



Christmas Lights

We were delighted to receive appreciative support for the fitting of the Christmas decorations which we funded with our ward fund at both

Brickhill Drive and Avon Drive shops. These have been purchased and therefore will be available for future years.

Manton Lane Footbridge / Clapham Road. The footbridge installation is now planned for between 18:00 on Friday 22 January and 06:00 on Monday 25 January. The road will be closed throughout these works and a signed diversion will be in place. Once installed the bridge will undergo a final safety inspection before being opened to the public. Work will be taking place shortly on the two roundabouts and we are often asked what this will involve, We have attached a copy of the scheme which shows the signalisation and new layout of both roundabouts.

Speed Enforcement Vehicle There has been speed enforcement across Brickhill by the speed detection vehicle introduced by the Mayor. This cannot issue fines but offenders are reported directly to the police and logged on their database. For 2020, a total of 2595 vehicles were reported to the police for excessive speeding. The Speed Watch van recorded the speed of 145,497 vehicles during 2020.

Vehicle idling signs We have asked for these to be installed outside Brickhill schools to remind drivers of the problems caused to children by poor air quality etc.

Dog fouling We have requested additional signage around some streets following complaints from residents.

Speed Warning Signs We have been advised of a delay in the production of 3 speed activated signs which we secured using our ward funding.

Rooksmead Grasscrete This has passed planning and all the necessary investigations including a newt survey. However an additional yellow line has been required and this requires advertisement hence the further delay.

Bridge Repair Kimbolton Road. The repair of the damaged parapet close to the entrance to Mowsbury Car Park has now been put out to tender so we hope work will start on the repairs in the near future.

Traffic Lights Kimbolton Road. The problem with a misleading green light causing drivers to go on red has now been resolved. We asked highways officers to deal with this following a few near misses and louvres were fitted to prevent drivers being distracted.

Homeless Report. We attended Avon Drive shops following reports of a homeless person at Christmas. There is currently no need for anybody to be homeless in Bedford as beds are provided in the Mercure Hotel. It does not help if kind people give to people who beg on the street, money may be used to buy alcohol and drugs and some people either seek funds for themselves or are exploited by others. Making a donation to a local charity such as [JustUs.org.uk](https://www.justus.org.uk) is a much better way to ensure that you are making a positive contribution.

COVID Update

We cannot stress strongly enough the importance of following the government advice to stay at

home and stay safe. Bedford has an extraordinary high rate of infection and the hospital has over 160 people being treated for COVID. The numbers are much worse than in the first wave. The council is taking action across the Borough, multi storey car parks have been closed, signage is being put up in public places and we must all take extra care. .

Remember Hands, Face, Space

Hands: Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds, and use hand sanitiser to keep them clean on the go.

Face: Wear a face covering in busy places especially in shops and supermarkets, on public transport and in Council buildings. See our guidance on how to wear a face covering.

There are many types of suitable face coverings, including scarves or you could you make one yourself, we also encourage you to use a reusable face covering.

Space: Keep two metres apart from people you don't live with or aren't in your support bubble.

If you have any of the following symptoms: a new persistent cough, high temperature or a change or loss of taste or smell you should immediately self-isolate and arrange a test online or by calling 119.

Bedford Borough Council has reinstated the Community Support Hub and we are looking at support once again for vulnerable residents. Please tell us if you know of anybody who is facing difficulties.

Vaccinations. We have received lots of requests for information about when vaccinations in Bedford will begin. The timetable and management is not in the hands of Bedford Borough Council. The rollout of the Coronavirus vaccine - where and when - is determined by the NHS and hospitals, the Clinical Commissioning Group and GPs. We were extremely disappointed that Bedford Borough was not included in the first wave of vaccinations and Mayor Dave raised this with the Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) at our most recent Local Outbreak Engagement Board. You can watch the meeting at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rC7MaLnyfNA&feature=youtu.be>

At that meeting we were told there was an additional delay, and a number of residents have had their appointments for the start of this week cancelled. The CCG has said that those patients who had there appointment cancelled would not go to the back of the queue and should receive a new appointment soon. Vaccinations have started at Kings House on Ampthill Road and at the Temple on Ford End Road At the moment the priority groups are over-80s, care workers and health workers.

GPs in Bedford Borough plan to start vaccinating patients soon and they will contact all patients inviting them to attend. If they invite you to attend please make every effort to do so. We have repeatedly pushed for an earlier start date for Bedford Borough residents.

The logistics for vaccination of those under-80 is being planned, but clearly there are a lot of people to be vaccinated before we get to that stage.

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

Wendy Rider, 23 Orwell Close, 01234 303254 wendyrider41@gmail.com

Charles Royden, The Vicarage, Calder Rise, 01234 309175 charlesroyden@gmail.com