



Biggleswade News

March 2023

In this edition...

Page 1



King Charles III Coronation

Page 2



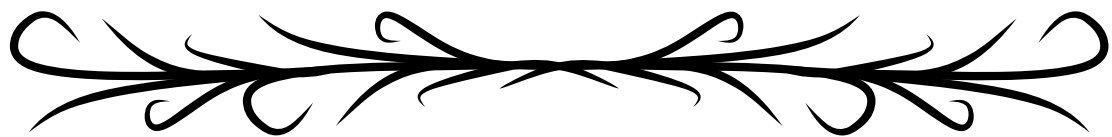
Public Works Loan Update

Page 5



Orchard Community Centre Update





KING CHARLES III CORONATION



Saturday 6th May 2023



The Coronation of His Majesty The King will take place on Saturday 6th May 2023, at Westminster Abbey in London, and will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Ceremony will see His Majesty King Charles III crowned alongside The Queen Consort.

To mark the Coronation, the Town Council will be holding a 'Coronation Big Lunch' in Biggleswade Market Square on Sunday 7th May 2023, from 12pm - 6pm.

The event will include live entertainment and a variety of food stalls. To allow as many members of the public to attend, the Town Council will be providing additional tables and chairs.

Further details will be announced in due course.



PUBLIC WORKS LOAN CONSULTATION

6th March 2023 - 3rd April 2023

Biggleswade Town Council are applying for the second wave of the Public Works Loan, to continue our long term investments in the town.

This type of loan is given to Public Bodies to help fund their capital projects.

The Town Council aims to improve the environment of the town as a whole as well as ensuring that public spaces are well maintained.

As articulated in our Neighbourhood Plan, the Town Council's vision is that Biggleswade will nurture a high quality environment with green spaces to promote healthy lifestyles.

This loan will allow the Council to invest in a range of projects to transform the Biggleswade landscape.

Biggleswade Town Council would love to hear your views.

For more information please click [here](#)

For any enquiries, please contact Biggleswade Town Council: enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk

To have your say, please click here: <https://forms.office.com/e/KubQtR60CT>

Comment by 3rd April 2023

2023/24 Works will focus on:

- Enhancement to the towns allotment offering
- Refurbishment of further play areas in the town
- Ongoing refurbishment of Drove Road Chapel
- Maintenance and refurbishment of Stratton Way Cemetery



THE MAYOR'S NEWS & EVENTS



Sunday 6th November 2022

Mayor Grant Fage had the pleasure of attending the Biggleswade & District Art Society's gallery at the Weatherley Centre.



Thursday 25th November 2022

The Town Mayor attended the Christmas Light Switch On. In his speech, Cllr Fage thanked the council officers for all their hard work in arranging this event, as well as all those who turned up on the night.



Wednesday 27th November 2022

Grant Fage attended the Made In The Wade craft fair at Stratton School. With over 60 stalls and a live choir, it certainly got the Christmas shopping started.



Friday 9th December 2022

The new HBC Logistics warehouse was opened by Mayor Grant Fage in December 2022. This new warehouse is located at Stratton Business Park and has brought about further employment opportunities in Biggleswade.



Saturday 10th December 2022

Biggleswade Amateur Theatrical Society performed a pantomime of Sleeping Beauty. Mayor Grant Fage attended this entertaining event and thoroughly enjoyed the performance from the cast.



Monday 26th December 2022

Biggleswade Football Club had a match against Biggleswade Town Football Club. The game was attended by the Mayor who congratulated both teams on their brilliant performance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Civic Service

When: 12th March 2023 at 12:30pm

Where: St. Andrews Church, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire

The event acknowledges and celebrates community groups and voluntary organisations within Biggleswade.

The theme for this years event is *A Welcoming Community*.





PUBLIC WORKS LOAN

Drove Road Chapel Restoration Works

There has been significant progress made to restore the 19th Century Chapel at Drove Road Cemetery to its former condition.

This is predicted to be a 3 year project.

Back in November 2022, scaffolding was erected to allow the first phase of work to begin.

Phase 1 of the project was completed in February 2023 which saw work to repair ventilators, re-glaze windows, re-point bricks and repair stones.

Phase 2 works will include window and joinery repairs, French drain installation and redecoration.

Phase 3 works will include electrical upgrading and boundary wall repairs.

Access to and around the Chapel building will be restricted for the duration of these works to ensure the health and safety of residents and construction workers. There is no limitation to access the Cemetery.

Franklins Play Area Upgrade

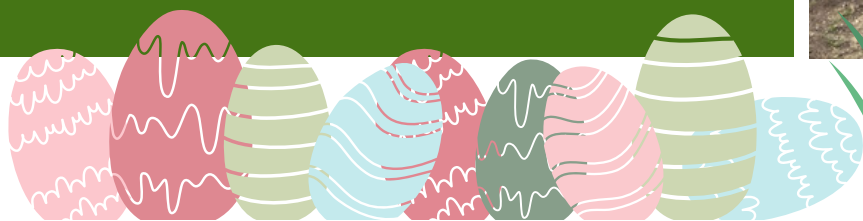
In January 2023, the Town Council began its transformational works at Franklins Play Area.

The public can expect to enjoy exciting new wood and steel play equipment, with a greater number of play features.

The Public Realm Team, with the assistance of an external contractor, will create a fantastic new landscaped environment to match the town's flagship space.

The majority of Franklins Recreation Ground remains open for the public to enjoy whilst the works take place.

This project is predicted to be finished by Spring 2023.



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 ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM

The Orchard Community Centre now offers an online booking system that allows members of the public to book the Centre facilities online!

To access the new online booking system, please visit the following link:
<https://TheOrchardCommunityCentre.as.me/>



EVENT HIRE AT THE ORCHARD

Whether its a small group or a private party that requires the whole centre, you can book according to your needs.

The Orchard Community Centre also offers discounts if you'd wish to hire the venue on a recurring basis (for community activities).

For more information, please visit the following link:
<https://biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk/services/orchard-centre-biggleswade/>



NEWS & UPDATES



New Defibrillator Location



It has been confirmed that the new defibrillator donated by Taylor Wimpey will be placed within Stratton Way changing rooms.

Biggleswade Town Council have arranged for a code to be placed outside the changing rooms so that it can be accessed as quickly as possible in an emergency.

Burial Database Update

The Town Council's Administration Team are continuing work to provide free online access to all burial records in Stratton Way and Drove Road Cemetery. This will allow members of the public to search for a relative's burial records and to locate plots through an online map. More updates to follow in due course.



New Allotment Plots



Biggleswade Town Council have been working to create an additional 24 half plots at the allotment site. The new plots are expected to be available from March 2023 and offered to those on the current allotment waiting list.

Commonwealth Wargrave Signage

Commonwealth War Grave signs have now been placed at the front and rear of Drove Road Cemetery to commemorate those who passed away in the first and second world wars.

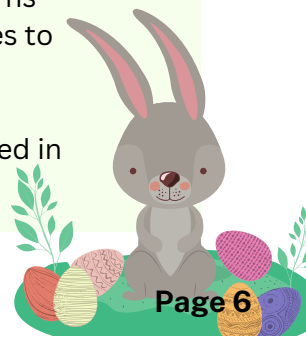


ASDA Car Parks



Cllr Madeline Russell has escalated Biggleswade Town Council's concerns about ASDA's reduced parking times to the company chairman.

Updates on progress will be provided in due course.



COMMUNITY NEWS



Bike Racks

Hire bicycles will soon be coming to Biggleswade thanks to investment from Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity.

Biggleswade Town Council have recently approved use of Franklins Recreation Ground, the Dan Albone Car Park and the lakes near Windermere Drive as locations where the bikes can be parked. Additional bike racks will be installed at these locations.

More information will be provided in due course.

Lisa King Biggleswade Community Agent

Lisa is employed by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity & Funded by Biggleswade Town Council.

Lisa offers a free, confidential service that helps residents access information and services.

This service can be accessed via email or telephone.

You can contact Lisa on 07534 484750 or by email at lisak@bedsrcc.org.uk.

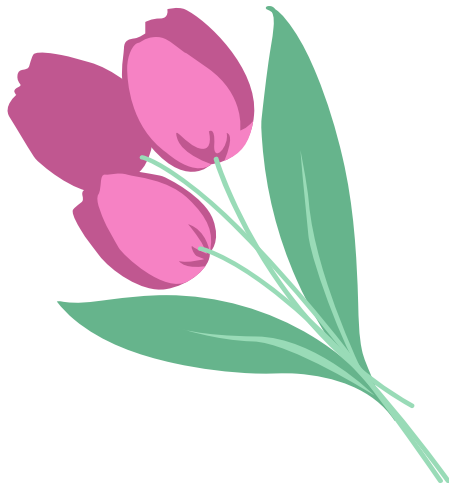


Tree Felling

Four trees were removed from Biggleswade Market Square in recent months by Central Bedfordshire Council after being deemed unsafe.



MAYOR GRANT FAGE'S EASTER MESSAGE



It has been a very busy start to the year for the Town Council.

With work underway at Franklins Recreation Ground, the council is putting a six-figure investment into the town's oldest play area. This will be a great addition to the west side of Biggleswade, which benefits less from the new play areas provided on Kings Reach.

Our officers are also working hard on upcoming events in the town centre, including for the coronation of HM King Charles III. It's sure to be a truly historic occasion!

There are also ongoing efforts to get a grip of strategic priorities, including influencing the bus routes around the town as the new interchange becomes operational, and fighting hard for the best possible infrastructure as planning applications continue to come forward.

As we enter in to the local elections period, this remains a crucial time for our town, with big decisions continuing to come our way.

Wherever you are spending the Easter break, whether in Biggleswade or elsewhere, please have an enjoyable rest with friends and family.





BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCILLORS



MAYOR
GRANT FAGE
07748 512312
Email: grant.fage@
HOLME WARD



DUNCAN STRACHAN
01767 225919
Email: duncan.strachan@
HOLME WARD



MARK FOSTER
01767 220250
Email: mark.foster@
HOLME WARD



HAZEL RAMSAY
01767 312874
Email: hazel.ramsay@
HOLME WARD



MICHAEL NORTH
01767 600715
Email: michael.north@
HOLME WARD



COLIN THOMAS
07940 053496
Email: colin.thomas@
STRATTON WARD



MARK KNIGHT
07753 250584
Email: mark.knight@
STRATTON WARD



LESLEY FAGE
07709 859108
Email: lesley.fage@
STRATTON WARD



ROBERT PULLINGER
07989 987147
Email: robert.pullinger@
STRATTON WARD



JONATHAN WOODHEAD
07719 888476
Email: jonathan.woodhead@
STRATTON WARD



IAN BOND
01767 313663
Email: ian.bond@
IVEL WARD



KEVIN BROWN
01767 225325
Email: kevin.brown@
IVEL WARD



DEPUTY MAYOR
MADELINE RUSSELL
01767 312966
Email: madeline.russell@
IVEL WARD



DAVID ALBONE
01767 221385
Email: david.albone@
IVEL WARD



FRANK FOSTER
01767 314027
Email: frank.foster@
IVEL WARD



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

Biggleswade Town Council, 4 Saffron Road, Biggleswade SG18 8DL.
Telephone: 01767 313134

