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BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Sod Cutting Ceremony marks the official start of i-Worx construction



Works officially began on the i-Worx project following the sod-cutting ceremony on the 16th April. The i-Worx project was developed after Bedford Borough Council's successful bid to the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) for £2.5 million of Local Growth Funding.

The project features an advanced Technology and Engineering Workshop Cluster offering twelve modern engineering and workshop spaces which will form part of the new Bedford Commercial Park.

Bedford Commercial Park will be a 70 acre mixed use development with supporting services located

conveniently adjacent to the well-connected A421. Following its completion, the Park will be home to approximately 1600 jobs.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said: *"This development will host around 1600 jobs, and is another demonstration of the Council's commitment to supporting local economic growth and employment. The i-Worx project will provide modern engineering and workshop spaces for new and expanding engineering businesses. It is set to join the Council's other successful 'i-brand' serviced buildings including i-Lab, i-Kan and i-Create, which currently provide a business base for over 150 businesses."*

He continues: *"By investing in the growth of existing businesses as well as encouraging new investment and employment, the Council is committed to making the Borough not only a great place to do business but a fantastic place to live."*

The i-Worx site is due to be completed in autumn 2018. To find out more about i-Worx or other Bedford Borough Council i-Brand serviced buildings please visit: www.bedfordi-lab.com

Major New Inward Investments by Aldi and B&M to Create 1,400 New Jobs in Bedford Borough

Two major new regional distribution centres are to be built in Bedford Borough for popular nationwide retailers which will create an estimated 1,400 new jobs for the area. Bedford Borough Council worked closely with land owners Gallagher Estates in developing the opportunity, sourcing and facilitating their investment to the employment area of Wixams, off the A6 to the south of the Borough.

Planning permission has been issued for B&M to construct a one million sqft distribution centre which will create around 1,000 new jobs, while Aldi's new 800,000 sqft distribution centre will create around 400 new jobs. Both units will become the largest warehouse and distribution centres in the area, surpassing the current largest at Marsh Leys, where 690,000 sqft is occupied by Argos.

This development represents the Council's ambitions as outlined in the recently agreed Bedford Borough Growth Plan 2018-2022, to promote the local economy and make Bedford Borough a great place to do business, increasing the profile of the Borough by being open for business and taking advantage of our excellent transport links.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said "Attracting new businesses and new jobs is a key priority for the council, and Aldi and B&M's investment is another major vote of confidence in Bedford Borough. These two major facilities will provide a variety of different employment opportunities amongst the 1,400 new jobs. Through the Council's Jobs Hub, we will make sure that local residents can take advantage of the investment and the jobs being created."

Simon Arora, Chief Executive of B&M Retail Ltd said "Our continued nationwide growth has allowed us to invest approximately £100m in what will be one of the largest distribution facilities in the UK. We are delighted to be coming to Bedford and will be recruiting in 2019 as the building approaches completion."

Matthew Barnes, CEO - Aldi UK and IRE said: "The excellent transport links and infrastructure in the area made it an obvious choice for our new distribution base as we move towards our long-term ambition of 1,000 UK stores by 2022. We look forward to starting work on the site in due course, and will keep the community updated on developments and recruitment opportunities."

Adoption in Bedford Borough

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Work Continues in £3.5million Upgrade of Older People’s Homes



Major improvement works are continuing across Bedford Borough’s care homes.

The Council is carrying out a £3.5million upgrade of its residential homes for older people. Works that have been completed include improved bathrooms with boilers and pipework replaced where necessary, more access ramps alongside external works including car parks and paving, and internal remodelling.

The works have ranged from more efficient and modern heating systems put in place, to smaller details such as improved gardens and lighter more welcoming communal areas and receptions for the benefit of residents and their guests. There has also been general redecoration carried out to update and improve the whole feel of our homes.

There is more to come though, with new lifts being installed in every home, new entrances complete at Parkside and either ongoing or to be scheduled later

this year at other homes, and further remodelling, redecoration and lighting upgrades planned.

Cllr Anthony Forth, Portfolio Holder for Adults Service said *“These care homes came back under local authority management in 2014 which gave all staff the opportunity to be harmonised onto the Council’s terms and conditions including the National Living Wage. The continuous improvement of the care homes would not have been possible without investment from the Council and I am delighted that we have been able to undertake these works and enhance the experience of those who live in these homes.”*

The works have been planned around the residents to minimise disruption to day to day living, and are expected to be complete by 2019, with the improvements set to be in place for years to come.

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Pyghtle Clock Returns to Bedford



A rare Arts and Crafts clock of international significance will return to Bedford after a gap of over 100 years, going on permanent display at The Higgins Bedford and highlighting the town's contribution to the Arts and Crafts movement.

The Pyghtle Clock is named after the acclaimed Bedford joinery firm that manufactured it in 1901

and has been acquired for the Cecil Higgins Collection with the help of funding from Art Fund and ACE/V&A Purchase Grant Fund.

It was designed by Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott (1865–1945), one of the most influential architects of the late Arts and Crafts movement, and is an

important record of his time in the town where, in 1906, he wrote and published his most important book, *Houses and Gardens*.

From 1898, much of Baillie Scott's furniture was produced in Queens Park, Bedford at The Pyghtle Works, which was owned by his friend, the renowned Bedford cabinet maker John Parish White (1855–1917). This partnership of designer and craftsman proved highly successful and their works remain sought after today.

The mantle clock will go on permanent display, and will be placed alongside the work of Baillie Scott's contemporaries in the Charles Wells Gallery of Design at The Higgins Bedford. Its arrival will be celebrated with a programme of events and talks.

Cllr Sarah-Jayne Holland, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture said: *'The Pyghtle Clock is an example of Bedford's rich history of craftsmanship and I am delighted that it is coming back after over 100 years. The Higgins Bedford is proud to host this important piece, as part of our work to tell the stories of Bedford's local residents coupled with art works of international importance.'*

Increased Fines for Littering

From 1st April 2018 the fine issued to those caught littering in Bedford Borough has increased by £25, in the Council's latest move to crackdown on this offence.

Recent legislation introduced by the Government allows Councils to increase the level of Fixed Penalty Notices for littering, graffiti and fly-posting. In Bedford Borough, offenders will be fined £100, with a discount to £75 if paid within 14 days.

New legislation also allows the Council to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to vehicle owners if litter is dropped from their vehicle, whether or not they were in the

vehicle at the time. This would only be enforced if the vehicle owner has refused to provide details of the person witnessed littering.

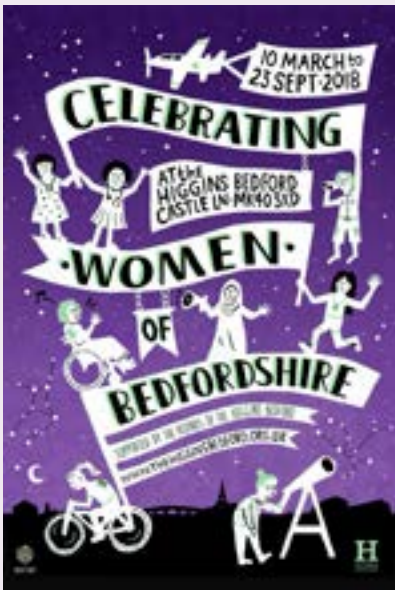
Cllr Charles Royden, Portfolio Holder for Environment said *"We take littering seriously in Bedford Borough with over 1000 people fined already this year, and these increased fines will hopefully make people think twice. We are working to enforce against enviro-crimes and help keep our Borough a clean and pleasant place to live."*

£100 FINE FOR OFFENDERS

Littering
Why would you?

Littering will ruin our borough.
Report it, call **01234 718060** or visit
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What's On – The Higgins Bedford



Woman Of Bedfordshire

This spring The Higgins Bedford celebrates the achievements of women of Bedfordshire with a new exhibition. It is 100 years since the Representation of the People Act allowed some women to vote for the first time. The exhibition will reflect on women in Bedfordshire's achievements in those 100 years. From aviators to opera singers, designers to engineers, and rugby players to Suffragettes Bedfordshire has a long history of great women.

The exhibition will highlight the achievements of 60 women who have achieved in the fields of Suffrage & Politics, Education, Sport, Community Power, STEM, Wartime, Business, and the Arts. Women have been nominated, researched, shortlisted and selected by an exhibition development panel made up of volunteers from the local community.

Replacements Lifts are now complete at Lurke Street Car Park



All 4 lifts at Lurke Street Multi Storey Car Park have now been replaced and are providing visitors with easy access to all floors of the Park Mark accredited carpark.

Further improvement work started on the car park September 2017 to make it more accessible and user friendly. This included removing and replacing the 2 lifts at the entrance from Howard St, 1 lift at Lurke St and a fourth lift at the entrance from Duke St. These are faster more efficient lifts which will save time and reduce energy costs.

Other works that have been carried out to help keep the Car Park safe and secure include:

Lighting system; this has been replaced with new emergency lighting and new high efficient LED fittings creating a better environment for the public.

Fire Alarm system; a full new fire alarm system has been installed which links with the shops below, creating a safer location to park.

CCTV cameras; 43 new HD CCTV cameras have been installed to provide greater security for the users of the car park.

Lurke Street MSCP has 790 car parking spaces and offers free parking for 2 hours every Saturday, all day Sunday and between 6pm until 6am during the week.

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