Biggleswade News

December 2022

In this edition...

The Neighbourhood Plan



Page 1

Public Works Loan



Page 2

Remembrance Sunday



Page 6

BIGGLESWADE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM

The Neighbourhood Plan passed referendum on 6th October 2022.

The Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan was formally adopted by Central Bedfordshire Council on 17th October 2022.

The Neighbourhood Plan now sits alongside the Local Plan prepared by Central Bedfordshire Council and the National Planning Policy Framework as a legal planning document. The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan will be used to decide future planning applications for Biggleswade.

Cllr Madeline Russell, Deputy Mayor of Biggleswade and Chairman of the Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan Strategy Group, commented "I am delighted that Biggleswade residents have welcomed the Plan. The Strategy Group has worked hard for over four years to create policies which will ensure that the best of Biggleswade is preserved as the town develops".

Cllr Grant Fage, Mayor of Biggleswade, said "This is a resounding vote of support for a Plan which gives Biggleswade a greater say over how planning applications affect our town."

Biggleswade Town Council wish to thank everyone who voted.

The result of the referendum was as follows:

Yes: 1857 (83.35%)
No: 371 (16.65%)
Turnout: 13.5%



To view the Neighbourhood Plan document please click this link:
https://biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Biggleswade-NP-Referendum-1-Sept-2022-V8.6.pdf

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN

Overview of updates

Biggleswade Town Council have secured a £425k loan from the Public Works Loan Board which will be invested in a range of capital infrastructure projects.



Franklins Play Area Regeneration Update

The works to our flagship Recreation Ground are expected to commence from December 2022 and are due to be completed by Spring 2023. The project will create a completely regenerated space for everyone to enjoy.

All play equipment will be replaced with new age-appropriate fully inclusive equipment. A large amount of landscaping will be completed to deliver attractive zones within the Recreation Ground. Access for all will be secured by improving the main gates.

A tender exercise has been completed, a preferred supplier has been nominated, and a detailed plan has been signed off.

Further details will follow as the project gains momentum.

Further updates regarding the Public Works Loan are coming soon.

Drove Road Chapel Update

This project will return the Chapel to its former glory. The contractor is installing scaffolding and securing the site in December 2022.







Allotment Improvement Works

The Town Council will be investing in improvement works at the Kennel Farm Road Allotment Site.

The Council will be developing the west side of the site by landscaping the existing mounds, removing the composting bays and delivering fifteen new half allotment plots. The Council are working to provide an effective solution to the flooded half plots on the east side by installing new micro planters and completing additional landscaping.

The Council will provide regular updates through social media postings.

THE MAYOR'S NEWS & EVENTS



Wednesday 31st August 2022
The Mayor, Cllr Grant Fage, attended the welcome service for Rev. Leslie Noon at Biggleswade Methodist Church. The Mayor is looking forward to working with Rev. Noon for the betterment of the community.



Thursday 8th September 2022
Local resident Betty Constant celebrated her 100th birthday on the 8th September 2022. Betty was presented with flowers and a birthday card from the Mayor, on behalf of Biggleswade Town Council.



Wednesday 28th September 2022
Local resident Dorothy Campion was presented with flowers and a birthday card from Mayor Grant Fage, on behalf of Biggleswade Town Council, on her 100th birthday



Sunday 11th September 2022
Following the sad passing of Her Majesty The Queen, The Mayor, Cllr Grant Fage, read the Proclamation of Accession in the Town Centre.



Saturday 17th September 2022
The annual St Andrew's Church country fete was opened by Mayor Grant Fage in mid September. The event was well attended, raising over £3,000 for the Church's charities.



Saturday 23rd October 2022
Biggleswade & District Choral Society hosted a concert at St Andrew's Church which was attended by the Town Mayor.

THE MAYOR'S CURRY NIGHT

On 29th September 2022, the Mayor hosted his first fundraising event for St John's Hospice and the British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal. The Mayor invited over 50 guests for a curry night at Biggles Lounge, with special guest Elvis Presley.

The event raised over £1,500 for the Mayor's nominated charities.

The Mayor looks forward to hosting similar events in the future.



PUBLIC REALM TEAM

Biggleswade Town Council's Public Realm Team continue to play an important role in the upkeep and maintenance of public areas in Biggleswade. Some of their key duties include grass cutting and weeding, football pitch marking and pavilion cleaning.

The team recently completed the installation of new flower bedding to a range of areas within the town.

The team continue to complete:
The weekly inspections of many play areas within Biggleswade,
Ensuring the smooth-running of interments at Stratton Way and Drove Road Cemetery,
Erecting gazebos for the Saturday and Tuesday Markets,
Litter picking at various locations within the town,
Emptying and maintaining the Council's car park machines, and
Opening and closing the tennis courts and the Century House public toilets.

During the autumn and winter months, the team complete additional leaf clearance and pruning works in the many green areas throughout the town. Their work provides for more attractive areas and better services for residents and visitors to enjoy.
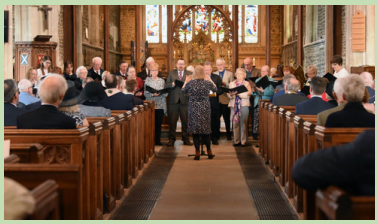


Flowers planted along Sainsbury's Bridge.



Members of Biggleswade Town Council's Public Realm Team supporting the Remembrance Parade and Service.



A member of Biggleswade Town Council's Public Realm Team preparing for the Remembrance Parade and Service.



Upcoming Event

Civic Service

When: 12th March 2023 at 3pm
Where: St. Andrews Church, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire









Photos of Civic Service 2022

THE ORCHARD COMMUNITY CENTRE



WHAT IS THE ORCHARD CENTRE?

The Orchard Community Centre offers facilities for events and meetings. Members of the public can hire either the larger main hall or the smaller training room for clubs, parties or meetings. The facilities are well maintained with dedicated staff at the premises to assist hirers during their booking.

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.

EVENTS AT THE ORCHARD

If you wish to hire out The Orchard Community Centre for any future event, please use the following contact details for enquiries:

Tel:
01767 348020

Email:
OrchardCC@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk

For information regarding pricing for the Community Centre please click the following link:

https://biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk/services/orchard-centre-biggleswade/



NEW ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM

There will shortly be a new online booking system for the Orchard Community Centre.

This new system will make it much more convenient for members of the public to book facilities at the Centre.

Once the booking system is live, the Town Council will inform residents through social media.



REMEMBRANCE PARADE AND SERVICE

Sunday 13th November 2022

The Remembrance Day Parade and Service was held on Sunday 13th November 2022 in the Market Square. The service was led by the Reverend Liz Oglesby-Elong.

A parade took place along Hitchin Street and the High Street to the War Memorial, followed by the Roll of Honour, a two minute silence, and wreath-laying.

The ceremony was live streamed onto the Town Council's Facebook page and Youtube channel.

To see a copy of the Order of Service, please click here.



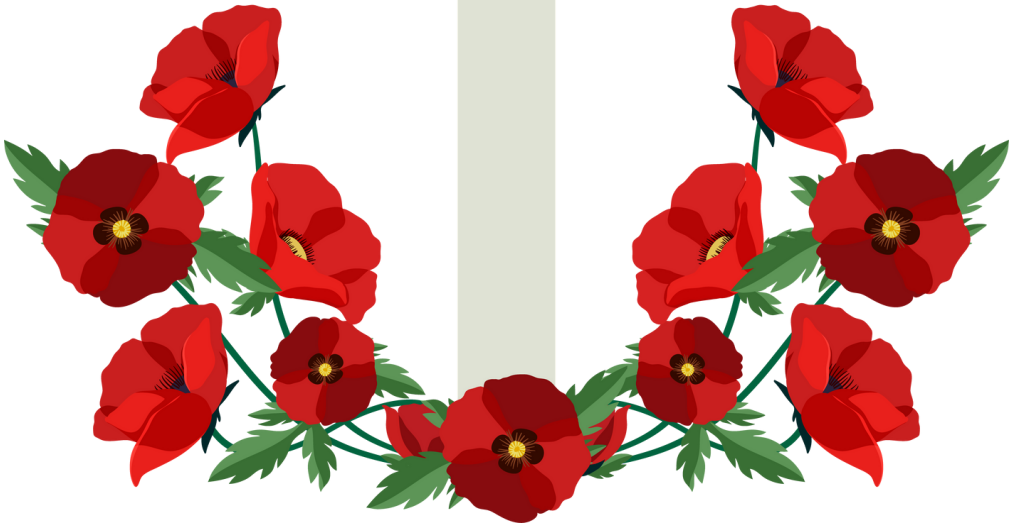








Lest We Forget









Photographs by Nashay Neufville

CHRISTMAS FAIR & LIGHT SWITCH ON

Friday 25th November 2022

The Town Council held its annual Christmas Fair & Light Switch On within the Market Square on Friday 25th November 2022. The event was well attended and enjoyed by members of the public.

The fair had a variety of stalls offering everything from crafts and jewellery to cupcakes and burgers.

There were performances throughout the day from Biggleswade Schools, Community Groups and bands.

Biggleswade Town Council would like to thank everyone that participated in the event.







Photographs by Paul Langshaw




NEWS & UPDATES

Drove Road Signage



An application has recently been submitted by the Town Council to erect a Commonwealth War Graves Commission entrance sign at Drove Road Cemetery. The sign commemorates those laid to rest at Drove Road Cemetery who died in the First and Second World Wars. The sign is expected to be installed within the next 12 months.

Online Booking System for Football Pitches

A new online booking system for booking Biggleswade's football pitches will be live shortly.

This will allow members of the public to easily book a Biggleswade football pitch online through the Town Council's website.

Further updates will follow in due course.



Cemetery Updates



The Town Council is currently in the process of providing 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 Defibrillator Cabinet

Taylor Wimpey have kindly donated a defibrillator unit.

The location for the new defibrillator will be disclosed at a later date.



Play Areas Project



Biggleswade Town Council would like to invite all users of its play areas to provide feedback on their experience. These contributions will inform the design of the upgraded playing fields.

Please send feedback through by email to enquiry@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk

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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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MAYOR GRANT FAGES' CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



As we move in to the Christmas period, we do so in very different circumstances from previous years - having long passed the worst of the COVID times into a more buoyant end to 2021, sadly now challenges are fast approaching as the cost-of-living starts to bite and the economic consequences of war in Ukraine begin to take their toll.

We remain fortunate in Biggleswade that work opportunities are holding up well however my thoughts this Christmas are with all of those who are worried about having the heating on through winter and managing finances through a demanding time of the year.

Our Councillors and Town Council Officers have worked hard throughout 2022 to make Biggleswade a town which we can be proud of, with cleaner play areas, prettier green spaces, safer streets, a thriving weekly market, and a vibrant Town Centre hosting events for the whole family to enjoy... there is always more to do but a special "thank you" is owed to our staff, Councillors and the amazing voluntary organisations who do so much to keep Biggleswade going.

Throughout this festive period, in Biggleswade our small businesses are facing ever higher costs and are working harder than ever to keep their heads above water... if you are able to shop locally this year, enjoying our pubs and restaurants, using the town's butchers and bakeries, and finding some great gift ideas at the market, I know that this would mean a huge amount to them.

Christmas is a time to come together with friends and family, sharing gifts with those we love and creating memories which last a lifetime - please end the year with a well-earned break, as I will be.

From all at Biggleswade Town Council, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Biggleswade Town Council
wish you a Merry Christmas
and a
Happy and Healthy 2023

