

Renhold Village: Borough Councillors' Update August 2017

Local Plan 2035

The Council's latest consultation on its Local Plan, which proposed sites to accommodate 8,000 new homes by 2035, ended on the 9th June. The Council's Planning department is now assessing around 1800 responses received.

The consultation gave residents the opportunity to comment on proposed sites for 500 new homes adjoining the village (outlined in the table below). Both ourselves and the Parish Council have registered our opposition to these plans given the effect they would have on the character of the village and the unsuitability of infrastructure to accommodate development of this size.

Site number	Address	Estimated capacity	Comments
Salph End			
205 / 209	Land at Ravensden Road	500	Accesses to the sites would need improvement. The Ravensden Road site is large enough to provide a site for a primary school.
581	27 Hookhams Lane		
198 / 610	Land east of Hookhams Lane		
Total Salph End			
Freemen's Common/Graze Hill			

For more information see www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2035

Black Cat / A428

Highways England held a consultation between the 6th March – 23rd April 2017 on proposals to improve the Black Cat roundabout and provide a new dual carriageway to Caxton Gibbet.

The consultation document put forward 3 options for consideration for the A428 and 3 options to upgrade the Black Cat roundabout, as set out in the consultation document which can be seen on the Highways England website (search 'Highways England Black Cat'). A decision on the preferred option will be made this summer.

East West Rail

A consultation is being held from the 30th June – 11th August on the proposed East West Rail scheme.

The western section of East West Rail will connect Oxford, Milton Keynes and Bedford. In addition to this, a central section is planned which will extend the line to Cambridge.

Overall, 20 options were considered for the location of the route between Bedford and Cambridge, with the decision being taken for the line to pass through Sandy.

The Government backed the scheme in its 2016 Autumn Statement with £110m investment. A new East West Rail organisation is now taking the plans forward. For more information visit <http://ewrconsultation.co.uk/consultation>

Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

The body responsible for organising health services in Bedfordshire has announced that it is no longer under 'special measures' after losing control of its finances.

In 2014/15 the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) amassed a £43.2m spending deficit on a budget of around £500m after it failed to deliver a range of efficiencies. This led to NHS England placing 'legal directions' on the BCCG, meaning that it had to agree with NHS England an improvement plan to address its financial position and ineffective corporate governance.

The BCCG subsequently put in place a new Executive which oversaw a surplus financial position for 2016/17. NHS England is now content that the BCCG's position has improved to the extent that it can be given full autonomy once again.

Ward Fund

We have now received notification of my Council Ward Fund for 2017/18 which allows us to make a financial contribution to local schemes benefitting the community.

If you feel you have a scheme you feel could benefit, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Summer Sports Courses

The Council has announced a programme of sports courses for children to enjoy over the summer holidays.

From the 24th July – 1st September children aged 3 – 15 will be able to try their hand at sports such as tennis, cricket and water sports. For more details see www.bedford.gov.uk/summersportscourses

Cllr Stephen Moon – 01234870061 / stephen.moon@bedford.gov.uk

Cllr Sheryl Corp – 07734888988 / sheryl.corp@bedford.gov.uk