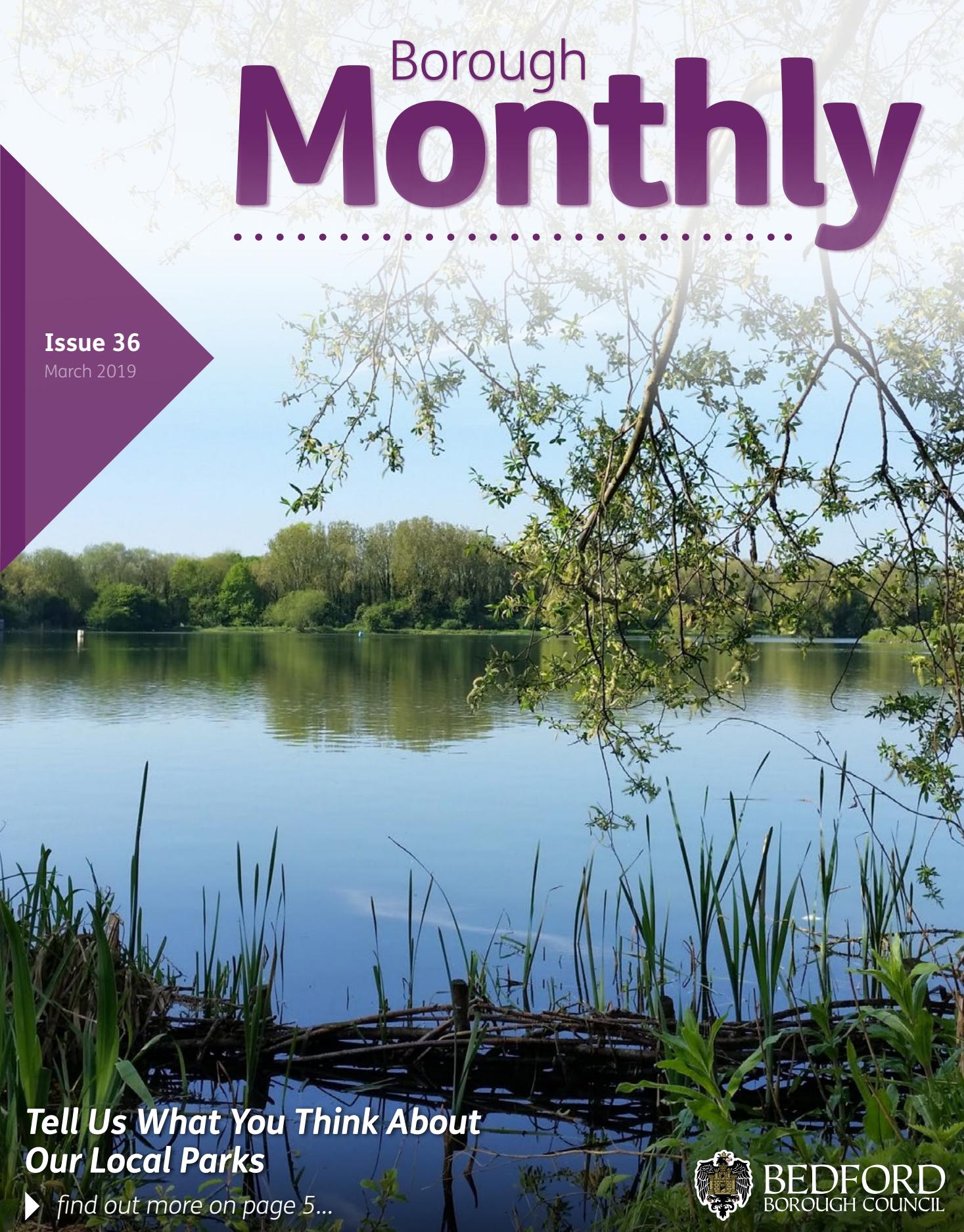


Borough Monthly



Issue 36

March 2019

Tell Us What You Think About Our Local Parks

► find out more on page 5...



**BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

In this issue...

New fine for irresponsible
waste disposal

► see page 2

Bromham Road Bridge
works to begin on 4 March

► see page 3

Community Clean Ups

► see page 4

Online store launches
new Bawden wallpaper

► see page 5

New fine for irresponsible waste disposal

Bedford Borough Council has introduced a new Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) to tackle fly-tipping.

The Council already issues fines to those who commit the offence of fly-tipping. It is estimated that two-thirds of fly-tipped waste is household waste - which is often fly-tipped because a householder has allowed an unauthorised person to take it away.

The new FPN will see a £300 fine issued to people who are responsible for fly-tipping because they allowed an unauthorised individual to get rid of their household waste.

If an individual is disposing of their household waste, they have a 'duty of care' to ensure that they are using a licensed waste carrier so that the waste is disposed of correctly. If they do not, and the waste is fly-tipped, the individual who created the waste will be fined, alongside the person who committed the fly-tipping.



Have your Say: Register to Vote

Bedford Borough Council is encouraging any local residents not already registered to vote, to register before local elections on 2 May this year.

There are fewer than 100 days until Bedford Borough voters go to the polls to elect the Mayor of Bedford Borough, Borough Councillors and Town and Parish Councillors. Anyone not registered can do so at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

On 2 May 2019 elections will be taking place across Bedford Borough. Elections will be held for the Mayor of Bedford Borough, along with elections of all Borough Councillors. All Parish and Town Councils will also hold elections on 2 May. The deadline to register to vote and have your say is 12th April. For anyone who is away or wishes to receive a postal vote the deadline for applications is the 15th April.

Philip Simpkins, Chief Executive of Bedford Borough Council, said "I'd urge anyone who is not registered to vote already to do so as soon as possible, so they can have their say at this year's elections. It is quick and easy to register online."

Information on the elections and links to the election timetable, applications to register to vote and to change your current voting arrangements, are all available at www.bedford.gov.uk/elections2019



Information on Elections:

Mayoral Elections

Bedford Borough Council is one of only 16 Councils in the country (outside of London and the 'metro-mayors') to have a Directly Elected Mayor. Mayoral elections in the UK use the Supplementary Vote (SV) system. Under SV, voters can select their first and second preference out of the list of candidates.

Borough Council Elections

Bedford Borough Council has 40 elected Borough Councillors each representing 1 of 27 Wards within the Bedford Borough Area. Electors vote for the candidates who are standing for the ward they are registered within.

Parish and Town Council Elections

Parish Council elections are held every 4 years, and coincide with both the Mayoral and Borough Council Elections. Parish Councils primarily comprise of the villages in the area, but can also be large or urban areas such as Brickhill or Kempston Town.

Drivers reminded to find alternative routes ahead of Network Rail's Bromham Road Bridge Closure



Network Rail will begin work on Bromham Road Bridge on Monday 4 March 2019 supported by a partial closure of the A4280 over the bridge. This will involve the closure of the road to westbound traffic leaving the town. Traffic travelling eastbound into town will not be affected.

During this work Bedford Borough Council is reminding residents to find alternative transport routes. Pedestrian access will be maintained throughout the work, but drivers will be affected.

Network Rail is closing the bridge to allow utilities running through the bridge to be removed and relocated ahead of the structure being demolished and reconstructed. The work is part of the Midland Main Line Upgrade, which will see the line electrified from London to Kettering and Corby via Bedford.

A Bedford Borough Council Spokesperson said; ***"Bromham Road Bridge is a busy thoroughfare and one of the main access routes in and out of Bedford. We would urge drivers to seek alternative routes wherever possible and to allow more time for your journey in order to help minimise any disruption and delay."***

A full closure for the bridge to be removed and replaced by Network Rail is expected to take place in June.

You can find out more about the planned work on Bromham Road Bridge by visiting www.nr.co.uk/bromham - or calling the Network Rail National Helpline on 03457 11 41 41.

Could you be a Reablement Support Worker?

Reablement is about providing personal care to help people regain skills they may have lost due to an accident or poor health, increasing their confidence and independence.

Flexible shifts available. Full training will be given.

Give us a call on 01234 718333

Visit www.bedford.gov.uk/reablementapp to download an application pack



Community Clean Ups

Why not volunteer with Bedford Borough Council and help to keep your local areas clean and litter-free? We have a number of clean up events taking place in March.

2 March - Little Staughton - 10am-12pm

3 March - Great Denham - meet at Community Hall, 10am-12pm

9 March - Colmworth - meet at St. Denys Church, 10am-12pm

9 March - Kempston Central & East

10 March - Staploe - meet at Duloe Village Hall, 3pm-5pm

16 March - Felmershamb

16 March - Kempston North

23 March - Stevington

23 March - Stagsden - meet at Millennium Green Junction, 10am-12pm

It is also worth noting that RiverCare, the Council's annual river clean up, will return to Bedford again on 30 March - keep it in your diaries! The clean-up location will be announced in due course. Event times: 10am-12noon.

For further information about any of the events listed, please contact volunteering@bedford.gov.uk.



Upgrade to LibraryPlus



Have you signed up to LibraryPlus yet? LibraryPlus gives you more flexibility by accessing Bedford Central Library, Bromham Library, and Wootton Library outside of staffed hours.

Talk to a member of staff about upgrading and then you can use these libraries during self-service hours by entering with your library card and PIN. Find out if you're eligible for LibraryPlus on the Virtual Library.

www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries

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



Tell Us What You Think About Our Local Parks

Bedford Borough Council's customer satisfaction surveys for Priory Country Park and Harrold-Odell Country Park will open on 4 March.



The customer satisfaction survey asks park users what they like about the parks and also invites them to suggest any improvements. The survey responses collected will be used to help guide the future management of the park.

Priory Country Park and Harrold-Odell Country Park are both Green Flag Award winners, which recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces across the U.K and abroad. In 2018, Priory Country Park won the Award for the 17th year in a row!

Cllr Charles Royden, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport said "*It is fantastic that our parks have been recognised at a national level, but it is also vital that our local parks are meeting the needs of the people who use them and local residents. Please let us know what you think and help us to ensure that everyone has access to quality green spaces.*"

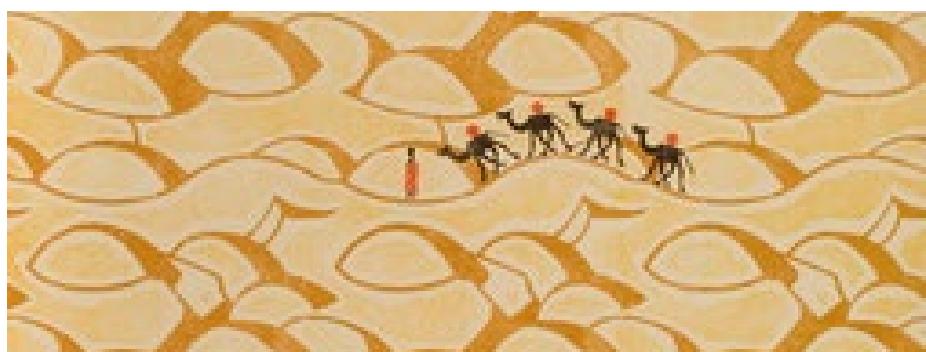
The survey for Priory Country Park is available at <https://forms.bedford.gov.uk/pcp> and for Harrold-Odell Country Park at <https://forms.bedford.gov.uk/hocp>. The closing date for both surveys is 30 April 2019.

Hard copies are also available from local libraries, the Customer Service Centre, Borough Hall, and at the cafes at Priory Country Park and Harrold-Odell Country Park.

Online store launches new Bawden wallpaper

To coincide with the opening of the Edward Bawden: Home and Abroad exhibition, 'St Jude's', an online company that stocks fabrics and papers designed by artists, have re-issued Edward Bawden's 1928 'Sahara' wallpaper.

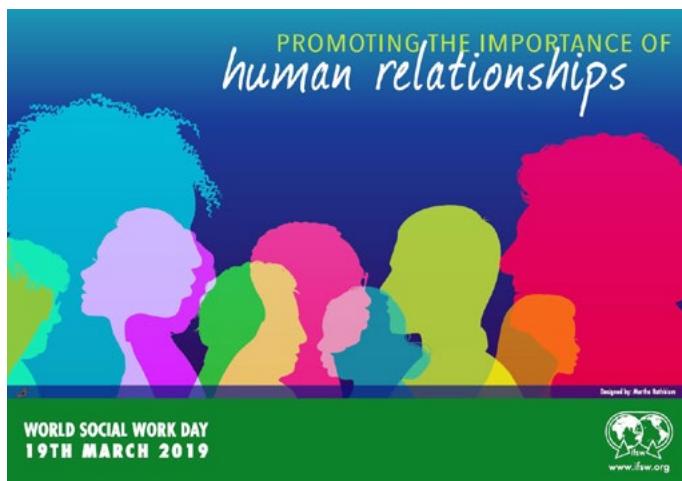
Sahara is one of four wallpapers showcasing Bawden's famous designs and joins 'Seaweed', 'Tree and Cow' and 'Pigeon and Clock Tower'. The company hope to launch more designs by Bawden over the next year.



Click [here](#) to purchase the 'Sahara' wallpaper.

Edward Bawden (1903-1989) 'Sahara', Lithograph after linocut, 1928 ©The Edward Bawden Estate. Courtesy of the Trustees of the Cecil Higgins Art Gallery (The Higgins Bedford)

World Social Work Day



World Social Work Day is on the 19 March 2019. It is the key day in the year that social workers worldwide stand together to celebrate the achievements of the profession, raise awareness of the contributions that social work make and need for further action.

GREATER CAMBRIDGE PARTNERSHIP
Growing and sharing prosperity

We want to transform our public transport system so thousands more people can use a quicker, more reliable network every day.

Tell us your views on proposals for a future public transport network and ways to reduce congestion in Greater Cambridge by 31 March 2019.

Find out more ↗

[www.greatercambridge.org.uk/
choicesbetterjourneys-bb](http://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/choicesbetterjourneys-bb)
#BetterGreaterCambridgeJourneys

Reducing emissions in Bedford Borough

Bedford Borough Council is set to reduce emissions by changing the type of fuel used in all of the fleet vehicles.

To provide the services local people expect, including bin collections, road gritting, and street cleansing the Council has a range of vehicles. These vehicles are all now fuelled with 'Gas to Liquid' fuel rather than conventional diesel.

Switching to 'Gas to Liquid' fuel from conventional diesel creates an immediate reduction in harmful emissions, with external trials from Shell and other independent organisations showing an up to 37% reduction in nitrogen dioxide and an up to 90% reduction in particulate matter. The Council will be monitoring this new fuel over the next six months, and measuring the benefits for the fleet locally.

In addition, 'Gas to Liquid' fuel is expected to lead to reduced maintenance costs and reduced noise levels in some engines. The fuel also has improved combustion properties which means it will burn more efficiently. This introduction has also required no engine modifications or new infrastructure, as it can be used as a direct replacement for conventional diesel.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said "The Council is committed to working in a greener way. We have led the way locally reducing carbon emissions from our estate by over half in recent years, and now this switch to more environmentally friendly fuel. This change to Gas to Liquid fuel will help our fleet to run more efficiently and produce fewer emissions, and so have a positive impact on our local environment."

Stay Connected!

Don't forget for regular, timely information on the Council, you can follow us on Twitter @bedfordtweets, Facebook @bedfordboroughcouncil and via our website, www.bedford.gov.uk.

Stay connected

Annual count shows fewer people sleeping rough in Bedford Borough

Latest figures have shown that there are a third fewer people sleeping rough in Bedford Borough than there were one year ago, with work continuing to support rough sleepers and reduce the figure further.

Increasing levels of rough sleeping have been a national concern, with figures showing that the number of people rough sleeping has more than doubled in recent years. The latest figures have shown a national decrease of 2% in the number of people rough sleeping compared to the year before. Bedford Borough has seen a 33% decrease in the number of people sleeping rough.

Every year, Bedford Borough Council and partners carry out a Rough Sleeper Count as part of a national exercise. This aims to give an accurate view of how many people are sleeping rough in the Borough.

This Count was carried out in November 2018, and showed that 51 people were sleeping rough in Bedford Borough that night, compared to 76 in November 2017.

The Council has been proactive in supporting those rough sleeping. In working with partners including SMART and the King's Arms Project, the Council has been able to support ongoing outreach teams to ensure those sleeping rough are contacted regularly and offered help.

There is also a range of accommodation for vulnerable people and those rough sleeping across the Borough, including Clarence House; a complex needs and supported housing project, hostel provision, and Bedford Nightshelter.

A recent successful bid for funding by the Council saw a range of extended and additional services being provided in Bedford Borough including:

- the provision of an extra 20 beds open every single night through winter in addition to the severe weather beds available to all rough sleepers during cold weather
- funding for 44 additional units of accommodation
- more outreach and support staff to help rough sleepers off the street and into accommodation

Outreach teams have already supported 12 people off the streets and into long-term accommodation. A number of rough sleepers have also been supported into temporary accommodation including 8 people moved off the streets and into accommodation provided by our partners 'The Kings Arms Project', with intense support to find employment and long-term accommodation.

This additional support was made possible after a successful bid for over £300,000 from the Government under the Rough Sleeper Initiative Fund.

If you are aware of someone sleeping rough we urge you to report their location and any details to Bedford's Rough Sleeper Street Outreach Partnership through the national rough sleeping report line at www.streetlink.org.uk, and would encourage anyone sleeping rough to go to the Prebend Day Centre and speak to the staff there to get support.

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



01234 228154



@ design@bedford.gov.uk

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



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Are you interested in Self-build or Custom Housebuilding?

Bedford Borough Council holds a Register of people interested in Self-build or Custom Housebuilding in the Borough.



To qualify for the Register you must:

- be aged 18 or over;
- be a British citizen, a national of an EEA State other than the United Kingdom, or a national of Switzerland;
- want to acquire a serviced plot of land to build a house to occupy as your sole or main home.

How can you apply to join the Register?

You can apply to join the Register by accessing the Bedford Borough Council website's dedicated Self-build and Custom Housebuilding webpage at:

www.bedford.gov.uk/selfbuild

Alternatively, you can e-mail: housing.strategy@bedford.gov.uk

Or write to: **Housing Strategy Team, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP**

Or call on **01234 718585** to discuss applying