



Biggleswade News

September 2022

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Public Realm Team

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II



It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Her Majesty and also with some shock, since it has seemed for most of our lifetimes that she would always be there. She has set such an example of duty and service to our nation, always steadying the ship when needed.

How wonderful that we were able to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee so recently, an event which showed how much she has been loved and revered by her subjects.

All of us in public service can learn so much from her example, her wisdom and her hard work.

May Her Majesty the Queen rest in peace, God save the King.

A book of condolence is available at the Town Council Offices from 9th September 2022 until the 19th September 2022.

If you wish to lay flowers in Biggleswade, these should be laid at the Garden of Remembrance at St Andrews Church or other places of worship.

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION



The Town Council conducted a Proclamation Service on Sunday 11th September 2022 at 2pm. The service was held at the War Memorial in the Market Square, Biggleswade.

The service was well attended by members of the public, Town Councillors and Town Council staff.

The Mayor of Biggleswade read an official Proclamation followed by the singing of the National Anthem.



BIGGLESWADE'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



Referendum
Thursday 6th October 2022

Use Your Vote, Have Your Say

BIGGLESWADE'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CONTINUED...

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan contains planning policies, which will be used to inform decisions on planning applications. The Town Council worked with a group of residents and councillors to put together a plan for Biggleswade. The process involved various stages of community engagement and formal consultation and a rigorous examination to ensure that the Plan meets legal requirements. The Plan is now ready for residents to have their say via a referendum.

What does Biggleswade's plan include?

- Helping to ensure that development is well-designed and sustainable
- Designating 15 Local Green Spaces, including Back Meadows, the Jubilee Wood and the allotments, and also protecting the Common and Green Wheel
- Encouraging diversification of the Town Centre, enhancing its vitality
- Supporting employment-related development, subject to considering impacts on residential properties and the local environment
- Protecting the historic environment, including the Conservation Area in the town centre, and supporting the sensitive use of listed buildings
- Providing better facilities for cycling and walking and mobility scooters, and ensuring proper access for emergency vehicles
- Encouraging the development of community, sports and recreation facilities, particularly football, and seeking further land for allotments

What happens if the plan receives a majority “yes” vote?

If successful at referendum, the Neighbourhood Plan has to be ‘made’ and becomes part of the statutory development plan, so will have to be considered with the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan and national policy in making decisions on planning applications. If the Neighbourhood Plan is rejected, only national and Local Plan policies will apply, as at present.

Where can you read the full Neighbourhood Plan?

The Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed on the Town Council's website and printed copies are available to consult at the Town Council offices on Saffron Road.

Please have your say on Thursday 6th October

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN CONSULTATION

The Town Council would like to thank everyone who responded to the Public Works Loan consultation. The majority of respondents approved of the Town Council applying for a Public Works Loan to fund transformational works throughout the town.

If the application is successful, the funding from the Public Works Loan will allow the Council to create a high-quality environment with green spaces to promote healthy lifestyles and help improve the physical and mental wellbeing of residents.



Over the course of five years, the Town Council aspires to use this complimentary funding to update, maintain and transform recreation space.

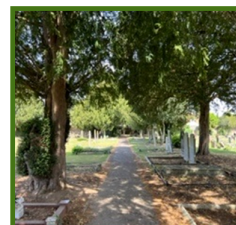
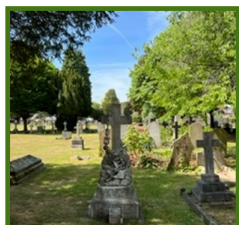
More information will be shared in the near future.



Thank you to everyone who had their say during the Public Works Loan Consultation.

This investment will help improve social inclusion through investing in public spaces.

The Town Council will allocate funding to increase the number of allotment plots available to Biggleswade residents.



COUNCILLOR GRANT FAGE

Town Mayor

As of May 2022, Biggleswade Town Council welcomed Cllr Grant Fage as Mayor of Biggleswade (2022/23).

Cllr Fage joined the council in 2017, serving as Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the Town Centre Management Committee. He has always had an active role in the Council, most notably for leading on several complex planning applications. Since taking on the new position, Cllr Fage is actively supporting various charities. Cllr Fage will be hosting a curry night this September (2022) in aid of his nominated charities.



Cllr Fage said: "It's a tremendous honour to accept this position as Mayor of Biggleswade and be able to represent the town at such a crucial time. Over the coming decades our town will face enormous change - the choices ahead of us as councillors, and the decisions that we make, will shape Biggleswade for a long time to come".

COUNCILLOR MADELINE RUSSELL

Deputy Mayor

Mayor of Biggleswade May 2019 – May 2022



The town has also been blessed with an outstanding Deputy Mayor, Councillor Madeline Russell. Cllr Russell has spent the last few years helping to develop the Town Council as Mayor and has led on the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Russell said: "As Deputy Mayor, I look forward to continuing to lead on strategic issues, including lobbying and planning for further infrastructure. There is still much to do to ensure that the Council is both effective and well-equipped for its growing responsibilities".

THE MAYORS NEWS & EVENTS



Sunday 22nd May 2022
Mayor Grant Fage and Deputy Mayor Madeline Russell represented Biggleswade at the Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire's service of thanksgiving at St Mary's Church in Luton, celebrating Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



Earlier this year June 2022
The grand opening of Hobby Craft at A1 Retail Park, Biggleswade.



Saturday 25th June 2022
The opening of the "Trains at Trinity" exhibition at Biggleswade Methodist Church.



Friday 1st July 2022
The viewing of the newly renovated Biggleswade Dental Centre, on Saffron Road.



Monday 11th July 2022
Mayor Grant Fage attended a ceremony for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award for Voluntary Service, to celebrate the work of Biggleswade Good Neighbours.

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

During the month of June, we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. On Thursday 2nd June 2022, Cllr Grant Fage gave a short speech before joining the crowd in counting down to the lighting of the commemoration beacon. The event was then followed by performances, games and delicious food. On Sunday 5th June, the Mayor gave another speech before lighting the beacon once more.



THE ORCHARD COMMUNITY CENTRE



WHAT IS THE ORCHARD CENTRE?

The Orchard Community Centre has a range of facilities available to the community.

From celebrating a birthday, to ballet for babies, the Orchard Centre is the place to be.

Check out our social media for regular updates on what goes on at the Orchard Centre @biggleswadeTC.

NEW DEFIBRILLATOR

During the summer, the Town Council arranged for a defibrillator to be placed outside the Orchard Community Centre.

This allows for the defibrillator to be accessible to everyone 24/7.

In the event that the defibrillator is deployed, please ensure that the defibrillator is returned to the cabinet and the Town Council are informed of its use.



HOW TO BOOK THE CENTRE

If you wish to hire either the training room or the main hall at the Orchard Centre, please contact the Centre using the below details.

Tel:
01767 348020

Email:
OrchardCC@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk

The Council are currently working on the creation of an online booking system which will be available to members of the public shortly.

THE ORCHARD CENTRE FACILITIES

The Orchard Centre has two rooms for hire, along with an accessible kitchen.

The Council currently employs two caretakers who ensure that the rooms are set up as requested and that the building is kept clean and tidy for its visitors.

The Council also offers a 20% discount for local charities & not for profit organisations who would like to book a space at the Orchard Centre.

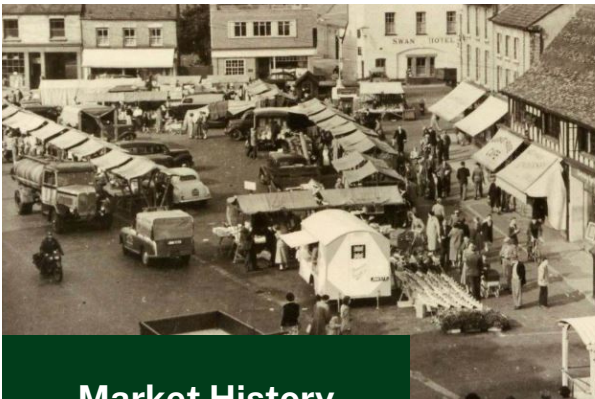


THE CHARTER MARKET

Did you know?

Pop-up stalls of any kind are welcome to come and join the market!
For £15 a week, you could put your business in the heart of Biggleswade.

For more information, contact:
enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk



Market History

Biggleswade has held a weekly market dating back to the 12th century. However, it wasn't until 1227 that it was granted full market town status by King Henry III. The main charter market is held at 8:00am - 15:00pm on Saturdays and Tuesdays in the Market Square



Specialist Markets

Due to the past success of themed markets like Christmas and Easter, Biggleswade Charter Market are planning to launch more themed markets. If you run your own themed market and are interested in coming to Biggleswade, please contact: enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk



What types of stalls are there?

- Fresh food
- Plants & shrubs
- Children's clothing
- Gift wrap
- Pet treats



Community & Charity stalls

Biggleswade Charter Market offers the opportunity for local charities, community groups and not-for-profit organisations to have a market stall stand twice a year
For more information, contact: enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk



THE PUBLIC REALM TEAM



MAINTAINING THE TOWN

The Public Realm Team maintain green spaces throughout the community.

Earlier this year, the Public Realm Team, together with the Biggleswade Rotary Club, planted a range of new flowers on the Sainsbury's bridge.

The Public Realm Team strim grass, plant and water flowers, maintain hedges and complete litter picking throughout the areas that the Town Council manage. The team plan on reviewing the waste management procedures at the allotments and aim to find a more ecological means of waste transfer.

NEWS & UPDATES

CCTV Provision



Biggleswade Town Council has agreed a new and improved CCTV strategy that would see the installation of eight fixed cameras and two mobile cameras across the Town Centre. Locations have been decided based on the analysis of crime statistics and feedback from residents. The Town Council recognises the immediate need to improve CCTV infrastructure with the increased crime rate, particularly within the Town Centre. Funding is currently being reviewed in collaboration with Central Bedfordshire Council.

New Benches

In 2021, the benches in the Town Centre were extensively re-furnished. The work included painting and sanding the benches, as well as replacing pieces of wood where necessary.

A second bench has also been installed at the old Buttercup Mead Play site.



War Memorial



Biggleswade Town Council recently completed painting works at the War Memorial. With thanks to Corinthian Stone, the cenotaph and the names of the fallen have now been restored to full glory.

The War Memorial is now ready for our annual Remembrance Sunday Event.

Follow our Social Channels

The Town Council are regularly updating Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages with news and information regarding both the Town Council and the town.

To keep up to date with the latest news and events, follow the Town Councils social media @biggleswadetc.



Rose Lane Car Park



In August 2022, Biggleswade Town Council conducted essential maintenance works to the drainage system of Rose Lane Car Park.

This work was undertaken to help rectify issues relating to flooding.

UPCOMING EVENTS

What's happening in Biggleswade in the coming months?



Remembrance Day Parade & Service

When: Sunday 13th November 2022.

Where: The Market Square.

Biggleswade Remembrance Day parade line-up at 10:00am and commencing at 10:15am.

Annual service at 10:45am.

Come & join us on Remembrance Sunday for the annual service led by The Reverend Liz Oglesby-Elong.

This event allows everyone in the community to come together and remember those who fought for our country in the First and Second World Wars.



Photos of Remembrance Day 2021



Christmas Fair & Light Switch On

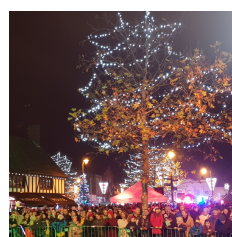
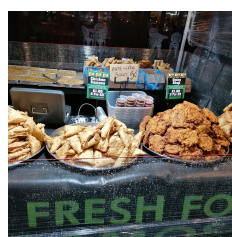
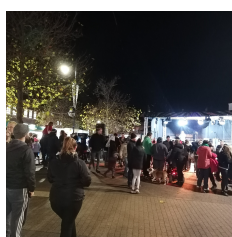
When: Friday 25th November 2022.

Where: Biggleswade Market Square.

The annual Christmas Fair and Light Switch On event will be held between 12pm - 8pm this year.

Get ready to enjoy a festive night of fun, games, music and food.

Most importantly, join us for the tree lighting ceremony.



Photos of the Christmas Fair 2021

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Please note that councillor email addresses are all @biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk

For further information on Councillors, meetings and many other Council services please visit:
www.biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk

If you are unable to visit the website please visit or contact the Town Hall:
enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk

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