

Alison Foster, Borough Councillor

**Update for Harrold Ward – May 2013
Podington, Hinwick, Fardish, Wymington and Little Wymington, Harrold, Odell, Carlton**

School Transport Consultation

A consultation is currently taking place on the provision of post-16 school transport arrangements.

The proposals in outline are as follows;

- Transport will only be provided for A-Levels at the nearest educational institution within 20 miles of the student's home, which effectively limits providers to those in Bedford Borough. Transport will also be limited for vocational courses and apprenticeships to those provided within the Borough and Bedford College's Shuttleworth College site.
- A 50% reduction in subsidy for parents or carers in receipt of specific benefits whose children currently receive free transport.
- From 1st September students in receipt of free or subsidised travel will receive a bus pass for a contracted school route or public transport. Individual transport via taxis and also mileage allowances will only be available to cover a specific medical or special educational need.
- For statutory and post-16 pupils who have been refused free or subsidised travel their parents or carers will be able to attend their appeal, present their case and ask and respond to questions.

Residents can respond at the following link;

http://www.bedford.gov.uk/education_and_learning/schools_and_colleges/school_transport.aspx

Planning

The Council has appealed against a decision by the Planning Inspectorate to approve 4 Gypsy and Traveller pitches in Roxton.

Villager Community Transport Service

The Council has provided £60,000 for the purchase of a new vehicle for the Villager Community Transport Service. This will replace the current vehicle which has been breaking down with increased regularity in recent months.

The service is run by volunteers and provides transport for residents in the rural areas, and particularly elderly people to take them shopping. More information and timetables can be found at <http://www.villager-sharnbrook.org.uk/> or by calling 01234 781920.

Town Centre Conveniences

The Council has announced that it will be implementing a Community Toilet Scheme in the town centre where by local businesses can sign up to receive a subsidy from the Council to allow visitors to use their conveniences. More information is available on the Council's website; http://www.bedford.gov.uk/transport_and_streets/street_care_cleaning/public_toilets.aspx

Contact Alison

If you have any issues or concerns you would like to raise with me directly I can be contacted on my mobile 07773371190 or by email on afield_foster@btinternet.com