

## **Borough Councillors Report to Parish Council December 2021**

### **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**

East West Rail have said they will announce their preferred route alignment in the first half of 2022.

### **Bin collection update**

Bedford Borough Council have renewed their waste collection calendars. You can check your bin collection day and download a calendar here:

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling-and-waste/household-bins-and-recycling/check-bin-collection-day/>

### **Bedford Borough Budget consultation proposes Coronavirus money into environmental projects**

Bedford Borough have proposed to shift £3m of Coronavirus funds into environmental renewal and rejuvenation projects for the town including but not limited to, solar panels on council buildings, more trees being planted, the refurbishment of eight play parks, verge protection and the installation of a maximum of nine average speed cameras across the borough.

There is now a consultation open on these budget plans, you can see the full budget plans and submit your response here: [Budget 2022 consultation · Bedford Borough Council](#)

## Permit Scheme Introduced for Businesses Operating in Bedford Parks

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022, any fitness instructors will be required to have a permit card. All instructors with a permit card will have been risk assessed and properly insured.

A list of authorised fitness groups and instructors will be put on the Council's website, so people looking for a new workout group will be able to check which groups have are licensed to run in Bedford Borough Parks.

## Bedford Borough Council to fund maximum of nine Average Speed Camera's across Bedford

Bedford Borough Council will fund a maximum of 9 ASCs across the borough for the municipal 2021/22 year. The criteria on how these 9 'core sites' will be chosen is set out in the Average Speed Camera Policy which is available on the image on the right of this section.

There is an option for 'Community Concern Sites' to be installed which must also meet set criteria, including 100% funding from third-party sources.



ENGINEERING SERVICES

ENG/008

Average Speed Camera (ASCs)  
Policy

Revision Date	Description	Author	Checked By	Approved By	Next Review Date
	First Issue	Allan Burns	Matt Soper	Matthew D'Archanbaud	

## Consultation on Bedford Pharmacies

Bedford Borough Council is seeking your views about your local pharmacy.

The Council would like to hear about your own experiences of pharmacy services in the borough and what improvements you would like to see in the future, by completing a short survey.

The questionnaire is anonymous and should only take a few minutes to complete, and is open until 31 December 2021.

To find out how you can take part in the consultation and fill in the questionnaire please go on the following website: [www.bedford.gov.uk/PNAConsultation2021](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/PNAConsultation2021)

## High Street works re-laid due to error

The high street between St Peters and Mill Street has been ripped up and re-laid because it was a trip hazard due to an error in laying.

It is understood that the contractor has agreed to pay for these additional works.

### **Works in High Street completed**

The works to move the High Street into a single lane and create a bigger pavement, with 'better' drop off points and short term parking for residents has been completed just in time for Christmas.

You can read more about the works here: <https://www.bedfordindependent.co.uk/single-lane-high-street-now-fully-open-in-time-for-christmas/>

### **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, Ampthill 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 works had been creating major traffic jams for residents but they will now take place overnight, with the re-opening of the second lane and manual traffic lights being put in place between Paula Radcliffe Way and Clapham Road roundabouts to ease delays.

### **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 were turned on across Bedford town centre and the Riverside on Monday 22 November. However, the usual fireworks display did not take place this year.

### **Borough COVID-19 Update**

As of the 5<sup>th</sup> December in Bedford, there have been 30,314 cases since the start of the pandemic and there have been 945 registered cases in Bedford in the last 7 days.

If you would like the latest COVID snapshot (as of 5<sup>th</sup> December) please find it below:

<https://bbcdevwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/Social%20Care%20Health%20and%20Community/Covid19/covid19-weekly-statistics-8Dec21.pdf>

The first case of the 'Omicron' variant has been confirmed in Bedford Borough, it is reported to spread quicker than previous variants and residents have been urged to be cautious.

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](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.