

Borough Monthly

Issue 28

June 2018

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BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Social Table Tennis

Get active in everyday spaces

New table tennis tables are being provided by Bedford Borough Council in partnership with Table Tennis England through their Loop scheme. There are four new tables which will be located in a number of different locations in Bedford and are available to the public free of charge.

Currently, the Council has three tables based at the Higgins but the table tennis offer has now expanded to accommodate an additional four tables. One table will be based at Elcombe House, a specialist residential care facility for people with dementia; the second table is based at the Pavilion, in Bedford Park, the third will be located at the Central Library and the last table joins the existing three tables at the Higgins. All tables are open to the public and venues have bats and balls available to borrow.

On Mondays, our weekly Mindful Table Tennis sessions will continue to run from 3-4pm at the Higgins. The sessions are being run in partnership by the Bedford Borough Council Sports development team and staff from East London NHS Foundation Trust. A coach will be present for anyone who would like someone to play against or would like tips to improve their technique. Sessions cost only £2! The session is designed to boost confidence, self-esteem and provide a positive start to the week. There have been 70 attendances in the last 6 weeks and the groups provide wonderful peer to peer support.



Cllr Sarah-Jayne Holland, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture said *"Sport can go beyond physical benefits, building community cohesion and an individual's self-esteem. These new table tennis tables are great news for the community increasing our table tennis offer for all ahead of an exciting summer."*

Mindful Sport sessions take place EVERY Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, on a weekly basis. To view the Mindful Sport timetable visit: <http://www.bedford.gov.uk/mindfulsport>.

Resurfacing Local Roads at No Cost to Local Taxpayers

Several roads in Bedford Borough are set to be resurfaced, at no cost to the Council.

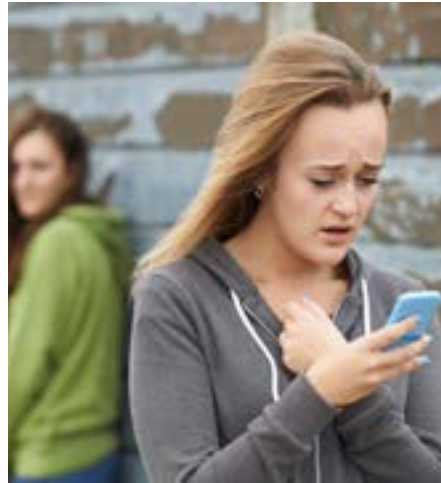
These roads have recently had resurfacing works carried out by a contractor, but after inspections carried out by the Council, it has been agreed that some of the work was not of an acceptable quality.

In response, the Council has worked with the contractor who have agreed to re-do these works at no cost to the Council.

The roads set to be resurfaced include Knights Avenue and Highbury Grove, Tyne Crescent, Brunel Road, Queens Drive, and Great Barford High Street, and the works will be carried out over May and June 2018.

Cllr Charles Royden, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport said *"We carry out careful inspections of the quality of all resurfaced roads. The contractor has agreed to carry out these works at no cost to the Council or the local taxpayers."*

Triple P Parenting Offer



Bedford Borough Council's Early Help team have rolled out their May to July programme for their Triple P Parenting offer, a service supporting parents and carers with children and young people by offering a range of information and support from workshops to seminars.

Through our Early Help Parenting Offer, we can provide supportive action for families at every stage of their lives. Our Group Triple P is an 8-week programme for any parent or carer with a child aged 0-12 years old. We also offer an 8-week programme for parents and carers with teenagers offering advice and knowledge to improve communication and manage conflict. Our latest offer – Family

Transitions Triple P is ideal for parents affected by separation or divorce and worried about the effect upon their children. The course focuses on how to cope positively with stress and provides skills to resolve conflicts with former partners in order to continue to co-parent effectively even though separated.

Triple P sessions and workshops will be delivered in schools and local community venues in Bedford from May to July. If you are unable to follow our 8-week programme, you may prefer to come along to our Triple P discussion groups with topics from 'Developing Good Bedtime Routines' to 'Getting Teenagers to Co-operate'.

Cllr Henry Vann, Portfolio Holder for Education said: *"Supporting families at every stage can make all the difference to the life chances of our children and young people. Our Early Help Team is there to support parents and equip them with the key skills to deal with the challenges they may face in raising children and young people and I would urge people get in touch if they need this support."*

For further information on where and when Triple P is being delivered near you please contact triplep@bedford.gov.uk, or call 01234 276367. Or alternatively visit us at www.bedford.gov.uk/earlyhelp to download to the full programme.

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



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Bedford River Festival



This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Bedford River Festival on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th July.

Recognised as one of the largest outdoor events of its kind in the UK, the 2016 festival saw over a quarter of a million people enjoy the events, entertainments and activities on Bedford's beautiful Embankment.

The Carnival Parade is set to take place on the Sunday, led by the Bedford Pipe Band, with a new route which will cover even more of the town centre giving visitors the opportunity to see more of our town. 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.

Other events include competitions for the best decorated narrow boats and cruisers; an illuminated boat parade; kayak slalom; lots of music; and the ever popular Dragonboat and raft boat races; and a spectacular

fireworks display on the Saturday. For the first time the festival will include St. Mary's Gardens.

Cllr Sarah-Jayne Holland, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture said *"The Parade is always a highlight of the Bedford River Festival, bringing music, dancing and lots of fun to our streets. So if you would like to take part in the Parade as part of a community group, team, or company please fill in an application form to get involved."*

Mayor Dave Hodgson said *"As well as the Parade, there is still time to get a group together and sign-up for the Dragonboat and Raft races. The River Festival is always fantastic event, showcasing many of the best things about Bedford and its overwhelming community spirit."*

To find out more or book your place in the Parade, or any of the other events taking place, please visit www.bedford.gov.uk/riverfestival.

New Car Park for Bedford Town Centre - Now Open

Following improvement works, a new public car park has now opened south of the river at St Mary's Gardens.

This investment has seen an existing car park between Borough Hall and Bedford College greatly improved and now open to the public creating more parking, including 3 disabled spaces, just over the river from our town centre.

St Mary's Gardens is a lovely and underused stretch of our

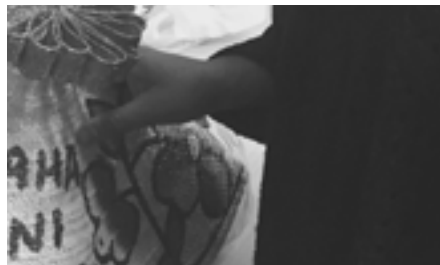
riverside, and with the new footbridge linking to Riverside Bedford this car park will make it even easier for people, particularly from south of the river, to visit our thriving town centre.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said *"Our town centre has seen increased footfall for the last four years in a row and this car park will make it even easier for people to visit and enjoy all it has to offer. In addition to the array of free*

parking offers we've introduced, new facilities and upgrades for existing ones are designed to make it convenient, safe and affordable to park in Bedford. Meanwhile, this new public car park will provide an attractive and accessible option just across the river from Riverside Bedford and the town centre, especially for those from the south of the town."

Refugee Week

18th to 24th June 2018



The Higgins Bedford is hosting events at Bedford Central Library and the Harpur Suite to mark Refugee Week this month.

On Sunday 17th June from 1-6pm, the Harpur Suite will host a fully-packed programme of free events, poetry workshops, the opportunity to learn new languages, food from around the world, fashion, theatre and music in a festival of Bedford's diversity.

Refugee Week is celebrating 20 years so there will be a chance to learn 20 words in a new language or to write a 20 word poem.

Other events include the performance of a play developed by pupils from Wixams Academy inspired by 'Dorka', a teddy bear brought to the UK by Gabrielle when her family fled the Hungarian uprising in 1957.

The Friends of Refugees choir and a choir formed by Music in Detention will both perform and Frinny French Maphosa from In2Beats will be on hand, and there will be a fashion show and food from all over the world to enjoy.

Voices: Different Pasts, Shared Futures, a project by The Higgins Bedford and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, will be showcased on the day. Part of the project has been to collect stories and objects from refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. There will be an opportunity to listen to these stories and even to add your own story at a listening booth.

On the 19th and 20th June there will be Refugee Week events at Bedford Central Library from 11am – 4pm, with a family research trail and the chance find out more about the cultural journeys people and objects have made. There will also be the 'Living Library' with the stories and experience of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

Councillor Sarah-Jayne Holland, Portfolio Holder for Libraries and Culture said *'We're very happy and proud to be part of such a vibrant celebration of the important contribution refugees, asylum seekers and migrants make to our cultural lives.'*

Local Plan 2035

Following a meeting of Bedford Borough Council's Executive last month, the submission of Local Plan 2035 to the Secretary of State for independent examination has been deferred.

Due to unresolved noise issues relating to the proposed Colworth Garden Village, officers are now investigating other options including the end of the plan period being brought forward which will reduce the number of dwellings that need to be allocated.

A further consultation is expected to take place later this year. For more information on the Local Plan 2035, please visit www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2035.



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

Give a Hand Up, Not a Hand Out

From this month, posters about alternative ways of giving will be going up across Bedford town centre.

Bedford Borough Council has received reports from local businesses and residents about aggressive begging in our town centre. In response the Community Safety Partnership has launched a poster campaign, working with the Council, Bedfordshire Police, Bedford BID, and the voluntary sector.

The poster urges people to 'Give a hand up, not a hand out'. The aim is to raise awareness of the wide range of local charities who work to help homeless people, and the good that they could do to offer lasting change with donations from local people.

Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Cllr Colleen Atkins said *"Bedford residents are renowned for their generosity, with many people donating to charities and volunteering to help others. The aim of the poster is to raise awareness of the wide range of local charities who work to help homeless and vulnerable people. We want to encourage people to support these charities so they have the resources to provide long term help."*

Community Chief Superintendent David Boyle said *"We are working closely with Bedford Borough Council to tackle the issue of homelessness in our neighbourhoods. There are so many great local charities experienced in helping homeless and less fortunate members of our community, which gives them the chance to help improve their lives."*

Christina Rowe, Director of Bedford BID said *"Of course people want to help when they see someone in this situation, but the advice of all the experts who work with those who are homeless, for whatever reason, is that*

their money will be put to the best use by donating to one of the charities included on bedfordhomeless.org.uk. Via this site people can choose which charity they give to and

businesses are advised to bring this website to the attention of their customers as an alternative to handing over cash on the street."

Sam Price from the Bedford Homeless Partnership said *"Anyone begging on the streets deserves our help and support. By donating to a homelessness charity or support agency, you know that your money will go towards making a positive change in people's lives, and enable them to break the cycle of poverty and despair."*

Steve at Emmaus Village Carlton, who was formerly homeless, said *"If you want to give to the homeless it is best to donate to something structured, as opposed to giving money on the street. This is more beneficial. You then know that your kind donations are going to something meaningful and that will give purpose, as opposed to just lasting someone an hour. By donating through a structure you know the money goes to people who actually need it."*

If you think someone is homeless and wish to refer them to support services, please go to www.streetlink.org.uk; this is a national service to help connect people to local services.



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



Foster Care Fortnight

Could you change a child's life?

Foster Care Fortnight, led by The Fostering Network, has been established for almost 20 years, showcasing the commitment, passion and dedication of foster carers across the country.

In Bedford Borough, Foster Care Fortnight was celebrated with a picnic in the park for our fantastic foster carers on 19th May. Council staff also carried out a sponsored bike ride, cycling the distance to the child placed furthest away from the Borough to raise awareness of the need for more local foster carers. Staff cycled 20 minutes slots to reflect that in the UK every 20 minutes a child comes into care needing a fostering family.

Foster care transforms lives, not just for the young person who is fostered, but also the lives of foster carers, their families and all those involved in fostering.

One of Bedford Borough Council's foster carers said *"I foster because it's a chance to make a difference to a child's life and an opportunity for them to live a normal life and experience activities that they've never done before."*

According to The Fostering Network, over 7,000 additional foster families are needed in the UK over the next 12 months to care for a range of children. In Bedford Borough, there is a particular need

for foster carers for older children, sibling groups, foster carers from black and minority ethnic groups, as well as for children with disabilities.

Cllr Shan Hunt, Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care said *"We never want to have to place a child out of area, but when there isn't a foster carer available locally we have no choice. That's why it is so important that we have foster carers here in Bedford Borough. Almost anyone can become a foster carer; we welcome enquiries from people of all religions, race, genders and sexuality. You can be single, and you don't have to own your own home but you do need to have a spare bedroom. We're more interested in your ability to provide support, protection and care for a foster child and advocate on their behalf. As a foster carer you will receive training and have your own fostering social worker for support, as well as an allowance and fee when you have a child in placement."*

Bedford Borough has active support groups for foster carers and their children and a generous weekly allowance and fostering fee is paid to all carers.

Could you be a fantastic foster carer? To find out more about becoming a foster carer with Bedford Borough Council, visit www.bedford.gov.uk/fostering or call our Team on 01234 718718.

Doug McMurdo elected Speaker of Bedford Borough Council



Cllr Doug McMurdo was elected Speaker of Bedford Borough Council at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday evening (2nd May). The meeting also saw Cllr Wendy Rider appointed as Deputy Speaker.

Doug was first elected to represent Sharnbrook as a Borough Councillor in 2003. His previous roles within the Council include:

- Portfolio holder for Leisure and Culture, overseeing the launch of the Higgins, Bedford and the introduction of Fusion Lifestyle to manage the Council's leisure facilities
- Chair of the Pensions Committee since 2010
- Chair of the Internal Drainage Board since 2016
- Deputy Speaker of the Council 2017/18

Doug said: *"I am delighted to be elected to this position. It is a great privilege and honour to serve the Borough for the forthcoming year. I look forward to many civic engagements throughout the year and being able to participate in events that ordinarily I would not experience."*





BCEX Presents

I'm Still Standing: The Elton John Story

I'm Still Standing – The Elton John Story takes you on a journey through Elton's illustrious, unparalleled career with an amazing live band recreating the authentic sound of a live Elton concert, performing classics such as 'Don't Go Breaking My Heart', 'Your Song', 'Candle In The Wind', 'Pinball Wizard' and many more.

Saturday 30th June, 19:30

Tickets: £17.00

Venue: Main Auditorium

Bedford Corn Exchange

13 St. Paul's Square, Bedford MK40 1SL

Phone: (01234) 718044

Email: corn.exchange@bedford.gov.uk Web: www.bedfordcornexchange.co.uk

