

East West Rail

It remains difficult to identify the precise line of either of the two possible routes both of which will pass through Bedford and turn east via Ravensden. There is no date given for announcing the decision as to which route will be chosen but it is unlikely to be for many months.

The two routes passing through Bedford are the ones preferred by Bedford Borough as they are seen as having advantages such as in bringing investment to the town centre. Neither is likely directly to affect Brickhill as it is overwhelmingly probable that they will come no closer than Sunderland Hill.

Local Plan 2030

The Planning Inspectorate will be considering the proposed Local Plan at public hearings during late May and June. It remains to be seen how many objectors to the Plan will be called but it can be anticipated that the promoters of the 'garden villages' will take the opportunity to argue that their schemes should be incorporated in the Plan. For more information search 'Bedford Local Plan 2030'

Rough Sleeper Initiative

The Council is to receive £383k from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to continue a range of services to support rough sleepers. The money will be used to provide additional units of accommodation and outreach workers.

Public Space Protection Order Consultation

A consultation is being held by the Council on Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) which are currently used to restrict cycling in the town centre and implement dog control orders throughout the Borough.

PSPOs were introduced in 2016 and the consultation is asking for residents' views on whether or not they should continue or be amended. For more details see <http://www.forms.bedford.gov.uk/PSPO2019/>. The consultation deadline is the 28th April.

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 and click on 'Pay, report, request it'

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