

**Central
Bedfordshire**

Flitwick Town Council



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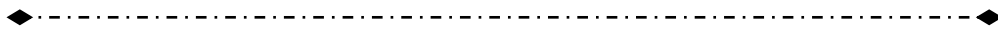
Community Safety Plan Summary Document

The Community Safety Plan

The intention of the Community Safety Plan is for it to be a co-produced plan between the Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council with a view of tackling or reducing the long-term, prevalent and seasonal community safety issues that are present within the Town. The plan will be a unique and tailored plan for the Town Council's specific issues.

Long-term issues that are being discussed are those that have been within the Town for two years or longer. The thought process behind this is that we will create a multi-agency and collaborative approach to improve or resolve these issues.

The aim is identifying a Single Point of Contact 'SPOC' between Central Bedfordshire Council and the Town Council, this will create a more streamline approach in terms of community safety and allow the fluidity and sharing capability between the two organisations and partners to be strengthened and enhanced.



Flitwick Town Council

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Flitwick Town Council is committed to ensuring residents and businesses within the town receive the best possible service. In June 2021 a new Corporate Strategy was adopted by the Town Council, outlining its commitments and priorities from 2021 – 2025, these include creating a sustainable environment, a prosperous town and engaging with the community.

2021 has seen Flitwick Town Council extend its community engagement, this has included further investment in youth provision and activities, community events, successfully installing a Christmas Tree in the centre of town, and securing the purchase of the Barclays Bank building and frontage as a prime public space. There has also been further investment in play areas, and Manor Park, Millennium Park, Station Road and Hinksley Playing Field.

Flitwick Town Council is successfully taking a multi-agency approach to ensure the needs of the town are being met. This includes working closely with residents, Bedfordshire Police, Central Bedfordshire Council, youth providers 4YPUK and local groups and organisations.

The Community Safety Plan plays a key part in identifying and focusing on community priorities within Flitwick. All agencies involved in the plan are committed to working together to resolve any issues, supporting residents, and identifying any areas of concern.



“At Flitwick Council, we know how important community safety is to our residents, and often hear from them on the subject. We know there is no one person or activity that can solve all our community safety concerns at once. That’s why we’re so pleased to have worked with CBC’s Community Safety Team to develop our Community Safety Action Plan. We look forward to sharing progress with you against our action plan as it progresses, and as part of future Community Services meetings.”

Councillor Clare Thompson – **Chair of Community Services Committee**



Central Bedfordshire Council

Community Safety Team

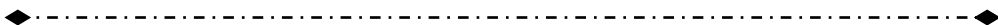
Central Bedfordshire Council has a clear vision that it will continue to be a great place to live and work. It will be a place to prosper, a place to be proud of and a place to call home.



To be able to achieve Central Bedfordshire Council’s vision the Community Safety Team aims to reduce crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and other behaviour affecting the local community as well as reducing the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, reducing the fear of crime and increasing public confidence.

Community Safety is an area of concern for all communities. It is consistently a high public priority and one that can affect the quality of life for individuals and entire communities.

Partnership approaches to tackling crime and disorder are largely built on the principle that no single agency can deal with, or be responsible for dealing with, complex community safety and crime problems. This is why we work in collaboration with partners to provide a response that tackles issues together, for sustainable improvements and better outcomes for the community.

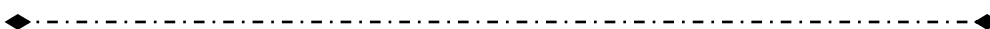




Bedfordshire Police – Community Policing Team

Bedfordshire is one of the smallest yet most diverse counties in England and faces complex crime challenges. Amongst all of the English Police forces, Bedfordshire receives one of the lowest Government grants per head of population.

However, despite this there has recently been a push by the force to reintroduce a community policing model to engage with residents and prevent crime by early intervention and problem-solving before issues escalate. Bedfordshire Police are dedicated to “protecting people and fighting crime together”.

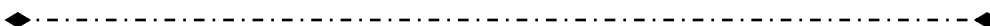


Bedfordshire
Fire and Rescue Service

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service's Safe and Well visits help protect communities by providing safety advice to those most at risk. Each Safe and Well visit includes fire safety advice and additional guidance on health, wellbeing, and crime prevention.

If hazards or risks are identified during the Safe and Well visit, these can be addressed and the Service can make a referral to appropriate partner agencies for further help and support if required. Safety equipment such as smoke and Carbon monoxide alarms can be provided and fitted free of charge by our Home Safety Advisors or Firefighters.



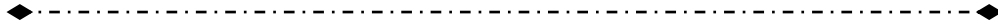
4YPUK – Youth Provision Service

4YPUK is a not for profit social enterprise who offer a range of youth provision including youth work, information, advice and guidance, one to one mentoring and building resilience projects in schools.



Our mission is to help young people become successful, contributing and aspirational members of society, to provide a range of professional services for young people through their schools and communities, to help them make the right choices for their futures and help regenerate areas and communities by offering services that improve personal well-being and increase social inclusion.

We are the commissioned youth provision provider for Flitwick Town Council and operate out of the Hub next to the Millennium Rec. We offer a range of open access (drop-in) youth sessions for young people aged 9-18 years and offer a safe place for young people to meet whilst providing non-judgemental impartial advice.

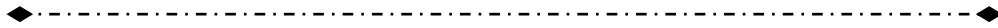


Bedfordshire Victim Care Service



Bedfordshire Victim Care Services supports those affected by crime in Bedfordshire, putting victims at the heart of everything we do. BVCS offers free and confidential support to anyone affected by crime, whether it has been reported to the police or not. This includes victims themselves, bereaved relatives or parents/guardians of victims under 18. Whether you have recently been affected by a crime or are experiencing delayed impact from a past crime, we are able to help you understand what has happened and how to cope and recover from what can be a traumatic experience.

Our experienced staff and volunteers know what emotions and challenges you may be going through. They are specially trained to listen to you and give you help and advice. Often just talking to someone, especially one who is independent from your family and friends, can help you make sense of what has happened and find a way for you to cope and recover. We offer emotional and practical support, and also work closely with a range of specialist organisations, partners and community support groups to gain you the support that you need.

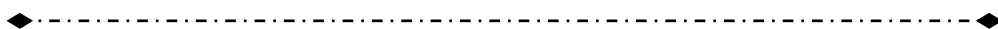


The Bobby Scheme



The Bobby Scheme is a local registered charity launched in 1999 with the help of a grant from the National Lottery and has been endorsed as a key crime prevention initiative. It provides a free service to the elderly (over 65) and vulnerable to help improve their home security helping to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Our team members are trained crime prevention advisers and lock fitters. We can fit a range of security devices to help people feel safer in their own homes. We also provide security advice and reassurance.



Community Watch Groups

Community Watch Groups have been created to support residents within the area they live. These groups are created by Bedfordshire Police and are often run by residents for residents and in turn allow people to have a positive impact and improve the area they live.

Bedfordshire Police have a couple of initiatives that would benefit the Flitwick area. There is some information provided below with contact details if you are interested in joining.



What is Street Watch?

Street Watch is a community led initiative run by local residents who observe and report local issues to Bedfordshire Police.

How does it help your Community?

Street Watch offers the community a reassuring presence and the opportunity to engage in the community safely.

How can it benefit you?

An opportunity to make new relationships build a stronger sense of community cohesion. It will keep you active through local patrols and get to know your local area.

Dog Watch operates the same as our street watch schemes but allows individuals to patrol in pairs with their dog in areas which are frequented by dog walkers.



What is Speed Watch?

Speed Watch is a community led initiative aimed at encouraging drivers to reduce speed, observe the speed limit, and raise awareness of the impact of speeding.

How does it help your community?

Speed Watch can help make your community a safer place for residents, pedestrians and other drivers.

How can it benefit you?

Ensuring the roads in your community are safe. The opportunity to build new relationships in the community.



There are plans for a Speed Watch Scheme in Flitwick in early January 2022. If you are interested in joining or supporting any of the groups mentioned above, then please contact Bedfordshire Police on the following email address to find out some more information.

Watcheschemes@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Community Safety Plan Priorities

Central Bedfordshire Council's Community Safety Team along with Flitwick Town Council Community Services Team and the Town Councillors have considered some areas of importance and frequent, long-term issues that are brought to their attention by residents. They have worked together to develop the priorities to focus the Community Safety Plan and the responses to the issues from all of the agencies involved.

Priority 1 – To enhance awareness around personal safety and incidents that affect directly or indirectly a person.

The focus will be on:

- Harassment and Hate
- Violence involving young people
- Domestic Abuse
- Vulnerable & Elderly Residents

Priority 2 – Raise awareness around Property and Vehicle security to reduce attempts of these incidents occurring.

The focus will be on:

- Resident Engagement
- Partnership Working
- Community Events
- Focus on Reporting

Priority 3 – Ensure parks and open spaces are welcoming for residents and are reduced in litter and dog fouling.

This focus will be on:

- Responsible dog control
- Multi-Agency approach
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Reduce drug and alcohol usage in public spaces

Questions and Contacts

If you have any questions about the Community Safety Plan, please feel free to contact Flitwick Town Council.

Flitwick Town Council
The Rufus Centre,
Steppingley Road,
Flitwick,
Beds,
MK45 1AH

Main Reception: 01525 631900
info@flitwick.gov.uk

As we are working closely with the Community Safety Team at Central Bedfordshire Council, if you would like some more information about their response to Community Safety, please visit the following website.

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/communitysafety

Alternatively, if you would like to participate in an anonymous survey about Community Safety in your area, you will find this at www.safercentral.org or you can scan the QR code on your smart device and complete the survey here. This website will also you give more information about the Community Safety Partnership.

