

Dunstable Town Council
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DUNSTABLE
TOWN COUNCIL

Your Ref
Our Ref: DA/CB/C22

Date: 15 September 2017

Dear Colleague

Could you please note that a meeting of Dunstable Joint Committee will be held on **Thursday 21 September 2017 at 7.00 pm** at Watling House, High Street North, Dunstable when the following business will be transacted.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of the meeting of the Dunstable Joint Committee held on Thursday 22 June 2017 (previously circulated).
3. Specific Declarations of Interest.
4. Chairman's Announcements.
5. Public Question Time (maximum 15 minutes).
6. Reports from co-opted or outside bodies.
 - Priory Church 20:20 Vision (see page 1).
7. Dunstable Joint Committee Action Plan 2017 - report of the Town Centre Manager (see page 2).
8. Questions on Central Bedfordshire Council – update on services (see page 9).

Yours faithfully

David Ashlee
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

To: **Members of Dunstable Joint Committee**

Central Bedfordshire Council

Councillors John Chatterley, Eugene Ghent, Carole Hegley (Chairman), Peter Hollick and Nigel Young.

Dunstable Town Council

Councillors Liz Jones, John Kane, Gloria Martin, Pat Staples and Andy Whayman.

Co-opted Advisors:

Chairman, Dunstable Licensees Association

Mr H Garrod, Promoting Dunstable

Dunstable Market Representative

Business Development Manager, Asda

Mr B Groves, Central Bedfordshire College

Quadrant Shopping Centre Manager

Vacancy Dunstable Business Forum

Grove Theatre

ViViane Vayssieres

Sharon Knott, DLDD Trust

John Gelder, Voluntary and Community Action

Sharon Warboys, Town Centre Champion

Cllr A Sparrow, Dunstable In Bloom

Dunstable Networking Group

Other attendees:

Bedfordshire Police

Other

Town and Central Bedfordshire Councillors for information

Priory Church 2020 Vision

Dunstable's ancient Priory Church has been restored and re-ordered on numerous occasions over the centuries. Our Georgian benefactors carried out major works on the building, as did the Victorians in the 1870s. The wood-block floor and the tiles date from this time, the radiators and pipes were installed in the 1930s, and the current chairs were purchased in the early 1950s. The most recent improvement was earlier this century when the glass porch, the kitchen and toilet were installed.

We anticipate another renewal in the year 2020. The current church floor contains so many trip hazards that it is not really suitable for concerts and other civic events. The Vision is to remove the wooden block floor, the tiles, the radiators and the central heating pipes and to replace them with under-floor heating, York paving and new stackable chairs. This will make the space more versatile for both church services and civic events.

The Vision was launched, in the church, on Wednesday 7th June in the evening. Members of the Town Council attended, along with the organising committee and other invited guests. Music was provided by three groups from our choirs and refreshments by students from the College. There was a video loop of what the interior would look like and the Rector, Revd. Richard Andrews, gave a short talk which outlined the history of the building, the Vision of renewal and the process by which this will come about. The work will take place in the year 2020. The church will be shut for several months and services will be held in the Church Hall.

We are fortunate in having the services of a retired fund raiser, who will use her contacts to raise much of the money required for this huge project. There will also be opportunities for the congregation, the townspeople, businesses and organisations of Dunstable to contribute towards the cost of this amazing project.

One of the important out-comes of the launch is that local groups and individuals will know about the Vision and support it in any way they can. The Priory has always played an important part in the life of our town. The Vision will ensure that this ancient church continues to be an asset to Dunstable and its community in the years to come.

Hugh Garrod

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

DUNSTABLE JOINT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2017

DUNSTABLE JOINT COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Purpose of report: - For Information

1. ACTION RECOMMENDED

That Members of the Committee note progress to date with the implementation of the agreed action plan for 2017/18.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Following the March meeting of the Committee at which priorities were agreed for 2017/18, the Action Plan was refreshed and is attached at appendix 1 along with updates on any further progress and any expenditure. Further details on some of the ongoing actions is given below at paragraph 3.

3. UPDATE ON TOWN ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES

3.1 **Synthetic Ice Rink**

3.1.1 As reported at the last meeting of the Committee, quotations were sought from a total of 8 synthetic rink providers to provide a rink holding a minimum of 35 skaters to be located on The Square from Friday 15 December to Thursday 21 December 2017. Hours of operation were requested as 10.00 am to 4.00 pm each day as a minimum with an additional evening opening until 8.00 pm on Friday 15 December. Companies were asked to quote for a turn-key service including staffing and were also asked what additional equipment they could provide that would enhance the attraction.

3.1.2 A total of 6 companies returned quotations, offering rinks in various sizes with a variety of opening hours, staffing provision and additional equipment.

3.1.3 Further to the quotation process, an order has been raised in the sum of £10,000 for I-SK8 to provide the rink and additions to build on the 2016 attraction as follows:

- 20m x 10 m Synthetic Ice Rink with barriers installed and dismantled (holding approximately 70 skaters).
- Rink to operate from 11.00 am to 7.00 pm from 15 to 21 December 2017.
- Ice Skates.
- Ice Skate Distribution Point.
- Seating for Skate Changing area.
- Protective Floor Coverings.

- Rubber Matting.
- Music.
- Snow Machine.
- Blue Tint Floodlights.
- Cleaning Machine.
- Glide Spray Unit.
- Fully Trained and Insured Ice Rink Personnel.

3.1.4 Tickets will be available to purchase in advance via the Dunstable Town Council website and will also be able to be purchased on site during the week the rink is in operation.

3.1.5 Promotion will begin shortly and will include the Town Council's website, social media and Talk of the Town Magazine as well as inclusion on any Christmas promotional material and through press releases.

3.2 Lighting Finale to the Christmas Tree Carols and Torchlight Procession

3.2.1 Officers have contacted a total of 7 companies to request a quotation to provide a lighting finale to the Christmas Tree Carols and Torchlight event on 1 December 2017, following the successful finale in 2016.

3.2.2 Companies have been asked to provide a quotation to provide a 10 minute lighting and pyrotechnic finale to music, including the provision of a full PA and liaison with local businesses and the Methodist Church. Each company was given the maximum budget of £6,500 and asked to detail what they would provide for the sum.

3.2.3 Quotations are still awaited and Members will be updated once these have been received. One company however has confirmed they will be unable to provide the finale.

3.3 Shop Front Accreditation Scheme

3.3.1 The Dunstable Joint Committee agreed to promote the Shop Front Accreditation Scheme for 2017, following a successful launch of this initiative in 2016.

3.3.2 A total of 24 town centre businesses signed up this year to take part in the scheme to have their frontages judged on criteria including cleanliness, maintenance, display and signage.

3.3.3 The judging took place on the afternoon of Wednesday 16 August 2017 with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Dunstable Joint Committee and Mayor of Dunstable visiting each premises in turn. If businesses met the minimum criteria they were awarded Bronze accreditation with those exceeding the criteria having the potential to be awarded Silver, or gold with the results as follows:

GOLD

Big Stuff / Specsavers / Belvoir / Gents Barbering / Noah's Ark / Christian Books / Lisa Roberts Catering / The Dressmaker / Brown & Wenman / Weld-Air Supplies Ltd

SILVER Plus

Priory House / Hair Boutique / Hairs & Graces / Heads Up

SILVER

Suitcase Travel / Deakin-White / PC Help Centre / Man's World / Lenwell / Household / The Dunstable Foot Clinic / Spicer & Co

BRONZE Plus

Chez Jerome / The Sun Trap

- 3.3.4 Participating businesses have been advised of the results and will now be revisited to be awarded certification and a window sticker to display at their premises. It is hoped to build on the scheme for 2018 and add additional categories to encourage greater business participation, from the night time economy for example.

4. TOWN CENTRE VACANCY RATES

- 4.1 The vacancy rates to the end of June 2017 are provided below. The count will be undertaken again at the end September 2017.
- 4.2 The town centre area used for the survey includes properties in High Street North up to Regent Street, High Street South to Friars Walk (excluding Thames Industrial Estate), Church Street up to and including Aldi and West Street up to the Police Station/St Mary's Gate.
- 4.3 Eleanor's Cross, Ashton Square, Albion Street, The Quadrant and Grove Park (including Asda) have been included but rates can be calculated with or without these properties.
- 4.4 These figures have been shared with Central Bedfordshire Council officers and more detail of the vacancy rates across Central Bedfordshire Council is given at agenda item 8.

No. Units	No. Vacant Units	% Vacant Units	Previous %
253	33 vacant (+ 4 are under development for tenant)	13.04%	13.44% (Figure at March 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	28 vacant (+4 are under development for tenant)	13.33%	13.81% (Figure at March 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 March 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.

5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 These are inherent to this report.

6. **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Dunstable Joint Committee Action Plan June 2017/18

Appendix 2 - Dunstable Joint Committee Christmas Action Plan 2017

7. **AUTHOR**

7.1 Clare Brett – Town Centre Manager
E-mail – clare.brett@dunstable.gov.uk

Action	Progress	Responsible Officer/Authority	Funding	Budget update
Additional lighting in Middle Row	Update to be provided by CBC.	CBC	£3,000 DJC 17/18 Budget	None to date
Refurbishment of the Dunstable War Memorial	A Working Group has been formed from DTC Grounds and Environmental Services Committee along with representatives of partner organisations and the Head of Grounds and Environmental Services. A project brief has been written and approved by the Working Group. The memorial has been surveyed (structural survey) and is stable. A pre-application questionnaire has been sent to the War Memorial Trust for advice on funding. Members will be kept updated.	Friends of Priory House and Gardens/DTC	£2,000 DJC 17/18 Budget and external funding.	None to date
Christmas Promotions	Ice Rink has been booked and quotes for the Christmas Tree Carols and Torchlight Finale are awaited. An update on the Action Plan for the Christmas promotions is at appendix 2. Further information is provided at report items 3.1 and 3.2.	Town Centre Manager/Events & Marketing Officer, DTC	£15,000 DJC Budget 17/18	£10,000 spent on the synthetic Rink.
The Big Lunch	ACTION COMPLETED FOR 2017	Youth and Community Manager DTC	£500 DJC plus DTC Budget and external funding.	Funds expended.
Annual Football Survey	The annual survey has been booked to take place over the first weekend in March 2018. No further update until the survey has taken place.	Town Centre Manager DTC	£650 DJC Budget	£650 Spent (order raised for March 2018).
Marketing/Banners/Flags	Action on hold. Funds have been set aside by the Committee to refurbish the existing banners in Court Drive and to investigate extending the scheme into other areas of the town centre. This will be investigated further in conjunction with works on the A5, post detrunking.	DTC/CBC	£1,500 DJC 16/17 Budget	£1,500 allocated

<p>Shop Front Accreditation Scheme</p>	<p>ACTION COMPLETED FOR 2017 A total of 24 businesses took part in this years scheme. The judging was undertaken by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Mayor on 16 August 2017. Awards will be distributed to the accredited businesses and businesses will receive a window sticker and certificate to display at their premises.</p>	<p>Town Centre Manager DTC</p>	<p>£1,000 DJC 16/17 Budget</p>	<p>£310 spent, underspend of £690</p>
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Action	Deadline	Progress	Responsible Officer/Authority	Funding	Budget update
Facilitate the provision of a synthetic ice Rink.	Ice rink to be booked by end July.	A total of 8 companies were contact to quote to provide the rink. iSK8 Cool Attractions will be providing and staffing the synthetic rink from 15-21 December 2017. Further information is given at report item 3.1.	Town Centre Manager/Events & Marketing Officer DTC	£10,000 DJC Budget 2017/18	£10,000 spent
Facilitate the provision of a lighting finale to the Christmas Tree carols and Torchlight Event.	Quotes to come in by end of July and decision to be taken on provider by end August.	The initial deadline for the quotes has been extended. A total of 7 companies were asked to provide quotes for the finale and are currently awaited. Members will be kept updated.	Town Centre Manager/Events & Marketing Officer DTC	£6,500 DJC 17/18	None to date
Co-ordinate a Christmas in Dunstable promotional leaflet.	Leaflet to be distributed from beginning November 17. Copy deadline end October to allow for design.	At the June Committee meeting it was agreed: ACTION: that the Chairman form a Christmas sub-committee with interested parties. (Minute 27. Dunstable Joint Committee, Thursday 22 June 2017).	To be advised	£2,266 DJC Budget 2017/18	None to date
Hold a Christmas Themed Market as part of the programme of Themed markets for 2017.	The Themed Market will take place on Saturday 9 December 2017. Deadline for stalls Wednesday 6 December 17.	The Christmas Themed Market will take place on Saturday 9 December 2017 alongside the general, outdoor market. The Themed Market is the last in the programme that began in April and trading will take place in the Ashton Square area between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm. The market is being promoted along with the rest of the programme. 6 stalls have already been booked in for the December event and bookings will be taken up until the Wednesday before the event. There will also be a Creative Craft Market on the following Saturday 16 December, that will coincide with the Synthetic Ice Rink.	Town Centre Manager/Market Officer DTC	£2,500 DTC Market Marketing Budget 17/18 (budget is for all market marketing)	Event is being promoted using the market marketing budget throughout the year.
Mistletoe Magic	Reindeer and grotto have been booked.	Priory House event running for the second year. Event will take place Saturday 9 December, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and will include real reindeer, Grotto and arts and crafts activities. Christmas Afternoon Teas will be available and Christmas hampers.	Priory House Manager	£2,200 DTC Priory House Events Budget	Reindeer and grotto have been booked.

DUNSTABLE JOINT COMMITTEE**21 September 2017****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 April – 30th June 2017:

- 2 case files submitted to Legal for fly-tipping;
- 2 Community Protection Notice Warnings issued for anti-social behaviour;
- 5 Fixed Penalty Notices – 3 for littering and 2 for small scale fly-tipping.

Cases opened:

Littering – 5
 Dog barking – 1
 Dog fouling – 1
 Fly-tipping – 30
 Nuisance Neighbours – 5
 Pollution - Noise – 18
 Pollution – Odour - 6
 Rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour – 2
 Street drinking – 1
 Vehicle nuisance – 2
 Waste carrying - 1

Total = 72 cases

Summary of recorded CCTV Incidents, Dunstable - 1st April to 30th June 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 and Time	Type	Location	Description	Arrests
2.4.2017 04:18	Drink driving	Asda car park	1 male arrested for drink driving, 2 males arrested for obstruction	3

7.4.2017 00:20	Assault	Cookies	Assault in the smoking area of Cookies	0
8.4.2017 04:06	Attempted murder	High Street North	Vehicle driven at a group of people outside the Nags Head, one male badly injured	1
11.4.2017 15:03	Miscellaneous	The Quadrant	Female pushed over and hit her head, ambulance attended	0
13.4.2017 10:33	Attempted theft	Asda	Male and female with a child tried to walk out of Asda with a trolley full of shopping	0
13.4.2017 22:14	Bicycle theft	Parklands	Male involved in a bicycle theft	0
13.4.2017 10:40	Attempted theft	Church Street	Male and female with a child who tried to shoplift from Asda are driving towards Sainsbury's - alerted Sainsbury's	0
14.4.2017 03:40	Assault	Grove Gardens	Assault outside Cookies	1
15.4.2017 04:50	Grievous bodily harm	Court Drive	Male stabbed in the leg	1
16.4.2017 17:20	Offensive weapon	White Lion Retail Park	Male stabbed 3 times in KFC drive thru	0
16.4.2017 21:17	Drug related	Asda car park	2 males taking drugs. Alerted Police by phone and sent footage via Police HQ monitor – Police unable to attend at this time	0
16.4.2017 20:00	Suspicious activity	Watling House	Transit van in and out of council car park all night.	0
21.4.2017 14:00	Abduction	Mayfield Road	4 year old girl abducted by her father	0

23.4.2017 02:45	Sexual assault	High Street North	Female was sexually assaulted while sitting on a wall outside of The Ivory Lounge	0
27.4.2017 17:32	Theft/shoplifting	Ashton Square	Well known male shoplifting from Farm Foods	0
30.4.2017 00:17	Assault	Vernon Place	Males assaulted in The Sugar Loaf, both males seen arguing afterwards in Vernon Place	0
3.5.2017 14:41	Drug related	Skate Park	4 males seen with a large bag of drugs - alerted Police by phone and via HQ Police monitor – Police unable to attend at this time	0
4.5.2017 12:04	Bicycle theft	Dunstable Leisure Centre	2 males take a bicycle from the bicycle rack	0
9.5.2017 13:24	Shoplifting	High Street South	2 males running out of Cash Converters after taking items from the shop	0
9.5.2017 13:05	Theft	Asda car park	Female takes a necklace from a man's neck in Asda car park.	0
9.5.2017 13:08	Theft	Re-deployable CBC R2 (A5)	Vehicle seen with a female passenger who stole a necklace from a male in Asda car park.	0
9.;5.2017 22:15	Criminal damage	High Street South	Possible vehicle involved in throwing paint stripper over another vehicle in Friars Walk	0
13.5.2017 20:33	Robbery	Dunstable/Houghton Regis areas	4 males involved in a robbery	0
25.5.2017 17:14	Drug related	Skate Park	Male in the skate park with a large bag of drugs. Phoned the Police and sent via HQ monitor – Police unable to respond at this time	0
28.5.2017	Dunstable	Burglary	2 males on the roof of	0

04:35	Leisure Centre		the Leisure Centre	
2.6.2017 11:43	Theft	High Street North	Elderly lady had purse stolen (possibly in HSN) - bank card was used in Sainsbury's	0
3.6.2017 21:37	Vernon Place	Burglary	3 males break into the old Social Services building	0
4.6.2017 12:51	White Lion Retail Park	Personal injury	Female claims she fell over in the WLRP	0
7.6.2017 23:30	Theft	Priory View CAM 26	Plants on roof terrace of building being destroyed or taken.	0
11.6.2017 00:35	Assault	High Street North	Males assaulted outside The Crown	0
15.6.2017 8:30	Intel	Priory Gardens	Known street drinker drinking in Priory Gardens	0
16.6.2017 19:33	Theft	Priory view CAM 3 AND 4	Theft of runner beans	0
17.6.2017 02:50	Rape	High Street North	Female with a male who was raped in Bennetts Rec.	0
17.6.2017 03:00	Rape	Re-deployable CBC R3 (Bennetts Rec)	Female raped in Bennetts Rec.	0
20.6.2017 20:38	Littering	White Lion Retail Park	Litter thrown from a parked vehicle	0
23.6.2017 04:13	Criminal damage	Katherine Drive	Male with his face covered seen walking away from 2 shops that had just had their windows smashed	0
25.6.2017 00:29	R.T.C	High Street North	Vehicle takes out the traffic lights at the junction with Kingsway	0
29.6.2017 20:20	ASB	Skate Park	Males with no helmets on bikes	0
30.6.2017 20:20	Intelligence	Dunstable/Houghton Regis	OP-METEOR	0

Notes

6 arrests were 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 & BUSINESS

2.1 Business and Investment update

Development and improvements in Dunstable are taking shape with our partners and private businesses investing in the town centre. Below is a comprehensive update on where the council is with its overarching Place Delivery Plan and associated public/private projects.

Dunstable Town Centre, Place Delivery Plan

Central Bedfordshire's Enabling Team has completed its technical studies and due diligence on the emerging Dunstable Town Centre Place Delivery Programme. This programme is a culmination of years of work in identifying measures to meet the challenges and priorities in Dunstable town centre using council assets, working with partners and gaining external funding. This plan aims to deliver a renewed high street and new town centre uses that will revive Dunstable's traditional market town character and ensure long lasting economic prosperity. It should be noted that this plan is complex and wide ranging due in part to its many interdependencies, such as Leisure Centre redevelopment and Vernon Place availability. The expectation is that this plan will be shared with stakeholders and partners towards the end of 2017.

Former Magistrates Court Demolition

In order to ready the Former Magistrates Court site for development, we have demolished the existing building. The proposal for this site is being considered internally as part of Dunstable's Place Delivery Plan and will form part of package of benefits for the Town Centre.

Dunstable High Street renewal

De-trunking and Transport

The High Street was de-trunked following the opening of the A5-M1 link and Woodside Connection and is now the responsibility of Central Bedfordshire Council. There are some outstanding works such as the signage for HGV routes, but this should be complete shortly. Other works are under negotiation with Highways England specifically relating to the condition of the asset.

The Dunstable High Street re-design in partnership with the Highways England Legacy, is moving towards concept options. There have been a series of workshops, meetings and technical studies that have informed the emerging options. The safety and accessibility options for road users have been paramount in the merger of appropriate designs. Essentially, the vision is to create a safe and active high street, more in keeping with its historic town character. The indicative timetable is to hold public consultation on the options in October, start priority

works early 2018. As noted in previous reports there is a significant funding shortfall estimated for the project.

The priority and de-cluttering phase was initially due to be implemented Sept/October 17 but as the entire phase one works has been enhanced it was felt it would be better to start all this work at the same time to minimise any disruption to the network and also allow for the delays in the handover of the road and the signage strategy.

Road Safety Audits have been conducted which will be reviewed following the closure and we although we have conducted Traffic Counts in July we will re-count in October with the aim of assessing the 'type' of traffic.

Key Dates:

- September/October 2017 – CBC officer and member review of design options
- October/November 2017 – Stakeholder and Public Consultation of options
- January/March 2017 – Phase one works to begin

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 are progressing. The businesses have had a visit from the project team (including the building contractor) in August to add the details to their designs e.g. exact colour pallet, alterations etc. All planning applications will be in by Mid September, with a view to start first shopfront physical works at the end of October. Whilst the planning applications are in process, business will be agreeing their contract with CBC for the grant payments terms, and collection of their base line data e.g. current footfall, and transactions.

Market Town Regeneration Fund (MTRF)

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) continues to work in partnership with Dunstable Town Council on its MTRF project. The recently opened Splash Park has been used well and proven to be a great success for Dunstable Town Centre.

Local Plan

The draft Local Plan for Central Bedfordshire was endorsed for publication by the Executive Committee on 20 June. The Draft Local Plan was available for public consultation from 4 July for an eight-week period, until 29 August 2017. We are now processing all of the feedback from the consultation to inform the next iteration of the Local Plan (pre-submission plan) for consultation in spring 2018.

Private Developments/Planning Decisions

Quadrant Shopping Centre

The refurbishment works at Quadrant Shopping Centre have started. This includes painting and re-branding the facades.

2.2 Business Support update

Inward Investment and Business Growth

The Council offers a range of business support services across the area, including funded projects, direct support and referrals to strategic partners.

Levels of inward investment enquiries continue to be high, through engagement with intermediaries and the Be Central Bedfordshire portal. There have been more than 400 online property searches so far this year and 4,000 visits to the website since April 2017.

The portal was also recognised in the national Property Marketing Awards this year, winning the Best Website category.

The @BeCentralBeds Twitter and Linked In accounts are driving traffic to the website, with an impressive 100,000 Twitter impressions since April 2017.

New Businesses – According to figures supplied by EGi, there have been 11 commercial deals completed in the Dunstable area since April 1st 2017. This includes the news that as part of Connells Estate Agents expansion plans they will be opening an office on Arenson Way, Team Sport Karting are now up and running on Verey Road and Transhaul have moved into Humphrys Road.

The business types are as follows:

3 x Retail

7 x Industrial

1 x Office

We have also been made aware via our Commercial Agent contacts that Go Interiors and Chevalier will be relocating from outside of Central Bedfordshire on the Woodside Estate and that 2 other units are under offer. CBC's own Assets Team have also advised that they are close to sealing an agreement with a new tenant for one of our own vacant units on Mayfield Road.

The Council continues to manage the Business Support & Growth Fund, providing a range of support to inward investors or expanding business, through awards of up to the now recently increased maximum of £10k of business rates discounts, public protection training or pre application planning advice. For more information on the Business Support & Growth Fund, please contact business@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

The Council offers a range of business support services across the area, including funded projects, direct support and referrals to strategic partners.

An ERDF funded project called Innovation Bridge offers support to businesses who are seeking support through university expertise and grants of up to £15,000 to deliver growth and innovation. Several businesses from Dunstable are involved in the scheme including one of the

first companies to access the grant support. For more information visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/innovationbridge

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 local companies such as Team Sport and RIF Logistics and they want to continue engaging with the Council and be involved in the Employment and Skills Board.

Our Let's Talk Business newsletter is now sent to over 6027 business subscribers. The bulletins continue to prove to be a valuable source of information for businesses. Popular recent articles include sponsored places at Venture Day and the parking consultation.

The council is a delivery partner in an Agrifood business support initiative called FEAST which provides business mentoring, technical assistance and grant funding for food manufacturing companies. This helps to build on and strengthen CBC's Food Enterprise Zone and Agrifood sector focus. The Council have hosted two FEAST clinics to promote the scheme in Central Bedfordshire.

Employment and Skills Team

The Council's Employment & Skills Service has organised a number of training courses for local residents. The courses are designed to help residents gain employment or develop their careers.

Individual Dunstable residents: 142

Total course enrolments by Dunstable residents: 235

Out of the 142 residents, 24 were already employed, 83 were unemployed and looking for work and 35 were unemployed and NOT looking for work. Of these who were not looking for work, 27 had been unemployed for 12 months or more.

On reviewing the data available, 17% of the residents were from the most deprived ward in the town. The majority of residents have successfully completed their course(s) with only a relatively small number withdrawing before the end or not passing an exam.

The courses included Maths, English and IT which are provided by our own Direct Delivery team. Other courses were delivered by external Providers and these included first aid, recovery from mental health difficulties, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and others.

Contracts have recently been awarded for the new academic year. This includes some new courses specifically designed to support hard-to-reach residents and will be reported in future updates. The Work Clubs will resume their weekly sessions after the summer break in the library and are supported by the Council's National Careers Service staff.

High Street Vacancy Levels

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 9.6% in August 2017, up from 9.3% in April 2017.

Figures from ONS show that retail sales grew in July by 4.2% compared to last year in value terms (not-seasonally adjusted), down from 5.3% last month, with growth slowing in July, but still holding up despite the pressures on consumer incomes. Although Helen Dickinson, British Retail Consortium Chief Executive notes that the BRC-KPMG retail sales monitor showed lower sales growth than ONS she advises that " *The month's growth was underpinned by food sales alone, while non- food sales relapsed into negative territory as the competition heats up over a shrinking pool of discretionary consumer spending power.*"

The overall average vacancy rate across Central Bedfordshire town centres in August 2017, 4.7%, has increased slightly from August's 4.31% Although fewer vacancies have been seen in Biggleswade, Sandy and Dunstable, the new vacancies noted in Leighton Buzzard, Ampthill Flitwick and Stotfold, although few in number, impact on the overall average vacancy rate.

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

Town	Aug 16	Nov 16	Feb 17	May 17	Aug 17
Ampthill	1.1	0	2.2	2.2	3.3
Arlesey	6.7	0	0	0	0
Biggleswade	6.9	4.8	7.6	8.3	6.9
Dunstable	15.4	15.4	13.4	13.8	13.4*
Flitwick	0	0	0	0	2.6
Houghton Regis	3.4	3.4	6.9	3.4	3.4
Leighton Buzzard	6.4	4.9	4.9	3.9	4.9
Sandy	4.5	7.5	7.5	9	4.5
Shefford	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Stotfold	5.6	5.6	5.6	0	5.6
Average vacancy rate	5.25%	4.41%	5.06%	4.31%	4.7%

*Count as at end of June 2017

Source: Central Bedfordshire Council August 2017

3. LEISURE, LIBRARIES & COUNTRYSIDE

3.1 Dunstable Leisure Centre

Wates Construction newsletter No 1 – July 2017:

Dear Resident,

My name is Richard Pyle and I work for Wates Construction and we have been appointed by Central Bedfordshire Council to carry out the partial demolition and reconstruction of the former Dunstable Leisure Centre.

Through regular newsletters I will keep you informed of the progress of the project along any forthcoming events or significant works that you might be interested in.

Since arriving at site a few weeks ago we have been establishing our site set-up and perimeter, installing security systems and undertaking intrusive asbestos surveys in all areas of the building. Externally we have undertaken an 'open area archaeological excavation' in the old car park. Following this survey and the site establishment period we will commence asbestos removal w/c 24 July 2017, with demolition following in August.

I am also available to explain and answer any questions relating to the works and will be happy to meet with you at a convenient time.

Our working hours are typically Monday to Friday 08.00 until 18.00 and no Saturdays unless of exceptional circumstances.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your co operation and understanding throughout the build.

Wates operate under the Considerate Constructors Scheme and we try wherever possible to ensure we are being the best neighbour we can be, bearing in mind the works we have to do.

One purpose of the scheme being to raise and improve the image of the construction industry to that of which some people still hold.

Should you have any issues with our construction operations during our works, please feel free to contact us directly on site or by phone or alternatively via the Considerate Constructors Scheme if you prefer.

Telephone: +44 1920 485959

www.ccscheme.org.uk

Contact Us

If you have any concerns or queries over any of the above or at any time you consider we are falling short of what you consider to be a good neighbour, then please call me on the number below or Steve Williams (Site Manager) 07713 912098 and we will action your concerns as effectively as possible.

Kind Regards,

Richard Pyle

Project Leader

Mobile: 07701 279764

E-mail: richard.pyle@wates.co.uk

3.2 Dunstable Library

Tidy up and decoration

As you will be aware the Vernon Place offices have recently been boarded over and we were receiving a lot of feedback at external events that our customers thought the library had closed down. Measures have been put in place to make the community aware that the library is still open, and inform the public that a new library is coming in 18/19.

Launch of new book collections for adults and children:

Pick and Mix collection - a collection of the latest children's bestsellers or popular themes types of books include: Lego/Superheroes/Minecraft as well as popular fiction titles by authors such as Liz Pichon and David Walliams. Within one day of launching this collection every book had been borrowed from the library and it looks like it will be a huge success.

Dunstable Library is participating in a pilot of Best Selling fiction titles. We will have multiple copies of one title e.g. 10 copies of the latest James Patterson, these books will be loaned for one week and will be displayed on a unit at the front of the library. Once we have piloted this it will be rolled out across all libraries. The titles are issuing really well and the next batch of best sellers will be arriving imminently.

Watling Lower School visit

Over 80 children from Watling Lower School came to visit the library to look at our local history materials, this was an end of project treat for them and we showed them how to use the Microfilm reader to look at the Dunstable Gazette, they looked at the old bound copies of the gazette, made a scrapbook about the history of Dunstable, made a roman helmet and used our Virtual Library to research the history of Dunstable.

Reading HACK

Dunstable and Flitwick Libraries are working on developing a national scheme called the Reading HACK. This aims to involve Young Adults in their local library and get them to join in with reading and activities, HACKS could involve creating a story out of Minecraft, using music to recreate a story, art etc. There is also an element of Volunteering but we are hoping to mainly focus on engaging them with our libraries. Carly Levingstone and a colleague visited The Grove Corner on the 21st June to promote the Reading Hack; Gill Briggs very kindly allowed us to talk to the young people that evening and we handed out lots of forms and chatted to some of the people to gauge what their interests were. One of the suggestions is that we develop a Graffiti/Street Art HACK. More info will follow as this develops.

Edlesborough Carnival

Staff attended Edlesborough Carnival on the 1st July, we had an information stall along with crafts for children, nearly 200 people dropped by our stall and we were able to promote both Dunstable Library and Leighton Buzzard Library and Theatre.

50th Birthday Celebration

Earlier this year Dunstable Library celebrated its 50th Birthday. To mark this event we held a special birthday party on Tuesday 18th July. All of our customers were invited to join us for tea and birthday cake and talk about their memories of the library. We put out our old photographs, newspaper articles and local history resources so that everyone could spend time reminiscing about our history.

Teddy Bears Picnic

The library joined in with Love Parks week and attended the Teddy Bear's Picnic on Friday 21st July; we came along to read stories and also handed out special library bags to the children.

Summer Reading Challenge:

The Summer Reading Challenge began on the 15th July and runs until the 9th September. The theme for this year is 'Animal Agents' and all illustrations have been created by Tony Ross (illustrator for David Walliams and Horrid Henry by Francesca Simon). So far we have had nearly 600 children join up to the challenge at Dunstable. Children need to read a total of 18 books across the summer and collect prizes along the way, if they complete the challenge they

receive a special medal. Staff at Dunstable attended 14 school assemblies in the run up to the launch of the challenge engaging with nearly 3,000 children. We also have 11 young volunteers in the library helping us to run the reading challenge throughout the summer.

National Play Day

Wednesday 2nd August was National Play Day; the library attended this event with crafts and library bags. We engaged with 270 people at this event. We have also been running our Summer Reading Challenge from Downside Children’s Centre and have been attending once a week to allow children who might not be able to get to the library to join in with the challenge. We are attending for the duration of the summer holidays.

Summer Activities:

- Sublime Science - a science themed event involving making sweets and goo and lots more. 64 children attended this event.
- Robotics Sessions - run by PrepareRobo, children were able to build their own moving robots from scratch to help them develop programming and robotic skills.
- Full House Theatre performed a free theatre show for families. Art Town Young Company worked with the residents of Red House Court in Houghton Regis to bring together a performance called Memory Lane; this was a celebration of the similarities and differences of local lives across the generations.
- Lou Treleaven author event - Lou talked about her new book ‘Letter to Pluto’, carried out a book reading and did lots of crazy crafts with the children as well as a book signing. 20 children and their parents attended this event.
- Hip Hop Dance sessions - for children teaching them how to dance, this led to a final performance to parents and customers on the 25th August.
- Other events over the summer have included: a Minions event, Disney car crafts, Dinosaur fun, Monster Trucks, Emoji crafts, Superhero Mask and cuff making, Angry Birds event, Rainbow Fish craft, bracelet making, a visit from the Dogs Trust, submarine craft, cat craft, make a monster and finally a craft mash up day to tie up all of our summer activities. Each of the sessions listed have had up to 40 - 75 children attend each event.

Looking forward

Change to library opening hours

From Monday 2nd October the opening hours of Dunstable Library will be changing to:

Day	Opening Times
Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	9am – 6pm
Wednesday	9am – 6pm
Thursday	9am – 6pm
Friday	9am – 6pm
Saturday	9am – 4pm
Sunday	CLOSED

Dunstable Town Football Club collaboration

Our joint project with Dunstable Town Football Club will be continuing in the new school year. We have 4 local schools wanting to 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 in the library including the Dunstable Gazette that we hold going back to 1883.

We will be launching a Match Attax session sponsored by the football club and we will be attending the Youth Team sessions in the evening at the football grounds to sign all of the 200+ members up to the library.

Crime author event

In November we will be hosting a joint event with Paul Finch, a former policeman and journalist, now turned full-time writer who cut his literary teeth penning episodes of the British TV crime drama, The Bill, and Neil White, criminal lawyer by day, crime fiction writer by night. The event will be called 'Crime Writers, Lawyers and Coppers' - Go behind the scenes of murder investigations AND get the inside track on writing prime time crime drama for TV. There will be a Q&A with the audience and a book signing.

3.3 Grove Theatre

The Theatre continues to offer a varied programme. Some highlights:

- A bespoke workshop for 57 children from a local school with a tour. The children were with us for 3 hours and had a wonderful time.
- Developing partnerships with local schools to develop curriculum based support – first school Lark Rise confirmed, developing links with primary Challenger Academy to become familiar with the new education model.
- Links with the Central Bedfordshire College and they now provide all the cakes for our Afternoon Teas.
- The Grove Academy performed at the Youth Market, promoting the Grove Education programme and entertaining the people of Dunstable Town.
- Discussions with Lancot Challenger Academy to promote Arts Awards programmes in schools.
- Presentation to 25 lower school head teachers about working in partnership with them for our outreach programme.
- Discussions with Tithe Farm Lower School about arts education projects we could work on together and the possibility of linking up with Lancot Challenger Academy.

Grove Academy has been so successful that it has now launched a second session on Saturday afternoons. This is three hours of singing (which increases lung capacity, which is known to improve mood) acting (building confidence and developing relationships with peers) and dancing (cardio activity promoting positive body image and confidence.) They are able to create performances for the end of term which parents are welcome to come and watch and many of our academy students take part in our Grove Production Project which is the two week intensive course over August. (For ages 7 and up)

This is an in house product created to coincide with the celebration of Roald Dahl's 100th birthday. This is a product we can offer in house and it can be accompanied by a private screening of the new BFG film or we can tour it to schools. This has been incredibly popular and we are now looking into developing a further extensive range of bespoke workshops we could tour to support the local syllabus.

3.4 Youth Theatre

A new version of the Youth Theatre programme is available which incorporates the Arts Award scheme. Arts Awards is an incredible scheme where you can take part in projects/performances and earn UCAS points. To gain entry to university you need to gain a certain number of UCAS points which you earn through examination results. This has been developed to support young people who do not perform well under the pressure of exams to be able to reach their full potential and proceed to higher education. This is for children aged 11 and upwards, we are now fully qualified to deliver and explore levels for the younger section. We are currently looking at ways to incorporate this and offer more through our programme.

Please visit <https://www.grovetheatre.co.uk/events/>

3.5 Active Lifestyles

Dunstable Downs

July Kite Festival - The team walked over 25 Miles, made 500 burgers and 198 kites. Parked over 3500 cars and had around 15000 visitors.

203 new followers on Facebook and 22,524 engagement for the month with comments like- .
"Great day out, so many people enjoying the fresh air. We took a picnic, ate it in the car during the brief rain shower. The displays were amazing, so clever!!! Dancing kites who would have thought. Strictly could learn a turn or two here lol. We have it on our list of events ready for next year. Loved it!!!"

Car Park Machines

New car park ticket machines were installed in May 2017; regrettably all have been destroyed with the exception of one!

With regard to crime, the National Trust is up against it at the moment. A security specialist is conducting a security audit at the Gateway Centre on behalf of the National Trust.

Upcoming events

Date	Event
5, 19 Sept, 3 Oct, 17 Oct	Autumn Colour Walk
10 Sept & 8 October	Journey Sticks
12 Sept, 10 October	Autumn Crafts
17 Sept	Mummer's Play – Harvest
19 Sept	Autumn Colour Walk
22-23 rd Sept, 13/14 October	Mask making
3 & 17 Oct	Autumn Colour Walk
21 Oct	Mummer's Play – autumn
22 Oct	Storytelling – Falling Leaf

3.6 Leisure Strategy – Parish Schedule engagement update

All town and parish councils were contacted in March 2017 requesting their help with information about recreational open spaces and outdoor sport facilities. The consultation ran from 28 February to 2 May 2017 and asked two key questions:

1. Firstly, to verify the recreational open spaces and outdoor sport facilities sites information we hold.

We published online a Parish Schedule with all the recreational open space and outdoor sport sites in your parish. The Parish Schedules are still available online at the following link: [check the site information we hold is correct](#). We asked you to check the site information we hold is correct.

2. Secondly, we asked you to identify parish priorities for new or improved recreational open spaces and outdoor sport facilities. We need this information to enable us to secure developer contributions toward these priorities from any relevant housing developments in each area.

Under the requirements of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) we can only seek developer contributions towards real, costed projects, not to generic improvements.

For Outdoor Sport priorities we listed the information to date in the Sports Priority Projects List. The list is still available online. We have also consulted the local sports clubs and National Governing Bodies for Sport (NGB) for their priorities.

Update

As the response to the consultation was disappointing we have recently issued an email update to all clerks explaining our next steps and reminding parishes that have not yet responded that they can still do so. We are grateful to those parishes that provided information as this will help us secure appropriate developer contributions from any new development.

We have collated the feedback received to date and will be publishing the updated Parish Schedules and Sports Priority Projects List on our website in September. We want to ensure the Schedules remain a current and accurate reflection of local priorities as they will be our reference point when seeking contributions from new development. Going forward we will be updating the Schedules annually but we would be happy to receive project information at any time. For further information contact lisa.white@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

4. HIGHWAYS

4.1 Resilient Highways consultation

In 2014, the Department for Transport (DFT) undertook a review of how well the UK transport network copes in extreme weather events (the 'resilience'). This followed a period of extreme weather in 2013/14 which saw high winds and heavy rainfall.

A number of recommendations were made as a result, including that local highways authorities 'identify a resilient network' to which they will give priority when extreme weather occurs.

As the highway authority, we are responsible for the construction and maintenance of non-trunk roads, cycle ways, street lighting, bridges and structures and other highway assets. We want those to cope with any extreme weather and climate change.

A 'Resilient Highways Network' identifies the particular roads that would be given priority during adverse events, such as extreme weather. When extreme weather occurs (floods, storms, ice, snow etc), the main concern for us will be to keep these roads open in order to maintain economic activity to town centres, industrial estates and business parks, and access to key services such as schools, railway stations, key food shops, petrol stations, hospitals, police, fire services etc.

This network would, in the main, be those roads that receive salting between October and April. These routes are chosen as they have the highest volumes of traffic and the greatest risk of accidents occurring

For more information and to have your say please visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations

4.2 Gully cleaning

Central Bedfordshire Council's Highways team are starting a major gully cleaning scheme over the next nine months.

There are over 45,000 gullies in Central Bedfordshire and this project will see the highways team clean and jet every single gully.

The new programme of works will see us visit every town and village across the council in the next nine months period. To help tackle the significant number of gullies the highways team will have at least two gully motors in operation.

The gully motor is due to come to the Dunstable area towards the end of the year. You can keep up-to-date with the works by following us on Twitter @CBC_Highways

4.3 Jetpatcher programme

Central Bedfordshire Council's Highways team have been using the Jetpatcher all summer to repair potholes across the area.

The pothole repairing machine repaired over 2,500 potholes in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area.

You can report potholes online, here: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/reportit

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 Area wide weight limits

Signs for the area wide weight limits started being placed during the first week of September with around 600 signs set to be installed.

As well as installing the signage our road safety and traffic management teams have been working with companies in the area to educate them on the ban. This piece of work has already seen positive results and is something we will continue to do.

You can find more information about this piece of work by visiting
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/weightlimits

4.6 Parking and Enforcement

PCN's issued in Dunstable, 1st June to 24th August 2017:

June – 419

July – 480

August – 462

3214 visits have been made to Dunstable in June, July and August 2017 (data collated 24th August).

The following works have been completed in Dunstable:

- Duncombe Drive, Dunstable:** Opposite flats, next to lamppost no 3. Car sized gap in double yellow line filled in.
- Hadrian Avenue, Dunstable:** Near lamppost no 2 and house no 2. Double yellow line missing and end bar worn out at end - refreshed.
- Dorchester Close, Dunstable:** From house no 4 to house no 29. Double yellow line repainted.
- Regent Street, Dunstable:** House no 3/Becon Mews. New single yellow line sign and post. No Waiting 7am-7pm.
- Union Street, Dunstable:** Single yellow line from house 63a to Aldwyck House new sign and post. No Waiting Mon-Sat 7am-7pm
- Burr Street, Dunstable:** Outside School. All school markings repainted
- Burr Street, Dunstable:** Single yellow line from opposite house no 48 to opposite house no 38. New sign - No Waiting Mon-Fri 7am-7pm
- Burr Street, Dunstable:** All single yellow lines missing or very faded - repainted.
Outside house no 54 to house no 64. New single yellow line sign - No Waiting 7am-7pm
- Princess Street, Dunstable:** New single yellow lines sign and post outside house no 79. No Waiting 7am-7pm.

The following works are currently in progress:

- Dorchester Close, Dunstable:** Top end outside flats and near lamppost no 4. Double yellow lines need repainting - very faded/missing.
- High Street North, Dunstable:** Outside Ivory Lounge/Papa Johns and Subway - disabled bays and taxi bay lines and wording needs repainting.
- West Street, Dunstable:** Opposite Matthew Street/near St Mary's Gate C/P bays and lines inside taxi only area need repainting.
- Worthington Road, Dunstable:** Opposite lamppost no 2. Single yellow line sign needs replacing, old one very faded. No waiting 7am-7pm.

5. WASTE

Looking back

Key highlights:

We worked with Public Protection Food Safety Officers and Nuisance Coordinators to check businesses for waste contracts in Dunstable Town Centre, especially around Middle Row, High Street North and South.

A lorry load of fly tipped waste was cleared from Church Walk and the astro turf behind Go Bowling was also cleared as a one-off request.

The car park behind Go Bowling has been weed sprayed and full clearance will be completed shortly.

Garden waste contamination at the kerbside has reduced but some is still present though at a more manageable level.

The waste electricals (WEEE) collection is continuing together with textiles and batteries as part of the kerbside collections.

Rural grass cuts were done in July with extra resources brought in to keep vision splays clear.

Key issues:

Dog warden patrols for dog fouling have been carried out in:
Beech Grove, Bennetts Recreation Ground, Blows Downs, Churchill Road,
Frenches Avenue Recreation Ground, Leighton Court, Ridgeway Avenue,
Spoodell, Staveley Road, and Wingate Road.

The Waste Service Officer (WSO) for the area also completed a full walk around Bramley Court and educational leaflets and letters were posted to every flat.

Looking forward

The next full width grass cut will be in October 2017.

All households will receive a recycling information leaflet in September and all Town and Parish Councils will receive an email about the new Behaviour Change Campaign shortly.

6. SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING

Greenacres Residential Care Home

The former Greencare Care Home site on Brewers Hill Road in Dunstable was acquired by Housing Services in March 2017. After a period of design and appraisal, work has now started to refurbish the building. This will provide transitional accommodation units for local people who need urgent housing assistance.

The building will be refurbished section by section, in self-contained wings which will provide housing for 8-10 individuals, with some double rooms suitable for small families. The wings will include kitchens and laundry facilities as well as a shared break-out area. There is also an outside green space for the use of residents, which has been refreshed by Groundworks, a local horticultural charity.

The first wing is due to be ready for people to move in by early October 2017 with other wings following every 2-3 months.

The Greenacre site will have its own scheme officer, and residents will be able to access tailored housing support to help them take steps to maximise their benefits, start training or employment, and move into suitable more settled accommodation.

The whole scheme will be closely managed to minimise any impact on the surrounding residents and area, and there are plans underway to find a new name for the former care home.

7. SCHOOLS

School Admissions

During September we **will** be sending information to parents of children due to transfer to middle, secondary and upper schools in September 2018 through the children's current schools. Parents of children transferring to upper or secondary school have until 31 October 2017 to make their application and parents of children transferring to middle school have until 15 January 2018 to make their applications. The team will tracking applications and working with schools to encourage as many parents to apply on time as possible.

From September 2018 parents of children due to start school (Reception Year) in September 2018 will be able to make their application. The School Admissions Team will be promoting the admission round through a variety of channels; via lower/primary schools, nurseries, preschools, childminders, libraries, children's centres and other community groups. Parents have until 15 January 2018 to make their application.

School Organisation

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.

8. YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES

No update provided for this report due to end of academic year. The Youth Support Service will re-confirm young people's destinations between September and December.

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 9 of the 10 Chiltern Vale GP Practices to eligible residents, aged 40-74 years. From 1st April 2016 to 28th February 2017, 2,967 Chiltern Vale residents were offered an NHS Health Check and 1,744 were completed, this equates to 77% of target delivery. Following the completed Health Checks within this period, 39 people were newly diagnosed with hypertension, 59 were newly prescribed statins and 7 were newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.

9.2 Obesity and Excess Weight

Levels of obesity and excess weight are high across Dunstable compared to other wards within CBC. To support a reduction in child and adult weight levels, and raise levels of physical activity, there have been a number of services commissioned to deliver interventions.

Data

Obesity data shows that the average level of obesity in adults for Dunstable Central, Dunstable Icknield, Dunstable Manshead, Dunstable Northfields, Dunstable Watling, Caddington and Eaton Bray wards is 25.28%. (CB average – 23.7%)

Excess weight data from the National Child Measurement Programme for children age 4-5yrs old within the same wards shows the average level for excess weight is 21.5%. (CB average – 20%)

Excess weight data from the National Child Measurement Programme for children age 10-11yrs old within the same wards shows the average level for excess weight is 26.3%. (CB average – 28.7%)

9.3 Commissioned Services

- **BeeZee Bodies** – Weight Management programmes for young children (HENRY), families (BeeZee Families), men (Gutless) and pregnant women (BeeZee Bumps)
 - In Q2 there were 2 HENRY programmes which ran in Leighton Buzzard and Dunstable. Both these programme included referrals from families who live in Dunstable.
 - 1 BeeZee Families programme ran in Dunstable which included referrals from families who live in Dunstable as well as surrounding wards.
 - BeeZee Bodies also commission Weight Watchers and Slimming World via the GPs. All the GPs in Houghton Regis use this referral programme for adults who are overweight or obese.
 - 2 Gutless programmes have run in Dunstable since April 2016.

- SWWWW (waiting for BZBs figures)
- BeeZee Bumps Maternal Obesity programme is working with midwives to refer women who are overweight and deliver at the L&D.
- **Bike It** – 7 schools in Dunstable are engaged with the ‘Bike It’ programme delivered by Sustrans, to increase physical activity and raise the number of pupils who are able to cycle/scoot to and from school safely. This also includes work with school staff and families.
- **Oral Health Promotion** – As Dunstable is one of the areas within the most deprived in CB, Community Dental Services were commissioned to deliver several programmes from April 2016 – March 2018.
 - Fluoride Varnish application to 3year olds to decrease levels of tooth decay in young children. Working with Childrens Centres and Early Years settings.
 - Healthy Smiles programme for 2 – 4 year olds, - 9 nurseries and Early Years settings were offered the programme and 4 accepted.
 - Life Long Smiles programme for elderly care settings was offered to 6 settings but only 2 showed an interest but they will all be contacted again in 2017.
- **Food Award Scheme** – Funding from Public health has been secured to introduce a Food Award Scheme. Working with Environmental Health, a new officer will contact food businesses to support them to reduce the levels of fat, salt and sugar in food served. The award will initially be offered to Leisure Centre cafes and Hot Food Takeaways in areas of high levels of excess weight.

9.4 Looking forward

Obesity and Excess Weight

- A new Gutless programme began in the Dunstable area in the middle of January 2017.
- The Food Award Scheme will be offered to the café at the Dunstable Downs Visitor Centre as part of the Healthier Options Scheme.
- ‘Bike It’ funding has been secured until March 2018 and new schools will be offered the chance to engage in the programme.
- Oral Health programme will focus on completing the Fluoride Varnish programme in 2017/18 and delivering a Supervised Toothbrushing Programme to Early Years settings and primary schools in the most 20% deprived areas of CBC which include Dunstable.

9.5 Stop Smoking Services are delivered across all GP Surgeries in Dunstable and Houghton Regis.

Other clinics, delivered by the CBC specialist service run at the following times/venues:

Venue	Day	Time
Salvation Army - Dunstable	Monday	4pm – 8pm
	Wednesday	9am – 1pm
Dunstable Library	Tuesday	12pm – 5pm
Priory Gardens Surgery	Saturday	9am – 1 pm

Extended treatment programmes are available to residents with a Mental Health diagnosis or COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder). The Smokefree Baby and Me programme is also available for pregnant smokers.

Call one of our advisors free on 0800 013 0553 (press 1 for Central Bedfordshire)

Fax: 0300 300 8285

Email: stop.smoking@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

<http://www.smokefreebedfordshire.org/>

10. PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

10.1 Inter Faith Week 2017

Inter Faith Week 2017 will take place from Sunday 12 November to Sunday 19 November. Information about events taking place within Central Bedfordshire will be available nearer the time.

Inter Faith Week is a focal point for inter faith activity, increasing awareness and understanding of different faiths.

10.2 Volunteering

Cheering Volunteering

We will be launching Cheering Volunteering 2018 in December. The awards and celebration event will again be held at the Grove Theatre, Dunstable on Tuesday 5th June.

Volunteer display

We are creating a display in the reception area at our Priory House offices to highlight the work of volunteers in Central Bedfordshire, focusing on a different organisation each month. More information about how organisations can apply to be featured will be available shortly.