the barfordbugle

The Magazine of Great Barford Parish Council

Spring 2023



Great Barford Parish Council
The Parish Council Office, Green End Farm,
108 Green End Road, Great Barford, Bedfordshire MK44 3HD
(by appointment only)



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01234 870245
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www.greatbarford.org.uk

an answerphone is available if calling outside of the office hours.

Contributions for the next Issue of The Bugle

should be sent to the Parish Clerk before

Friday 28th April

Submit Your Photo!

The Bugle Committee is always looking for seasonal photographs from around the village to place on the cover of the Bugle. If you would like to submit a photograph, please contact the Clerk at:

clerk@greatbarford.org.uk



CHAIR'S REPORT



A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet

You will all be aware of the proposals to improve the Black Cat roundabout and the A428 route out to Caxton Gibbet. The scheme was approved by the Secretary of State last August, granting a Development Consent Order, with start of construction that was hoped to have begun in late 2022. However, the decision has been challenged by the Transport Action Network (TAN) campaign group, submitting an application for permission for a judicial review on grounds of biodiversity, the need for the scheme and climate change.

A judge at the High Court has reviewed the application, and refused permission for a judicial review on all three grounds. TAN has now requested that its application for permission for a judicial review be heard at a High Court oral hearing. The High Court does not publish timescales, so we are awaiting further information on a date for the oral hearing. Meanwhile, construction is put on-hold.

Jubilee Play Equipment Install



Over the Christmas and New Year period you will have noticed the Jubilee Play Area was closed and fenced off while some replacement and new equipment was installed. A new trail of balance and adventure apparatus is now in place to encourage activity play development for the under 12s. See separate article across the centre pages.

King Charles Coronation

The long weekend of Saturday 06 to Monday 08 May 2023 will see the celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles III. The Royal website is encouraging various public celebrations over the weekend. See: https://www.royal.uk/coronation-weekend-plans-announced where details of the official events are being updated.

The Great Barford Events Committee is putting together a Coronation Tea Party at the Village Hall and Playing Field for the Saturday afternoon. Proposals include Suspendisse supplying Cakes and Refreshments from the kitchen; the Bar to be open; Background Music on the stage; Kids Corner Activities; and much more.

People will be invited to "bring your own picnic" to enjoy on the field. Garden Games and other entertainments will be encouraged, but not organised as such. Dogs on lead will be allowed, similar to the Village Fun Days.

Details are still being worked on by the Events Committee, so please keep a look out for information on notice-boards and social media.

Silver Street and side roads – 20mph zone



At long last, Silver Street and its side roads have become a 20mph zone. This is intended to improve road safety around the school, and discourage the peak-times rat-runners that attempt to avoid the upper High Street and cross-roads. Our speed indicator device had previously collected some historic 30mph limit data, and will be used to see what effect the 20mph limit will have. See separate article.

Highways Safety Report

We have commissioned an independent survey to report on various safety and parking issues around the village. The report will identify and assess various problems, and recommend preferred actions to try to resolve them. Once we have the final report, we can approach the Borough Council with requests

to implement the solutions considered by the independent highways safety consultant. These recommendations should carry some weight, and demonstrate we have followed a due process of assessment to determine workable solutions. This will raise the profile of our issues, and make solutions easier to implement; we hope some traffic calming on Green End Road can be an early result.

BBLP2040 Submission

Bedford Borough Council has sent its draft revision of their Local Plan for submission for examination. If it fulfils planning legislation and is found to be "sound", it is likely to be adopted around the end of the year. The draft proposes new settlement developments at Little Barford, south of St.Neots, and at Kempston Hardwick/Stewartby, along with other developments in Bedford and along the A421 corridor.

Neighbourhood Plan – Impact from BBLP2040

There is no additional requirement placed on the villages that were allocated growth in the current BBLP2030 Local Plan. When the new plan is finalised, we will review any implication for Great Barford, and make sure our Neighbourhood Plan is still in general support of the ongoing Local Plan.

Churchyard Walls





We are still making arrangements for repairs to the Churchyard Walls. The stone wall on High Street needs a few eroded sandstone blocks replaced and areas of mortar re-pointed. The state of the brick wall on New Road is a bit worse, and has also seen a few mismatched repairs in the past. We aim to replace a lot of the eroded bricks to match the originals and tidy up with some re-pointing. Currently we are awaiting permission from the Church Faculty before we can proceed.

Parish Council Elections May 2023

As reported on the back cover of the last Bugle issue, a long standing Parish Councillor, Derrick Folbigg, decided to retire and take life a little easier. A sincere thanks goes out to Derrick for his long service, enthusiasm and local knowledge he has brought to the Council. He has been a leading Councillor over the years, Chairing several Committees and was Chair of the Council from 2008 to 2012. Enjoy your retirement Derrick.

This does however create another Casual Vacancy for this current 4 year term of Office ending May 2023, at which point all Parish Councillors must stand for re-election if they wish to return. This timeframe is less than 6 months, so regulations say there will not be a call to fill the Casual Vacancy through a by-election, but we can attempt to fill the position by the process of co-option.

Whatever happens, all candidates for the May election must follow protocol and submit their nominations. If there are more candidates than the eleven seats that make up Great Barford Parish Council, there will be an election to determine the selection of those to take office. If there are less than or equal to eleven candidates, all those will become Parish Councillors without an election.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, details of the qualifying criteria can be obtained from the Clerk, or go online for further information: **https://www.bedford.gov.uk/your-council/elections-and-voting/local-elections-2023**

Elections – ID Requirement

And don't forget, from May 2023, you will need a form of accepted photo ID (Passport, Driver Licence, Bus Pass, etc) to enable you to vote at any election. If you haven't got an accepted form of ID, you can apply for an Electoral Identity Document. See information at **https://www.bedford.gov.uk/your-council/elections-and-voting/voter-id-requirements-may-2023**





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Coffee with a Cop

Steve Tarabella, the PCSO for Great Barford would like to meet local residents in the area to discuss any concerns you may have.



The event is to take place

Saturday 22nd April 11am-12pm

at the

Spendisse Coffee Shop,

Bedford Road,
Great Barford

All residents are welcome to attend

bugle Quiz!

1. In which year in the 70s was the '3 day week'?

2. Tripoli is the capital of which country?

3. In chess which piece moves diagonally only?

4. Which river runs through Cambridge?

5. The Song yesterday was written by which Beatle?

6. The Watergate scandal lead to the resignation of which US President?

7. Which actor plays James Bond Once Only?

8. What is the name of the golf tournament played bi-annually between Europe and the USA?

9. Who was the Prime Minister at the turn of the Millennium?

10. Roughly how many litres are there in a gallon?

11. In which county is Truro in?

12. Which tennis player won the men's singles at Wimbledon 5 times from 1976 to 1980?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 40

From Our Village Agent

Our Village Agent, Teresa Moon, is here to help people in Bedford Borough villages to access the services and support they might need. She can also help with money issues. Her services are confidential and free and she can visit you at home.
Just call Freephone 0800 039 1234.

Help With Energy Costs

There are a number of payments available to help you with rising costs of energy, which you can check on **https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment**. If you're eligible for any of the payments, you'll be paid automatically. If you are contacted and asked to apply – beware! There are many scammers trying to trap the unwary. (If you are unable to use a computer, do contact me for help.)

Energy Saving Tips – Windows and Doors

Windows

By closing all your curtains and blinds at night, in every room, you can help stop warm air escaping through windows and reduce heating costs, especially if you have radiators situated below your windows.

• Draw your curtains at dusk to shut out the night and keep in the heat; and open your curtains during the day to let the sun in.

• Make sure you don't drape your curtains over radiators – let radiator heat circulate into the room.

• Don't put your wet laundry on your radiators. Use a clothes airer and leave your radiators to do the job they were intended to do.

Blinds for Extra Insulation

• Install blinds behind your curtains, so that you have a double layer of insulation.

• Honeycomb (or cellular) blinds offer extra insulation. Honeycomb blinds are made from two layers of material that form pockets throughout the blind. Air is trapped within these cells which dramatically improves insulation. (Honeycomb blinds are available from IKEA and most online blind companies.)

Drafts



• Hold a lit candle near your external doors and windows. If the flame reveals a draught, this means you are losing heat. Draught-proofing strips will fill the gap between the window or door and the frame. There are two types:

- Self-adhesive foam strips – these are cheap and easy to install, but may not last long.
- Metal or plastic strips with brushes or wipers attached, which are long-lasting, but cost a little more. Make sure the strip is the right size to fill the gap.

• If the draft is coming through the gap at the bottom of your door, you could buy or make a 'draft snake' or door stopper, or you could even hang a thick curtain onto the back of the door.

• For windows that don't open, use a silicone sealant.

• If you're thinking of replacing your windows, consider installing energy efficient windows.

• Keyhole drafts – buy a purpose-made cover that drops a metal disc over the keyhole.

• Letterbox – use a letterbox flap or brush, but remember to measure your letterbox before you buy.

• Remember than internal doors may need draught-proofing if they lead to a room you don't heat.

Do You Need Help Filling in Forms? I can visit you at home if you need help applying for a Blue Badge, Bus Pass, Attendance Allowance etc. I am happy to answer other queries or worries you might have - just call me.

Contact your Village Agent on Freephone

0800 039 1234

(This is an answerphone service, so please be ready to leave your name, address & telephone number, and I will aim to call you back within 48 hours.)

GREAT BARFORD BOWLS & PETANQUE CLUB



Every time I write a report on the Bowls and Petanque Club for the Bugle I extol the virtues of the sports as not requiring great strength or fitness but providing good light exercise with social and competitive elements.

We have a full programme of friendly competitions against local clubs planned this summer. These games are a great chance for the novice to play alongside more experienced players, to find out the nuances and etiquette of the game and improve their skills. It is these neophytes (beginners) we need to make the stars of the future. I have been reminding you all through the winter to think about trying Bowls and/or Petanque. Now has come the time to take the plunge. On **Friday 24 March** we have the "signing on" evening. This is not just for the present members (both Bowls and Petanque) but for prospective members of both disciplines to come along and find out what it is all about. Make yourself known to the club – you should find us friendly and welcoming. The bar is open at 7 pm so come early to chat with everyone before the formal business begins at 7:30. There will also be some light refreshments!

The club has a full programme of Bowls and Petanque matches in various local leagues. These are competitive and, as a result of attracting able players from the vicinity, good players moving into the area, coaching and development, we have resulted in Great Barford Bowls and Petanque Club becoming a considerable sporting force in the area. The Petanque team continues to compete for the top of their division. The Bowls Men's 'A' Team won the East Beds League Division 2 title with two matches to spare. So, this year they are in the top division, which shows the dedication and superb achievement of an almost unchanged bunch of players that have been together since their days in Division 5! The B team has been promoted as well and are now to play in division 3. The mixed "friendly competition" between the main four clubs in the area, the Brian Taverner Cup, features Great Barford name on the trophy more times than not! The Ladies continue to be very competitive in the

Ladies league. We are also doing well in the Mixed Over 60's league. We also run a programme of fascinating internal competitions. If you are, or feel you can become, a competitive player then come to the "signing-on" evening mentioned above.

If you can't make the **"signing-on"** but would like to try our sports this year, then please get in touch through the website or Facebook or call **Joe** (Bowls) on **01234 871723** or **Beryl** (Petanque) on **01767 449116**.

for more information see our website at
www.greatbarfordbowlsclub.org.uk

and Facebook page
www.facebook.com/Great-Barford-Bowls-Club-927365523974564

or call Beryl on 01767 449116.

The car park address is in Woodpecker Close, MK44 3BG or there is pedestrian access through School Lane.

And I will leave you with this:

Gerald was not playing well so Barry, the captain, took him to one side. "What's the trouble," he enquired.

"The wife demanded I see a doctor about ... you know what!", replied Gerald.

"What ... BO?" said Barry.

"No, No," exclaimed Gerald somewhat self-consciously, "No ... it's ... um ... erectile disfunction".

So, Barry gives Gerald the name of an Indian medicine man living locally.

The next game the captain finds Gerald playing even worse. "What's the trouble now," Barry asked. Gerald related the whole story. "I saw the medicine man. He gave me a potion and, with a grip on my shoulder, warned, 'This is a powerful medicine. It only works at the full moon. You take only a teaspoonful, and then say: '1-2-3.' Then you will find you can perform for as long as you want.' I asked how I reverse the process. "Only your partner can lower the totem pole! When she has had enough, she must say '1-2-3-4,' he responded, "and it will go back to normal until the next full moon".

It was a full moon that night, so I went home, showered, shaved, took a spoonful of the medicine, and then invited the wife to join me in the bedroom. When she came in, I took off my clothes and said: "1-2-3!" She was excited by what she saw and as she began throwing off her clothes, she asked: "What was the 1-2-3 for?"

And that, my friends, is why we should never end our sentences with a preposition, because we could end up with a dangling participle.

Joe Lound-Keast

SILVER STREET 20MPH SPEED LIMIT



Traffic issues on Silver Street have been a concern for a long time; school drop-off and collection congestion; (non)availability of parking for the surgery; rush-hour rat-running and speeding are common complaints. Over the years, numerous approaches have been made to the Borough Council to try to resolve the problems, but even though the situation has been acknowledged, it has also met with a lack of action.

Another site meeting with Borough Council Highways Officers in February 2020 again verbally confirmed there were issues on Silver Street, and that due to the location of the school, it met criteria for reducing the speed limit from 30mph to create a 20mph zone, but funding was not available to implement. Despite further repeated requests, it took until August 2022 before the Borough Council conducted an official consultation on a proposed 20mph speed limit. The consultation ran from 18 August to 11 September 2022. No objections were received.



The 20mph speed limits are intended to help provide a safer road network on residential roads in the area of Great Barford Primary Academy. This will benefit all highway users, including motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

The Parish Council agreed to contribute part funding to enable implementation, and finally 20mph signage was installed on Silver Street and its side roads early Sunday 22 January 2023. Standard signs are located at High Street and Bedford Road junctions, and smaller repeater signs are on Silver Street and side roads lighting columns in between – the green areas on the consultation map.

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Great Barford Primary Academy
Silver Street
Great Barford MK44 3HZ
Tel: 01234 870342 E: admin:@gbpa.org.uk
www.gbpa.org.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Great Barford West consortium team have been busy working on an early draft of the Development Brief for the allocated site.

A Development Brief is a requirement stipulated in our Great Barford Neighbourhood Plan. It will encompass the requirements of Policies in the Borough Local Plan and our Neighbourhood Plan, with the key principles for development at Great Barford West set out by the GBNP Policy H1.

The allocated site is greater than the land area required to deliver 500 homes. The Development Brief will define the exact extent of land required for the 500 new homes and associated open spaces. It will provide a summary of the technical analysis of the allocated site, and show how this has been used to identify the best possible areas for development.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was given the chance to preview, and comment on a very early draft, before Christmas. This gave us a valued opportunity to discuss the evolving document and feedback some local knowledge to embellish the content. A second workshop style meeting has been arranged to take place in early March. We hope this will put some refinements on what had already been presented, as the document continues to mature.

Once both sides are confident the draft Development Brief properly represents the vision, objectives and policies for the allocation site, there will be engagement with a wider public audience, allowing you, as local residents, to participate in the formulation of our growing village. The initial step towards gathering public input was seen at the Village Fun Day in September last year. Feedback from that event has reshaped the proposed development layout, and helped form the basis of the early draft we saw before Christmas.

Topics so far have concentrated on:

- Inclusive homes for everyone
- Cohesive design
- Rural gateway to village
- Pedestrian routes and cycleways connectivity
- Sustainable travel
- Respecting the historic environment
- Managing flood risk
- Green infrastructure
- Biodiversity net gain

Public consultation stages are a vital part of the planning process. They allow a broad spectrum of views to be heard, and give an insight to local knowledge and feelings that may otherwise be missed.

We are not sure when these next public sessions will take place, but it is hoped they will occur in the middle of this year. Look out for news of events, and help shape the future of the village for our mutual benefit.

A proposed concept masterplan from the pre-Christmas review of the very early draft Development Brief – this has evolved from those displayed at the September 2022 Village Fun Day, after considering feedback from that event

The Concept Masterplan

The Concept Masterplan for Great Barford West underpins the design aspirations for the new neighbourhood. It illustrates the location of the new homes and how the required green infrastructure will be accommodated.

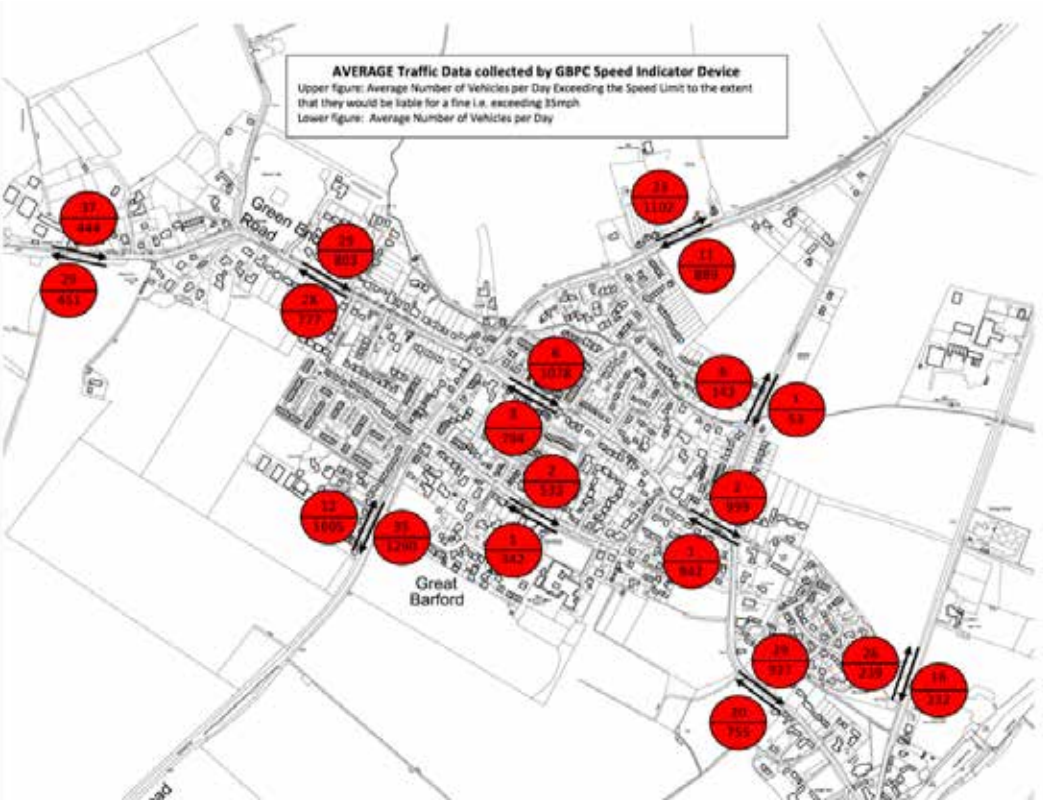
More detailed site masterplans are to be prepared as part of the Design Code and development management processes, taking account of all material considerations.

- Application Site Boundary
- The Allocated Site
- Vehicular Access Points
- Pedestrian / cycle access
- Pedestrian access
- Preferred location for extra care housing
- Alternative location for extra care housing
- SuDS Features



Figure 7.2 Concept Masterplan.

SPEED INDICATOR REPORT



Our Speed Indicator Device (SID) continues to do the rounds, reminding drivers of the speed limit and collecting more data. As always, the speeding data remains little changed from one session to the next, giving us reasonable confidence that we know where our issues are.

Of interest, last November SID was placed in one of its regular spots on Green End Road at the end of Peashill Lane. Nothing unusual in that, except that the road was almost immediately shut due to roadworks at the edge of the village. It was decided to leave SID in place to see if the closure made any difference. The most obvious observation was that the volume of traffic passing SID halved. This was to be expected, vehicles couldn't get out of the village this way, traffic recorded was presumably 'resident' traffic or vehicles using the village hall etc.

What was disappointing was that the percentages of 'speeding' vehicles was virtually unchanged compared to when the road was open. The average speed was exactly the same at 25mph and the 85th percentile figure exactly the same at 30mph. The percentage figure for exceeding

SPEED INDICATOR REPORT

30mph was marginally less (12.34% compared to 13.32% when the road was open).

These results were rather disappointing, we'd always assumed that the majority of our speeding motorists came from outside the village and were passing through. This data suggests that Great Barford residents are just as likely to speed through our village as are any outsiders.

More recently the 20mph speed limit restriction has been implemented on Silver Street. The presence of the school along with the surgery gave the Parish Council good reason to ask for this restriction to be put in place, Bedford Borough agreed and after a period of consultation the signs etc went up. SID was placed along Silver Street to act as a visual reminder to those drivers who use it and also to see if it had any impact on the speed of traffic.

ROSPA estimates that for a car impact there is a fatality risk of 1.5% at 20mph versus 8% at 30mph for adults. Also, the majority of pedestrian casualties occur in built up areas and 29 of the 34 child pedestrians who were killed in 2016, died on built-up roads. Silver Street was an obvious place to instigate this limit.

Previous data for Silver Street showed an 85th percentile speed of 25mph, that is 85 % of vehicles travel at or below 25mph. With the new speed limit this has dropped to 23mph – not a

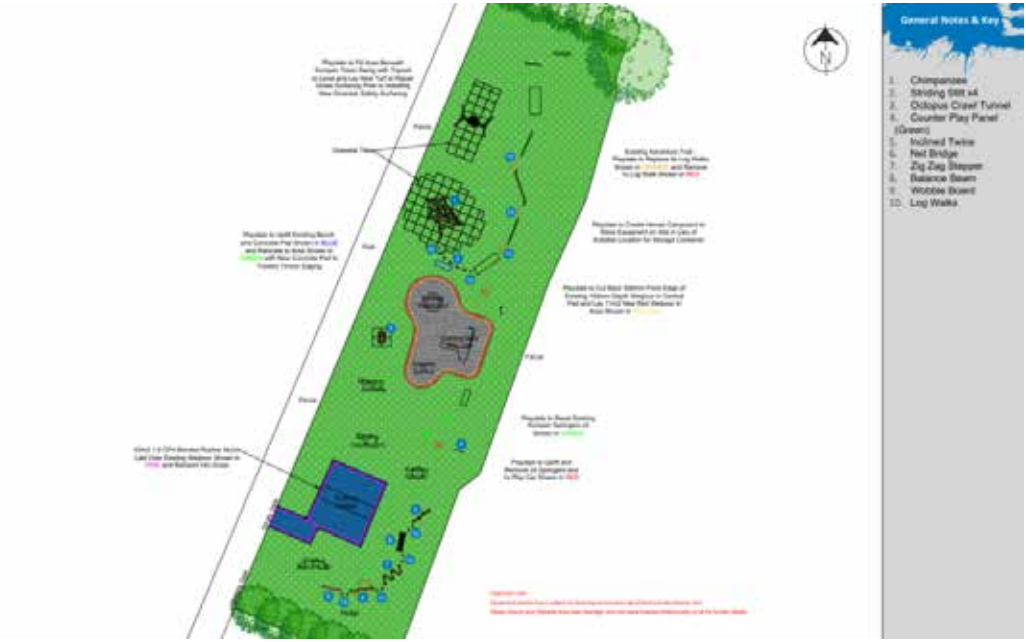


huge drop but going in the right direction (the average speed is 18mph).

Unfortunately, we still suffer from the occasional antisocial driver who thinks that 50mph+ is acceptable!! These excessive speeds seem to occur during the two daily rush hours. Closer analysis shows that we are still getting some drivers exceeding 30mph along Silver Street during the school drop-off times, both in the mornings and afternoons. These speeds are unacceptable when we have young children going to and from school in that area.

Our new 20mph limit has been implemented to try to protect these vulnerable individuals. It's early days and some regular users of this road may not have taken on board the new speed limit. Signage is up and we expect that the authorities will use traffic enforcement cameras to catch those who think that it doesn't apply to them.

JUBILEE PLAY EQUIPMENT





The Jubilee Playground was closed over the Christmas and New Year period while some new equipment and replacement items were installed. It closed for use on 12 December, and re-opened on 21 January. During this time, some new trail, balance and adventure apparatus were put in place to encourage activity play for the under 12s.

Since the playground was first establish around the time of Chapel Field development, we have added extra items as time and money allowed. Some older pieces were showing their age, so it was time for a major review. We engaged a team of experts to visit the Jubilee Play Area in mid 2022. They assessed the whole site area, variety of original equipment, and available space, and after discussing the possibilities, came up with a proposal to complement and enhance the play experience on offer.

After a couple of tweaks we agreed a project plan, as indicated here. The scheme removed a couple of old items, repositioned a bench seat, and created a new adventure trail starting near the entrance with a Wobble Board, Balance Beam and Net Bridge to a Counter Panel.



JUBILEE PLAY EQUIPMENT







This now leads towards the existing central slides, and then on to an extension of the original balance trail and a new Chimpanzee Net Structure.

And the Octopus Crawl Tunnel will stimulate imaginative theme play.





The equipment featured will challenge and entertain the intended age range; providing endless play value, while testing agility. The Balance Bean, Net Bridge and Striding Posts are designed to improve balance and coordination. The large Chimpanzee Structure will help develop physical skills and tests agility while learning to overcome obstacles.

Play delivers well-documented physical, developmental, emotional, behavioural, social and environmental benefits. It needs to be exciting and adventurous to stimulate learning, while also managing risk.



All the equipment meets the British and European safety standards BS EN 1176 and 1177, and has been independently tested and awarded the prestigious Kitemark to ensure the equipment is safe to use.

We hope that while the younger children enjoy the new equipment, parents can be assured their children can learn while at play in a safe environment.

ISSUES AROUND THE VILLAGE GREEN

There can be very few people within the village who are not aware of the problems that we've seen in recent years down and around the village green in the summer season. It is a problem that the Parish Council has been aware of, and trying to resolve, for a number of years.

The situation has got progressively worse over time. We've seen a number of weekends when there have been hundreds of people having a good time both down by, and in, the river. There are wild water swimmers, paddleboarders, families just coming down for a picnic and a paddle, others out for an afternoon relax etc. Whilst these people are clearly enjoying themselves it is not the same for those who live nearby, nor those who want to come down for a usual quiet sit by the river. This number of people bring with them associated problems – parking, litter, antisocial behaviour etc etc.

The problems come to a head on those few glorious weekends in the summer. The recently installed large capacity bins don't cope as well as we had hoped with the volume of litter. Despite having volunteers who help clear up and having the bins emptied three times a week during the summer there has still been an issue.



Parking on New Road and High Street becomes a concern, not least for those who need to get through. There have been occasions when emergency vehicles have struggled. The Parish Council parking cones did make some difference, albeit they caused a problem for pedestrians, that was until they 'disappeared' one day – never to be seen again!



In October the Parish Council became aware that an Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) had taken place for the area. 'An Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) is when community members, police and representatives of other relevant agencies conduct a walk-through together of their neighbourhood to identify issues of concern.' – unfortunately the Parish Council were not invited. Some of the suggestions from that meeting were clearly unworkable. A second meeting was arranged to which we were invited and from this meeting some more sensible ideas came forth.

Suggestions of preventing parking in the vicinity by the use of yellow lines on all affected roads was toned down following advice. Yellow lines only work with effective enforcement (the Parish Council has no powers in this respect) and we were advised that yellow lines don't stop parking problems – they just move them elsewhere. There was a suggestion that a seasonal carpark be created to take vehicles off the carriageway, but the availability of a suitable site is a serious problem. At the end of the day we need to find a solution that enables people to park but doesn't cause traffic issues – that is parking for users of the village green and river, the church and churchyard as well as The Anchor public house. For parking further away from the actual green, on the verges for instance, other solutions are being investigated.

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Tel: 01234 267422

ELECTORAL REGISTRATION
email: electoral.registration@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 718078

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Environmental concerns, including Dog Bins, Street Cleaning, Fly-Tipping, Waste Collection and Graffiti
email: callcentre@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 718060

DOG WARDEN
email: ehadmin@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 718099

HIGHWAYS HELPLINE
Roads, Footpaths, Street Lights and general highways problems
email: highways.helpdesk@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 718003

MOBILE LIBRARY
https://www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries
Tel: 01234 276453

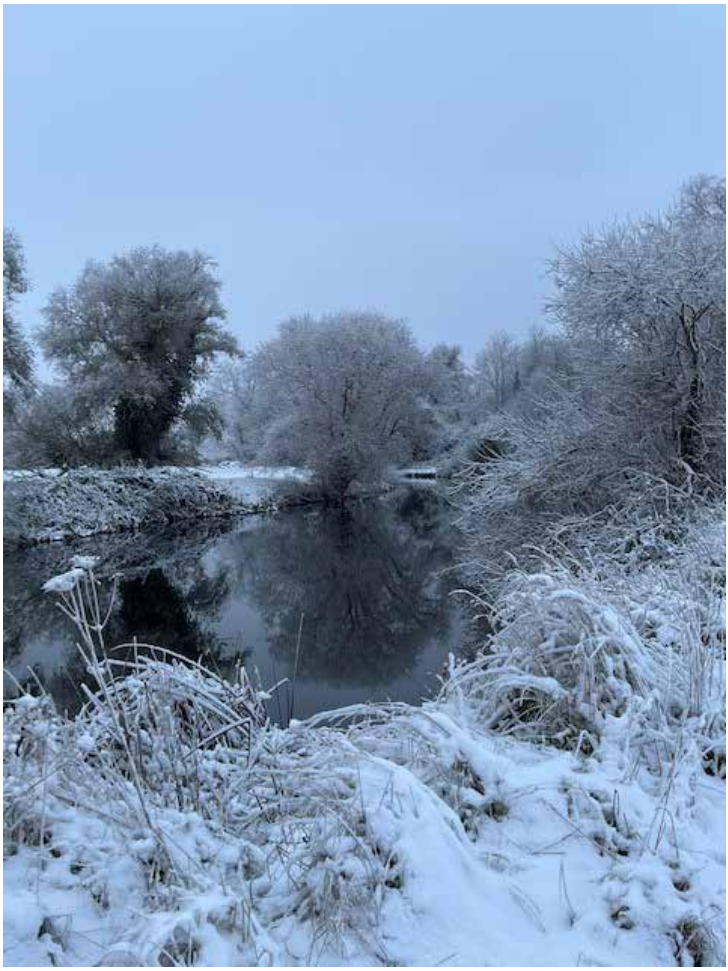
PLANNING
email: planning@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 718068

PARKING ENFORCEMENT
email: parking.services@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 718359

RIGHTS OF WAY Footpaths and Bridleways
email: row@bedford.gov.uk Tel: 01234 718003

You can now report issues directly with Bedford Borough Council quickly and simply through their Online Report It Service which allows you to track your report online through the **"Save Time, Do It Online"** process – Home page: **https://www.bedford.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/website-information/Pay-Report-Request/**

ARO
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THANK YOU TO

HEATHER CHADWICK, LISA MILNES & GRAHAM PENDREY

FOR THEIR STUNNING PHOTOS

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Visit
www.peacockscafe.co.uk
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01234 266 366 peacockauction.co.uk

CORONATION DAY 6 MAY

Tea Party Celebration

Join the national celebrations with your family, friends & neighbours at

The Village Hall from 3-6pm.

Cream Teas & Cakes on sale

Bar Open & Pimms Tent

Inflatables, Children's Crafts & Garden Games

Fancy Dress Competition with prizes for the best dressed

Bring your own picnic

Fish n Chips & Ice Cream Man will be there

KING CHARLES III • CORONATION • 6TH MAY 2023

Organised by the Events Committee & supported by the Parish Council



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- Leadwork repairs and replacements.
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Contact: Ashley
Tel: 07851 121782
Email: midgardpm@outlook.com















GREAT BARFORD SURGERY

WHAT'S NEW AT OUR PRACTICE?

We have recently recruited a Paramedic, Sarah. She will work closely with our GP's/Clinical Team. Sarah will visit our frail and elderly patients and support patients with long term conditions. Sarah will also be providing on the day appointments. We would also like to welcome Daniela who has joined our nursing team working a Friday.

MISSED APPOINTMENTS

The Surgery continues to see a high number of MISSED appointments. Can we kindly ask please that if you are unable to keep your appointment that you contact the Surgery and cancel. Thank you for your support with this request.

HOW TO GET THE BEST OUT OF YOUR CONSULTATIONS!

- Write down the key questions you wish to ask before you visit the practice.

- If you already receiving medication write down the medicines and pills or take them with you

- Make a note of when you started to feel unwell, your symptoms and any other contributing factors such as; a recent holiday or injury

- Ask a friend or family member to come with you if it would help you

- Make sure you share all information with your GP. Sometimes it is the small details that help inform the doctor about your possible condition.

- Be as open and honest as you can and don't be embarrassed. GP's are trained to deal with the intimate and uncomfortable and will understand your embarrassment so should support you.

CALLING ALL LADIES (18-64) ARE YOU UP TO DATE WITH YOUR CERVICAL SMEARS?

Please contact the Surgery to book your appointment with one of our Nurses.



PARENTS & GUARDIANS Is your child up to date with their childhood Immunisations? Please contact the Surgery to book with an appointment with our Nurses.

For more information, please collect from our Surgery our Spring Newsletter!!

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MK44 3QP, Tel: 01234 838777 frostsgardencentres.co.uk

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Both Lisa and John enjoy sharing their hobby of baking. With three older children that need her less now, Lisa enjoys her time caring for John. Once in a corporate job, she now wants a slower pace of life. All of her experience has led her to a rewarding role she feels comfortable with and thoroughly enjoys.

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homeinstead.co.uk/bedford/vacancies/
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QUIZ! community night in the hall

Fund Raising for the 2023 Fun Day

Friday
26 May & 21st July

Village Club groups, friends or family,
in teams of 4 please.

Bar open from 7.30pm (bring your own snacks).

We have a new Quizmaster. Quiz starts at 8pm.

To book your team, contact **Louise** on **870443**
or email **ggeared@gmail.com**





East West Rail

The long delayed announcement of the preferred route still shows no signs of arriving. At every meeting of local representatives attempts are made to get clarification of the chosen route or a least a date for the announcement but the EWR company do not seem them selves to know. This delay prolongs the uncertainty and distress caused to householders, businesses and farms whose properties may be affected depending on which route is chosen.

The main focus of attention has for several months been on the complete absence of any business plan. What has been played down in all the publicity and consultation documents is the extent to which the new line will be dependent on freight transport. It won't be just a passenger railway connecting Bedford to Cambridge but almost certainly a link in the freight network to the East coast ports. That will mean a far greater use than the limited passenger timetable that was included in the consultation documents and a wider impact in terms of noise and all hours running.

The campaign against the project is continuing. Both at the local level with the Bfare local campaign group and at Westminster with Richard Fuller MP.

Black Cat/ A421 Improvements

This project, which should have started by now, has been delayed by legal action from protestors. Although their attempts have failed at every stage so far of the legal process they are still persisting. This means that we still do not have any dates for the various diversions and road closures which will inevitably affect Great Barford.

Department for Work and Pensions Household Support grant continues to support Borough residents

The Household Support grant has been used to help provide supermarket vouchers to thousands of families who are entitled to income related free school meals. Additionally, following Government guidance, the Council has now extended the Household Support Grant to those who face additional energy costs because of a disability or they are living with a chronic illness.

Central Government approve £11.3m of the Borough's Business Cases under Bedford Town Deal

Following a successful bid, Bedford Borough received £22.6 million from central Government for the Town Deal. Four of these business cases, which were submitted in 2022, have been approved by Central Government, giving the green light to start delivering the projects.

These projects include the Midland Road regeneration and public realm improvements, the regeneration and restoration of St Paul's Square, and improvements to the Greyfriars junction which total £11.3 million of the total funding.

Residents will need photo ID to vote in person at elections in May



Electors voting in person at polling stations will need to show photographic ID to vote at this year's local elections. Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card.

Tots & Teenies (toddler group)



Every Wednesday* *(in term time)*

at Great Barford Village Hall

9:45am-11:30am

Includes toys, craft, song time, snacks, and drinks for babies & toddlers.

Plus, hot drinks for adults.

£3 for 1 adult & 1 child

£1.50 per extra child/adult thereafter.

Pay on the door (cash or card), no need to pre book.

Please bring some extra pennies to buy yourself some cake

Contact Nicci 07970114030 for more information

**Please note Tots is now on a WEDNESDAY*

GREAT BARFORD WEST

What's been happening?

Over the past few months the Great Barford West project team have been continuing work to finalise a Development Brief, which will set out our vision, layout and the key principles for the future development and ensure that it meets local and national planning policies.

The draft Development Brief is being created in close collaboration with Great Barford Neighbourhood Plan Group and will incorporate much of the useful feedback we have obtained during our previous engagement with the local community.



Community engagement

Our engagement with the local community began with our attendance at the Great Barford Neighbourhood Fun Day, and the next stage of this will be a period of consultation on our draft Development Brief.

The consultation will cover a range of formats to give everyone in Great Barford the opportunity to get involved, and we hope to begin this consultation in April 2023. We will be in contact with you in due course with more information on the consultation process, including an information newsletter and details on our dedicated project website, which will soon be updated with information on our draft Development Brief.

As a result of your feedback at the Fun Day, we will also be hosting a specific consultation for the naming of the development, and we will notify the local community in due course as to how this will be undertaken.

Further information

If you would like to be kept up to date on our progress so far, future community consultation events, or would like to view further information on the background of the site and progress to date, please visit our project website at:
www.greatbarfordwest.co.uk.

If you have any further questions, or would like paper copies of the materials available, please contact the developer at the details below:

0800 080 3164
great-barford-west@devcomms.co.uk

1. Old Lock 2. Under River Bridge
3. Goodwins Yard

ANSWERS

1. 1974
2. Libya
3. The Bishop
4. The Cam
5. Paul McCartney
6. Richard Nixon
7. George Lazenby
8. The Ryder Cup
9. Tony Blair
10. 4.5
11. Cornwall
12. Bjorn Borg



Great Barford Village Hall

Take a look at our new website where there's information about the hall and the facilities, rates for hire and details of all the regular weekly classes.

www.greatbarfordvh.org

Use the online CALENDAR to check availability and to make a booking. For further information, contact Louise Geary on 07974 816880 or email: gbvhlouise@gmail.com

News update

We have a new DISCO ball – with thanks to Sabey Builders for arranging the installation.

The wooden flooring in the main hall (with marked badminton court) is being refurbished, the hall will be closed between 9th and 14th May.

1st Friday of the month is FAMILY FRIDAY, open from 6pm to 9pm. The bar will then remain open till late.

LOCAL GP'S SURGERY & WALK-IN CENTRES

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Great Barford
MK44 3HX

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08:30 - 13:00 & 14:00 - 18:00

Telephone Monday to Friday
08:00 - 13:00 & 14:00 - 18:30

St Neots Health Centre
24 Moores Walk
St Neots
PE19 1AG

01480 219 317

Non Registered Patients Opening Hours
(outside these hours, patients are advised to contact their own registered GP)
Monday to Friday
08:00 - 09:00 & 18:00 - 20:00
Saturday & Sunday
09:00 - 16:00

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Bedford
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REPORTING FAULTS

If you see a fault or problem in Great Barford that is the responsibility of Bedford Borough Council please report it using the contacts below:

Roads, footpaths, street light and general highway problems including signage, report to the Highways Helpdesk:

01234 718003
highways.helpdesk@bedford.gov.uk

Environmental concerns such as dog bins, street cleaning, flytipping, waste collection and graffiti contact:

01234 718060
callcentre@bedford.gov.uk

Dog Warden contact:

01234 718009
ehadmin@bedford.gov.uk

For any other issues please contact the Borough Council and they will advise you as to which department can help.
01234 267 422

The Borough Council website provides very useful information on the specific services of the Borough Council and contact details:

www.bedford.gov.uk

If you see a faulty streetlight with a PC number please report it to the Parish Clerk.

For any faults or issues with the graveyard, village green, playing field, jubilee play area, allotments or areas of open space please contact the Parish Clerk.

If you are not sure who is responsible or if you need help or advice with reporting items please contact the Parish Clerk on:

01234 870245 or
clerk@greatbarford.org.uk

Did you know there's a Great Barford Netball team?! Well, there is! And here they are, wearing the lovely netball dresses that the Events Committee were pleased to purchase for them, using some of the money raised at the 2022 Fun Day. The team have been running for just over 6 years and started in Division 5. Now they are in Division 3, where last season they played in the Cup Final. They have made a great start in this year's league, winning their last match 57-23!



Great Barford Netball Team. 2023
L-R Lynsey Jones, Nicola Hereford (C), Tracey Tyler, Claire Overall, Rachael Carter, Rachael Ferris, Sarah Hutton

(Players not pictured: Kerri Waldock, Emma Hereford, Emma Mellett)

THE BOBBY SCHEME

Can the Bobby Scheme help you?

The Bobby Scheme is a local charity that provides a free service to over 65s and the vulnerable by improving their home security to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

If you would like a visit from the Bobby Scheme or know someone who would benefit please call.

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