

**March 2019**

### **East-West Rail**

The 5 possible routes for the proposed railway line linking Oxford to Cambridge have been announced. The routes are only sketched out as each is shown as a broad swathe of land within which the precise line has not been defined. Two of the possible routes pass through Bedford and then turn east; one of those, Route D, will pass close to the North of Brickhill/Woodlands Park, the edge of the strip shown on the plan being along Graze Lane and across the top of Cleat Hill.

Because of the geography of the area the line, if this route were to be chosen, is likely to cross the A660 Kimbolton Road closer to Ravensden Crossroads and is therefore unlikely to have any material impact on Brickhill. For more information on the consultation which ends on the 11<sup>th</sup> March, see <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/haveyoursay>

### **Bromham Road Bridge**

The work to demolish and reconstruct the railway bridge over Bromham Road in the town centre has begun. This work is being undertaken to enable the electrification of the Midland Main Line.

Pedestrian access will still be allowed, but the road will be partially closed, meaning that drivers will need to follow a diversion via Clapham Road.

### **Council Website**

You may have seen that the Council has a new website as of December 2018. A feature of the new site is the inclusion of 'customer journeys' which aim to make it easier to report or discuss certain issues. For example, residents can now report potholes, graffiti and noise nuisance using the website. New customer journeys are undergoing testing and are being added to the site incrementally. See [www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk)

### **Voter Registration**

Borough residents have until the 12<sup>th</sup> April to register should they wish to vote in the local elections on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Details of how to register can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

The election on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May will be for the Mayor, Borough Councillors and Parish Councillors.

### **Advice for Families**

The Borough Council has a website which provides advice on a range of services designed to support families including child behaviour support, early years and childcare and youth clubs. For more details see <https://earlyhelp.bedford.gov.uk/home.aspx>

### **Power Cut Support for Vulnerable People**

UK Power Networks (UKPN), the organisation responsible for maintaining electricity lines and cables, is raising awareness of a scheme to assist vulnerable people in the event of a power cut.

Pensioners, families with young children and people with disabilities, health conditions or special needs can be provided with accommodation, meals and home visits if necessary.

Applications to join UKPN's Priority Services Register can be submitted via [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority), 08001699970 or [emailpsr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk](mailto:emailpsr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk).

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