

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Staploe Parish Council Held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 20th May 2026 in the Village Hall at Wyboston.

Present: Cllr. J. Ibbett, Cllr. G. Meola, Cllr. E. Meola, Cllr. R. Arnold, Cllr. M. Clark, Cllr. J. Thomson, L. Crawford (Clerk) and two members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Borough Cllr. S. Sira.

2026/028. Election of Chair

Cllr. J. Ibbett was nominated by Cllr. E. Meola and seconded by Cllr. M. Clark. There being no other nominations she was duly elected as chair.

2026/029. Election of Vice Chair

Cllr. E. Meola was nominated by Cllr. J. Ibbett and seconded by Cllr. M. Clark. There being no other nominations he was duly elected as vice chair.

2026/030. Vacancies and Declarations of Acceptance of Office

There is one vacancy remaining. We currently have two Councillors from Duloe, two from Staploe and two from Honeydon so the Council would welcome an application from a resident of any part of the parish. The declarations of acceptance of office will be signed after the meeting.

2026/031. Declarations of Interest and Registers of Members Interests

Cllr. J. Ibbett declared an interest in the planning application at Lower Honeydon Farm. Cllr. G. Meola and Cllr. E. Meola declared an interest in item 2026/040. regarding the football clubs request to play on Sundays.

2026/032. Open Forum

Tom Tagg suggested that if we get the new speed sign and we move the existing one around the parish we will need extra brackets and possibly an extra pole (there are no suitable poles to attach it to in Duloe). He also suggested that the fixed speed sign should be inside the speed limit in Staploe not on the speed limit boundary. Otherwise it is recording speeding before people are within the limit. The speed data shows that the speed sign does make a big difference to behaviour. When people are approaching the back of the sign in the middle of Staploe they are more likely to speed than when approaching the front side of the sign (with the message and speed showing). He believes that speed bumps are the only thing that will slow people down. Community Speed Watch is still happening but it is in very restricted locations and conditions. They did 3 sessions last summer and caught 6 people speeding in Duloe. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council have been told by the Highways Department that physical measures such as bumps in the road require additional street lighting which make them an expensive option and can have an urbanising effect in rural villages. They are also not always popular with residents due to noise / impact on cars.

A resident of Staploe came to talk about the extension in Staploe. She was concerned that if number 4 build all the way across the back of their semi detached property it will create a tunnel effect on her property and reduce light levels. She was also concerned about the extension damaging the drainage system from the fields behind. She was also concerned that the planning drawings did not represent her property accurately.

Cllr. G. Meola and Cllr. E. Meola expressed the view that they would prefer no football on Sundays as per the existing agreement and no football in June or July as it gives residents a break. Cllr. G. Meola suggested that if the Parish Council were minded to permit football on Sundays or any additional football in the summer then the charge for the cabin hire should increase.

2026/033. Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st April 2026. Having been previously circulated the minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr. J. Ibbett and seconded by Cllr. R. Arnold.

2026/034. Appointments and Responsibilities

- Staffing committee. Cllr. J. Ibbett, Cllr. G. Meola, Cllr. J. Thomson
- Finance committee. Cllr. J. Ibbett, Cllr. M. Clark, Cllr. E. Meola.
- Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils Cllr. J. Ibbett.
- Village Hall Management Committee. Dissolved.
- Rights of Way. Vacant.
- Speedwatch. Tom Tagg, Richard Squire, Mark Potts.
- Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Tom Tagg, Ged Meola, Lucy Crawford and Kate Abrahams.

2026/035. Borough Cllr. S. Sira's Ward Report and Ward Fund

- Cllr. G. Meola asked the Clerk to find out about the criteria that will be used to determine new planning applications for developments of 150 homes or more. There are new planning rules from 11th May 2026 under the Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2026. Under the new rules, councils wishing to refuse applications for developments of 150 homes or more must first refer the decision to the Secretary of State before formally issuing a refusal.
- Ward fund. **It was resolved to use the ward fund to purchase a new swing seat and a new speed sign battery.**
- Ward report. See Appendix p12-17

2026/036. Standing Orders and Terms of Reference

- Having been previously circulated the Parish Council Standing Orders which include committees were updated to the latest model version from the National Association of Local Councils and adopted by the Parish Council.
- Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. These were reviewed without comment.

2026/037. Social Events

- Barbecue and rounders on the playing field on Sunday 28th June. Jane Arnold will provide burgers, sausages, chicken breast and mushrooms with rolls, salads and accoutrements. Food will be free thanks to a generous donation from Cllr. E. Meola and Cllr. G. Meola. Residents will be invited to bring their own drinks, something to sit on, some change to buy ice lollies for £1 and running shoes suitable for rounders. The Clerk will advertise it on the website and it was advertised in the newsletter in April.
- Fish and chip night on Saturday 14th November. Starting at 7pm in Colmworth Village Hall. Codswallop will attend at 7.30pm. Jasper Squire aka the Mandolin Minstrel to provide live music for the token cost of two portions of fish and chips.

2026/038. Planning Applications

Application number	Type	Description	Location	Deadline	Link
26/00789/FUL	Full Planning Application	Single storey side and rear extension	4 Staploe Lane Staploe St Neots Bedfordshire PE19 5JA	27/05/2026	26/00789/FUL

It was resolved not to object but to comment as follows:

The extension appears to be very close to the neighbour's boundary. We feel it would be better set back further from the boundary so that the foundations do not encroach on the neighbour's property and to allow access for maintenance.

There is a history of surface water flooding in the gardens in this row of properties as they slope down from the field to the south. There is a complex system of surface water drainage and soakaways and careful attention should be given to surface water drainage to ensure that the water does not accumulate outside the kitchen window of the neighbour number 2. The soakaway for both properties is located within the boundary of number 4 so care needs to be taken to ensure that this still functions as it should.

Application number	Type	Description	Location	Deadline	Link
26/00669/COU	Change of Use application	Change of use of storage facility to use classes E(g)(iii), B2 and B8	Lower Honeydon Farm Honeydon Bedford Bedfordshire MK44 2LR	14/05/2026	26/00669/COU

It was resolved not to object but to make the following comments.

- Please could traffic be directed to approach and leave the site along Lower Honeydon Lane from the east to avoid going through Honeydon village.
- Please could there be a planning condition to state that industrial use and deliveries and distribution be restricted to 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, 8am to 1pm on Saturday and no operations on Sundays or Bank Holidays.
- Please could there be a planning condition of no external lighting.
- Please could there be a planning condition restricting noise levels which may affect residential properties nearby.

In response to the verbal threat of a landowner moving "20 caravans" onto a field adjacent to 1, Duloe Lane, Duloe **it was resolved to request an emergency contact at Bedford Borough Council with cover over the weekends and bank holidays.**

2026/039. Neighbourhood Plan

- Referendum result. On 14th May there was a Neighbourhood Plan referendum which asked the following question: "Do you want Bedford Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Staploe to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?" 78 people said yes and 7 said no. The plan is now "made".
- Next steps. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will meet to determine the costs and benefits of updating the plan to allocate sites.

2026/040. Village Hall, Community Cabins and Playing Field

- The Clerk reported that Wellers Law Group arranged the transfer of land from the Playing Field Charity to the Village Hall Charity in October 2022. There was a mistake on the documents and so they agreed to correct it for free. We paid the invoice and they charged us a second time (£940 incl VAT). The Clerk challenged this, was assured that this was a mistake and she requested a credit note but never received one and the invoice is resent, and challenged by the Clerk annually. Every year the Clerk requests a credit note. On 22nd April she received an e-mail stating “our records show that an amount of £940.00 in relation to invoice number 816528 dated the 15/12/2022 remains unpaid.” The Clerk sent all the evidence to show that the invoice was sent in error. Finally, a credit note has been issued for £940 with reference 816528/cn002 dated 22nd April 2026. The Clerk is recording this in the minutes for posterity in case it comes up again.
- Play area inspection report. The report found that the flat swing seat has some cracks and is likely to need replacing in the coming year. The Clerk has received a quote for a replacement seat for £60.06 ex VAT delivered. **It was resolved to purchase this with Ward Funds in the first instance or from our maintenance budget if Ward Funding is not available.**
- The Parish Council considered a request from the Football Club to add two small sided girls teams (u7s and u8s) on Sundays (to the current games on Saturdays). There would normally be one 3v3 game a week, so 12 players potentially, but could be as low as 6. If the league put the u7s & u8s at home on the same day then up to 24 players would be the maximum. They would train elsewhere. At present our agreement says: *“There are to be no more than three small-sided games (3v3, 5v5, or 7v7) on a Saturday and none on a Sunday. Where a single pitch is used for two home teams, all participants for the first game must have exited the site before the arrival of participants for the second game.”* So if we agreed to the small sided girls teams on Sunday we would have up to three small-sided games on Saturday and up to two on Sunday. **It was resolved not to accept games on a Sunday as it is important to give residents the opportunity to use the field.**
- Private hire 11th July 12-3pm. There will be a private hire of the cabins with a bouncy castle on the field on 11th July. The Clerk will request a copy of the insurance and risk assessment.

2026/041. Highways, Rights of Way, East West Rail

- Clerk’s report from the meeting between Highways, residents, business owners, farmers and landowners held on 16th April in Manor Farm Lane regarding HGV issues:

“16 people attended the meeting which was held in Manor Farm Lane. It was agreed that the Highways Department would erect some additional “Unsuitable for HGV” signs (they have generously offered to fund these) and level the bank behind the curb opposite Dairy Farm and fill it in to prevent erosion. The landowner of Whitehouse Farm also agreed to instal signs set back from the road directing drivers via Mill Road (avoiding Honeydon) subject to agreement from landowners.”

- Staploe speed sign data

Tom Tagg has kindly analysed the data from the speed sign in Staploe and gave us this report:

“I have analysed the data for each week and for each direction. The summary is below.

It clearly shows that the speeds /violations are reduced for vehicles approaching the sign.

It should be noted that the location of the sign at the east end of Staploe is at the start/end of the 30mph limit zone and so only speeds approaching and departing from the limit zone are recorded. It does not therefore record speeds within the limit zone.”

May 2026

Here is Tom Tagg's analysis of the data from Staploe:

Speed Sign Analysis		(Weekly basis)								
Speed Data August 2025 to April 2026										
Location	Sign facing	Dates	Days	Vehicle travelling from	Average No of vehicles / week	Average Speed violations / week	Maximum speed range / week (mph)	Average speed values (V50) (mph)	V85 speed values (mph)	Total No of vehicles exceeding limit +20mph
East Staploe (30mph limit)	East	28/8/25 - 6/12/25	100	East	1001	45%	54 to 79	30	36	224
				West	1071	63%	55 to 79	32	39	360
Falls Farm (20mph limit)	East	8/12/25 - 26/1/26	49	East	595	56%	37 to 48	21	26	13
				West	593	66%	37 to 60	22	27	13
Falls Farm (20mph limit)	West	28/1/26 - 8/4/26	70	West	356	33%	34 to 51	18	23	4
				East	402	36%	36 to 44	19	24	14

May 2026

The Clerk had also prepared a high level summary of the speed data from Staploe and Duloe. It is included below to show the data from Duloe:

Location	Dates	Days	Speed violations	Maximum speed	Average speed	Speed that 85% of drivers don't exceed
Duloe (30mph)	30th Jan to 18th May 2026	108	37%	88	29	36
East Staploe (30mph)	28th August to 6th December	100	54%	79	31	38
Falls Farm facing east (20mph)	8th December to 26th January	49	65%	60	22	27
Falls Farm facing west (20mph)	28th January - 8th April	70	34%	51	18	24
Falls Farm average (20mph)		119	47%			25.5

- The Clerk has applied for a grant from Awards for All for a fixed speed camera for £2,428 for the east end of Staploe and we should hear the outcome by 1st July. If unsuccessful it was resolved that we will use CIL funding to purchase the sign and ask R. Squire if he would consider a further contribution (he has already supplied one mobile sign for Staploe). A. Prigmore of Bedford Borough Council Highways Department has kindly offered to supply a pole on which to mount it.
- East West Rail consultation. Cllr. G. Meola kindly offered to read the consultation documents and send a proposed response to the Clerk. There were no obvious new issues affecting this area that the Parish Council had not commented on before.

2026/042. Assets and Insurance

- Review land and asset registers. Having been previously circulated no amendments were proposed to the land and buildings asset registers. The asset registers for audit and insurance purposes were amended at year end to reflect the fact that we purchased new fencing and a gate for the playing field £10,975 and new play area safety surfacing £6,550 but we disposed of the old play area safety surfacing £4,442 and used some planks to repair picnic benches £23 during the financial year.
- Renew insurance. **It was resolved to renew this at the cost of £710 per year** (we had only budgeted for £650). We are in a long term agreement but the value of our assets have increased since last year (play area fencing and gate, new play area surfacing).

2026/043. Finances

- Having been previously circulated the internal audit report received from the Numbers Quarter in Bedford was accepted.
- The Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for the Annual Return for 2025/26 were approved.

May 2026

- The performance against budget 2025-26 was very similar to the forecast given in the Annual Parish Meeting Finance Report in March. The only difference was that there was £99 more bank interest received than in the forecast (on 31st March), and we spent £10 more on CCTV maintenance than forecast and £51 more on electricity to the street lights (the final March payment had been excluded from the forecast). Therefore we ended up with approximately £38 more in our available reserves than forecast in the finance report.
- Allocate reserves. This was postponed until the next meeting.
- VAT reclaim. £1,864 to be reclaimed soon.
- The direct debits for electricity (cabins and street lights), water (cabins) and the Information Commissioners Office were reviewed and approved.
- Receipts and payments were checked against the invoices and approved by Cllr. M. Clark and Cllr. J. Thomson. They are presented on p8
- The bank reconciliation was examined against the bank statements by Cllr. G. Meola and is presented on p9

May 2026

Transactions for Approval in May 2026

Bank	Payment Ref	Date	Supplier	Description	Total
Barclays Main Account	002	13.04.2026	Bedford Borough Council	First half of precept	£8,219.50
Barclays Main Account	011	13.05.2026	St Neots Town Youth Football Club	Community Cabin hire	£125.00
Bank	Payment Ref	Date	Supplier	Description	Total
Barclays Main Account	001	01.04.2026	Starboard Systems	Accounting software	£43.20
Barclays Main Account	005	16.04.2026	Wyboston Village Hall	Wyboston Village Hall hire	£25.00
Barclays Main Account	006	15.04.2026	Colmworth Village Hall	Colmworth Village Hall hire	£52.00
Barclays Main Account	007	16.04.2026	EDF Energy	Electricity for Community Cabins	£33.16
Barclays Main Account	008	21.04.2026	SSE Energy	Electricity for street lights	£48.72
Barclays Main Account	009	24.04.2026	Clare Steward (Peterborough Print)	Newsletter printing	£96.00
Barclays Main Account	010	01.05.2026	Starboard Systems	Accounting software	£43.20
Barclays Main Account	012	15.05.2026	The Numbers Quarter	Internal audit fees	£300.00
Barclays Main Account	013	30.04.2026	Bradgate	Grass cutting Field & Common	£420.00
Barclays Main Account	014	15.05.2026	Playsafety	Play Area Inspection	£99.60
Barclays Main Account	015	21.05.2026	Anglian Water Business	Water & sewerage for Community Cabins	£40.22
Barclays Main Account	016	21.05.2026	Community First	Insurance	710.72
Barclays Main Account	017	27.05.2026	SSE Energy	Electricity for street lights	38.22
Barclays Main Account	018	24.6.2026	L. Crawford	Clerk's Pay Q1	1242.49
Barclays Main Account	019	24.6.2026	Bedfordshire Pension Fund	Clerk's Pension Q1	350.53
Barclays Main Account	020	21.5..2026	L. Crawford	Clerk's expenses Mch-Apr	29.49
Barclays Payments (Debit Card) Account	004	16.04.2026	Currys PC World	MS Office 365 annual subscription	£79.99

Staploe Parish Council

Prepared by: LUCY CRAWFORD
Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Date: 20/5/2026

Approved by: Geraldine Meo
Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

Date: 20/5/26

Bank Reconciliation at 20/05/2026			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2026		24,668.82
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2026 - 20/05/2026		8,344.50
			33,013.32
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2026 - 20/05/2026		1,240.87
A	Cash in Hand 20/05/2026 (per Cash Book)		31,772.45
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 20/05/2026	0.00	
	Barclays Main Account 18/05/2026	9,529.18	
	Barclays Payments (Debit Card) At 18/05/2026	15.20	
	Barclays Savings Account 18/05/2026	2,947.99	
	Unity Trust Savings Account 20/05/2026	19,280.08	
			31,772.45
	Less unrepresented payments		
			31,772.45
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		31,772.45
	A = B Checks out OK		

2026/044. Policies

- The code of conduct was reviewed without amendment.

2026/045. General Power of Competence

- The Council's is not eligible to use this power because the Clerk is not CILCA qualified. However, the Clerk explained that there are existing powers to do everything we have ever needed to do as a Council to date. Cllr. M. Clark reported that in her induction training it was explained that this power is often used to give to charity. Councillors asked if it should be used to give to the museum. The Clerk explained that there were other powers to do this (LGA 1972. Section 145(1)(d)) and we still have the freedom to use LGA 1972 Section 137 to spend up to £11.60 per elector on "anything of benefit to the inhabitants".

The meeting closed at 10.05pm

May 2026

Appendix

Wyboston Ward, Monthly Report

30 May 2026

Cllr Sharanjit Sira
Bedford Borough Council



This report provides an overview of key issues and developments affecting Wyboston Ward and North Bedfordshire.

East Park Energy – Examination Phase Update

There continues to be significant concern across Wyboston Ward and neighbouring villages regarding the proposed East Park Energy solar and battery storage development.

The project remains in the Examination phase, during which technical evidence, environmental impacts, traffic issues, heritage considerations, agricultural land loss, infrastructure concerns and community objections are being considered in detail before a recommendation is made to the Secretary of State.

The Examination is currently expected to continue until August 2026.

As your local councillor, I want to make my position absolutely clear: I remain strongly opposed to this industrial-scale development and continue working closely with residents and the Council to ensure local concerns are properly represented throughout the process.

Key concerns continue to include:

- The scale and visual impact on the countryside
- Loss of agricultural land
- Environmental and ecological implications
- The cumulative impact on surrounding villages
- Construction disruption and infrastructure pressures
- Long-term impacts on rural communities

I will continue to keep residents updated as the Examination progresses.

East West Rail (EWR) – Latest Update

East West Rail's final route-wide public consultation ran from 14 April to 9 June 2026. This consultation was an important opportunity for residents and communities to review the latest proposals and provide feedback before the scheme progresses towards the Development Consent Order process, which is expected in 2027.

Key proposals include:

- A rebuilt Bedford Station with new platforms, improved access, a western entrance and public plaza
- A relocated Bedford St Johns Station closer to Bedford Hospital
- A relocated multi-storey car park near Ford End Road
- Upgrades to the Marston Vale Line, including fewer but larger stations
- A new station at Tempsford
- Up to four trains per hour, with additional peak-time services
- Longer trains and hybrid battery/electric technology

Although updated designs and revised construction proposals have been presented, significant concerns remain regarding disruption, environmental impacts, pressure on local infrastructure, and the overall business case for the northern route option currently proposed.

I will continue to monitor developments closely and ensure residents' concerns are raised wherever possible.

Further information can be found at:

<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation/consultation2026>

Local Plan 2050

Work has now begun on preparing the new Bedford Borough Local Plan 2050, which will help guide how the Borough grows and develops over the coming decades.

The Local Plan will help shape the delivery of new homes, jobs, services, transport links and infrastructure, while also supporting environmental improvements, protecting local character and planning for the needs of communities across the Borough.

The previous Local Plan was withdrawn after the Planning Inspector identified fundamental issues with its soundness, particularly around infrastructure, housing delivery and the evidence base supporting the plan.

A timetable setting out the key stages of the plan-making process has now been published and can be viewed online at:

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-place-making/new-bedford-borough-local-plan-2050>

The first public consultation on the new plan is expected to take place from September to October 2026.

A Call for Sites will also run from the summer to October 2026. This will allow landowners, developers and other interested parties to put forward potential sites for consideration as part of the evidence-gathering process.

Queens Bridge Update

Demolition of the old Queens Bridge has now been completed, and work is progressing on plans for a replacement bridge linking Bedford and Kempston.

Bedford Borough Council's Engineering Services team is currently finalising design proposals for the new bridge. These are expected to be submitted for approval over the summer, with installation works currently aimed to begin in Spring 2027.

The previous bridge was built in 1984. For many years, investment in the bridge was very limited and largely focused on inspections rather than significant structural maintenance or proactive repair work. This lack of sustained investment is likely to have contributed to the deterioration of the bridge over time.

Following detailed inspections after 2023, significant decay and rot were found in the timber arches, meaning replacement was required on safety grounds.

As part of the demolition work, some of the salvaged wood will be reused locally, including for future arts projects, new public benches, and marker posts for footpaths and bridleways.

The ironwork and sculpture at the Ford End Road entrance, which had been removed and stored during the works, has now been reinstated.

The replacement bridge will be built in the same location, helping to restore this important link between Bedford and Kempston once complete.

Black Cat Roundabout & A428 Update

There will be overnight road closures as part of the ongoing Black Cat improvement works.

From Monday 18 May to Wednesday 10 June, overnight closures are taking place between 9pm and 5am on the following routes:

- A1 northbound between Tempsford and Wyboston
- A421 eastbound between Renhold and the Black Cat roundabout

Drivers using the A1 northbound will be diverted via Tempsford Interchange, St Neots Road and the A428, before rejoining the A1 at Wyboston Interchange.

Drivers using the A421 eastbound will be diverted via Cardington Interchange, the A603 towards Sandy, and the A1 northbound from Sandy roundabout.

Diversion routes will be clearly signposted during the works. Residents and commuters who use these routes are encouraged to allow extra time for their journeys and plan ahead where possible.

While these works will ultimately improve capacity and safety at one of the region's busiest junctions, they continue to have a direct impact on residents in Wyboston and surrounding villages through diversions, congestion and construction activity.

I will continue to monitor the impact on local residents and raise concerns where needed.

Bus Service Update

Bedford Borough Council has been working closely with local bus operators to help address recent changes to bus services, including the withdrawal of the Stagecoach 53 service.

Following this engagement, Grant Palmer has agreed to register a new commercial bus route linking Wootton, Kempston Saxon Centre and Bedford.

The new service is expected to start on 1 June 2026, subject to final approvals, and will mainly run hourly. The route will be different from the previous Stagecoach 53, as it will travel more directly through Kempston into Bedford. This should help provide a quicker journey time.

While the new route will not replace every part of the previous service, it is a welcome and practical step to help reduce the impact of recent bus service changes.

Free Tennis Sessions at Bedford Park

A summer programme of free tennis sessions is taking place at the refurbished courts in Bedford Park.

Sessions are open to all ages and abilities, with equipment provided.

Upcoming opportunities include:

- Saturday 23 May, 12pm–1pm – Free Parks Tennis session
- Saturday 6 June, 2pm–3pm – Junior taster session as part of Big Tennis Weekend
- Saturday 6 June, 3pm–4pm – Free adult open day session

The programme is being delivered by Bedford Borough Council and the National Tennis Association, helping residents get active, learn new skills and enjoy one of Bedford's best-loved green spaces.

Places can be booked through the LTA website, with further coaching information available at:

<https://nationaltennis.org.uk/locations/bedford-parks-tennis/>

Town Centre Regeneration Update

A key milestone has been reached for the future of Mayes Yard and the former Debenhams building in Bedford town centre, as Bedford Borough Council has chosen Cityheart as its preferred development partner.

The next stage will involve working up more detailed plans and finalising the formal agreement.

The aim is to bring this important town centre site back into better use, supporting new activity, jobs, homes, businesses and leisure opportunities.

Highways Update

Bedford Borough Council has continued to work at pace and delivered a strong programme of maintenance work and repairs across the Borough during May 2026.

The highways team completed:

- 79 carriageway repair orders
- 21 footway repair orders
- Maintenance repairs across 28 streets
- 488 cyclical highway safety inspections
- 483 gullies cleansed
- 27 street lighting faults repaired
- 142 lighting columns electrically tested

Separately, the Engineering Services team tested 1,799 street lighting columns.

This work forms part of the Council's continuing effort to improve roads, footways, drainage and street lighting across the Borough.

Rural Bulky Waste Collections

Bedford Borough Council has published the 2026 Rural Bulky Waste Collection Schedule for villages across the Borough. The schedule sets out temporary local collection points on set dates between June and September 2026.

Collections will take place in different villages on selected Saturdays and Sundays, with locations including village halls, car parks, greens, lay-bys and other local collection points. Some villages have one collection point, while others have two or three depending on the area being served.

The first collections are due to take place on 6 June 2026 in Bromham, Biddenham, Clapham and Oakley, followed by further collections across the summer in areas including Wilstead, Wixams, Elstow, Wootton, Turvey, Sharnbrook, Great Barford, Renhold, Kempston Rural, Stewartby, Willington and other rural communities.

Please see the attachment sent with this report for more detail.

Big Green Week at The Higgins Bedford

There will be a range of free events at The Higgins Bedford on Saturday 13 June as part of Great Big Green Week.

Activities include:

- Wood carving
- Forest bathing
- Mindful doodling
- A smartphone nature walk
- Children's crafts and sensory play
- Seed planting
- Community stalls
- A nature table from Bedfordshire Natural History Society

Further Green Week events are taking place across the Borough, including at John Bunyan Museum, Bedfordshire Libraries and Panacea Museum.

More information is available at:

www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk
www.greatbiggreenweek.com

Fostering for Bedford Borough Council

Bedford Borough Council is looking for more local families to foster, helping some of our most vulnerable children grow up in a safe, supportive home environment.

If you are considering taking on this important role, you can find out more information at:

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/fostering/who-can-foster>

or contact:

fostering@bedford.gov.uk

Contact and Community Engagement

Please continue to contact me with local issues, concerns or ideas. I am here to support and represent residents across Wyboston Ward and North Bedfordshire.

If any residents would be willing to assist with wider community engagement and helping ensure local concerns are properly represented, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Cllr Sharanjit Sira

Wyboston Ward, Bedford Borough Council

Email: sharanjit.sira@bedford.gov.uk

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