

**Brickhill Borough Councillors
Update
October 2022
From Wendy Rider and
Charles Royden**



Telephone Mast Applications

We welcomed the refusal by Bedford Borough Council of the mast application on the green opposite Tesco on Brickhill Drive, 22/01548/ TELPN. However we have a new proposal for a 20m high mast to replace the existing mast on the top of Brickhill Drive. We have attached the documentation which is also available of on our website. We very much oppose this application and have advised the planning department of our concerns. Once again we have an application which makes an adverse impact upon visual amenity and introduces intrusive street clutter

onto a shared pavement. The problem we have is that as part of the policy to 'get rid of red tape' the government made changes to the legislation concerning permitted development in 2022 with regard to locations where upgrades are taking place. The legislation is within the Permitted Development Order, Schedule 2, Part 16, Class A. We have attached a copy of the relevant legislation updated in 2022 (Class A is the relevant section). Apparently they can now replace a mast with a new mast up to 30m high on unprotected land and up to 25m high on land which is on a highway. The cabinets also do not exceed 90 cubic metres in area. This leaves local authorities, parishes and councillors with little power make changes, but we have asked the planning department to work with the companies concerned to minimise the visual and physical intrusion created.

Speeding Traffic in Brickhill

We have shared our concerns over speeding with local police and expressed the views of residents that this is a priority for Brickhill. As a consequence police placed counters on Avon Drive near Bure Close for 7 days between the 24/8 & 07/9/22. Eastbound sampled 16,772 vehicles in that time . The average speed was 35mph, so only just on NPCC enforcement levels. Westbound sampled 16270 vehicles in that time , the average speed was 37mph - again only just on the police enforcement thresholds. The police advise us that these averages suggest that compliance with the limit is generally fairly good. We have stressed that this is still of considerable concern to residents and we have identified additional sites including Waveney Avenue. The Mayor's speed detection vehicles has been operational and has passed data on speeding motorists to the police, we have asked for police speed patrols to be present which can bring prosecutions.

HGVs through Brickhill

We have asked the Borough Council to place signage to deter HGVs through Brickhill, directing

them instead to the bypass from the Manton Lane Industrial Estate. Officers have agreed to look at other proposals to deter traffic from going through Brickhill and we have asked for transport managers to be approached to plan routes with drivers.

Pavement Repairs Repairs are scheduled for areas around Brickhill, including Frome Close, Kimbolton Road, Tyne Crescent. Resurfaced footpaths have been provided around Otter walk and repairs made along Mowsbury Walk. The drought has caused the cracking of pavements around Brickhill where clay has shrunk and we have asked Bedford Borough Council to making repairs to dangerous areas as quickly as possible.

Pedestrian Crossings on Waveney Avenue

We have allocated ward funding towards the provision of two safer crossings on Waveney Avenue. These will be located near Falcon Avenue and at the junction with Avon Drive. This is particularly important given that these are important crossing points for Brickhill and Scott Primary schools. We hope to see these installed in the next few months but it will depend on availability of materials, power connections etc. Drawings are attached and can also be downloaded from our website.

School Parking

We continue to receive complaints about parking around Brickhill Schools and particularly St Thomas More. We have been working to try and resolve some of these issues over many years and a great deal of time and effort has been given to try and change behaviour. St Thomas More is not unique in this respect and we have real difficulties at many of the schools in the Borough. One female officer was recently attacked and hospitalised by a male driver outside school.

Council officers have engaged with the school to try and change behaviour. Last school year Bedford Borough Council provided free bike MOTs to 65 student's bikes and gave free lights to 50 pupils. The school spoke to the students about the health and environmental benefits of active travel and provided road safety information in the PHSE lessons. The council are collecting up-to-date data from schools at the moment but the 2021 hands up survey showed that 42% of respondents travelled actively or via bus to St Thomas More. Their Travel Plan states the aim is to ensure pupils can travel independently to school using active or sustainable modes. The objectives are outlined below:

- I. Promote the health benefits of sustainable and active travel to the whole school community
- II. Encourage students to walk and to cycle to and from school
- II. Promote greater awareness of road safety especially to cyclists
- IV. Promote car sharing to staff where it is possible to do this

We have engaged with the local police and whilst I recognise their stretched resources they have attended onsite and provided support to our Civil Enforcement Officers. The difficulty is that with over 70 schools they cannot be there all the time and when officers do appear often drivers disappear and then come back afterwards.

We will continue to work with all of the schools and agencies to encourage behavioural change and an end to inconsiderate parking which is a blight on the lives of residents and places the lives of children in danger

Trees Planted on Woodland Park. The severe drought over the summer has been damaging for many of the whips which were planted along Ashmead Road. The Forest of Marston Vale

Trust are working with the Council to assess the damage and determine how many trees have been lost and will need replacing. We are grateful to the Trust who are carrying out his work on our site and others across Bedfordshire.

Bird Flu - We are co-operating with Defra regarding the loss of bird life. There is no cure for this we just have to collect dead birds. Extra signage placed in embankment, mill meadows area, routine daily patrols being made to locate any new dead birds to remove ASAP

Caught on Camera - This is operating and new images are uploaded

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues/keeping-bedford-borough-clean/caught-camera>

Come and see us at our surgeries

Avon Drive Shops Saturday 15 October 10.00am
Brickhill Drive Shops Saturday 29 October 10.00am
Avon Drive Shops Saturday 12 November 10.00am
Brickhill Drive Shops Saturday 26 November 10.00am
Avon Drive Shops Saturday 10 December 10.00am

You can also speak with us or another Lib Dem Councillor
every Saturday morning 11.00am - 12 noon at Bedford Central Library

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

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