

DUNSTABLE JOINT COMMITTEE

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

7.00PM THURSDAY 25 January

To be held in Committee Room 1, Watling House,
High Street North, Dunstable

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting of the Dunstable Joint Committee held on Thursday 23 November
3. Specific Declarations of Interest
4. Chairman's Announcements
5. Public Question Time (Max 15 minutes)
6. Themed Discussion: Bedfordshire Police
7. Reports from Co-Opted or Outside Bodies
8. Report from Dunstable Town Council
9. Questions of Central Bedfordshire Council – update on services

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DUNSTABLE JOINT COMMITTEE
HELD AT WATLING HOUSE, HIGH STREET NORTH, DUNSTABLE
ON THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2017

Present: Councillors Carole Hegley (Chairman), John Chatterley, Eugene Ghent, Peter Hollick and Nigel Young (Central Bedfordshire Council, CBC). Liz Jones (Vice Chairman), John Kane, Gloria Martin, Pat Staples and Andy Whayman (Dunstable Town Council, DTC).

In Attendance: Hugh Garrod (Promoting Dunstable), Sharon Warboys (Town Centre Champion), Councillor Ann Sparrow (Dunstable in Bloom), Barry Groves (Central Bedfordshire College), John Gelder (Community Action Bedfordshire), Ed Harrison (Pride in Dunstable Business Group) and Tegan Ingram (Youth Parliament) with Peter Fraser – Head of Partnerships, Community Engagement and Youth Support, David Ashlee – Town Clerk and Chief Executive, Geraldine Davies (Principal Strategic Transport Officer), Lisa Wright (Senior Youth Worker)

Members of the public 14

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Dunstable Joint Committee held on Thursday 21 September 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

Additional lighting in Middle Row: All electrical work in that area is being done as part of the works to refurbish 3 West Street. This project has been designed and includes external lighting as part of the package. In addition, soffit lighting will also be added to the shop fronts. The work is currently out to tender and due back in the first week of December. It is hoped that the works will commence in January 2018.

Tidy Tip opening date: Peter Fraser confirmed that information on the Council's website:<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/waste/tidy-tips/redevelopment.aspx> currently states that the site will be open to the public in early 2018; officers have told him it will probably be early February.

A future themed discussion on crime: Police have confirmed their attendance at the next meeting to enable a broader discussion on crime in and around the town.

SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Pat Staples declared a pecuniary interest regarding any issues to be discussed relating to Dunstable Market.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman updated the meeting that there would be a change in administration arrangements for the Committee following the last meeting when the Town Council advised they could not continue to provide administrative support. Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) would now manage this process. The Chairman gave an update on the project discussed at the previous meeting to promote the history and heritage of the town. CBC officers attended an event to consider re-introducing heritage and history onto the High Street and the history of Eleanor's cross.

ACTION: The Chairman to ask Jean Yates, representative for the Medieval Group, to come and present at the next meeting on 25 January 2018.

The Chairman stated that the review of the terms of reference for each of the four Joint Committees in Central Bedfordshire is ongoing and that each were now at the same stage in their discussions. Future discussions and updates would be shared with members.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were a number of questions from the public gallery regarding the future of the General Market in Dunstable. Local press and social media reports had incorrectly suggested that the Town Council was proposing to close the market and this was a cause of concern. It was also noted that the matter had previously been discussed at the Town Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee on Monday evening.

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive responded to the public questions and confirmed that the Town Council had not given up its Market Charter and was not intending to close the market. Instead, they had proposed that the regular market traders apply to Central Bedfordshire Council for a street trading license. In doing so this would ensure that a market would still take place in the Ashton Square and Middle Row area of the town.

A question was raised about the £610,000 Market Town Regeneration Fund (MTRF) and how much of that was being spent on regenerating the market. It was explained that the MTRF will be spent on a range of projects that may benefit the market, but none on the market itself.

Members of the public asked if they could have access to view the charter? The response was that the charter document itself is unlikely to still exist as it was issued hundreds of years ago. However, the rights associated with it have been held and enacted upon by relevant authorities, and these have now been passed on to the Town Council.

A request was made for one hours free parking in the town, as is available in nearby towns and the White Line Retail Park, to incentivise people to come into Dunstable. Cllr Nigel Young highlighted the many places where there is short term on road and off-road FREE parking in and around the town centre.

The Chairman said she was saddened by the negative social media reports on the proposed 'closure' of the market, having initiated some promotional activities for the market through the Joint Committee and encouraged all parties to give the new arrangements a try and to work together on the future strategy for the market, to support and promote it.

Cllr Pat Staples said that the majority of market traders were in favour of the proposal and emphasised that the market will not shut.

THEMED DISCUSSION – HIGH STREET REGENERATION

Geraldine Davies, CBC's Principal Strategic Transport Officer, gave a presentation on the High Street Regeneration design proposals along with a colleague from Ringway Jacobs. A copy of the presentation is attached and information leaflets about the proposals will be available in libraries, the theatre and council offices. As a lot of the history of the town is unseen, a key feature of the design work is to enhance this, focussing on 12-13 areas.

Geraldine had been invited to a local meeting with historians, headed by Jean Yates from the Medieval Group, to investigate how the community could become involved in bringing some history and heritage into the High Street, engagement with this group would be ongoing.

Councillor Gloria Martin asked what would happen if the M1 closed between Junctions 11 and 9. The response was that all traffic would be diverted away from High Street. Signage is already in place to enforce a ban on lorries (except for deliveries) and Central Bedfordshire Council is looking into enforcement of this, including the use of ANPR cameras. Traffic would be diverted via the A5-M1 link road to Junction 11a, or if travelling from the south traffic would turn right at the crossroads towards Junction 11. Most of the signage is in place, but not quite all yet.

A question was raised about how young people could be engaged in the design. Geraldine said that the team propose to work with Central Bedfordshire College to seek opinions on the design proposals. The Chairman requested that Upper Schools are also engaged.

ACTION: Geraldine Davies to contact the College and to liaise with Lisa Wright, Senior Youth Worker at CBC.

With only two lanes along the High Street, will there be provision for buses to drop off passengers? Buses will continue to stop on the High Street. Options are being looked at. The emergency services will also be consulted as a key stakeholder.

Cllr Peter Hollick suggested a crossing between the existing one and Eleanor's Cross to allow ease of access between different shopping sectors.

In response to a question, Geraldine confirmed that the railings on the High Street will be removed as part of the first phase and that the details will be discussed with the Town Council.

ACTION: Geraldine to discuss with John Crawley.

It was pointed out that Dunstable in Bloom need to order flowers now to be ready for the summer. A concern was raised about where the flower displays in the town centre would go if the railings were removed. Could consideration be made for hanging baskets and flower beds? If the gateways are to go ahead, Dunstable in Bloom would like to add a blaze of colour at each one during the summer period and then winter bedding.

ACTION: Geraldine Davies to discuss with John Crawley

REPORTS FROM COOPTED OUTSIDE BODIES

Dunstable in Bloom:

The theme for the Royal Horticultural Society, and therefore Dunstable In Bloom, in 2018 is "Remembrance and Peace" to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1.

ACTION: Sharon Warboys to put a post on the Facebook page.

There is a new project being organised by the Open University in the Eastern area called Orchards East and this is to discover, save and regenerate old fruit trees and orchards. Dunstable in Bloom are going to be involved and are asking anyone who can help to contact them or Steve Halton at CBC who is leading on this in our area.

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL – UPDATE ON SERVICES

Peter Fraser talked through the paper updating members on CBC activity in and around the town. Comments were made from members about the number of CCTV incidents reported and the contrasting low number of arrests made. This could be discussed in more detailed as part of the themed discussion for the next meeting.

It was noted that a further two requests had been received for the S106 Community Grant Fund. Members were concerned that the request from the Priory Church for a contribution towards a £500k project would take up all of the remaining funding. Members were keen to support but with a revised consideration.

ACTION: Peter Fraser to discuss with the Church representatives.

In response to a question, Cllr Nigel Young explained that S106 is strictly controlled by legislation and that CBC is requesting that all CBC Councillors are engaged with their relevant town and parish councils for proposals of spend. The Chairman indicated that the Joint Committee could be an ideal forum to consider future S106 projects and spending proposals for Dunstable. Where a development is happening, Ward Members should identify specific projects that S106 funding could be used for to mitigate the impact of development in the area.

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL – UPDATE ON SERVICES

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive talked members through the paper updating members on the Town Council's key activities in the town; drawing attention again on plans for the future of the General Market.

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

DUNSTABLE JOINT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 2018

INFORMATION REPORT FOR DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL SERVICES

<p>Purpose of the report: The purpose of this report is to provide information on services provided by Dunstable Town Council</p>
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1. PRIORY HOUSE

1.1 The Priory House feasibility study is now complete, and contains details of the issues affecting the structure and how best to manage the building in the future to ensure its preservation. This includes significant works in the region of £750,000. CBC have submitted a Heritage Lottery Fund bid under their Townscape Programme for a total of £1.77 million, which would see improvements to Middle Row as well as the works to Priory House. DTC has committed £250,000 joint funding towards the HLF bid. The bidding process is a two stage exercise with the results of the first stage process anticipated in May 2018. There is then a further 12 months to develop the full, second phase bid which would have to be submitted by May 2019. If both phases are successful, it is still unlikely that any works would actually begin at Priory House before May 2020.

2. TOWN CENTRE

2.1 Officers have been liaising with CBC's Licensing Team in regards to the issuing of street trader licences. A number of traders have submitted their applications, however, at the time of writing the process had been suspended by CBC with no further update as to when this will be reopened.

2.2 The Town Centre Services Officer is liaising with Ringway Jacobs – CBC's highways contractor in regards to the improvements to Middle Row to ensure that these support and compliment the themed and craft markets. The Town Centre Services Officer is also working on developing themes and attracting traders for these which start again in April.

2.3 Shop vacancy rates have recently been collected and shared with colleagues at CBC, please see the tables below for details.

No. Units	No. Vacant Units	% Vacant Units	Previous %
253	32 vacant	12.44%	13.04% (Figure at June 2017)

The following figures relate to the High Street (including Grove Park, Albion Street, Eleanor's Cross and Ashton Square, but excluding the Quadrant Shopping Centre).

No. Units	No. Vacant Units	% Vacant Units	Previous %
210	27 vacant (+4 are under development for tenant)	12.85%	13.33% (Figure at June 2017)

The following figures relate to the Quadrant Shopping Centre only.

No. Units	No. Vacant Units	% Vacant Units	Previous %
43	5	11.63%	11.63% (Figure at June 2017)

Note: the vacancy figures do not include those businesses currently closed, but not vacant as they are not currently on the market to let or purchase.

3 EVENTS

- 3.1 The Christmas Carols and Torchlight Events attracted record numbers last year and again received a positive response from the public and those who participated. The high numbers does however, bring a number of Health and Safety related issues which officers will be looking at and address over the coming months in time for this year's event.
- 3.2 The ice rink last year brought a mixed response. The majority of those who attended were pleased with their skating experience (with fewer complaints than last year), with people saying that they liked the larger rink (which had no additional cost), and the slope (which reduced the cost of building up the surface). However, due to the way in which the school holidays fell and the weather, the number of users was about half from the previous year. The takings, due to the change in pricing, was about the same.
- 3.2 Officers are currently working on plans for the 2018 events, with the first being St Georges Day on Saturday 21 April.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

4.1 Dunstable Men in Sheds

Dunstable Men in Sheds held its first AGM in December. This group has grown in numbers and reputation. Members made Christmas items which they took to Dunstable Craft Markets and 'sold' for donations. Their next community project is in the design stage. They will be making raised beds and a tepee for Beecroft Academy

4.2 Friends of Dunstable Cemetery

The first meeting to assess interest in forming a Friends of Dunstable Cemetery took place in November. Five people attended and others expressed an interest but were unable to attend due to work commitments. A second meeting has been arranged for Saturday 20 January to enable more to attend. The initial response has been very positive

4.3 **Grove Corner**

A new fully qualified and experience youth worker has been recruited to the position of Senior Community and Young People's Officer. He will be starting in February, with his first priority being to promote the senior session and attract new members.

5. **GROUNDS & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

5.1 Central Bedfordshire Council have secured a £184,000 Section 106 Community Facilities contribution from the Central Bedfordshire College housing development. The contribution is for the provision of a 'skateboard park or multi use games area or such other facility as may be approved by the Council to be provided within the vicinity of the site'. As the skate park has already been provided CBC have asked DTC to identify a suitable community project which meets the Section 106 criteria. Officers have suggested the creation of an adventure type play area at Bennett Memorial Recreation Ground to complement the splash park, the splashside café and the existing traditional play area. The town does not have an adventure style play area and locating a facility of this type at Bennetts would make a significant contribution to making it a destination park for families and young people. This suggestion has been broadly welcomed by CBC officers and they have recommended that the Council makes an application to secure the funding.

5.2 The Head of Community Services and the Head of Grounds have met with the Chair and Secretary of the Friends of Priory House and Gardens to discuss crowd funding for the Dunstable War Memorial refurbishment. It is anticipated that a crowd funding opportunity will be launched during February or March to run for one month.

6. **AUTHOR**

6.1 Becky Wisbey – Head of Community Services
Becky.wisbey@dunstable.gov.uk

DUNSTABLE JOINT COMMITTEE

25 January 2018

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

Purpose of report: - For Information

1. COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Community Safety Operations Team has carried out the following work in the Dunstable area from the 1st October – 31st December 2017.

18 x Problem Solving Groups/multi-agency meetings regarding High Street South
50 x Letters hand delivered during joint patrols with Police and ASB officers to residents/businesses on High Street South
20 x Warning letters sent to those involved in ASB in High Street South

2 x files sent to Legal for failure to answer Section 108 questionnaires
1 x FPN issued and paid for small scale fly tip

44 cases currently open:

- Dog Fouling - 1
- Fly tipping – 17
- Nuisance neighbours – 2
- Noise – 17
- Odour - 3
- Rowdy / inconsiderate behaviour – 2
- Accumulation of waste - 2

Summary of recorded CCTV Incident Dunstable 1st October to 31st December 2017

This report contains data gathered by the Council's CCTV Control Room located at Watling House, Dunstable. It includes details of CCTV monitored incidents and arrests by the police in the towns of Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Leighton Buzzard. It does not include details of the police response to any particular incident where an arrest is not made, nor does it include incidents not captured by CCTV; for this reason the data will not reflect the overall picture of crime and disorder in any area. Personal data is excluded to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Date	Time	Location	Type of Crime	Arrests
04/10/2017	16:21	Priory Gardens	Other Crime	0
06/10/2017	19:12	Vernon Place	Violent Offence	0
06/10/2017	01:49	Court Drive	Criminal Damage	0
12/10/2017	21:35	Skate Park	Other Crime	0
14/10/2017	15:34	High Street North	Public Order	0
15/10/2017	08:49	High Street North	Robbery	0

17/10/2017	22:10	Skate park	Intel	0
21/10/2017	17:58	Katherine Drive	Vehicle Crime	0
21/10/2017	19:54	Natwest	Suspicious Activity	0
21/10/2017	02:15	Ivory Lounge	Sexual Offence	0
23/10/2017	20:52	Ashton Square	Suspicious Activity	0
23/10/2017	20:52	Priory Gardens	Suspicious Activity	0
25/10/2017	13:32	Asda	Intel	0
25/10/2017	17:00	Priory Gardens	Intel	0
26/10/2017	13:57	High Street South	Shoplifting	0
26/10/2017	00:00	Priory View	Suspicious Activity	0
27/10/2017	12:03	The Quadrant	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
28/10/2017	23:30	The Crown	Violent Offence	1
28/10/2017	02:00	The Bank	Violent Offence	0
29/10/2017	03:40	Court Drive	Other Theft	0
02/11/2017	22:54	Skate Park	Vehicle Crime	0
02/11/2017	22:54	Court Drive	Vehicle Crime	0
03/11/2017	14:04	High Street North	Theft of Vehicle	0
03/11/2017	19:10	Theatre Car Park	Criminal Damage	0
05/11/2017	13:14	The Quadrant	Shoplifting	0
08/11/2017	18:53	Ashton Square	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
09/11/2017	16:45	The Quadrant	Shoplifting	0
09/11/2017	20:02	White Lion Retail Park	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
09/11/2017	21:59	White Lion Retail Park	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
10/11/2017	19:20	High Street South	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
11/11/2017	15:20	High Street South	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
09/11/2017	20:20	High Street North	Violent Offence	0
10/11/2017	03:30	The Crown	Violent Offence	0
11/11/2017	01:05	The Quadrant	Public Order	0
11/11/2017	21:23	The Quadrant	Criminal Damage	0
12/11/2017	02:48	Cookies	Public Order	0
12/11/2017	02:32	High Street North	Criminal Damage	0
13/11/2017	16:17	Asda	Bicycle Theft	0
13/11/2017	23:30	Katherine Drive	Littering	0
16/11/2017	21:53	High Street South	Theft of Vehicle	0
21/11/2017	11:36	Wilko's	Shoplifting	0
22/11/2017	13:15	High Street North	Bicycle Theft	0
23/11/2017	18:24	Lloyds Bank	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
23/11/2017	18:24	Ashton Square	Violent Offence	0
24/11/2017	04:03	High Street North	Public Order	0

24/11/2017	16:00	High Street South	Road Traffic Accident	0
26/11/2017	12:28	Court Drive	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
26/11/2017	14:08	Priory Gardens	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
29/11/2017	18:24	High Street South	Possession of Weapons	0
01/12/2017	03:15	Eleanor's Cross	Sexual Offence	0
02/12/2017	14:28	Skate Park	Littering	0
02/12/2017	15:03	Priory Gardens	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
05/12/2017	19:55	Asda	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
06/12/2017	18:32	The Quadrant	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
06/12/2017	19:09	The Quadrant	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
07/12/2017	21:43	High Street North	Robbery	0
08/12/2017	02:55	Asda Car Park	Other Crime	0
10/12/2017	07:33	West Street	Road Traffic Accident	0
13/12/2017	23:57	Mayfield Road	Possession of Weapons	0
16/12/2017	20:27	The Quadrant	Criminal Damage	0
16/12/2017	18:13	Grove Gardens	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
16/12/2017	20:27	The Quadrant	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
18/12/2017	07:12	The Quadrant	Robbery	0
19/12/2017	14:46	Church Street	Robbery	0
20/12/2017	21:34	Court Drive	Robbery	0
20/12/2017	21:41	Court Drive	Robbery	0
20/12/2017	01:53	High Street South	Robbery	0
22/12/2017	16:47	High Street South	Anti-Social Behaviour	0
27/12/2017	23:27	The Quadrant	Suspicious Activity	0
29/12/2017	18:11	High Street South	Drugs	0

There are currently 2 re-deployable cameras in Dunstable;

CBC-R2 located on A5/Westfield Road was installed in November 2016 due to nuisance bikes.

CBC-R5 located on Court Drive was installed in July 2016.

1 arrest was recorded as a result of CCTV monitoring of incidents in this quarter. CBC is progressing with its project to start the upgrade of public space CCTV in Central Bedfordshire.

2. REGENERATION AND BUSINESS

2.1 Investment and Employment

Levels of inward investment enquiries continue to be high, through engagement with intermediaries and the Be Central Bedfordshire portal (becentralbedfordshire.co.uk). There have been 148 enquiries into the council (33 in the last quarter) with the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area still the most commonly searched for. The @BeCentralBeds Twitter and [Linked In](#) accounts continue to drive traffic to the website and which is supported by an ongoing marketing campaign.

2.2 New Businesses

In the last quarter 3 businesses have moved into CBC owned units in Ashton Sq. The Cake House, The Workhouse and My Sewing Basket.

Information obtained from our Commercial Agent contacts suggest that deals are very close for 2 or 3 new businesses to move onto Woodside, although there is now a real shortage of mid-sized units available in the area and across the wider region in general.

The Business Support & Growth Fund continues to provide a range of support to inward investors or expanding business, through awards of up to £10k for business rates discounts, public protection training or pre-application planning advice. For more information on the Business Support & Growth Fund, please contact jeff.caiger@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

2.3 Strategic Business Visits

The Council continues to build on its programme of engagement with the area's significant employers. The main aim of the programme is to create economic growth and resilience in Central Bedfordshire and ensure the Council's growth and development strategies correspond with local business ambitions. This includes several significant employers in Dunstable.

The team continue this programme of engagement and offer support with premises, recruitment, skills, procurement opportunities, marketing and connections with other key partners. Recent visits in Dunstable include Mega Marble/Mega Glass and Ayzta.

Innovation Bridge

Innovation Bridge offers innovation support and funding to SME businesses to assist with their growth plans. There are several companies from Dunstable involved in the project. One Central Bedfordshire company that has benefited from the support is Dyslexia Matters. As a specialist training company, they received a grant of £5,800 to prepare and develop new course material. This will enable them to grow their business and reach a wider audience with their products. For more information about the Council's Innovation Bridge project and the case study visit:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/innovationbridge

2.4 Employment and Skills

The Council's Employment & Skills Service has continued to organise a number of training courses for local residents. The courses are either delivered by the Council's Direct Delivery team or through subcontractors, and are designed to help residents gain employment or develop their careers.

For the period August to December 2017, a total of 60 adults from Dunstable had taken a course. Of these 17 were already employed, 25 were unemployed and looking for work and 18 were not employed and not looking for work. At this point in the year, the figure is similar to the previous year.

Most of the residents who were not working had been unemployed for over two years. The courses are designed to increase 'employability'. This could be achieved by undertaking an IT course, Maths or English, Hospitality & Catering or a range of other courses.

2.5 High Street Vacancy Levels and Retail Sales

As part of the ongoing monitoring of the Economic Development Plan the Council is monitoring the level of high street vacancies in 'A' class premises in Central Bedfordshire's town centres.

According to Springboard, in collaboration with BRC, the national town centre vacancy rate was 9.3% in October 2017, down from 9.6% in August 2017.

Figures from ONS show that UK retail sales rose by 0.3% in October from September but despite this, retail sales were 0.3% lower than for October 2016.

Lisa Hooker, consumer markets leader at PwC said that many factors held back October sales:

Unseasonably warm weather and Storms Brian and Ophelia coinciding with half-term saw some shoppers temporarily stay away from the High Street, impacting footfall and sales of non-food items – particularly new season clothing lines.

The overall average vacancy rate across Central Bedfordshire town centres in November 2017, 4.68%, has decreased fractionally from August's 4.7%. Reductions have been seen in three town centres, Biggleswade, Leighton Buzzard and Sandy, with Sandy having the fewest vacant units since July 2013, and Biggleswade the fewest for a year. It is pleasing to note that Ampthill, Biggleswade, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Sandy and Shefford all have units that are currently under offer or being refurbished.

Table 7: Town centre vacancies % in Central Bedfordshire, November 2016 – November 2017

Town	Nov 16	Feb 17	May 17	Aug 17	Nov 17
Ampthill	0	2.2	2.2	3.3	4.4
Arlesey	0	0	0	0	0
Biggleswade	4.8	7.6	8.3	6.9	5.5
Dunstable	15.4	13.4	13.8	13.4	13.4
Flitwick	0	0	0	2.6	2.6
Houghton Regis	3.4	6.9	3.4	3.4	3.4
Leighton Buzzard	4.9	4.9	3.9	4.9	3.9
Sandy	7.5	7.5	9	4.5	3
Shefford	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	5
Stotfold	5.6	5.6	0	5.6	5.6
Average vacancy rate	4.41%	5.06%	4.31%	4.7%	4.68%

Source: Central Bedfordshire Council November 2017

2.4 High Street Improvement Scheme

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) continues to work in partnership with Dunstable Town Council on its engagement with our High Street Improvement Scheme (HSIS). Within the HSIS, 13 businesses in Dunstable are progressing. Signed contracts from the tenants/landlords, and their financial contribution are being paid. The project team have to allow time for the lead in time on bespoke materials, but with a view to be on site with the first businesses at the beginning of March.

2.5 Market Town Regeneration Fund (MTRF)

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) continues to work in partnership with Dunstable Town Council on its MTRF project.

3. LEISURE, LIBRARIES & COUNTRYSIDE

3.1 Dunstable Leisure Centre Redevelopment

Works to install the foundations are now advanced to the main library area and main entrance. These works will be completed by mid-January to all new buildings.

From the start of 2018 installation of the new steel frame will dominate our site works and in second half of January 18 we will see two mobile cranes operating simultaneously.

Wates apprentice, Théo Prince-Marrec, recruited from the Dunstable area, has shown great promise and has been rewarded with a “One to Watch” award in recognition of his progress.

Wates have visited Stopsley High School to assist with an apprentice open day and had a visit from Barnfield College students to inspect our progress. More visits are planned.



Demolition Complete to Pool and Sports Hall



Swimming Pool East Wall Removed

3.2 Dunstable Library

Looking forward - up coming activities

Harry Potter Night

National Harry Potter Night will be taking place on Thursday 1st February; we will be holding an evening event in the library with spells, potion making and much more.

Lancot School project

Last year we were very lucky to be asked to join in with a project that was run by Lancot Challenger Academy and The Grove Theatre. Every child at Lancot had the opportunity to write their own book, illustrate it and then their books would be published as well as being turned into an e-book, the school have created their own e-lending library with all of the children's books available to read. There was a celebration event at The Grove Theatre in November and we were asked to go along and talk about the importance of libraries and reading. We will be having the entire collection of children's books available at Dunstable Library for all members of the community to look at, read and share. Lancot will have a dedicated space in the library and we will be holding a launch event in the library soon.

Manga Project

We were very lucky to be awarded some money as part of our Culture Plus project to start a Manga project with young adults. A Manga Artist has been commissioned to work with us to run sessions in the library that will include: Costume design (Cosplay), Japanese Culture, drawing workshops etc. Our project will start in March this year.

Valentine's Book promotion

During February we will be running a Valentine's reading promotion, including Blind Date with a book, and if a customer reads 4 romantic novels during February they can complete a special Valentine's bookmark and enter our prize draw.

Half term

February half term will see a week of activities in the library including a Valentine's craft and a Chinese New Year activity.

Robotic Workshops

In April we will be holding a series of Robotic workshops in the library for children, there will be a 10 week session and children will have the opportunity to build Derby Cars, a Reptile Bot, Sumo Warrior and so much more. We will also be launching our new robotic/coding additions to the library including our Library Robot, and coding toys that teach little ones the beginnings of how to code.

Minecraft sessions

To follow on from our coding events we will also be launching our Minecraft sessions in the library which will be a mix of online games, Lego and other activities.

Dunstable Town Football Club collaboration

Our joint project with Dunstable Town Football Club will be continuing in the new year. We have 4 local schools wanting to come along and participate in local history sessions at the library, we will be helping the children to research the history of the football club using the resources that we have available in the library including the Dunstable Gazette that we hold going back to 1883. We have also launched a 'Match Attax' session in the library sponsored by the Club, and children can come along and collect free Panini packs and swap and play.

Regular groups:

Our regular groups continue to meet including our Work Club and Coffee Morning Club, and regular information sessions continue including Smokefree. Knit and Knatter is ever popular as is our volunteer who helps customers research their family history. Our regular Rhyme times, Storytimes and Crafty Times are continuing, as is our Lego, Mega Blocks and Chatterbooks clubs.

For more information visit: [Dunstable Library: Information - About Bedfordshire Libraries - Bedfordshire's Virtual Library](#)

3.3 Grove Theatre

To find out about upcoming events visit <https://www.grovetheatre.co.uk/events/>

Shelved! is a new project undertaken with Lancot Challenger Academy. Shelved came to fruition on 30th November at The Grove Theatre when we welcomed parents of our budding authors. CBC Library Service and Gareth Lloyd from BBC Three Counties and Stevenage Leisure all promoted the value of the project and the hard work put into this online project by the Lancot Challenger Academy.

Shelved is an online library created by the Lancot Challenge Academy to allow the children of the academy to publish their own personally written books. The event was created at The Grove Theatre to enable the children the opportunity to present their stories on stage to their parents. It was a well attended local event with very positive feedback. We hope that other schools and Academies in Central Bedfordshire will be interested in being involved in similar projects.

Contact Rhea.Yeung@SLL.co.uk for more information.



Kids out Christmas Party: On the 18 December we opened our doors to the wonderful charity Kids Out, who look after children in refuge. Some of the children have no gifts or Christmas celebration so each year we put on a Christmas party for them to support the charity. Kids Out bring presents for the children and we provide the venue, food and decorations to give them a break from the challenges of their daily life: <http://www.kidsout.org.uk>

Here is an extract from the feedback received from the Project Co-ordinator at Kids Out

"A mother sent us lovely feedback afterwards: "thank you so much for organising such a lovely party at The Grove Theatre this evening. It was perfect. The kids had a great time and we really appreciate everything you do to help us, and others in similar difficult situations"

Our aim is to provide disadvantaged children with positive and happy memories, these are exceptionally important during difficult periods in a child's life. Your event could not have been better; the staff witnessed children grinning from ear to ear, laughing and quite simply forgetting their problems. You have certainly provided them with memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you."

REPORT ON PANTOMIME SEASON

Panto Statistics Breakdown:

- *Sleeping Beauty is the Grove Theatre's highest grossing and ticket selling pantomime in its history of being open.*
- *We have increased numbers attending by 2711 tickets*
- *Occupancy closed on 43% last year – this year we closed on 72% - an increase of 29%*
- *Ticket sales are 300 ahead for next year's panto already.*

Closed Captioned & Audio Described Panto Performances: were hosted for audiences who had difficulty with vision or hearing. These are run each year and attended by groups who would not be able to get the full experience of panto were it not for this performance. Next year, based on the success of these, we are looking at a relaxed performance being added to the run to also compliment the offer.

Cast Visit to L&D Children's Ward: On the 15th December the Grove Theatre team took the cast to visit the children at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital and spread some Christmas



Cheer. This is a wonderful and humbling occasion, where we are able to meet true heroes who face their own battles daily.

Hospice at Home: We had the privilege of collecting for the Hospice at Home Volunteers Charity. They are a registered charity covering the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area. Their volunteers offer a free service that provides strength and encouragement at a difficult time. Offering practical help where it is needed to those suffering a life limiting illness and their family and carers. Over each performance we held a bucket collection at the end of the night which was written into the bows and we managed to raise **£9767.98**. To find out more visit <https://www.hospiceathomevolunteers.co.uk/>

Manshead Panto Workshop: On Monday 18th December we welcomed over 200 students from Manshead School to join us for a 2 hour workshop where they partook in dance, drama and singing based activities centred on the history of Panto and the classic disciplines found within it. This was well received by the teachers and students after a slightly challenging start to the session by a few students. For more information visit: [Grove Theatre](#)

3.4 Active Lifestyles

Burnt Out Cars – Sewell Cutting: Whilst this is not strictly within the joint committee area, the Countryside team are working to remove this with assistance from the Police and CBC waste team. Work is in the pipeline to better prevent issues of this nature.

Dunstable Downs: Volunteers continue to be involved regarding ‘scrub’ clearing on a rotational programme around the site, this valuable exercise assists recovering the acid grassland for what the ‘Downs’ is known for regarding its biodiversity and national importance. By clearing scrub, enable the grassland to be grassed which in the longer term helps produce the patches for Orchids and wild flowers for the butterflies.

Events and activities

12-14 February 9.30-15.30	Planetarium	Explore the universe and take a guided tour across the skies to find out more about the mythology behind the stars in a stunning indoor planetarium. Pre booking required. Runs every 30 minutes.
13 February 18:00 – 20:00	Family Stargazing Night	Take an adventure across the night sky. Following huge demand for our stargazing nights, we will be welcoming Dark Sky Wales and their incredible indoor planetarium
14 February 19:00 – 21:00	Stargazing Valentines Night	Planetarium ticket, space talk, astronomers, and pre-drink & stargazing warmers
28/29 July	Kite Festival	Note the date ready to enjoy the fantastic atmosphere as you’re bedazzled by the professional kite team’s show stopping displays.

For more information visit <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dunstable-downs-and-whipsnade-estate/whats-on>

CREASEY PARK FOOTBALL CENTRE

CBC Leisure Contracts staff have been working with Dunstable Town Council on improvements at Creasey Park. CBC contributed towards additional kitchen equipment and enhancement to CCTV equipment to improve security.

Physical Activity

The Active Lifestyles team continues to deliver weekly physical activity sessions at Priory View in Dunstable. Working closely with Oomph Wellness, our instructor delivers fun, energising activities that see both residents and non-residents take part in activities such as seated exercise, boccia, bowls and strength and flexibility exercises.

The sessions enable people to exercise regularly which not only benefits them in their everyday lives by promoting independence, but it also allows them to meet people and socialise. These sessions among others help to improve the physical, mental and

emotional wellbeing of older adults within the community and provide an opportunity to get active and continue to lead a healthy lifestyle.

You can see a sample of the impact the activities have by watching [this short video](#).

4. HIGHWAYS

4.1 Resilient Highways consultation

The resilient Highways network has been agreed and is available on the council's website <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/council/consultations/resilient-highways/overview.aspx>

4.2 Winter Weather

Our Highways winter weather team have been busy over the past couple of months, particularly at the beginning of December when we had the snowy spell of weather.

In five snowy days the gritting team went out 12 times salting a total off more than 3,300 miles.

The gritting team will continue to be on standby 24/7 until the end of March.

You can receive daily gritting updates by following our highways twitter account @CBC_Highways or by signing up to our winter weather email alerts at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/updates.

4.3 Gully cleaning

Central Bedfordshire Council's Highways team are continuing a major gully cleaning scheme and will continue to clear gullies in Dunstable. The scheme started at the end of the summer and is due to continue into the spring.

You can keep up-to-date with the works by following us on Twitter @CBC_Highways

4.4 Resurfacing Plan online

The council's resurfacing plan is now online, providing details of which roads will be resurfaced. Dates are still to be confirmed but the roads from Dunstable in the plan are:

- Buttercup Close
- Garden Road
- Cemetery Lane
- London Road

You can take a look at the full list on our website, here:
<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/transport/service/about.aspx>

4.5 Report Issues Online

Our Highways team would like to remind people to report any issues they see on the roads online, via their website.

You can report most highways problems online including [potholes, faulty streetlights, damaged pavements, faulty traffic lights, drainage problems, damaged signs and much more.

If you report a problem online your report will go straight to an engineer and you will also be given a unique tracking number so that you can keep up-to-date with your report.

You can report issues online by visiting www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/reportit

4.6 Parking and Enforcement

From 1st Oct 2017 – 31st Dec 2017:

- 1483 PCN's were issued in Dunstable and
- 2996 visits were made to all areas in Dunstable.

The following works have been completed in Dunstable:

Verey Road, Dunstable	Whole road (both sides) Double yellow lines need repainting
Arenson Way, Dunstable	Whole road (Winvic side) Double yellow lines need repainting
High Street North, Dunstable	Double yellow lines o/s Flint Court/junction of Union Street need repainting
Ennerdale Avenue, Dunstable	O/s house no. 31. Needs a single yellow line sign (no waiting Mon-Fri 10am – 11am) Post already in place
Vernon Place, Dunstable	Between fish & chip shop and tandoori takeaway. Limited waiting (30 mins, no return 1 hr) sign and post needed

The following works are currently in progress:

Luton Road, slip road, near to Easton Ave	Whole road (both sides) needs new no waiting signs, only one there at the moment
Westfield Road opp Westfield Road Carp Park	Single Yellow Lines need repainting o/s house no. 2 to the entrance to the Council Offices
Leighton Court	School markings need repainting
Britain Street	School markings need repainting

Looking back

Key highlights:

Fly-tips outside 63 High Street South have dropped significantly following education letters and visit to the residents. Also, behind 6-10 Church Street, a large amount of waste was removed and we are working with the Environmental Protection Team and the Public Protection Teams to keep on top of the problems here.

Leaf fall season progressed without any major problems and was handled well. Christmas collections went without issue apart from a slight suspension due to the snow fall.

All rural verge cutting is now finished, verges were litter picked, good work by the contractors with only a slight delay to the schedule and no significant problems.

Key issues:

Dog warden patrols for dog fouling have been carried out in: Bennetts Recreation Ground, Frenches Avenue, Frenches Avenue Recreation Ground, Ridgeway Avenue, Spoundell, Tottenhoe Road and Wingate Road.

Looking forward

Household garden waste collection suspended for the winter in Central Bedfordshire

Kerbside collection of household garden waste will be suspended across Central Bedfordshire over the winter months. The collections will be suspended from Monday, 4 December 2017 until Friday 2, March 2018 inclusive. Residents are encouraged to check their last garden waste collection date for their area, which will be either the week commencing Monday 20 or Monday 27 November, and which can be found on the council's website.

The decision to stop the kerbside collection service during the quietest time of the year for garden waste was made as part of the council's financial planning process, and comes as a result of Government funding cuts. Council tax alone doesn't raise enough to cover all the services the council provides, and so the council focuses on delivering services that meet the periods of high demand, in this case restricting garden waste collections to during the growing season.

During the suspension, garden waste can still be recycled at the council's recently improved Household Waste Recycling Centres. Alternatively, residents with enough

space in their gardens are encouraged to compost at home: All Central Bedfordshire residents are eligible for a discount on compost bins and accessories under a council scheme to encourage composting.

Cllr Budge Wells, Deputy Executive Member for Community Services at Central Bedfordshire Council, said: "During the winter season up to 80% less garden waste is collected compared to spring and summer, yet if we don't suspend the service then collection vehicles will still visit all our residential properties, incurring the associated costs to taxpayers. We know that the free garden waste kerbside collection service is important to our residents, and after this short break we will resume this service in 2018 during the months when there is a need for it again."

For more information about changes to your garden waste collection please visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/garden-waste

Thorn Turn

The new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Thorn Turn will open in Spring 2018. It will be a simple change over – Frenches Avenue in Dunstable will close on a Sunday at 5pm and Thorn Turn will open on the Monday. The HWRC is a modern, split level design following on from the successful redevelopment of our other three sites at Ampthill, Biggleswade and Leighton Buzzard. Signage will be in place to direct visitors to the new site. The Thorn Turn site will also include a ReUse Shop, a trade waste site, a Highways Depot and a Passenger Transport Depot, further details will be made public once the opening date is confirmed.

6. SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING

6.1 During 2017 we have delivered a number of Employment support events / Jobs fairs across Dunstable enabling unemployed tenants and residents to meet local employers and training organisations. We were supported by the Luton and Leighton Buzzard Job centres who in turn promoted the events to their Dunstable clients. These events took place at the Dunstable Methodist Church, Downside Children's centre and the Downside Community centre being attended by a total of 408 people. Feedback suggests that 30% of attendees are typically able to find a suitable employment related training course or are invited by local employers to make further contact

7. SCHOOLS

7.1 School Admissions

The closing dates for children starting or transferring schools in September 2018 applications have now closed. The School Admissions Team are currently processing all applications received by the closing dates and will notify parents of the outcome the national offer days; on 1 March 2018 for transfer to secondary or upper school and 16 April 2018 for those transferring to middle school or starting school for the first time (Reception Year).

Parents who have not yet applied can still make an application, which will be processed in the late allocations in the spring.

7.2 School Organisation & Capital Planning

We continue to monitor and adjust the forecast for school places required in the towns as a result of the development north of Houghton Regis and the updated version of the School Organisation Plan (2017 – 2022) which is available on our website [here](#).

Central Bedfordshire is on the verge of significant growth over the next 15 -20 years as illustrated in the draft Local Plan. The plan has been updated following consultation before Christmas and further consultation is taking place, with the plan proposing up to 20,000 new homes as well as the creation of approx. 24,000 jobs. Our School Organisation Plan is already forecasting significant pupil growth over the next five years so we are seeking to develop a more strategic, long term plan to map out how we best meet this growth in terms of school expansions, new school requirements or any other changes, to align our educational provision with the growth identified in our local plan. This will include dialogue with all schools over the next few months to seek to coordinate how we meet this growth to ensure the best possible educational outcomes for children.

8. YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES

The careers and employment event, entitled 'Find your Future', took place in 'The Incuba', Dunstable on Thursday, 2nd November. The event attracted large numbers of school groups and young people during the day and parents/carers and adults during the evening. More than 50 organisations exhibited or presented workshop sessions during the day and evening.

Throughout the Autumn term (September to December), the Youth Support Service were involved with the tracking, recording and providing information and guidance to all young people aged 16 or 17, residing within the Central Bedfordshire area, to ensure that they achieved a suitable destination in Education, Employment, or Training (EET). This process is called the "Activity Survey".

Headline figures

At the end of December 2017, 92% of young people with the academic age of 16 or 17 were in education, employment or training.

Headline Figures (End of December 2017) for Central Bedfordshire		
Cohort	Number of young people recorded	Positive destinations (EET)
2017 Cohort (16 year olds/Year 12)	2,842	2,671 (94%)
2016 Cohort (17 year olds/Year 13)	2,839	2,545 (90%)

Combined 2016/2017 cohort	5,681	5,216 (92%)
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The above figures are based only on the data stored within the Youth Service's CCIS database and since tracking is an on-going process, the numbers will fluctuate as information is received and recorded.

Update on NEETs within the wider Central Bedfordshire area

As of the end of December, there were a total of 5,681 young people aged between 16 and 17 (years 12 and 13) within the Central Bedfordshire, of which, the destination of 5,367 were known. The service is attempting to contact the remaining young people via email, SMS, letter and, if needed, a home visit. 20 young people have refused to provide or have their destination shared.

Within this age range, 151 (2.66%) were reported to have a NEET status and 5,216 (92%) recorded as being in 'Education, Employment or Training' (EET). The proportion of young people, in the current year 12 'In Learning' is 93% and for the year 13 is 87%.

NEET Overview for Dunstable

Headline Figures for Dunstable (End of December 2017)			
Total YPs in area	819		
EET	770	94.1%	
NEET	26	3.2%	5.9%
Unknown	23	2.9%	

Characteristics of the NEET Group in Dunstable

The following information provides an overview of the characteristics of the current NEET group. The table includes figures for two other areas enabling a comparison to be made if required.

(1) Area

Ward	Total number of YPs in the Year 12-13 cohort	Total number of YPs recorded as NEET	% of NEET within ward
Dunstable-Central	81	2	2.47%
Dunstable-Icknield	171	3	1.76%
Dunstable-Manshead	145	8	5.52%
Dunstable-Northfields	226	8	3.54%
Dunstable-Watling	196	5	2.56%
Total	819	26	3.17%

(2) Gender

Gender	Dunstable		Leighton Buzzard		Houghton Regis	
Male	16	(61.6%)	5	(31.3%)	17	(56.7%)
Female	10	(38.5%)	11	(68.8%)	13	(43.4%)
Total	26		16		30	

(3) Age

Actual Age (Year 12 & 13)	Dunstable		Leighton Buzzard		Houghton Regis	
16	6	(23.1%)	3	(18.8%)	14	(46.7%)
17	13	(50%)	8	(50%)	12	(40%)
18	7	(27%)	5	(31.3%)	4	(13.4%)
Total	26		16		30	

(4) Time

Length of Time NEET	Dunstable		Leighton Buzzard		Houghton Regis	
Less than 3 months	14	(53.9%)	3	(18.8%)	14	(46.7%)
3 - 6 months	7	(27%)	8	(50%)	12	(40%)
6+ months	5	(19.3%)	5	(31.3%)	4	(13.4%)
Total	26		16		30	

(5) NEET Status

Status	Dunstable		Leighton Buzzard		Houghton Regis	
Seeking Employment or Training	22	(84.7%)	10	(62.5%)	25	(83.4%)
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances'	4	(15.4%)	6	(37.5%)	5	(16.7%)
Total	26		16		30	

(6) Unknown Destinations

Destinations are only made 'Unknown' when the service has attempted at least 3 telephone calls; including 1 during the evening, letter, email, text message, Facebook search, a home visit during the day, as well as cross referencing with all other available resources.

Unknown Destinations	Dunstable		Leighton Buzzard		Houghton Regis	
Refused Information	1	(0.2%)	0	(0%)	2	(0.5%)
Cannot be Contacted	5	(0.7%)	11	(1.4%)	2	(0.5%)
Unknown / Left Area	17	(2.1%)	21	(2.5%)	6	(1.4%)
Totals	23		32		10	

Within the Dunstable area there are still 8 young people that are classed as 'Year 11 Transition'. These are young people that have left compulsory education at the end of the last academic year and whose current destination has not been confirmed.

Next Steps

The Youth Support Service together with 4YP, will continue with their efforts to find the destinations of all young people without a registered positive destination as part of the 'Activity Survey' process.

The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which will supersede the current Data Protection Act 1998 in May 2018 will have an impact on the data held by the service and the effects of these changes are being investigated to determine the impact that it will have on the service's tracking and reporting processes. The new regulations will require consent to be an active process, rather than the current passive acceptance.

9. PUBLIC HEALTH

Specific Public Health delivered and commissioned interventions taking place in Dunstable include:

9.1 NHS Health Checks

The NHS Health Check programme aims to prevent heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and kidney disease, and raise awareness of dementia, both across the population and within high risk and vulnerable groups. NHS Health Checks are being delivered through 8 of the 9 Chiltern Vale GP Practices to eligible residents, aged 40-74 years.

The latest data (April –November 2017) shows that 3,568 patients registered with Chiltern Vale GPs (we are not able to specify actual residents of Dunstable) were offered an NHS Health Check and 1539 were completed; this equates to 125% of target delivery, and demonstrates excellent take up by Chiltern Vale patients.

Following the completed Health Checks within this period, 15 people were newly diagnosed with hypertension, 17 were newly prescribed statins and 5 were newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.

9.2 Stop Smoking Service

CBC residents can access Stop Smoking services through Level 2 support from their GP practice and level 3 support directly from the CBC Team, usually via the Stop Smoking line. In the latest reporting period (April – October 2017) 314 of the 315 Chiltern Vale patients who attended a service set a 'quit date'. 220 were recorded as having quit at four weeks, which equates to 111% of the target for the period. This is excellent performance and great news for smokers who are ready to quit in Chiltern Vale.

10.PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

10.1 Volunteering

Cheering Volunteering – Many thanks to Biffa, Pro Logis, Aragon, Jeakins Weir and Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue who are sponsoring Cheering Volunteering 2018.

Nominations opened on **Monday, 8 January 2018** and you can nominate people or groups for six different awards, including a new category for 2018: Sports volunteer.

Nominate a volunteer online >>

The full list of award categories is:

- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Volunteer of the year
- Volunteer Group of the Year
- Outstanding Contribution
- Lifetime Achievement
- Sports Volunteer of the Year

There is also a Panel's Choice Award, chosen by the judging panel from all entries. Entries will close at 12pm on Monday, 2 April 2018.

You can also apply to the Inspiring Volunteering grant scheme.

Apply for a grant online >>

There's a total funding pot of £5,000 available for projects which encourage volunteering or kick-start new activities involving volunteers.

Grant awards will be made from a minimum of £100 to a maximum of £1,000. Applications for funding will close at 12pm on Monday, 2 April 2018.

10.2 S106 Community Facilities

Four applications have been received since the grant scheme was launched earlier this year. Applications can now be submitted on line.

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/planning/obligations/dunstable-leighton-s106.aspx>

Applications have been received from:

- LUBYA have requested £5,000 for new windows. *Approved*

- The Priory Church of St Peters initially requested 'as much as possible' towards a £500,000 regeneration project. Officers have met with the applicant to refine their application , an amended (more specific application) has been received for £15,000 towards the purchase of new chairs enabling the church to be used by and for a wide range of community activities.
- Beecroft Community Centre £584. Towards essential electrical works to obtain a fixed wiring certificate. CBC Assets confirm this is a responsibility of the leaseholder.
- Downside Community Centre £25,000 towards internal improvements and refurbishment of toilet facilities and the kitchen.

The Community Facilities Fund Panel will meet shortly to consider the applications. The total amount requested is £45,584 and exceeds the monies available by £20,689

11. PUBLIC PROTECTION

A Noise Abatement Notice was served on The Bank under s.80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, following complaints about the level of noise arising from the premises. We have met with the owners and are awaiting notifications they have carried out works to mitigate the noise affecting the resident concerned who lives in the vicinity of the premises. The case is ongoing and awaiting an update from Planning

We continue to deal with noise issues in relation to Boxofitness at Katherine Drive. We currently understand that the owners may be looking to move their premises elsewhere, but are awaiting more tangible confirmation that this is going to happen. Case is ongoing

The First and Last Public House - the squatters have gone and the building is secure,