

**Brickhill Borough Councillors Update  
September 2021  
From Wendy Rider and  
Charles Royden**



**A planning application has been made for erection of 2 two-bedroom dwellings with associated parking on land Between Clyde Crescent Ivel Close and Wye Close.**

Residents have expressed concerns about the loss of amenity if this green space is no longer be available and also concerns about access arrangements. Some residents have had

difficulty accessing documentation. The grounds for objection must be agreed planning matters and might include access and highways safety for example.

### **Brickhill Drive Drains**

There have been more issues with the Anglia Water sewers on Brickhill Drive. Flooding has been occurring now for some time, especially after heavy rain and residents in the nearby area have reported to us issues with blocked drains affecting their own household toilets. We are especially concerned that rain increases the problem, as this water should not be entering the main sewer. We have reported the problems to Anglia Water and they have investigated and cleaned drains but this has still not resolved the ongoing issues. More high pressure cleaning has cleared a brick blockage, fat and wipes which have built up in the main sewer.

### **New Telephone Mast Planned for Brickhill Drive**

We have been advised of plans by Cornerstone and Telefónica with regards to upgrading the existing telecommunications site located at Land Adjacent to Brickhill Drive, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK41 7PY (NGR: 505825, 251234). Telefónica have identified a requirement for a new upgrade to improve network coverage within the surrounding area but this will involve a substantial increase in size to the existing equipment. The new pole will be increased from 12.5 to 20m. The original equipment was installed as a consequence of a mistake by the council planning department who were a day late in refusing permission. The documents are available



**Anglia Water using CCTV to inspect Main sewer overflowing on Brickhill Drive  
23 August**

on our website [www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com](http://www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com). New proposals for mobile phone masts or base stations are invariably controversial - particularly if they are sited in residential areas. Behind the concern is usually a sense that the health risks associated with mobile phone technology have not been properly explained. Local residents will inevitably look to their council to control the development of new sites, but in many ways councils' planning powers are limited. Most crucially of all, councils have been told by ministers that they should not refuse planning applications for masts or base stations on health grounds where these meet the ICNIRP guidelines. Government rules mean that these telephone masts up to 20m do not require the usual planning permission and health grounds are not considered.

Prior approval is required from the council for the alteration or replacement of a mast which would be no taller than the existing and up to and including 20m in height above ground level. Where a mast fits into one of the above categories, a mobile phone operator will submit a notification for 'prior approval'. The council then has 56 days to let them know whether they permit or refuse the approval, but the council may only consider the appropriateness of the location and appearance of any antenna or supporting apparatus. The council cannot object to the principle of a mast.



### **Tree Removal**

Two trees on Tyne Crescent have to be removed outside numbers 3 & 81 and one tree outside 26 Larkway. The trees are in a state of irreversible decline and must be removed on the grounds of public safety. We have agreed with council tree officers that they will be replaced as part of this winter's planting programme.

### **Fly Tipping Ashmead Road**

We have reported some considerable quantity of fly tipping on Ashmead Road. Having gone through the rubbish we did locate a name and address and this was passed to the council enforcement team who we hope will be able to prosecute those responsible.

### **Forthcoming Surgeries**

11 September 10.00am at Avon Drive shops  
25 September 10.00am at Brickhill Drive shops  
9 October 10.00am at Avon Drive shops  
23 October 10.00am at Brickhill Drive shops

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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