

Leighton Buzzard Friends of the Earth

(local residents of Leighton-Linslade)

New high quality bus service - Dash Direct - to support the Town Centre

Sandhills to the Railway Station and Town centre from 5.45am to 9.45pm



Leighton Buzzard Friends of the Earth have campaigned and worked with the Councils, Arriva, Central Government, Campaign for Better Transport, and residents groups and I love LB and developers for five years for a bus service which brings the new residents into the town centre.

From protests against the bypass to a new bus service A five year campaign by south Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth



In 2005, £60 million was given by central government for building the Linslade Western Bypass while the local bus service had to be cut due to lack of money. Local residents stood up against the Linslade Western Bypass and made the national press with large scale demonstrations

But the protests turned to talks and negotiations with the help of the national organisation Campaign for Better Transport and a new Transport Strategy for Leighton-Linslade was launched.

But the challenge was still the lack of national funding for buses. So South Beds Friends of the Earth started lobbying central government.



Then Bucks CC, Beds CC, Arriva, South Beds District Council and Arnold White Estates, Leighton Linslade Town Council and the Local Strategic Partnership were very supportive. Together they came up with such a good transport plan for the new housing development in the south of Leighton Buzzard on the Billington road by Sandhills that central government gave one million pounds to help create a high quality bus service which would support the town centre. The challenge was to get new residents to support and benefit from Leighton Buzzard town centre rather than drive to an out of town retail park.

The new Southern Leighton Buzzard new housing estate is a national exemplar for sustainable transport

Junior Housing Minister, Iain Wright MP said:

“This project will bring real benefits to the people of Leighton Buzzard. As well as improving residents’ health, it will help revitalise the town centre and bring economic benefits for local businesses by getting people out of their cars.”

Southern Leighton Buzzard has:

1. Dash Direct Bus service which also services Sandhills. This will increase in frequency as more people use it.
2. Real time information screens in all the kitchens of the new houses, so that people can see if the trains are running late and when the next bus is due when they have breakfast.
3. There will be improvements to the Billington Road to make it more pleasant to walk, cycle or take the bus into town.
4. There is secure cycle parking for all the new houses
5. There is a website with lots of local information, www.slb.uk.com to help new residents and a special travel plan coordinator

This scheme is organised by a steering group of Arriva, Central Bedfordshire, Arnold White Estates and South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth.

