

Black Cat Upgrade and New Bypass

Highways England has announced a consultation on its recently announced plan to upgrade the Black Cat roundabout and build a new bypass between the junction and Caxton Gibbet in Cambridgeshire. The roundabout is to be reconfigured and will become three-tier, with the A1 passing beneath the junction and the A421 over it. The new bypass will run south of St Neots before turning north to link with the A428. The estimated cost of the project is £810m - £1.4bn.

For more information on the consultation, which ends on the 28th July, search 'Black Cat Highways England'. The Highways England website provides a useful video showing how the junction will work.

Community Safety Partnership Consultation

A new consultation from the Bedford Borough Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is asking residents for their views on crime and anti-social behaviour. The (CSP) is comprised of: the Borough Council; Bedfordshire Police; the Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service; the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, and; the Probation Service. These organisations work together to tackle crime and disorder. The consultation ends on the 2nd August. The response form can be seen here: <http://www.forms.bedford.gov.uk/csp/>

Statement of Community Involvement Consultation

The Council is consulting on its 'Statement of Community Involvement' setting out how it will engage with residents and community groups in relation to planning document preparation and the planning application process. The document provides details of how publicity and consultation will be undertaken, as well as guidance on community involvement in neighbourhood planning. The consultation ends on the 25th July. For further details see <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/sci>

Ward Fund

We have now been provided with details of our Council Ward Fund, which will allow us to support community schemes in the Ward in 2019/20. Please do get in touch if you would like to discuss any potential schemes. The following deadlines apply: highways and greenspace – 13th September; litter bins / salt bins – 22nd November, and; projects supporting external organisations – 13th December.

New Chief Constable

Bedfordshire Police has appointed Garry Forsyth as its new Chief Constable following the resignation of Jon Boutcher. Mr Forsyth, the current Deputy Chief Constable, will take on the role in July.

Proposed Development at Aspects Leisure Park

A public consultation was recently held by planning consultants Barton Willmore in relation to proposals to develop the Aspects leisure park in the town centre. The plans include the development of 100 new apartments as well as a refurbishment of the site. No further details are available at this stage.

Foster Care

'Foster Care Fortnight' was held from the 13th – 26th May to raise awareness of the need for the Council to recruit foster carers to support children in care. For more details call 01234 718718 or search 'Bedford Foster Adopt'

Over 70s Exercise Classes

The Council is running a programme of exercise classes for over 70s during the summer. The sessions, covering sports such as archery and table tennis, cost £4 each and will be held at the Athletics Stadium, Bunyan Centre and Bedford Central Library. For further details call 01234718835 or search 'Bedford Council exercise classes'

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