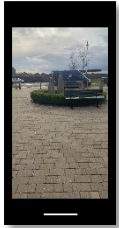


Borough Councillors to Great Denham Parish Council April 2022

Green Feature to be restored

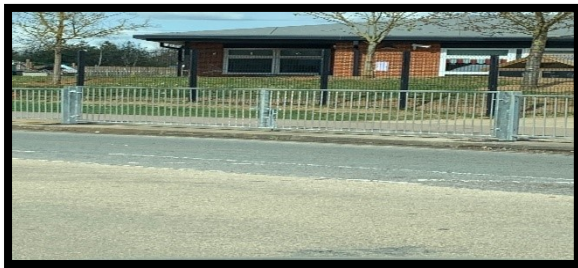


The “mini-Stonehenge” on the corner of Greenkeepers and Mercia Roads is to be fully reinstated following demolition by eager contractors working to get things ready for adoption. Working with Borough Officers, DWH Directors and GDPC and following a meeting on site full restitution has been agreed for both this and the “Tommy memorial” area. The memorial area will happen quite quickly but owing to have to have the heavy stones replaced a structural engineers report will be needed first so this will take a few weeks.



The Tommy memorial will look a little different in that the inner circle round the tree will have a defined hard edge created by grey sets. The grass will be restored and will hopefully be turfed - but will obviously have to have time to bed in – and the benches are ordered.

School Safety Railings Gate



Triumph for the tenacity of GDPC and especially the Parish Clerks determination not to let the Borough off the hook. After a long hard chase, they have now been installed. Rather than the sliding type it looks as though they will fold back against the railings on either side. Much improved optics in Kingswood Way!

Travellers Encampment Stagsden

The encampment that was removed from the layby on the A6 close to Sharnbrook has now ended up located in a layby on the road between Stagsden and Astwood. This is just inside the Borough boundary and consisted of three caravans, the fourth having been damaged and abandoned in the A6 layby. After receiving a report from a member of the public that the people in the encampment have again placed traffic cones across the entrance to the layby, to prevent members of the public from using the layby. We instructed our enforcement agents to issue a common law notice requiring the encampment to vacate the layby. The Boroughs enforcement agents evicted the encampment from the layby on the 24th of March using common law powers. They report the encampment was last seen heading in the direction of Buckinghamshire, so they may well have now left the Borough.

Estate Management Charge – The fiasco continues!

This last week has seen the ridiculous attempt by one of the GD Estate management companies trying to levy a charge of £8,800 to residents for the supply of electricity and maintenance of seven lampposts! I have pushed back on this with the management company and asked the Mayor and Environment Directorate at the Borough to move swiftly to adopt these lampposts and avoid this scandalous charge to residents. The Bedford Independent will be reporting on this next week. I have also been contacted from Wootton and Cardington residents who are also experiencing poor service and high charges and will soon be forming a group to find a way to address all the issues raised.

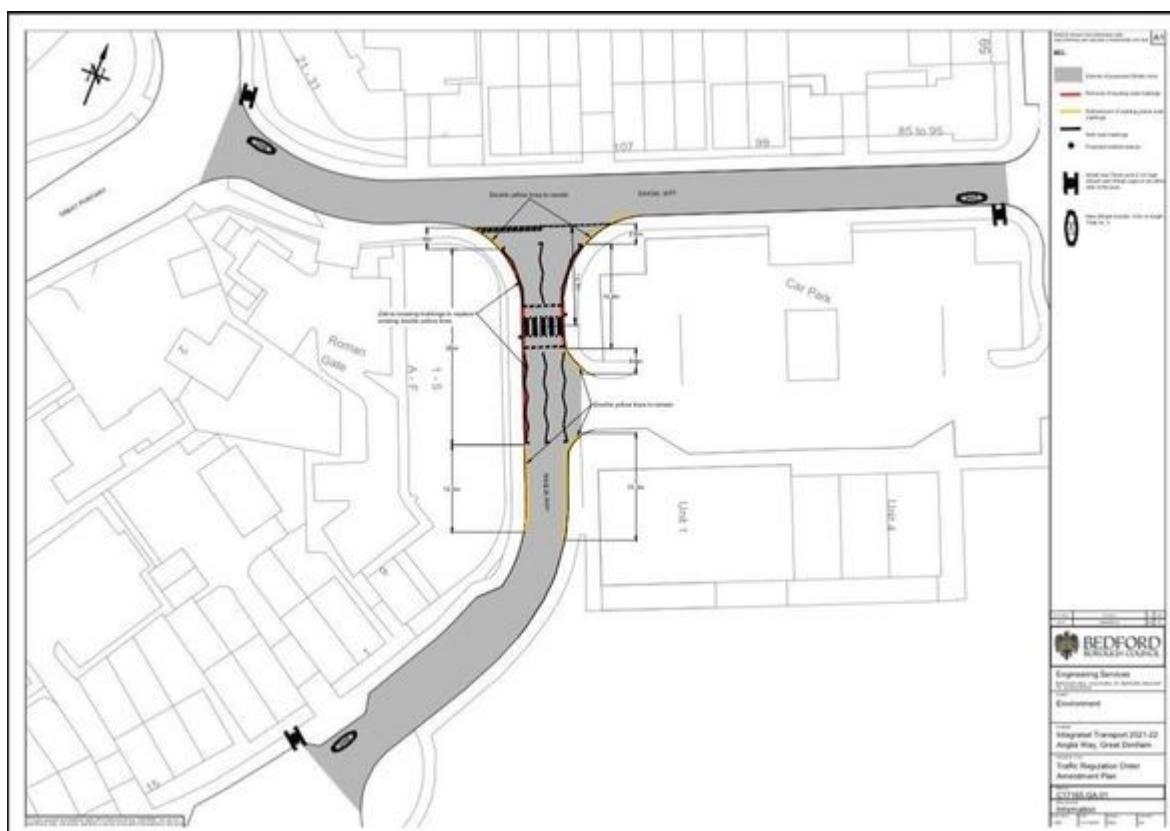
Tom4change – New Mayoral candidate visit Great Denham



I would like to introduce Tom Wootton who will be a Mayoral candidate for the 2023 May elections. Tom visited me last week to see round the parish and talk about the issues facing residents. He also asked about the best way to meet residents and hear their concerns. Tom will be setting up several visits where he will hold meetings – probably at the community hall – to hear views on issues. I have collaborated with Tom on the Council for the last 4 years and he is fully aware of the Open space management and Estate management failures residents are suffering from.

Liberal Democrats Facebook Statement

“Bedford Borough Council is proposing to introduce a 20MPH zone in Anglia Way and Saxon Way in Great Denham. This is because a new zebra crossing is to be introduced in Anglia Way to improve pedestrian safety. Comments supporting or objecting to the proposals should be put in an email, stating the grounds on which they are made, and sent no later than 17th April 2022 to highway.consultations@bedford.gov.uk.” It is a pity this Liberal Democrat page did not also mention that it was the Parish Council who lobbied for this for the last two years and are having to pay £40k to get it done. The ward Councillor is also paying for the 20-mph zone.



Borough COVID-19 Latest Figures

As of the 30th of March in Bedford, there have been 60,904 cases since the start of the pandemic and there have been 1,044 registered cases in Bedford in the last 7 days.

If you would like the latest COVID snapshot (up to 27th March) please find it below:

[Bedford Borough - Covid19 Snapshot_20220330_.pdf \(windows.net\)](#)

Businesses can still apply for a new Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant

Applications for the new Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant, which has been funded by the Government, are now open on Bedford Borough Council's website.

The Government announced that further support will be provided to businesses in the hospitality, accommodation and leisure business sectors affected by the Omicron wave through the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant.

The amount eligible local businesses will receive are:

- Qualifying businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or less on 30 December 2021, will receive a one-off grant of £2,667.
- Qualifying businesses with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000 on 30 December 2021, will receive a one-off grant of £4,000.
- Qualifying businesses with a rateable value of £51,000 or above on 30 December 2021, will receive a one-off grant of £6,000.

Visit www.bedford.gov.uk/BSG to find out more about eligibility, and to apply for this grant.

You can find out which type of businesses are excluded at: [Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant Guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Omicron discretionary additional restrictions grant scheme The Government have also provided funds for Bedford Borough to implement a discretionary grant scheme to assist qualifying businesses in the hospitality, leisure, indoor facilities, and non-essential retail sectors with further assistance.

The Omicron discretionary grant scheme will pay eligible businesses a one-off grant. You may be eligible if your business:

- Is located in the Bedford Borough Council area.
- Did not receive funding under the main Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme.
- Operates within the sectors in the table below.

Sector	Type of business
Hospitality and Leisure	Restaurants, Cafes, Bars, Shisha Cafes, Conference centres, Pubs, Nightclubs, Bingo Halls, Bowling Alleys, Hairdressers, Beauty, Businesses that cater to the events sector and mobile caterers at events
Indoor facilities	Businesses that normally provide group activities – i.e. art & crafts workshops, community centres/public halls/church or religious halls, fitness studios, squash clubs, sports clubs, boxing clubs, wellness studios, gyms, dance studios, escape rooms, health & fitness centres, soft play centres, riding centres and swimming pools
Non-essential retail	Travel businesses including travel agents and tour operators

Visit www.bedford.gov.uk/BSG to find out more about eligibility, and to apply for this grant.