



Annual Report

2020-21

Brickhill Parish Council - EWR, 6/5/21

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EWR – Timeline

1. 31st March 21 - Councillors and Parish Councils – CS3, briefing webinar – [Download Presentation](#)
2. 1st April 21 – Brickhill Parish Council meeting (agreed items – see next slide)
3. 8th April 21 Councillors and Parish Councils – Bedford north, meeting one – [Watch Event](#) / [Download Presentation](#)
4. 20th April 21 – Meeting with Mayor Dave Hodgson, Cllr Michael Headley & Jon Shortland from Bedford Borough Council
5. 21st April 21 – Annual Parish Meeting for Brickhill Parish
6. 7th May 21 – Deadline for questions to Bedford Borough Council’s virtual meetings (8am)
7. 12th May 21 – Bedford Borough Council virtual meeting (12noon-2pm)
8. 13th May 21 - Bedford Borough Council virtual meeting (6:30pm-8:30pm)
9. 14th May 21 – Bedford Borough Council’s own [consultation](#) closing
10. 17th May 21 – Next public meeting by EWR for Clapham Green to The Eversdens
11. 20th May 21 – Deadline for questions for meeting with EWR on 26th May
12. 26th May 21 – Further meeting with EWR (see slide)
13. 3rd June 21 – next scheduled meeting of Brickhill Parish Council
14. 9th June 21 – EWR Consultation closes

Brickhill Parish Council – Grant to BFARE (from BPC minutes 1st April 2021)

It was resolved that:

1. The Clerk should write to EWR to ask if some of those sessions directly relevant to the parish of Brickhill could be held in the evening or weekend to enable those at work to attend.
2. Cllrs Brazier and Jarman-Webb should undertake a fact finding exercise to find out what action the other Northern parishes who are against Route E are taking and to circulate that information to all the parish councillors and the Clerk so the matter can be further considered and further action agreed at the May Parish Council meeting. More detail would be needed regarding the request from BFAre (see under correspondence) to fund action against Route E before the Parish Council could agree to financial support. It would be necessary to complete the grant application form and comply with the conditions. The Clerk would forward to Cllr Brazier a copy of the grant criteria and application form.
3. it was also important for the Parish Council and all residents to engage with the current consultation because otherwise the final route may be decided with no account being taken of their views. With regards the meeting to be held between parish councillors, the Mayor, Cllr Headley and Jon Shortland on the 20th April, it was resolved that the Clerk should write to Jon Shortland and ask if that meeting could be opened up to the public.

EWR – Next EWR meeting for councillors. Note from EWR:

‘Thank you to those of you who were able to take part in the first round of meeting sessions with your neighbouring Parishes and Councillors we held back in April. If you were not able to join your session, you can find the recordings and decks we presented in the consultation site - [here](#), within ‘Public events for you to attend online’, under ‘Presentations and videos from our events’.

As a reminder, we will be holding the second round of meeting sessions with your neighbouring Councillors in late May. Following on from feedback from the first sessions, we have reviewed the times of your upcoming meeting and have reschedule it to the evening to ensure as many of your neighbouring representatives can attend. The new date and time for your session is **Wednesday 26 May 5-6.30pm**. We hope you can make it and apologies for any inconvenience.

We will be sending standalone invitations to these second round of meetings in the days following the local elections.

We want to make sure you can make the most out of this meeting so please let us know about any topics you would like to discuss or questions you would like answered by replying to this email or writing to contact@eastwestrail.co.uk and letting us know which session you are attending. It would be helpful to have your thoughts by **20th May**, so we can properly address your point(s) at the session and echo them in the presentation where possible. ‘

EWR – Extension of consultation

From a letter from Cllrs Stephen Moon and Phillippa Martin-Moran-Brant to EWR:

‘By following the Code of Practice and extending the consultation period it should be possible to hold public meetings assuming the lockdown ends on 21 June.

- Consultations should last for at least 12 weeks as per [Government Code of Practice on Consultations](#).
- General guidance is that consultations shouldn't be held during election periods (as per point 1.6 of Government Code of Practice on Consultations).
- Giving greater research time so that those aware consultation can produced well nuanced and technical responses. It would allow those with poor or no access the internet or a computer the chance to respond at a face to face consultation. ‘

EWR – Specific issues for investigation

In parallel with any consultation with residents, the parish council can look into these topics in more detail:

- Legal obligations for EWR to maintain footpath and bridleway network
- Brickhill to Clapham access via Hawk Drive for cyclists
- Bridleway adjacent to new railway
- Impact of tunnels instead of bridges for key areas (Carriage Drive and Graze Hill)
- Overall comparison of Routes 1 and 9.
- Need to also comment on routes 2, 6 and 8.
- Cost calculations

We could follow these up with the Borough Council, neighbouring parish councils and other organisations.

EWR – Encouraging residents to take part in EWR's consultation

What shall we do to encourage residents to take part in EWR consultation?

- Brickhill PC's Facebook and website
- Parish council noticeboards
- Newsletter (is there time to get this out?)

EWR – Bedford Borough Council’s own consultation

‘We are also keen to hear your views on the options presented. If you would like to tell us what you think in addition to completing the EWR questionnaire, you can [use the form here](#). The closing date for responses is the 14 May 2021.

Once we have considered all of the EWR proposals and received your views, the Council will formulate its own response to the consultation, which will be debated at Full Council.

You can read more about [our response to earlier consultations on East West Rail here](#)’

The form asks for views on topics including the Marston Vale line, St John’s station, Bedford Midland station, North Bedford (the area from the station to the edge of the town), the route across north Bedfordshire and the station on the East Coast Mail Line, plus the opportunity to add any other comments.

- Shall the Parish Council comment?
If so, what should our answers/comments be?

EWR – Brickhill PC's own consultation

Does the parish council wish to consult residents on the options?

If so, what process shall we use? Need to agree timetable for this.

1. Online, paper or both?
2. How to draw up questionnaire?
3. Collation process?
4. Summarising the responses?
5. Agreeing parish council response.

Any response must be submitted by end of EWR consultation period (currently 9th June 2021)