Council Tax remains unchanged for the sixth consecutive year!

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WHAT’S ON 2018

PICK UP the 2018 'What’s On' Guide from various locations around the Town.

Alternatively you can find it in the March edition of the Bee Local Magazine or download it from our website.
Mayor’s Message

At the last meeting of Council on 29 January, a budget was agreed for the financial year 2018-19.

I am delighted to announce that part of your council tax which funds Town Council services will remain unchanged for the sixth consecutive year. At £149.98 for an average Band D dwelling, this equates to less than £2.88 per household, per week. Within the agreed budget, the Council will continue to invest in its facilities and services for the town.

Council Tax Remains Unchanged!

Despite rising inflation and increasing costs, the Town Council is able to deliver a balanced budget for 2018/19 without having to draw down on reserves, compromise on service delivery or indeed draw back on its ambitious improvement plans for the parish over the coming 12 months. In praising the Town Council for delivering a balanced budget, Cllr Ewan Wallace said "I am proud to lead a Council with a strong record of delivery of services such as: the TACTIC youth service; award winning parks; successful cultural events such as the Big Lunch and an improved market.”

Leighton-Linslade will be pleased, and perhaps surprised, to know that for the 6th year in a row the Conservative run Town Council will again freeze the amount residents pay in Council Tax for 2018/19. I am delighted to announce that the Council will continue to run a three day Christmas weekend festival. For more information on other projects and initiatives that the council has delivered and is intending to do, please visit the Town Council website.

 dates for the Diary 2018

Civic Service
All Saints Church
Sunday 25 February
(1500hrs)

Spring Fayre
Astral Park
Saturday 17 March
(1200 - 1600 hrs)

Astral Park
Wednesday 11 April
(1930hrs)

Bingo Night
Astral Park
Friday 18 May
(1930 hrs)

Easter Play Scheme (8-11yrs)
Leighton Buzzard Railway
Easter Play Scheme (8-11yrs)

Mayor’s Charity Concert, James Goff
Sunday 25 February
(1500hrs)

Notes for the Diary 2018

**MARCH**

26th Feb - Sun 11
Fairtrade Fortnight, visit www.
fairtradel.co.uk for more information.

2nd - Sun 4
Spring Clean Campaign, Keep Britain Tidy visit www.facebook.com/
LeightonLinsladeBloom for more information.

3rd Sat
Pop-Up Market, Town Centre
(0900 - 1600 hrs)

3rd Sun
50th Anniversary & Season Launch
Leighton Buzzard Railway

**APRIL**

5th Wed - Fri 4
Easter Play Scheme [8-11yrs]
TACTIC Centre [0930 - 1530 hrs]

6th Sat
Pop-Up Market, Town Centre
(0900 - 1600 hrs)

9th Mon - 12th Thurs
Easter Activities (12-18yrs)
TACTIC Centre

10th Wed 11
Outdoor Cinema Screening
Mentmore Park

11th Wed
Mayor’s Charity Concert, James Goff
Big Band, Vandyke School [1930 hrs]

22nd Sat
Farmers’ Market, Town Centre
(0900 - 1600 hrs)

28th Sat
Craft Market, Town Centre
(0900 - 1600 hrs)

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MONDAY 19 MARCH 1930 - 2100 hrs**

Each year, the Town Council calls a Parish Meeting to provide an opportunity for residents to find out what the Town Council has been doing, its future plans and to ask questions of your Town Councillors.

This year’s meeting will take place at Astral Park, Johnson Drive on Monday 19 March from 1930 hrs.
Changing Shopfronts
High Street Improvement Scheme

Over the next month, five of our local High Street businesses will receive a new look as a result of their successful application to Central Bedfordshire Council’s High Street Improvement Scheme grant.

The scheme was launched in 2017. Working in partnership with the Town Council, Central Bedfordshire Council offered funding to businesses to modernise their shop fronts, upper floors and forecourts, while preserving and enhancing the character of individual buildings, as well as expert advice on creating new branding for signage.

Soon you can see the results for yourself. In Bridge Street for example, A Touch of Class hairdressers will undergo renovation of its frontage as well as change its name to Gennaro promoting the use of organic hair products.

GRANTS 2018/19

Would your group like a grant from the Town Council?

Applications are now being accepted for General Grants of up to £500 for the financial year 2018-2019. Grants must be for a specific project to be completed within a year, which will benefit residents of Leighton Buzzard and Linslade. Further details and application forms are available on the Town Council website.

Easter Holiday Project

Monday 9 - Friday 13 April (12 - 19 year olds)

There is something for everyone at TACTIC over the Easter holidays. Our challenge to you is not to allow yourself to be bored. Get active and bring a friend or make some new ones at the TACTIC centre.

Playscheme for 8-11 year olds from 4 - 8 April at Pages Park Pavilion. Fun filled days of various activities such as arts & crafts and team games. £6.00 per day.

Free activities take place at TACTIC on Monday/Tuesday/Thursday including art workshops (ceramics/jewellery making and glitter tattoos), games challenge and a 'be safe, look after ya' mates.' (substance misuse) workshop.

On Wednesday we will be at Astral Park for a free Zumba class. Our trip out on Friday is to go ice skating (£8.00 for the trip including skates and transport – limited places available).

For more information or to book an activity call, 01525-373838 or email tactic@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk

Youth Promise Grant

The Youth Promise Grant is now open for youth organisations to apply for funding to increase delivery and take up of positive activities for local 11-19yr olds. The Grant is available for projects that can be delivered by 31 March 2019 and applications will be accepted on a rolling programme whilst funds are available.

Applications are limited to youths aged 11 to 19. Visit the TACTIC website for full details of how to apply to the Youth Promise Grant.

Leighton-Linslade Town Council Official

Invitation to give feedback through targeted surveys during March/April

In 2017, the Town Council deployed the nationally acclaimed People and Places Insight Limited Town Benchmarking system. Benchmarking is a system based on gathering and analysing data on Key Performance Indicators concerning:

- Retail Offer
- Footfall
- Markets
- Car Parking
- Business Confidence
- Visitor Satisfaction
- Shoppers Origin

The final reports are used to:

- Review town centre performance in a specific year
- Review year on year town centre performance
- Identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for improvement in town centres
- Develop an evidence base to deliver and evaluate regeneration projects
- Understand localities in a regional and national context

In order to help with the continuous improvement of the town centre we would like Businesses to complete a short survey which will be hand delivered with a freepost envelope by the People and Places Insight Research Team in March. The survey will ask questions such as business confidence, customer origin and positive and negative aspects of trading in the town centre. We would also like information from residents and visitors (including those who may no longer use Leighton Buzzard) in terms of their views and opinions of the town centre. To provide the valuable feedback all you need to do is complete the following 2 minute online survey by clicking on www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LBTCU18

The final Benchmarking Report which will be available from April will once again be used as an action plan for the Town Council to continue to improve the town centre.

If you have any questions please contact Mike King, People and Places Insight Limited at mike.king@people-places.co.uk

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COUNCIL NEWS

Monday 26 February until Sunday 11 March

Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 will run from Monday 26 February until Sunday 11 March. The campaign ‘Come On In’ invites you to come in to the world of the people who grow our food to see what life can be like when farmers and workers aren’t paid fairly.

Marcial Quintero is a member of Coobana, a Fairtrade banana co-operative in Panama said: “Before joining Fairtrade we didn’t see any benefits, development or profit. The price we used to receive per box wasn’t enough to cover our costs – and for 17 years the price didn’t change. Since starting with Fairtrade it’s made a mega-revolution in our lives.”

Locally, Fairtrade Leighton Linslade is having two product labelling at local supermarkets and is asking local estate agents to support Fairtrade by posting selfie/photo with their favourite Fairtrade product to the Facebook page including a few words on why it is important to support producers in developing countries.

The Oxfam shop is offering a 20% discount on Ethical Direct products. Take a look at their window display to what Fairtrade products you can buy. Leighton’s specialist health food shop, Nature’s Harvest, will also have a special Fairtrade window display.

Sally Reith, Fairtrade Leighton Linslade’s spokesperson said: “More people choosing, sharing and shouting about Fairtrade in the UK during Fairtrade Fortnight will open doors for more producers like Marcial to break the stranglehold of poverty prices.”

GET INVOLVED

Volunteer today with Friends of Leighton-Linslade in Bloom

Have you admired the town’s floral displays, community gardens, or visited Open Garden days? These are all projects that take place under the Leighton- Linslade in Bloom initiative. It’s all part of Anglia in Bloom, a regional part of the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society’s) Britain in Bloom competition.

Local people join together and give their time and energy with the aims to create lasting improvements to the town, both environmentally and florally, whilst encouraging community participation and pride.

The work of these volunteers includes the development and management of community gardens in Pages Park and Linslade Recreational Ground, floral displays around the town and encouraging community groups to participate in various awards categories and competitions.

Volunteers, young and old, work towards sustaining lasting improvements for the town and you don’t need to be ‘green-fingered’. What would you like to get involved in?

Contact: The Friends of Leighton- Linslade in Bloom, please e-mail: info@leighton-linsladeinbloom.co.uk or telephone David Rosie on 01525 370279.

Open Gardens - Visit a wide variety of private gardens and take away ideas for your own or maybe consider opening your garden for the day.

RHS, It’s Your Neighbourhood – an Awards scheme for community groups who work passionately to clean up and green their local environment.

Contact: The Friends of Leighton- Linslade in Bloom, please e-mail: info@leighton-linsladeinbloom.co.uk or telephone David Rosie on 01525 370279.

Come on In To Fairtrade

Monday 26 February until Sunday 11 March

Staff at John Wilkinson’s say “Come On In To Fairtrade”

Fairtrade Fortnight will open doors for various awards categories and competitions. Volunteering, young and old, work towards sustaining lasting improvements for the town and you don’t need to be ‘green-fingered’. What would you like to get involved in?

Litter Pick - Sunday 4 March (10.00 - 12:00 hours) meet at the Bandstand in Parson’s Close Recreation Ground). Are you willing to help with our annual litter pick?

Plant Stalls - Saturday 5 May & Saturday 2 June, Bridge Street, Leighton Buzzard. Can you help on the day or do you have plants you could donate?

Hanging Basket competition - for schools and groups with children under 9 years of age.

Poster Competition - for schools and groups with children under 9 years of age.

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Central Bedfordshire Council is responsible for:

- Housing, Council Tax, Benefits
- Elections, Schools
- Highways (roads, pavements, footpaths, verges & trees)
- Parking (car parks, permits, disabled parking passes & bus passes)
- Community Safety (environmental health & trading standards)
- Waste Collection & Street Cleaning
- Children’s Services, Social Services
- Leisure & Libraries, Planning Matters

E: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
0300 300 8000

Feedback Form

We would welcome your comments on the services we provide. Please cut out and post in the box provided at the Multi Storey car park (West Street).

Your comments:

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Please enter your details if you want us to respond to your comments.

Name: ....................................................................................................
Telephone ..............................................................................................
Email ....................................................................................................

Please tick relevant box

- LU7 ☐
- Other ☐

Why not advertise your business with us?

Pricing Guidelines

1/4 page 8.7 x 12.7cm (portrait) £50 + VAT
1/8 page 8.7 x 6cm (landscape) £30 + VAT
1/2 page 18 x 12.7cm (landscape) £80.00 + VAT
Full page 21 x 29.7cm £160.00 + VAT

We reserve the right to review pricing

For more information contact: Vivien Cannon on 01525 631924

Answer to quiz: Bear footprint, part of the Children’s Trail, outside the Library

Whilst every effort has been taken to provide accurate information, the Council does not accept any liability for error or omission for information on services it is not directly responsible for. The Town Council does not necessarily endorse any business using advertising space.

Leighton-Linslade Town Council, The White House, Hockliffe Street, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 1HD
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W: www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk