

East West Rail

The route for East West Rail was announced in early February. It has been decided that it will pass through Bedford and go north of the town to a new station somewhere between Sandy and St Neots. The precise line has not yet been decided and will of course depend on the location of the proposed new station. The options, insofar as can be assessed from the very unclear indicative map, include the line passing very close to Woodlands Park and Ravensden.

East West Rail has arranged events for residents to view plans, and to ask questions about the route. These dates include:-

- 7th March at Great Barford Village Hall, 11.30 to 15.00 or
- 10th March at Ravensden Village Hall, 13.30 to 17.00 or
- 24th March at Bedford Rugby Club, 16.00 to 21.00

Details are available at www.eastwestrail.co.uk

We are both in contact with East West Rail to ensure that as far as possible they engage fully with residents and keep everyone up to date.

Planning Policy

The Council is already starting work on the next Local Plan, following the adoption of the Local Plan 2030 in January 2020. This new Local Plan needs to be submitted by January 2023. The Council will hold a 'call for sites' and an 'Issues and Options' consultation within the next few months.

At this stage the proposal is to include a new plan for the town centre as part of the Local Plan, however this may change and we are awaiting the outcome of the town centre consultation held in 2019 which we know many residents responded to. We continue to liaise with the Parish Council and officers regarding planning matters and speaking at meetings on the community's behalf.

Norse Road Cemetery

The Council will no longer offer Saturday burials at Norse Road Cemetery due to a lack of demand for Saturday Burials.

Weaving Narratives

The Bedfordshire Archives services is running workshops to create textile projects inspired by the archives. For those who are interested the workshops will be held at the Archives, Riverside Building, Borough Hall, Bedford on Saturdays 7th March, 4th April and 13th June, from 10am to 12pm.

Anyone wishing to take part should book a place either by emailing archive@bedford.gov.uk or telephoning 01234 228833. Places are limited and will be first come, first served. The workshops are free to attend, but participants will need to provide their own craft materials.

Ward Fund

The Ward Fund, for local and community groups and facilities will restart in April for the coming year. If you think we can help please contact us to discuss the possibilities.

As ever if you have any issues you wish to speak to us about, please do get in touch.

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