



The Government has announced a £3.5m contribution to Bedford Borough Council's planned £4.8m road reconfiguration at what has been dubbed Bedford's 'Northern Gateway'.

The below map of the proposed works was provided at the October meeting of the Council's Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee:



Town Centre Consultation

The Council undertook a 3 week consultation in October on proposals to regenerate Bedford town centre. The 'Bedford Masterplan' document set out draft plans to use in particular publically owned land in the urban area for redevelopment, including:

- The identification of sites for residential and employment development in locations such as those in and around the train station area and sites to the south of the river.
- The redevelopment of properties, particularly in the area connecting the train station, Midland Road and the town centre, as well as the creation of new public and green space in the urban area.
- The final Masterplan will 'set parameters for the scale, massing and materiality of new buildings within sensitive areas of the town centre. This is important so that new development is in keeping with the existing character of Bedford and responds to its context'.

To see the consultation document and the plans in more detail search 'Bedford Live Regeneration Projects'.

Adoption Appeal

During National Adoption Week in October, the Council issued a call for anyone who would like to discuss possibilities around adoption and fostering to get in touch. The appeal focussed in particular on the need to find homes for siblings who currently make up half of children in care in the Borough.

For more information call the Council's Adoption and Fostering Team on 01234 718718 or adoptionandfostering@bedford.gov.uk

Mental Health

The Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG), the body responsible for organising NHS services locally, recently undertook a public consultation on developing mental health crisis care services.

Reporting to the Council's Adult Services and Health Committee in October, BCCG representatives said they had put forward the following options for service amendments:

- Expansion of **Mental health professionals in Primary Care** (GP practices)
- Expansion of **Mental health professionals in Hospital** (A&E)
- Continuation & expansion of **Mental Health Street triage** - a 999 response with police, ambulance and mental professional in attendance).
- **Crisis Cafés** - a place where anyone experiencing a mental health problem diagnosed or not, can drop in for a cup of tea and a chat and can request more formal help if needed.
- **Crisis Sanctuaries** - offering intensive, short-term support so individuals can manage and resolve their crisis in a residential setting (rather than hospital).
- **Host Families** - families where individuals can get the help and support they need for a short period of time
- Expansion of current **out of hours telephone line** and **teams**

The responses to the consultation are now being considered. Service changes could be in place by early 2018.

Flu Vaccine

The Council has issued a reminder that pregnant women and children aged between 2 and 8 years old are eligible to receive a flu vaccination for protection over the winter months.

For more information speak to your GP, midwife or local pharmacy.

Carers' Resource

The Council has teamed up with Carers UK to provide an online resource with advice and support to those caring for someone who is ill, disabled or elderly.

Upon registering, carers will be able to access information on matters such as understanding their rights and possible access to financial assistance, resources on products and services and finding out about support networks.

For more information visit carersdigital.org and create a new account by using code DGT9072. Alternatively, you can contact Carers in Bedfordshire for advice and support by calling 0300 111 1919.

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