promised uplift in police numbers, she had been able to support the Force to double the response to Serious Organised Crime and youth violence and bring about more recruitment in a single year than since austerity began.

"The Special Grant was absolutely vital to allow the Force to double the specialist unit, Op Boson, which concentrates on gang, gun and knife crime, and also to allow me to proceed with plans to recruit 160 new PCs this financial year," she said.



The Commissioner confirmed that the first tranche of officers to be delivered under the newly announced uplift is likely to reflect the current way all police funding is distributed.

“I, of course, have very strong views that the forces in most need, such as Bedfordshire, should have a greater share but, given the timescale against which the first few thousand officers are being brought online, we understand that the share is being based on the current National Revenue Expenditure. This will, at least, give us an extra 18 to 21 officers and this will be on top of the 160 already planned.”

The PCC also confirmed that, in addition to the Special Grant, another of which she has just applied for, Bedfordshire Police has won a further £1.36m this year to concentrate on work to alleviate youth violence and £880,000 for a Violence and Exploitation Reduction Unit, working with local partners, including councils to focus on the issue.

Chief Constable Forsyth spoke about the financial struggles Bedfordshire Police face every day. Chief Constable Forsyth said “If our income from the Government increased, then somewhere else suffers as the main pot never increases, it just gets shared out differently. That’s why it’s so important that the overall funding formula is revised but we’re still very grateful for the extra officers of course. It causes us some ‘problems’ with how to train them and where to put them but these are nice problems to have after years of having to drive money out of policing.”

He also explained the difference in modern demands on police in terms of crime and why traditional policing of villages and smaller towns has had to change,

“Here’s an analogy for you. The iPhone was not around 10 years ago. A normal 64GB iPhone can hold 11,000 complete works of Shakespeare. We have to sometimes look for just one line in that to satisfy disclosure requirements. There is artificial intelligence that can do this for us, but that is very, very expensive and none of this investment delivers cops to your front door or out on the street and can’t do the things that you want to see. So we have to get a balance between insuring our cops have got the right level of technology that enables them to keep pace with the criminals and do their jobs and also satisfy the need that you all have for visible local policing that understands your issues.”

Chief Superintendent Boyle, who heads up Community Policing explained the Force’s approach to problem solving.

“I am really thankful over the last couple of years to see the investment we have had, in not only the Community Hubs but also in supporting the rural crime team. There is a very bespoke service there to help and support our rural communities.”

This year, the parishes and councillors requested to hear more about the work of the eight different Community Hubs of Inspectors, Sergeants, PCs and PCSOs and the priorities of the Community teams. The PCC used this as an opportunity to discuss the recent Community Hub Awards event, held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

“We decided to have a Community Policing event, where we asked each of the Hubs around the county, to nominate some of the most successful problem solving officers, but to also identify those members of the public who have gone out of their way to work with Bedfordshire Police to bring about some of those results.”

Insp Nick Masters, talked the conference through the exceptional work of his Biggleswade-based Hub, in conjunction with Shefford Town Council, to drive down Anti-Social Behaviour in the town, known as Op Leithen.

Insp Masters said “I was delighted to have this opportunity to present the hard work of our team and our partners to an audience that were keen to hear the detail of the practical application of our problem solving and its benefits to our Community.”

He was accompanied by Sgt Ian Leeson who spoke of the outstanding operation - Op Lemon - around Bedford Prison, working with residents and surrounding businesses as well as the prison itself, to dramatically reduce “throw overs”, where items of value for re-sale in HMP Bedford, are thrown over the walls to inmates, ranging from drugs and tobacco to toiletries.

Chief Superintendent Boyle said “I’m really grateful to all those who attended, It was a good turn out with representatives from across the county. It’s really great to be able to explain and highlight some examples of the work carried out by our Community Policing teams and the investment the Force is putting into getting more officers working with communities across the county.”



### **PCC launches first annual Community Hub awards to reward members of the public countywide for help for local police and "truly outstanding" problem solving by officers**

Bedfordshire’s PCC, Kathryn Holloway, held the first Community Hub Thank you Awards to single out both members of the public and officers involved in exceptional work to solve problems in towns and villages at Woburn Abbey and to “spread the word” of what Community Police are delivering across the county. (19 September 2019).

The event was attended by 140 guests including officers from the eight Community Hubs based in towns across Bedfordshire - in Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable, Biggleswade - covering the North Bedfordshire towns and villages, Ampthill - based at the Community Fire Station, Bedford and Luton, which has Hubs based at Luton Police Station and Futures House at Marsh Farm and one at the Airport, plus members of the rural crime team Op Sentinel Rural, who work out of both Dunstable and Riseley, at either end of the county.

The ceremony, held in the Sculpture Gallery at Woburn recognised both individual officers for successful problem solving operations and members of the public, nominated by each Hub team themselves and by rural crime officers.

“This was a fantastic opportunity to spread the word about what Bedfordshire Police’s Community Hub officers have been up to over the past year to solve problems and help communities in all our major towns and the villages and also to say a huge ‘thankyou’ to those members of the public who have really got involved to help their local teams to solve problems.

“Those members of the public who received awards told me they were overwhelmed that the officers themselves had singled them out and it was also absolutely right that those officers who had presided over exceptionally successful problem solving were recognised,” said the PCC.

The problem-solving police operations presented to the audience included an overall winner, Op Yellow, designed to drive down drugs and other saleable goods being thrown into the grounds of Bedford Prison and other examples included a community wide effort to reduce Anti Social Behaviour in Shefford - whose Mayor, Paul Mackin, received the award from the Biggleswade Hub for his outstanding help to the local police team as well as work to end drug dealing and intimidation of residents at Ruthin Close, Luton which turned around the neighbourhood, according to residents.

The Commissioner was inspired to hold the event, which the Force now plans to stage annually, by the yearly Community Cohesion Awards.

“I have really taken on board how important the annual Community Cohesion Thankyou Awards have been in building strong bonds of trust and confidence in local policing in our communities in Luton and Bedford, primarily, and across our diverse neighbourhoods where trust in police has not been strong, historically. It’s incredibly important to me for our smaller towns and villages to enjoy exactly the same relationship with Bedfordshire Police and, now they have dedicated local Community teams, this was the perfect event to start to build this,” she said.

The PCC was keen to stress that the event was provided at reasonable cost, thanks to the generosity of the Duke and Duchess of Bedford.

“I’m so grateful to the Duke and Duchess for allowing us to use the Sculpture Gallery, its magnificent gardens, conservatory and reception rooms free of charge and they also were kind enough to provide welcome drinks for all who attended. This meant that the very first Community Hub Thankyou Awards got off to a quite superb start in a wonderful setting where officers and members of the public alike told me how delighted they were to have been invited,” said Commissioner Holloway.

The event was also addressed by Bedfordshire Police’s Chief Constable, Garry Forsyth. He said: “I was delighted to part of this event to celebrate the fantastic work of our officers, staff, community partners and members of the public. I often hark back to Sir Robert Peel’s principle that the police are the public and the public are the police, and that has shown at the Community Hub Awards ceremony.

“I would like to thank all of you for the continued support you provide to our communities and to our partners and public, for helping to keep our communities safe and reducing crime.”

Representatives of each of the Hubs and the rural crime team presented a resume of the work of which they were most proud over the year and described their approach to solving local problems, before going on to nominate the work of a key partner.

The audience were also addressed by international Community Policing expert Sylvia Chennery who regularly judges neighbourhood policing competitions. “I can honestly say that some of the examples we’ve heard about here tonight are among the very best that I have heard about from any police force, anywhere,” she said.

Community Impact Award:

Winner

Operation Yellow – Sgt Ian Leeson, PC Emily Keech, John McKinney (Bedford Borough Council). Graeme Vann (Security HMP Bedford) PJ Butler (HMP Bedford Governor)

Highly Commended

OP Leithan - Sgt Rachael Welch, PCSO Ann Jeeves, PC Sarah Cluff, Paul Mackin (Shefford Town Council), Alan May (Central ASB Officer)

OP Loc (Ruthin Close) - Sgt Richard Cunningham, PC Michael Trinder, Laura Chalmers (Luton Borough Council ASB Case Manager) PC James Norman

Pan Bedfordshire:

Winner

VARAC - Superintendent Jacqueline Whittred & Shelia Forder

Highly Commended

Mental Health Street Triage – PC James Biggs, Rachel Martin (East of England Ambulance), Sarah Clarke (ELFT)

Partners in Problem Solving:

Winner

Tara Lynch & Laura Chalmers (Luton Borough Council ASB Case Managers)

Highly Commended

Sarah Keena (BPHA Housing Officer)

Impact Vulnerability:

Winner

OP Highgate – PC Sharon Cummings, PCSO Daniel James, Christina Rowe (Bedford BID), Andy Cooper (Environmental Health), Sarah Stevens (Bedford Borough Council)

Highly Commended

PCSO Spyridon Apostolidis

Innovation in Engagement:

Winner

PCSO 2813 Rachel Carne

Highly Commended

PC Emma Underwood & PCSO Claire Hughes

Problem Solver of the Year:

Winner

PC Kate Rowley

Highly Commended

Lara Curtayne

The following community members were nominated by each hub for their work in their respective communities and were also presented with a certificate:

Airport – Tamara Cato

Rural Crime Hub – Martin Towler

Dunstable – Sharon Warboys

Houghton – Sharon Knott

Luton – Peter Appleyard

Leighton Buzzard – Stephen Swaine

North Urban – Beccy Campbell-Grieve

North Rural – Paul Mackin

## Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) Scheme

The Police and Crime Commissioner has a statutory duty to maintain an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme for Bedfordshire. Independent custody visiting is a well-established system whereby volunteers attend police stations to check on the treatment of detainees, the conditions in which they are held and that their rights and entitlements are being observed. The scheme offers protection and confidentiality to detainees and the police and provides reassurance to the wider community.

Beds OPCC has recruited four new ICVs which will begin training soon. We are still recruiting in Bedfordshire so if you are interested in becoming an ICV, please visit the Police and Crime Commissioner Website to complete an application form - <https://www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/independent-custody-visiting-bedfordshire>

ICV Quarter two data (July - Sept) 2019/2020

<b>Total number of detainees through custody</b>	<b>Number of ICV visits</b>	<b>Total number of detainees in custody at time of ICV visits</b>	<b>Total number of detainees unavailable*</b>	<b>Number of detainees observed**</b>	<b>Total number of detainees visited***</b>
2211	18	111	29	72	72

\*for the number of detainees unavailable – detainees were either in interview, asleep, intoxicated or too high risk to be seen.

ICVs have reported on the following:

- Identifying detainees which need additional support within custody and asking the ‘critical’ questions to whether or not Appropriate Adults have been contacted or whether a Mental Health Assessment was required.
- Reported that staff were helpful
- Asking detainees whether or not they needed to notify family/friends of their detention
- That they welcomed a new ICV Translation pack
- ICVs are ensuring that female detainees are being allocated a female officer and hygiene pack is provided.
- A Report was sent to the estates department after an ICV visit regarding one toilet being out of order
- ICVs assuring that CCTV footage within custody is working and being reviewed
- ICVs attended Luton Custody Suite for a stakeholder visit on the 14<sup>th</sup> November – to ensure that an Independent person was available and questions were asked surrounding the scheme
- The OPCC are still trying to recruit more ICVs via social media and Community Voluntary Service (CVS). ICVs have also attended IAG meetings to promote the scheme



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**OUTCOME OF CBC DETERMINED PLANNING**

Item 12b - Council 17/12/2019  
Items for Information  
Planning Application Outcomes

**2018**

ADDRESS	APPLICATION NO.	COMMITTEE DATE	BTC DECISION	DESCRIPTION	CBC OUTCOME/ DATE	"CALLED IN"
Bonds Lane & Foundry Lane, Land at	18/02353/FULL	10/07/2018	Objection - BTC would like to see the derelict site developed, however proposal does not take account of parking issues ie Biggleswade does not have adequate parking to accommodate any further similar developments. There are factual errors in the application; Rose Lane car park will not be unrestricted and no parking available in public car parks for residents of this development. No sufficient public transport, the development is too dense and design not in keeping. Also serious concerns over access and egress, in particular for emergency services. Development is Key 4 in Biggleswade Town Centre Strategy and Master Plan	Demolition of existing vacant and derelict buildings and erection of 50 residential apartments with associated vehicular access, car and cycle parking	Awaiting Decision	
Bonds Lane and Foundry Lane, Lands at	18/02353/FULL	23/07/2019	Objection - on the grounds of access	Demolition of existing vacant and derelict buildings and erection of 50 residential apartments with associated vehicular access, car and cycle parking, refuse storage and landscape	Awaiting Decision	
Pegasus Drive, Stratton Business Park, Biggleswade	18/02305/VOC	10/07/2018	No Objection	Variation of Condition 22 of planning permission CV/17/02166/OUT. Erection of up to 52,000 sqm of B2 and or B8 floor space with ancillary offices, together with associated car parking and landscaping	Awaiting Decision	
Ullswater Close, 2	18/04253/FULL	27/11/2018	No Objection	Single & two storey rear extension	Awaiting Decision	

2019

ADDRESS	APPLICATION NO.	COMMITTEE DATE	BTC DECISION	DESCRIPTION	CBC OUTCOME/ DATE	"CALLED IN"
Anderson Road, 24	19/03588/FULL	12/11/2019	No Objection	Loft Conversion with Front Cottage Dormer and Rear Roof	Awaiting Decision	
Dells Lane, 8	19/02583/FULL	24/09/2019	No Objection	Proposed 2 storey side and rear extension, Front Porch & Garage	Awaiting Decision	
Drove Road, 36	19/03328/FULL	22/10/2019	Objection - due to Highway safety due to increased	Erection of 3no. Dwellings	Awaiting Decision	
Drove Road, 99	19/02286/FULL	10/09/2019	No objections - although concerns raised about parking. However, it was suggested that BTC offer help on parking as property being purchased for a charitable cause	The use of the outbuilding associated with the dwellinghouse to accommodate and provide care for 4 children between the ages of 7 and 12	Granted 02/12/2019	
Eldon Way, Sunderland Units 9 to 12	19/01301/FULL	09/07/2019	No Objection	Proposed first floor rear extension, front porch, 2nd floor front dormer windows, 1st floor front and rear dormer windows and alterations to existing dwelling	Consultation Period	
High Street, 50	19/03310/FULL	26/11/2019	No Objection	External alterations including air conditioning units, kitchen extraction flue system and acoustic enclosures	Consultation Period	
Hitchin Street, 162	19/03446/FULL	12/11/2019	No Objection	Rear two storey extension	Awaiting Decision	
Holme Court Avenue, 7	19/03608/FULL	12/11/2019 & 26/11/2019	This application was considered at the Town Council meeting of 12 November 2019 but was <b>DEFERRED</b> due to incomplete drawings provided for the meeting and online. CBC Planning have agreed to forward new papers and to extend the deadline for submissions beyond 26 November to allow time to receive the Town Council's views	Proposed two storey and single storey rear extension and internal alterations.	Granted 05/12/2019	
Langford Road, Holmemills	19/03704/FULL	26/11/2019	No Objection	Canopy roof with no walls adjacent to Mill Building	Granted 10/12/2019	
Lincoln Crescent, 48	19/03482/FULL	12/11/2019	No Objection	Proposed single storey rear extension	Awaiting Decision	
Lincoln Crescent, 61	19/03309/FULL	12/11/2019	No Objection	Single-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension	Granted 27/11/2019	
London Road, 120	19/03521/FULL	12/11/2019	No Objection	First floor extension	Granted 26/11/2019	
Ouse Way, 4	19/03178/FULL	08/10/2019	No Objection	Single storey rear extension	Granted 31/10/2019	
Purcell Place, Sullivan Court, Retail Unit 3	19/02482/FULL	24/09/2019	No Objection	Change of use: of commercial unit from A3 to A5	Awaiting Decision	
Purcell Place, Sullivan Court, Retail Unit 3	19/03814/ADV	26/11/2019	No Objection	1 X internally illuminated fascia signage 1 x internally illuminated projected sign 2 x Logo window vinyls	Consultation Period	



ADDRESS	APPLICATION NO.	COMMITTEE DATE	BTC DECISION	DESCRIPTION	CBC OUTCOME/ DATE	"CALLED IN"
Stratton Business Park, Land East of Stratton Park Drive, Dunton Lane	19/03605/FULL 19/02839/VOC	12/11/2019 08/10/2019	No Objection No Objection	Creation of a bund Variation of Condition no.1 on Planning Permission MB/83/456 "Renewal of Planning Permission for caravan park on a permanent basis" to state that the total number of caravans shall not exceed twenty-two at any time	Consultation Period Awaiting Decision	
Stratton Way, 84	19/03150/FULL	08/10/2019	No Objection	Construction of a two-storey, semi detached 3-bedroom dwelling	Consultation Period	
Sunderland Hall Farm Cottage, 1	19/01301/FULL	28/05/2019	To defer to the next meeting due to Insufficient information/full plans etc.	Proposed first floor rear extension, front porch, 2nd floor front dormer windows, 1st floor front and rear dormer windows and alterations to existing dwelling	See below	
Sunderland Hall Farm Cottage, 1	19/01301/FULL	11/06/2019	No Objection	Proposed first floor rear extension, front porch, 2nd floor front dormer windows, 1st floor front and rear dormer windows and alterations to existing dwelling	Consultation Period	
Torquay Close, 19	19/03772/FULL	26/11/2019	No Objection	2m rear garden ground floor extension to enlarge the existing kitchen	Consultation Period	
Wharf Mews, Land to the North of Windermere Drive, 7	19/02640/FULL 19/00086/FULL	24/09/2019 12/02/2019	No Objection No Objection	Existing workshop to be replaced by 2 Dwellings Single storey rear extension and first floor side/rear extension	Refused 21/11/2019 Awaiting Decision	