

Borough Monthly

Issue 11

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BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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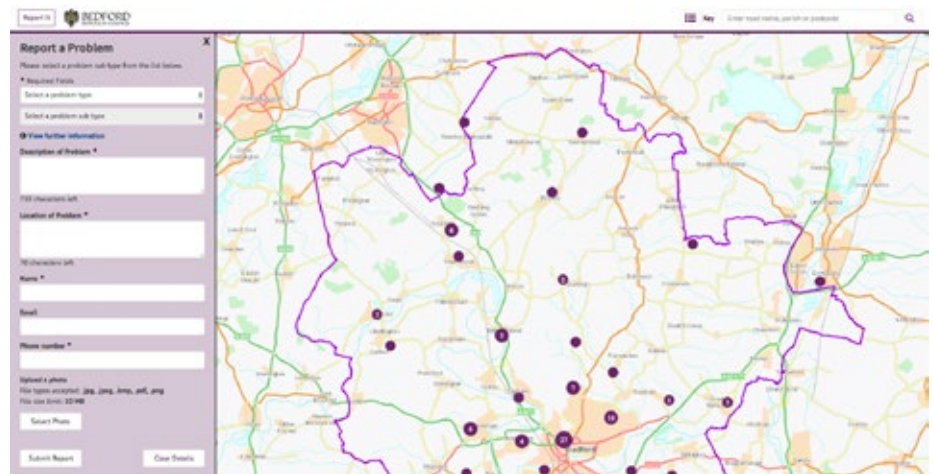
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It's as easy as 1,2,3 with our new ReportIt tool!

The Council has launched a new online tool for reporting issues on roads and foot paths around the Borough. The new ReportIt tool allows residents to report a number of issues quickly and easily online, including:

- Potholes
- Drainage and flooding
- Grass, hedges, trees and weeds
- Snow, ice and gritting
- Roads
- Pavements
- Cycling
- Lorries
- Signage and lines
- Street lighting
- Traffic signals



'ReportIt' allows residents to log the location of an issue on an interactive map of the Borough, with the option to upload a photograph. 'ReportIt' is also set up to show users if their issue has already been

reported, preventing duplication.

The system also offers a follow-up service, by emailing updates and any actions taken to users.

So if you see an issue, [click here](#) to ReportIt!

Rogue trader found guilty

A local car dealer has been found guilty of two counts of fraud by false representation after a four day trial at Luton Crown Court.

Mohammed Shamrez operated 'Samsons Car Sales' from his family home in Bromham Road, Bedford and advertised and sold a car which he knew to have covered double the stated mileage. It was

accompanied by an invoice and fake service history to corroborate this. In addition, Mohammed Shamrez falsely claimed during the sales transaction that the car would come with a free warranty which was never delivered.

The vehicle in question broke down just a few weeks after it was purchased and when it was

taken for repair the unfortunate customers discovered that the mileage was false.

Mr Shamrez attended Luton Crown Court on 19th September 2016 where he pleaded not guilty to 2 charges of fraud. Mr Shamrez will be sentenced at Luton Crown Court on 7 November 2016.

Local woman ordered to pay £125 for cycling in Bedford town centre

After breaching the Public Space Protection Order in May this year, local resident Ms Blackaby was issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for £75.

The Public Space Protection Order restricts cyclists from riding bikes through the main pedestrian area of Bedford Town Centre between 9am and 6pm. Anybody riding a bicycle between the designated times set out in

the order will be given a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Ms Blackaby failed to pay the FPN and was prosecuted in her absence on 28 September. She was ordered to pay a total cost of £125.

PSPOs can be enforced by a police officer, police community support officer and authorised council officers.

Changes to bin collections



Later this month households in Bedford Borough can expect to see a change in the frequency of black bin collections.

The changes will start on **Monday 31 October**. From this date, collections will operate as follows;

- Black bins will be collected every other week.
- The collection of orange lidded recycling bins and green lidded garden waste bins will continue to operate on a fortnightly basis.
- Collections will operate on an alternate weekly basis (one week black lidded bin collections, the following week orange and green lidded bins and so on).

This will be followed by changes to garden waste collections in December.

At the present time, flats that share an industrial sized 1100L communal bin will continue to have their household waste collected on a weekly basis. The council will reassess collections for these properties in the coming months.

The trade waste and recycling collections of businesses will remain unchanged.

The changes will require residents to work with the Council to ensure that the transition runs smoothly and as such, the Council is carrying out a marketing campaign to ensure all residents are aware of the changes.

All properties that are changing to an alternate weekly waste collection will receive a personalised eight-page leaflet detailing their collection days and dates until November 2017 (including changes over the Christmas and New Year period).

This will be supported by online marketing material and posters and banners in our car parks and bus shelters. Please help by making sure you familiarise yourselves with the changes that are taking place and advising your friends and family. To access full details about the changes please [click here](#).



How it works... alternate weekly collection

Week 1

We will collect your black lidded rubbish bin **only**.



Week 2

We will collect your orange **and** green lidded bins.

First sod cut for £20 Million Wixams schools project



Work has started to create two exciting new schools at the Wixams in Bedford Borough after the first sod was cut on Tuesday 4 October.

The new Primary school and Secondary school will provide a new learning community, which includes extensive sports facilities and dedicated parking off Green Lane.

The project is a partnership between Bedford Borough Council, Bedford College Academy Trust, Gallagher Estates, the Department for Education, Willmott Dixon, Lungfish Architects and Pick Everard.

Head Teacher Paul Spyropoulos, Mayor of Bedford Borough, Dave Hodgson, Chief Executive Philip Simpkins and representatives from the organisations involved attended the launch. Pupils from Lakeview Primary were also in attendance as, once built, they are likely to progress into the secondary school.

The two schools will provide a new learning community which will welcome children at the age of two to the nursery and educate them all the way through to the age of 18.

Both schools are due to open in September 2017 and offer places to over 1,200 pupils from the area.

Say bonjour to healthy eating!



Pupils from four lower schools were treated to a cooking lesson from healthy eating advocate Oli Blanc earlier this month.

Oli created the lovable and educational 'Henri Le Worm' (who is based on his father, the renowned chef Raymond Blanc) to teach children the importance of eating fresh and healthy food. Henri and his host of insect friends aim to encourage school age children to cook simple and nutritious meals at home with their families.

Students from Bromham Lower, Ursula Taylor Lower, Carlton Lower and Pinchmill Lower Schools met Oli last week to find out more about health, cooking and growing fruit and vegetables. Students grilled Oli about his favourite foods and what he grows in his garden, before helping him to cook a healthy fruit pudding!

Henri Le Worm offers lesson plans; [an interactive website](#); recipes; and even an award winning app for teachers, students and parents in order to support a cross curriculum approach to learning about food and promoting a happy and healthy lifestyle.

Priory Country Park celebrates the big 3-0!



On the 27 September 1986, Priory Country Park was officially opened by radio and television presenter Valerie Singleton as a place for all to enjoy, and over three decades has grown into a popular choice for local residents and visitors alike.

The park was laid out following the completion of gravel extraction in 1977 and extended north after the demolition of the Goldington power station in 1987.

Just one and a half miles from the heart of Bedford and covering 360 acres, the park offers something for all visitors, while its wildlife thrives in protected lakes, grass and woodlands. The park hosts a number of sporting activities including walking, running, cycling, canoeing, sailing and windsurfing; as well as angling and bird watching in a number of quiet and accessible spots.

Last month the park's visitor centre took on a new lease of life with the opening of a brand new café. The Cloverdale Retreat Cafe is open to the public seven days a week from 10am to 4pm; serving a range of teas, coffee, savoury snacks and cakes.

The high standards of care are reflected by the continued success of Priory achieving Green Flag status, which has been awarded every year since 2003. In addition, for the past three years Priory Country Park has been awarded the Travel Advisor Certificate of Excellence due to its consistently high reviews.



CPRE awards Borough green spaces



The Campaign to Protect Rural England Bedfordshire has recognised Putnoe Woods, Mowsbury Hillfort and Harrold-Odell as part of its Living Countryside Awards.

Mowsbury Hillfort was awarded first place and Putnoe Woods third place in the Biodiversity and Landscape Improvement Category.

Certificates and a plaque were presented to the Friends of Putnoe Woods and Mowsbury Hillfort by HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis, at the ceremony in Sandy (pictured).

Harrold-Odell Country Park also received a commendation for its newly opened boardwalk.

Coming together for World Mental Health Day



Monday 10 October was World Mental Health Day, and officers from Bedford Borough Council's Sports Development Team joined forces with Mind and the East London NHS Foundation Trust, to host an event outside Bedford Central Library.

The World Health Organisation recognises World Mental Health Day as an opportunity to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilise efforts in support of mental health.

Relevant organisations were on hand to answer questions and hand out information about services in Bedford. The "Break The Stigma" campaign promoted positive discussions around mental health, with free table tennis available and the opportunity to try out the smoothie bike!

Let's Be Open About Mental Health To **Break The Stigma**

NHS

Ask your GP surgery for more details or search online for 'NHS Health Check Bedfordshire'

Aged 40-74? Find out about your **FREE** NHS Health Check

"I was always at the surgery for my mum, it was great to be there to have a chat about me"

NHS HEALTH CHECK

Helping you prevent

- diabetes
- heart disease
- kidney disease
- stroke & dementia

Central Bedfordshire

Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council working together