

Summer '18



Gianni Carofano

InTouch

TIME FOR A CHANGE

BEDFORD UPDATES

Gianni and his team are currently working their way around the Borough handing out surveys.

If you have already received your survey please do return it so that we can hear your views and ensure we are working for you.

“There is nothing for kids to do in Bedford”

That is what parents and their children are telling Gianni on the doorstep. From speaking to them it is obvious there is simply not enough to do locally. It has not helped that the Mayor cancelled the Play Scheme. This is something Gianni Carofano will change.

Train timetable shambles.

The new Govia Thameslink Rail (GTR) timetable should have '3000 more seats' between Bedford and St. Pancras during peak periods.

Instead GTR and Network Rail have brought chaos and uncertainty for commuters. In expressing his anger Gianni said, "they need to get a grip fast and deliver for commuters." Search: 'Thameslink Delay Repay' for details on claiming compensation.

Scandal of St. Mary's Garden car park

At the opening of the new taxpayer funded car park next to Borough Hall the Mayor pledged "it will provide an attractive and accessible option just across the river from Riverside Bedford and the town centre for those from the south of the town."

Fact 1: It cost £149k to provide 42 spaces.

Fact 2: Everyday it is full of Borough Hall employee cars.

It's time for change

CONTACT GIANNI

www.gianniformayor.co.uk

gianni@gianniformayor.co.uk

/gianniformayor

@gianniformayor

MAYOR'S LOCAL PLAN A DISASTER FOR BEDFORD



Mayoral candidate Gianni Carofano says, "Not only is this plan disastrous for the borough, it is collapsing around the council's ears."

“It is time for a radical rethink.”

Central to the plan was a new town of 4,500 houses at Colworth near Santa Pod.

It had been heavily criticised because it would have been built on greenfield land and would have added to the already severe congestion on the A6 and local roads. But it collapsed as the owners of Santa Pod and the developers could not agree on noise levels, which had been predicted.

The scheme has been withdrawn and the local plan will have to be revised, meaning more delay and another round of consultation. The Borough Council will be looking at development in other villages in North Beds.

Gianni, said: "This will mean villages being ruined by estates of 500 or more houses, which will put further strain on roads and local facilities.

‘It's all because the Mayor has no strategic plan on how the Borough should grow and prosper without ruining what we already have.’

"We need to address the housing shortage but not by destroying our greenspaces. We should be looking at affordable housing in the urban areas and brownfields, not more 5-bedroom houses in the villages.

"Instead of a coherent vision he lets landowners propose sites, which will be easiest for them. This lazy and reactive approach to planning has led to large estates scattered around the Borough with no strategic approach to housing mix, transport infrastructure or local needs.

“It is a complete failure of leadership and the elected Mayor should fulfill his responsibility to all the residents of the Borough, which he has failed to do. It is time for a change.”



Gianni Carofano with Housing Minister Dominic Raab MP and NE Beds MP Alistair Burt

www.gianniformayor.co.uk



GIANNI CAROFANO: “It’s not about politics, it’s about making the Borough better”

Gianni Carofano is standing for Mayor of Bedford next year. He says that he is “proud to be an active member of the Bedford Borough Community in which I was born and where I proudly live and work whilst raising four children, but sadly, I see a borough that could be so much better and is not reaching its potential or serving its residents.

If I am elected as Mayor I will fight to ensure that our towns and villages have thriving, clean and safe communities. I will provide a future for the young people of Bedford to both live and work within the Borough, by ensuring that we build homes they can actually afford to buy, and fight for quality and rewarding employment opportunities in the area.

Most of all, I want ALL residents to feel they have a voice that is heard and valued. That is why I am working my way around the Borough... all 67,000 homes and in the last few months my team and I have already visited around 15,000 of them!”

TOWN CENTRE & MIDLAND ROAD LET DOWN



The town centre should be something that inspires pride in all of us.

We have the river and the Embankment which are assets most towns envy.

What they do not envy are our empty shops, with litter everywhere caused by years of neglect.

Midland Road is often the first place to be seen by many visitors to the town on leaving the railway station and should be somewhere to be proud of.

This council has closed the tourist centre, closed public conveniences and stood idly by while our High Street gets shabbier and emptier by the day.

Gianni said: “As Mayor one of my priorities will be to **bring our town centre back to life**. Already the Conservative group on the borough council has successfully fought for a licensing policy that will help the police and the council better safeguard the area.

“We are working on a plan to restrict the growth of sub-standard houses in multi-occupation and ensure higher standards.

We are also working on a fairer parking strategy which will help the town centre prosper.”

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BOROUGH’S FINANCES

The extent of central **Government support for Bedford Borough** is much greater than the Lib Dem Mayor has pretended.

The chart below shows the Borough’s yearly income from 2015-2020. There is little or no change. But there is **an increasing demand for services**, which means the council’s budget, is under pressure.

Under protest, the Borough has saved more than £100 million since 2011 without core services being seriously affected. That clearly shows how much money was being wasted.

The recent freeze in council tax bills was subsidised by central Government.

The Borough has received:

- **£19 million to tackle traffic congestion,**
- **£50 million to pay for new school classrooms and the move to two tier,**
- **£5 million to upgrade our street lighting**

For all these projects the Mayor takes the credit without mentioning they are mainly Government funded.

It is about time the Liberal Democrats started being honest with the people of Bedford Borough.



“Help me make Bedford better by getting involved today!

From posting leaflets to putting a poster up at election time, every bit of help you can offer will make a world of difference.

Just drop me an email at gianni@gianniformayor.co.uk”

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