



BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL
CORPORATE
ASPIRATIONS
2025 - 2031



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FOREWORD



PETER TARRANT
Town Clerk & Chief Executive



JONATHAN WOODHEAD
Mayor of Biggleswade

Joint Statement from the Mayor and Town Clerk

Our Vision

Our vision for Biggleswade is to be a thriving, sustainable market town with a diverse range of employment and community facilities. We aim to provide a high quality of life and economic opportunities that meet the needs of our residents, while fostering a well-designed environment with green spaces that encourage healthy lifestyles.

About Biggleswade

Biggleswade is one of Bedfordshire's most vibrant towns, home to a population of around 23,500. Its unique geographical position has been central to its growth and continues to shape both the town's development and its strong sense of identity.

Our Role

Biggleswade Town Council forms the grassroots tier of local government, working in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council, our Principal Authority. We are one of the largest Town Councils in Bedfordshire and aspire to be recognised nationally for the collaborative way we engage with residents and partners to deliver effective services.

Our Commitment

We are committed to excellence in the services and facilities we provide, ensuring our approach remains responsive, accessible, and transparent. As Biggleswade grows, we face challenges, but with those come opportunities to improve our town and strengthen our community. The Council is evolving to meet these needs, enhancing our ability to deliver services and represent the interests of residents effectively. Our Corporate Aspirations 2025–2031 set out clear goals to help us achieve this vision.

How We Work

The Council operates a committee system that sets the budget and determines how funds are spent. Town Councils do not receive direct funding from central government; instead, we rely on the Precept and income generated from the services and facilities we provide. We take seriously our responsibility to not only maintain essential services but to continually improve what we offer to the people of Biggleswade.

Leadership

Each May, the Council elects a Mayor, who serves as the town's first citizen and ambassador. Day-to-day operations are led by a professional management team overseen by the Town Clerk & Chief Executive. The Council itself is made up of fifteen elected Councillors, representing three town wards, who serve four-year terms.



INTRODUCTION



Biggleswade is a town that is growing fast and there are many challenges to be addressed. Those challenges also bring opportunities and we must make the most of those opportunities to improve our town and support our community.



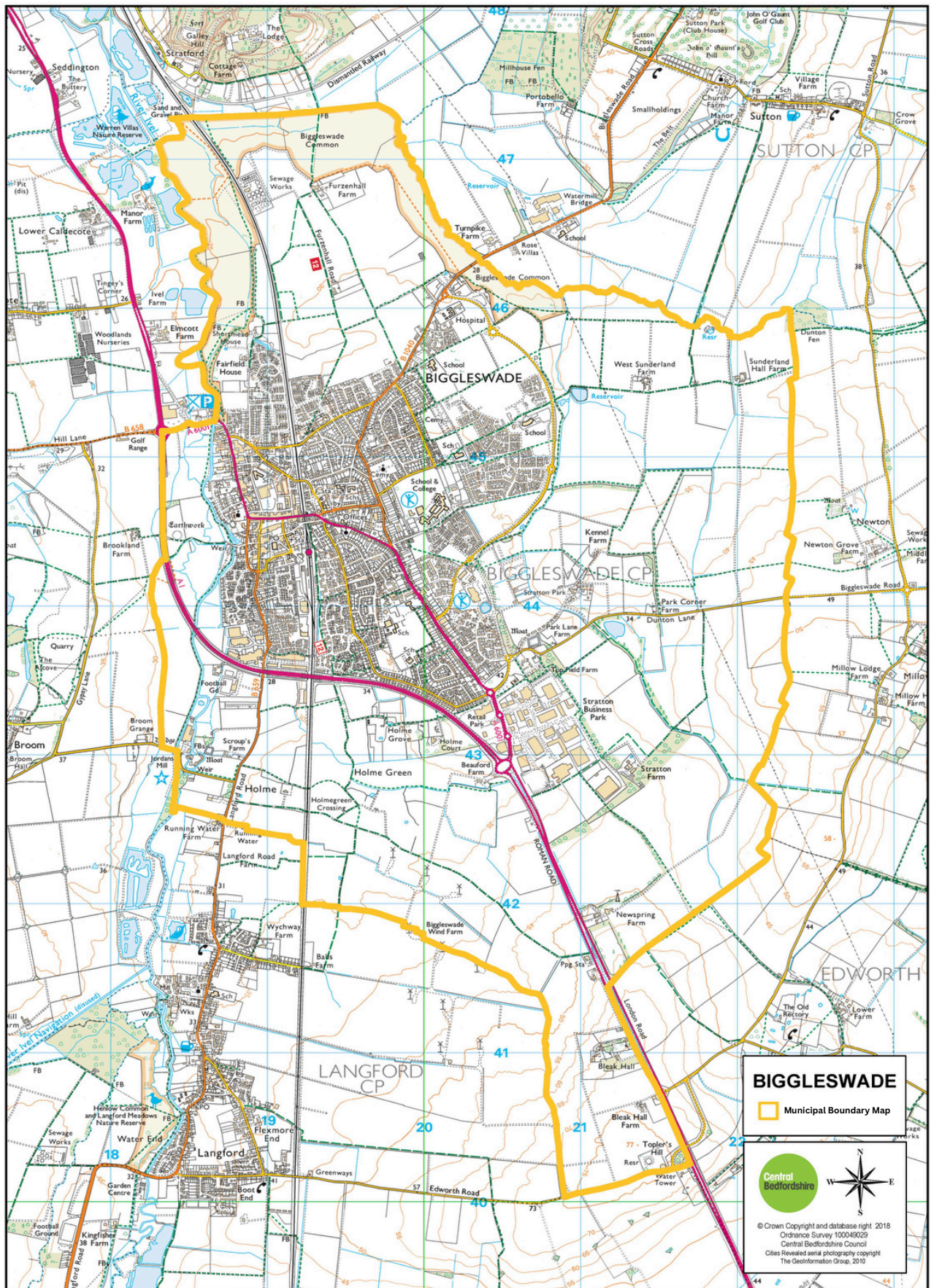
The Town Council is changing in order to be the best it can be in delivering our services and to be more effective in representing the vital interests of our community to others. This document sets out our aspirations to enable us to achieve those goals.

These aspirations will be regularly monitored to ensure progress. As future challenges and opportunities arise, other aspirations may be added.

The Town Council seeks to work in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council and will always look to be the voice of its community.

OUR VISION

“Our vision for Biggleswade is that it should be a thriving and sustainable market town with a range of employment and community facilities, providing quality of life and economic opportunities to meet the diverse needs of the community and with a high-quality environment, including green spaces, to promote healthy lifestyles.”





MISSION / PURPOSE

Biggleswade Town Council want to be an outstanding & innovative local council, representing the best interests of the town and people of Biggleswade.

We can achieve this by making the Council more effective, working with our community and being a strong advocate for the town by influencing statutory and other organisations whose decisions and actions have an impact on our town.

We want to preserve the best of our past and make the most of future opportunities.



VALUES

Openness, responsiveness, innovation and constructive relationships to maximise effectiveness and the use of resources.

Active engagement with all stakeholders.

Being business-like, professional and delivering on our promises.

Councillors committed to working collaboratively, supported by a high quality team of staff.

Managing change as evolution not revolution, allowing time to adapt.

Ensuring value for money for the community while delivering services to a high standard.



OUR SERVICES

Car Parks

Cemeteries

Allotments

Events

**Football
Pitches**

Markets

Play Areas

**Tennis
Courts**

Litter Picking

**Public
Toilets**

**Community
Development**

**Fishing
Permits**

**Recreation
Grounds**

Cricket Club

**Community
Centre**

Bowls Club

The Town Council also provides:

**Business
Support**

**A
Community
Agent**

Defibrillators

**Access to
Grants**

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS



The Town Council has four Standing Committees.

Council:

This meeting happens every 4 weeks and all Councillors meet to discuss and agree major policy items. The Town Council also consider all planning applications in Biggleswade and share their views with Central Bedfordshire Council as its Planning Authority.



Finance & General Purposes (F&GP):

This Committee handles all administration and general running of the Town Council's finances, and is also responsible for the Council Offices and the Orchard Community Centre.

Public Lands & Open Spaces (PLOS):

This Committee deals with recreation areas, playgrounds, sports pitches, cemeteries and allotments.

Town Centre Management (TCM):

This Committee is responsible for all aspects of Town Centre development, including car parks, events and the use of the Market Square.

Personnel Committee:

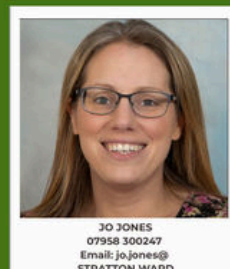
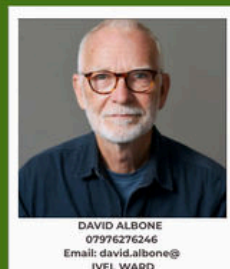
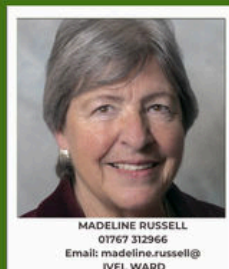
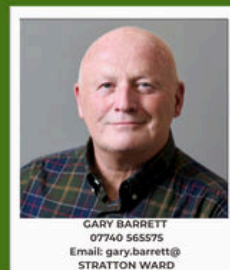
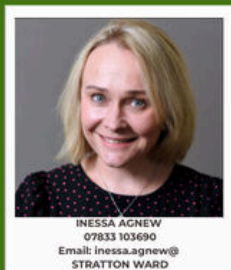
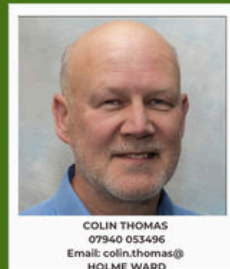
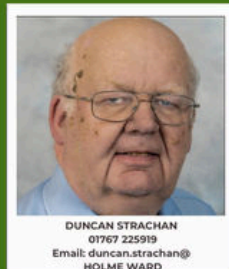
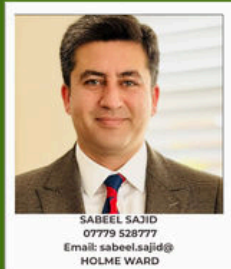
This Committee is responsible for all HR matters and policies.

And in addition the Town Council works in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council:

Biggleswade Joint Committee (BJC):

This Committee allows for Councillors from both the Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council to discuss key issues in the area and promotes collaborative working.

BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCILLORS



**Please note that Councillor email addresses are all
name.surname@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



BIGGLESWADE HISTORY



1066: There were three manors: Biggleswade (Anglo Saxon from a personal name 'Biceil' & 'Waed', meaning ford); Stratton (Roman from 'Straet Tun' meaning 'road by the settlement of farmstead'); and; Holme (Old Norse name, 'Holm' meaning Island).

1131: The Manors of Biggleswade and Holme are granted to the Bishop of Lincoln as an endowment for Lincoln Cathedral and Biggleswade began to develop as a town between 1190 and 1200, with burgage plots rented out at one shilling a year.



1227: King Henry III granted Biggleswade full market town status after an original confirmation from King John, being hosted every Monday.

1663: King Charles II alters the market day to Wednesdays.

1700s: The Great North Road from London to Edinburgh came through the town, allowing prosperity from the highway coach trade and becoming a staging post of inns.

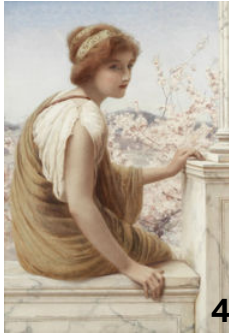


1758: A navigable route on the river is created through Biggleswade, offering greater trade and transport links and three wharfs were built to allow the carrying of local agricultural produce, coal & timber.

1764: Samuel Wells established his Biggleswade brewery.

1785: The Great Fire of Biggleswade grips the town, starting in the Crown Inn and destroying one third of the town, including 9 maltings and 103 houses. 332 people were made homeless. A national appeal was launched to help those who had lost their homes and livelihoods.

BIGGLESWADE HISTORY



1856: Henry Ryland, the pre-Raphaelite painter, was born on Hitchin Street.

1873: Charles Penrose, the inspiration for the song 'The Laughing Policeman', was born in Biggleswade High Street.

1876: The Ivel Navigation Trust go into liquidation, slowing trade on the river.

1880: Daniel Albone founds the Ivel Cycle Works, where he created early bicycles, the tandem and motorcycles.

1902: Daniel Albone builds the first lightweight tractor, the Ivel Agricultural Motor, the forerunner to the modern tractor.



Post-1945: A major house building programme increased the size, catchment and confidence of the town. Since then, there has been a steady growth in population, accelerated on the 1990's with the start of a large development at the eastern side, now known as Saxon Gate.

1961: The Wells & Winch Brewery becomes the Greene King Brewery.

1997: The Greene King Brewery is closed and demolished.

2000: Biggleswade signs the Twinning Charter and officially becomes twinned with Erlensee, Germany.



- 1: Biggleswade Coat of Arms
- 2: Biggleswade Station
- 3: The Manor of Stratton
- 4: Apple Blossom - Henry Ryland
- 5: Demonstration of one of Dan Albone's tractors
- 6: Erlensee Coat of Arms

Biggleswade Town Council wish to thank Biggleswade History Society for the photographs and information above. For more information, visit <https://www.biggleswadehistory.org.uk>



ASPIRATIONS

Community:
**A Town to be
Proud of**

Place:
A Vibrant Town

Environment:
A Green Town

Economy:
A Thriving Town

Health & Wellbeing:
A Healthier Town

Engagement:
**A Town where
People are Involved**

Performance:
**A Council that
Delivers**

Financials:
**A Financially Astute
Council.**

COMMUNITY

A Town to be Proud of



The Town Council will:

- Seek to retain the distinctive character and heritage of Biggleswade as a market town serving our own community and the surrounding area; including protecting the Conservation Area.
- Influence the regeneration of the town centre to encourage and support high quality leisure and retail experiences.
- Ensure public open spaces are maintained to a high standard with regular maintenance of street furniture, attractive floral displays and a low-tolerance approach to waste, litter, and clutter.
- Maintain our efforts to influence Central Bedfordshire Council's strategic plans and their impact on the town.
- Work closely with the local voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sectors to build a strong community.



COMMUNITY

A Town to be Proud of



- Work with the Police to maintain their presence in Biggleswade so that anti-social behaviour is dealt with and residents feel safe.
- Support Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service campaigns.
- Celebrate the diversity of our communities of place, origin, interest or age, and proactively engage with them, ensuring they are consulted and represented.
- As a statutory consultee, resolve upon planning applications that are consistent with the Councils Neighbourhood Plan after proper consideration of the particular circumstances that might exist for any given application.
- Ensure Biggleswade is a safe and confident community, working with Bedfordshire Police and other emergency services so that they are aware of our concerns and priorities.
- Work to ensure that residential and commercial development meets the evolving needs, minimises air pollution and car journeys, while protecting the needs of future generations.



PLACE

A Vibrant Town



The Town Council will:

- Promote the Town Centre and allow it to adapt to changing needs and realise its economic and community potential.
- Further develop our allotment offer by increasing the number of allotment plots and request additional allotment space from future housing developments.
- Promote recreational facilities, wellness programs and mental health support to enhance the overall wellbeing of the community.
- Further improve the Council's tennis courts to provide a broader tennis offer to the community.
- Explore creating safe spaces and activities for young people to learn, socialise and develop life skills.
- Improve the environment of the cemeteries.



PLACE

A Vibrant Town



The Town Council will:

- Continue to use the Neighbourhood plan, Biggleswade Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan to provide an overall framework for the development of the town.
- Encourage a sustainable transport system within the Town that provides opportunity for improved East-West connectivity.
- Ensure the provision of CCTV that supports the Council's anti-crime initiatives and policies.
- Work collaboratively to develop arts, culture and tourism recognising the unique heritage and culture of the town.
- Begin to plan for future burial and cemetery provision in and around Biggleswade.
- Continue to develop the new Market Square Vision document with the principal authority (CBC) and other key stakeholders in an effort to influence regeneration.



ENVIRONMENT

A Green Town



The Town Council will:

- Fully support the Green Infrastructure Plan produced by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and actively seek to deliver those actions within the Town Council's land holding, including the protection of the Local Green Spaces.
- Have the appropriate designation of Local Green Spaces identified in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Work with Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) and Central Bedfordshire Council on the wider development and management of the Green Infrastructure Plan.
- Maintain a comprehensive tree inventory and continue to maintain an arboriculture management plan.
- Work with BRCC, the Ivel Valley Countryside Project, Ivel Valley Conservation Volunteers, Friends of Biggleswade Green Wheel and local ecologists to protect Biggleswade Common and the Green Wheel.



ENVIRONMENT

A Green Town



The Town Council will:

- Seek to carry out a programme of replacing existing vehicles with those which are more fuel efficient and cost-effective.
- Adopt a Sustainability Policy to support climate change initiatives.
- Maintain and develop Linear Wood and Pocket Park so as to facilitate community access.
- Continue to work with local developers to adopt green spaces for the benefit of the wider community.
- Continue to upskill colleagues within its Public Realm service so as to ensure the Town Council responds quickly and effectively to tackle environmental issues around the town.
- Seek to support environmentally friendly transport options.



ECONOMY

A Thriving Town



The Town Council will:

- Support businesses and other initiatives designed to enhance the town centre offer, providing a wide range of amenities for residents and visitors.
- Promote the retail businesses in Biggleswade.
- Continue to invest in the Saturday Charter Market, as well as exploring options of more themed markets to complement the existing offer.
- Continue to develop a varied programme of events for the Town Centre.
- Improve the management of the car parks, including modernising payment options.
- Continue to upgrade street furniture including seating and signage.
- Work with Central Bedfordshire Council to identify potential opportunities for economic investment.
- Hold Business Forums in an effort to promote economic growth in the town.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

A Healthier Town



The Town Council will:

- Continue to develop indoor and outdoor recreational and leisure facilities in partnership with CBC.
- Promote walking and cycling.
- Support plans for a proposed Health Hub and other primary healthcare facilities.
- Work with lead authorities and organisations on flood alleviation schemes.
- To support infrastructure initiatives such as additional GPs, dentistry and enhanced health care, which then encourage residents to live a healthier lifestyle.
- Reduce social isolation and loneliness by supporting befriending schemes and community transport.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

A Healthier Town



The Town Council will:

- Work with community partners to provide financial support services for families.
- Work with community partners to provide bereavement support services are available.
- Seek to engage with young people through local youth support groups.
- Develop a youth offer in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council and local third sector partners.
- Support better access and facilities for those with disabilities.
- Support and facilitate initiatives to improve cycling and walking routes within the Town and wider areas.
- Facilitate the provision of an Older People's Support Service.



ENGAGEMENT

A Town Where People Are Involved



The Town Council will:

- Improve our engagement with all stakeholders, including hard-to-reach groups.
- Work to ensure equality of access to services for everyone and that Council facilities are accessible to everyone.
- Communicate regularly with our residents through social media, the website and written publications, including the print media.
- Preserve and celebrate the towns cultural heritage through events, festivals, and historical preservation efforts.



PERFORMANCE

A Council that Delivers



The Town Council will:

- Develop open and transparent interactions and appropriate strategic compacts with key partner agencies.
- Develop and support our workforce through good management, training and skills development to increase our capacity and capability.
- Provide strong, clear and consistent leadership at Councillor and Chief Executive level, providing training opportunities for everyone.
- Continuously improve our efficiency and effectiveness.
- Maximise opportunities to generate revenue so that the Council is less reliant on its Precept.
- Take a holistic approach to managing and mitigating risk.



FINANCIALS

A Financially Astute Council



The Town Council will:

- Ensure that the Town Council continues to operate within legislation, regulation, ethical guidelines and best practice.
- Maintain a Contracts Database and encourage the development of local suppliers and the generation of jobs for the local community.
- Maintain annual reviews of risk management procedures in line with best practice, further mitigated by regular reviews of the Council's Business Continuity Plan.
- Continue to be sustainable by maintaining a balanced budget and build financial reserves to support long-term town development and resilience.



FINANCIALS

A Financially Astute Council



The Town Council will:

- Continue to be transparent and accountable by upholding high standards of governance with clear financial reporting and open communication to residents.
- Continue to operate efficiently by maximising value for money through cost-effective operations, procurement, and service delivery.
- Continue to optimise operational revenue by diversifying and growing revenue streams responsibly without overburdening residents.
- Continue to allocate resources to initiatives that generate long-term economic, social, and environmental returns.





CONTACT THE COUNCIL

The Town Council offices are open Monday to Thursday 09:00 to 17:00 and Friday 09:00 to 16:30.

Biggleswade Town Council
Old Court House
4 Saffron Road
Biggleswade
SG18 8DL

Tel: 01767 313134

Email: enquiries@biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk

Our enquiries inbox is monitored regularly. We will endeavour to respond to your enquiry within three working days.

The Town Council projects and events can be found on our social media and website:



Biggleswade Town
Council



@biggleswadetc



[www.biggleswadetown
council.gov.uk](http://www.biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk)



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Review: June 2027