

Brickhill Borough Councillors Update
Parish Council 6 February 2020
From Wendy Rider and Charles Royden



As we write the works on Manton Lane are coming to an end and the new road layout can now be seen. The new feeder lane into Bedford Modern should help keep traffic moving and when the footbridge is eventually reinstated this will also help prevent delays.

This will not be the end of the roadworks because work will begin on the roundabouts at the bottom of Manton Lane along Clapham Road and the start of the bypass in the summer. These will be converted to traffic controlled junctions which are designed to tackle congestion at busy periods. Everybody in Brickhill has received a letter with the information

Winter conditions are taking a toll on roads across the Borough and additional pothole crews have been called in to help keep on top of repairs. Roads are becoming damaged by gritting salt, fluctuating temperatures, and surface water following heavy rains. So far this year, crews have done over 25% more gritting runs than the average using over 2,000 tons of salt, often very late at night and continuing until the early morning. Gritting is a really important part of keeping roads safe during winter, but it is also very corrosive and damages the road surface. Alongside warmer temperatures during the day allowing water to seep into the road and weaken them, freezing temperatures overnight have done significant damage done to roads like Linnet Way. The council is making twice as many repairs as this time last year.

On a more positive note everybody who has asked us for trees has had them planted. Sadly previous planting decisions have left us with the legacy of ongoing problems such as overgrown roots, branches and dropping fruits. We always ask for new trees to be appropriate for the setting so that they don't become a nuisance in years to come.

We have just received news that the new railway line from Oxford to Cambridge will pass through Bedford station. Only a short time ago this seemed unlikely with the proposed route south of Bedford passing us by. The Mayor and his team have campaigned hard to show the economic benefits of including Bedford and this decision is great news for Bedford residents. The increased connectivity for our town will bring regeneration to Bedford with more opportunities to travel for work and leisure, as well as supporting our economic growth and prosperity, attracting businesses and jobs. The council demonstrated that this East West Rail will bring over £20million of additional economic activity to our Borough. Mayor Dave Hodgson said "Bedford Borough Council recently launched a 'Rail Strategy for Bedford'; setting out our vision for Bedford Borough to be a great place to live, work and visit and to create a Borough that attracts international business and highly skilled and sustainable jobs. This announcement is the first step in the delivery of this Strategy, and places Bedford at the heart of this key new infrastructure. Our Rail Strategy demonstrates our commitment to improving rail infrastructure for the benefit of local residents and a vibrant local economy."

It is expected that you will be able to board a train for Oxford as early as 2023 and to Cambridge by 2030. Bedford will be hub to connect travel across the UK, giving access to airports north and south. There will be a redevelopment of our railway station and regeneration of the station area but make no mistake this is a decision which will transform the future prospects for Bedford and bring prosperity for our town

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

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