



# Biggleswade Community News

OCTOBER 2020



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## **Why Is Biggleswade creating a GI (green infrastructure) Plan and why now?**

Living here in this old market town in rural Bedfordshire, we appreciate the open spaces and access routes surrounding us. But we also watch as green spaces and farmland are developed in this fast growing area situated in the middle of the Oxford/Cambridge ARC. We cannot stop economic progress, which will also bring many jobs to our area, but we can speak up for what is precious to us.

Through the emerging Neighbourhood Plan we can help protect the green spaces we most value, which is why we urge you to take part in the Green Infrastructure survey (see page 4) which will inform the Plan being developed over the coming months.

Our green spaces can be protected, but there is also opportunity for more land to be put aside for additional local facilities with potential funding available through planning gain and investment. It is important that the decision makers hear your views, to be able to build the evidence required to protect current sites and to develop new ones. SO PLEASE TAKE PART.

### **HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR GREEN WASTE WHEELY BIN?**

It seems that some residents did not receive a flyer from Central Bedfordshire Council, telling them how to order the Green Waste wheely bins. These bins are optional but you can do so by phoning direct to 0300 300 8697 or visit their website at:

[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/garden-bins](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/garden-bins)

All bins are expected to be delivered by the end of October.

# ABOUT TOWN

## From Our Editors .....

If you have any information that we could share in the next edition contact us by the deadline of Monday October 19.

Tel 01767 448954 email [editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk](mailto:editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk)

**Café the mocha reopens!** This community run not-for-profit café at 59 High Street has now reopened but from Tuesdays to Fridays only for the foreseeable future. Seating will be limited but there will be the same friendly atmosphere and meals will still be available. You can now make card payments, including contactless but cash will still be accepted. You can call them on 07947 778800 or email [info@cafemocha.org.uk](mailto:info@cafemocha.org.uk)

**New Shops Coming Soon,** DRINK Biggleswade is a Craft Beer Tasting Room & Bottle Shop - A Community Hub For Beer Lovers It is 100% Independent and will offer Click & Collect or Local Delivery. It will be opening this autumn at 2 Station Chambers (Was



Medlock's) Seasons is coming to Biggleswade Market Square (No 28 – ex Peacock's Estate Agents) It will stock local fruit and veg but will also be a Grocery store, deli, cheese room, charcuterie much more! The refit is uncovering the buildings past as Fishers hardware shop and there have been some fascinating finds!

Also the New Inn will become a wine / gin bar and a Physiotherapy business will be coming soon. Exciting times for the town centre!

Approval has been granted for a Lidl store in London Road. Work will start early next year with a view to open in autumn 2021. It is expected to create 40 new jobs.

**The Orchard Centre** has reopened with measures in place to ensure the safety of the users (More next month).

## NEWS FROM ORGANISATIONS

**FAB (Future Action Biggleswade)** is a local Biggleswade group committed to encouraging and persuading people to think about the consequences of the purchasing decisions they make. This relates to fair treatment in trade (It is a Fairtrade Community Group), the effect that producing goods has on the world's environment (e.g. plastic pollution, buying local) and the working conditions and livelihoods of producers (be they based in the UK or overseas). They encourage people to "Think As You Shop" and organise events under that banner, showcasing local producers and ethical businesses. For more information, please contact Chairman Neil Spencer, at [FAB@fabweb.org.uk](mailto:FAB@fabweb.org.uk) or 07910 211824.



**Biggleswade Twinning Association** Celebrated 20 years of a very special link and friendship with Erlensee in Germany. The planned activities could not go ahead but members from both towns "met up" via Zoom to reflect on how it started and the great times that were spent together. There has been plenty of fun and laughter over the years! There is still as much enthusiasm as ever and the Association would love to welcome some new members, if you fancy joining them. To find out more contact Secretary, Margaret Bracey on 01767 449413

**The Churches** are working hard to meet current requirements so that the buildings can be used again. The Pentecostal Church in Crab Lane has been completely renovated and services there resumed on Sunday September 27. Sunday services are also held at St Andrew's Parish Church and mass at St Peter's Catholic Church. The other churches – Biggleswade Baptist, Trinity Methodists and Newlife hold services online but they too are gradually meeting again with a reduced number of people booking in advance. This year St Andrew's Church could not have the usual Country Fayre so had a Saturday tea garden to raise funds for the St John's Hospice in Moggerhanger. There were refreshments and live music as people spread out and relaxed in the fresh air. On a sunny autumn day it was well supported and raised just over a thousand pounds.



# HAVE YOUR SAY



## The Green Infrastructure Plan

*Biggleswade*  
Town Council

Parish-level GI Plans are a statement of community intent which are mapped and entered into an action plan, which can be used by Town/Parish Councils, community groups, local environmental organisations and Local Authorities to bring forward improvements and inform planning decisions.

Biggleswade is currently developing a Neighbourhood Plan which also gives the opportunity for green spaces to be identified as important and, when meeting certain criteria, to be designated as 'Local Green Spaces' and protected against future development.

Neighbourhood Planning is a way local people can shape development of the communities in which they live. When finalised the Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan will be a legal document and will be used alongside Central Bedfordshire Council's own Local Plan to determine planning applications, decide the locations for any new developments and promote measures to protect and enhance key environmental and heritage features.

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity are undertaking this consultation and are asking the Biggleswade community to give their views on which local green spaces they particularly value by visiting <https://bedsrcc.org.uk/biggleswadegiplan> where you can view maps of current town's green spaces and take part in an on line survey, including your views on aspirational ideas.

The survey deadline is 16th October, 2020. (if you need assistance with this please phone 01767 448954)



## The Green Infrastructure Plan (Cont)

Through the emerging Neighbourhood Plan we hope to protect as many of these sites as possible from future development by designating them as Local Green Spaces (LGS). Sites identified as important to the community will be assessed against set LGS criteria and those that meet the criteria will be put forward for protection.

(The original Biggleswade GI Plan in 2010 resulted in the development of the Biggleswade Green Wheel and enhancement of Jubilee Wood)

### OUR FUTURE TOWN SURVEY

#### Community Place Making and Transport Planning

There is still time to take part in the survey being conducted by the Royal College of Art on behalf of Councils, civil society, charities, etc., which closes in November. They have held their first local Zoom meeting with residents and their researchers are currently visiting our local schools to obtain the views of younger people.

The survey can be accessed at <https://tiny.cc/ourfuturetown>

### MISUSING A DP BADGE CAN BE EXPENSIVE!

A Central Bedfordshire resident found this out to his cost when he used his wife's Blue Badge to park in a Central Bedfordshire Council owned car park's disabled bay. He was fined £264 at Luton's Magistrates Court and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £30 and costs of £335.50 - **a total cost to him of £629.50!**

A Blue Badge allows those in our communities who need them the most, the opportunity to park close to services and amenities. They must only be used by another person if the badge holder is either being dropped off or being collected.

Rules around Blue Badge use are very clear, and the Council has a zero-tolerance approach against this type of offence. If they catch people using badges inappropriately, they will take action.

**Biggleswade Community Safety Group** is working with the Council and the Community Policing unit to respond to concerns about speeding on Baden Powell Way. Two new illuminated signs have been installed and speeds are being monitored.

## ACTIVITIES

**Local Rotary Club activity in unusual times.** The local Rotary Clubs, Sandy, Biggleswade and Biggleswade Ivel are still operating through regular Zoom meetings and are busy organising local and national competitions aimed at talented and eager young people. Previously these have been held through local schools but anyone can enter directly this time

Aimed at encouraging young people to be creative, develop skills in using traditional or contemporary media, demonstrate interpretation of the topic and express personal ideas through the selected media, the competitions are:-

**Young Artist:** The task is to produce one finished 2-dimensional piece of artwork based on the theme "Wild Nature".

**Young Photographer:** Entries should comprise 3 photos in colour or black and white on photographic paper. The theme is "Wild Nature"

**Young Writer:** It can be fiction or nonfiction, story or poem on an A4 page of up to 500 words based on the theme "My Happiest Day".

**Young Film Maker:** The task is to produce a five minute film based upon the theme, "Challenge" using mobile phones or cameras.

There are 3 entry levels Junior (7-10 year olds), Intermediate (11-13 year olds) and Senior (14 -17 year olds). Entrants must not be over the upper age for each group on 31st August 2020.

For further information and a copy of the individual competition rules please contact [peterdover@msn.com](mailto:peterdover@msn.com).

**Biggleswade Rugby Club** in Langford Road has a thriving Minis and Youth Section. They have just recruited 2 new coaches both just 17 years old Contact 01767 312463 or email [biggy@biggleswaderugby.co.uk](mailto:biggy@biggleswaderugby.co.uk).

**Tai chi in the park** Weds 2.30 pm £5 per class. Outdoor classes held outside every week at Biggleswade Cricket Club, behind the Dan Albone Car Park. It is a great open space, perfect for correct social distancing and everyone is welcome. Email: [threetreasures13@yahoo.com](mailto:threetreasures13@yahoo.com) phone 07480 934257, or just go along.

# ACTIVITIES



**SHED CLEARANCE MARKET STALL**  
*Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October*



Rotary Biggleswade are holding a Shed Clearance Sale on their stall at the Market Square on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Old Tools, Bric a Brac, etc. even a Door! There will be an opportunity to win a hamper and all proceeds will go to St John's Hospice in Moggerhanger and Tools for Self Reliance (Milton Keynes)

**Tools for Self Reliance (Milton Keynes)** are a small charity that provides a safe and caring working environment where volunteers, including those with Learning Disabilities, can refurbish donated old tools transforming them into working tool-kits for onward distribution to developing countries. Our comprehensive tool kits help support and empower Artisan and Women's groups contributing to their community's self-reliance. If you would like to drop off some tools, have a tour of the workshop, or have questions, please ring 01908 670825 or visit our website at: <http://tfsr-mk.org.uk/>  
Our workshop is located at *Michael's Akyre, Sterling Close, Pennyland, Milton Keynes, MK158AN*



**Remembrance Day.** Due to the ongoing situation no formal parade will be held. Poppies will be on sale in banks and supermarkets and The Legion has a number of wreaths and wooden crosses available for a donation (£20 plus) from Diane Keogh on 07963464465

**UPDATE:** Covid restrictions mean that Dee Kendall who runs the Beatz classes at the Weatherley Centre can no longer offer 'pay as you go' and now has a pre booking system.



Contact [beatzwithdee@gmail.com](mailto:beatzwithdee@gmail.com) or telephone 07733 260561. Classes are £7 each.

## NEED A LITTLE HELP?

**Select and Collect Libraries** Got lots of books to return to the library? You can take them back during the Select and Collect opening hours and collect your requested books when told they are ready. You should wear a face mask and observe social distancing. Biggleswade Library hours are Monday – Closed, Tuesday - 10.00 - 14.00, Wednesday - 10.00 - 14.00. Thursday – Closed, Friday - 10.00 - 14.00, Saturday - 10.00 - 14.00, Sunday – Closed. You can contact the Select and Collect Line: on 0300 300 8055



Slim with Penny Biggleswade is back on Saturday mornings at St Andrews Rooms, St Andrews Street, Biggleswade SG188BA. Telephone 07737 809516 or email [slimwithpenny@yahoo.com](mailto:slimwithpenny@yahoo.com) for more

details. Why not go along to find out what its all about and lose a few lbs or more!



### **SCAM ALERT FROM TRADING STANDARDS**

The Trading Standards Team has been made aware of a suspicious telephone call being made to residents, supposedly on behalf of the Council, raising concerns over their current loft insulation.

Residents are advised that their loft insulation is insufficient and they could face criminal proceedings if they did not have it improved.

The caller tried to obtain personal information and bank account details from residents and also made attempts to arrange for someone to visit the resident's home to examine the loft insulation and discuss options.

**THESE CLAIMS ARE FALSE!** They urge anyone receiving one of these phone calls to report it to 0808 223 1133 as soon as possible. Please help protect others from falling victim to this type of scam by telling your family, friends and neighbourhours.