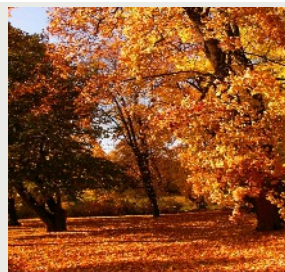




Biggleswade Community News

OCTOBER 2022



Email: editor@biggleswadecommunitynews.uk Tel: 01767 448954



Use Your Vote Have Your Say Referendum on Biggleswade's Neighbourhood Plan



Thursday 6th October 2022

To view the Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Submission Document, (the full plan) please visit Biggleswade Town Council's website.

Printed copies are available at the Town Hall in Station Road.

You will shortly be receiving polling cards and you will be able to vote at your usual polling station. **More details on Page 2**



Published by Biggleswade Community Group 01767 310163

Copies are available from Newsagents, Community Centres, Town Hall, Library, Churches and cafes. Also delivered by Biggleswade Good Neighbours to their clients and volunteers.

You can read it online at www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk

Adverts from £10 per edition. Enquiries to 07988 822678

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan contains planning policies, which will be used to inform decisions on planning applications. The Town Council worked with a group of residents and councillors to put together a plan for Biggleswade. The process involved various stages of community engagement and formal consultation and a rigorous examination to ensure that the Plan meets legal requirements. The Plan is now ready for residents to have their say via a referendum.

What does Biggleswade's plan include?

- Helping to ensure that development is well-designed and sustainable
- Designating 15 Local Green Spaces, including Back Meadows, the Jubilee Wood and the allotments, and also protecting the Common and Green Wheel
- Encouraging diversification of the Town Centre, enhancing its vitality
- Supporting employment-related development, subject to considering impacts on residential properties and the local environment
- Protecting the historic environment, including the Conservation Area in the town centre, and supporting the sensitive use of listed buildings
- Providing better facilities for cycling and walking and mobility scooters, and ensuring proper access for emergency vehicles
- Encouraging the development of community, sports and recreation facilities, particularly football, and seeking further land for allotments

What happens if the plan receives a majority "yes" vote?

If successful at referendum, the Neighbourhood Plan has to be 'made' and become part of the statutory development plan, so will have to be considered with the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan and national policy in making decisions on planning applications. If the Neighbourhood Plan is rejected, only national and Local Plan policies will apply, as at present.

Where can you read the full Neighbourhood Plan?

The Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed on the Town Council's website and printed copies are available to consult at the Town Council offices on Saffron Road.

Please have your say



BIGGLESWADE EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



This evening group meets at 8pm on the second Thursday of each month. Free for your first meeting, membership fees are cheaper if you join mid year. We hold a £1 raffle. Guests are £5.

This group may not be what you expect as members vary in age from 30s to 60s (or a little more). And it is not all about jam and Jerusalem. We don't usually sing anything at the monthly meetings, (unless we have entertainment) and our members have never made jam!!

We have a monthly scrabble and games evening, a walking group and an art and craft group. Members are encouraged to share their interests, knowledge and creativity, as we build an inclusive and diverse community within our local community. We have an open Facebook page at Biggleswade Evening Wi as well as a closed Facebook group, Members of Biggleswade Evening WI.

In July we held a paper cutting craft evening which proved very popular. Our next meeting is 13th October. Postponed from September, it will be a singalong of songs connected to the sea with Freddie Barrett, with time for a chat too. Our 10th November meeting will be a talk about Highgate Cemetery with Gill Pearce.

For more information email biggleswadeeveningwi@gmail.com



MAKE YOUR BIKE SAFER Biggleswade Community Safety Group will be at the Kings Corner Community Centre (Kings Reach) on 22nd October from 1pm for anti-theft bike marking.

In order to qualify for a FREE bike marking please bring your bike together with a valid email address. They also need some contact details. Biggleswade Community Safety Group will photograph your bike and then register all the required details directly onto the national Bike Register, which is used to recover stolen bikes by all English police forces. Please note that the bike marking will only be FREE if registered on the day.



Representatives met in Café Mocha on the High Street, on Tuesday 6 September, to reflect on past activities and plan future ones. It is a great place for regular customers and visitors to the town to meet over a leisurely coffee and a bite to eat. Prices are kept as low as possible and care is taken over where supplies are sourced to encourage care for the environment and support for ethical suppliers. Unfortunately opening hours are currently reduced due to a shortage of staff to run it so this needs to be addressed to maximise the use of this valuable resource.

The "Warm Spaces" initiative was also on the agenda. We had a brief presentation from a representative from the Labour Hall, which will be one of the venues used to provide a place for people to go for warmth and company during the winter. The Churches will encourage people to volunteer as helpers and are already looking into whether their buildings could be used.

Our Church buildings are in regular use for a wide range of activities and during this period of National Mourning as a place for people to relax and reflect. Kings Corner in Biggleswade East also opens for people to drop in and chat. In addition it is used for initiatives such as Social Prescribing and Time Banking.

Joint services are held and the next will be at 6pm on Sunday 23 October at Trinity Methodist Church in Shortmead street. It will be in support of a Global initiative – One World Week.

One of the new Facebook groups is Biggleswade Living Streets, hosted by Andrew Skilton. He also helps lead the Biggleswade Walking and Cycling Group and is experienced in these subjects as he works in that field. Recently Central Bedfordshire Council held a consultation on its proposed Street Parking Management Strategy. Unfortunately as with other Council consultations this one was of short duration and did not come to our attention in time to include it within the newsletter.

The headline comments from residents were 'Please stop the footway parking and please let us have some visible and robust parking enforcement of general parking contraventions in town centres. The consultation cited many problems and possible solutions, but did not detail WHICH solutions Central Beds preferred.



As you will see from our article on page 13, training is being offered to learn how to use your smart phone or tablet safely, which will enable you to find out how to access Facebook and perhaps join one of the Biggleswade groups. You would be made very welcome.

COMMUNITY

GARDEN A small group met with Biggleswade Town Council and are investigating a number of sites to establish whether they are suitable on which to build a community garden.

WALKING AND CYCLING

Social and evening walks continue but will be at 5pm next time. Cycling and finding new routes in groups and by individuals is becoming very popular.

WELLBEING

Continue to meet for Comedy and Quiz nights and are looking into a possible regular film night at a local venue.

Biggleswade and District Art Society

EXHIBITION AND ART SALE 2022

Sunday 6th November 2022
10am - 4pm

Grand Hall
The Weatherley Centre
Eagle Farm Road
Biggleswade
SG18 8JH

ORIGINAL FRAMED
AND UNFRAMED
ARTWORKS

PRINTS

CARDS

REFRESHMENTS

UNIQUE
CHRISTMAS GIFTS

FREE ENTRY

new memberships
available



**Biggleswade & District
Camera Club**

Biggleswade & District Camera Club is a group of photographers of all ages who meet weekly from September to April, to learn more about the art of

photography. If you enjoy taking photos and want to increase your knowledge of the subject, then please come along to a meeting.

We have a varied programme that includes: visiting speakers who present their work or give tuition, club and inter-club competitions assessed by outside judges, practical and social evenings and a chance to show others your work. In addition to our main programme we also have regular photography outings, a monthly Critique Group and a regular Studio Group. You don't have to be an expert to join. It doesn't matter what camera you have, we cater for all formats - digital and prints - as well as audio-visual presentations, but not video or ciné.

A warm and friendly welcome awaits you, with help and advice freely given. We have high quality projection equipment and studio lighting. With all club members using digital cameras, images can be uploaded via the Members' Area of the club website prior to showing.

We meet every Thursday at 7.30 for 8.00pm until approximately 10.00pm at the Sullivan Room, Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road Biggleswade SG18 8JH. The new season began on Thursday 15 September 2022.

If you would like to find out more, please contact our Secretary on 01767 316176 email:- secretary@biggleswadecameraclub.co.uk Or visit our website at:- www.biggleswadecameraclub.co.uk which contains news of the club's meetings and competitions, together with galleries of members' work. Or just come along one Thursday evening and see what it's all about. We are happy for visitors to attend 2 or 3 meetings free before deciding to join (although we do charge visitors £3 on lecture nights). Should you wish to join, the annual membership for 2022—23 is £50 (£25 for under 18s and full time students). Hot and cold drinks are available from the bar.

THE FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S

The oldest building in Biggleswade is without a doubt the Parish Church, and arguably the most beautiful and interesting. It has a fascinating history, beginning as a tiny building a fraction of its present size, almost 800 years ago. In 1720 the tower and the entire back of the church collapsed, perhaps due to an earthquake; in 1785 it was filled with the homeless after the town's Great Fire, then it housed the town's primitive fire -fighting equipment including long 'drags' for pulling blazing thatch from roofs; later on body snatchers came to the Churchyard by night to dig up the body of a man to sell, they hoped, in London for medical research. They were arrested in a market square inn, the Catherine Wheel.

The cost of restoring and maintaining such a medieval building is considerable and that is why 'The Friends of St Andrew's', a registered charity, was set up in 1985. Since then its members have worked tirelessly to provide the necessary funds. We have raised £429,000 and have paid for the restoration of the Church tower, the tower clock, the Church bells, the south porch, the organ and a huge amount of stonework.

We have 155 members, but we do need more. Everyone who is a Friend supports us in this vital work, has their name inscribed on the Roll of Members in the Church and receives an annual newsletter.

Please consider joining and giving us your support. The annual membership fee is £10 for adults, £2 for under 18s. Sponsorship by local companies, providers of professional services, shops and offices is very welcome indeed. For more details or to join contact me, Philip Rutt, Secretary to the Friends, by email philiprutt312@btinternet.com





IS VEGANISM FOR YOU?

Did you know that behind those black stable doors of The Courtyard Centre, at 6 High Street in the heart of our town, lies Dee Dee's, Biggleswade's own vegan only café. Other local eating establishments also offer a vegan menu, and if the many young people and families who frequent Dee Dee's is anything to go by, it has a growing following.

We are hearing much about the eco footprint of meat eating, and it is not for this newsletter to offer an opinion. However, the very location of Dee Dee's and its 5 star rating, makes it worth a visit. Uniquely gives you a taste of what it was like to live in Biggleswade in Victorian times, though the menus would have been very different!

You can enjoy your milk free tea or coffee (and doughnuts) in the historic café courtyard or meat free wraps with tortilla crisps. However, if you

want to explore veganism

further, or are a committed

vegan, Vegan Markets UK run

vegan markets in Hertfordshire

with a recent one in Hitchin. They

have one planned for Bedford later

this year. At these markets you

can buy all kinds of products all

free of animal products.

But for some Dee Dee's is just a

warm, friendly place to come to for

affordable vegan meals, snacks

and cakes. It is open Tuesdays to

Fridays 10-3, and 10-4 on

Saturdays. If you have never eaten

vegan food before you could be in

for a treat.



**Traditional Sweet Shop
with a modern twist**

*An impressive
selection of
sweets for all
tastes and
occasions.*

Abbots Walk
Biggleswade
SG18 0LF



KRAFTY SHED

Pottery Painting and Arts & Crafts Studio

As the weather turns colder we are offering
our studio as a **Warm Space**

Wednesdays anytime between 9am - 5pm

Free to anyone, no purchase is necessary and
you're welcome to bring your own crafts,
hobbies or activities.

Unit 4 Purcell Place, Sullivan Court, Biggleswade SG18 8SX

www.kraftyshed.co.uk

hello@kraftyshed.co.uk

01767 316 300



Edward Peake Middle School wins Eco Award with Merit

15 schools have received their 'Eco-School Green Flag Award' this summer, marking a huge achievement for embedding sustainable projects across Central Bedfordshire schools including Edward Peake School in

Potton Road, Biggleswade. Special thanks go out to Mr Duffy, Mrs Burr and the Eco Schools Team.

Over the past academic year, Central Bedfordshire Council have supported schools by providing advice from a dedicated Sustainability Officer and launching an Eco-Schools forum to help schools share best practice. Applying for an Eco-Schools Green Flag is a way to celebrate and reward the ecological achievements of young people, demonstrating their hard work is appreciated and encouraging them to continue to engage with environmental issues

The Christmas lights switch-on event will be on Friday 25th November from 12pm through to 8pm. It will have the usual activities in the Market Square - traders, live music and entertainment including local School choirs, and amusement rides.

LEAVING BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



SENIOR TEACHER, MRS JULIE COLES

joined The Lawns Nursery School at 16. After having her own children, who also attended the School, Julie returned to The Lawns. After dedicating her working life to the care and education of young children Julie finally retired from the nursery at the end of term in July.

Sad to say goodbye, as she has seen local children grow up to bring their own children to The Lawns, there are many things she wants to do to fill up her time. She thanks everyone for the kind wishes and she may come back sometimes and help out at The Lawns and keep her links with the School.

Time to fly... It's time to fly, into the sky

It's time to go, far away...

So spread your wings And fly, fly, fly, fly, fly

Little bird, good bye.

This special song is sung at the end of the Summer Term with the children who are leaving us to go to a new school.

WE ARE ALSO SAYING GOODBYE TO JO SHARMAN

Jo became even more widely known in our Kings Reach development, as one of the founding volunteers at the Kings Corner Community Hub. Building on her support for the young mums at the Baptist Church in London Road, she has supported Kings Reach residents and others, at the Community Centre, since it opened in 2019. Jo will be much missed. With her husband Steve, Jo is moving to Sussex, where no doubt she will become as immersed in her new community as she has been in Biggleswade and in Potton, where she lived. Our loss but the south coast's gain.



WHAT'S ON IN BIGGLESWADE

OCTOBER

1st Castle Comedy, Weatherley Centre, 7.30pm £15.40 incl. fee from www.castlecomedy.co.uk

3rd History Society talk on Churches in Bedfordshire 8pm Trinity Methodist Church, Shortmead Street

12th Biggleswade Rotary Club Race Night (see advert)

13th WI chat and song 8pm (see article)

15th Dunton Car Boot Sale 2pm Horseshoe Lane

16th Not Strictly Jazz Fairfield House 01767 312176 £20 incl. refreshments

NOVEMBER

3rd NGS Swiss Garden Open Day £10 (see the article)

3rd Soup and cake lunch at Trinity Methodist Church

7th History Society talk on Brass Rubbing.

10th Evening WI Highgate Cemetery (see article)

13th Not Strictly Jazz (see above)

25th Christmas lights switch-on event in The Market Square from 12pm through to 8pm.

26th Carers in Bedfordshire Social Baptist Church (see article)

DECEMBER

5th History Society Santa Sack and talk on British Canal Systems

8th Evening WI 8pm Christmas Craft 8pm Weatherley Centre

9th to 11th December Sleeping Beauty Panto Tickets at Howells newsagent and at www/ticketsource.co.uk/BATS

WHAT'S ON



NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME Shuttleworth and Swiss Gardens

3rd November 2022 £10 Free for children and RHS Members. Shuttleworth will be opening for the National Gardens Scheme again this year. On the day visitors will be able to access the beautiful Swiss Garden at the special price of £10, and also the Trust's extensive collection of vintage aircraft and motor vehicles housed in the adjacent hangars, in support of the NGS. All admission fees on the day will be donated to the charity. Their core beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and the Queen's Nursing Institute. The Runway Café will be open, serving a range of light refreshments.

For more information and to book your ticket visit

<https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/12881>

There will be a Soup and Cake Lunch on Thursday 3rd November from 12 noon till 1.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Shortmead Street, Biggleswade. £5 to include a bowl of homemade soup, roll and butter, a piece of cake and tea/coffee. All are welcome!

SLEEPING BEAUTY THE PANTO

9TH - 11TH DECEMBER

STRATTON UPPER SCHOOL, BIGGLESWADE

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM HOWELLS NEWSAGENTS & [TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/BATS](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bats)

BATS noda

GOING DIGITAL

£15 AFFORDABLE BROADBAND

People on certain benefits or low income can get fibre broadband for £15 each month as BT, Sky, NOW Broadband and Virgin social tariffs could help with rising household costs. One way millions of people who are on Universal Credit or certain other benefits may be able to slash their bills is to choose a 'social tariff' broadband package, which is available from most of the big providers from as little as £15 per month. These include BT, Sky, Virgin and NOW Broadband. Leaders of the UK's major fixed broadband, landline and mobile operators agreed a set of commitments with the UK Government in June, which are designed to support households through the crisis. Contact your provider for more information.

LEARN HOW TO USE YOUR SMARTPHONE OR LAPTOP

BedsRCC charity are running a digital inclusion project called "You Can Do IT!" and have had a group running at the Kings Corner Community Centre in Biggleswade since February. It runs on a Tuesday afternoon from 1.30 to 3.15.

The focus of their programme is to give people the means, skills and confidence to access online services. Required even more now most services are only accessible on line.

They provide free, one to one support to people who need help in using smartphones, tablets and laptops. Typically, help is given on using a tablet or smartphone for the first time, using the internet safely, using emails, searching for information on the internet, filling in forms online, the use of passwords, or making and receiving voice and video calls.

BedsRCC are funded by the NHS Charities Together framework so have an additional emphasis on accessing health and wellbeing services. Staffed by volunteers, we run small groups which are person centred. The support lasts for as many weeks as necessary to meet the needs of individual learners.

To obtain a place, people can either self-refer by filling out an online form at www.ywb.org.uk/IT or by leaving a voicemail message by calling 01234 838771. Due to the difference in individual needs it is difficult to estimate when the next place will become available but you can be added to the waiting list.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

H.M. GOVT. Emergency alert system to launch in October across Great Britain

An emergency warning system, allowing alerts about severe weather and other life-threatening events to be sent to mobile phones, will go live in October in England, Scotland and Wales. The Cabinet Office says the technology will alert up to 85% of the population.

The messages will be sent automatically to any smartphone which is switched on, although it is possible to opt out by changing a mobile phone setting. Trials of the alerts were held in Reading and East Suffolk this year. Every phone in England, Scotland and Wales, will receive a "welcome message" in October. The system will eventually cover the whole of the UK, says the Government.

The Cabinet Office says the alerts, which will look and sound different to standard messages, will be able to give highly localised warnings of flooding – fires – extreme weather – public health emergencies. Terror attacks could also be added to the list of potential scenarios to trigger a message.

When you get an emergency alert

Your phone or tablet may make a loud siren-like sound, even if it's set on silent, vibrate or read out the alert. The sound and vibration will last for about 10 seconds. Stop what you're doing and follow the instructions in the alert. Sometimes an alert will include a phone number or a link to the GOV.UK website for more information.

The Government and mobile phone networks are testing emergency alerts. You may get an alert if you live in, or travel through, a test area.

If you're driving or riding when you get an alert find somewhere safe to stop before using your phone or tablet. It is illegal to use a hand-held device while driving or riding.

If you want to see an alert again you can do so at www.gov.uk/alerts You can also search for them on your phone or tablet

If you get reminders about an alert you can turn these reminders off. Search your settings for 'emergency alerts'.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER BECOMING A COUNCILLOR?



With local elections planned for 4 May 2023, Central Bedfordshire Council are inviting residents to consider standing as local councillors. If you're passionate, proactive and want to make a difference then it could be for you. It's an opportunity for you to represent the views of local people and shape the future of your local community.

Central Bedfordshire Council currently comprises of 59 councillors, although this will be increasing to 63 from May 2023. A booklet has been produced which explains in detail who is eligible to stand, the role of a councillor and explains the steps involved to become a candidate. Councillors don't have to be highly educated or have a profession. Skills gained through raising a family, caring for a sick or disabled relative, volunteering or being active in faith or community groups can be just as valuable.

The councillor's role centres around community leadership and engagement, and responsibilities include:

- representing the ward for which they are elected
- decision-making - developing and reviewing council policy
- scrutinising decisions taken by the councillors on the executive or cabinet
- regulatory, quasi-judicial and statutory duties

Councillors may stand for individual parties or as independents. For the latter they need to apply to Central Bedfordshire's Electoral Services Department. You must make sure that you are officially nominated as the election date draws nearer. This means getting 10 people to sign nomination papers (signatories must be registered electors in the ward where you wish to stand) available from your local council's democratic services department. You must also give your consent in writing to your nomination. All the necessary documents must be submitted 19 working days before the day of the election. More information is on Central Bedfordshire Council's website.

A LITTLE HELP



LOCALLY AVAILABLE SERVICES FOR CARERS

Carers in Bedfordshire, the charity that supports Biggleswade carers, offers the following services each month, carried out by fully qualified practitioners, at highly subsidised rates. These sessions take place on the fourth Saturday of the month, at the Baptist Church in London Road, SG18 8EB.

- £7 for Haircuts
- £12 for a 30 minute massage
- £12 for 25 minute footcare

Every two months a Saturday Social takes place at the same time as the treatments. Open to all carers, their families and the people they care for, they can take part in a fun activity and have a chance to unwind and meet others in similar situations. Refreshments are served. The next session is Arts and Crafts on 26th November. To book a treatment

visit www.carersinbeds.org.uk/treatments-and-haircuts

If you care for someone, whether it be a relative, friend or a neighbour, you are still a carer. Carers in Bedfordshire can offer you support. To join them telephone on 0300 111 1919 or email them on contact@carersinbeds.org.uk or by post to Emerald Court, Pilgrim Centre, Brickhill Drive, Bedford MK41 7PZ

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



Free and Confidential
(Donations Welcomed)

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

Please don't grieve alone

See www.biggleswadecommunitynews.uk for updates or ring us on 01767 448954 and we will try to help.