



### **Rooksmead Parking**

Finally work has been completed on the off road parking at Rooksmead. We allocated our ward funding towards this two years ago and it has been a long haul but well worth the wait. This will make a huge difference to the residents who live there and it will remove what has been an eyesore of muddy ruts created in the green space. We will continue to do all we can to remove the unsightly off road car parking on verges through measures such as these and also 'no verge parking

areas.' The pond is also looking much better after recent rains and the effect of the fountain is transparent in reducing odours from stagnant water. With the additional planting of new trees altogether this is a transformation of this area which has never looked better.

### **Grass Cutting**

With grass cutting now taking place across the Borough we are aware that areas are being left as apart of the 'Bugs and Bees' initiative. If residents have areas where they would like to see the grass left to grow more naturally then please do contact us and we will approach the Council to discuss what might be possible.

### **East West Rail**

East West Rail have produced options as part of Route E the most advantageous route for Brickhill currently appears to be along Route 1 which takes the railway north away from residential areas of Brickhill which we have always stated as our desired outcome. Since this would take the railway north of our country park we would seek an extension of the country park and improved access to the countryside through footpaths and bridleways. Early planting and use of landscaping would also be important to mitigate noise and a commitment from EWR Co for the line to be electrified from the outset.

### **COVID Update**

Bedford rates of infection are currently very low and with people have their important vaccinations we continue to see minimal hospital admissions which is fantastic news. However we are not out of the woods yet and we have seen a sharp increase of infections in young people. For this reason we do encourage everybody to continue to be careful as we all become allowed to do more things socially. There has been an increase in anti-vaccination flyposting. We always report fly-posting immediately in Brickhill and have it removed. You can also do this via the council or to us direct. Fly-posting is criminal offence, and individuals found responsible can be fined £100.

This is particularly irresponsible because vaccinations are a safe and effective way of protecting ourselves and others from diseases. We would always urge people to go to reputable sources for information, such as the NHS or their local Council website.



### **Electric Vehicle Charging**

The council is working with Connected Kerb to provide on street electric vehicle charging where residents do not have access to off road parking. If you have any opinions on which roads in Brickhill would benefit from this then we would be pleased to hear and investigate. Please bear in mind that this would deprive other drivers of parking which would eventually be designated as electric vehicles only.

### **Transporting Bedford**

We are delighted to see the ongoing work around our Borough to bring about improvements and to tackle congestion. Work will start this summer on the northern gateway, replacing the two roundabouts at Manton Lane and Sainsburys with new traffic modelling, including traffic signals. Work has been completed on resurfacing St Peter's Street car park which Brickhill residents have asked us to tackle. Work is also well underway on the complete replacement of footpaths and road surfacing of the High Street. This picture shows All Hallows which is now almost complete, showing the new granite and Yorkstone paving which has transformed the shopping area.

### **Gumbles Event**

This popular wristband even will take place this weekend but due to the weather it will happen on Sunday and Monday not Saturday

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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