



Biggleswade Community News



AUGUST 2020

From our Editors

The pandemic has put a stop to most of the planned events and meetings with buildings closed for public gatherings. However there has still been plenty happening and plans are being made for a gradual resumption of activities.

Two years ago we published the first edition of this newsletter as Mayflower News, online and on paper. Our aim was to make it available to all and draw attention to things that were going on in our town. After a short break we are back! A new team is being set up to produce this independent newsletter - Biggleswade Community News. We hope you like it.

In this edition you will find

- An update on Town Centre traders and churches
- What you need to know about the Local Plan
- Updates from local organisations
- What is happening in Biggleswade etc etc.....

If you want to print it [CLICK HERE](#)

ABOUT TOWN (1).....

Our Town Centre is coming back to life

Shops selling essentials such as food have never closed but the town has been pretty dead as people stayed home while shops and restaurants were not allowed to open. That is gradually changing and there are even new businesses opening.



Biggleswade has held a royal market charter since 1227 when King Henry III granted it full market town status.

Due to the pandemic, the market was only able to host traders selling 'essential' items. It is now fully open again with stalls including fruit and veg, bread, plants, cards, haberdashery, hardware, jewellery and giftware.



Facilities such as The Market Square, play parks, etc are looked after by Biggleswade Town Council

The office is open 9 - 5 Mon to Thurs and 9 - 4.30 Fri. At Old Court House, Saffron Road, SG18 8DL Tel: 01767 313134

email: enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk

.....ABOUT TOWN (2)

Good News!!

After a period of closure all of the town's play parks are now open again.

New Biggleswade skate park

The new skate park at Chambers Way play area is now complete. It was designed with input from local skateboarders, BMX and scooter riders and support from The Skate parks Project.

The superb concrete flow skate park, includes features suitable for all ages and abilities. And has sensor-controlled LED lighting and CC TV, to help users feel safe

Green Spaces

We are well off for places to exercise or enjoy a sit down and a picnic. **The Green Wheel** is a circular path all around the town. There are a number of small parks and open spaces plus larger areas such as Biggleswade Common; that stretches all the way to the RSPB reserve in Sandy. There are picnic benches adjacent to the Dan Albone car park. Who knows where there are more?



Church Buildings are closed but churches are not!

Church buildings have remained locked up and not allowed to open. However the Internet has allowed meetings and services to continue. If you have access take a look at www.bigget.org or if not you can make contact via Alan Dansey, Chair of Churches Together on 01767 310163

NEWS FROM ORGANISATIONS

IVEL FLIX.... An update from the volunteer committee.



Unfortunately along with many activities we had to cancel our programme in March 2020, as we were not allowed to continue. The venue that we used was closed and indoor public gatherings were banned.

Now in July 2020 restrictions are being eased allowing some activities to resume gradually. However there are limitations and administrative and procedural requirements. The Flix volunteer committee have decided that we still cannot reopen, so have cancelled the programme until the end of this year. Apart from the extra work that would be needed on top of the considerable effort needed to show a film, there are also financial considerations. We rely on a good attendance to recoup costs and with social distancing reducing the venue capacity and people still unable or unwilling to go out; we would not be viable.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in the past and hope that in future we will be able to resume offering the facility to the town.

Many organisations have had to take a break from their usual activities. Not so Biggleswade Good Neighbours. They have been busier than ever continuing to serve the needs of our residents.



We are keen to build up contacts in Biggleswade organisations to act as correspondents and send us information to publish.
Please email us at editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk

SOME HAPPENINGS

Biggleswade Community Fire Station is feeling hopeful...

"We are waiting for confirmation if our open day is still going ahead. It's possible that it will be cancelled. We will update you once we know more."

We are an outdoor cinema...

"so grab your camping chair or your picnic blanket and settle in for some of your favourite films! With our LED wall system we are able to offer films all day and into the evening. From the classics to something a little more modern, we have a large array of films that will suit everyone's taste!

We are not too far from both the A1 and the A421, half way between Sandy and Bedford, in Moggerhanger. Once you get into the village you can follow the signs, or the address is: 14 Blunham Road, Chalton, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire, MK44 3RB. <https://www.outtherecinema.co.uk>

Shuttleworth: Magnificent Musical Flying Display (Drive-in) Saturday 15 August 2020

Treat yourself to an enjoyable evening of music and flying displays, with a firework finale. Get into the vintage atmosphere with the Spitfire Sisters singing live before the Magnificent Musical Flying Displays of Collection aircraft. Highlights of the evening will be the unmissable pyrotechnic aircraft display and the firework finale! This is a drive-in event, please bring an FM radio.

ONLINE TICKETS ONLY (no ticket sales on the day) see www.shuttleworth.org

Unfortunately Broomstock 2020 is unable to go ahead but will be back next year on 7th & 8th August 2021 with an amazing line up and a party worth waiting for.

HAVE YOUR SAY



The Royal College of Art (RCA) together with the Transport Planning Society, the National Association of Local Councils and others, are conducting a study called Our Future Places, Our Future Journeys. They would like to hear from people of all ages engaged in our town – workers, residents, businesses – to understand how they would like to see our community develop. We hope that you our readers will take part by completing this simple survey <http://tiny.cc/ourfuturetown>

Survey results will be fed back to councils, charities and civil society, including Biggleswade Town Council, who will use them to help inform the developing Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan. The draft plan will go out for community consultation and, although Covid 19 has delayed the process, the Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan is expected to be in place by mid 2021.

Community Safety Survey

Central Bedfordshire Council want to know what community safety issues are important to you – whether you are new to the area or have been a resident for a long time. Your views will help to set Safer Central's priorities.

Safer Central brings together Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedfordshire Police, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Services, Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Offender Management Services and other partner agencies to work together to make Central Bedfordshire a great place to live and work. [Take the survey](#)

FOOD and DRINK

Many places are open again for take away or eat in. Here are some that we are aware of. Best to book and remember to ask about the government "Eat Out to Help Out " discount.

The Yorkshire Grey does both. The restaurant is well organised and has a Seniors Menu.

The Crown (Weatherspoons) and Stratton House Hotel are both up and running again with inside and outside seating.

Other pubs that do food are **The Pembroke Arms** and **The King's Reach**.

If you like Italian **Nonno Joes** is doing takeaway and the newly refurbished Bar, Restaurant and cocktail garden will be reopening on Wednesday August 12. Also new arrival **O'sarracino** has just opened.

Other options are **Pera Kitchen** (Turkish) - one of the first to reopen for eat in and well organised. **Jade Garden** (Chinese) does takeaway and delivery as well as eat in.

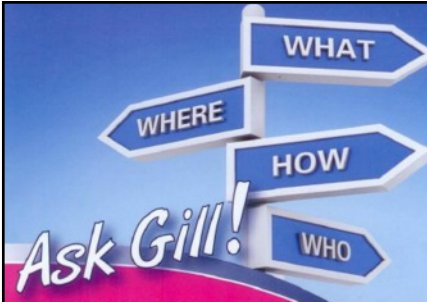
There is a good selection of **Indian restaurants**; all open and doing takeaway and deliveries.

The fish and Chip shops have all been serving throughout. Some take online payment and orders. **Pizza and Kebabs** are also available takeaway.

Biggleswade Conservative Club offer Alison's "Meals on Wheels" delivery service, available to the Biggleswade area every day of the week, except Mondays, to both members of the Club and non-members.

If you are aware of any eating options that we have missed let us know.

NEED A LITTLE HELP?



Call Gill, your Biggleswade Community Agent if you are struggling with an issue and need pointing in the right direction for help. She works for Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity in partnership with Biggleswade Town Council.

Gill Reeves,
Community Agent
BRCC
07534484750
gillr@bedsrcc.org.uk

For Men To Talk' is an organisation set up in December 2019 by Luke Newman.

It's a chance for men suffering with anxiety, depression and grief to talk with other fellow sufferers

trying to end the stigma that caused men to keep quiet and have a 'stiff upper-lip'



Meetings were in a town centre cafe but are currently online via Zoom.

If you have Internet access go to www.formentotalk.co.uk for more details.



Central
Bedfordshire
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A first point of contact for information and reporting many problems and issues. They are responsible for matters such as highways, trading standards, waste removal, social services etc.....

0300 300 8000 www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk