

Borough Monthly

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BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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More Support Services for Rough Sleepers in Bedford Borough

Bedford Borough Council has announced a range of additional services to support rough sleepers.

The Council consistently works with partners and the third sector to provide support to those who are rough sleeping, from the Rough Sleeper Outreach which goes out to try to engage people into accepting support, to Clarence House which opened recently to provide supported housing for the most vulnerable people with complex needs.

This additional funding will allow the Council, working with the third sector, to employ six additional support workers to provide both outreach support and ongoing support once people are housed. It will also fund a Rough Sleeper Co-Ordinator post, to ensure that the Council, third sector and other stakeholders work in collaboration to deliver the most effective and efficient service, providing maximum impact in relation to those rough sleeping.

As well as this support, thirty-two additional units of accommodation will be provided with this funding and four units of accommodation for those who have no recourse to public funds.

Finally, this funding will enable more beds to be provided over the winter in addition to the Council's work with The Salvation Army to provide emergency beds as part of the Severe Weather Provision during the coldest winter spells.

This additional support has been made possible following a successful bid for £307,000 from Government to provide support for those rough sleeping, and to help them get into accommodation.

Cllr Anthony Forth, Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Operational Housing said "We work to provide support to those sleeping rough in Bedford Borough, and are constantly looking for ways to improve this support. The award of this funding will allow us to provide more support, accommodation, and emergency beds in addition to the wide-ranging support already provided locally."

Don't wait until winter for the flu jab! *Did you know you can transfer the flu virus to someone you look after?*

Public Health are urging people in Bedfordshire to have the flu jab well before winter and say it is especially important for those at risk of more serious health complications. Even if we don't suffer from the effects of flu ourselves we can still pass on the virus those around us.

Catch it - Bin it - Kill it - remember to stop the spread of germs-use a tissue and wash your hands thoroughly.

Free Flu jabs - remember carers are entitled to a free flu jab if they are in receipt of the carers allowance for looking after vulnerable adult or children.



Award-Winning Parks in Bedford Borough



Bedford Borough parks have again been awarded Green Flags this year, with Priory Country Park receiving this award for the 17th year in a row!

In addition to Priory Country Park, three of our other parks have received the award again this year; Addison Howard Park, Bedford Park and Harrold-Odell Country Park.

The Green Flag Award recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces and this international award is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities.

Two of the Council's volunteer-managed sites have also been recognised, winning the Green Flag Community Award: Mowsbury Hillfort and the Hill Rise Nature Reserve.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said *"It is fantastic to see our parks winning the prestigious Green Flag Awards year after year. This really is a huge mark of achievement, showing the high quality of our local parks. Congratulations and thanks must also go to our volunteer groups whose hard work has been*

recognised by the Green Flag Community Awards."

Dave Parratt, Chairman of the Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort said: *"We are absolutely delighted to receive a Green Flag Community Award for the first time. We know how much quality green spaces matter to residents and visitors, and this award celebrates the hard work and dedication that goes into maintaining Mowsbury Hillfort to such a high standard."*

Shalaine Aldis from Hill Rise Nature Reserve said *"We are really pleased to have won this Award for the eighth year in a row, recognising the hard work of our volunteers and the high quality of this hidden Bedford gem. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers, and anyone who might be interested can visit www.hillrisenaturereserve.org.uk to find out more."*

If you would be interested in volunteering in one of the Council's parks and green spaces, please visit www.bedford.gov.uk/volunteering or sign up to the Community Volunteering email bulletin at www.bedford.gov.uk/stayconnected.

Volunteers at Park receive Royal Award

Volunteers from a Bedford Borough country park have received royal recognition for their hard work in maintaining the park for visitors.

The Friends group from Harrold-Odell Country Park have been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service which is the highest award possible for volunteer groups in the UK.

The award was presented to them in Odell Village Hall on Monday 16th July 2018 by the Lord Lieutenant of Bedford.

The volunteers have helped to maintain and improve the 144 acre country park with more than 2,500 hours of volunteering recorded in 2017.

Friends' members are involved with a number of activities including hedge laying, repairing benches, conservation work, tree planting and litter picking.

They also organise and host community events including wood carving and monthly conservation days which attract new volunteers. Conservation days include wildlife surveying, bench restoration, hedge laying, clearing and tree planting.

Previously the group has helped the park to achieve several Green Flag Awards, the International award celebrating the world's best green spaces.



Record Numbers at Bedford River Festival 2018



Last month saw the Bedford River Festival 2018, celebrating the event's 40th anniversary with live music, stalls, funfair, sports, dance, history and lots to do both on and off the water.

Estimates indicate that well over 300,000 visitors came to Bedford's beautiful riverside, with people travelling from near and far to enjoy this fantastic event.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said "My thanks and congratulations go to all the staff, volunteers, partners and organisations who were part of the huge effort that goes into putting this event together, and ensuring that it was a safe and enjoyable weekend."

"It was fantastic to see so many thousands of people both enjoying and contributing to the unique atmosphere of the River Festival, which once again showcased the very best of Bedford. Thanks to the hard work and energy of so many individuals and groups, I believe we gave the River Festival the 40th Anniversary celebration it deserved."

Highlights from the weekend included the raft and dragonboat races; boat and street parades; paddleboard racing; demonstrations at the World War One Heritage Village; displays on the river; and of course the show and performances across the event's six stages.

Allhallows Car Park to open 24/7

Allhallows Multi-Storey Car Park is now open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

It will continue to be free to park at Allhallows Multi-Storey car park after 6pm so this move to extend opening hours will make it even easier for people to visit Bedford town centre, and enjoy all that the night-time economy has to offer with pubs, bars, restaurants and the town centre cinema.

Bedford Borough Council has continued to invest in improving our car parks, including Allhallows itself undergoing a major refurbishment as part of the regeneration of the Bedford Bus Station area. New car parks have also been opened to the public, most recently St Mary's Gardens car park south of the river.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said "The increased opening hours at Allhallows multi-storey car park is the latest in a series of initiatives to support our town centre, with continued investment and improvement of our car parks, and a series of free parking offers throughout the week and at weekends."

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



Summer Holidays at The Higgins Bedford

Every Wednesday from 25th July to 22nd August, kids can come and explore The Higgins Bedford with Kevin the Platypus and enjoy crafty fun including pottery, kite making and personalising a drawstring backpack. These sessions start at 11am, 12.30pm and 2pm every Wednesday, and cost £2.70 per child.

On Fridays, from 27th July to 24th August, The Higgins Bedford will be hosting 'STEM' (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) specials with Little Science Labs, Mini Map Makers and animal encounters with Teaching Talons. These workshops also start at 11am, 12.30 and 2pm every Friday and cost £5 per child.

Cllr Sarah-Jayne Holland, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture said "The Higgins Bedford has got plenty of exciting and engaging activities planned during the

summer. Our local museum and art gallery sits in the middle of our town centre, close to the beautiful riverside and whether it's to look at an exhibition, take the kids to a workshop, grab a coffee at the Pantry, or just for a wander round; make sure you visit this summer."

To find out more about the workshops, and what's happening each week at The Higgins Bedford please visit www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk/summerholiday.aspx.

Places can be booked in advance at The Higgins Bedford, while unfilled places will be offered on a first-come, first-service basis on the day. Workshops are aimed at 5-13 year olds.



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9 NOVEMBER 2018

100 YEARS ON

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 **BEDFORDSHIRE - FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE**

LIVE ON





Bedfordshire Festival of Remembrance

The Royal British Legion (Bedfordshire) welcomes you to a special performance to commemorate those who have lost their lives in past conflicts to say 'Thank You'.

This year, one hundred years on, we invite you to come and join us to commemorate the end of The Great War - all who served, sacrificed and changed our world, for an evening of music, song, poetry and special memories. All proceeds will go to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Adult £15.00, Child (under 15) £10.00, Family (2 Adults 1 Child or 1 Adult 2 Child) £35.00