

Borough Monthly

Issue 7

June 2016



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at Riverside North

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BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Newsflash

Fixed Penalty Notices of up to £300 for Fly Tippers

The Council has introduced new fines this month for those caught fly tipping. The new fixed penalty notices (FPNs), of between £180 and £300, will allow us to deal with fly tipping more quickly and efficiently.

Last year local authorities in England dealt with 900,000 incidents of fly tipping. This increasing problem is evident in Bedford Borough where in the last financial year £150,000 was spent on clearing illegally dumped rubbish.

To report an incident of fly-tipping, please visit our website - www.bedford.gov.uk/transport_and_streets/street_care_cleaning/fly-tipping.aspx

Fines handed out to cyclists breaching public spaces protection order

At the time of going to print, 26 fixed penalty notices have been issued to cyclists found cycling in the main pedestrianised area of Bedford Town Centre in the last month.

The public spaces protection order states that no person shall cycle/ride bikes through the main pedestrian area of the town centre between 9am and 6pm.

The order came into force on 16 May 2016.

Have your say on crime and anti-social behaviour



The Bedford Borough Community Safety Partnership are currently seeking your views on the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour across the Borough, through an online survey.

Information gathered from the survey will help to shape a new Community Safety Partnership plan to tackle any concerns.

To have your say, visit www.forms.bedford.gov.uk/csp

Borough's library consultation enters second stage

The Council is working to develop a library strategy which will set out the vision for library services in the borough over the next few years.

The initial library consultation process began earlier this year, when local residents were asked to share their views on how libraries are currently used; which services are most popular; and which services should be prioritised.

In total 3,071 responses to the public consultation questionnaire were received. As well as the questionnaires, the Council received written responses from a number of organisations who offered their views on the future of the Library Service.

We are now consulting on our Library Mission Statement, as well as providing members of the public with the opportunity to give their views on the four options that have been suggested as part of the first stage of consultation, which are detailed online. This second stage of consultation will run until 29 July 2016.

Have your say by contacting us through one of the following ways:

Online – complete an online response form at www.bedford.gov.uk/libraryconsultation

Email – consultingbedford@bedford.gov.uk

Write to – Consulting Bedford, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP

Construction milestone reached at Riverside North!

A special Topping Out Ceremony to mark the construction progress at Riverside North took place last month.

The event, which celebrated the development reaching its full structural height, was attended by Mayor of Bedford Borough Dave Hodgson, as well as Philip Simpkins, Chief Executive of Bedford Borough Council, and senior representatives of Bouygues Development, Coplan Estates and Bouygues UK.

Riverside North is situated on the North bank of the River Great Ouse, directly south of Bedford's commercial centre and to the west of the historic St Paul's Square.

Occupying an area of 3.6 acres, the development will provide 46 private apartments owned and marketed by Delph Property Group, 18 affordable apartments owned and managed by Guinness Partnership, a 100-bedroom Premier Inn Hotel, and shopping and leisure facilities owned by TH Real Estate. Brands who have already signed up to take space at Riverside North include Harvester, Bella Italia, Zizzi, Chimichanga, Wagamama and Coal Grill & Bar.

Mayor of Bedford Borough, Dave Hodgson, said *"It is great to see the progress being made at Riverside North, which will make Bedford town centre even more attractive and enjoyable for local residents and visitors of all ages. It will help fulfil the vision of a town centre which is an attractive destination in its own right, for shopping and also leisure, culture and food and drink. It brings millions of pounds of investment, new jobs and extra footfall for the town and it's great that it's on track to open in around a year's time."*



Do you know how to keep your child safe online?

Encouraging parents and care givers to get informed about online grooming is the latest message as part of our ongoing child sexual exploitation campaign, run in conjunction with local partner agencies.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a type of child abuse in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. It is a campaign that remains a high priority for the Council.

'The more you know, the more you see' campaign is part of our fight against child sexual exploitation and aims to raise awareness of the issue and show people where to get help

and information and report any concerns.

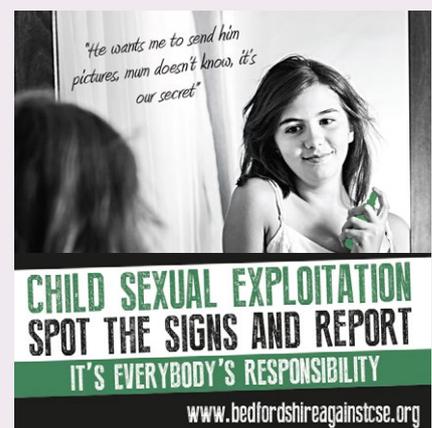
The latest arm of the campaign which tackles online grooming has launched this month and is all about advising parents and care givers about the dangers of not policing the internet appropriately and ensuring that they are aware of the signs of online grooming.

Parents are being encouraged to have a conversation with their children about the internet, to make sure that they're aware of the dangers of sharing information with strangers and taking compromising images.

During the campaign, the organisations involved

(Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton Councils and Bedfordshire Police) will be sharing advice, carrying out online safety sessions and distributing leaflets and posters, (see page 7)

For more information visit www.bedfordshireagainstcse.org



Those that can, teach... in Bedford Borough

Teach Bedford is a new website dedicated to attracting the best teachers to Bedford Borough.

A joint venture between Bedford Borough Council, Education Improvement Strategy Group (EISG) and the Bedford Borough Learning Exchange (BBLE), the website provides a whole host of information about what it is like to live and work in the area and the benefits that a teaching role in Bedford Borough can bring.

And there's no greater time to join! This academic year, all of the 14 Local Authority maintained schools inspected by Ofsted have been judged to be either good or outstanding. As well as this 100% achievement record, Bedford Borough is also currently the seventh best place in the country for Lower and Primary schools according to Ofsted.

Last year, schools in Bedford Borough were praised after

the Local Authority area was recognised by Ofsted as offering one of the best opportunities in the country for children to attend a good or outstanding Primary school.

To view the Teach Bedford website, go to www.teachbedford.co.uk.



The Listening Bus visits King's Oak Primary School

The National Deaf Children Society's 'Listening Bus Roadshow' visited King's Oak Primary School this month.

Hearing and hearing-impaired pupils took part in workshops, where members of the roadshow team demonstrated the latest equipment available which can help hearing-impaired children and young people

in their daily lives and increase their confidence.

Flashing doorbells, Bluetooth neck loops for mobile phones and vibrating alarm clocks were just some of the inventions that were on display.

For more information on the Listening Bus Roadshow, visit www.ndcs.org.uk

River Festival: Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th July

Bedford's hugely popular River Festival will take place on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th July this year.

With less than a month to go there are still places available in the River Festival Carnival Parade on Sunday 17th July. The parade, sponsored by Tesco, will be led by the critically acclaimed Bedford Pipe Band as it travels down De Parys Avenue and The Embankment. To make the event more fun for both participants and spectators, vehicles will once again be permitted in the parade so participants will be able to walk or organise a float. As always there is no obligation for those in the parade to follow a theme, but as 2016 marks the 850th anniversary of the Bedford Borough Royal Charter, this might a good place to draw ideas from

when it comes to costumes and decorations! To find out more or book your place visit www.bedfordcornexchange.co.uk/outdoorevents

As well as the parade, events on the river include the ever popular illuminated boat parade; the kayak slalom; a Jet Boots displays and the River Swim. In addition, the River Festival hosts two new events this year, a hover craft display and a paddle board race. Twenty two Dragon Boat teams and twenty two raft race teams have already signed up, but places are still available for those wishing to take part.

This year, in celebration of the 850th anniversary of Bedford Borough being granted royal charter, there will be a Heritage Village on Castle Mound recreating

11th century Bedford. Events across the weekend include battle re-enactments, weapons demonstrations and storytelling.

The Bedford River Festival is free and offers numerous opportunities to participate, or to relax and enjoy shows and performances from over 65 local bands and groups across three stages on the a 105 acre site.

The 2014 festival saw visitor numbers reach an amazing 250,000 and with over 100 boats already signed up, this year's event promises to be bigger than ever!

Programmes are now available at the Tourist Information Centre (TIC), at No.13 and within Borough libraries.

For more information, visit www.bedfordcornexchange.co.uk.

Truly Scrumptious!



There's a sweet new deal on offer at The Higgins, Bedford!

The museum shop is selling a selection of old fashioned, traditional treats supplied by Arcadia from the Victorian Arcade off Bedford's High Street.

Visitors to The Higgins Bedford in Castle Quay can already find a range of gorgeous gifts and now ribbon-wrapped jars of candy have been added to the shelves.

Debbie Page of family-owned Arcadia, pictured here (left) with Gemma Hutton, Sales and Marketing Officer at The Higgins said: "Arcadia Sweets have been going for more than 110 years, so we are a piece of Bedford history ourselves! We are delighted that some of our range is going to be available to visitors of The Higgins."

Debbie runs Arcadia with her mum Jan. As well as operating the Arcadia Twitter account @Arcadiasweets, they also have a website www.arcadiasweetshop.com

The BIG Friendly Read

Every year Bedford Borough libraries run a Summer Reading Challenge, which asks 4-11 year olds to borrow and read library books over the summer. The Challenge has a new theme each year and this year, it is The Big Friendly Read, delivered in collaboration with The Roald Dahl Literary Estate to celebrate what would have been his 100th birthday.

This year's challenge will feature some of Roald Dahl's best-loved characters and the amazing artwork of his principal illustrator, Sir Quentin Blake.

To take part in the Challenge, all children need to do is sign up at their nearest library. They'll receive a special collector's folder. As they borrow and read at least six library books over the summer, they can collect six special cards to complete their folder. After reading six library

books children will collect a Big Friendly Read Certificate; if they read twelve library books they will be rewarded with a pair of amazing rainbow glasses; and by reading a mammoth eighteen library books children will receive a Big Friendly Read medal!

Meanwhile young people aged between 11 - 18 years are invited to take part in a similar challenge. ImagiNation, which combines reading and arts activities has been designed for young people to encourage both reading for pleasure and creating pieces of art inspired by books.

Young people can join the activity in their library where

they will collect their free imagiNation log and choose from a huge range of exciting books. The log offers a choice of activities designed by young people to get the imagination flowing, including the opportunity to contribute to a giant artwork and earn a collectable lanyard. Young participants can also share their art and ideas online at www.imaginationeast.org.uk.

Both Summer Reading Challenges starts in all Bedford Borough Libraries on Saturday 16th July and will continue until Saturday 10th September.

To find out more visit www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries.



Funeral services listed online

The details of funerals taking place at Bedford Crematorium, Norse Road Cemetery and Foster Hill Road Cemetery are now available to view on our website.

The diary at www.bedford.gov.uk lists the time and location of the service, the name of the deceased and the funeral director.

The family of the deceased can also request a more detailed online obituary which may give information including the date and place of death, age, names of close relatives and arrangements for flowers.

The Council's bereavement service manages the Bedford Crematorium, Norse Road

Cemetery and Foster Hill Road Cemetery. As well as maintaining the Borough's cemeteries, the bereavement service helps families with funeral arrangements.

For more information about the bereavement service, call 01234 718150 or email crem@bedford.gov.uk.

Get smart and get checked



SAFE SEX IN BEDS

For a Safe, Inclusive and Broad range of sexual health services

This month sees the launch of a new sexual health screening campaign, which encourages sexually active people to get checked as part of a normal, healthy lifestyle.

It is important to have a sexual health screen for all STIs, including HIV, at least annually, and also every time you change sexual partner.

According to Public Health England the rate of gonorrhoea infection in England has doubled in the last five years. Gonorrhoea is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) that is associated with risky sexual activity. In Bedford Borough there were 87 cases in 2014 (a rate of 54 per 100,000), while in Central Bedfordshire there were 57

(22 per 100,000); compared to 63 per 100,000 across England.

Some STIs have no symptoms so people can go for long periods of time without being diagnosed, which can increase the risk of infertility and increase the chance of passing the infection to others.

There are a range of sexual health services available across Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire which provide free, non-judgemental and confidential advice and information, and HIV testing.

For further information about STIs, testing and treatment, visit www.safesexinbeds.co.uk where you will also find a comprehensive timetable of local sexual health clinics.

Payments Office to close on Friday 1 July

The existing Payments Office in Horne Lane will close on Friday 1 July 2016. After this date the Cashiers Counter Service will no longer be available.

The move comes as a result of a recent consultation which indicated that the closure of the Payment Office would not have a significant impact on customers because of the range of alternative methods of payment available.

Residents are increasingly using the Council website, home banking and direct debits to pay their bills. Most payments can also be made at Post Offices and Payzone outlets.

The neighbouring Customer Service Centre will continue to be open.

Do you need help with design? Want to get something printed?

Use Bedford Borough Council's ICT Design & Repro Team



- Posters and Flyers
- Business Cards
- Leaflets
- Letterheads/ Compliment Slips

- Brochures
- Duplicate/Triplicate Carbonless Pads
- Envelopes
- Vinyl banners

- Large Posters (up to A0 size)
- Promotional Items
- Pop Up Display Stands

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...literally anything you want printing, we can do it!



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*"He wants me to send him
pictures, mum doesn't know, it's
our secret"*

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
THE MORE YOU KNOW THE MORE YOU SEE
www.bedfordshireagainstcse.org