



BIGGLESWADE BUSINESS FORUM

25TH JULY 2025
10:00 AM - 13:00 PM

**THE ORCHARD
COMMUNITY CENTRE,
BIGGLESWADE, SG18 8SZ**

FORUM OBJECTIVES:

For all delegates to;

1. Understand the current business local and big picture.
2. Identify opportunities for growth and change.
3. Tap into appropriate business support information sources.
4. Connect with other businesses and organisations to promote the town and wider surroundings as an excellent place to invest.

9:30AM

Arrival, registration and networking

10:00AM

Welcome, domestics, "Why are we here?"
(Town Mayor)

10:15AM

Actions from 1st July 2024 Business Forum,
(Town Clerk)

10:25AM

**Business in Bedfordshire, including Government
funding landscape**
(CBC Business Support Team)

11:00AM

Break



BIGGLESWADE BUSINESS FORUM

11:10AM

Group break-out session, topics for discussion

- Group one- The business case for a new banking hub in town
- Group two- What do local businesses need to effectively consolidate and sustainably grow?
- Group three- How can the Town Council support Town Centre markets and businesses?

11:45AM

Groups' feedback to plenary

12:00PM

Panel Discussion on business development and support, questions & answers

12:45PM

**Emerging actions and close
(Town Mayor)**

INVITED PANELISTS:

- Biggleswade Town Council
- CBC Business Team
- TBD



BIGGLESWADE BUSINESS FORUM

WORLD CAFE - STEP BY STEP

SETTING:

Create the right environment, most often modelled after a café, where people feel invited to contribute i.e. small round tables. There should be 3-6 chairs at each table. Small group sizes are essential.



WELCOME & INTRODUCTION:

Explaining the process, setting the context, explaining the etiquette and putting participants at ease.



SMALL GROUP ROUNDS:

The process begins with the first of three rounds of conversation. At the end of the twenty minutes, each member of the group moves to a different new table. Only the table host stays to welcome the next group and briefly fills them in on what happened in the previous round.



QUESTIONS:

Each round is prefaced with a question designed for the specific context and desired purpose of the session. The same questions can be used for more than one round, or they can build on the previous questions.



HARVEST / FEEDBACK:

In the final plenary session, individuals are invited to share their thoughts with the rest of the large group and these are recorded, usually on a flipchart.

Bringing together and sharing ideas at the end of the World Café process links individual contributions and themes to inform a broader perspective and develop possibilities for collective action.