

## **Borough Councillors Report to Parish Councils October 2021**

### **Amphill Road Roadworks**

Works on Amphill road continue over the coming months with the road being closed overnight between Monday 4 October and Monday 18 October to enable the road to be resurfaced between Westville Rd and Elstow Rd.

### **Bromham Village Roadworks postponed**

Bedford Borough Council are postponing the resurfacing works at Village Road until early next financial year once the Clapham Road works are completed.

The team has inspected the condition of Village Road and are satisfied that no significant revenue repairs are likely to be required over the course of the Winter.

### **Conservative Response to Local Plan 2040 Consultation**

The Borough Conservative Councillors have responded to the draft Local Plan 2040 consultation. In their response they raise many concerns and have made the following recommendations including the need for genuine sustainability to be at its core.

The Group have also written to the Minister asking for the submission of Local Plan 2040 to be delayed so that Ox-Cam Arc Strategic Framework, which is due to set by National Government in 2023, can be considered in any plans the borough makes.

You can read more about the Conservative's response here:

<https://www.bedfordconservatives.org.uk/news/put-sustainability-core-local-plan>

### **Relaunch of 'Cygnet' Bus ticket**

On 1st October, Stagecoach, Grant Palmer, Uno and Bedford Borough Council are relaunching the 'Cygnet' pass.

This ticket will allow for unlimited travel on any Stagecoach, Grant Palmer and Uno bus in the Stagecoach Megarider zone, across a day or a week and you can mix and match bus providers.

The 'Cygnet' pass is a paper ticket which costs £6 for a day ticket and £18 for a weekly ticket. You can buy the ticket on all three companies' buses.

### **Rural Access to Healthcare**

Here is an article written by Great Barford Ward Councillor, Phillippa Martin-Moran-Bryant where she explains the vital role that Health Committees on Bedford Council play in being a 'critical friend' to residents and how that can be useful to rural residents:

<https://www.bedfordindependent.co.uk/view-from-the-villages-rural-access-to-healthcare/>

### **Public Rights of Way Team**

At an Informal Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, Councillors enquired about the number of staff in the Public Rights of Way (PROW) team – Answer: Three

You can find out more information and report a problem with Public Rights of Way team here:

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/public-rights-of-way/>

### **East West Rail update**

East West Rail announced that they are looking for a Head of Inclusion to help them understand the needs of local communities. However, the role has drawn criticism from local MPs and Campaigns due to the 100k wage that is being offered.

You can read about this here: <https://www.bedfordindependent.co.uk/oh-good-grief-east-west-rail-announces-100k-inclusion-role/>

### **Bedford Borough Ends Appointment System at Barkers Lane Recycling Centre**

The online booking system for the Household Waste Recycling Centre on Barkers Lane has been stopped. Residents will now be able to visit the site during the normal opening hours without an appointment.

However, residents will need to bring proof of their address in order to be allowed in. Those who are using a trailer, a van or are looking to dispose of DIY waste will need to acquire a permit before attending the site. You can request a permit here: [Household Waste Recycling Centre \(HWRC\) - Bedford Borough Council](#)

### **Planning Scheme of Delegation Update**

At Full Council on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October an updated Planning Scheme of Delegation was voted for with an amendment to review the issue of 'reserved matters' following concerns raised by Conservative councillors prior to the meeting.

## **Borough COVID-19 Update**

It was reported at Local Outbreak Engagement Board on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September there has been a spike in cases in school-age children. Since 1<sup>st</sup> September cases have doubled in 0-10 year olds and increased four-fold in 11-18 year olds.

As of the 10<sup>th</sup> October in Bedford there have been 23,770 cases since the start of the pandemic and there have been 698 registered cases in Bedford in the last 7 days.

If you would like the latest COVID snapshot (as of 10<sup>th</sup> October) please find it below:

<https://bbcdevwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/Social%20Care%20Health%20and%20Community/Covid19/covid19-weekly-statistics-13Oct21.pdf>

More information available at: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/social-care-health-and-community/public-health/coronavirus/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

## **Third dose of COVID-19 Vaccine for Those with Weakened Immune Systems**

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) have advised that people with severely weakened immune systems should have a third vaccine dose as part of their primary Covid-19 vaccination schedule. This is not the same as the booster jab which you can read about below.

Those within this cohort will receive a letter from their Consultant or GP letting them know they are eligible. They can go to any large vaccination centre without an appointment but they must bring the letter with them.

Third doses can only be dispensed at least eight weeks after the second dose, so residents may not receive a letter immediately. However, if they have not received a letter 8 weeks after their second dose it is recommended they contact their Consultant to discuss.

## **Covid-19 Booster Programme for 'Most at Risk'**

'Booster' vaccine doses will be available on the NHS for people most at risk from Covid-19 who have had the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose at least 6 months ago. The cohorts below will be contacted directly by the NHS – residents have no need to contact their surgery.

Cohorts:

- People aged 50 and over
- People who live and work in care homes
- Frontline health and social care workers
- People aged 16 and over with a health condition that puts them at high risk of getting seriously ill from Covid-19
- Carers aged 16 and over
- People aged 16 and over who live with someone who is more likely to get infections (such as someone who has HIV, has had a transplant or is having certain treatments for cancer, lupus or rheumatoid arthritis)

### **Bedford providing free taxis to and from Vaccination centres**

Bedford Borough Council are providing free taxis for anyone in the borough getting a vaccine.

To get your free taxi ride, you just need to call one of the taxi operators from the list available at [www.bedford.gov.uk/VaxiTaxi](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/VaxiTaxi), give them the reference BBC VACCINE, and let them know where you need to be picked up and dropped off.