

Renhold Parish Council: Update from Cllrs Stephen Moon and Sheryl Corp - October 2018

Putnoe Walk In Centre to Remain Open

The Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG), the body which organises NHS services locally, has announced that the Putnoe Walk in Centre is to remain open to May 2020, albeit with reduced hours.

The BCCG recently stated its intention to close the Putnoe Walk In Centre from Spring 2019. This was linked to plans to open a new Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) on the Bedford Hospital site. The UTC will provide same-day appointments for minor illnesses over a 12 hour period, 7 days a week via referrals from A & E and the 111 phone service and will reduce pressure on the Hospital's A & E function.

The BCCG undertook a consultation on these plans in August. However, the consultation closed early following the receipt of over 1900 responses, with the BCCG acknowledging the strength of local feeling to retain the Putnoe Walk in Centre.

The BCCG has now agreed with partners at Putnoe Medical Centre that the Walk in Centre continue for at least 2 more years. While weekend opening hours will continue as 8am – 5pm, it will close at 2pm on weekdays, as opposed to 6pm currently. The UTC opened as planned on the 1st October.

Wixams Station

The Borough Council has announced a proposal to invest £14m to build a train station at Wixams.

In 2006, the Wixams housing developer, Gallagher agreed to deliver a train station or otherwise contribute a maximum £13.4m towards the scheme, although spiralling costs have seen the project stall.

The Council now proposes to invest £14m to the overall estimated £27.4m cost of the scheme. This would be funded from borrowing and paid back from the station's income. The plan is in its early stages and £200k has been set aside to undertake a feasibility study.

Ward Fund

As Borough Councillors we have 'Ward Funds' to contribute to community projects. We would urge all organisations and voluntary bodies to discuss with us any schemes you would like to be considered subject to the following deadlines: litter bins, salt bins and salt bin refills - 23rd November 2018; projects to support local organisations - 14th December 2018.

Local Plan 2030

As a reminder, the Council's Local Plan, outlining sites for housing to the year 2030, is currently subject to public consultation. The closing date for responses is the 30th October. For more details search 'Bedford Local Plan 2030'.

Free Childcare

Since September 2017 the Government has provided 30 hours free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds for 38 weeks of the year (i.e. excluding school holidays). For more information on eligibility see <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

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