

Borough Councillor Update for Turvey PC – August/September 2022

41 Bus Timetable and Service.

Most will be aware of the unsatisfactory changes to the 41-bus service when it was reduced to a 90-minute service instead of the hourly. Earlier in the month I was informed that the service was to be cancelled altogether as it was no longer viable. Of course, this was not acceptable, so I engaged with the Team Leader for Public Transport at the Borough and Stagecoach. Following some repeated dialogue about the unacceptability of losing the service Stagecoach have stated they will now keep the service but will no longer go through to Northampton due to MK Council withdrawing funding. This link will give you the new timetable from the 30th of October and they are in printed form at the end of this report. We can't continue to withdraw and detrimentally alter timetables for our rural communities. I will be bringing to the attention of the Rural Affairs Committee next week and insist that the current Mayor finds the funds to keep these services running.

[BE-41-301022.pdf \(tiscon-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://s3.amazonaws.com/tiscon-maps-stagecoachbus/BE-41-301022.pdf)

Parish Footpaths and Roads

Whilst we have been advised of the work about to commence on the May Road and The Pyghtle the unsafe state of the Grove Road Squares continues to be ignored by the Borough. I am aware that there are competing requirements for work on footpaths throughout the Borough but none I fear as bad as Grove Road. Contractors working for the Borough met with me in Grove Road under a scheme called "social value projects". This is where they undertake projects free in certain parishes. Whilst the contractors agreed that they had not seen anything as bad as these footpaths the amount of funding they had available under the scheme wouldn't touch the sides. I believe that they only have about £3k available under the scheme and this would be a £40k piece of work. I am now waiting for an update from Borough Engineers as to when and where this work will get prioritised to start. The link shows just how bad they are.

(1) Jim Weir: Kempston Rural Ward Councillor on Twitter: "[@DaveTheMayor](https://t.co/P0T4goLxhj) Dave it's all very well spending money to keep the pavements clean but should we not be doing something about this? Footpaths in Turvey are a massive safety issue. Please do something about it! <https://t.co/P0T4goLxhj>" / Twitter

Given that the "social value project" was too expensive I have asked that they look at other options in the parish that they could work on within their budget. So, any work identified/needed please let the Parish Council and me know.

Snakes Meadow Solar Farm Stagsden

On Monday evenings planning committee permission was granted for an 80-hectare solar farm to be installed at land covering three different local authorities, Bedford Borough, Central Beds and MK. More than half of this falls inside Bedford Borough in the parish of Stagsden. Despite many objections from residents and Stagsden PC permission was given with a majority of the committee voting in favour. This farm will supply enough energy for 11,500 homes but the loss of good agricultural land for 40 years was part of the objectors' issues.

Village Hall Kitchen Refurb.

I have committed £4k from my ward fund to go alongside the funds already committed by the Parish Council.

Turvey Abbey

Although I haven't seen it yet, I believe the clock has been repaired and is back in place. I have to apologies to the Sister's about the length of time it is taking for the Borough to hand over the funds it promised through the Rural Grant system.

Average Speed Cameras

The number of fixed penalty fines issued in August was 7 all 39mph or under.

Wider Borough News

Executive Decisions

2nd August – Decision to award the following grant - £1,000.00 to support Smart CJS to deliver their Prebend Day Care Centre which provides essential care and support to those facing homelessness in our local community.

4th August – Decision to approve funding from the Mayor's Climate Change Fund for an application from Bedford Pentecostal Church to fund the installation of a more energy efficient gas heating system, in the sum of £8,468 for the reasons set out in this report.

5th August – Decision to accept Grant funding from the DfE to carry out work on their behalf to raise standards in the Early Years. The grant has been signed and accepted for funding up to £27,600 from 1/4/23 to 31/8/23.

12th August – Decision to award the following grant - £1,000.00 to support PBIC to support the Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations.

23rd August - Description to enter into the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) on behalf of Bedford Borough Council and as a "Participating Authority" in the Sustainable Warmth scheme. £1,881,000 of funding has been allocated to Bedford Borough Council

Elstow Solar Farm goes live

Bedford Borough Council's brand-new solar farm has been fully energised and is now exporting low-carbon electricity to the grid.

The project has cost £4.15m with Bedford Borough Council investing over £2.2million. The project was awarded more than £1.8million from the Southeast Midlands Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) with additional support from HM Government via the Getting Building Fund.

The Elstow Solar Farm is going to play an instrumental role in the council meeting its ambition of becoming net-zero by 2030.

Bedford Borough Residents set to receive £1M of grants to help insulate energy inefficient homes on low-income.

In the face of rising inflation and fuel prices, many residents across Bedford Borough are worried about keeping warm this winter. Let us be clear help is coming.

The Conservative Government is investing around £500 million, across 78 projects, that will help local authorities upgrade energy inefficient homes of low-income households through its Sustainable Warmth Competition.

Bedford Borough Council successfully bided to become a "Participating Authority" in the Sustainable Warmth scheme and is set to receive £1M of Conservative Government grants. The funds will be used to upgrade the

energy efficiency of households most impacted by the cost of rising energy prices. These improvements should be made free of charge and will help residents to keep their homes warm, use less energy and help them to manage their heating bills.

For homes connected to the gas grid, the grant is up to £10,000. Whereas the grant ranges between £10,000 and £25,000 for homes not connected to the gas grid. Bedford Borough residents who have an annual household income under £30,000, under £20,000 after rent or mortgage costs, or whose household is on means-tested benefits, are more likely to qualify for the scheme.

Cllr Tom Wootton commented, *"It is fantastic to see the Borough successfully bid to be part of the Government's Sustainable Warmth programme. The funding is set to total £1 million in Government assistance that will help support many of the most vulnerable residents in Bedford."*

The funding will be used to upgrade energy inefficient homes. Through simple solutions like better insulation, renewable heating systems and double-glazing, the scheme will lower bills, help tackle fuel poverty and lower carbon emissions."

'Make sure you can vote' urges Bedford Borough Council

The Annual Canvass of households, to update the Electoral Register, is now live. Communications via email and/or letters have been sent to residents of Bedford Borough from the 21st July 2022 to remind them about the electoral register. The Borough will be sending out further communications to residents that do not respond.

Application for Tesco Express, Harpur Centre

The executive and committee members met regarding the Tesco moving from its current premise in town to a smaller premise inside the Harpur Centre.

Application is to be Determined.

Two New Play areas

The Council officially opened two newly refurbished play areas. One Bedford Park and the other at Jubilee Park.

The play areas have recently opened following extensive refurbishment and upgrades as part of the Council's £500,000 investment in play areas across the Borough this year.

Traffic Management Act and new Borough powers

As part of the Traffic Management Act (2022) the Government will be giving councils the option to apply for powers to enforce against moving traffic offences. Bedford Borough Council applied for these powers by the deadline of 20th May 2022 and the powers were granted unofficially in June 2022. The Borough is still awaiting the official letter, which will confirm these new powers.

Assistance with energy bills and cost of living

£150 Council Tax energy payment

Borough Council are currently running a £150 Council Tax energy payment that is available to all eligible households in Council Tax Bands A to D, and Band E where there is a disabled Band reduction.

The assistance is paid via direct debit however, any household that are not able to pay via direct debit, have

or have not completed the online form have been sent reminder letters, with the access code. If residents are eligible, please do remember to complete and forms.

The Governments Energy Bills Support Scheme

The Energy Bills Support Scheme discount, equating to £400, will be administered by energy suppliers and paid to consumers over a 6-month period. Payments will start from October 2022, there is no need for residents to contact energy suppliers concerning this.

This forms part of the £37 billion cost of living assistance package for consumers over winter 2022 to 2023. A further 8 million of the most vulnerable households will be receiving £1,200 of direct support to help with the cost of living.

Household Support Grant for winter 2022-2023

Bedford Borough Council is giving more than 50% of the Household Support Grant funding to families with children that qualify for free school meals. This will help vulnerable families on very low income to meet the cost of food and utilities during school holidays.

There is also a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme which provides a Council Tax Support discount of 100% to households on a low income.

Further help

Any households on a low income or that have experienced an unexpected crisis or emergency that means you cannot afford food, can receive assistance from the Council. If any difficulties have arisen, the Council may be able to refer residents to a Bedford Foodbank for assistance.

Ward Changes

I mentioned earlier in the year the ward changes that will take place prior to the May 2023 Mayoral and Councillor elections. This will see the new ward which will place Turvey alongside Steveington, Stagsden and Bromham represented by two ward Cllrs. You may recall that I will not be standing for this new ward but standing for election in Great Denham, where I have lived for the past 24 years. The two Conservative candidates for the new ward are Robert Rigby and Dylan Simmons. Both have extensive experience as Parish Councillors and asked if the PC would mind them attending the meetings so that they can gain an insight and flavour of the issues and activities of the parish? I suggested that I was sure the PC would not object.

Timetable report**Bedford - Route 41**

Bedford - Turvey – Northampton

From 30 October 2022

MONDAY - FRIDAY

Service No		41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
Bedford Bus Stn Bay C	Dep	0550	0850	1020	1150	1320	1450	1620	1750
Bedford Rail Station		0555	0855	1025	1155	1325	1455	1625	1755
Darlow Drive		0601	0901	1031	1201	1331	1501	1631	1801
Bromham Swan		0604	0904	1034	1204	1334	1504	1634	1804
Springfield Dr		0608	0908	1038	1208	1338	1508	1638	1808
Bromham Brookside Pk		0615	0915	1045	1215	1345	1515	1645	1815
Stagsden High St		0620	0920	1050	1220	1350	1520	1650	1820
Turvey Green		0630	0930	1100	1230	1400	1530	1700	1830
Lavendon Cross		0634							1834
The Bull		0641							1841
Yardley Hastings P O		0651							1851
Denton Church		0654							1854
Brafield on the Green		0658							1858
Northampton B/S Bay 14	Arr	0715							1915

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Northampton B/S Bay 14	Dep	0720							1920
Brafield on the Green		0733							1933
Denton Church		0735							1935
Yardley Hastings By Pass		0738							1938
Aspreys		0744							1944
Olney The Bull		0748							1948
Lavendon Cross		0757							1957
Turvey Laws Hotel		0802	0932	1102	1232	1402	1532	1702	2002
Stagsden High St		0812	0942	1112	1242	1412	1542	1712	2012
Bromham Brookside Pk		0815	0945	1115	1245	1415	1545	1715	2015
Springfield Drive		0819	0949	1119	1249	1419	1549	1719	2019
Bromham Swan		0824	0954	1124	1254	1424	1554	1724	2024
Darlow Drive		0828	0958	1128	1258	1428	1558	1728	2028
Bedford Rail Station		0834	1004	1134	1304	1434	1604	1734	2034
Bedford Bus Stn Bay C	Arr	0840	1010	1140	1310	1440	1610	1740	2040

SATURDAY

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Trip Note Code								
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Bedford Rail Station		0555	0855	1025	1155	1455	1625	1755
Darlow Drive		0601	0901	1031	1201	1501	1631	1801
Bromham Swan		0604	0904	1034	1204	1504	1634	1804
Springfield Dr		0608	0908	1038	1208	1508	1638	1808
Bromham Brookside Pk		0615	0915	1045	1215	1515	1645	1815
Stagsden High St		0620	0920	1050	1220	1520	1650	1820
Turvey Green		0630	0930	1100	1230	1530	1700	1830
Lavendon Cross		0634						1834
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THIS SERVICE DOES NOT OPERATE ON SUNDAYS & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

SATURDAY

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