

newsletter  
June 2016

# GROWING BICESTER

## Build It Live! comes to Bicester

The successful self-build exhibition Build It Live! will be launching at Bicester Heritage on 11 and 12 June 2016.

BUILD IT LIVE  
HALF PRICE  
TICKETS



In addition to over 100 exhibitors, visitors can listen to informative seminars, meet building experts to talk about their own project and visit the Graven Hill Zone, an area dedicated to the Graven Hill Village Development where architectural designer and TV presenter Charlie Luxton will be making a guest appearance.

Bicester Heritage is the ideal Oxfordshire venue for this popular self-build show, which is organised by Build It magazine, because of its great transport links but also due to its close proximity to the largest ever self-build project at nearby Graven Hill Village, where up to 1,900 self-build plots are available.

Build It Live has grown to become one of the best known shows



for anyone thinking of building their own home or renovating/ extending an existing property. Ticket holders will also have a chance to tour the Graven Hill development site with representatives from the project.

The event will take place on

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 June 2016 from 9.30am – 5pm on both days. Tickets cost £12 per person but readers of Growing Bicester can take advantage of a special half price ticket offer by visiting the Build It Live website [www.builditlive.co.uk](http://www.builditlive.co.uk) and entering promo code GHGB16 when booking.



[www.growingbicester.co.uk](http://www.growingbicester.co.uk)

Growing Bicester Partners



**Cherwell**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

BICESTER VISION



## Upcoming events

Sunday 12th June 2016

Sheep Street & Pioneer Square



# Appetite builds for Bicester's Big Lunch

Residents in Bicester will be able to feast on an afternoon of food, entertainment and community spirit with the return of the town's Big Lunch.

On Sunday, 12 June representatives of Cherwell District Council will join thousands of people and dozens of traders, charities and businesses in transforming Sheep Street for the annual event.

People are encouraged to bring their own food and enjoy a sit-down meal with friends and neighbours surrounded by a host of entertainment.

The Big Lunch will take place in Sheep Street and Pioneer Square throughout the day on Sunday, 12 June and will feature live music and entertainment and a variety of stalls selling food and crafts as well as promoting community organisations.

Sheep Street will also be transformed with tables and chairs where people can bring a picnic to enjoy with family and friends.



Representatives of Cherwell District Council's Bicester Delivery Team will be available throughout the day to promote its services, speak to residents and answer questions about the town's development. They will be joined by sustainability charity Bioregional who will be telling families about the "One Planet Living" initiative which encourages people to live within the natural limits of the planet and encouraging children to pledge how they can live sustainable lives.



## Public consultation on retail and sports developments



U+I, Adalta Real and Bicester Sports Association (BSA) are holding public exhibitions in early June to seek the views of the local community on their vision for a retail-led, mixed-use development on the BSA's Oxford Road site and a new state-of-the-art sports hub at the BSA's Chesterton site.

The proposals are currently being developed and U+I, Adalta Real and BSA are seeking to share these initial emerging options for the sites and take on board local views as the plans evolve. Information on the proposals will be displayed and members of the development team will be available to answer any questions.

The public exhibitions are taking place on:

- **Wednesday 8 June** - 38 Market Place, Bicester, 2pm-8pm
- **Saturday 11 June** - 38 Market Place, Bicester, 10am-4pm

For more information visit [www.bicestersbiglunch.org.uk](http://www.bicestersbiglunch.org.uk)

## Sporting assist as partners team up

**Sports clubs can score free tips on funding, training and development at advice forums to be held in Bicester**

Next month's instructional sessions are the result of Cherwell District Council teaming up with Oxfordshire Sport and Physical Activity (OXSPA).

Representatives from the district's sports clubs are urged to attend the sessions to unlock funding and other opportunities to take their performance to the next level.

Up for discussion are funding sources and how to apply for them, grants from the council, and the national Sportivate scheme promoting active communities.

Also on the table are club development and workshops on topics such as Safeguarding and First Aid.

In the past five years Cherwell's sport development team has helped dozens of clubs to access funding from Sportivate and Sport England.

The first forum takes place at the Garth Café in Bicester on Wednesday, 8 June from 6pm – 9pm. The second is in Banbury at Spiceball Leisure Centre on Wednesday, 15 June from 6pm – 9pm.

Places can either be booked in advance to reserve an appointment or alternatively people can simply drop in on the day.

For more information visit [www.oxspa.co.uk/in-the-zone](http://www.oxspa.co.uk/in-the-zone) or to book email Ed Nicholas at [enicholas@oxspa.co.uk](mailto:enicholas@oxspa.co.uk) or call 07825 935900

## News

### Conservatives maintain control of Cherwell



**The Conservative group has retained majority control of Cherwell District Council after the existing wards were disbanded and replaced with new ward arrangements.**

Last month (May) 34.48 per cent of eligible voters took to the polls to elect 48 councillors to represent 16 new district council wards.

Previously, the council had comprised 50 councillors working on behalf of 28 wards; however following a review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, the council's wards were disbanded and replaced with a new structure.

Sue Smith, Returning Officer for Cherwell, said: "The make-up of the council was redesigned to address significant differences in the previous structure which meant some councillors were representing up to ten per cent more residents than others. Under the new make-up, every ward will now be represented by three councillors and by 2020, each member will represent 2,580 voters."

Previously the Conservatives had majority control with 40 of the 50 available seats. The remaining councillors comprised eight Labour members, one Independent candidate and one Liberal Democrat.

Following the election, the Conservatives have kept majority control of the council with 38 of the 48 seats. There was no change for the Labour party, who retained eight seats. The Liberal Democrats no longer have a presence on the council, while the number of Independents has doubled from one to two.

The changes mean that in Bicester there are now 12 councillors for four wards, replacing the past make-up of 11 members and five wards.

These are the councillors representing Bicester on Cherwell District Council:



Cllr Nicholas Mawer  
Bicester North & Caversfield



Cllr Lynn Pratt  
Bicester North & Caversfield



Cllr Jason Slaymaker  
Bicester North & Caversfield



Cllr Debbie Pickford  
Bicester West



Cllr Les Sibley  
Bicester West



Cllr Jolanta Lis  
Bicester West



Cllr Sean Gaul  
Bicester East



Cllr Richard Mould  
Bicester East



Cllr Tom Wallis  
Bicester East



Cllr David Anderson  
Bicester South & Ambrosden



Cllr Nick Cotter  
Bicester South & Ambrosden



Cllr Dan Sames  
Bicester South & Ambrosden

## News

### New Chairman of Oxfordshire County Council



Councillor Michael Waine was elected Chairman of Oxfordshire County Council in May 2016. He will

serve a one-year term of office as the ceremonial, non-political head of the council.

Cllr Waine said: "Having served as Vice Chairman to Cllr John Sanders during 2015-2016 and as a county councillor since 2005, I am aware of what this important job involves.

"I hope to visit each of the Oxfordshire localities to see the areas through the eyes of county councillors and attend one of their meetings so that I can see for myself all that is positive about our county and all that needs to be improved.

"As a Bicester councillor I also want to work with others to promote our growth towns, especially in the provision of balanced employment.

"An ongoing part of my year will be to fully understand the work of outstanding county staff and assure them of our appreciation.

"It is an honour and privilege to be elected to this role and to follow in the footsteps of a host of highly respected county councillors who have undertaken this job since the council was formed in the 1970s."

## Bicester residents can win a year's free electricity.



### Bicester householders are invited to join a new survey monitoring their electricity use.

Researchers at the University of Oxford will ask participants to fit a special electricity meter and record their activities over the course of a single day, using a diary or smartphone app. The survey will help to find ways of relieving peak demands on the UK's electricity grid and help make people more

informed in their use of electricity. To find out more about the METER project, watch a short online animation called 'Power People' by visiting [www.energy-use.org/vid/intro.mp4](http://www.energy-use.org/vid/intro.mp4)



## PROJECTS UPDATE

### Opening of new town library

#### The new Chairman of Oxfordshire County Council, Councillor Michael Waine, together with Bicester Town Council, is celebrating the official opening of the town's new library on 4 July with a week of cultural activities across Bicester.

There will be contributions from schools across the town in places where locals might not normally see them. There is a full programme of events, culminating in a Proms Concert by the 90-member Oxfordshire Youth Orchestra.

The concert will take place in hangar 147 at Bicester Heritage, at 6.30 on Saturday, 9 July. Gates to the site will be open at 4.30pm for those residents who want to explore the site or have a picnic on the many picnic tables and benches scattered around.

Tickets are £10 and are available

from the Bicester Town Council website, Bicester Town Council offices, The Library, Coles bookstore and on the door.

Also during its launch week, the library will host an a display of artwork depicting the 9 decades of Queen's reign, produced by pupils from each of Bicester's schools.



## PROJECTS UPDATE

### Garth Park going from strength to strength



**The play area in Garth Park is now open, and already scores of families have been taking advantage of the long-awaited splash area, the play area and large paddocks for playing games.**

The café is thriving, with a breakfast served until 11am. At lunchtime a range of sandwiches is offered, made with bread baked on site. Also on offer are freshly prepared pizzas, jacket potatoes, spicy potato wedges, locally roasted coffee, locally sourced loose tea, and alcoholic beverages.

At the rear of the café building are two new public toilets which are cleaned and refreshed three times a day. A charge of 20 pence is made to access these facilities.

Meanwhile, work continues on the skateboard project. Local skate park users have committed to help raise a proportion of the fund, and it is hoped that the project will be completed within the next year or so.

Residents wanting to get involved in the skate park project or to contribute to the fund are invited to contact Bicester Town Council.

### All signs point to makeover at nature reserve

A funding award of £41,000 will make Bicester's Bure Park Nature Reserve more accessible and easier to navigate.

The money follows a successful bid made by Cherwell District Council and Bicester Town Council to environmental body WREN. It will pay for 17 new fingerposts within the nature reserve and its vicinity, and an upgrade for five monolith-style signs.

Cllr Barry Wood, leader of Cherwell District Council, said: "This funding will facilitate vital improvements to one of Bicester's largest and best-loved public spaces.

"This nature reserve is the only one of its kind in Bicester. Not only does it enhance residents' journeys as they travel to connected destinations such as the primary school and local centre, it also plays a vital role in stimulating the area's biodiversity.

"The new monolith signs will offer a guide to the flora, fauna and ecology of the nature reserve, encouraging people to identify and appreciate the diverse species that call it home."

The signage, to be delivered by Cherwell in partnership with Bicester Town Council, will guide residents and visitors around the site with the intention of making it more accessible and increasing footfall to the reserve.

## TRAFFIC AND TRAVEL

### A41/Oxford Road Capacity Improvements



Work started as planned on 23 May with the digging of trial holes overnight. During the week beginning 30 May night work was undertaken to reline and realign the traffic lanes to create safe working areas on the A41 and Oxford Road.

Temporary traffic lights will be used from 31 May to 3 June. From 1 June tree clearance on the boundary of the old Tesco site will begin. From 6 June traffic management will be in place to allow the contractors to work on the verge of the A41 adjacent to the new Tesco car park and the verge of Oxford Rd in front of Little Chef.

Two lanes will be available to traffic as normal, although these will be slightly narrower and aligned slightly differently. There will also be night time (21:00 to 06:00) lane closures in place until 24 June.



### Travel Choices

For more detailed and regular travel updates about current schemes, please [sign up](#) to our Travel Choices Bicester newsletter.