

ABOUT TOWN



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE
TOWN COUNCIL

July/August 2023

The newsletter for residents of Leighton Buzzard and Linslade

Published by Leighton-Linslade Town Council

Enjoy our Parks & Open Spaces this summer



Scan to visit our website.



W: www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk

Introduction



Welcome to our first About Town since the election of our new councillors. We have had a big change, so should you need to contact your local representative, please see their name and contact details found inside this issue.



APPLY NOW FOR A COMMUNITY GRANT!

At its last meeting on 22 May, the Grants & Awards Sub-Committee was delighted to approve grants for several groups including Reclaim Life, Riverside W.I., The Friday Club, 3rd Heath and Reach Guides and Totally Leighton Buzzard.

If you know of a local charity, voluntary or not for profit group in need of funds, why not apply for a general grant of up to £500 from the council? You can find out more about criteria, how to apply and key dates on the Grants & Awards page of our website.



SCAN ME!

Mayor of Leighton-Linslade

Cllr. KEVIN PUGHE



As I write this, I am just starting in my Mayoral year, having been elected on 15 May. It is an honour and a privilege to serve as Town Mayor and I am looking forward to meeting many of you throughout the year. The charities I aim to raise funds for this year are KidsOut, which helps disadvantaged children; the Leighton-Linslade Homeless Service, which provides the community food bank and the All Saints Preservation Trust, which aims to preserve our much loved Grade 1 listed Church, which dates back to 1277.

To raise money for these great causes, I will be hosting a number of fundraising events throughout the year which I hope you will be able to support. To find out what's coming up, do visit my page on the Town Council website.

Charity Meal at Number One Kitchen - Friday 11 July.

Steam Train Supper at the Narrow Gauge Railway - Friday 18 August.

Supporting the Mayor's chosen charities.



Community Champions

Do you know someone who is a long-serving volunteer making a difference in our community? Why not nominate an unsung hero for a 2024 Community Volunteer Award? This scheme aims to recognise those individuals who give their time to help others and make a real difference to people in our community.



To find out more and make a nomination, visit the Grants & Awards page of our website. The closing date for 2024 nominations is 31 October, with awards due to be presented in February 2024.

"I volunteer to make a positive difference in my community."



Do you want to know more about what the Town Council does? Our annual report for 2022-23 was recently published and can be found on the Publications page of our website. Do have a read and get in touch if you have any questions or would like further information.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings take place at the White House commencing at 1930 hours unless otherwise stated. Meetings may be subject to change so please check the website, where you can also see meeting agendas

JULY 2023

Mon	10	Community Safety Sub Committee
Wed	19	Planning & Transport Committee
Mon	24	Policy & Finance Committee

AUGUST 2023

Thur	03	Market Sub (1030 hours)
Wed	09	Planning & Transport Committee
Thur	17	Older Persons Sub Committee (1000 hours)
Wed	30	Planning & Transport Committee



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Linslade Canal Festival

The sights and sounds of rural life come to Tiddenfoot Waterside Park when the Linslade Canal Festival returns on Saturday 29 July from 1100 - 1700 hours.



Featuring firm family favourites including hand painted canal boats, demonstrations of rural life and opportunities to find out about the natural environment around Leighton-Linslade. The festival also features storytelling, the chance to interact with visiting animal exhibits across the event and a live chain-saw carving demonstration. The Vintage tractors return to the site for the first time since 2019 and will be joined on site by Birds of Bray and traditional sign writers.

There will be a live programme of music throughout the day, with musical acts to be released in the final weeks before the event.

For those looking for food and drink options we've got a licensed bar alongside hot and cold offerings across the Paddocks, Lakeside and Poplars area of the site. On the Canal Bank, traders offer ice creams, coffee and hot rolls for visitors to purchase.

Keep an eye on our Facebook, Instagram & Twitter accounts for all of the latest information about the Linslade Canal Festival.

Music in the Park

Parson's Close Recreation Ground is the place to be on a Sunday afternoon for a series of Music in the Park concerts with live musical performances on the Bandstand.

Upcoming concerts for July and August are:-

JULY

Bedford Concert Band (2nd)
Watford Band (9th)
Welwyn Garden City Band (16th)
Hitchin Band (23rd)
Chiltern Hills Brass Band (30th)

AUGUST

Winslow Concert Band (6th)
Leighton-Linslade Concert Band (13th)
Heath Band (20th)
Woburn Jazz (27th)

Concerts begin at 1500 hours and last for up to 2hrs including an interval where refreshments are available to purchase from the Parson's Close Kiosk.



Last Night of the Proms

Last Night of the Proms closes the Music in the Park season on Saturday 9 September with live music from Richard Stark and Milton Keynes Brass, before a live screening of the Last Night of the Proms from the Royal Albert Hall in London and our firework finale.



SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN!

Why not try our free-to-use facilities

Parson's Close Recreation Ground

- Free to use Skate Park
- Free to use Multi Sports area
- Free to use Beach
- Free to use Splash 'n' Play
- Free to use 2 Table Tennis Tables

Linslade Memorial Playing Field and Garden of Remembrance

- Cricket Table
- 3 Tennis Courts run by Linslade Tennis Club
- Free to use Table Tennis Table

Pages Park

- 3 Fine turf croquet lawns
- Cricket Table
- Free to use Basketball Court
- Free to use Tennis Court
- Free to use Outdoor Gym
- Free to use Table Tennis Table

Danes Way Park

- Free to use BMX Track

Linslade Recreation Ground

- Free to use Table Tennis Table
- Free to use Outdoor Gym

Astral Park

- 15 Football pitches - 3 Adult and 12 Junior pitches
- Free to use Outdoor Gym
- Free to use Running Track

Vandyke Road Playing Field

- Free to use BMX Track

Meet your new Town Councillors 2023 - 2027



BASSETT

Cllr Jane Woodman
Labour
T: 01525 631920
E: jane.woodman@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



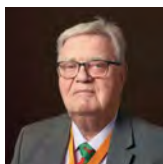
BARNABAS

Cllr Mark Freeman
Independent
T: 01525 379216
E: mark.freeman@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



BARNABAS

Cllr Russ Goodchild
Liberal Democrats
T: 07539 225192
E: russ.goodchild@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



BARNABAS

Cllr Steve Owen
Independent
T: 07973 318383
E: steve.owen@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



BROOKLANDS

Cllr Kevin Blake
Liberal Democrats
T: 07903 311535
E: kevin.blake@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



BROOKLANDS

Cllr Marion Carter
Liberal Democrats
T: 07975 807089
E: marion.carter@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



LESTON

Cllr David Goss
Liberal Democrats
T: 07900 410327
E: david.goss@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



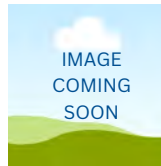
GROVEBURY

Cllr David Bligh
Liberal Democrats
T: 07766 501990
E: david.bligh@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



GROVEBURY

Cllr Michael Gallie
Liberal Democrats
T: 07827 449062
E: michael.gallie@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



GROVEBURY

Cllr Alice Payne
Liberal Democrats
T: 07914 636204
E: alice.payne@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



GROVEBURY

Cllr Nico Trenor
Liberal Democrats
T: 07917 100873
E: nico.trenor@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



PLANETS

Cllr Mike Bishop
Labour
T: 07914 698061
E: mike.bishop@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



PLANETS

Cllr Kevin Pughe
Liberal Democrats
T: 07402 233022
E: kevin.pughe@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



PLANETS

Cllr Peter McMorrow
Labour
T: 07711 358603
E: peter.mcmorrow@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



PLANTATION

Cllr Mark Simpkins
Liberal Democrats
T: 07745 552503
E: mark.simpkins@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



PLANTATION

Cllr Alan White
Liberal Democrats
T: 01525 376937
E: alan.white@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



ST GEORGES

Cllr Pat Carberry
Labour
T: 07801 575346
E: pat.carberry@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



ST GEORGES

Cllr Tommy Godfrey
Liberal Democrats
T: 07840 143246
E: tommy.godfrey@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



SOUTHCOTT

Cllr Nigel Camell
Liberal Democrats
T: 07907 286643
E: nigel.camell@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



SOUTHCOTT

Cllr James Emm
Liberal Democrats
T: 01525 631920
E: james.emm@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



SOUTHCOTT

Cllr Joseph Symes
Liberal Democrats
T: 07891 828713
E: joseph.symes@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk

New Council

On 4 May, local elections were held in many parishes throughout the country. Here in Leighton-Linslade, the elections brought big changes, with 17 out of the 21 Town Councillors being newly elected. At the time of writing, councillors are going through an induction and training process, with first meetings of many committees and sub-committees having taken place in May and June.

The new Council will have smaller committees, aiming to have shorter, more focussed meetings and will be looking to develop its objectives and priorities for the next four years over the coming weeks and months.

We will be aiming to feature more information about our new councillors in future editions but would like to take the opportunity to thank former councillors for their service. All Town Councillors are unpaid volunteers and take on their duties to benefit the local community.



Council Chamber

A Day in the Life of ...

COMMUNITY NEWS

MEDICAL DETECTION DOGS

It is 0930 hours, the car park is filling up and the pupils are running in excitedly. Only these students have waggy tails and their uniform is a smart red jacket and nothing else.

It's the Medical Detection Dogs trainees at the charity's training Centre in Great Horwood, Milton Keynes, and 'lessons' will be around how to save lives using their amazing sense of smell.

And the charity needs your help, it is looking for more volunteer socialisers to help with the all-important early development of puppies that can take them wherever they go to help shape them into future life savers.



Could you...

Attend regular puppy classes? Be at home most of the day? Follow positive dog training methods?

Are you...

Willing to take a dog with you most places you go? Willing to support charity events? Within travelling distance of the Centre?

Do you?

Have a dog-friendly garden? Have the time and stamina to manage an active puppy?

If you have answered 'yes' to most of the above and are still interested, please have a look at www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk

or email claire.baker@medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk for more information.

The role is a very rewarding one and the charity provides food, equipment and covers veterinary costs and offers help, support, guidance and holiday cover.

Leighton Buzzard Socialiser, Godfrey, says: "My wife and I have socialised six MDD dogs and each one has been a joy. If you have the time and love dogs, volunteering for MDD in this way is the way to go."



Introducing Tibbs Dementia Foundation and their dementia activity groups.



Tibbs Dementia Foundation is an award-winning dementia charity based in Bedford and now operating across Central Bedfordshire. They offer 40-plus regular weekly or fortnightly activity/support groups across the county for people with dementia, as well as their family carers.

Leighton Buzzard currently has two dementia groups, with more to follow over

the next year. They run a weekly Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST) group every Monday from 1100 - 1200 hours at St George's Court retirement scheme. This rolling programme of various activities is based on a tried and tested therapeutic approach. CST is generally found to be more beneficial for those with mild to moderate dementia. They also have a fortnightly

walking group offering social opportunities. These are short group-walks in varying local locations, which end with refreshments and chat at a nearby pub or café.

Call the number below if you are interested in joining any of their groups.

Call 07483 951733 or email at louise.evans@tibbsdementia.co.uk.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD MARKET

The Town Council are committed to supporting the market traders of the future and as such, have set up the YTS to support young people (age 16-30) to have a trial period of trading on the market.

Congratulations to our Leighton Buzzard Young Traders of the Year 2023, Chad Killoran and Roma's Hope Shop. Chad is an market regular and specialises in fine art paintings of endangered wildlife. Roma is new to Leighton Buzzard and offers macrame fibre art, home decor & gifting accessories.

Please join us in congratulating Chad and Roma, who go on to represent Leighton Buzzard Market across the UK and hopefully onto the national final in August. Two of our permanent traders also got awarded 'Highly Commended' and will join Chad and Roma at the regional finals. Congratulations to Spiritual Glow who sell crystals, incense & spiritual gifts and The Baker Boy who offers homemade treats to satisfy the sweet tooth.

Well done to all of our traders, we look forward to seeing you in the regional finals in July!



CONGRATULATIONS!

From L to R: Judge Brendan Dyson (NMTF), Town Crier Chris Morgan, Town Mayor Councillor Pughe, joint winners Roma Shukla and Chad Killoran, Judge David Preston (NABMA)

T: Market Manager on 07812 088116

[f](#) [@](#) leightonbuzzardmarket

E: Markets@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk

GREEN NEWS

Charge Point Installations

An update from Central Beds Council

As part of our work with BP Pulse, a project to install 96 charge points over 12 sites is nearing completion, including 8 in Baker Street Car Park, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1FP. This was supported by £360,000 of Govt. grant funding, working to meet national targets on transport decarbonisation and local objectives in our Sustainability Plan. There are also proposals to install another 8 in Linslade Memorial Playing Fields Car Park, Mentmore Road, Linslade, LU7 2NZ as part of the same project. Unfortunately, there has been an issue with the mains electrical connection which has delayed this site coming forward, however we are working to resolve this.

The Council's residential charge point rollout seeks to: provide access to local charge points within a 5 to 10 minute walk for those residents without off-street parking, install at a level that caters for existing and future demand, balance the impact on existing parking with the need to provide residents

with options for charging, and provide charge point coverage in as many towns and villages as possible.

Who are the charge points for? Their primary purpose is to provide access to local charge points for residents who do not have dedicated off-street parking.

How many are being installed? At all sites, 4 dual socket 7kW charge points are being installed over 8 parking bays, catering for current demand and future need.

How long will it take to charge my vehicle? Approximately 6-8 hours for a full charge. These speeds are more suitable for residential use and overnight charging.

When can I use the charge points? Available 24/7, with 4 bays dedicated as 'EV Only' and the rest available to all vehicles to limit the impact on existing parking. If you are charging, there is a 6-hour max stay between 0800 -1800 hours. Outside of these hours when residents will likely be charging overnight, there is no maximum stay.

How much will it cost to use the charge points? BP Pulse operate and manage,

with pricing set as per their national tariffs and different rates available for members.

Why have these sites been chosen to host charge points? The grant criteria means the land must be in local authority ownership and be accessible 24/7. The biggest constraint is the cost to connect to the electricity grid which greatly affects the financial viability of sites that seem suitable. Sites also need to be located close to clusters of properties without off-street parking to justify the request for funding.

Are there going to be other sites in my town/village? We are always looking at potential sites to provide charge points. We are installing rapid charge points in towns and on main transport routes and are exploring the use of lamp post charge points and pavement cable channels. There is not one solution that works for every need and so there is a requirement for a variety of charging types and speeds.

Central Bedfordshire

For more information on electric vehicle charging please visit:
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/sustainability

TACTIC Mentoring Support



Sometimes you just need someone to listen to you..... hear what you really are trying to say. So, if you need Support? Need to talk? Youth Work Mentors can help you look at areas of your life you would like to improve. Don't suffer in silence, come and talk to us.

Free and confidential service provided by qualified Youth Workers. Referrals by appointment only. Ages (12–19 years).

Call us on 01525 373838 or email: tactic@leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk



Hurry Up!

The 55UP Survey is about to close!

A huge thank you to all who shared their current experiences of living in Leighton-Linslade in our Leighton- Linslade Age Friendly Communities Survey!

The closing date for the survey is Friday 7 July 2023 so please get in quickly if you wish to participate! Paper copies of the survey are available from the following locations:

- Leighton Buzzard Library
- The Chatty Café at the TACTIC Centre (Tuesdays 1000 -1300 hours)
- Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre
- Bassett Road Surgery
- Salisbury House Surgery
- Leighton Road Surgery

If you have access to a smart phone, you can scan the QR code and complete the survey online.



Ageing
is just
another
word for
living

Cindy Joseph



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CONTACT

01525 372140
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UK Network of Age-friendly Communities

In March 2023, Leighton-Linslade Town Council was very proud to be accepted as a member of the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities. This is a fantastic platform, sharing best practice across the UK as to how to help people age well and live a good later life. Our Leighton-Linslade Age Friendly Communities Survey is our first step to having a greater understanding of the needs within our town. Even though Leighton-Linslade Town Council is not responsible for everything mentioned in the questionnaire, we are hoping to gather as much information as possible about residents' current experiences to help provide the 55UP project with further direction and to work closely with appropriate organisations.

We look forward to sharing more updates with you soon!

For more information about the 55UP project and our range of programmes including our free Digital Skills Support and Community Agent, please visit the 55UP page on our website: www.leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk/55up

Bedfordshire Employment & Skills Academy

Central
Bedfordshire

Bedfordshire Employment and Skills Academy (BESA) is the internal training provider within Central Bedfordshire Council. BESA can support you to access education and training to build skills that will improve employability, support career opportunities and enhance well-being.

English and Maths

English and maths are considered to be functional skills. All our courses look at the practical application of English and maths in everyday life. Build confidence with maths and money skills through bitesize Multiply workshops. These courses are for 5 weeks and support you towards an accredited qualification: Functional Skills qualifications, level 1 and 2 (L2 is equal to GCSE C).

Work-based Qualifications

These qualifications range from introductory to level 5. The most suitable one for you will depend on your job role. They include: Early Years, Teaching Assistant, Residential Childcare.

Online Qualifications

BESA delivers short level 2 qualifications completed in just 3 months and entirely online - you don't need to be working in a relevant job role to enrol. They include: Safeguarding and Prevent, Understanding Autism, Neuroscience in the Early Years, Understanding Behaviour that Challenges.

Apprenticeships

Earn while you learn with an apprenticeship. Anyone aged 16+ can complete an apprenticeship; apprenticeships can be used to upskill in a current role or change career path. Early Years, Teaching Assistant, Business Admin.

Careers Support

BESA's dedicated careers advisors provide free information, advice and guidance supporting people into work and learning. Free careers support appointments - CV writing, interview skills, career planning.

For further information, contact BESA on 0300 300 8131 or email Academy@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Leighton-Linslade Town Council



- Allotments
- Cemeteries
- Christmas Illuminations
- Community Events & Promotions
- Grants to Voluntary Organisations
- Markets
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Pavilions - Astral Park, Pages Park, Linslade Memorial Pavilion
- Teenage Advice & Information Centre
- Multi-Storey Car Park Toilets

Central Bedfordshire Council



- Community Safety
- Health & Social Care
- Education
- Housing
- Homelessness
- Planning
- Leisure & Countryside
- Waste & Recycling
- Transport, Roads & Parking

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EDITORIAL DEADLINE for Sept/Oct 2023 - (Friday 21 July)

For more information contact: 01525 631915. We reserve the right to review pricing.

2023

Your feedback is important to us!

We welcome your feedback on the services we provide.

Please email any comments you may have to:

info@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk



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Leighton-Linslade Town Council, The White House, Hockliffe Street, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 1HD Main switchboard: 01525 631920 info@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk

W: www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk