

NEED A LITTLE HELP?

Covid-19 UPDATE You can book a vaccination by visiting www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-Covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/

Covid cases are low in the Biggleswade area although rising in Kenlake ward in Bedford.

Free lateral flow tests are now available from chemists and a flow testing unit is now located in the Chestnut Road car park, behind Stratton House Hotel 4 days a week, 8am-5pm on Tues & Fri, 9am to 6pm on Weds & Thurs. If you test positive you should get a PCR test, via 119 or online at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test For information regarding testing for travel purposes visit the Government website at www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-Covid-19-testing-for-people-travelling-to-england

NHS App/Vaccination Passport

You can visit

www.nhs.uk/apps-library/nhs-app to download the App to your smart phone or computer. It shows brief details of your past and pending appointments and the dates of your Covid vaccinations and a summary of your health records, showing allergies, past and present medication, etc. as well as your organ donation wishes. When you have had both jabs it will act as a vaccination passport. IT IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED with the NHS Covid tracker App that alerts you when you have been near someone who has tested positive for Covid, so that you can take a lateral flow test. Your identity is not revealed. That app can be downloaded at www.nhs.uk/apps-library/nhs-Covid-19 If you have a positive lateral flow test, phone 119 or visit www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test to arrange a follow up PCR test.

IVEL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE

Are you recently bereaved?

Have you been struggling with coming to terms with your loss?

Would it help to talk to someone?

For more information telephone

07704 734225

(Monday-Friday 9am-6pm)

And speak to one of our

Bereavement Support Volunteers



Sharing your loss can make the burden of grief easier to manage.

Please don't grieve alone.



Biggleswade Community News

JUNE 2021



Email: editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Tel: 01767 448954

PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF LINDSELL LEVEL CROSSING

A planning application for a proposal to invest a total of £5m to replace the Lindsells level crossing in Biggleswade with a bridle way bridge has been submitted. Visit <http://plantech.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/PLANTECH/DCWebPages/AcolNetCGI.gov> and in the quick search enter application no. 21/02168 to view full details.

The Network Rail project will be funded through the Biggleswade Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). This will see construction of a new bridge that will provide a safer and more accessible way for pedestrians, cyclists and horses to cross the railway, which will also form part of Biggleswade's Green Wheel, a walking and cycling route around the outskirts of Biggleswade.



A gated level crossing is currently used to cross the four tracks of the East Coast Main Line. If approved, the bridge will be built 385 metres to the north of the current location of the crossing. Installing a new high-sided bridle way bridge with steps and ramps will improve safety and

connectivity for people in the area and allow Network Rail to close the level crossing.

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Copies are available from Newsagents, Community Centres, Town Hall, Library, Churches and Eateries.

ABOUT THE TOWN

BIGGLESWADE BUSINESS COMMUNITY (BBC)

An inaugural meeting was held on the 9th May to discuss how local entrepreneurs and business could promote the town centre. This could link well with the Town Council's initiative to re-energise the market and the market square. New members are welcome.

Launched by Val Gascoyne, founder of 'Your Office' Biggleswade, it was attended by local businesses including Vintage Avenue and VA Barbers, Red Kite Art and Framing, Seasons Kitchen, Garden House Hospice and Sweet Alley. Also attending were Central Bedfordshire Councillor, Hayley Whitaker, and Town Councillor Mark Knight.

Various ideas were put forward including welcome packs to new home owners via Estate Agents, a treasure trail/loyalty programme, Biggleswade in Bloom, as well as suggestions for activities in the Market Square. For more information contact Val (see 'Your Office' details below)

DO YOU WANT YOUR KITCHEN TABLE BACK

**Or just separate work from home
but stay in Biggleswade**

A brand new hot desking facility in Biggleswade, next to Nationwide Building Society. It includes computer screens, phone pods, 2 fibre optic wifi, town centre location and parking. Spacious and safe, bookable online by the day, week or month. A professional, welcoming environment, minutes from the station, in the heart of the town centre. Email hello@youofficebiggleswade.co.uk or phone 07875 735319 for more information, or visit their website to book a session at <https://youofficebiggleswade.co.uk>

Madeline Russell was re-elected Mayor of Biggleswade at the Town Council's Annual Statutory Meeting. A former Stratton Grammar School pupil, Councillor Russell will serve a third term in office. She was elected unopposed at the Tuesday May 4 meeting, and has been a Town Councillor since February 2012. Councillor Grant Fage has also been reappointed as the Deputy Mayor for a second year.



Biggleswade Community Sponsorship group BIGG Welcome is back after lockdown, planning and preparing to welcome a refugee family. Look out for events and updates over the summer.

BIGGLESWADE BAPTIST CHURCH celebration

Come and join us on Saturday 3rd July when the Church will be celebrating 250 years here in Biggleswade. In the morning there will be a church stall in the Market Square, co-ordinated by Gill Reeves. Outside, in the afternoon, there will be activities, fun and games, and of course yummy cakes and goodies. This will be followed by a Celebratory Service. The afternoon will be co-ordinated by Gareth Godfrey. If you can help in any way please email office@bbchurch.gov.uk or telephone 01767 312667. It will be much appreciated.

BIGGLESWADE FIRST AID CLUB / SPORTS CLUB

We regret we have had to cancel our first aid courses but hope to resume them in September.

BIGGLESWADE SPORTS hope to hold their 70th annual Grass Track Cycle Meeting on the 10th July, Covid restrictions permitting, and if enough cyclists can attend. If not, it will be postponed until September. If you want more details of the first aid group or the cycling meeting, please telephone Desmond Ball on 01767 313790. On behalf of the Biggleswade Crab Lane Railway Embankment Committee, Desmond would like to thank those people who donated daffodil bulbs for planting by the railway this year, following a recent plea in this newsletter.

Plans for a flowdilit artificial community football pitch are being refined to meet funding deadlines and to speed the process up. Having considered the Stratton Way recreation ground they are looking at other options including Eagle Farm Road and the Lakes site on Windermere Drive.

There are limitations on all sites, such as access, parking, changing rooms, loss of valuable grass pitches and the impact on residents. The pitch needs to be fully used during the daytime where possible, rather than just on weekday evenings and at weekends.

FORMER DAYS INN (HOLIDAY INN) HOTEL SITE, SANDY



The now vacated Days Inn hotel complex at Sandy roundabout, (better known as a former Holiday Inn), has been acquired by Central Bedfordshire Council. Their proposal is to provide 42 transitional units, owned and run by the Council.

It will include family, single person

and couple accommodation, communal facilities including shared kitchens and dining room, shared onsite parking and a communal garden. The site has access to local facilities with sustainable modes of transport.

At present the average stay in short term transitional accommodation is approx. 6 weeks and 30 weeks for medium term stays, but these timings can increase depending on market factors. Occupants will be given a licence to occupy the property rather than a tenancy agreement and each prospective tenant will be subject to a robust risk / needs assessment. floating support will be provided if required. Residents will be carrying out their normal daily routines- working, school runs etc

No alcohol will be permitted on site and the scheme will be managed during working hours by the Council's Housing Team from on-site offices. There will be a call out scheme for on site emergencies only, and the front gate, internal communal and external areas, (up to the boundary) will be covered by CCTV.

Midsummer Bash in Potton 27th June

2pm-7pm in St Mary's Church Field SG19 2RP

Come and enjoy family activities and performances by Playhouse Potton and Theatre of Widdershins. Raising funds for a new hall for Potton. Children under 16 are free. Tickets £5 in advance, available from Cameron's Newsagents and Tysoes Hardware Store in the town. Or pay £7 on entry on the day. Food, cakes, bar. Music by Drunk and Disorderly and Guests. Performances by Playhouse Potton.

Biggleswade's newest addition, Stairway - Music Bar & Kitchen has finally opened its doors. The previous owners are local and were keen to keep it with local people who care about the town. Joe Tutt who owns Nonno Joes has teamed up with Tasha Healey in a joint venture to reopen it.

One of the team who was lucky enough to get a preview was very impressed with the stunning decor, delicious food and amazing service! Also the live music from the very talented Roxy Searle and and the extensive list of cocktails! There will be a Grand Opening at the end of this month when restrictions ease.

The owners of the Red Lion and the New Inn were invited to the Town Council to present their plans for the pubs. The designs, whilst at different stages, are pretty impressive and should be welcome additions to the town centre.

The New Inn will remain a traditional public house, with a gin distillery at the back, fine wine on show, craft beers on tap and quality food.

The Red Lion's plans are less final. However it will remain as a pub, with a new orangery on the back for events, dining and socialising. This will be accompanied by a large courtyard, a farm shop, and some small residential dwellings.

Planning applications are being made and likely timescales are not known yet.

Biggleswade Market : Well done Biggleswade! In May there was a great turn out despite bad weather. It increased to 20 traders and plenty of customers. Stalls are there until 3pm and town centre parking is free.

A Celebration Service for 100 years of the Royal British Legion took place at The War Memorial led by Wendy Smith and Diane Foxley Keogh.

The lease on Rose Lane car park has been secured for a further fifteen years. The Town Council has always feared losing the car park to development - thankfully the landowner entered into discussions in a good spirit and was happy to keep supporting the town. Thank you to our staff for conducting the negotiations.

Grant Fage - Deputy Mayor of Biggleswade

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Have launched their 2021 survey which comes in five parts and will inform the organisation going forward. 1)Your caring role 2)How do you feel at the moment? 3)What has changed in the past year? 4)What Carers in Bedfordshire services have you used in the past year? 5)Looking to the future

To carry out the survey visit the Carers in Bedfordshire website at www.carersinbeds.org.uk and follow the links. If you cannot reply on line, or need help to do so please telephone Roger Claxton at 07462 143918 or email roger.claxton@carersinbeds.org.uk

To speak to a Support Worker about your caring situation, please email contact@carersinbeds.org.uk or ring 0300 111 1919

IVEL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE

After months of closure because of Covid 19 we are now pleased to announce that the Ivel Bereavement Support Service will open on Wednesday July 7th 2021. The service has been restructured to offer one to one support to the recently bereaved ONLY . At present the service has to be accessed by telephone appointment only at 07704 734225 between 9am and 6pm Monday to Friday

THERE WILL BE NO DROP IN FACILITY

If you feel we may be able to help you, please phone the telephone number above to make an appointment to speak with one of our Bereavement Support Volunteers. Sharing your loss can make your grief a little easier to manage.

Once you have made your appointment you will be asked to come along to the Community Rooms, Baptist Church, London Road, Biggleswade on a Wednesday between 10 – 12midday.

Covid RULES WILL APPLY

All clients will be expected to have a negative Lateral flow test the day before their appointment. We also ask that you wear a mask

Visit www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk to register to receive your copy via email or make a donation towards our costs.

Home Library Service: Do you find it difficult to get to your local library? The Home Library Service is available to anyone who wants to read or listen to books but has difficulty visiting a library and has no-one able to choose and collect books for them.

The service is available to people of all ages and covers all of Central Bedfordshire. Every three weeks you will receive a bundle of up to 10 books or spoken word CDs selected by library staff based on what you like to read. It will be delivered directly to your home. It covers all of Central Bedfordshire and is based at Flitwick Library. If you or someone you know is interested in joining please telephone Flitwick Library on 0300 300 8057 or e-mail Flitwick.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

It's time to get back to bus! Grant Palmer Limited is a locally based independent Bedfordshire bus company. They have been operating throughout the pandemic for key workers and essential journeys, but now everyone is welcome to get back on board.

There are two key services for Biggleswade. Service 74 offers connections to and from Bedford and Hitchin, whilst service 200 provides for Shefford and Flitwick.

They are ideal for journeys to work, school and the shops. Money saving fares are designed to provide affordable journeys- a family of four can travel return to Biggleswade for £12 from Bedford or Hitchin. College students can benefit from a 3 day network mobile ticket and everyone can benefit from a range of weekly and monthly mobile tickets.

You can now pay by card, smart watch or mobile app. Also they still accept cash payments, but please pay exact fare to keep everyone safe. Find out more by downloading the free Grant Palmer app or calling 01525 719 719.

Biggleswade Conservative Tennis Club in St Andrews Street are seeking new members. Their Junior Programmes are run by UPlaySports. Michael Chin is a Level 3 LTA Licensed Coach and is the current Biggleswade Conservative Club Singles Champion. He runs the majority of the programmes at the club. Contact: tennisbiggleswade@gmail.com or phone Chris on 07951 379964.