



Biggleswade News

March 2024



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News & Updates

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) has opened up an opportunity to support a range of projects of local community benefit broadly under the Government's Levelling Up agenda. While the UKSPF is managed at local level by Central Bedfordshire Council, Biggleswade Town Council can apply to them for appropriate funding within specific guidelines.

BTC Officers have now submitted a draft application to CBC for a range of Town Centre and Market Square improvements. The agreed priorities include:

- Levelling and resurfacing of pavements in the Market Square so that they are in keeping with the local architecture.
- Two informational digital signs with the option of live car parking data at the north and south gateways and a third in the Market Square.
- Six blue 'town centre' directional signs installed on CBC land at the main strategic entry points.
- Refresh of Century House Toilets including new doors and external steel water font.

Precept 2024-2025

The Precept is a tax that Town Council's charge their local electors to meet their services.

A precept increase of 5.5% was agreed by Town Council and a budget of £1.62m approved. In real terms, this equates to an additional sum of £10.64 per annum or 20p per week for a Band D property.

The Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee said *"I am pleased that the Council has been able to set the annual Council Tax precept at a level that will enable it to deliver an improved level of service for the Town. Officers and Councillors have worked exceptionally hard to produce a budget that complies with all statutory requirements with a Council Tax set that is realistic and affordable to not only maintain the quality of the Council's assets but also to improve the facilities."*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mayor's Civic Service

When: 17th March 2024, 1pm.

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
Empowering Youth, Shaping the Future.



Photos from the 2023 Civic Service



Crafty Artisan Markets

When:

For this quarter
9th March 2024
23rd March 2024
27th April 2024
25th May 2024

8am till 3pm.

Where: Biggleswade Market Square.

A sneaky peek of what to expect:
Macrame Marvels, Knitted & Crocheted
Creations, Handcrafted Sewn Bags,
Adorable Sewn Animal Antics, Unique
Handmade Jewellery, Stunning
Glasswork, Delicious Sweets, Cathy's
Homemade Soap Flower Gifts.



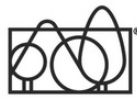
Tiny Forest Earthwatch Project

Working in partnership with Earthwatch and Central Bedfordshire Council, Biggleswade Town Council are proposing to plant around six hundred native trees on an area the size of a tennis court within Jubilee Gardens.

This woodland will take up less than a quarter of the green space available.

Exciting news!

tinyforest



Coming soon to
Jubilee Recreation Ground,
Biggleswade



WHAT IS A TINY FOREST?

A Tiny Forest is a dense and fast-growing native woodland made up of 600 native trees planted in an area the size of a tennis court. It is being created for the whole community to use and enjoy.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

- Earthwatch will soon be planting your Tiny Forest. We will host a celebratory community planting day where the local people can come together to create the Tiny Forest themselves. You can also become a Tree Keeper and play an active role in nurturing your Tiny Forest for years to come.
- If you'd like to get in touch, email us at tinyforest@earthwatch.org.uk.
- Please note that there will be little disruption as we prepare the site for planting.



Urban forests are very important for climate adaptation.



Trees retain water, increase local water storage, cool the local environment and take up carbon dioxide.



Tiny Forests supports rich wildlife and are capable of attracting over 500 animal and plant species within the first 3 years.



The whole community can use the Tiny Forest as a place to learn, play and enjoy nature.

Powered by:

earthwatch
EUROPE

To know more about Tiny Forest and how to get involved, please scan this QR code or visit: www.tinyforest.earthwatch.org.uk





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.

ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM

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

To access the online booking system, please visit the following link: <https://theorchardcommunitycentre.as.me/schedule.php>



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 Town Council website.



NEWS & UPDATES

Kitelands Play Area

In December of 2023, Tritax Symmetry finalised discussions regarding the Phase Two Community Benefit Fund. As part of this allocation, £57,700 has been designated for Biggleswade Town Council's Kitelands Recreation Ground improvement project.

This phase involves the establishment of a new toddlers' play area, complete with upgraded play equipment and enhanced ground surfacing. Mayor of Biggleswade Mark Foster expressed his appreciation, stating, *"The Town Council thank Tritax Symmetry for their investment in the local community. This additional funding is a valuable and much appreciated contribution to the Town Council's wider play area refurbishment programme"*. The work is scheduled to commence in March 2024.

Stratton Upper School 3G Pitch Opening

On the 1st of February 2024, the Mayor of Biggleswade, Mark Foster, inaugurated the new 3G football facility at the Stratton Upper School. Various Councillors from Biggleswade and Central Bedfordshire and the CEO of Bedfordshire FA, Alan Young, took part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Speaking at the inauguration, Principal Sam Farmer explained that the school had been awarded a £749,000 grant from the Football Foundation, as well as an additional £10,000 from the Langford and Biggleswade Windfarm Community Fund, £134,306 from Central Bedfordshire Council and partnership funding of £39,425 from The Meridian Trust.

This enabled the project to be delivered and ready for use in early 2024 whilst providing the local community with access to high-quality grassroots sports facilities.

The 3G pitch will also enable local football clubs in the area to access much needed training and match day facilities within Biggleswade.

35mm FILM



COMMUNITY NEWS



Photo courtesy of D-Day 80 Beacons

D-Day Anniversary

Biggleswade Town Council, the Royal British Legion and the Shuttleworth Collection will be supporting the D-Day Anniversary event to be held in the Market Square on the 6th June 2024, commencing at 2pm.

The event will include a commemorative service, vintage vehicles, lighting of the beacon and a variety of food and drink options.

The Town Council will be planning an event to commemorate the Anniversary of VE Day next year.

For further information, please keep a look out on the Town Council website and social media pages.

Community Agent

Julie Balaam is the Community Agent for Biggleswade.

The Community Agent post is part sponsored by the Town Council.

Julie helps residents access services and organisations to enable them to maintain independence at home or to get socially connected.

Julie can be contacted on:

Telephone: 07534484750

Email: julie.balaam@bedsrcc.org.uk



MAYOR MARK FOSTER'S EASTER MESSAGE



As we celebrate the joyous occasion of Easter, I would like to extend warm greetings to each and every one of you on behalf of the Town Council.

Easter is a time of renewal, hope, and reflection.

We at the Town Council have had a busy start to the year, with various projects underway such as the refurbishment of the Kitelands Recreation Ground. Last December we finalised discussions with Tritax Symmetry regarding the Phase Two Community Benefit Fund. As part of this allocation, £57,700 has been designated for the Kitelands Recreation Ground improvement project.

We envisage that the refurbishment of the Brunel Drive Play Area will also get underway soon.

The opening of the new 3G pitch at Stratton Upper School has brought the town a brand-new facility and will also enable local football clubs in the area to access much needed training and match day facilities within Biggleswade.

Our Officers are working hard on upcoming events such as the marking of the D-Day Anniversary which is amongst many ideas planned for the centre of Biggleswade this year. So watch this space!

May this Easter be a time of joy, peace, and fulfilment for all of us. On behalf of the Town Council, I wish you and your families a blessed and Happy Easter!

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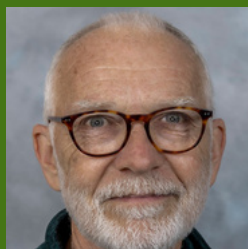
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Please note that Councillor email addresses are all @biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk

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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