

Borough Councillors Report to Biddenham Parish Council November 2021

Bromham and Biddenham Fly Tipping Statistics

These are shown below.

Row Labels	Count of Fly Tipping Removal Options										Grand Total
	2019 Qtr4	2020 Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	2021 Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4		
Bromham and Biddenham Ward	5	3	9	15	7	3	7	6	1	56	
Car boot load or less			1	2	2		1			6	
Other single item							1			1	
Significant/Multiple Loads								1		1	
Single Black Bag					1			1		2	
Small van load	3	2	5	8	3	2	4	2	1	30	
Tipper lorry load				1						1	
Transit van load	2	1	3	4	1	1	1	2		15	



Fly tip by ward and size Oct 2019 -Oct 20

You can find the fly tipping statistics for all the wards here:

Bedford Borough Receive £202k as part of Welcome Back Fund

The activities agreed for the use of the Welcome Back Fund (WBF) total £202,500 and are summarised as:

- Additional planting at various town centre locations
- Enhanced communications campaign
- Temporary benches in town centre and embankment
- Temporary bins in town centre
- Floor signage at various council owned buildings
- Lighting for the Corn Exchange

Bedford Borough were originally allocated £308,000 as part of the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund which the WBF is part of. That means there is a remaining allocation of £105,500 which can still be spent by March 2022, subject to a successful project change request.

East West Rail update

The CEO of East West Rail, Simon Blanchflower met concerned residents in the Poets area. However, this meeting was given mixed reviews which you can read about here:

<https://www.bedfordindependent.co.uk/campaigners-call-ewr-meeting-a-tick-box-exercise-but-bedford-and-kempston-mp-says-it-was-constructive/>

Planning Scheme of Delegation Update

At Full Council on Wednesday 13th 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.

Bedford Borough Council Customer Services Launches Appointment Service

Bedford Borough Council's Customer Services Centre have introduced an appointment service, for residents who may need that extra digital assistance or face-to-face support.

Customer Services first point of contact is still the telephone line 01234 267422, which will now be open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm except for Thursdays which is 10am-5pm.

However, if they are unable to answer your query over the phone, they are now able to offer a digital or face-to-face appointment.

Consultation on Council Strategy to Reduce Domestic Abuse

Bedford Borough Council has now published its 'Strategy to Address and Reduce Domestic Abuse 2021-2026' and wants to know what you think.

The Strategy sets out to define domestic abuse, the five key areas of priority in Bedford and how the Council plans to address these over the next five years.

This consultation is now open, and you can send your ideas, comments or expressions of interest in the following ways:

Website: www.bedford.gov.uk/DASConsultation

Email us: DASupport@bedford.gov.uk

Write to: Consulting Bedford, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP

Flood Investigation Report

Bedford Borough Council has completed a Flood Investigation Report concerning the Christmas 2020 floods. One of the main takes from the report is that residents were unhappy with Environmental Agency action during and after the flood.

During the flood 65 buildings suffered internal flooding, along with roads and bridges also being blocked.

The Council have identified 141 specific actions from this report to help with flooding in the future which you can read on the full report here:

<https://bbcdevwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/Environmental%20Issues/Flood%20risk%20management/Appendix-1-Section-19-Flood-Event-Dec-2020.pdf>

Update on 'Transporting Bedford' Road Works

There are several works going on around Bedford Town Centre during the winter period.

This includes work at St Paul's square, Amphill Road and between Victoria and Britannia Road, so do expect delays.

There has also been progress on the Northern Gateway project with the widening of Clapham Road between the two roundabouts complete, along with the dedicated left hand turn lane from Clapham Road into Manton Lane.

Works have started on the central reservation of the dual carriageway, introducing a permanent right-hand turn into Sainsbury's so people won't need to use the Clapham Road/Manton Lane roundabout to U-turn. The Northern Gateway works will continue until the 17th of December.

Christmas Plans for Bedford Borough

There will be Christmas based events in Bedford town centre every weekend in December, with music, entertainment and markets promised.

The Christmas lights will be turned on from Monday 22 November across Bedford town centre and the Riverside. However, the usual fireworks display will not take place this year.

Borough COVID-19 Update

As of the 7th November in Bedford, there have been 26,946 cases since the start of the pandemic and there have been 697 registered cases in Bedford in the last 7 days.

Bromham and Biddenham ward had 29 cases between 31st October and 7th November.

If you would like the latest COVID snapshot (as of 7th November) please find it below:

<https://bbcdevwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/Social%20Care%20Health%20and%20Community/Covid19/covid19-weekly-statistics-10Nov21.pdf>

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

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, give them the reference BBC VACCINE, and let them know where you need to be picked up and dropped off.