
BRICKHILL 
PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report

2012-13



Brickhill Parish Council's Youth Activity Sessions Summer 2012

CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

Brickhill – Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 24th June 2013

Introduction

I would like to welcome you to St Mark's. This is the ninth Annual Parish Meeting for Brickhill.

The Annual Parish Meeting is not a council meeting. It is a meeting of parish electors and local organisations, including the Parish Council. It gives the chance to share news of achievements over the past year and of plans for the future.

Work of the Parish Council 2012/2013

Over the past year, the Parish Council has met 10 times. There have also been meetings of its Planning Committee, Allotments and Open Spaces Committee and other groups.

There were no elections during the last municipal year. Ann Reeve was co-opted in June and has been a great asset to the council. Linda Darbon has recently resigned; so the Parish Council will fill this vacancy by co-option shortly.

Francesca Johnstone is the Clerk to the Parish Council; she has been on maternity leave since March. I am very pleased that she has had her baby and also gained her Clerk's qualification. Sue Bottoms joined us as Acting Clerk while Francesca is on maternity leave. Sue has quickly picked up the ropes. Alison Southern is the Assistant Clerk and Allotments Officer.

The Parish Council appoints two representatives to the AGM of the Brickhill Community Association, which manages the Brickhill Community Centre on behalf of the Parish Council. I am an ex-officio member of the Brickhill Community Safety Forum committee. I continue to serve as a member of the County Committee of Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils.

Cllr Peter Blakeman is Brickhill Parish Council's nominated highways representative. Several councillors are regular participants in the Borough's Town and Parish Council partnership. Cllr Ray Waterhouse is the Vice-Chair of the Parish Council and is also chair of Brickhill Community Association. I want to thank all the councillors for their work on behalf of Brickhill. All are volunteers, who receive no financial gain for their work as Parish Councillors.

Parish Council office

The Parish Council office has been located at Brickhill Community Centre throughout the past year. We have a good relationship with Sue Stewart, the manager of the Community Centre.

Brickhill Community Centre and Waveney Green to the Parish Council

These were leased by the Borough Council to the Parish Council at the start of May 2011, for 99 years. The routine maintenance work that is the responsibility of the Parish Council is now well in hand. A further section of badly cracked footpath has been repaired on the Green. Following consultation with various groups, a successful application for funding from WREN has enabled the Parish Council to provide additional play facilities for very young children.

Waveney Green continues to be used for Saturday morning football. It was used for a youth football competition run by Brickhill Baptist Church in May and June. It is also now used by a military fitness group, as well as for informal sport and recreation.

Another successful Gathering on the Green event was held on the Green on Tuesday 5th June to coincide with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Over 1,000 people attended. Offers of help for this year's event on 10th August would be welcome.

Brickhill Community Association continues to run the Brickhill Community Centre on a day-to-day basis, with the Parish Council responsible for the more structural maintenance. The relationship has worked well over the past year. We have now received a report into two aspects that needed further investigation; fortunately neither seem to be too problematic, so we can now plan what areas should be dealt with over the next year.

Allotments

The Parish Council continues to run the allotments at the top of Brickhill Drive. Demand for plots remains high and we give priority to Brickhill residents.

Communication

The Council has published 4 newsletters over the past year. We have display boards at Avon Drive and Brickhill Drive shops, by the bus shelter next to Waveney Green and a new board in Ashmead Road just off Tyne Crescent. The website is updated regularly and the Parish Council is on Twitter and Facebook.

Brickhill Community Plan

Work has started on the implementation of the plan. The Brickhill Good Neighbours Scheme was launched at the Annual Parish Meeting tonight. The Safer Brickhill section of the plan is being looked after by the Brickhill Community Safety Forum. On 12th June a 'day of action' took place, led by the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, with support from the Police, Borough Council, bpha and Places for People, as well as the Parish Council.

The Brickhill Good Neighbours Scheme is developing well.

A new website has been created to make it easier for everyone to see progress on the plan and contribute to it.

Policing

There have been further changes in local policing. Brickhill no longer has a beat PC or PCSO. Consequently the Police Post in St Mark's Church and Community Centre has been closed.

Community Events

Bulb planting took place on Mallard Hill late last year. A Community Litter Pick took place on 15th June 2013 at Westrope Way/Ashmead Road. The Parish Council organised some Activity Camps for young people last summer and again this Easter. More are taking place this summer. These are currently subsidised and have proved very popular.

Woodlands Park

Bedford Borough Council started a formal Community Governance Review for Brickhill and Ravensden parishes. This consultation focused on the future parish governance arrangements for Woodlands Park. Residents were asked if Woodlands Park should: (1) be left as part of Ravensden Parish, (2) become a separate parish council, (3) be 'de-parished' or (4) become part of Brickhill Parish. Meetings were held in March and April 2013 in Brickhill, Woodlands Park and Ravensden to seek the initial views of residents. The views expressed clearly narrowed the options down to two: either Woodlands Park became part of Brickhill Parish or became a separate parish council. Brickhill Parish Council's view remained that the most appropriate option was for Woodlands Park to join Brickhill. Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick attended all three of the consultation meetings; the turnout of residents at these meetings was low.

Community grants

The Parish Council is supporting the Brickhill Community Safety Forum and the Good Neighbours Scheme. The grant scheme is open to all local groups.

Following a presentation by Lindsey Coldwell of the East of England Ambulance Service and also a Brickhill resident, a £650 grant has been given to enable a public access defibrillator to be provided here in Brickhill. This is funded 50/50 by the Parish Council and Bedford Park Rotary Club. Training on 21st July.

PARISH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE IN 2012-2013

COUNCILLOR	MAY	JUNE	Extra June	JULY	SEPT	OCT	NOV	JAN	FEB	MAR
Blakeman	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chambers	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Darbon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Josephs	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Fitzpatrick	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ovenell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rider	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Charles Royden	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Corinne Royden	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Waterhouse	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wilkins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hall		✓	✓	✓	✗	✗				
Crofts							✓	✓	✓	✓

Finances

Brickhill Parish Council Annual Accounts Summary 2012-13

2011-12		2012-13
£	RECEIPTS	£
107,734.00	Precept	107,855.00
2,376.14	VAT	7,809.03
6,650.00	Allotments	6,768.00
	Youth Activity	6,361.00
3,455.45	Other/Smart Water	
	Community Centre	2,609.90
650.00	Newsletter/Publicity	1,201.00
152.00	Admin	895.00
120.09	Interest	182.56
121,137.68	Total	133,681.49
	PAYMENTS	£
29,585.18	Salary	36,666.48
21,158.95*	Waveney Green	13,622.15
10,035.53	Admin	10,830.33
	Community Centre	10,804.44
	Reserves Used	6,808.16
4,664.11	Allotments	6,014.56
4,731.06	S137	4,649.09
4,980.35	VAT	4,252.61
	Gathering on the Green	4,245.83
3,715.10	Publicity	3,679.75
	YIZ	2,387.73
318.50	Hall hire	228.25
	Election Costs	225.34
2,975.81	Other	75.00
21,000.00	Brickhill Community Centre Residual	
4,000.00	Fund	
	Allotments Maintenance Reserve	
1,800.00	Brickhill Policing Partnership	
108,964.59	TOTAL	104,489.72

*WG/Brickhill Community Centre

	£
Allocated Reserves Held at 31.03.13	
Gratuity Fund	1,134.00
IT Fund	378.00
Election Costs	11,677.00
Allotment Maintenance	6,804.00
Key Deposits	700.00
Plot Deposits	1,000.00
Brickhill Community Centre	16,000.00
Brickhill Community Centre Residual Fund	21,000.00
Waveney Green	1,917.00
Legal Fees relating to transfer of assets	<u>1,730.00</u>
Total Designated Reserves	62,340.00

	£
Bank Balances at 31.3.03	
Current Account	53,363.32
14 Day Account	14,881.50
Stafford Pulman Account	<u>61,030.25</u>
	129,275.07
Total undesignated/contingency funds	66,935.07

The Parish Council precept for 2012-2013 was £107,855. Parish Council tax was £33.16 for Band D properties, no change from 2010-2011. The Parish Council precept for 2013-2014 is £98,249. In addition the Parish received £9,606 in Council Tax Support from the Borough Council. The Parish Council tax for 2013/14 is £33.16 for Band D properties, no change from 2012/13.



Mark Fitzpatrick

Chairman

24 June 2013

REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Councillor Royden gave a brief report on behalf of the Ward Councillors

Full reports for can be viewed on the website within the Borough Councillors' page.

PRESENTATIONS

- Simon Fisher- Parks and Countryside Manager Bedford Borough Council (North Brickhill Country Park)
- Ed Burnett- Countryside Sites Officer (Parkwood Nature Reserve)
- Jo Maule – Goldington Childrens Centre
- Report forwarded by Ian Evason, Beauchamp Middle School
- Ann Reeve – Youth Innovation Zone
- Cllr Dean Crofts-Community Safety Forum
- Cllr Peter Blakeman – Chairman of Brickhill Parish Council Planning Committee

CLOSE

Cllr Fitzpatrick thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk to the Council: **Sue Bottoms (Acting)**

Assistant Clerk to the Council: **Alison Southern**

Parish Council Office: **Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive, Bedford
MK41 7AF**

Telephone: **☎01234 271708**

Email: **clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk**

Website: **www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk**

Meetings: **First Thursday of every month (except August and
December) at St Mark's Church Community Centre,
Calder Rise, Bedford MK41 7UY**

Parish Councillor Surgeries: **Before each Parish Council Meeting**

7 pm to 7.30 pm at St Mark's Church Community
Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford MK41 7UY