Brickhill Borough Councillors Report April 2012

Wendy Rider and Charles Royden



We are increasingly concerned about the levels of dog fouling and littering which are seen on our streets in Brickhill and across the Borough. In Brickhill we have received several reports of dog owners failing to clear up after their dogs in the Westrope Way area. We have asked the Borough Council to look at ways of increasing the use of patrols to investigate and issue fines to those who litter our streets and fail to clean up after their dogs.

Bedford Borough Council has now started a consultation to introduce new dog control laws in the borough which may replace a range of complex and out of date legislation. The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 enables the Council to implement new orders, which provide for the offences below:

Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded; Failing to remove dog mess; Not keeping a dog on a lead; Not putting, and keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so; Offence of taking more than a Specified Number of Dogs onto Land.

It is hoped this will make the laws associated with dog control clearer to the general public.

The Borough collects 3,000 bags of litter each day which is at enormous cost to law abiding tax payers, we are calling for much greater enforcement and fines for offenders.

20's Plenty

The speed trials along Tyne Crescent have now been conducted and we understand that they do give supporting evidence that a 20mph could be introduced along Tyne Crescent. We are awaiting the final report and are seeking advice as to whether with a 20mph limit introduced it would be possible to have the deteriorating speed humps removed altogether. We are seeking to have Tyne Crescent included in the Borough list of sites included for enforcement with average speed cameras.





Bus stops

Residents are justifiably fed up with the location of the bus stops on the Number 6 route. Some bus stops such as the one at Moriston Road are redundant and require relocation. We are awaiting the outcome of talks with Persimmon to discover whether a roundabout can be

installed on the Woodlands Estate to allow the number 6 bus to service the estate. When the outcome is known this will indicate that the route will continue long term. At this point we will ask for shelters to be moved. It would be extremely regrettable to move the shelters if the bus route subsequently changed.



Brickhill Roundabout

We are disappointed with the appearance of the roundabout at the junction of Waveney Avenue and Avon Drive. This looks unsightly for much of the year and we have asked the Borough Council for consideration of a new planting scheme. The roundabout is at a significant location and we believe that it does not reflect the pleasant aspect of the rest of Brickhill.



Anti-social Parking

We receive many requests for action to tackle parking problems. The Borough Council can do nothing to enforce parking on pavements, which is a Police matter. However action can be taken by the Council against those who park on verges where there are 'no verge parking signs' and on yellow lines. we will ask for additional enforcement where necessary and we are prepared to ask for no verge parking signs where residents

request. Parts of Brickhill Drive will soon have prohibition notices fitted as requested by the Community Safety Forum. The Borough Council has invested in another camera enforcement vehicle to provide more frequent patrols outside schools etc.

Bus Improvements Bedford Borough has successfully bid for over £200,000 of Government funding to improve bus services for local residents. It is planned to introduce smart ticketing, install more real time information displays as well as providing subsidised tickets to encourage more people to travel by bus. The smart ticketing system is similar to the Oyster cards used on the London Underground. It will allow local residents to add credit to their smart card when it suits them and simply scan it when they get on a local bus. 10 'real time' information displays will be added to bus shelters on the busiest routes in the borough and there are also plans to introduce a range of ticketing initiatives to encourage greater bus use, thereby helping to reduce congestion.

Water and Drought Bedford Borough Council has become the first local authority to sign the Anglian Water Promise at a ceremony this week. It aims to help firms and local authorities conserve water, drive down energy and water costs, reduce costly carbon emissions and secure their position in the economic prosperity of the region.



Experts from Anglian Water Business carried out checks across 30 of the Council's buildings to help shape the promise, which was signed this week. By signing the Promise, Bedford Borough Council has demonstrated its commitment to reducing water usage by 20 per cent by 2015 across all Council buildings. In addition, the Council has also pledged to cut wastewater by 20 per cent, reduce its carbon footprint by 700 tonnes and reduce water and energy costs. The Council will also be working with local residents to help them become more water efficient as well. If you wish to have advice please contact us. Bedford

Borough Council will continue to supply water butts for those wishing to store rainwater for garden use. Remember that the hose pipe ban comes into operation this week.

New B & Q Store. we were delighted this week to hear that ambitious plans for the land opposite

The Interchange Retail Park have been approved. Mayor Dave Hodgson said that the development will bring new businesses to the borough and provide at least 150 new jobs on a prime site with good transport links and near the already popular Interchange Retail Park. It is encouraging to see new stores wanting to come to Bedford and we are looking forward to the opening of the new Waitrose later this year.



New Roads for Bedford

Residents will be aware of the major resurfacing going on in Park Avenue. This is going well with minimal disruption. However, a major roadworks scheme to resurface and improve Dame Alice Street starts on Tuesday 10th April and will last for 7 weeks. A number of serious issues must be addressed immediately in order to guarantee the safety of all road users. These works include a complete replacement of the current signalling equipment, significant improvements to drainage systems, new cycleways as well as resurfacing of the western part of Dame Alice Street and the junction with Harpur Street. In order to minimise disruption, these works will be done during this single period, instead of repeatedly returning to the road. This means the western two-way section of Dame Alice Street will be closed, 24 hours a day to eastbound traffic (heading towards the High Street and The Broadway). It will remain open to westbound traffic (heading towards Bromham Road and away from the town centre) although lane restrictions may be in place at some times. Eastbound traffic will be diverted along Union Street and Tavistock Street. It will be necessary to completely close this section of the road in both directions on the weekend of the 19th and 20th May. A second closure may be necessary the following weekend of the 26th and 27th May. The traffic signals on the road are completely out of date and have failed 61 times in the last five years, including nine total failures. Clearly, this is dangerous for all road users and must be urgently addressed. These works will completely replace the signalling equipment, significantly improving the efficiency and safety of the junctions. "Surveys have also shown the drainage beneath Dame Alice Street is in serious need of repair and if left to deteriorate further it will affect the structure of the road. This work will also improve surface drainage from the road itself and prevent localised flooding. The Council are already

working with Anglian Water to correct these issues as promptly as possible.

The works are taking place now to avoid coinciding with future roadworks on Goldington Road, St Peter's Street and the gas mains works planned for Bromham Road. The works have also been scheduled to finish before the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and Anglian Water will also be taking this opportunity to repair a leakage under the carriageway. Full mapped diversion routes are available on the Council website, www.bedford.gov.uk. The Council will continue to update residents and businesses on the progress of the works via their website and the Council Twitter account, @bedfordtweets.



Household Waste Recycling - Barker Lane

Bedford's Household Waste Recycling Centre opening hours are changing from 1st April 2012. The HWRC on Barkers Lane will remain open 7 days a week and will continue to provide recycling facilities for a huge range of materials. The centre will now be open until 7pm on Saturdays to enable local residents to use the centre for longer at the weekend. The extended opening hours come into effect on 1st April 2012 and continue until 30th September. The Barkers Lane site is open

seven days a week all year round, excluding Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day. For information on which materials can be taken to the HWRC, visit the Council website at: http://www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/rubbish,_recycling_and_waste/waste recycling_centre.aspx

Residents should not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information or if we can be of any help.

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