

BRICKHILL NEWS

The newsletter of Brickhill Parish Council

Issue 54

May 2018

Woodlands Park News

Following a meeting with the Borough Council CCTV control team, Cllr Chris Bailes and Parish Council Clerk Mrs Sue Bottoms, the parish council has confirmed that the Ashmead Road cameras are performing as expected, so this first element of the Woodlands Park projects is complete. The Green Gym equipment will be installed by the Ashmead Road kickabout area shortly.



Other projects still depend on progress being made on adoption.

Following the recent incident with Ashmead Road being closed off for a couple of hours when a suspected old explosive device was found, the procedures for dealing with access in emergencies needs proper agreement.

Have your say on Community Policing

Bedford Police pay close attention to the views of the public when deciding how to focus their community policing work. In particular, they are guided by the results of the "Have your say" survey. It only takes a few minutes to fill in

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BedsPoliceHaveYourSay>

Unpleasant Odours?

If you are affected by odours coming from beyond North Brickhill Country Park, please report to Bedford Borough Council's Environmental Services Department on 01234 718099 or email ehadmin@bedford.gov.uk

Gathering on the Green

Saturday 7th July 11am till 3pm

Lots of fun for all the family! Rides, petting zoo, magic act, circus skills, face painting, performances by local groups and lots more.

We are hoping to hold some competitions, any ideas please contact the parish council. All free!!

Lets hope for some lovely weather!!

Air Ambulance touches down in Brickhill

A helicopter from the East Anglian Air Ambulance dropped into Waveney Green on 11th May, responding to a nearby incident. Councillor Mark Fitzpatrick was passing by and stopped for a chat with the crew. Mark said "It is great to see Waveney Green being used for such a useful purpose!"

Details of the mission are here: <https://www.eaaa.org.uk/missions/11-may-bedford/>:

'Anglia Two was tasked to Bedford to assist the EEAST team, police and fire service with a man in his sixties who had suffered a medical emergency. Doctor Ed Barnard and Critical Care Paramedic Gary Spitzer administered general anaesthetic and provided enhanced A&E level care.'



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Mrs Sue Bottoms,

Clerk to the Council

St Marks Church and Community Centre,
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Parish Council meetings

Parish council meetings are open to the public and normally take place on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm (except August and December) at St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill MK41 7UY.

Councillor surgeries are held at 7pm before each Parish Council meeting.



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Brickhill Borough Councillors' update

Wendy Rider (wendyrider41@gmail.com; 01234 303254)

Charles Royden (charlesroyden@gmail.com; 01234 309175)



The 'The Beast from the East' took a severe toll on roads across Bedford and parts of Brickhill Drive and Kimbolton Road broke up in the sub-zero temperatures and needed large areas patching. We have asked for these to be resurfaced given how badly they were affected. After our requests for the remaining sections of Torridge Rise and Windrush Avenue to be finished we are pleased to be able to confirm that these will be done this year. We have also asked for the car park at Avon Drive shops to be properly surfaced as quickly as possible.

A High Court Injunction to prevent travellers on Waveney Green is a priority for us and we have been assured that the papers are before the court and just waiting for a court date. This will make it a criminal offence to set up an encampment on the land and spare local residents the nuisance and the cost of clearing away the mess left behind.

The no-verge parking zone has been introduced in Moriston Road and a new enlarged zone will shortly be placed on roads off Bourneside and Avon Drive. Please do not park vehicles on the grass as this can damage utilities and it creates unsightly muddy verges which then requires maintenance. If you wish to report illegally parked vehicles on verges or elsewhere then call Borough Council Parking Services on 01234 718359, they will respond whenever they are able to do so. We have now also invested in enforcement cameras which enable prosecution when motorists park on zig zag lines outside schools. This area is the most dangerous for the safety of children. Ten motorists were prosecuted outside Brickhill Primary and St Thomas More Schools in April.

We have asked Highways Officers to look at what can be done to provide a safe crossing on Kimbolton Road especially for children going to Brickhill Primary School. It is not easy because where people cross is not where a crossing could be safely located. Efforts are being made to see what can be done.

Work has already begun on Manton Lane to tackle the long delays at school times. Hedging along Manton Lane has been removed already so that nesting birds would not be affected. 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. **www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com**

Summer Evening Walks Around the Area

One of the advantages of living in Brickhill is being able to explore the area and enjoy the countryside on our doorstep but with such busy lives, how many people put aside time to go and do it.

Summer with its long warm evenings is an ideal time to put aside the hussle and bustle of the day, put on comfortable clothes and shoes and take a walk for an hour or two.

Starting on the longest day, Thursday June 21st, there will be an evening walk every week until the end of August. The walks start from various locations around the Brickhill area at 7pm (apart from the first one) and last for two hours. All walks are free you just turn up at the start location several minutes beforehand.

The first walk on June 21st starts from the Pheasant PH. Meeting at 8pm for a drink and chat before heading out at 8-30pm to climb the ridge and watch the sun go down. Returning at around 10pm.

Other start locations are:- The bus stop on Waveney Avenue opposite the Catholic Church, Church Lane roundabout, Ashmead Road playing fields car park, Mowsbury Park Kimbolton Road car park, and lastly the Butterfly Bridge on the Embankment.

For full details of the walks see the Brickhill Parish Council website, noticeboards, pick up a leaflet or contact organiser Barry Ingram on 01234 353704.





Last month the students were all delighted to have the world's tallest basketball player visit Scott Primary School.



At 7th 7ins, our children really did look up to Paul Sturges! He delivered an engaging assembly detailing his basketball career which included playing for The Harlem Globetrotters and the students were lucky to join in lots of activities with him.

His key message was for us all to embrace the fact that everyone is different and unique

New Block Underway at St Thomas More

St Thomas More is excited to say that the new classroom block that we are having built is well under way.



This new block replaces the old portacabins that had been in place for some years so is an excellent upgrade. The new block will house 12 brand new classrooms which will give our students a lovely new working environment. This block will be up and running for the next Academic Year and each classroom will have brand new interactive displays.



New Parish Councillor for Brickhill Michael Jarman-Webb

Since our last newsletter, the parish council welcomed Michael as its latest recruit, Michael represents Woodlands Park Ward along with Cllr Chris Bailes. You can find his details on page 2 of this newsletter

Spring Tea



On the 23rd of March, approximately 50 local residents aged 65 years and above enjoyed an afternoon tea and entertainment organised and funded by Brickhill Parish Council. This is the second year of running the event and the hope is to do so again in Spring 2019. The event will be advertised early in 2019 on the parish council noticeboards and on our website and facebook so look out for it.

Volunteers Required

Brickhill Parish Council are looking for keen volunteers to help deliver our newsletter. Brickhill News is published 5 times per year and delivered to every household within the parish. This means we need lots of volunteers - could you help?

If you could deliver to a few local streets near to where you live and can spare an hour, please contact the parish council office, our details are on page 2.

Thank you.

Park Wood Local Nature Reserve celebrates its 21st birthday

The Park Wood reserve is one of Brickhill's gems. The reserve was officially opened by the Mayor of Bedford on 22nd June 1997. There are meadows, a stream, ponds, scrub, woodland and a community orchard. 'The Friends of Park Wood' volunteers, with help from Borough Council staff look after the reserve.



In autumn 1999 planting of the Community Orchard began. It now boasts over 250 fruit trees, which receive regular care.



In 2001 two ponds were dug. They now provide breeding opportunities for frogs, toads and newts. Mallards and Grey Herons occasionally visit.



In 2006 the Friends Group were winners of a "Pride in Bedford" Mayor's Community Award. The reserve can look beautiful in winter, as was the case in 2010 after heavy snow



In 2013 a grant from The Big Lottery Fund enabled us to plant several thousand wildflowers, build a bridge over the stream, put up notice boards and install an impressive feature bench.



With the help of the rangers, we continue to work on the reserve, cutting paths, keeping areas open for wildflowers and maintaining the ponds. Here's to the next 21 years!

www.facebook.com/ParkWoodNatureReserve/

How to access Park Wood Nature Reserve

There is no official car park for Park Wood Nature Reserve. If coming by car it is best to navigate to Brickhill Drive and find the small road named Foster's Brow which leads to the Brickhill Allotments. It is normally possible to park in Foster's Brow and access the reserve via the John Bunyan trail which runs along the western edge of the allotments. Alternatively, take the public footpath that runs across the field from near the old Clapham Park convent, off the path from Hawk Drive to Carriage Drive

The community orchard is mostly apple and pear but also plum, damson, fig, cherry, medlar, mulberry, quince and walnut. Many of the varieties planted here originated in Bedford and were developed in the early 1900s by the Laxton brothers. For a list giving details of each tree in the orchard see: <http://tinyurl.com/ParkWoodOrchard>.

Want to get involved? If you want to join the Friends of Park Wood Nature Reserve or to find out more, please contact Tony Gill at a.gill51@ntlworld.com

School gets thumbs up from OFSTED



Pupils and staff at Brickhill Primary School were celebrating this week after receiving a resounding 'thumbs up' from Ofsted following their recent inspection, retaining their position as a 'Good' school and showing clear evidence of having improved since the previous visit. School leaders and governors were described as having a clear vision for what they are trying to achieve for both pupils and the local community and having established a strong culture of school improvement. Pupil behaviour at the school is highlighted in particular as "exemplary". The children are described within the report as "polite, friendly and articulate" and "able to talk eloquently about why they enjoy school so much". Parents

and carers too are very positive about the school and the quality of pastoral care. Many commented on the way the Headteacher or a specialist member of staff will drop everything to help them when needed. In a survey of parents immediately before the inspection, an astounding 96% said they would recommend Brickhill Primary School to others and 99% felt that their child was safe at the school.

Waveney Green update

There is no doubt that the wildflower meadow looked beautiful when this photograph was taken but the parish council appreciates that when the flowers have finished, the area looks much less attractive. The parish council is looking at ways to improve this area.

On the children's play area the parish council continues to make improvements. Just recently, jungle mulch has been installed under the pendulum swing. The parish council also appreciates that the wooden ship is starting to look tired and is investigating alternative equipment to replace it.



There still remains a small area of Waveney Green which the parish council does not have responsibility for adjacent to some of the properties in Frances Groves Close. It has been working hard with Bedford Borough Council to acquire a new lease for this strip of land and it is now very close to finalising that lease. Once that has been secured it will mean that the whole of the Green is the responsibility of the parish council. We have listened to requests from residents and will be making progress to install a footpath from Francis Groves Close to join up with the existing footpaths on the rest of the Green.

Youth Activities

During the Easter break, approximately 50 local children enjoyed three sessions organised by Brickhill Parish Council.

Usually we try to take photos, but anyone involved on those days will confirm that the rain was relentless! Despite this, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. MK Dons provided 2 x 2hr football training sessions for 13-16 year olds and 7-12 year olds on Monday 9th April and Tuesday 10th April in the afternoon. We also had an archery session on the Monday morning for 7-12 year olds held at Brickhill Primary.

What have we got planned for the Summer? We will be holding three sessions:

- 23rd July - Visit to Box End Water Park (details to follow)
- 30th July - Den Building 9am-1pm (details to follow)
- 6th August - Mini Olympics 9am-1pm (details to follow)

Early in June, we will start advertising these sessions on our website, noticeboards and social media. Places are always offered firstly to Brickhill Parish children as although there is a charge, the activities are subsidised by the parish council.

Brickhill Help and Advice



Borough Councillor Wendy Rider
23 Orwell Close, Brickhill, Bedford.
MK41 7BQ 01234 303254
wendyrider41@gmail.com

Borough Councillor Charles Royden
The Vicarage, Calder Rise, Brickhill,
Bedford. MK41 7UY 01234 309175
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Local surgeries taking place at 10am at:

**Brickhill Drive shops Saturday 9th June
& Avon Drive shops Saturday 23rd June**

See our website
www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com
For details of surgeries and the latest
Brickhill news

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AVON DRIVE, BEDFORD, MK41 7AF

FRIDAYS 10.00AM - 11.00AM
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TUESDAYS

**St Mark's Church
& Community Centre**


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Brickhill, Bedford

9.30 am & 11.30 am

3.30 pm, 5.30 pm & 7.30 pm

Contact:

Lorrie 01234 340 473

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