

Crime and Disorder

Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedfordshire Police have the statutory responsibility for dealing with crime and antisocial behaviour within Leighton Buzzard and Linslade.

For more information, please see their websites.

As a Parish Council, Leighton-Linslade Town Council is empowered by the Local Government and Rating Act 1997, section 31, to spend money on various crime prevention measures. In addition to this, the Localism Act 2011 empowered parish councils to do anything an individual can do, provided it is not prohibited by other legislation.

The Town Council is aware that crime prevention is a top priority for residents within the parish and works closely with Bedfordshire Police and other partner organisations towards this goal. A specific service level agreement known as Operation Dodford was established several years ago between the Town Council and Bedfordshire Police, providing a mechanism for the Town Council to request and direct additional policing activity to meet the needs of the community.

At present an annual budget of up to £40,000 is allocated for Community Safety, which includes Operation Dodford as well as other measures. This enables Bedfordshire Police to offer voluntary overtime to its officers, for the purposes of additional crime prevention activity within Leighton-Linslade (above and beyond normal operational policing activity and response services). Present priorities include regular patrols of the town centre on market days and patrols of the parks.

This activity is monitored by the Community Safety Sub-Committee on a quarterly basis. The Sub-Committee oversees expenditure throughout the year and receives reports on the additional policing activity undertaken and any incidents of note. Further input is received by the Sub-Committee from Central Bedfordshire Council, in terms of CCTV incidents recorded in the town and monitored by its CCTV Control Room. CCTV is used by both the local authority and the Town Council at a number of locations within the parish as a crime prevention measure and where necessary, to help provide evidence to Bedfordshire Police.

The provision of CCTV is a matter which the Town Council will continue to support, with a recent commitment made to purchasing two re-deployable CCTV cameras. These cameras will be used in different locations as needs are identified. Newer technology will help ensure that the data captured is of sufficient quality to assist Bedfordshire Police in identifying criminals and providing evidence to support further action.

As a further measure towards the prevention of crime and disorder, the Town Council supports the Best Bar None scheme within the town. This national initiative, supported by the Home Office, aims at promoting the responsible management and operation of premises licensed to sell alcohol, helping to reduce alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Town Council is pleased to support local volunteers and businesses who take part in various Watch schemes including Home Watch, Pub Watch, Shop Watch, Street Watch and Speed Watch. The Town Council has purchased radios for volunteers to use whilst on duty as well as traffic speed monitoring equipment.