



FAO WHO Global Network for Age-
Friendly Cities and Communities

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you as Mayor of Leighton-Linslade Town Council regarding our application to join the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Leighton-Linslade Town Council sits within the town of Leighton Buzzard, located in Central Bedfordshire, England. According to Mid-Year Estimates (ONS) 2020, we have a population of 43,203 with 17.4% (7,507) residents over 65. The Age UK Risk of Loneliness map identifies a significant number of neighbourhood wards within Leighton Buzzard at high or very high risk of loneliness.

With these facts in mind, alongside the challenges brought on through the COVID-19 pandemic, loneliness and isolation in older people was identified as an issue that needed to be addressed within our town. During 2020, the Town Council formed an Older Persons Subcommittee which solely focused on implementing initiatives to support older people within the community. We now offer free digital skills support for residents and have recently launched our Leighton-Linslade Community Agent scheme offering free help and signposting to residents on a wide range of issues including advice on health, transport, joining local groups and support for carers.

Leighton-Linslade Town Council would like to join the Global Network of Age Friendly Communities to learn from good practice across the world and build on what we have already established; helping us to ensure that Leighton Buzzard is a wonderful place to grow old. We want older people within our community to feel empowered, heard and have equal access to all our town has to offer. With support from the network, we want to create a grass-roots approach with local organisations and residents having their say and being active players in developing our town as an Age Friendly Community. The Town Council have now passed a resolution to pledge commitment to becoming an Age Friendly Community and very much hope that our application will be accepted by the WHO.

Yours Sincerely,

Councillor Farzana Kharawala

Mayor of Leighton-Linslade