

Borough Monthly

Issue 24

November
/December 2017

BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Start
2.8km

Running is free, you can do it anywhere, and it burns more calories than any other mainstream exercise!

Regular running can reduce your risk of chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes and stroke. It can also boost your mood and keep your weight under control.

Start each run with a gentle warm-up of at least five minutes. When you first start out, try alternating between running and walking during your session. As time goes on, make the running intervals longer until you no longer feel the need to walk.

Whatever your level of running or walking, setting challenges is useful to help you stay motivated. The markers will help you plan a route around the beautiful Bedford riverside.

Vary your distances & pace and keep a record of how you improve.

Get Set, On Your Markers, Go!

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BEDFORD
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BEDFORD
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Budget Consultation 2018

Despite already achieving savings of £94 million Bedford Borough Council needs to identify further savings of £23.5 million by 2021. Central government cuts and a rise in demand for some of our services means we face difficult times and some very tough decisions.

The following numbers give an indication of the challenges we face and some of the pressures on our services:

- In the last five years it is estimated that the number of nights of temporary accommodation we provide for homeless families has increased 68 fold;
- Each day approximately 1,120 clients receive a home care visit. In total there are over 2,000 visits on an average day;
- Since September 2012, there has been a 66% increase in the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan

The simple fact is that the reduction in funding from central government means we are no longer able to do everything we would like to. In 2015 the grant we received from central government was £30.1 million. This is estimated to fall to £0.9 million by 2021. It is falling by £4.4 million next year alone.

Last year, the Council invested an additional £4.4 million into social care to support our vulnerable adults. We anticipate that we will need to invest a further £4.0 million during 2018/19. This additional resource is to meet the growing number of people receiving care and also increasingly complex care packages. This extra funding will also enable our local care providers to meet the cost of paying the National Living Wage to their staff.

The government has said that in order to help fund the growing care needs, councils can levy a further 6% Council Tax increase over 2 or 3 years. This is on top of the up to 1.99% we can otherwise increase Council Tax by.

Before taking decisions around how the Council will meet the care needs of local residents and the increase in Council Tax to fund it, we want to hear the views of Bedford Borough residents.

We are interested to hear what your views are on whether you would support the increase in Council tax to cover the increasing demand for Adult Social Care and any ideas or comments you may have around the Council's budget.



How to find out more and have your say:

 Visit our website: www.bedford.gov.uk/budget2018

 Email us: consultingbedford@bedford.gov.uk

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

*Comments should be received by **Friday 15th December** and will be published*

i-worx Project gets the Green Light

Plans for another 'i-brand' initiative in Bedford have been approved by Bedford Borough Council's planning committee.

The i-worx Project received the green light from the committee to go ahead with plans to deliver an Advanced Technology and Engineering Workshop Cluster offering twelve bespoke, modern engineering and workshop spaces on the Marston Vale Business Park site. The units will be ideal for new and expanding engineering businesses, perfectly located adjacent to the well-connected A421.

The i-worx will join other successful Bedford Borough Council i-brand serviced buildings including the 'i-lab', 'i-kan' and 'i-create', which currently provide a business base and support for over 140 businesses.

The project is being developed following the Council's successful bid to the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) for £2.5 million of Local Growth Funding. Construction is due to start in the new year and it is planned that the new units will open their doors in Summer 2018.

Bedford is ready for Christmas!



Bedford's Christmas Lights Switch On took place on Thursday 23 November, along The Embankment, when Bedford Borough Council lit up the town with another magnificent firework display to mark the start of the Christmas period.

Entertainment before the switch on, organised by BedfordBID, included a snowboard simulator, Christmas balloon modelling and lots of Christmas games. The man himself, Father Christmas was also in attendance!



bedford i-worx

1,000 New Jobs in Bedford Borough

Bedford Borough Council has completed the successful sale of Bedford Link, a logistics development site at Bell Farm outside Kempston, to LondonMetric Property Plc.

Due to its ideal location, motorway links and scale, Bedford Link is expected to be developed as prime distribution warehousing, totalling up to 670,000 sq ft. The site is adjacent to Marsh Leys Business Park where LondonMetric owns an Argos distribution centre, and other occupiers include

Sainsbury's and Asda. Enabling works have commenced and Graftongate has been appointed as Development Manager.

Construction is anticipated to start in Summer 2018 and, once completed, it is estimated that the development will create around 1,000 new permanent jobs, bringing opportunities for local residents and providing a further economic boost for the Borough.

For further information on Bedford link please see www.bedfordlink.co.uk.

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

Get Set, On Your Markers, Go!



Bedford's Embankment is a popular running spot set to get even better with the installation of permanent distance markers.

Running is free, you can do it anywhere, and it burns more calories than any other mainstream exercise. Regular running doesn't just improve fitness levels but can also reduce the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and stroke, as well as improving your mental health.

The 1km distance markers around the 2.8km route will enable people, whatever level they're at, to set themselves challenges to stay motivated and track their progress.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said:

"I am delighted that these new distance markers are now in place, first in Bedford Park and now on The Embankment. These are beautiful places to enjoy during a walk or a run. These markers will make it even easier for anyone to get involved, enjoy our green spaces and improve their fitness."

Funding granted to tackle Manton Lane congestion

Bedford Borough Council has announced a £5 million investment to help tackle congestion on Manton Lane, after a successful bid to secure additional funds from the Department for Transport.

With £3.5million in Government funding secured, improvements to

the Manton Lane junction are now set to go ahead through the 'Bedford Northern Gateway to Growth' Project.

These works are set to include the installation of signals on Manton Lane roundabout, linking the traffic lights on Manton Lane to the new

signalised roundabout, increasing capacity at the Great Ouse Way junction, and improving pedestrian crossing facilities on Manton Lane.

Works are expected to begin in 2019, following consultation and confirmation of the final detailed scheme.

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



Free Online Support for Carers

Bedford Borough Council is joining forces with national charity Carers UK to offer support to carers via an online platform that can be accessed 24/7.



At the click of a mouse, carers in Bedford can have free, 24 hour access to the 'Digital Resource for Carers', an online environment that hosts a range of resources to help carers to manage the care they provide.

Cllr Anthony Forth, Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services said: *"Being a carer comes with great responsibility and it can be daunting. This online tool acts as a 'friend', offering advice and guidance. It's important that carers are supported and cared for too."*

To find out more about the Digital Resource for Carers visit carersdigital.org and create a new account by using code DGTL9072.



'Bedford Through Our Eyes' Mosaic displayed at The Higgins Bedford



Service users at the Centre for Independent Living have created a mosaic all about Bedford, which now has pride of place in the courtyard at The Higgins Bedford.

The mosaic, called 'Bedford Through Our Eyes', is the result of a 12 month project with service users at the Centre, exploring Bedford through creative art at The Higgins Bedford. As part of the project, the artists were able to learn all about art materials and mosaic techniques, while bringing to life some of their favourite parts of the town.

All the artists involved and their families and carers were invited

to a private tea party to celebrate their achievements and to see their mosaic hanging as a permanent feature in the courtyard.

Cllr Anthony Forth, Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services said *"Congratulations and a huge thank you to all of the artists who created this fantastic artwork, and to the staff at the Centre for Independent Living and The Higgins Bedford for all of their support. This project was a great opportunity for the service users to learn a new skill, and has resulted in a wonderful feature that I know visitors to The Higgins Bedford will enjoy."*



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

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

01234 228154

@ design@bedford.gov.uk



Sam & Sianne; helping to make sure Bedford Corn Exchange is our number one venue!

Meet Sam Churchman and Sianne Albarella, who both volunteer at the Bedford Corn Exchange to ensure that our events run smoothly and that people get the most out of every event experience.

Having started volunteering at the Corn Exchange earlier this summer, both Sam and Sianne are supported by staff to assist in the planning, organisation and running of events at the venue. The placements were arranged by the Supported Employment Service, a specialist employment service for adults with a disability.

Sam is 19 and diagnosed with autism. He lives in Sharnbrook and travels independently by bus. Sam also hosts a radio show at Kettering General Hospital, having previously had shows on Nene Radio.

At the Corn Exchange, Sam is regularly involved in setting up for events, cleaning, arranging the stage and catering. Sam will also soon be assisting with sound and lighting (sound and lighting is a big interest for Sam and the team are hoping that he can become more involved in this), admin and helping to display posters and flyers. Sam says *"I'm excited about finding out what new events are coming to the Bedford Corn Exchange when I come in every Wednesday."*

Meanwhile Sianne, who is 23 and also diagnosed with autism and associated mild learning disability, also volunteers at the British Heart Foundation charity shop twice a week and has a cleaning job at Mark Rutherford School.

Sianne helps with the admin for the Corn Exchange, helping to display posters and flyers, assisting with catering and setting up for events, shows and functions. In future Sianne will also be stewarding for shows, cleaning and helping to arrange the Tea Dance

Winter Ball in December. Sianne says *"I enjoy organising the posters and flyers around the venue so people know what is coming up."*

Sam and Sianne are now part of the Corn Exchange family and everyone involved is excited for what the future will bring! The Supported Employment Service supports people to access employment and volunteering and work closely with the Bedford Corn Exchange, who are often looking for volunteers. Referrals are made to the service by the Adult Learning Disability Team, who you can contact on 01234 276762.



L-R: Brian O'Hara, Tony Miloti, Sianne Albarella and Sam Churchman

Bedford Sports Awards 2017

An array of local sporting heroes gathered at the Bedford Corn Exchange on Monday 11 December, to celebrate their success and dedication over the past year at the annual Bedford Sports Awards.

The event, which is organised by Bedford Borough Council, recognises the numerous and varied achievements of individuals

and groups performing in local sports. More than 250 audience members watched as winners were announced in 13 different categories.

The Adult Sports Personality of the Year went to Rebecca Murray and the Junior Sports Personality of the Year went to Frankie Johnson - both for their achievements in

Athletics. A special commendation was awarded to Sports Coach of the Year, Philip Odell. A full list of winners is available at www.bedford.gov.uk.



Dog Control Orders Notice



Following consultation earlier this year, Bedford Borough Council is now introducing an expansion to dog control orders to cover new areas.

Over 160 people responded to the consultation, which ran from May to July 2017, with the majority agreeing with proposed orders excluding dogs from play areas and keeping dogs on leads in certain areas. The consultation can be viewed at www.bedford.gov.uk/consultations.

The Council aims to promote responsible dog ownership and reduce complaints for issues such as dog fouling. This allows the public and especially children to access dog-free or dog-controlled areas intended for recreational purposes, to improve health and well-being and make Bedford a safe and enjoyable place to live.

The order is available to view, in two parts, at www.bedford.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/consultations/dog_control_orders_2017.aspx and came into effect on Wednesday 22 November.

Tackling Littering

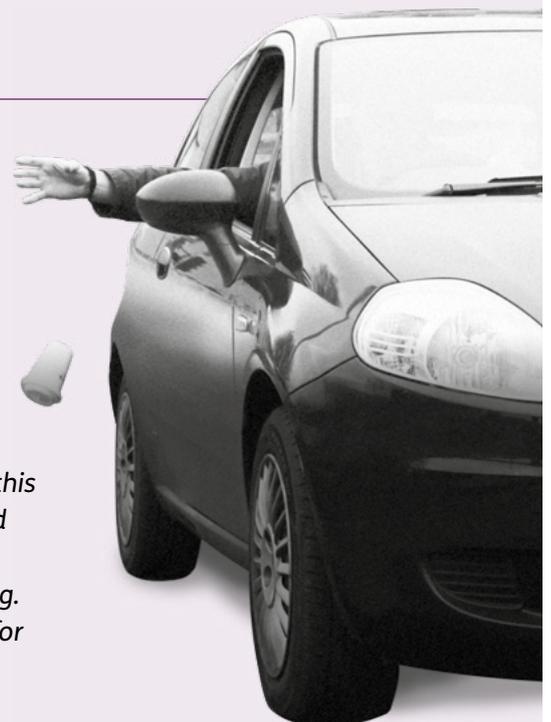
Mrs Helen Ansell of Henley Road, Bedford has been ordered to pay nearly £400 after pleading guilty to her third littering offence in Bedford Borough.

Mrs Ansell was issued fines for littering in Bedford twice last year, and when she was spotted a third time the matter was referred to the Courts. She entered an early guilty plea and was ordered to pay a total of £395.22, including a fine of £120, costs and a victim surcharge.

Meanwhile, Mr Adtham Zia Ali of Hurst Grove, Bedford was issued

a fixed penalty notice and, after failing to pay, was also referred to the Courts and ordered to pay £427.70, including a fine of £100, costs and a victim surcharge.

Cllr Charles Royden, Portfolio Holder for the Environment said "We take a proactive approach to tackling this offence, with officers authorised to issue fixed penalty notices when they see someone littering. We have issued over 250 fines for littering in 2017 alone."



New Kingfisher Building at Bromham Primary now open!



Mayor Dave cutting the ribbon alongside Bromham Primary School pupils

Mayor of Bedford Borough Dave Hodgson officially opened Bromham Primary School's new Kingfisher Building on Thursday 30 November.

Like many schools' across the borough, the school is currently converting from a lower school to a primary school, and features of the new build include 7 more classrooms, a multi-purpose hall and kitchen.

Mayor of Bedford Borough, Dave Hodgson, said: *"The Kingfisher Building is an excellent new resource, which is designed to support a high standard of teaching and learning. It will enable the school's important changes to take place, and be fit for current and future generations*

of pupils for many years to come. Congratulations to all staff and pupils on their wonderful new facility."

Bromham Primary School's Head teacher, Virginia Gilks, said: *"We couldn't be more pleased with our new building. Becoming a full Primary School has been an aim for our governors for a long time, and this investment by the Borough gives us the space to take the additional year groups, and to expand to three-form entry from September 2018."*

For more information on Bromham Primary School, visit www.bromhamprimary.co.uk.

'Active Adults' to launch in January 2018

Please note that from January 2018 Bedford Borough Council's Reactive 8 and Reactive 8 Gold programmes will be relaunching as 'Active Adults' and merging the two programmes together.

We will still be offering all your favourite courses, alongside a

range of 'pay as you go' courses within an expanded 'Just Turn Up' programme. Full details of both 'Active Adults' and 'Just Turn Up' January 2018 programmes will shortly appear on our website at www.bedford.gov.uk/sport. Online bookings for 'Active Adults' will

open at 9am on Wednesday 3 January 2018. Courses will begin on Monday 29 January 2018.

In order to book online you will need to register and set up an account with Bedford Borough Council. [Click here](#) to register for an account.



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Join Us **BEDFORD** Christmas

Celebrate in Bedford Borough
this year by supporting
your local markets, shops,
restaurants and events!

#BedfordXmas



www.ChristmasInBedford.co.uk