

**Borough Councillor's Update - October 2014**  
**Contact Alison by telephone on 07773371190 or email at  
afield\_foster@btinternet.com**

**Gypsy and Traveller Sites – Secretary of State's Decision**

Bletsoe - temporary permission for a caravan site with four pitches was granted for three years at appeal in 2009. A new application was received in 2012 to make the site permanent and was considered at a public inquiry after being refused by the Council.

The Secretary of State's decision was made on 1 October this year. His report stated: "Having balanced these potential equality impacts against the conflicts with the development plan policies and the imminent provision of an alternative suitable site to meet the need of the appellants, the Secretary of State is of the view that his decision to dismiss the appeal is proportionate and justified in the circumstances."

In view of this decision, the Council issued an injunction last Monday (6 October) preventing further caravans, mobile homes or other forms of residential accommodation on the land. This is to prevent additional gypsies and travellers living on the site before further action is taken to cease the use and restore the land.

**Bedford Western Bypass**

Work on the second phase of the Bedford Western Bypass is set to begin in the next few weeks after Bedford Borough Council awarded the contract to develop the site to Breheny Civil Engineering. Construction has been delayed due to objections raised by a number of landowners which have since been dropped.

The Bypass will be situated from the Deep Spinney roundabout in Biddenham to the A6 Paula Radcliffe Way. The road will act as an important link between the A421 / M1 and the A6 north of Bedford, thus removing traffic from Bedford town centre. Several hundred new houses and a school will also be built alongside the new road.

**Bedford Hospital**

At the time of writing, a report which will reveal plans for the future of services at Bedford Hospital has been delayed once again after it had been scheduled to be published at the end of September. Once the report is available it can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.yourhealthinbedfordshire.co.uk/>. The proposals will then be the subject of a public consultation.

**Borough Council Budget Proposals**

As a reminder the Council is currently consulting on a range of budget proposals totalling £2.285m for the years 2015/16 and 2016/17. These are in addition to savings already agreed amounting to £9.866m in 2015/16 and £5.075m in 2016/17.

If you wish to respond you can do so at the following link: [http://www.bedford.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/consultations.aspx](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/consultations.aspx).

## **Bedford Rugby Club**

A consultation is being held on the future of Bedford Rugby Club. Current Chairman Geoff Irvine plans to step down at the end of the 2015/16 season and is keen for plans to be put in place for the coming years. Mr Irvine has stressed the importance of receiving supporters' views given that the Club is losing on average £250k a year and is not able currently to progress to the English Premiership due to the condition of the Goldington Road ground, including the sloping pitch.

Suggested changes include the development of a new facility with several training pitches for use by all clubs in the town, as well as the possible rotation of the Goldington Road pitch in order for the ground to meet the requirements of the English Premiership. You can respond to the consultation at the following link: <http://www.markstrust.org/bedfordrugby.php>.