

# BRICKHILL NEWS

The newsletter of Brickhill Parish Council

Issue 44

February 2016

## Neighbourhood Plan: Would you like to help shape new developments in Brickhill?

The Parish Council is looking to initiate the process for developing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Brickhill. This would set a vision for Brickhill and allow for local policies to be drawn up that would be taken into consideration by the Borough Council in their determination of future planning applications.

Whilst a Neighbourhood Plan cannot prevent development, it can help shape it to meet local priorities and needs. Indeed, the powers available to local communities which have a Neighbourhood Plan extend to the ability to grant planning permission for the types of development they want in their area.

To start the process, the Parish Council is looking for anyone who might have an interest in joining a neighbourhood forum. As a member of this forum you will have the opportunity to make suggestions and have a say on the types of issues and priorities we should be pursuing in Brickhill. If you are interested, or if you would like to find out more, please join us for the first meeting to be held in the Biffa Room 7pm—9pm at St Mark's Church on Wednesday 2nd March 2016.

For further information on Neighbourhood plans, and how these have worked elsewhere, please see: <http://www.ourneighbourhoodplanning.org.uk/home>

## Beauchamp Middle School

This half term has proved to be very productive with our pupils working very hard again in their subjects. Our Parents' Evening was testament to this with plenty of positive feedback received from parents regarding their child's progress, which is always pleasing to hear.

To support the Year 5 geography topic, a homework task was set to create a model of a habitat with details of what threatens this and its inhabitants. "The children have presented so many wonderful examples of habitats, it really has brought this topic to life", said Miss Lill, Year 5 Teacher.

Our 'Arts' Leaders', pupils that have demonstrated a love and flair for art, have been working with local artist Amanda Silk as part of The Harpur Trust art competition. The theme of the competition is to create a piece of artwork based on a famous Bedfordian, past or present and is just one of their 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Winning entries will be displayed at The Higgins during July and August.

Year 8 pupils have been 'focussing on their future'. This started in November with a visit to the National Skills Show learning about a wide range of industries and career paths. More recently, they have taken part in a series of workshops specifically designed to look at how they would go about getting a job, attending an interview and thinking positively about their personal attributes. We are very thankful for all those who have supported this initiative including the professionals who visited us to talk about their particular industry and chosen job-role. Our half termly newsletter has more articles that you may find interesting – visit [www.beauchampschool.co.uk](http://www.beauchampschool.co.uk) or follow us on Twitter @BeauchampMiddle.



## **BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCILLORS**

### **EAST WARD**

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**Cllr Cathrine Ward**

8 Starling Way, Brickhill MK41 7HW

☎01234 295951 ✉mahovoward@yahoo.co.uk

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

Councillor Surgeries are held at 7pm before each Parish Council Meeting.

**Sue Bottoms, Clerk to the Council**

Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive, Brickhill, MK41 7AF ☎01234 271708

✉clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk



## **Annual Parish Meeting**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7:30pm**

**St Mark's Church, Calder Rise, Brickhill  
All Welcome**

**Come along and find out what has been going on in Brickhill and plans for the future**

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## Easter Activity Sessions

Do you have a child aged 7-12 years old? Do you live in Brickhill?  
If so why not book them onto one of our activity courses during the Easter holidays. Our activities are run by Sport Support Group and take place at Scott Lower School.



- Wednesday 30th March American Multisports (includes baseball, dodgeball)
- Wednesday 6th April Terminator Turmoil and Adrenaline Races (inflatable fun)

**£7.50 PER SESSION**

Activities take place from 9am—1pm and cost only £7.50 per child. These activities are subsidised by the Parish Council. Places are limited to only 25 children per session.

To book your space contact the parish council on 01234 271708 or email the council office at [clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk)



This summer we will also be running 4 sessions, Battlefield Live, Climbing Wall and Low Ropes, Bushcraft and Wild Survival and Laser Clay Pigeon Shooting and Archery

## Residents help tidy up Woodlands Park

On 9th January a group of residents and parish councillors braved the rain to help pick up litter in Woodlands Park. The litter pick was organised by Brickhill Parish Council, with help from Bedford Borough Council who provided the equipment and took away the rubbish collected.

If you would like to help in future litter picks or have suggestions for where these should take place, please contact our Parish Clerk, at Brickhill Parish Council's office (email: [clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk), tel 01234 271708) or any of your parish councillors.



Mark and Polly Bowler with just some of the litter collected

## Brickhill Lower School Football Club Update

BLSFC is enjoying another successful season on Waveney Green, with around 80 boys and girls registered in teams for Reception Year, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 (ages four to nine) – and many more on the waiting list! The volunteer coaches deliver training every Saturday morning, and have been able to organise a number of friendly matches with other local schools and teams.

In recent weeks, due to the bad weather, we have been holding special training sessions on the 'astro-turf' pitches on Polhill Avenue, which the children have really enjoyed. But we are looking forward to returning 'home' to the grass pitches after half term.

The season will culminate in a BLSFC Fun Day in July, and more details of this event will be shared soon. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the club, and are currently looking for a treasurer and child welfare officer for the 2016-2017 season. If you are interested in volunteering, coaching or sponsoring the team, or have any questions, please contact the new Chairperson, Jamie Bridge, at [bridgejamie@hotmail.com](mailto:bridgejamie@hotmail.com)

## VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Brickhill Parish Council are looking for volunteers to help deliver our newsletter. Brickhill News is published 4 times per year and delivered to every household within the Parish. This means we need lots of volunteers—could this be you? If you could deliver to a few local streets near to where you live and can spare an hour please contact our Clerk—details are on page 2. Thank You.



## Brickhill Parish Council budget for 2016/17

Brickhill Parish Council has set its budget for 2016/17, with Council Tax unchanged from last year: for a Band D property it will be £33.09. The Parish Council looks after Waveney Green, Brickhill Community Centre and Brickhill allotments. The budget will enable more of the badly cracked footpaths on Waveney Green to be repaired, as well as the ongoing maintenance of the play areas. It also covers many other items, such as funding for the 'Gathering on the Green' event in July, possible provision of extra notice boards near schools, the now regular play schemes for children at Easter and in the summer, support for the Community Safety Forum and other local organisations.

Elsewhere in 'Brickhill News' you will see the article about a possible Neighbourhood Plan. Creating such a plan won't be an easy task - but it would give everyone in the community a real chance to influence the way that Brickhill develops in years to come. If you are interested in finding out more - please do get in touch.

Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick, Chair of Brickhill Parish Council



### Special Sport Commendation for Brickhill Lower School

In December, Bedford Borough Council hosted their annual sports awards at the Corn Exchange. The event celebrated schools that not only succeed in performing at the highest level, but also support and provide sporting opportunities for all. Brickhill were thrilled to be nominated for Sporting School of the Year along with four other Bedford schools. Competition



was stiff, and Brickhill missed winning by a whisker, but were delighted to be awarded a special sporting commendation to recognise their outstanding contribution towards sport. Head Teacher Debbie Wilson said after receiving the award "We're over the moon. This acknowledges our exceptional sporting achievements and I couldn't be more proud of our pupils and teachers".

Continuing in sporting excellence is the school's tag rugby team, which has gone from strength to strength since finishing first place in the autumn term's inter school sporting competition. The mixed team, which has only lost one of their five qualifying matches, has reached the county finals, which take place at the Inspire Sports Village in Luton 4<sup>th</sup> March. This is a massive achievement for the pupils and they are bursting with nerves and excitement at being so close to scooping the county title – watch this space for further news!



### Art Attack!

Budding young artists welcomed the opportunity to learn from the professionals, when a local artist visited the school to deliver a series of specialist art workshops. The children are taking part in an art competition which is part of the Harpur Trust's 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Themed around 'Recording Bedford', young artists were given the opportunity to create imaginative artwork to reflect Bedford over the last 450 years. The visiting artist helped to stimulate the children's creative side and ideas ranged from the Olympic Torch travelling through Bedford to the filming of Batman at Cardington hangers! These ideas are currently being turned into masterpieces, which could go on display at the Higgins Gallery this Summer.

## Woodlands Park - CCTV and other news

The Parish Council is in detailed discussion with the Borough about the planned installation of CCTV cameras at each end of Ashmead Road. These would be paid for from the 'Ravensden money', the cash transferred to Brickhill Parish Council from Ravensden Parish Council last year, when the Woodlands Park estate formerly became part of Brickhill Parish. The design and specification of the cameras have been agreed, the outstanding issue is to agree the ongoing maintenance costs. In addition, residents near two proposed gateways (one in Crispin Drive, one in Saltcote Way) in the perimeter fence are being consulted with. The gates would allow safe access to the country park, instead of the ad-hoc gaps that have been made in the fences. Brickhill Parish Council is arranging a meeting with the Borough and Persimmon to discuss the adoption status of the estate. Most of the roads haven't been adopted, likewise the paths, open spaces, play areas and Country Park. The plans for using the remainder of the Ravensden money are affected by this. The poor state of some of the paths means that adoption is likely to be delayed until they have been brought up to a good standard by Persimmon.

## Brickhill Borough Councillors Report - February 2016

We must pay tribute to councillors of all political parties who came together at the beginning of February and voted unanimously on a budget for how the Borough Council would spend its money for the next year. The good news is that all of the councillors from all political parties in Bedford Borough have agreed how best we can work together to do the best for our community and how we should spend the small amount of money which we now have for essential front line services.



The bad news was that after having already made 81 million pounds worth of cuts since we became a unitary authority, we are now having to make another 25 million pounds worth of cuts. The Borough Council is responsible for looking after the elderly, vulnerable adults and children and as the population gets older and we develop more medicine to give and prolong life, the cost of doing this is going through the roof. The Council is also responsible for education, adults and children with disabilities, as well as all of the other things which we take for granted like emptying the bins, repairing the roads and cutting the grass.

Please try to understand that with such huge cuts there is less and less money available to spend on things which we have taken for granted and we cannot do all that we would like to do, especially to repair things like roads and pavements. As your local councillors we will be doing our best to keep on top of our environment and we are committed to ensuring that Brickhill is a great place to live. However with reduced money we need the support of everybody in our community. You can help us in our efforts to track down people who allow their dogs to foul pavements, litter our streets or who drive over our grass verges. All of these things costs money which could be better spent on the things we really need. If you see this kind of anti-social behaviour then please report it to the Borough Council by phone or on the website or contact us direct. We are always pleased to speak with you and you are welcome to come to our regular surgeries at the shops on a Saturday morning, as advertised on our website. For more information on what is happening in and around Brickhill and to keep in touch please visit our website [www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com](http://www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com)

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**Charles Royden**, The Vicarage, Calder Rise, Brickhill, 01234 309175 [charlesroyden@gmail.com](mailto:charlesroyden@gmail.com)



### News from Scott Lower

The Year 1 children at Scott Lower School had a wonderful time at Bedford Museum this week. They have been learning all about toys from the past and comparing them to the toys they have now. Jack-in-the-boxes, whipping tops, cup and ball games and a



traditional wooden Noah's Ark were real favourites with the children. It was a fabulous opportunity for our children to have first hand experience of toys from the past. Many facts were learnt, for example, did you know that teddy bears used to have eyes made from either boot buttons or glass and they were stuffed with sawdust or horse hair?. .... A far cry from our soft cuddly bears as we know them today.

## Brickhill Good Neighbours Scheme

Volunteers from the Brickhill Good Neighbours Scheme can help residents with a variety of needs such as: lifts to medical appointments or social events, minor DIY, dog walking or befriending. If you need help or you want to get involved as a volunteer (more car drivers needed in particular!) Please telephone 07445 594050.



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Hawk Drive, Bedford, MK41 7JA  
T: 01234 352630 E: office@scottlower.co.uk  
W: www.scott.beds.sch.uk

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**Wednesdays** - Scott Lower School  
Zumba 6.30pm  
**Friday** - Brickhill Scout Hut  
Kettlebells 09.30am (Text to reserve a place)  
**Sunday** - Brickhill Scout Hut  
Kettlebells 11am (Text to reserve a place)

**Clubbercise** will be on the following days  
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### Brickhill Help and Advice



**Borough Councillor Wendy Rider**  
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MK41 7BQ 01234 303254  
wendyrider41@gmail.com

**Borough Councillor Charles  
Royden**  
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Bedford. MK41 7UY 01234 309175  
charlesroyden@gmail.com

**Local surgeries taking place at 10am at:**

**Brickhill Drive Saturday 19th March  
& Avon Drive Saturday 5th March**

**See our website  
[www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com](http://www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com)  
For details of surgeries and the latest  
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### **Are you a local business looking to advertise?**

Brickhill News is delivered to all households within the parish of Brickhill and is published 4 times per year.

A 1/4 page advert costs only £25.00 and a series discount of 10% applies if you book for the year.

Contact the parish council on 01234 271708



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