The town has been showered in praise for its beautiful blooms thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers. The Friends of Leighton-Linslade in Bloom, the Town Council own Grounds and Environmental Services team, sponsorship from Rotary Club of Leighton and Linslade as well as other help from organisations in Leighton-Linslade when judges toured the town as part of the annual Anglia in Bloom competition.

Everyone behind this year’s campaign is hoping they’ve done enough to help retain the town’s Gold Award in the regional horticultural contest when the results are announced in September. This year is probably our best entry into Anglia in Bloom; so many areas look fantastic. The community effort is just amazing and is some of the best in the Anglia region without a doubt.

Cllr Steve Jones said “The number of individuals and groups who continue to play a precious part in the in Bloom campaign in Leighton-Linslade is brilliant, their untiring efforts do the Town proud”.

In this issue

4 Charter Market Relaunch
7 Living History Event
8 Tactic Talk Time
News from the Mayor

Councillor Syed Rahman, Town Mayor for 2017-2018, would like to thank everyone who has supported his recent charity fundraising activities, which included providing refreshments at two Sunday Band Concerts, a supermarket bucket collection and a wonderful Afternoon Tea with live music at Astral Park. Plans are now well underway for a busy Autumn programme of events which we hope many of you will be able to attend and support – please see dates below (further details on the Town Council’s website). All funds raised will be for the Mayor’s five chosen charities for the year.

The Mayor was delighted to welcome 25 visitors from our French twin town of Coulommiers and our German twin town of Titisee-Neustadt for the last weekend in July. A busy programme of events was much enjoyed by the visitors. Thank you to all the members of the Town Twinning Forum for their hard work in organising the visit and for all the host families that took part.

The Town Council is delighted to have retained our Green Flag awards for excellence in Parson’s Close Recreation Ground, Pages Park and Vandyke Road Cemetery and would like to thank all the volunteers involved in helping to maintain these fantastic green spaces. At the time of going to print, we are also awaiting judging.

The Town Council is considering the 2018-17 general grants (up to £500) and start-up grants (up to £250) from local charitable / voluntary organisations and community groups. The deadline for applications is Friday 27 October ‘17. Terms and Conditions apply.

For more information please go to: http://www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk/your-community/grants-and-awards/

COUNCIL COMMITTEE DATES

Committee meetings start at 19.30hrs and are held in the Town Council Offices unless otherwise shown below. Please note these may be subject to change, please check our website.

SEPTEMBER 2017

Mon 4 Cultural & Economic Services Committee
Wed 6 Planning & Transport Committee
Thur 7 Partnership Committee
Mon 11 Grounds & Environmental Services Committee
Mon 18 Policy & Finance Committee
Mon 25 COUNCIL
Wed 27 Planning & Transport Committee

OCTOBER 2017

Mon 9 Police Liaison Sub-Committee
Mon 16 Personnel Sub-Committee
Wed 18 Planning & Transport Committee

For forthcoming dates:
Saturday 14 October
Charity Ball, Leighton Buzzard Golf Club
Friday 27 October
For more information please go to: http://www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk/your-community/grants-and-awards/

The Town Council is accepting applications for the 2018-17 general grants (up to £500) and start-up grants (up to £250) from local charitable / voluntary organisations and community groups. The deadline for applications is Friday 27 October ’17. Terms and Conditions apply.

For more information please go to: http://www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk/your-community/grants-and-awards/
Over recent months, there has been much conjecture surrounding the Market Relaunch Project that this council has committed to. It is without question one of the most challenging projects that the town council has embarked upon in recent years given the level of opinion raised. Contextually, our market is no different to many other markets across the land. The advent of internet shopping and cut price high street retailers have been contributory factors in their decline. Talk to the market traders and they will agree that their businesses have suffered because of the change in shopping habits. Whilst our market is performing adequately, the underlying trend is a downward one with retail spend in decline when compared to traditional shops (Retail Group Survey Nov ’16 of market traders and retailers); this is despite footfall within the High Street remaining unchanged.

Reasons for Change - The Evidence

As some of you may remember, the Town Council back in October 2014 undertook a resident’s survey to provide evidence to help inform and shape a range of town centre enhancements and business support schemes. From the survey findings, it was clear that whilst shoppers appreciated that we had a market, it wasn’t offered as a priority reason to visit the town centre with a proportion requesting that the market “be made stronger”. A working party comprising retail, voluntary group as well as council representation was created to review the findings. The working party concluded that the present market was a town priority and worth investing in.

Where Then

As a council, a conscious decision was taken some 16 months ago that the market is too important to the town and that investment was necessary in order to safeguard its long term future in the interests of our loyal traders, parishioners and visitors alike. By way of a successful grant application to Central Bedfordshire Council, the town council was able to secure £56,000 of match funding toward improvements to the market. Together with our own funding, a total of £113,000 is being committed to market improvements that include new stalls, enhanced electricity supply together with new website, advertising material and trader recruitment.

Appointment of Consultants

To help support the town council, The Retail Group was appointed in the late summer 2016. Their purpose was to engage with our traders and market traders to better understand how the market could be improved in the common interests of all who use and trade on the market. Whilst we valued and recognised the intelligence offered by local interest groups and individuals, we felt that we needed the help and support of a third party who could offer a fresh perspective.

In the autumn of 2016, The Retail Group conducted a comprehensive survey of town centre retailers as well as market traders to better understand how businesses within the town were faring. The survey identified that shoppers were spending more on average in the shops than on the market when compared to previous years. Using the findings from their survey as well as the recent survey conducted in 2014, the Retail Group was asked to:-

- Create a market growth plan that identified the appropriate mix of stalls, layout and location;
- Demonstrate the need for investment in the market;
- Identify actions to improve performance for traders that the town council could support.

In late autumn 2016, the town council received the consultant’s report which identified the present market as being “underwhelming”. Whilst regular users of the market appeared satisfied with the present market offer in that it met their routine shopping needs, it was clear that the consultant’s findings resonated with the findings from the public consultation exercise conducted in 2014; namely the market did not attract residents or indeed visitors to the town centre. More crucially, when residents and visitors were in the town centre, the underwhelming nature of the market by way of layout and appearance meant that they were less inclined to explore to the detriment of market stall holders.

To further support our evidence gathering, the market was visited on 3 separate occasions by a mystery shopper who had neither visited the town for shopping or indeed the market previously. The mystery shopper was of the opinion that the market was tired and of more concern was that the mystery shopper would not visit the market in its present form again.

At its meeting held 16th February 2017, The Retail Group presented its Market Action Plan to the town council’s Market Sub-Committee. Of the raft of recommendations set out therein, The Retail Group encouraged the growth of the market on the north side of the High Street (where footfall is greatest), around the Market Cross and along “middle row” (that runs between Pizza Express and Lloyds Bank). The proposal also allowed for the continued use of the south side of the High Street.

Consultation

In May 2017, there then followed a series of public as well as trader consultation exercises. Although the market is a discretionary service meaning that the market can be closed or moved at the council’s discretion, we felt we needed to engage with our stakeholders to better understand any concerns they may have had before any proposal was implemented. Issues pertinent to traders and the way they operate their business were raised and as far as possible, are being addressed.

Looking Forward

As we look toward the Saturday relaunch date of 23rd September, quickly followed the Tuesday relaunch on 26th September, there is still a great deal to organise and arrange. At the point of writing, 1:1 meetings with individual market traders are on-going. Their purpose to discuss and agree pitch locations and to discuss any anomalies that may exist in terms of the space they occupy and the rent paid. As part of the relaunch, traders will have the opportunity to use town council equipment such as the gazebos and umbrella canopies (pictured here) on a complimentary basis. Should traders prefer to use their own stall structures and canopies, they are most welcome to do so. Our only proviso being that canopies are in good clean order and free from tears, rips and holes. Some argue that by requiring canopies to be in good order is a step toward gentrification. However, we beg to differ. We are optimistic that the relaunched market by way of new stalls and revised layout will be comparable to the French Market that comes to town. The colour and vibrancy created by the French market naturally encourages visitors to be inquisitive and to explore more so than the present market offers. By doing this, we would hope customer spend on the market will increase to the mutual benefit of our loyal traders thereby safeguarding the future of the market.

As a town we can proudly boast a myriad of independent shops offering a varied product range that we hope we can also replicate on the market. As part of our intensive
LEIGHTON BUZZARD MARKET

As a council, we care passionately about the market and we want to see it flourish. Yes, change can be unsettling and brings with it uncertainty. However, if the market is to survive, we need to make improvements now. We sincerely hope that the improvements in layout and the introduction of new stall equipment will make a positive difference to your market shopping experience. Our collective hard work doesn’t end on 23rd September. It is our intention to monitor the market on a 6 monthly basis to ensure that the improvements are making a positive difference. If it is found that tweaks need to be made, we will do so. We hope that you will continue to use the market and will appreciate the changes we have made. As always, we look forward to receiving any comments you may wish to make about the new layout and any improvements you may wish to see introduced.

We are a Real Deal market – the first in Bedfordshire to join the Real Deal campaign making sure markets are free of counterfeit and other illegal goods, so that consumers can shop, and legitimate dealers can trade, in safety and with confidence.

September is the national campaign, we will be actively seeking new product lines and traders who will be encouraged to come to the market.

As part of the suite of improvements, the town council is investing in the rebranding of the market, improved signage, creation of a new web site and Facebook page. Working closely with Central Bedfordshire Council, we will be looking to make improvements to the electricity supply which you may have noticed is provided to our traders by way of the lamp columns. At present, the inability to provide electricity to all our traders who need electricity is a constraining factor. In time, we would love to see strings of lights run the length of the market illuminating it on those dark winter evenings.

Your Local Businesses

Are you a small business based in Leighton Buzzard?
Alongside the Federation of Small Business, Leighton-Linslade Town Council is offering a pop-up market and special business clinic available to all small businesses in Leighton-Linslade. The event which will take place on Saturday 7 October will give all local businesses the chance to hire a stand at the pop-up market to show residents and visitors alike what goods and services there are locally to help them gear up for the Christmas period and beyond. If you work at home of have an out of town work base, this is the opportunity to be in the Town’s High Street and to be seen. As well as this there will be a clinic of business experts helping stall holders to address any issues that they need help with.

Don’t forget it’s small business Saturday on 2nd December, the national campaign.

Are you a small business based in Leighton Buzzard?

Shan Shui

Fine Dining Chinese Restaurant

Shan Shui Cottage

For Christmas 2017, we offer an upgraded buffet menu. A course at only £24.80 pp. All our dishes are freshly cooked after your order.

Please book Menu at

01525 306 588
shanhuicottage.com
8 High Street, LU7 1EA

For more information please contact:
events@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk or 01525 631920

October is a great month to order your Christmas bookings. Our fresh buffet menu in 4 courses at only £24.80 pp.

Living History

Living Medieval History

Come and join us on Saturday 7th October for a day of medieval fun in the High Street alongside our Charter Market. Step back in time to a world where chain mail was common and the falconer ruled the sports field as well as the hunting ground. Our medieval moneyer alongside our medieval forge will showcase the skills which would have been rife within the medieval community, giving children the opportunity to strike their own coin or spin their own yarn.

Adults will have the chance to discover about health and disease from the barber surgeon and discover the role which the church has in medieval Leighton Buzzard whilst listening to the sounds of the musicians playing their instruments.

Watch out for further details on the town council’s website and social media pages.

Honorary Burgess

Send in your nomination

It’s time for worthy residents to stand up and be recognised by the Town. Nominations are been accepted for recipients of the Honorary Burgess of Leighton Buzzard and Linslade prestigious award. If you know of someone who has selflessly given of themselves then why not celebrate them and nominate them?

The closing date for nominations is 31 October 2017 in readiness for the 2018 award year.

Contact sarah.sandiford@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk or on 01525 631920 for more information or visit our website: http://www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/HonBurgessProc.pdf

The Judges’ Journey took in:

The judges appreciated the time spent by Steve on his Weston Avenue allotment - a garden with vegetables and fruit trees so carefully manicured and laid out.

Parson’s Close with children from Pultfords School and Victoria Harvey of South Beds Friends of the Earth. The pupils’ knowledge about bees impressed the Judges and Daphne explained about our School Hanging Basket competition as the entries are all displayed along the diagonal path in Parson’s Close.

This year Sandhills Rainbow won the competition. Then it was off to Church Square to see the improved floral display at the monolith of granite and David explained the history of the area.

A drive past the Flypast Monument and River Bridge, both looking very special this year, as they went to Mentmore Park and Memorial Garden Judges met pupils from different years at St George’s Lower School and watched their bee Waggle Dance.

Tiddenfoot Waterside Park was the next stop to see the work of the active volunteer group superbly managing a site for wildlife.

The new Friends of Leighton-Linslade in Bloom Community Garden site in Linslade Recreation Ground showed off their hard work in progress preparing to be a highlight in future years.

A town centre walk including Peacock Mews with their impressive floral displays. The hanging baskets, tiered planters and Town signs all looked great thanks to the hard work done by the Grounds team at the Town Council. North Street Roundabout also looked stunning with its array of barrier baskets.

Blooming Success

All of the late night meetings over the winter and months of preparations come down to only 2½ hours to showcase the town. On Judging Day this year the sun didn’t shine very much but the enthusiasm of the volunteers and the floral displays made up for that.

In total this year’s entry sees us submit 12 separate entries. On 14th September at the Anglia in Bloom Awards Ceremony, we find out that we have retained the Gold Award for the Town and maybe won a few more.

A very busy 2½ hours and if you haven’t seen the displays in the Library window based on literature with a gardening theme it is a must.

If you know of someone who has selflessly given of themselves then why not celebrate them and nominate them?

The closing date for nominations is 31 October 2017 in readiness for the 2018 award year.

Contact sarah.sandiford@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk or on 01525 631920 for more information or visit our website: http://www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/HonBurgessProc.pdf

For more information please contact:
events@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk or 01525 631920

If you know of someone who has selflessly given of themselves then why not celebrate them and nominate them?

The closing date for nominations is 31 October 2017 in readiness for the 2018 award year.

Contact sarah.sandiford@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk or on 01525 631920 for more information or visit our website: http://www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/HonBurgessProc.pdf

If you know of someone who has selflessly given of themselves then why not celebrate them and nominate them?

The closing date for nominations is 31 October 2017 in readiness for the 2018 award year.

Contact sarah.sandiford@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk or on 01525 631920 for more information or visit our website: http://www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/HonBurgessProc.pdf

If you know of someone who has selflessly given of themselves then why not celebrate them and nominate them?
TALK TIME

Youth Counselling

TACTIC Teenage Advice and Information Centre offers FREE youth counselling in partnership with Relate for young people aged 12 – 19yrs old.

What is Young People’s Counselling?

Young People’s Counselling is for any young person who’s having problems. Whether its depression and mental health concerns, personal, emotional, issues with parents, people at school or friends or generally not feeling good about themselves talking to a Relate Counsellor can help.

Counselling lets you talk about how you feel, separate from school, home life, this is completely confidential and can help you get back to enjoying life.

Please contact TACTIC to make an appointment on 01525-373838 or email tactic@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk

www.tactic-centre.co.uk
www.relatebedsandluton.org.uk

FREEFLOW
A Complete Drainage Service
A Division of UK traders INC Limited

Leighton Buzzard’s Drainage Company

Blocked Drain Clearance . Drain Jetting
Colour CCTV Inspection
Excavation & Repair
Free Quotation Service

Drain Clearance £55ph+VAT
(most jobs completed under 1hr)
No Call Out Charge
(within 10 miles of Leighton Buzzard)

24hr Emergency Drain Clearance

Please call us on
Tel: 01525 634070 or 07928 652013
Fax: 01525 376094
FULLY INSURED

Company No. 04730483 - VAT No. 829 5367 90
Church Road, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard
Beds. LU7 2LR

Why not advertise your business with us?

Pricing Guidelines

1/4 page 8.7 x 12.7cm (portrait) £50
1/8 page 8.7 x 6cm (landscape) £30
1/2 page 18 x 12.7cm (landscape) £80.00
Full page 21 x 29.7cm £160.00
All prices + VAT.
We reserve the right to review pricing.

For more information contact: Vivien Cannon on 01525 631924

ABOUT TOWN

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) or Town Council Offices (Hockliffe Street).

Your comments:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Please enter your details if you want us to respond to your comments.
Name: ...................................................................................................................
Telephone: ...........................................................................................................
Email: .......................................................................................................................

Please tick relevant box: LU7 □ other □

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
Main switchboard: 01525 631920 info@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk