

Borough Monthly

Issue 39
July 2019

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BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Free Tulip Bulbs Giveaway

Bedford Borough Council has given away thousands of tulip bulbs to nearly 30 local charities, schools and community groups, for free.

With the seasonal change of the Embankment planting going into the summer, the Council has given away the tulip bulbs from the spring planting.

Local groups were invited to request tulip bulbs, and lots got in touch with the Council including the Abbey Fields Roundabout Group, schools including Castle Newnham and Scott Primary, charities such as Bedford Open Door and Bedford Guild House, as well as local brownie groups and residents associations.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said, "It's great that this free offer has been taken up so enthusiastically. I'm really pleased that by working with community groups and organisations, we are able to get these flowers replanted."

The Council cannot reuse the tulip bulbs as this would require the flowers to be left in the ground for several weeks after flowering, which clearly wouldn't be in keeping with Bedford's Victorian Embankment.

Bedfordshire man sentenced to 12 weeks in prison for animal welfare offences

On Friday 31 May, Mr Mohammed Saeed Malik, of Rondini Avenue, Luton, was given a 12 week immediate custodial sentence after pleading guilty to a number of charges brought by the Council relating to animal carcasses found at a location in Kempston in September 2018.

Mr Malik was prosecuted by Bedford Borough Council for four offences under the Animal-by-Products Regulations 2013 and by the RSPCA for eight offences under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Give your views on community safety

The Bedford Borough Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has launched the Community Safety Consultation and wants to hear your views on what you think about your local area, the town centre, how safe you feel and your concerns around crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Partnership includes Bedford Borough Council, Bedfordshire Police, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue and other local organisations, all working together towards a shared vision of "tackling crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and increasing people's perceptions about safety and well-being in our communities."

All responses to the consultation will be part of a strategic assessment of crime and anti-social behaviour to help the Partnership write the new Community Safety Plan 2020-23. This will set out the priorities and work for the Community Safety Partnership over the next few years.

The survey is open until Friday 2 August 2019. It is available online on our website at www.forms.bedford.gov.uk/csp

You can request a copy of the consultation via email at communitysafety@bedford.gov.uk.

There are also paper copies available at Borough Hall, the Customer Service Centre and local libraries - which can be completed and returned to Consulting Bedford, Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP.



Network Rail's Bromham Road Bridge closure



Network Rail's Bromham Road Bridge closure started on Monday 24 June and will run until Spring 2020.

This is to allow them to safely demolish and raise the bridge as part of their Midland Main Line upgrade. A diversion via the A6 and Clapham Road will be clearly signposted.

Pedestrian access will be maintained throughout the closure, with a temporary footbridge in place when required.

Bromham Road Bridge is a busy route in and out of Bedford and road users are encouraged to find alternative routes where possible and allow more time for journeys.

The Council has worked with Network Rail to minimise disruption, including delaying Transporting Bedford 2020 works on Clapham Road so that there aren't road closures on this main thoroughfare at the same time.

Thanks to technology already installed through the Transporting Bedford 2020 project, the Council is able to monitor journey times on key routes and will keep a close eye on this, especially in the early days of Network Rail's closure, and if necessary will look at options to help further alleviate traffic pressure.

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



As a result of Network Rail's work, Stagecoach and Grant Palmer have made the some changes to bus services: Stagecoach X5 and no.41 and Grant Palmer no.11.

Find out more on their websites:
<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/>
<http://www.grantpalmer.com/>

Major Improvements planned on the A6

A stretch of A6 south of Bedford, past the village of Wilstead will be rebuilt this summer. This stretch of the A6 is in serious need of rebuilding as a consequence of the foundations of the road having collapsed. At this current time there are speed restrictions placed on the road to enable drivers to use it safely but this cannot continue.

The importance of safety for road users is paramount as the road surface has reached the end of its lifespan. As such, the road is being completely rebuilt as part of a multimillion-pound investment by Bedford Borough Council, with the works being carried out by Henderson & Taylor.

These works will require the road to be closed from 22 July, with the project expected to be complete and the road re-opened by early December. We apologise for the inconvenience these roadworks will cause.

The road will be closed from the Bedford Road junction in the north to the Luton Road junction in the south, while this stretch of the A6 is removed and rebuilt. The diversion route will be clearly signed, via the A507 and A600 through Cotton End.

Electronic signage will be installed in advance of the road being closed, and throughout the works to keep road users informed.

All residents of Wilstead and Wixams villages will soon be receiving a leaflet from Henderson & Taylor and Bedford Borough Council about this project, the road closure and required diversion route.

In addition, a drop-in session for the local community to find out more and ask questions will be organised in advance of the works starting.

There will also be some closures on local footpaths, which cross this stretch of the A6. More details of these are available at www.bedford.gov.uk/rightsofwayclosures

More minor works will be carried out to the stretch of A6 immediately to the south in winter 2019, as part of this wider project, but this will not require an extended period of road closure and will only take place once the main stretch has been reopened.

Cllr Charles Royden, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport said, "As people who regularly use this stretch of the A6 will be aware, this length of road has become too dangerous for normal road use and speed reduction has already been imposed. We have worked to bring this project forward as quickly as possible."



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Consultation on A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet

Highways England are carrying out a public consultation on plans to improve travel between Milton Keynes and Cambridge, proposing a new 10 mile dual carriageway between the Black Cat and Caxton Gibbet roundabouts.

Eight consultation events will be taking place at local venues across the area, a mobile visitor centre will visit popular locations and pop up events will be held in Milton Keynes and Bedford town centres. Click here to view a full list of events.

You can respond to the consultation by visiting the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet webpage <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/a428-black-cat-to-caxton-gibbet-home/>

Copies of the consultation booklet and response forms are available at the Borough Hall reception.

The consultation documents are also available at other local council offices and libraries.

The consultation will run until Sunday 28 July 2019.

Local Offer Live

Exciting event on Tuesday 11 June saw the launch of new SEND services website



Local Offer Live! took place on Tuesday 11 June - an innovative event designed for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and their parents and carers.

The event introduced Bedford Borough's "Local Offer" - a website that is not just a directory of services - but a site set to become the first port of call for anyone seeking information about SEND services.

Offering signposting and guidance as well as support the website should be used as a key tool for the local area to drive improvements.

Local Offer Live! organised by Bedford Borough Council (BBC), Bedford Borough Parent Carer Forum and Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), was made up of two sessions - one during the day and one in the evening.

Cllr James Valentine, Executive Member for Education and Children's Services, said: "Bedford Borough Council is committed to providing high quality services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. We have worked closely with our partners to ensure information about all our services is easily accessible online."

Anne Murray, BCCG's Director of Nursing and Quality, said: "Improving access to local SEND services is a priority for the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and its partners. The new Local Offer website is an important step in ensuring parents, carers, GPs and other healthcare professionals have the information they need to design and deliver the right package of health and social care to meet the specific needs of young people."

To visit the new Local Offer website, visit <http://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk>.



It's been a busy month for many of our teams, read on to find out more.

Helping to get carers connected

Carers Week (10 - 16 June)

There are an estimated 2,678 unpaid carers in Bedford. That's 2,678 people who spend their life putting other people first, looking after their loved ones. Yet many people still don't identify themselves as carers - they simply see themselves as spouses, parents, sons, daughters or friends.

10 - 16 June was Carers Week, a week dedicated to supporting local residents who care for others while recognising that they are individuals with their own needs.

This year's theme "Getting Carers Connected", highlighted the difficulties carers can face staying connected with their families and friends.



#GoodLife

Shared Lives Week (17- 21 June)

To celebrate Shared Lives Week, Shared Lives Plus have been promoting how everyone deserves a #GoodLife and that Shared Lives carers are helping to support people's human rights as part of the important role they undertake.

Here in Bedford, our Shared Lives team have been helping to promote this message, while also taking the opportunity to recruit new carers locally.

Shared Lives Carers help to look after an adult with learning disabilities, whether that is for a few hours, a short respite

break or a long term placement.

Shared Lives Bedford help service users to be 'matched' to the right carer, considering both parties' likes, hobbies and interests. The support is very individual and person centred. Service users get to meet the carers and if the service user and carer are happy then support can start.

To find out more about how to become a Shared Lives Carer, email sharedlives@bedford.gov.uk or visit www.bedford.gov.uk/sharedlives.

Cllr Wendy Rider, Portfolio Holder for Adult Services said: "Caring for someone can be hugely rewarding but can come at a cost to a carers' own health and wellbeing - who are often putting their own needs on hold.

"By connecting carers to resources in the community, we aim to help those who devote themselves to the care of others to live better lives."

Bedford Borough Council has also joined forces with national charity Carers UK to offer support to carers via a free online platform that can be accessed 24/7. At a click of a mouse carers in Bedford will have free, 24/7 access to the Digital Resource for Carers, an online environment that hosts a range of resources to help carers manage care and caring.

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

Refugee Week 2019

The Higgins Bedford celebrated Refugee Week 2019 with a series of events in conjunction with Bedford Central Library, The Place Theatre, A Different Brew Café and other partners.

Refugee Week is a national programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees in the UK and live music, talks, poetry, creative workshops and stalls took place locally at The Higgins.

Cllr Doug McMurdo, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture said

"Refugee Week was a great opportunity to come together as a community, hear stories and discover more about people who have come to the UK. There were also so many chances to get involved and get creative."



A fantastic start to the summer!

The Bedford International Kite Festival and first ever Bedford Festival of Motoring took place on the first weekend of June, with an estimated 30,000 visitors coming along to enjoy the fantastic weekend of fun in the sun.

The Kite Festival saw kites of all sizes and colours, with flyers from around the world coming to Russell Park to show off their skills. The Park was filled with fun activities for the whole family with food, drink, stalls to browse, inflatables and a traditional funfair. The Festival also continued into the evening with 'Party in the Park'.

Meanwhile, over on the Embankment around 300 vehicles lined our beautiful riverside, with veteran and classic cars, supercars, dragsters, motorbikes, off road vehicles, big red buses, and lots more on show for the first ever Bedford Festival of Motoring.

This was also the first time we saw events on the river as part of the Kite Festival, with 'come and try it' activities, hosted by Canoe Trail.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said "A big thanks to all involved with what was a fantastic weekend. It was great to see so many people in Russell Park and on our beautiful Embankment, with kites, cars, canoes and music all coming together. Bedford is a town of events, and we are pleased to have maintained and expanded this free festival for people to visit and enjoy.

"This year's event was of course even bigger than before with the first Motoring Festival, music night and activities on the river joining the spectacular kite-flying displays."



The Higgins Bedford: summer gardening events

There are lots of garden-themed events and activities at The Higgins Bedford this summer, inspired by the current exhibition Round and Round the Garden – A Celebration of Horticulture in Art.

Explore the Castle Gardens in a free tour on the 3 July, 25 July and 7 September at 11:15am or the 18 August at 2:15pm. Discover more about the volunteer-led project to rejuvenate the gardens and grounds. Support from the SDC Community Fund has provided the materials and tools for the project but donations are welcome to aid in transforming the gardens.

Experts are on hand to answer all things gardening in an informal gardener's question time with Jane Perrone, Kathy and Simon Brown. 'Your Garden Questions Answered' is free for all to enjoy on 30 June from 2:30pm to 3:30pm.

Join Keeper of Fine and Decorative Art, Victoria Partridge, for a lunchtime lecture on 4 July from 12pm to 12:30pm and explore Edward Bawden's favourite gardens. Entry for this lecture will cost £3 per person with concessions available at £2.50.

Cllr Doug McMurdo, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture said "Gardens have always been an inspiration for artists, and Round and Round the Garden is such a fantastic exhibition for inspiring all of us to look at our own gardens in a new light. These activities are a great chance to explore this exhibition in a very practical way, and a great chance to pick up some tips for your own gardening adventures."

Booking is essential for Garden Tours and the Lunchtime Lecture with Victoria Partridge. To book your place or make a donation towards the garden project, please email thehiggins@bedford.gov.uk.



Just Turn Up Family Fun Fridays

Just Turn Up are running Family Fun Fridays on 28 June, 26 July and 23 August, all from 6pm until 7.30pm.

Each event, which is held at the Bedford Athletic Track on Barkers Lane, offers multi-sport activities for all the family to take part in.

Children aged 3 - 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets cost £5 for a family of four (2 adults, 2 children) or £1.50 each.

For further enquiries, please call 01234 718825 or email sport@bedford.gov.uk.

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Facebook

@bedfordboroughcouncil

and via our website, www.bedford.gov.uk.

Stay
connected



Sundays from 3pm to 5pm
 Mill Meadows Bandstand
 The Embankment, Bedford

Music in the Meadows



The Longholme will be providing seasonal catering & refreshments during this year's concerts.

The Summer Bandstand Concerts return to the Embankment Bandstand this July & August.

Come along, bring the family and a picnic and enjoy two hours of traditional bandstand music...

14 th July 2019	Salvation Army Band
21 st July 2019	The Hitchin Band
28 th July 2019	May Blossom Vintage Songbird
4 th August 2019	The Mainline Big Band
18 th August 2019	Bedford Saxophone Workshop
25 th August 2019	Bedford Town Band



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