

## Brickhill Borough Councillors Update July 2019

### From Wendy Rider and Charles Royden



**Unlawful Encampments** We are extremely concerned about the unlawful encampments which have taken place in Brickhill. The Police have powers to remove encampments when 6 or more vehicles enter land. They had previously agreed to do this when the encampments took place on Primary Land. This has been defined in locations including public recreation areas, however this has not taken place. We have met to discuss this policy with the senior officers and discussion is ongoing with the police to tackle this problem. The parish council recognise the serious disruption which is caused and the criminal activity which has taken place. We will continue to work with all parties to address the lack of enforcement and also physical measures which may help deter future encampments.

**Transporting Bedford 2020** There is a lot of discussion about roadworks across the Borough at the moment. Disruption was caused when Highways England closed access to the bypass at Great Barford and traffic ended up going across town. **Please be aware** that Highways England are planning to close the A421 at Renhold to complete their bridge works on the weekend of 27 / 28 July, starting at 9pm on Saturday 27 and to be completed by noon of Sunday 28 July. This was then followed by the closure of Bromham Railway Bridge by Network Rail to allow electrification of the railway going north from Bedford. Incidentally despite the disruption we are suffering, the Government has decided that Bedford will have a downgraded rail service under the next East Midlands franchise, with no more intercity trains

Work will now progress on a number of schemes which we have planned in Bedford as part of Transporting Bedford 2020 a £20 million scheme to help tackle congestion. This represents the largest ever road investment in our town centre and it cannot be put on hold for a year while Network Rail remove the bridge or we would lose much of the money for which we have worked so hard to raise. Work will therefore go on but some schemes such as Manton Lane and the new junctions at Sainsburys and the Clapham Bypass will have to be delayed until Network Rail have finished. However we will see work start on the High Street next year after the River Festival and this will see completely new stone pavements and traffic reduced to one lane with average speed cameras. Our High Street will look superb! Junctions at Cow Bridge, Britannia Road and Shakespeare Road are all to be tackled and in Brickhill there will be new traffic lights on Kimbolton Road at the junctions with Putnoe Lane, Brickhill Drive and Polhill Avenue. Please be patient as all of this will improve traffic and help build a more attractive and prosperous town.

**Speeding Vehicles** There has been ongoing speed enforcement around Brickhill by the Police. The council cannot prosecute people for speeding but the new speed detection vehicle deployed by the Mayor has been in Brickhill recently and details of offending vehicles are passed to the police. Letters are sent to offenders by the Police and further action may be taken by the police against people placed on their database of offenders.

**School Safety** Enforcement has been taking place outside Brickhill Schools by Borough Council parking officers. Problem areas outside schools are now targeted by a team of officers who are deployed to prosecute those motorists who place the lives of children at risk by their dangerous behaviour.

## **A6 Wilstead Bypass Reconstruction Works**

A stretch of A6 south of Bedford, past the village of Wilstead will be undergoing major works this summer as it is in need of urgent repair. The road surface is deteriorating having reached the end of its lifespan, and is being completely rebuilt in a multimillion-pound investment by Bedford Borough Council, with the works being carried out by Henderson & Taylor. These works will require the road to be closed from 22nd July, with the project expected to be complete and the road re-opened by early December. The road will be closed from the Bedford Road junction in the north to the Luton Road junction in the south, while this stretch of the A6 is removed and rebuilt. The diversion route will be clearly signed, via the A507 and A600 through Cotton End. Electronic signage will be installed in advance of the road being closed, and throughout the works to keep road users informed. In addition, a drop-in session for the local community to find out more and ask questions will be organised in advance of the works starting. There will also be some closures on local footpaths which cross this stretch of the A6. More details of these are available at [www.bedford.gov.uk/rightsofwayclosures](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/rightsofwayclosures)

As access to Wilstead will be provided at all times there it is anticipated that traffic through the village will be heavier than usual during the work. Average speed cameras are being installed to control speeds through the village, and these cameras will remain in place once the works have been completed.

## **Music in the Meadows is Back for Summer**

Free bandstand concerts are coming back to Mill Meadows on the Embankment this summer.

This 2019 concert series at the Victorian Bandstand is being kindly sponsored by The Longholme, who will be providing seasonal catering and refreshments at each event.

A number of different groups will perform these traditional bandstand music concerts, on the following dates:

Sunday 14th July- Salvation Army Band

Sunday 21st July- The Hitchin Band

Sunday 28th July- May Blossom Vintage Songbird

Sunday 4th August- The Mainline Big Band

Sunday 18th August- Bedford Saxophone Workshop

Sunday 25th August- Bedford Town Band

Each concert is from 3pm-5pm, and is completely free to attend.

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](http://www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com)

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