

Brickhill Borough Councillors  
Update March 2020  
From Wendy Rider and  
Charles Royden



**Nobody is safe until we are all safe**

We have seen a very good take-up of vaccinations locally but we need everybody to take part. It is important that everybody arranges an appointment when contacted by their GP or by letter from NHS England, that is the way we can keep everybody safe. Please do remember we must remain cautious and we must continue to follow existing guidelines of washing hands regularly, wearing a face covering and maintaining a social distance where required.

**Help for People Isolating** Bedford Borough Council is making the Test and Trace Support Payment available to more people and has increased the Support Payment to £700. This means this payment will cover the earnings of someone working full time on the Living Wage.

**East West Rail** We have written to East West Rail Co an Open Letter stressing the importance of them attending a meeting with Brickhill Parish Council following their lack of availability at the last meeting. We have also asked for clarity from EWR Co that they will address the concerns which have raised concerning

1. Confirmation that Route E is the only route delivering access to Bedford Midland Station
2. Environmental Impact
3. The amount of freight to be used
4. Electrification
5. Noise

**New Footbridge Opens** Over ten years ago we campaigned to have the old footbridge repaired rather than removed. The footbridge has now been replaced and will be open in time for the start of the new term. It was a mistake by the previous County Council to remove the footbridge and it has long been our ambition to get it back. This will make it easier and safer for pedestrians to cross and get traffic moving more quickly.'

**Glass Collections** by the Borough Council have increased substantially during lockdown as more drink at home. In the last 12 months glass collected has increased by a third to 2,877 tonnes! The good news is that people are recycling their glass and this glass is recycled. The glass collected can be turned back into a new glass product within 3 days, recycled back into a glass bottle or jar. Glass is very sustainable, due to the high demand for Furnace Ready Cullet in the UK, to make new bottles and jars from recycled glass containers. Glass can also be recycled indefinitely making it the real recycling superhero and a circular economy champion. However at times the council have struggled to keep on top as it faces the same pressures as everybody else with frontline workers battling COVID. Please tell us if you see these bins overflowing and we will ensure that they are emptied as soon as possible.

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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