



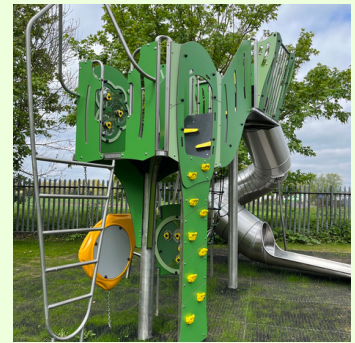
# Biggleswade News

June 2023



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# 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 loan to fund capital works throughout the town.

If the application is successful, the funding will help to improve the environment of the town as a whole as well as ensuring that public spaces are well maintained.



Thank you to everyone who responded to the Public Works Loan Consultation.



If successful, the Town Council has the ambition to:

- Enhance the towns allotment offering;
- Refurbish further play areas in the town;
- Continue to refurbish Drove Road Chapel;
- Refurbish Stratton Way Cemetery.



# COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION PLAQUE UNVEILING CEREMONY



On Friday 17th March 2023, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Plaques at Drove Road Cemetery were officially unveiled.

The plaques commemorate the nineteen Commonwealth servicemen buried at Drove Road Cemetery who passed away in the First and Second World Wars to help ensure they will never be forgotten.

The ceremony was officiated by Rosemary Bentley, of St Andrew's Parish Church, The Reverend Martin Ceaser, Biggleswade Baptist Church, and The Reverend Leslie Noon, Trinity Methodist Church.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Biggleswade Royal British Legion, Biggleswade Town Councillors and Officers, and Mac MacDonald from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

# PUBLIC WORKS LOAN

## Franklins Recreation Ground

Biggleswade Town Council is pleased to announce that the transformation work carried out at the flagship Franklins Recreation Ground play and leisure space is now complete. The recreation space is now open for all of the community to enjoy.

Biggleswade Town Council extends its thanks to the external contractors and the Public Realm Team for all their hard work in turning this vital outdoor space into a welcoming and fit-for-purpose space for all ages and physical abilities to enjoy. The new wood and steel play equipment will serve the children of Biggleswade for many years to come and with over 1400 plants and trees installed by the Public Realm Team giving the area a fresh look, we hope to see this area play host to a larger number of visitors this year than ever before.

Franklins Recreation Ground is the first of a series of Play Areas that are being redeveloped as part of the wider Play Areas and Green Spaces Project. As of May 2023, Franklins Recreation Ground and Buttercup Mead redevelopments have been completed and announcements for future plans will be forthcoming in the near future.

Please keep an eye on our website, Facebook Page and Twitter for updates and photo's. Please tag us in your photos using [#franklinsrec](#).

## Drove Road Chapel

The Town Council are pleased to confirm that Phase 1 of the Drove Road Chapel restoration works have now been completed. This has seen the repair of ventilators, re-glazing windows, re-pointing bricks and repairing stonework.

The Town Council are now in the process of beginning Phase 2 works which will include window and joinery repairs, french drain installation and redecoration.

This is predicted to be a 3-year-project.





# THE ORCHARD COMMUNITY CENTRE



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## ABOUT THE ORCHARD

The Centre consists of two main rooms:

### Main Hall

The Main Hall is approximately 13 x 20 metres, with vinyl flooring and a high ceiling at 5 metres. Its maximum capacity is 120 people depending on use. The hall is available for classes, meetings, functions and parties.

### Training Room

The Training Room is approximately 7.5 x 9 metres. Its maximum capacity is 40 people depending on use. The room is available to all organisations and businesses in and around Biggleswade for training purposes and meetings.

### Booking process

An online booking system system is now available. To view, click [here](#).  
Hire charges for 2023-24 can be found [here](#).





# BIGGLESWADE MARKET

## Did you know?

Biggleswade Market is held within Biggleswade's popular and well-visited Town Centre, surrounded by over one hundred different businesses, shops and eateries.

Biggleswade is a thriving and rapidly expanding town with a current population of 23,000. Furthermore, the town has easy access to the A1 and is situated 40 miles north of London and 20 miles south-west of Cambridge with good rail links to both cities.

There is also free parking on Saturday in all of the Town Council managed car parks which attracts further visitors to the Town Centre.

The Town Council erects gazebos for the Biggleswade Market to make it more convenient for stallholders.

For only £17 a week, you could place your business in the heart of Biggleswade.

For more information, contact: [market@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:market@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk)



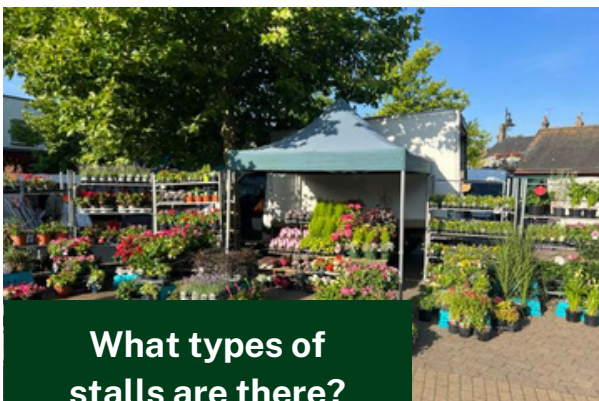
## Market History

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: [market@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:market@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk).



## What types of stalls are there?

- Fresh food and baked goods
- Plants & shrubs
- Clothing
- Gift wrap
- Pet treats
- Hardware



## 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: [market@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:market@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk)



# COUNCILLOR MARK FOSTER

## Town Mayor

As of May 2023, Biggleswade Town Council welcomed Cllr Mark Foster as Mayor (2023/24).

The Mayor of Biggleswade is elected by their fellow Councillors at the Annual Statutory Meeting in May each year.

The Mayor's role is to chair Council meetings in accordance with Standing Orders and conduct the meeting in a fair and impartial manner. The Mayor also represents Biggleswade at civic events and local and community events during the year.

"I am deeply honoured and privileged to accept the role of Mayor of Biggleswade," said Cllr Mark Foster. "Having grown up in this town, I understand the unique needs and aspirations of our residents. I am committed to making decisions that will benefit our community and ensure its continued progress."



# COUNCILLOR MARK KNIGHT

## Deputy Mayor



The Town Council is also pleased to announce that Cllr Mark Knight will take up the role of Deputy Mayor for the year 2023-24. Cllr Knight has served on the Town Council since May 2019 and has provided invaluable contributions to the Town Centre Management Committee as Deputy Chairman from 2020 to 2021 and as Chairman from 2021 to 2023.

Deputy Mayor Cllr Knight said "I'm honoured that my colleagues have elected me to serve as Deputy Mayor. As we start a new four-year term following the May 2023 election, this first year is an important time to consider how the Town Council will improve services and the environment for the benefit of our community. I look forward to working closely with all my colleagues, including the Town Clerk, and Mayor Cllr Mark Foster, to deliver for Biggleswade."



# THE OUTGOING MAYOR'S NEWS & EVENTS



**Thursday 6th March 2023**

Councillor Grant Fage, Mayor of Biggleswade for the year 2022-23, had the pleasure of attending the opening of the new Willow Foundation shop on the High Street.



**Saturday 22nd April 2023**

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor Grant Fage, showed his support for the arts in Biggleswade by attending the East Beds Concert Band's Spring performance at Stratton School.

## THE OUTGOING MAYOR'S CHOSEN CHARITIES

Cllr Grant Fage, Mayor of Biggleswade for the year 2022-23, chose to support Sue Ryder St John's Hospice and the British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal.

The Council are pleased to report that a total of £3,243.77 has been raised through a series of engaging fundraising events and generous contributions from the residents of Biggleswade.

This money will be split equally and donated to the two charities. Grant Fage wishes to thank all those who contributed. A particular thanks goes to Biggles Lounge for hosting the "Elvis and Curry Night" which raised over £1,500 and to St Andrew's Church for hosting the annual Civic Service which raised over £600.

Grant Fage also wishes to express his appreciation to Council Officers who arranged these successful fundraising events, as well as to all those who attended.





# NEWS & UPDATES

## Annual Assembly



The Annual Assembly was held on the 18th April 2023 at the Offices of Biggleswade Town Council, The Old Court House, 4 Saffron Road, Biggleswade.

To view the Annual Report, please click [here](#).

## Remembrance Service

Members of Biggleswade Town Council have started the planning process for the Remembrance Service event that will take place on the 12th November 2023.



## 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 upcycling unused land, which has created 23 new south-facing allotment plots.



## Christmas Fair & Light Switch On 2023



The Town Council has begun planning for the Christmas Fair & Light Switch On that will take place on the 24th November 2023 in Biggleswade Market Square.

The Town Council welcomes the participation of local groups and businesses at this event. If you would like to have a stall or to perform, please email: [isaac.lord@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:isaac.lord@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk)



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Play Areas Survey

Biggleswade Town Council are keen to understand your thoughts on the future of our play areas and what you would like to see.

To have your say, please click on the link [here](#).

## Grant Applications

Biggleswade Town Council (BTC) acknowledges the significant contribution that community clubs, charities and other organisations make to enrich and improve the quality of life of so many residents in Biggleswade. BTC has funds available to support the operation and development of these highly valued services.

Grant applications are now open.

All applications will be considered without prejudice on an individual basis.

To apply, click [here](#).

The deadline for receiving grant applications for the June to August cycle is 31st August 2023.

For more information, click [here](#).

Applicants can call the office on 01767 313134 or email [enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk) with any questions regarding the process.

## New Community Agent

Julie Balaam has recently taken on the role of Community Agent for Biggleswade.

Julie was appointed to help residents access information and services. She works with residents, particularly those struggling with an issue or those who are feeling socially isolated.

The service is free and confidential and includes offering advice to statutory and voluntary organisations and community groups. This service can be accessed over the phone or by email.

You can contact Julie on:  
07534 484750  
or by email:  
[julie.balaam@bedsrcc.org.uk](mailto:julie.balaam@bedsrcc.org.uk)





# PAST EVENTS

What's happened in Biggleswade recently?



## Civic Service

12th March 2023

Biggleswade Town Council would like to thank all those who attended the Civic Service. This event acknowledged and celebrated community groups and voluntary organisations within Biggleswade.

The theme for the service was 'A Welcoming Community'.

Biggleswade Town Council would like to give a special thank you to the Revd. Liz Oglesby-Elong for officiating, to St. Andrew's Church for hosting, to The Right Reverend Richard Atkinson OBE The Bishop of Bedford for preaching, the Biggleswade Choral Society for the music, and the Town Council staff for organising the event.



## Coronation Big Lunch

7th May 2023

To mark the Coronation of King Charles III, Biggleswade Town Council held a 'Coronation Big Lunch' in Biggleswade Market Square on Sunday 7th May 2023, from 12pm - 6pm.

The Coronation Big Lunch was a great event enjoyed by many. Residents came and experienced live entertainment as well as a number of food stalls that offered a range of different cuisines.



# BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCILLORS



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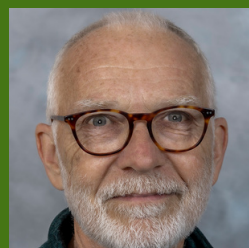
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Please note that councillor email addresses are all [@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk)

For further information on Councillors, meetings and many other Council services please visit:  
[www.biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk)

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

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