

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



COVID-19

Please note that infection rates are rising again and there is concern that we may either be in a continuance of the first wave or the start of a second. There are infection across Bedford and so please try to follow the government rules, even if they are confusing. The main principle is gatherings only of six and maintain 'Hands-Face-Space.'

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all of those who working through this pandemic in Brickhill as key workers to enable services to continue. This includes all of those who work in our schools, care for the elderly, retail, community, transport and emergency services.

Ward Funding for Average Speed Cameras.

We have allocated £10,000 of our ward funding for average speed cameras on Brickhill Drive and we await the advice of officers who will consult with the police concerning the most suitable location for these to be installed. We would prefer a solution which covered both the west of Brickhill Drive from Eagle Gardens down to Falcon Avenue and also provided a resource to extend cover east down to Kimbolton Road. The crash statistics which are shown on the attached file are not for publication but can be found.

Speed Activated Devices

We are awaiting the installation of three speed activated devices which were purchased last year with our ward funds. We expect these to be located soon in kimbolton Road, Avon Drive and Waveney Avenue

Junctions on Kimbolton Road

Work is expected to be finished on time and so the second week of October

Playgrounds and Community Centres

Regarding the Mowsbury Walk playground we have spoken with officers re sorting out some of the outstanding issues and we encourage the parish council to push ahead with the adoption and sort out what is an important area for recreation for families.

Christmas Lights

We recognise how important our local shopping parades are and the challenging business environment. Our shopping parades are now fully occupied and we do not want to return to the days many years ago when there were so many vacant units. we have therefore allocated money from ward funds to Christmas lights on the shops at both Brickhill Drive and Avon Drive.

Bugs and Bees

We are aware that there has been public support for The Mayor's 'Bugs and Bees' project in Brickhill and we welcome this. The Council is committed to supporting food and shelter for animals, bees and other insects. In Brickhill it is proposed that there will only be once mowing per year in line with the management of meadow areas on Brickhill Drive Open Space (beside the entrance to Brickhill Allotments). Creating wildflower meadows in this way allows local native species to bloom, which provides the best pollen and nectar sources for Bedford's pollinators.

Tree Removal

It has been distressing recently to see the number of trees which are having to be removed due to damage being caused to properties. Many years ago the council planted trees in unsuitable locations and we are paying the price now in terms of damage to foundations of houses and walls. We are keeping a track on this and will ensure that there are replacements of more suitable trees in these locations or elsewhere

Orange RecyclingSacks

These continue to turn up in unwanted places. A large number were deposited in the church skip containing roofing materials, The Council policy is to restrict issuing bags to the environment team who ascertain why people need them and seek to move people on to orange bins, to compact rubbish etc. When any stocks held by parish councils and libraries are exhausted they will not be replaced and this will be the only way of obtaining them. Clear sacks and cardboard boxes continue to be accepted alongside bins.

Manton Lane / Clapham Road / Great Ouse Way

Traffic flow has been improved in this congestion hotspot and work is ongoing to install the new footbridge. There have been issues which have delayed the delivery of the bridge which we now expect to take place in December over a weekend. Work is ongoing on Clapham Road and Great Ouse Way utilities for the new roundabouts. To have your say and for more information please contact transportingbedford2020@bedford.gov.uk

Kimbolton Road Culvert

We have been asked about this damaged structure, which is on Kimbolton Road just south of Wagstaffe Close. The structure was hit overnight on 18 June and inspected the following morning. As well as the railings being ripped off, significant damage was observed to the supporting wall and so barriers were erected – please refer to the below photo. The road is currently slightly narrowed, but further traffic control has not been required. The resulting damage has meant that a period of time has been required to complete a repair design and seek insurance. We expect repairs to take place in the first quarter of next year.

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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