



Biggleswade Community News

OCTOBER 2021



Email: editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Tel: 01767 448954



BIGGLESWADE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Our town's Local Plan is now at the first draft stage and our Town Council have commenced formal consultation (known as Regulation 14, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012). The Public Consultation runs Monday 27th September 2021 to 8th November 2021, to give enough time for the Plan to be brought to the attention of people living, working and undertaking businesses or services in Biggleswade and the neighbouring areas. An explanatory leaflet is expected to be delivered to every home in Biggleswade and businesses will be alerted as well.

Public Drop In meetings will be held at the following times:

- Tuesday 12th October 10 am to 2 pm, and 4 pm to 6 pm at the Orchard Community Centre
- Thursday 14th October 10 am to 2pm, and 5 pm to 8 pm at the Town Council Offices
- Saturday 16th October 10 am to 2 pm in Market Place, Biggleswade
- Thursday 21st October 10 am to 2 pm, and 4 pm to 8 pm at the Town Council Offices

Published by Biggleswade Community Group tel: 01767 310163
Copies are available from Newsagents, Community Centres, Town Hall, Library, Churches and Eateries. Also online at www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Free of charge but donations towards costs are welcomed.

NEWS FROM BIGGLESWADE ORGANISATIONS



Biggleswade Women's Institute is meeting again in the Weatherley Centre on the 3rd Monday of every month at the new times of 1.30pm-3.30pm. Doors open at 1pm and entry is directly from the car park off Orchard Close. You can also drive in from the school entrance in Eagle Farm Road.

We have several groups covering Singing, Knit and Stitch and Walking. There is a thriving Trips Group covering a wide variety of venues throughout the year and a Lunch Club that visits local restaurants on a regular basis. Visitors are always welcome for a fee of £5 and if you like what you see you might like to join us. The next meeting is on 18th October and the talk will be on the Magpas Air Ambulance Service.

If you are new to the area this is a chance to socialise with local people and like many of our members make new friends.

President: Barbara Green 01767 222469

Secretary: Charmaine Leftwich 01767 314420

St Andrew's Church Concerned about Creation Care? Worried about Climate Change? Want to contribute to COP 26? Please join us for our special COP26 registered **CLIMATE SUNDAY Service 10th October at 8pm.** This will be a relatively informal service of praise, contemplation, prayer and commitment. We hope that members of Churches Together in Biggleswade will join us.

Trinity Methodist Church



'Footprints' Coffee Morning **Tuesdays 9am – 12 noon.** ALL ages welcome. All proceeds to Charity... Come and join us - always a friendly welcome.



Wednesday Afternoon Trinity Craft Hub (WATCH) This craft group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Footprints Room 2pm – 4pm. All welcome to come along for a chat and to share your crafts and ideas...make new friends. (07443 222678 for more info)

Biggleswade Sandy Lions Club (CIO)

Christmas Dance

27th November 2021

The Weatherley Centre

8pm to Midnight

Dancing to

'New Vintage Plus'

Tickets £25 incl. supper

Available from

Lion Ivor 01767 226 419

Lion Judi 01462 814 693

Rebooked by popular demand The Lions Annual Dance has been running for over 25 years! Your evening will include Modern, Old Tyme, Modern Sequence, Latin American and Fun Dances. Everyone welcome.

After the long Covid lock downs the Club now meets again on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 8pm at the Sea Cadet Unit, 4 Station Road. Visitors welcome.

To join your local **Lions Club**



or for more information contact the Club Secretary on 01462 814693

/ 03458 33 0749 or email: biggsandylions@gmail.com



Biggleswade Rotary Club has resumed face to face

meetings at Stratton House Hotel, London Road, Biggleswade. On the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Tuesday of the month, we meet at 12.15pm for 12.45pm for lunch and a meeting. On the 4th Tuesday we meet at 6pm for 6.30pm for a buffet and meeting. If there are 5 Tuesdays in the month we meet at a restaurant, or arrange an outing or a visit to a place of interest. We have a varied programme with speakers, discussions, volunteering and socialising.

We are looking for new members, you are welcome to come along for a few meetings before making a decision to join. Contact Helen on 01767 686106 or email biggleswaderotary@hotmail.com for further information. We look forward to meeting you.



COME AND CELEBRATE DIVALI

at the Weatherley Centre
Eagle Farm Road, SG18 0JH
On Saturday November 6

Adults £27.50 Under 12s £13.75
Family of 4 £75

7pm to midnight. To include a 3 course buffet,
Bollywood dancers, DJ, Bhangra, Garba, Handmade
Truffles, Face Painting and Mehudi Artist. (Cash Bar)

For tickets contact:
Sarj 07795 014731 Jyoti 07554 367611
or Tarang 07709 59720

*(Sponsored by Subway, Specsavers
and Truffle Bombs)*

DIARY DATES

2021 PANTO BATS are presenting their Christmas Panto, Beauty and the Beast, at Stratton School on Friday to Sunday 3rd to 5th December, at Stratton School, Eagle Farm Road. Tickets are £10 each and can be purchased on line at www.ticketsource.co.uk/BATS and at selected shops in the town. Visit their Facebook page for more information.

SUNDAY IN THE SQUARE. to be repeated by local businesses on Sunday 5th December 2021. More details will be posted on Town Council's Town Centre Facebook page so look out for them

CHRISTMAS in the MARKET SQUARE

- 26/11/21 Christmas light switch on 4-8 pm
- 27/11/21 Christmas light show
- 27/11/21 Saturday Market Charter Santa's Grotto

NEW MONDAY MORNING DROP IN AT THE WEATHERLEY CENTRE

Covid and the lock downs has resulted in some of the weekly coffee mornings that used to take place in Biggleswade, and some of the various support groups, closing down and may not reopen. Other groups have moved from weekly to monthly meetings, so there is less opportunity for us all to pick up the pieces of our normal lives before Covid, and come back out into the world and reform relationships or make new ones.

Biggleswade Community Group have access to a small fund that can initially help subsidise the cost of a morning drop in. We are trialling this for 6 months to see if this is the kind of social setting people would like to come to. No age restrictions at all and the Centre has disabled access and a large car park and is near to all the local bus routes.

The drop in will be open each Monday in the Purcell Room from 10.30 to 12 noon. There will be no membership – just walk in - but we will have to make a small charge of £1.50 to help with hall hire, plus 50p for an optional hot drink and biscuits.

This is not a support group but intended to be a welcoming, social one, in pleasant surroundings. However, with the networks Biggleswade Community Group have built up, we should be able to signpost attendees to someone who may help with any issues or concerns they may have.

Just drop in to the first meeting on Monday 1st November. For more details telephone Shirley on 01767 448954 or Iris on 01767 318434 or email editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk who will pass your message on to them.





MANTLES COURT'S Show Suite is now

open. More than a care home it is a place where you have the freedom to be who you want to be, either independently or with support. There is a spa, beauty salon, a quiet snug and a large cinema/TV lounge. Each unit area is self contained, decorated and furnished in muted welcoming colours, with en suite rooms each with shower, flat screen TV and USB connections. Each unit has a kitchen/diner area where meals are served, or you can have them in your own room. There is also a separate lounge overlooking the stunning landscaped gardens. Walls of windows downstairs - large glass walled balconies for the first floor lounges overlooking the stunning landscaped gardens. Wifi throughout, shopping, entertainment and activities are available with their dedicated co-ordinators. New to the internet? – they will guide you. And if you still wish to garden, you will be welcome to do so. You can also invite your guests to dine with you in the Blooms Café or on their Bistro Evenings.

Quantum Care's not-for-profit status means that you are their number one priority. Mantles Court offers Residential, Dementia and Respite Care. It could be just the break you are looking for. Located at 115 London Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8EX, telephone 01767 304701 or email: mantles@quantumcare.co.uk to book a viewing.



IVEL FLIX

FLIX COMMUNITY CINEMA We are back in a new venue. Join us for BIG SCREEN entertainment in the Footprints Room, Trinity Methodist Church, Shortmead Street SG18 0AP. Doors open at 2.30pm and the film begins at

2.45pm. Admission is only £4.00 payable at the door. Free parking on site.

Our first film is on Saturday October 9th. We are showing STAN and OLLIE Steve Coogan and John C. Reilly star as Laurel & Hardy in the untold story of the world's greatest comedy act.

BIGGLESWADE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (continued)



Over the past 4 years, on behalf of Biggleswade Town Council, members of the Biggleswade community have been preparing a Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan covering the whole of the Parish area.

The Town Council has undertaken two consultations, in both 2019 and again in 2021, with the results being similar each time. Background evidence has also been gathered so that the draft Plan has a strong evidence base.

Following the consultation responses, and any amendments which may be made to the draft Plan, it is hoped that this will be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council, for their approval, in the autumn of 2021. After that an independent inspector has to examine the Plan and then, if it is agreed, we will hold a local referendum in Biggleswade to approve the Plan, which is likely to take place in May 2022.

It is therefore important that we receive any comments from you during the consultation period. You can comment

by completing the on line feedback form on the Town Council's website at www.biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk or complete a paper version obtainable by contacting Helen Calvert at helencalvert@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk or ring 01767 313134. Or you can write a letter to Helen Calvert, Biggleswade Town Council, Old Court House, 4 Saffron Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8DL



BIGGLESWADE GOOD NEIGHBOURS

AGM All Biggleswade Good Neighbours volunteers are invited to the organisation's AGM at 1900 on Tuesday 19th October. The venue is the Baptist Church hall on London

Road and spaces are limited. It is therefore essential you let us know if you are attending, so please book your place on 07771 104255 or biggleswadegoodneighbours@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The logo for Central Bedfordshire, featuring the text 'Central Bedfordshire' in white on a green circular background.

LIMITED GREEN WASTE COLLECTION IN OCTOBER TIDY TIP BOOKINGS NO LONGER REQUIRED

Central Bedfordshire Council has announced that it will be undertaking a garden waste collection during a two week period in October between the 18th and 30th October to clear the backlog of waste in residents' garden waste bins before the winter period. However, **FOOD WASTE WILL NOT BE COLLECTED DURING THESE TWO DATES.** The Council's contractor, FCC, has been unable to collect household garden waste since late July due to the national shortage of LGV drivers and have been prioritising black bins, recycling and food waste from the 120,000 properties in the Central Bedfordshire area.

NOTE: Bookings are no longer required to visit the Biggleswade Household Waste Site and the permit system for non-commercial vans, large trailers and certain materials will be reinstated. Residents with sufficient space in their gardens are encouraged to home compost. A 220 litre compost bin, can be purchased at a subsidised cost through the Council.

BOOSTER COVID VACCINATIONS

According to the BLMK Clinical Commissioning Group website vaccinations are to be delivered at the now closed Registry Office at 142 London Road SG18 8EL and at Lloyds Pharmacy in the Market Square and only through the 119 phone line or National Database. Otherwise the nearest centre seems to be Chicksands in Shefford. You will only be able to book your booster **AFTER** you have been contacted by your GP.

There must be a minimum of 6 months between your 2nd vaccination and your booster jab. There are no walk-in facilities for boosters to ensure safety. Boosters will be offered to:

- those living in residential care homes for older adults
- all adults 50 years and over
- frontline health and social care workers
- all those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19 (as set out in the green book) and adult carers.
- adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals

AWARDS TO OUR VACCINE SAVIOURS!

Biggleswade Ivel and Biggleswade Rotary Clubs have awarded



Helen Ashton, Manager at the Weatherley Centre and Asia Patel, the Jardine Pharmacist, who was in charge of the vaccinations at the Weatherley Centre, with Rotary Service Recognition Awards in acknowledgement of their special commitment to the community whilst the Vaccination Centre was open. Well done to both of them

Left to Right:Lindsey Knight Vice President Biggleswade Ivel Rotary Club, Helen Ashton, Asia Patel, Barbara Hazell President Biggleswade Rotary Club



IVEL VALLEY SCHOOL IS EXPANDING

Want to work in a great place? Get job satisfaction with some fabulous children and staff? Are you kind, caring, energetic?

Ivel Valley Area Special Needs school are expanding - a lot.

They are advertising for Teachers, TAs and MSA's. Applications for a teaching post can be at primary or secondary level. The School are encouraging prospective candidates to make an informal visit to the school, before applying for a position. Due to current restrictions the visits will be arranged in accordance with social distancing guidelines.

Email: admin@ivelvalley.beds.sch.uk or phone 01767 601010 to arrange a visit. Closing date for Applications is 12 noon on Tuesday 12th October 2021. Shortlisting will be on the 13th October.

CASTLE COMEDY RETURNS TO BIGGLESWADE AT A NEW VENUE - THE WEATHERLEY CENTRE

Eagle Farm Road SG18 8JH

SATURDAY 9TH OCTOBER 7pm – 10.45pm

£14.50 + 1.40 booking fee from

www.wegotickets.com/event/524371

16+ only (under 18s must be accompanied by an adult)

(December show is on Saturday December 11th)



Castle Comedy has joined with the Weatherley Centre to bring back the popular Castle Comedy shows to our town. Starring Angela Barnes, Olaf Falafel, James Redmond, Paul Revill. The doors open at 7pm and the show starts at 8 o'clock.

After a career in health and social care, Angela decided to realise a long-held ambition and give comedy a go. Within a couple of years, she had won the 2011 BBC New Comedy Award with her gloriously down-to-earth and straight-talking humour. She has appeared on Live at the Apollo, Mock the Week, Stand up for the Week and BBC Radio's The Now Show.

Olaf Falafel is a Swedish Comedy Sensation. With his mixture of one-liners and Scandinavian tinged stories in 2019 he won Dave's Best Joke at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival!

You will have seen James Redmond (pictured) appearing in some of television's favourite soaps including Hollyoaks, Casualty, Emmerdale and Corrie. As a comic he is slick, sharp and a fabulous story teller.



(Please note line-ups are always subject to change beyond our control and tickets are for the comedy night itself)

(There is a rear entrance to the car park off Orchard Close)

The Weatherley Centre
Room hire for all events 



The new Biggleswade Carnival Committee's Halloween Disco tickets are available from Sweet Alley sweetshop, Abbotts Walk, SG18 0LF Sapphire Health and Beauty, 66-68 Sun Street, Biggleswade.

They are also looking for enthusiastic individuals to help organise next year's carnival and events throughout the year. Email hazel@biggleswadecarnival.co.uk or phone Hazel on 07979 228122 if you can help. In particular they are looking for a band/bands/singer to perform at their Jubilee Tea Dance & Dinner Dance Ball in June next year.

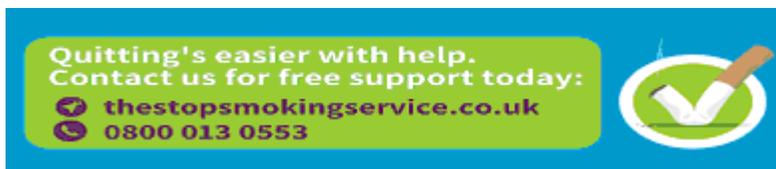
Next year's carnival will be held on the 18th June 2022, to link it to the Queen's 70th Jubilee and the theme will be 'Let's Go Travel'. The annual Duck Race will be on the 12th June 2022 and the Grand Draw on the 26th June 2022.



Other events planned will be the usual Christmas disco, crib, darts, bingo, kids disco, quiz night, but there will also be a Teen Club Night a Dinner Dance, a Craft Fayre and Arts Trail.

**BIGGLESWADE COMUNITY CARNIVAL COMMITTEE
NEEDS YOU!!!**

NEED A LITTLE HELP?



Share details of the Stoptober challenge. People are five times more likely to stay smoke free if they quit for 28 days. Let friends and family know you support their decision to try going smoke free. Signpost them to The Stop Smoking Service team at www.thestopsmokingservice.co.uk/meet-the-team or phone the service at Chicksands, Shefford for free on 0800 013 0553



LOCAL WELFARE FUNDING PROVISION

With the top up for Universal Credit coming to an end, on the 30th September, the Government announced £500m of grants to help families struggling with the cost of living as other support schemes are withdrawn.

Local councils in England will distribute small grants to support millions of households, the government said. The new fund will run over the winter and replaces the Covid 19 local support grant programme, which was designed to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy, water bills and other daily needs.

Visit Central Bedfordshire's website at

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/53/benefits/1/extra_help_and_appeals/3

to find more information about extra help for those most in need and complete the online form. If you do not have access to the internet phone their switchboard on 0300 300 8301 and quote 'Local Welfare Provision'.

REMEMBER – if you can't access the internet, ring us on 01767 448954 and we will try to assist.