

News Central

The magazine from Central Bedfordshire
Council for everyone living in our area

**School
crossing
sponsorship
scheme
launches**



Issue 19 - Autumn 2011

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**Central
Bedfordshire**

Welcome

Nobody likes paying bills whether they are for the essentials of life such as utilities or for the odd treat paid for on credit, forking out hard earned cash is tough.

It may seem a long way off before the annual Council Tax bills arrive next March, but the business of setting the budget for Central Bedfordshire has already begun. As we start this exercise, we are acutely aware of the impact of our budget on local Council Tax payers and we're determined to limit the burden of this as much as possible.

Our approach

This year we are spending more than £180m in Central Bedfordshire. This significant sum of money is spent on a wide range of services that are provided around the clock, 365 days a year.

Whilst many of these services are

not visible to most of the public (services such as home care for disabled people or residential care for the elderly are less high profile than road maintenance and rubbish collection, for example) your Council Tax is vital to funding all of them.

So, as we plan our financial strategy, not just for next year but for the coming four years, we are on a mission to explain to our customers where the money goes and to listen to your feedback about how we should be funding services in the future.

Making your money go further

In this edition of News Central, we've included a survey that asks for your views on our budget. Please take a few minutes to fill this in and send it back to us. We're also holding a series of discussion groups and presentations called



'Let's Talk' about the budget across Central Bedfordshire, where you can talk to us in person about this issue.

Your feedback will help me and all Councillors as we develop our strategy for the coming years. Once we've developed our plans we will be sharing them with you so that you can comment on them.

Thanks

Cllr James Jamieson
Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council

Exam success

Students across Central Bedfordshire have performed well in A Levels and GCSEs.

The A level pass rate for Central Bedfordshire was impressive with almost 98 per cent of students achieving Grades A to E, and a number of students achieved A* and A grades. GCSE results improved again this year. Over 1600 students in Central Bedfordshire achieved five A*-C grades, including the most important maths and English qualifications. Almost all students achieved at least one GCSE grade

or better. Most schools achieved better results than last year and in some cases improved their performance significantly. There will also be a healthy intake of students taking A levels and other further education qualifications in local schools and colleges.

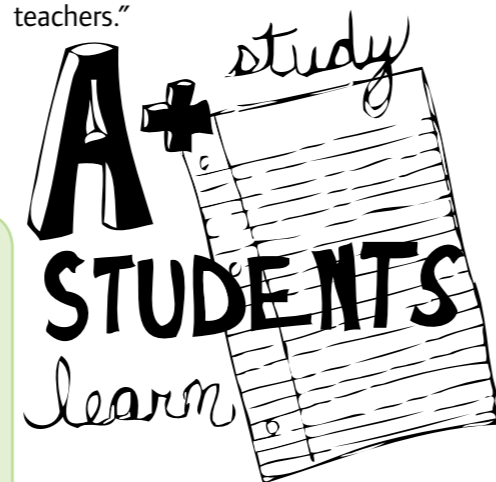
Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services said:

"I am delighted that so many young people from Central Bedfordshire schools have achieved excellent exam results to set them on course for fulfilling their future

education or career ambitions.

"These results show that by working together with schools and parents we are achieving our goal of raising education standards in Central Bedfordshire so that our young people achieve their potential.

"The results are a testament not only to the students themselves but also to their families and teachers."



Your magazine

News Central is produced by Central Bedfordshire Council. It is delivered to every household in the area through an independent company and may be accompanied by leaflets or flyers.

Tell us what you think

To give us your comments on News Central or suggestions for future editions please email newscentral@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or call us on 0300 300 8301.

School crossing sponsorship scheme

The council has launched a new sponsorship scheme to help fund school crossing patrols across Central Bedfordshire - and is looking for more local businesses to get involved.

Faced with having to make nearly £20million of savings this year the council is looking at new ways of financing services - like crossing patrols - that have historically been funded solely by the council.

Executive Member For Sustainable Communities Services, Brian Spurr, says: "With increasing financial challenges we need to think differently about how we provide and pay for services. By bringing in more locally based funding solutions, this sponsorship scheme will give communities more control in the future for their crossing patrols."

As well as writing to town and parish councils, the council is

approaching local businesses to sponsor a patrol. Sponsors' logos appear on the patrol uniforms - so as well as helping out their local community, the scheme is an opportunity for businesses and other organisations to raise their profile.

Gray Richmond, Managing Director of Jumbo Games from Leighton Buzzard who recently signed up to the scheme, commented "For us at Jumbo Games the safety and happiness of children is of paramount importance. When I heard that the crossing patrol was under pressure I was pleased that Jumbo were able to help support this service.

"Not only does Mrs Boyle, our school crossing officer, ensure that all our children are kept safe every day, she is also the first welcoming face they see when reaching school each morning.



Mrs Boyle with Gray Richmond and local school children

It would be great if other businesses who care about our children could also help and support more crossing patrols that are under threat across the UK."

If you're interested in sponsoring your local crossing patrol please contact Diane Hinde on 0300 300 6202 or email diane.hinde@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Linslade Wood flies the Green Flag

Linslade Wood has been recognised as one of the best community-run green spaces in the country in the National Green Flag Awards 2011.

The wood in Leighton-Linslade can now proudly fly the Green Flag Community Award - showing that the site is a well-managed, welcoming place at the heart of the local community.

Linslade Wood is managed by Central Bedfordshire Council's Countryside Access Team, in partnership with the Greensand Trust and the Friends of Linslade Wood volunteer group, who all manage the site for a wide range of visitors and wildlife. People come from far and wide to enjoy the

tranquillity, scenery and wildlife of the woodland.

Nationally a record number of parks and green spaces have received Community Awards

this year, including Studham Common ensuring that even more residents now have access to quality green spaces.



Friends of Linslade Wood celebrate award

Eco-homes

With rising energy costs, households and developers are looking at ways of making their homes more eco-friendly.

Central Bedfordshire Council's building control team not only makes sure that a building meets national standards but can also help householders and builders improve the environmental credentials of their projects.

Any new build has to have the latest insulation, but in one local project the environmental fortunes of a 1960s bungalow have been completely turned around.



Members of the eco-makeover team

The bungalow in Wrestlingworth, owned by Aragon Housing Association, was part of a government initiative to test renewable energy technologies. It was chosen for the experiment as it was hard-to-heat properly, in a remote and non mains gas area and had poor insulation.

With electricity bills rising Aragon brought in Eco Design Consultants and SDC Construction Group, supported by Central Bedfordshire Council, to give the bungalow an eco-makeover.



The eco-makeover included solar panels, sun pipes and energy meters

What the team did

Working with experts from Cambridge and Loughborough Universities and Bedford College, the team had to ensure that no air was getting in and out, so they properly insulated all external walls and roof spaces and used the latest insulating foam to keep surfaces energy tight.

By installing top quality thermal solar panels any excess heat-energy generated in the bungalow was designed to be kept in a thermal store. To help monitor any new heat produced, meters and sensors were used to control the energy system.

The team needed to enhance the light within the property so they used a pioneering new product called Sun Pipes - a highly reflective tube running from the roof to the ceiling that helped to conduct natural, free, eco-friendly daylight into the bungalow.

To create a sustainable refurbishment throughout the whole of the bungalow, the project team even installed an innovative new water system which uses waste water from the shower to flush the toilet. This has helped to make significant savings to the water bill whilst using up minimal energy.

This bungalow project has been recognised in the regional Local Authority Building Control Quality Awards, and along with two other developments in Central

Bedfordshire - Chilver Hall at Cranfield University, and the Best Nursery and Community Building at Samuel Whitbread School in Shefford - will be going through to the national round in November.

Cllr Brian Spurr, Executive Member for Sustainable Communities Services says:

"The projects show the quality of construction and design in Central Bedfordshire and how the building control team can work with local contractors to create high quality eco-friendly developments."

Preparing for the winter months ahead

Central Bedfordshire Council is offering energy assessments to local residents to help determine how your home can be more energy efficient and affordably warm. Grants and loans are also available to eligible residents who have broken down or have inefficient heating systems.

To find out if you qualify for assistance to tackle fuel poverty contact Central Bedfordshire's Private Sector Housing team on 0300 300 8302 or email PSH@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Things that we can all do to help keep costs down this autumn and winter...

- Check for draughts** - it means heat is escaping from your home and wasting valuable energy.
- Insulate your loft and walls** - full loft insulation could save you up to £205 per year.
- Get your boiler serviced once a year** to make sure your heating is safe and efficient.
- Bleed your radiators** - releasing any air trapped in them improves your heating efficiency instantly.
- Remember to switch off your lights** when you leave a room and use energy saving light bulbs.
- Compost those autumn leaves** - you'll slim your bin and save trips to the garden centre.
- Use a programmer** to set when the heating and hot water come on and go off again.
- Fine-tune your central heating.** By making sure you have a full set of heating controls - you could save around 15% off your heating bill.



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Central Bedfordshire and Luton Liftshare

Share the car. Share the cost!

A new car-sharing scheme for residents across Central Bedfordshire and Luton, known as Central Bedfordshire and Luton Liftshare, has been set up to help drivers save money and cut local congestion and carbon emissions across the area.

With petrol prices hitting an all time high, now is the perfect time to consider giving car-sharing a try. It is estimated that on average car-sharing could save motorists £1,000 per year in fuel costs and a tonne of CO2.

To join the scheme and find a list of people who share the same journey as you visit www.centralbedsandluton.liftshare.com

to access the free journey matching service and find out how much you could save. It will take two minutes to register but the potential savings could be worth it.

This long term scheme aims to improve access to areas across Central Bedfordshire and Luton. As well as motorists, the scheme could also benefit people who don't have a car of their own but live in rural or other areas which are not easily accessible by public transport.

Ken Matthews, Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Economic Development said:

"The car-sharing scheme is not just about the



Chief Executives and Councillors from Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Borough Council launch the Car Sharing scheme

environment or saving money, it is also a great away to meet new colleagues, friends and neighbours.

"The more residents who take part in the scheme, the greater the benefits to all road users in terms of improving traffic speeds and journey times."

More information about the car sharing scheme can be found at www.centralbedsandluton.liftshare.com or you can contact Chris Heaney by emailing chris.heaney@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or calling 0300 300 6322.



Be scam aware in Central Bedfordshire

A new "early warning" email alert service from Central Bedfordshire Trading Standards is aiming to prevent residents and small businesses falling victim to scams and rogue traders.

The new alert service, which anyone can sign up to, will warn people about potential risks that come to Trading Standards' attention.

Scams have the ability to draw in the victim, as in a recent example where a local resident received a letter saying she'd won first prize of an all-inclusive holiday in a

prize draw. She regularly entered competitions and thought she had finally struck lucky so when she was asked to send a refundable 'release fee' of £150 and her bank account details to the prize draw operator she did so without thinking. However, her prize failed to materialise and the prize draw operator couldn't be contacted. Not only had she lost £150 but she had unwittingly given her bank account details to a stranger.

People can be targeted via the post, telephone, or even on their doorstep, and as technology advances, many more people are

being targeted via email.

If you would like to receive our "early warning" emails, send an email providing your email address and postcode to be.scamaware@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Guidance on how to spot a scam can be found at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/bescamaware

Please let our Trading Standards Team know if you suspect or have any information relating to a possible scam or rogue trader via Consumer Direct on 0845 4040506.

Moving cameras help to move on traffic

A new mobile CCTV vehicle will soon be patrolling the streets of Central Bedfordshire as high tech rolling CCTV cameras are being used to crack down on illegally parked vehicles, and help improve safety in and around problem areas.

This innovative form of parking enforcement works by taking a wider area image of a street. By collecting the registration numbers of those vehicles parked illegally, it can automatically process the owner's information and immediately create a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) for offenders - saving time and money.

The camera vehicle will be used to target problem areas such as outside schools. It will also provide effective enforcement for other areas including loading restrictions, yellow lines and bus stops and bus lanes.

"Our approach to parking must support the economic aspects of our town centres and villages as well as supporting growth and regeneration in the area,"

said Cllr Brian Spurr, Executive Member for Sustainable Communities Services.

"By managing our parking better we want to make our town centres easier to access, and more vibrant and safer places to be where people want to spend time. This means ensuring good short term provision for shoppers, good access for disabled people and a reduction in illegally parked vehicles."

Look out for the cameras due to launch in October.

Feed the birds – not a rat!

As we move into autumn you may be thinking of feeding birds and other wildlife such as foxes and hedgehogs to help them survive the colder months.

Council environmental health officers are advising residents to take a few simple feeding precautions to avoid their gardens becoming a breeding ground for rats and disease.

- Keep an eye on how much food you're leaving out. If it doesn't go quickly, put less out.
- Use a bird table or hanging feeders where possible. If you do leave food on the ground put it in a feeding tray and remove any that's left before nightfall to stop it from attracting rats.

- Bird droppings or mouldy food can be breeding grounds for parasites and bacteria. Clear and burn any large accumulations of droppings and disinfect the area.

The council offers one free treatment per year to all residents to rid homes and gardens of rats and mice. Each treatment comprises of up to three separate visits. The council can also take action where residents and landowners fail to keep their land free from rats and mice.

If you have a problem with rats or mice in your home or garden call customer services on 0300 300 8302 to arrange a visit from a rodent operative.

Be Bright, Be Seen...

As the clocks go back and evenings get darker we are urging road users to Be Bright, Be Seen in Central Bedfordshire this autumn.

The clock change means brighter mornings but darker evenings and the number of traffic collisions often rises during this time. It can be particularly dangerous for school pupils who are making independent journeys.

Central Bedfordshire Council and Amey are encouraging road users, especially children and motorcyclists, to be safe on the road this winter by ensuring they wear:

- Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing as it shows up well in daylight and at dusk
- Reflective gear if out after dark to make sure you can be seen in car headlights - fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark
- Clip-on reflectors, arm bands and stickers on clothes or school bags to improve visibility.

For hints and tips on how you can stay safe on the roads this autumn visit the Department for Transport website at www.dft.gov.uk/think. An interactive road safety website for children and parents, full of road safety advice, games and competitions, can also be found at <http://talesoftheroad.direct.gov.uk>



budget 2012

Making your money count

Every day of the year, your council is providing services to the communities of Central Bedfordshire.

All of us will make use of some of these services. Everyone who works or lives in our area will travel on the roads and footpaths that we maintain and the majority of households use our waste collection service. Libraries, leisure and social care are just a few of the other services that are highly valued by our customers.

But providing these services is an expensive business. In the current financial year we are spending more than £180m.

Looking ahead, we know as part of moves to reduce the national deficit, we will receive less government grant for council services than we did in the past. We know that there are greater pressures on the services we do provide, because of increasing needs and rising costs.

Taking all these factors into consideration, your elected

representatives are preparing a financial strategy for the coming four year period and they want your views and opinions to be at the heart of their plans.

Cllr James Jamieson, leader of the council, explains;

“We’re proud of our track record in saving money. As a new council, we’ve achieved savings of more than £20m already from reviewing what we do and how we work. But there is more to do.

“We are working on a long term plan for Central Bedfordshire – to make sure it remains a great place to be. Value for money is central to our approach and we are keen to hear from our customers about what they feel is most important for the council to focus on and where they think we should be investing and reducing our resources.”

To have your say on the council’s plans, please fill out and return the attached survey or complete it online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations.



You could also come along to one of our Let’s Talk Together meetings over the autumn to meet your local councillors and express your views. Check out the schedule in the panel below. Whatever your views, we want to hear from you so please take this opportunity to shape the plans and make your money count.

The feedback from this survey will help elected representatives prepare options for saving money next year and beyond. We will consult on these options during December and January.

Let’s Talk Together

Area	Date & Time	Location
Cranfield, Marston, Woburn	Tues, 4 October 7pm – 9pm	Woburn Village Hall
Sandy, Biggleswade	Thurs, 20 October 7pm – 9pm	Sports and Social Club, Potton
Shefford, Stotfold, Arlesey	Tues, 25 October 7pm – 9pm	St Mary’s Church Hall, Stotfold
Leighton Buzzard & Linslade	Tues, 1 November 7pm – 9pm	Leighton Buzzard Day Centre, Duncombe Drive
Ampthill, Flitwick	Tues, 15 November 7pm – 9pm	Clophill Village Hall
Dunstable, Houghton Regis & Rural	Tues, 29 November 7pm – 9pm	Heathfield School, Caddington
Leighton Rural	Tues, 6 December 7pm – 9pm	Eaton Bray Village Hall



Central Bedfordshire Council provides many important services to the public and we need to understand which of these services are most important to residents.

Q1a From the following list of council services, which services would you be least willing to see savings made, if savings have to be made? PLEASE TICK ✓ UP TO FIVE BOXES.

Q1b From the following list of council services, which services would you be most willing to see savings made, if savings have to be made? PLEASE TICK ✓ UP TO FIVE BOXES.



	a) Least willing to see savings	b) Most willing to see savings
Activities for teenagers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adoption and fostering services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attracting and supporting businesses to create jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural facilities (e.g. theatres and arts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Country parks, open spaces and rights of way	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Day centres and activities for disabled and vulnerable adults	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Day centres and activities for older people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental health, trading standards and consumer protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facilities and activities for young children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improving town centres	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining the roads and pathways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning (including managing the increase in new housing in the area)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reducing traffic congestion and subsidising public transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recycling (including household waste recycling centres)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Refuse collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residential care services for older people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services to help and protect vulnerable children (e.g. children in care)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services to support children with disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services to support older, disabled or vulnerable people to stay in their homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services to support parents and families with young children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social housing (housing provided by the council for local people)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports and leisure facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Street cleaning (removing graffiti, litter, fly tipping and abandoned cars)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Working with schools to improve educational progress and attainment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Working with the police to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your council tax pays for public services provided by Central Bedfordshire Council. Last year the government announced that local councils would receive a 28% cut in government grant over the next four years. This means, like many other councils across the country, Central Bedfordshire Council needs to reduce its spending. Last year the council proposed a budget which saved £19million but did not raise council tax. For 2012/13 the Council anticipates needing to reduce spending by a further £10million.

Q2 When Central Bedfordshire Council sets the level of council tax next year, which of the following would you prefer it to aim for? PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

- Reduce council tax and spend considerably less on public services, this will mean cutting some services
- Keep council tax the same, improve efficiency and only spend less on services if absolutely necessary
- Increase council tax to enable the council to keep all its services and spend more on some services
- Don’t know

The council is already making significant savings by reducing the cost of running the council. For example reducing the number of managers and getting better deals on contracts. It maybe possible to achieve further savings through better use of technology and reducing administrative costs in back office services such as human resources (personnel) and finance.

Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

I would rather see savings made in the cost of running the council than in frontline services

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don’t know

The council may also be able to save money by delivering some council services in different ways by working with other organisations or through new technology. For example, some Town and Parish Councils have taken on responsibility for toilets and grass-cutting in their local area and we have contracts with private companies to deliver some services.

Q4. In order to protect front line services the Council may need to consider different ways of delivering services. Would you support any of the following options for providing council services to save money? PLEASE TICK ✓ AS MANY AS APPLY.

- Local communities providing some council services through volunteers
- Town and parish councils providing some council services
- Private sector organisations providing some council services
- A charity or social enterprise providing some council services (social enterprises re-invest their profits back into the service or into the community)
- Introducing and/or increasing charges for some council services
- Changing the criteria for accessing council services so fewer people will be eligible for some services
- Combining some of our council services with other local public sector organisations to share the costs
- Encouraging local people using some council services to contact us by the internet instead of the phone or in person
- Asking individuals to do more for themselves
- None of the above

Q5. Is there anything else you would like to add? PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW

About yourself

Please complete these questions which will help us to see if there are differences between the views of different residents. All the information you give will be kept completely confidential.

Q6. Are you male or female? PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

- Male Female

Q7. What was your age on your last birthday? PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW

_____ Years

Q8. Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity? (Long-standing means anything that has troubled you over a period of time or that is likely to affect you over a period of time.)

PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

- Yes No

Q9. To which of the following ethnic groups do you belong? PLEASE TICK ✓ ONE BOX ONLY

- White Black or Black British
 Asian or Asian British Mixed/multiple ethnic groups
 Other ethnic group (PLEASE TICK AND WRITE IN) _____

Q10. What is your home postcode? (PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW)

Thank you for completing this survey.

Please return your completed survey by **14 October 2011** to **FREEPOST RSJS GBB2 SRZT, Budget Consultation, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, SG17 5TQ** (you do not need a stamp).

Data Protection Act 1998. Please note that your personal details supplied on this form will be held and/or computerised by Central Bedfordshire Council for the purpose of analysing the feedback to this budget survey. The information collected may be disclosed to officers and members of the Council and its' partners involved in this consultation. Summarised information from the forms may be published, but no individual details will be disclosed under these circumstances. Your personal details will be safeguarded and will not be divulged to any other individuals or organisations for any other purposes.

Information classification: Protected when complete

Bedfordshire Children – Planning Ahead

Children across Bedfordshire are being invited to take part in competitions to win prizes for themselves and their schools this autumn.

The challenges will be for the young people to use their creative ideas to develop posters or stories to raise awareness of potential emergency situations and how to prepare for them.

The competitions are being run throughout Bedfordshire schools and are sponsored by the local resilience forum. This group, which involves local councils, voluntary and health services, aims to ensure everyone is ready to help themselves should the unexpected

happen, whether that be through flooding, adverse weather or fuel disruption.

Forum spokesperson, Cllr Brian Spurr said, "Children can be very influential in families and we hope that by encouraging youngsters to think about issues such as the preparation of emergency kits, they'll not only have fun but will also take home important messages about planning for potential crisis situations.

To find out more about the competitions, log on to www.blrff.gov.uk or follow the "What would you do if...?" campaign on Facebook or Twitter.

Trick or treat!

With Halloween and Fireworks night just around the corner your local safer neighbourhood teams will be out and about throughout the festivities to help keep communities safe.

During Halloween;

- Parents or carers should always go trick or treating with children
- Be mindful of disturbing neighbours
- Don't feel forced into opening your front door

Fireworks night;

- Attend organised events
- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114
- Keep fireworks in a safe place in the house and follow the firework code

In an Emergency call 999 or Central Bedfordshire Council's Anti Social Behaviour Team on 0300 300 8302



WHAT GOES IN MY KITCHEN CADDY?

PLAY YOUR PART

You can put most raw and cooked food waste into the kitchen caddy

✓ YES PLEASE

- Meat and fish - raw and cooked
- Fruit and vegetables - raw and cooked (including peelings)
- All dairy products - such as cheese
- Eggs - including shells
- Bread, pastries and cakes
- Pasta, rice and beans
- Teabags & coffee grounds
- Uneaten leftovers from dishes and plates - including fish & poultry bones
- Out of date food

✗ NO THANKS

- Large bones
- Liquids - such as cooking oil, fruit juice or soup
- Packaging of any sort
- Plastic bags or wrapping


For more information, replacement liners or caddies please contact us by calling **0300 300 8302** or email customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



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For more details: www.bedford.ac.uk
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Bedford College
 Cauldwell Street
 Bedford MK42 9AH

We love our new homes!



Thirteen housing tenants in Houghton Regis are celebrating the first anniversary of moving into their own homes.

For these tenants the move has marked more than a change of address. Prior to moving to the their new one bedroom flats, these tenants who have learning disabilities, had been living in



'I like the size and it's all mine' says Wayne (pictured above)

Downing View, Dunstable - sharing kitchen, bathroom and lounge facilities in an ageing building. Other tenants have moved from residential accommodation to their new homes.

Cllr Carole Hegley, Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing, said:

"These brand new self contained flats have given the tenants a greater independence and a space they can really call their own for the first time in their lives."

Central Bedfordshire Council provides a range of support services for the adults who have varying needs such as autism, mental health issues, learning and physical disabilities. The purpose of these services are to enable the tenants to live as independently as possible in their own homes by providing or arranging support in areas such

as personal care, cleaning and cooking, paying bills, managing money, reporting faults and managing their medication.

The building is owned by Aldwyck Housing who also offer housing services to the tenants. A project officer was allocated to support the tenants with the transition to signing up to their new single occupancy accommodation.

This transition has been part of a long standing agreement between the Council and Aldwyck Housing Association and comes as a result of working in partnership in being able to deliver better and improved services to our residents.

Downing View has been maintained by the council since its closure and is currently for sale.



the evening."

Cllr Hollick will continue to raise money to distribute to good causes in the area this year having raised just short of £7,000 last year.

Grants of up to £200 are available to individuals and small groups who are looking for money to support projects designed to benefit others in their community.

To find out more about the Chairman's grants and how to apply contact Mark West at Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation, email administrator@blcf.or.uk or telephone 01767 626459.

Chairman does the double

Chairman of Central Bedfordshire Council, Cllr Peter Hollick is doing something that few Chairmen do – serving a second term of office!

As well as presiding over council meetings, Councillor Hollick (pictured right) represents Central Bedfordshire Council at a host of civic events and raises money for local good causes along the way.

Speaking about his last term in office, which saw him attend some 109 events, Cllr Hollick says: "The best thing about this role is the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people and visit new places.

"The most poignant events were the presentation of the Elizabeth Cross to relatives of deceased members of the armed forces in

recognition of the ultimate sacrifice they made for our country. Taking part in one of the Remembrance Day services was both moving and it was heartening to see so many people there.

"I've also been proud to launch some great new services and facilities including Baby Brasseries to promote breastfeeding and taking part in opening Rushmere Park.

"I've hosted my own events to raise money for local charities, ranging from civic events to a concert at the Grove Theatre in Dunstable. Co-ordinating eight musical acts which included sorting out staging, lighting and audio systems was challenging but the hard work paid off and an audience of well over 200 people enjoyed



New Music Service aims to Inspire

music for life.

A new service, Inspiring Music, takes over music tuition in schools from September.

The service's Music Director, Chris Jones, a talented musician in his own right, is hoping that his passion for music and the new service will inspire children and young people to develop their musical talents.

Working together with parents, schools and other interested groups, the service has developed a new school tuition package that will strengthen opportunities for group learning and increase the minimum number of guaranteed lessons in schools from 30 to 33 a year.

A new pricing structure for September 2011 has made lesson prices competitive, while the cost of attending Music Centres in Ampthill, Biggleswade, Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard has been set to ensure that more young people will be attracted to use them.

Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services at



Cllr Mark Versallion meets some of Central Bedfordshire's young musicians

Central Bedfordshire Council, said:

"The service aims to give children and young people the opportunity to become the best musicians they possibly can. Playing music is a chance for young people to develop a lifelong talent

and make new friends, and I am glad to have been able to continue providing support to all four of our music service venues."

For details about the new service go to www.inspiringmusic.co.uk

Review of Councillor Allowances

An Independent Panel is reviewing the scheme of allowances paid to councillors of Central Bedfordshire Council for the current year 2011/12 and for next year (2012/13).

The Panel invites Central Bedfordshire residents to contribute to its work. You can see the current allowances scheme on the council's

website, www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk. Follow the Constitution link on the front page and you'll find Member Allowances under 'Part K' of the council constitution.

If you would like to comment on the existing or future allowances your views should be sent by letter to Democratic Services, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory

House, Monks Lane, Chicksands, Beds. SG17 5TQ or alternatively by email to electoral.registration@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

The deadline for submissions is 31 October 2011.

The Panel's final report containing its recommendations will be published on the council's website.

Business bulletin

News for Central Bedfordshire's businesses

Enterprise Zone

Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone - led by the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership has been successfully awarded Enterprise Zone status, with the support of Central Bedfordshire Council. The zone will support 390 new businesses and 12,400 new jobs in the area by 2015.

The zones are provided help from Government in the form of discounted business rates, simplified planning and access to superfast broadband.

Whilst at this stage, no employment development areas within Central Bedfordshire met the Government's criteria many of the support options available in the zones. are still being actively investigated.

'Ideal aerials' creates big waves in central bedfordshire

From being named the best local trader in the East of England and shortlisted in the 'Local Business of the Year' Awards, 'Ideal Aerials' - a satellite installation business in Leighton Buzzard - has been attracting rave reviews.

Founded in 2009 by Angelo Johnson, 'Ideal Aerials' was supported by The Princes Trust and Central Bedfordshire Council and has been praised for excellent workmanship and value.

Angelo said "Running my own business has always been my ambition, I am delighted I have been able to make it happen. To be nominated at the Awards was great and the ceremony was an ideal opportunity for me to make really good contacts"

For more information on how to access **start-up grants of up to £500** contact garth.mckenzie@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or telephone 0300 300 6161

Cranfield University Technology Park - Business Breakfast

Cranfield University and Central Bedfordshire Council invite you to a series of FREE business breakfast seminars. Covering topics that may be completely new to your business, the seminars offer informal networking opportunities with experienced speakers giving you an insight into areas that could be of significant benefit to you and your company.

The next topics are:

- Making PR work for you; an introduction to how you can help yourself in the world of PR - 19th October
- The National Apprenticeship Service; advice on how to harness fresh new talent - 30th November

For more information on these seminars please visit www.cranfieldtechnologypark.co.uk or email Morgan Perry at mperry@stmodwen.co.uk to reserve your place.

Central Bedfordshire businesses get involved in Timebank - a local solution to local business growth

Local businesses are being offered the opportunity to get involved in a brand new initiative aimed at boosting local business growth, as Central Bedfordshire Council launches

the Timebank. The new scheme is aimed at providing local businesses with expert advice and support .

The Timebank initiative will match local providers of business services such as marketing, financial planning, sales and HR to businesses that are looking to start up, or grow into the area.

Woodfines Solicitors in Sandy recently signed up to the Timebank. Peter Mount from Woodfines commented: "It's a great opportunity to engage with local businesses. Entrepreneurs are the life blood of the economy and we are happy to be involved in helping to foster growth within the community."

If you are a business service provider in Central Bedfordshire and would like to sign up for the Timebank please contact, Vicky Hlomuka by emailing Vicky.hlomuka@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or calling 0300 3005297 for more information.

"Pilot 10" High Growth Programme

Does your company have aspirations to grow? We have a programme of support for 10 companies with growth potential. This programme includes access to Timebank service providers, a business growth voucher and a grant towards a business development programme.

For more information, please contact vicky.hlomuka@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or 0300 300 5297.

Like to keep in touch?

Sign up to receive the latest business news and advice. Send your details to: caron.kendall@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Advertisement feature



what's on...

Oct

Nov

For a more comprehensive listing – just click on 'What's On' at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

October

Pumpkin and Apple Gala Saturday 8

Walled Garden, Luton Hoo Estate, LU1 3TQ

Dog show, farmers' market, Morris dancers, country crafts, stalls and pumpkin decorating competition.

Entry: £7.50 adults, £2.50 children, £20 family ticket.

www.lutonhooestate.co.uk

Fun Dog Show

Sunday 9

Amphill Park, Amphill.

Registration from 11.30am, judging starting at 1.30pm.

Categories include 'Best Rescue Dog'; 'Waggiest Tail' and 'Best Puppy'. Plus agility course, pet photographer and refreshments. All proceeds to Amphill Festival and Home for Unwanted and Lost Animals www.hularescue.org

Conservation at the Forest of Marston Vale

Saturday 22, 10.15am-4.15pm

The Forest Centre, Marston Vale Millennium Country Park, Station Road, Marston Moretaine

Jump in a boat to carry out clearance work on the Wetlands islands. Help environment, get some exercise and have fun!

Limited places so contact in advance if you want to attend. Email anna.charles@marstonvale.org or ring 01234 762614.

Halloween Spooktacular Friday 28, Saturday 29, 7.45pm

TADS Theatre, Conger Lane, Toddington

Stage and screen songs with a spooky twist. £5 all tickets. Book tickets online www.tadstheatre.org or contact the box office on 07952633234.

November

Organ Dance

Saturday 5, 7.45-11pm

The Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade

Hosted by Biggleswade Sequence Dance Club. Tickets £5. Contact 01462 700 471 for information.

Grove Sings

Tuesday 15, 7.30pm

Grove Theatre, Court Drive, Dunstable

Showcasing local singing groups and solo artists from 4 to 94 performing hits from various genres.

Tickets £10. Book online at www.grovetheatre.co.uk or ring 01582 60 20 80

National Childbirth Trust – Nearly New Sale

Saturday 26, 2pm - 3:30pm

Watling Lower School, Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable

Dunstable and District NCT are holding a sale of nearly new cloths, toys and equipment. Entry £1 (in aid of NCT Charity), pushchairs not recommended.

Ring 0844 243 6112 or email nnsdunstable@gmail.com for more details.

Christmas Shopping Hall and Fayre

Saturday 26, 1-4pm

Stondon Lower School, Hillside Road, Lower Stondon

Lots of stalls selling unique gifts that cannot be found on the High Street, from bath bombs to handbags. Santa's grotto and games for the children. Refreshments available.

Entry £1. Park in the recreation ground car park on Hillside Road. Contact Stondon Lower School on 01462 850288.

Would you like your event to be featured in 'What's On'? Email newscentral@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk and will try and include it in the next edition!



...on the Big library Debate

Thousands of residents have been taking part in the 'Big Library Debate' to help shape the future of the service.

We are now reviewing all of this feedback and developing proposals for the future direction of the library service to make sure it meets

the needs of current and future generations, and delivers improved value for money. We will be asking for your views on these options later in the Autumn, so watch out for the next stage of the Big Library Debate in your local library or via www.letstalkcentral.com

Central Bedfordshire in contact

If you would like to receive a copy of News Central on email then please contact us at newscentral@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk alternatively download a copy from the news pages at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Website:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Email:

customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Council and democracy

including elections, jobs, consultation
0300 300 8301

Home and environment

including waste & recycling,
housing, births, deaths & marriages
0300 300 8302

Health and caring

including adoption & fostering,
social care for adults & children
0300 300 8303

Learning

including young people's services,
adult learning, education welfare
0300 300 8304



Write to:

Central Bedfordshire Council,
Priory House, Monks Walk,
Chicksands, Shefford,
Bedfordshire, SG17 5TQ.

Leisure and culture

including libraries, parks, sports & arts
0300 300 8305

Money and benefits

including council tax, grants,
benefits (housing & council tax)
0300 300 8306

Planning and business

including planning & building control,
trading standards, business advice
0300 300 8307

Travelling

including highways,
Blue Badges, bus passes
0300 300 8308

For information

Please call 0300 300 8301 to talk to an English speaking person who will request help for you.

للحصول على معلومات، يُرجى الاتصال بالرقم 0300 300 8301 للتحدث إلى شخص يتكلم الإنجليزية والذي سيقوم بطلب المساعدة لك.

Pour obtenir des informations, veuillez appeler le 0300 300 8301. Une personne parlant l'anglais vous répondra et demandera de l'aide pour vous

若了解情况，请致电 0300 300 8301，可与讲英语者交谈。他/她将为您请求帮助。

W celu uzyskania informacji prosimy dzwonić pod numer 0300 300 8301, a osoba mówiąca po angielsku zwróci się o pomoc dla Państwa.

माहिती माटे कृपा करी 0300 3000 8301 उपर ईंग्लिश भाषा ओबनार व्यक्तित साथे वातचीत करो के जेओ तमार।
माटे मदद करवा विनंती करशे.

ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲੈਣ ਲਈ, ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਨੰਬਰ 0300 300 8301 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਬੋਲਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਨਾਲ ਗੱਲ ਕਰੋ, ਜੋ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਲਈ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣ ਦਾ ਇੰਤਜ਼ਾਮ ਕਰੇਗਾ।

When you have finished reading it, put it in your recycling bin or bag