

**Brickhill Parish Council: Update from Borough Councillors Stephen Moon and Phillippa Martin-Moran-Bryant – November 2019**

**Planning**

We recently met with Borough Council Planning officers to discuss the application for 165 homes at Grazehill. The following matters were raised:

- Existing flooding and sewage issues need to be resolved before development can commence. We will work with the Council to pressure Anglian Water to come forward with solutions.
- We are concerned about the proposed access to the site. There will be a steep gradient from the roundabout and the lighting will be 6 metres high and, therefore, bright on the horizon. We are awaiting further details from Council officers on these points.
- The reduced density of the site (it will be around the same size as Woodlands Park) means the number of planned homes has fallen from 200 to 165. Nevertheless, the site is far larger than that allocated in the Council's forthcoming Local Plan 2030.
- Bedfordshire Police has raised concerns around footpaths connecting the development with Woodlands Park, although it is Council policy to have this access arrangement in place. We have asked that any footpaths are carefully considered in relation to security issues.

The application is likely to be determined by the Council's Planning Committee in November.

**Hospital Merger**

The Chief Executive of Bedford Hospital told a meeting of the Borough Council's Health Committee in October that the merger with Luton & Dunstable is set to be completed by April 2020. This follows the receipt of £99.5m from the Department for Health to upgrade facilities at Luton & Dunstable Hospital including a new intensive care block, delivery suite and operating theatres.

The merger, announced in autumn 2017, pledged to protect key services at Bedford Hospital including A & E, maternity and paediatrics. The meeting heard that some smaller services may be combined on a single site, but 95% of services would be unaffected.

**Putnoe Walk in Centre**

The Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG), the organisation responsible for organising NHS services locally, has stated its intention to renew the contract for the Putnoe Walk in Centre (WIC) for a further year to September 2021.

The Putnoe WIC (but not the main GP surgery) was threatened with closure last year after the decision to open the Urgent Treatment Centre, which has a 'walk in' element, on the Bedford Hospital site. It was ultimately agreed that the Putnoe WIC would remain open with reduced hours. The Council's Health Committee has heard that it continues to receive a high number of patients.

**Temporary Accommodation Investment**

A meeting of all Borough councillors in October agreed investment of £10m to purchase and provide the Council's own housing supply to support individuals and families at risk of homelessness. This is an 'invest to save' measure designed to reduce payments to private landlords.

### **Ward Fund**

The Ward Fund allows councillors to support community schemes. Please do get in touch if you would like to discuss any potential projects. The deadline for highways and greenspace projects has now passed, but applications can still be submitted for litter bins and salt bins (deadline 22<sup>nd</sup> November) and projects supporting external organisations (13<sup>th</sup> December).

### **'Safe and Well Visits'**

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service provides Safe and Well Visits for the benefit of elderly and vulnerable people. These are designed to check over houses to identify safety hazards and provide advice to improve wellbeing and prevent crime. Email [safeandwell@bedsfire.com](mailto:safeandwell@bedsfire.com) if you know of someone who might benefit.

### **Flu Jab**

The NHS advises that you should have a flu jab if you are:

- 65 years old or over
- pregnant
- have certain medical conditions
- living in a long-stay residential care home or another long-stay care facility
- receive a carer's allowance, or you're the main carer for an elderly or disabled person

Contact your GP or local pharmacy for further details.

### **School Admissions**

The admissions process for transfer to secondary schools in the Borough closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> October, but remains open until the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 for children beginning primary school in September 2020. For more information search 'Bedford school admissions' or call 01234718120.

### **'Active Adults' Exercise Classes**

The Council is taking bookings for its 'Active Adults' exercise class programme including football, golf and walking, which started on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September (for those aged 35 and over). There are also classes available for those aged 75 and above. For more details search 'Active Adults Bedford'

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