

Borough Monthly

Issue 26

March 2018



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

In this issue...

New Housing Scheme
in Bedford Borough

▶ see page 2

Road Improvements
Funding Boost

▶ see page 3

New CCTV
Cameras installed

▶ see page 4

Stewartby Pre School
Open Day

▶ see page 6

New Housing Scheme in Bedford Borough



Clarence House, a complex needs and supported housing project on St Johns Street in Bedford has opened.

The 29 bed Clarence House will provide 24-hour specialist, intensive support to some of Bedford's most vulnerable people so they can they break the cycle of homelessness.

By giving targeted and supported accommodation, local people with complex needs will be able to take steps towards long term independence. The scheme will also offer a 'move on' service for those who have been helped by the complex needs element, to make sure people don't return to a cycle of homelessness.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said *"This brand new facility represents a major advance in the support we can offer to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. This is not just about providing a roof over people's heads, but also the specialist support that some people need to break the cycle of homelessness and live a more stable, secure life. This is the very first unit of its kind in this area, and we intend to ensure it makes a lasting, positive difference in the lives of vulnerable people in Bedford Borough."*

Cllr Anthony Forth, Portfolio Holder for Adults Services said *"The most recent Rough Sleeper Count led by the Council showed that some of the individuals sleeping rough in Bedford Borough have multiple support needs, so the opening of this accommodation to provide support to some of these individuals is really something to be welcomed. Alongside the wide range of other support we provide, this Unit will make a contribution to help those who are among the most vulnerable residents in the Borough towards a more independent and settled way of life."*

The service and support will be managed by the Arlington division of One Housing. Arlington's model has worked successfully in London and has been used in other cities. Specialist Arlington staff will help some of the most vulnerable residents of Bedford toward a more independent and settled way of life. The service will work in partnership with a range of support services, to make sure that there is opportunity and choice for those being supported.

Nuala Foley, Director of Health Care and Support at One Housing said *"We are excited to start work at Clarence House. This week's cold snap underlines how important these services are. Sadly for some homeless people, a roof over their head isn't enough to break the cycle of homelessness. Our team will offer Bedford's most vulnerable homeless people a place take steps to a long term independent future."*

Factors to note, the centre will provide:

- Specialist and high-level support
- Each individual with high complex needs with a key worker.
- Each individual with a support plan
- Support to stabilise and reduce risky and harmful behaviour.
- Supported accommodation for those who previously had difficulties in other settings.
- Facilitating access to a range of services to support needs and constructive activities, by working with partner agencies.
- Skills and a bespoke support plan to help individuals achieve more independent living.

Clarence House opened its doors this March 2018.

Potholes repaired

Following the recent unprecedented weather conditions, Bedford Borough Council's Highways team is once again out in full strength to tackle the Borough's potholes.

The sub-zero temperatures during March and snowy and icy conditions not only had an impact on road conditions, creating new potholes but also made lasting repairs more difficult to put in place. Cold weather conditions (below 3°C) meant the material used to fill the potholes cooled too quickly. As a result the Council reallocated some staff to undertake snow clearance and secondary gritting runs across the borough.

However, thanks to the improvements in weather temperatures, the highways team currently has three units on the roads carrying out swift, high quality repairs to potholes reported by local residents.

Cllr Charles Royden, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport said: *"In 2017, we fixed 3954 potholes. We know that keeping our roads clear and safe is important to our residents so the Council is continually looking into ways to keep our borough roads moving. Any residents who wish to report potholes may do so online [here](#)".*

Potholes are graded by severity and risk of damage given their location within the carriageway. The Council takes a risk-based approach to repairing potholes to determine a suitable response and timeframe for the pothole to be repaired.



Road Improvements Funding Boost

Bedford Borough Council has approved a funding boost of up to £1million for additional local road and footway improvement works across Bedford Borough.

Bedford's road condition scores are in the top quarter of councils across the UK (DfT figures Jan 2018). The additional funding is intended to help keep local roads and footways safe and in good condition. It is funded from savings in this year's budget, and will enable the Council to extend the existing road resurfacing programme.

The funding proposal is in addition to plans to improve roads in Bedford as part of the Transporting Bedford 2020 programme which, will see the biggest ever investment in Bedford Borough's Road Network including traffic improvements to junctions across Bedford. In total over £18million will be invested as part of this programme.

Mayor Dave Hodgson commented: *"This additional investment will enable us to resurface even more roads, and carry out maintenance works on*

more footways, making them safer and in better condition for all users. There is a severe shortage of funding nationwide for roads resurfacing, yet keeping roads safe for all is absolutely critical. That's why we're pleased to be able to direct these savings into important works which will enable more resurfacing and keep us amongst the top councils in the country for road condition scores."

Bedford Borough Council installs CCTV cameras in 3 Car Parks

124 new CCTV cameras have been installed across three Car Parks to deter and identify more swiftly any misuse of the Car Parks. This follows the renovations made to Allhallows and Lurke Street Car Parks in 2017.

Parking in Bedford town centre is simple and convenient as Bedford Borough Council has a variety of Car Parks to offer from multi-storey to open surface Car Parks. CCTV cameras will be installed specifically in Lurke Street (36 cameras), Queen Street (41 cameras) and River Street (47 cameras) Car Parks.

The CCTV cameras will be positioned in various areas of the Car Parks from the roof to the ground floors and in stairwells and by the lifts. This will allow the Council to deter any misuse of the Car Parks and identify more quickly any issues that may arise.



Entries Open for Dragon Boat Racing at River Festival



The Dragons are heading back to the river for the 40th Anniversary of Bedford River Festival. Now recognised as one of the largest outdoor events of its kind in the UK, the 2016 festival saw over 250,000 visitors enjoy the unique mix of carnival, music and nautical. This year's River Festival promises to be even more popular with the event celebrating its 40th birthday.

Building on the success of previous events, the dragon boats return for the 2018 River Festival and entries are now being accepted. Over twenty crews are expected to battle it out, on Saturday 14th July, over an exciting new 200 metre course along the picturesque River Ouse flanked on the south side by St Marys Gardens and the new Bedford Riverside Development on the north side. This is a superb venue for the racing and a fantastic day is guaranteed with bankside entertainment, music, food and activities for the whole family.

Ten people paddle each boat, with a drummer at the front and a helm at the tail steering. No previous experience is required just plenty of team spirit! Teams can be mixed (minimum of 7 females in mixed team); all female or all male and organisations can enter more than one crew. It is recommended that each team comprises a minimum of 16 members and each boat will race at least 3 times. Crew members must be 16 or over and all crew members must be able to swim in light clothing, in moving water and compete entirely at their own risk. Qualified helms, buoyancy aids and water safety cover are provided by the organisers.

New features for this year's Festival include St Mary's Garden which will showcase local arts and crafts, an acoustic stage, giant games arena, boating, bar and catering. In addition, 2018 marks the end of the World War I and the Heritage Village will be commemorating this by showcasing all aspects of the war with over 50 re-enactors, displays and demonstrations.

The Mayor of Bedford Borough, Dave Hodgson, said "It is fantastic to be celebrating 40 years of the River Festival. The Dragon Boat racing is an essential element of the Festival, bringing colour and excitement. I look forward to seeing the crowds supporting all of the teams."

Applications for participation in the Dragon Boat races, raft races and Carnival Parade are now open, as are opportunities for businesses to get involved through sponsorship or trade stands. For information about getting involved please email events@bedford.gov.uk.

First held in 1978, the 20th bi-ennial Bedford River Festival will take place on Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th July.

New employment & leisure development proposed for Bedford Borough



Bedford Borough Council and Charles Wells Ltd have submitted a hybrid planning application for a new employment and leisure development at Fairhill, adjacent to the Great Ouse Way, north west of Bedford.

A detailed application by Charles Wells has been submitted for a new four-acre brewery and visitor centre which forms part of a wider development of the land by Bedford Borough Council.

As part of this outline permission is being sought for:

- A hotel.
- 5 acres of leisure use.
- 2.83 acres of B1, B2, B8 employment.
- An additional 1.61 acres of land has also been identified for future development, subject to planning.

The Council is in negotiations with David Lloyd to take the 5 acres for his new multi-activity centre, Adrenalin World, in conjunction with his funding partners, UK Adventure Parks Ltd and Burleigh Estates Ltd, subject to planning.

Commercial Director at Charles Wells, Peter Wells said: "We are very excited to reach this milestone in the future direction of Charles Wells as a brewery and pub company. This application shows we remain committed to Bedford, our home for over 140 years, and will continue to be a brewing family for many more years to come. The new Charles Wells brewery will be a jewel in Bedford's crown, offering pride in local industry, entertainment & leisure, jobs, and a destination for visitors from out of town. As with any planning application we have lots to do to get the project off the ground, but I've been delighted with the support and encouragement we have received from the Mayor and look forward to providing Bedford with a brewing experience we can all be proud of."

David Lloyd, of Adrenalin World said: "This is a fantastic concept creating jobs all over the country in addition to bringing local tourism to

each of the Boroughs that will have an Adrenalin World. Bedford will benefit from potentially being the first Borough from where we launch our Adrenalin World. I have personally seen the site and believe it is a great location which will boost the local economy for Bedford and provide a healthy, fit and fun environment for people of all ages to participate in lots of indoor and outdoor activities. Adrenalin World is designed to accommodate both families and individuals providing great choice and good value for money."

Mayor of Bedford Borough, Dave Hodgson, said: "Both of these exciting developments will create lots of new jobs as well as giving people even more reasons to visit and enjoy Bedford. Charles Wells is synonymous with Bedford, and the new brewery and visitor centre will allow local residents and visitors alike to celebrate its ongoing relationship with the town. Meanwhile, Adrenalin World promises to be a major new leisure attraction, bringing new jobs, new opportunities and new visitors. It represents another vote of confidence in Bedford and in this important site."

Adoption in Bedford Borough

You don't have to live in Bedford to adopt a Bedford Borough Child

Start your adoption journey with us today



Give us a call today

01234 718718

Or drop us an email

adoptionandfostering@bedford.gov.uk

www.bedford.gov.uk/adoption



Do you use Bedford Park?

Let us know your views...



Bedford Borough Council is conducting a customer satisfaction survey for Bedford Park to ensure that the park is meeting the needs of local residents and park users.

Bedford Park is one of four parks in which Bedford Borough Council currently holds the Green Flag award, along with Addison Howard Park, Priory Country Park and Harrold Odell Country Park. The Green Flag award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces across the UK and abroad.

The customer satisfaction survey asks Bedford Park users what they like about the park and also invites residents to suggest any improvements.

The survey responses collected will be used to help guide the future management of the park and make sure that our green spaces meet the needs of its users.

Cllr Charles Royden, Portfolio Holder for Environment said *“The Council is responsible for ensuring everyone has access to quality green spaces. We know that it is extremely important that these spaces are managed correctly to meet the needs of our residents, so take part in our survey and let us know your thoughts on Bedford Park.”*

Park users can fill out the survey online via www.forms.bedford.gov.uk/bp or get hard copies from Bedford Central Library and Putnoe Library. Responses must be received by Monday 4th June 2018.

Stewartby Preschool Open Day

Stewartby Preschool held an Open Day on 10th March to celebrate moving into their new purpose built building. The new building has been funded by Bedford Borough Council after its successful bid to the Department of Education for Capital money to improve Early Years provision. The new Stewartby preschool building replaces the previous porta cabin which was in poor condition.

The new building allows for a growing demand for childcare spaces in the area and supports Bedford Borough Council's response to the new 30 hours funded childcare scheme.

The Preschool is charity run and is judged by Ofsted to be 'OUTSTANDING'. The previous structure was situated on Broadmead Lower School's site in the village of Stewartby. The new building is located on the other side allowing the two education providers to function independently whilst maintaining strong links.

Cllr Vann said: *“Investing in our children's future is extremely important and all the evidence suggests that the early years make the biggest difference. I am delighted to be opening this new building for Stewartby Preschool which will enable them to expand their intake to 40 pupils - double the number of children that they could previously care for”.*

Heidi Goligher, Manager of Stewartby Preschool said: *“We provide a place where children are carefully nurtured through strong partnerships, activities and challenge to develop their individual imaginations, sense of exploration and build confidence that ensures every child is ready for their next steps into their early education”.*

She continues: *“A huge thank you to the Early Years team at Bedford borough for all their support, advice and hard work in helping us to create a setting that will be able to work with the local community to build the best outcomes for all its children and families”.*

For more information about the Preschool, please email stewartbypreschool@outlook.com.

Stay Connected!

Don't forget for regular, timely information on the Council, you can follow us on Twitter [@bedfordtweets](https://twitter.com/bedfordtweets), Facebook [@bedfordboroughcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/bedfordboroughcouncil) and via our website, www.bedford.gov.uk.

Stay
connected



Free Fun for all the Family...

BEDFORD RIVER FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS! 1978 - 2018

14th & 15th July 2018
The Embankment, Russell Park
& St. Mary's Gardens
Daily from 11am

Fireworks • Music • Food & Drink of the World • Funfair • Festival Parade
Sports, Heritage & Cultural Villages • Dragon Boats • Raft Races & more!

For more information, please email events@bedford.gov.uk or call 01234 718616

Bedford International Kite Festival

9th & 10th June 2018

Russell Park, Bedford • from 10^{am} daily

National & International Kite fliers showcasing
kites and displays from around the world

Plus food & drink, giant inflatables
trade & craft stalls, and funfair!

Fantastic free fun for all the family

Email events@bedford.gov.uk or call 01234 718616

BEDFORD'S BIG HIGH STREET SHOWCASE

SATURDAY 2ND JUNE 2018

9.30AM TO 4.30PM

Enjoy some summer fun for all the family
at our Bedford High Street festival!

**MUSIC & DANCE STAGE
LOCAL BUSINESSES SHOWCASING SERVICES
FACE PAINTING, FUNFAIR RIDES
& CRAFT ACTIVITIES**

For more information, phone: 01234 276257
Email: sian.hughes@bedford.gov.uk
Web: www.bedford.gov.uk/highstreetshowcase