

# Borough Monthly

Issue 10

September 2016

Here's a homemade reason  
to try Bedford's Markets...

► Why not pay them a visit this month  
and see what else they have to offer?!



**BEDFORD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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# Savings identified as Council faces continued cuts in funding

Bedford Borough Council is set to consider further planned savings as it faces continued cuts in funding and an increased demand on its services.

Despite already achieving savings of £90 million the Council needs to identify further savings of £27.5 million while continuing to provide services to the residents of Bedford Borough.

The Council's Revenue Support Grant from the government, which stood at £30m in 2015, is forecast to hit just £6million in 2019, and Bedford Borough Council's Executive has approved plans to help bridge this gap in funding as well as continuing to work on a number of savings initiatives.

These include the Council's Business Transformation Plan Bedford Borough 2020, which is already well underway. The digitalisation of Council services and online systems will seek to make savings of £10 million, while also providing services available online 24/7 to better meet the needs of our residents. The Council is also looking at further savings in the way it buys in services.

As well as this, the One Public Estate programme is working to develop underused public sector land and property that may be suitable to sell or rent, boosting local jobs, growth and freeing up assets. The Council is receiving funding and practical support from

the Government Property Unit and the Local Government Association, to remove bureaucratic red tape and unblock barriers to improve and develop publicly owned sites.

Mayor of Bedford Borough, Dave Hodgson, said:

"Punishing Government cuts have created a full-blown funding crisis for local services. Tough decisions are now unavoidable, as the impact of relentless, ongoing cuts combines with growing need for social care services."

"Residents can be assured that we will do all we can to minimise the impact on local residents, particularly those most in need of care and support."

## Library Consultation Feedback

Earlier this year the Council undertook an extensive two-stage consultation asking people what they felt about the library service and what was important to them.

We received over 4,500 responses from residents, so a big thank you to all who took part. A copy of the consultation report can be found [here](#).

In the first stage of the consultation process, local residents were asked to share their views on how libraries are currently used; which services are most popular; and which services should be prioritised.

The second stage of consultation provided the public with the opportunity to give their views on four options regarding the future of Bedford Borough's Libraries.

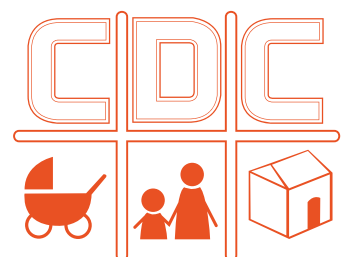
Option 3 proposed having fewer libraries, and in consideration of the responses to consultation this option will no longer be considered further.

Mayor of Bedford Borough Dave Hodgson said "The responses to the consultations told us loud and clear that the libraries in Bedford Borough are still an important part of the local community"

"I would like to thank everyone that provided a response to the consultation."

## Happy 40th Birthday CDC!

The Child Development Centre (CDC) in Hill Rise, Kempston, celebrated turning 40 this month by hosting a Fun Day for visitors past and present. A great time was had by all!



# It's never too early to book your Flu Jab!

## Call your GP or pharmacist today

Don't wait until Winter! Bedford Borough Council is urging people to get vaccinated against Flu early, in order to help them stay fit and healthy over the winter months.

The flu vaccine is safe and effective and can reduce the chances of getting flu and its complications by 70%. The vaccine is especially important for those at risk of more serious health complications and is available from the NHS free of charge to pregnant women, young children, carers, people in long-term care facilities, anyone with a long term health condition and people over 65.

Last year over 1,000 people were admitted to hospital because of flu. The number of pregnant women who had the jab last winter fell by 6.7% compared with the previous year and less than half of two year olds and adults under 65 with health conditions had the vaccine. Overall, last year 57% of Bedfordshire residents who were entitled took up the free vaccine.

This year the flu vaccine is being made available to more children as the age range is being extended to include 7 year olds. Parents are asked to take pre-school children to their GP, while the 5-7 year olds will receive it at school.

Groups who are eligible for a FREE flu jab are listed below, however if you think this could also apply to you, check with your GP;

- Those aged 65 years and over
- Those aged six months to 65 years with a serious medical condition such as: Respiratory, Heart, Kidney, Liver or Neurological disease
- Diabetes
- Immunosuppression
- Absence or dysfunction of the spleen
- Pregnant women
- All two, three and four year olds (administered using a nasal spray)
- All children of school years 1, 2 and 3
- Those in long stay residential care or residential homes
- Unpaid carers

If you belong to one of these groups; speak to your GP to book a vaccination appointment, or check with your local pharmacy as they may also provide free flu vaccinations. Frontline health care and social care workers should also be offered a flu vaccination by their employer. Family members of those people in eligible groups are also urged to talk to their GP or pharmacy about getting vaccinated.

The flu vaccine contains three commonly circulating flu strains and provides full protection against these strains. It is important to have a vaccination every winter as the virus is constantly changing.

Anyone in doubt about whether they qualify for a free vaccination should contact their GP. Those not eligible for a free NHS flu jab can still receive the vaccination from their local pharmacy for a small fee.

For more information on the flu vaccination, visit: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/flu-influenza-vaccine.aspx>



Got a child aged 2, 3 or 4?

Are you a carer?

Are you expecting a baby?

Don't forget your flu jab











# A magical time had by all!

Disney came to Bedford Borough on Friday 9 September to celebrate the 'Magical Moments' of our Looked After Children at their Annual Achievement Awards.

The event provides an opportunity to celebrate the talents, achievements and success of the children and young people who are supported and cared for by Bedford Borough Council.

With a theme of 'Children in Care Council (CiCC) You Tube presents; Magical Moments', over 200 guests dressed to impress. The event consisted of an activity zone with a roaming magician, Disney characters, glitter tattoos, balloon modelling and an interactive photo-booth.

This was followed by two award ceremonies (up to 11 years and 12 years and over) for the 205 nominations that were received by young people from their social workers, teachers and foster carers.

This year there were nine categories with one 'winner' coming from each age range:

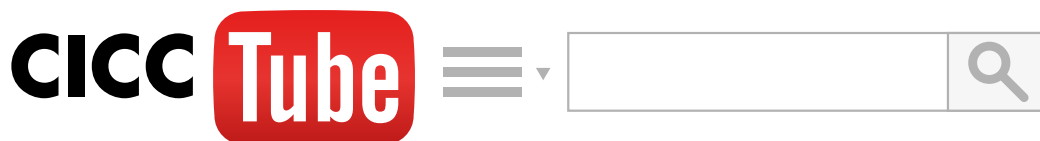
- Arts and music award presented by local dance company 2-Step.
- Bravery award presented by local You Tube Vlogger Ben Zanna.
- Compassion award presented by You Tube sensations Jake Mitchel and Saffron Barker.
- Education, Employment and Training award presented by Cllr Henry Vann.
- Life Skills award presented by The Mayor, Dave Hodgson.
- Personal Development award presented by Chief Executive, Philip Simpkins.
- Resilience award presented by Colin Foster, Chief Education Officer.
- Sports award presented by Lance Haggith, from Sports Trader.
- Transition award presented by Kevin Crompton, Director of Children's and Adults' services.



There were also two Outstanding Achievement winners per age category with their awards presented by Cllr Shan Hunt, Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care at Bedford Borough Council.

The Mayor of Bedford Borough, Dave Hodgson, said: "It is wonderful to see these talented young people given some richly deserved recognition for their personal accomplishments. As corporate parents, their achievements make us extremely proud of them."

Staff at Bedford Borough Council raised over £1,000 towards funding the event and local businesses contributed to sponsorship and fundraising prizes throughout the year.



Presents Magical Moments

# Stay Connected!

## Stay connected

Stay connected with news, events and Council services by signing up for our email bulletins.

Over 12,000 local residents already have signed up to our Stay Connected email bulletins since they launched in January.

Email bulletins are an easy and hassle free way of finding out what's happening in Bedford Borough. You can choose how and which bulletins you would like to receive.

Here are the bulletins that you can currently sign up to receive:

- **Bedford for Business** - News and information for businesses in Bedford Borough
- **Your Voice Your Views** - News and updates on consultations in Bedford Borough; have your say on local issues.

- **The Higgins Bedford** - News and updates from Bedford Borough's premier art and culture venue including What's On and upcoming events.
- **Your child and You** - News and updates from Bedford Borough's schools and Children's Services
- **Borough Monthly** - The latest news for Bedford Borough straight to your inbox.
- **What's On** - All you need to know about events and entertainment in Bedford Borough, from the Corn Exchange to the River Festival.
- **Bedford Borough Libraries** - News and events from Bedford Borough Libraries, including summer holiday activities, events and the on-going library consultation.
- **Advertising and Sponsorship Opportunities** - Updates on the latest advertising and sponsorship opportunities for local businesses throughout Bedford Borough.
- **Jobs Hub Vacancy Bulletin** - A bulletin filled with local job and apprenticeship opportunities, as well as events and useful information from the team at the Jobs Hub.
- **Bin collections** - Service updates and reminders on your bin collections, including holiday timetables and updates on the on-going waste consultation.
- **Recycling and Waste Services** - All the latest on recycling and waste services, helping you recycle more for Bedford Borough.
- **Sport and Physical Activity** - Information on a wide range of sport and physical activity opportunities, events and programmes for all members of the community.

It's easy to sign up, just go to [www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk) and click on the 'Stay Connected' icon at the top of the page. All you need is an email address to sign up for as many email bulletins as you like!

## Do you need help with design? Want to get something printed?

### Use Bedford Borough Council's ICT Design & Repro Team



- Posters and Flyers
- Business Cards
- Leaflets
- Letterheads/ Compliment Slips
- Brochures
- Duplicate/Triplicate Carbonless Pads
- Envelopes
- Vinyl banners
- Large Posters (up to A0 size)
- Promotional Items
- Pop Up Display Stands

and much more!  
...literally anything  
you want printing,  
we can do it!



01234 228154



design@bedford.gov.uk



# New Mindful Sport Swim Sessions

The Mindful Sport programme, which launched in March, has proved to be so popular that swimming sessions have been placed on the agenda!

The new Wellbeing Swimming Session started on Monday 12 September – and takes place every Monday, at Robinson Pool, from 3pm – 4pm.

The session is informal, but there is a coach present to offer advice and support. Familiar staff from other Mindful sport sessions will be present to welcome participants.

The Mindful Sport programme of #Just Turn Up wellbeing sessions offer bespoke activity sessions for people experiencing conditions such as generalised anxiety disorder, eating disorders, panic attacks and stress.

Working in partnership with Fusion Leisure is exciting, as the

pool is has reopened following refurbishment and the sessions also offer a social group after the swimming for participants to meet with NHS staff and relax in the upgraded facilities.

Key highlights from the wellbeing activity programme include:

- Two participants, who attended the daytime yoga session for over 8 weeks, improved their self-esteem to such an extent that they have returned to full/part-time work.
- Two volunteers with experience of mental health conditions have supported the sessions and one has gone on to complete their NPLQ and become a Lifeguard. One volunteer stated “Since volunteering with the programme I have learnt a number of skills and been able to share my own experiences

with others. It has allowed me to find stability in my life. I am very grateful to the team of staff involved.”

- The programme was recognised by MIND as a national network and information on the development of the session was used at a national conference for governing bodies.
- With over 7 different conditions recorded, and consistent improved feelings of wellbeing reported, the sessions have shown strong evidence of supporting a key section of the local community.

For more information on Just Turn Up’s Wellbeing Hub, contact Sports Development Officer, Robert Lindsay, on 01234 718825 or email [robert.lindsay@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:robert.lindsay@bedford.gov.uk)



**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October  
Mask Masters**

Craft a scaryface inspired by creepy crawlies and beastly bugs.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October  
Weird Wednesday**

Something strange will be going on – games to play and fun to be had. Come dressed up in your weirdest monster outfit.

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October  
Mown and Grown**

Create your own monster and bring it to life, just like Dr Frankenstein!

**£2.70 per participating child. Activities are at 11am, 12noon, 2pm and 3pm. No booking required.**

**The Higgins Bedford, Castle Lane, Bedford MK40 3XD**

Web [www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk](http://www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk) Email [thehiggins@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:thehiggins@bedford.gov.uk) phone **01234 718618**

