

Brickhill Borough Councillors Update October 2018

From Wendy Rider and Charles Royden



Transporting Bedford 2020 Network Rail have advised that Bromham Road Bridge will have closures before and after Christmas and these will continue into the summer. The alternative route will require the use of the by pass and therefore construction of Manton Lane and the Sainsburys and By Pass roundabouts will have to be scheduled around Network Rail, creating a delay in the delivery of this programme.

The pond on Brickhill Drive As we stated last month the fountain in the pond is currently not in operation as we have had no water! As soon as the rain comes we will have it put back into use. Please pass this information around as some people do not seem to know.

Buses The service of the No. 6 bus is still far from adequate and we are requesting and forwarding complaints to Stagecoach with details of poor performance. Stagecoach have now admitted some poor performance but blame congestion.

Waveney Avenue / Dove Road The road failure at this location has now been addressed. There is inconclusive evidence as to the cause, which may be subsidence caused by the extremely hot weather. It is being monitored

School safety The additional bollards have been located on the pavement outside Scott School to prevent parents have been driving down the pavements as children are walking on them! There is now a Traffic Regulation Order in consultation for additional zig zag lines to be added which we have funded through our ward fund.

CCTV Brickhill Drive The camera in the shops has been upgraded and is located underneath the canopy to give clear identification of individuals.

Eagle Gardens We are consulting on yellow lines at the entrance of Eagle Gardens and adjoining roads. We have allocated ward funds for this to take place.

Rooksmead We have asked for plans for grasscrete on Rooksmead to enable parking in an extremely congested area. The costs will be £20,000 and we have agreed to allocate what is left of our ward funds to enable this to take place. If the parish were to also offer support this would enable the work to be completed sooner.

Brickhill Murders The Community Safety Forum agreed some time ago that knife crime, drugs and gangs would be number one priority for policing. This followed stabbings in Bedford Park and other crime. Following this we had a murder of a young person in Woodlands Park and we have heard of another murder on the Carron Road Estate where we have recently reported extensive and open drug dealing. We are pleased that the police have agreed to come to Parish Council to update us on what is going on.

Winter Update Please sign up for updates on winter maintenance from Bedford Borough Council at www.bedford.gov.uk/winterupdates and at @grittertweets

Carbon Emissions In 2011 Bedford Borough Council set a target of reducing carbon by 40% but the Council has gone even further and hit a 53% reduction in carbon emissions since 2009/10. Works across the Council's buildings have included lighting upgrades, installation of solar panels, and Borough Hall has been converted from oil fired boilers to a biomass boiler. Further projects delivered by the Council have seen improved lighting installed at a number of the car parks including Lurke Street, Queen Street and River Street which have already seen huge savings; with a 50% saving in just one year at Queen Street.

Christmas Lights Switch-On Bedford's Christmas Lights Switch On event will take place on Thursday 22 November, at 7pm, along The Embankment. There will be free late night parking at the Harpur Centre and Council-owned car parks (except River Street) from 6.00pm on 22nd November. The Christmas Light Switch On will also mark the beginning of late night parking/shopping in Bedford Town Centre.

Speedwatch Bedford Borough Councils' Community Speedwatch Vehicle is out and about on the Borough's streets. Speeding is a constant concern for local communities. The Council has heard those concerns and has created the 'Speedwatch vehicle', in partnership with Bedfordshire Police. This van will travel around the Borough, with trained staff tracking the speed of vehicles. If a driver is speeding they will receive a warning through the post. They may also be visited by the Police, particularly if they are a repeat offender or are travelling at excessive speeds.

Scrapping Single Use Plastic Bedford Borough Council has announced its aim to become a 'single-use' plastic-free Council by the end of 2020. Single-use plastics are only used once before they are thrown away and because they are plastic, they take a long time to break down. This includes things such as plastic cups, cutlery, straws and bottles. As a nation we are becoming more aware of the need to tackle the problem of plastic waste pollution. Locally Bedford Borough Council is taking the lead by working to eliminate single-use plastics. This will include working with our service suppliers, raising awareness among Council staff, replacing plastic cups and bottles at events and ensuring there is greater access to standpipes, and working with local schools. Bedford Borough Council has already signed the National Plastic Free Pledge. The Council will be working with them and other plastic-free initiatives towards the common goal of eliminating single-use plastics, firstly within Council buildings and then across the Borough.

Littering and ASB Enforcement Kingdom Environmental Services were first appointed by Bedford Borough Council to enforce against littering in January 2018. Since then, over 2,700 fines have been issued in Bedford Borough to people who were caught littering. In recent weeks the Council has brought 16 successful prosecutions against people for littering at the Magistrates Court. As a result, these 16 individuals have been convicted and ordered to pay over £7,950 between them which is an average of just under £500 each. This included fines of £3,260, costs of £4,217 and victim surcharges of £480.

As your local councillors we will continue to work hard and keep you informed through regular deliveries of FOCUS, surgeries and our website where you can sign up for our Brickhill newsletter.

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