

### From Mark Fitzpatrick, Chair of Brickhill Parish Council......

Welcome to the latest 'Brickhill News'. In this newsletter there are updates from the Parish Council, from the Borough Councillors who cover Brickhill Parish and more besides. There is a lot happening in Brickhill in the run-up to Christmas. I am looking forward to the switch-on of the Christmas lights on Waveney Green on the 5th December. I hope you can come and join in.

### Focus on Waveney Green.....

Brickhill Parish Council lease the Green from Bedford Borough Council and we continue to work hard to maintain it as a real asset to residents. Following the recent visit by travellers, we work with the Borough Council





to seek effective ways to discourage future visits. Recent work on the Green includes installing new benches,

re-surfacing under the green gym equipment and creating an additional surfaced area near the rear entrance to Brickhill Primary. We have been undertaking tree works along the boundaries with the school, Francis Groves Close and Falcon Avenue and have agreed more tree work to remove some dead trees as well as

open up the footpath onto the Green from Falcon Avenue. We are also paying to install new dual use bins to replace the existing dog and waste bins across the Green.

*Would you be interested in joining a volunteer group to help maintain the Green?* The group would help tidy the corner near the roundabout on Avon Drive and bulb planting amongst other things. Please contact the Clerk (see page 2) if you are interested.

### Christmas is coming......

For a number of years now, Brickhill Parish Council has been holding this event marking the start of the Christmas period. Bedford Borough Council have always dressed the tree. Unfortunately the Borough Council will now only dress trees up to 15 feet. Our tree is 53 feet tall!! The Parish Council looked at various options including reducing the height and spread of the tree. It consulted with a tree surgeon who advised against this, reporting that it is a juvenile Cedar in exceptionally good condition and potentially will grow 4-5 times its current height over the next 30-40 years and will be an important asset to Waveney Green. Following discussion, the Parish Council have entered into a three year contract with the Christmas Tree Decorators. Even they cannot guite reach the top of the tree but will



dress it to give the effect, once it is lit and dark, that the top is reached. We hope everyone is satisfied with the result.

### **BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCILLORS**

### EAST WARD

Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick (Chair) 201234 357259 <sup>(h)</sup>mark.x.fitzpatrick@gmail.com **CIIr Peter Blakeman** (Planning Committee Chair) **2**01234 343908 **Cllr Stuart Green** 201234 354339 **Cllr Alastair Grant** 201234 342076 NORTH WARD **Cllr Vincent Holloway 2**01234 214533

∽ືovholloway1975@gmail.com

Cllr Peter Lamswood

<sup>∽</sup>lamswoodpeterbpc@gmail.com

2 vacancies

### WEST WARD

**CIIr Cathrine Ward** 

<sup>∽</sup>⊕mahovoward@yahoo.co.uk

2 vacancies

### SOUTH WARD

2 vacancies

### WOODLANDS PARK WARD

### Cllr Sudesh Rani

**2**07891 014007

∕∄sudesh2021@hotmail.com

### 1 vacancy

Borough Councillors for Brickhill Ward

Cllr Charles Royden

**2**01234 309175

Cllr Wendy Rider

**2**01234 303254

<sup>A</sup>wendyrider41@gmail.com

### Borough Councillors for De Parys Ward (covers Brickhill South Ward)

Cllr Henry Vann

**2**07791 138853

℃henry.vann@bedford.gov.uk

**Cllr David Sawyer** 

**2**07711 692937

Mrs Sue Bottoms,

**Clerk to the Council** 

St Marks Church and Community Centre,

Calder Rise, Brickhill, MK41 7UY

**2**01234 271708

<sup>-</sup> clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 10-12 noon.

### Police

Junaid.Ashiq@beds.police.uk

**Parish Council meetings:** meetings are open to the public and normally take place on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm (except August & December) at St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill MK41 7UY. Councillor surgeries are held at 7pm before each parish council meeting.

**Volunteers Required** Brickhill News is published 5 times per year and delivered to every household within the parish. We need lots of volunteers - could you help? If you could deliver to a few local streets near to where you live, please contact the parish council office.

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### Climate Change and Sustainable Travel by Cllr Peter Blakeman

With more than three years of Covid-19, and still with us, the Russian war in Ukraine, the fuel and cost of living crises, climate change has not been on the top of most people's agenda. In the meantime we are seeing serious and increasing effects of climate change all over the world in terms of extreme temperatures, droughts, fires, rainfall, floods, melting glaciers, arctic ice reduction and sea temperature increases, acidification and levels.

The main cause is the increasing levels of greenhouse gases in the upper atmosphere, principally carbon dioxide, of which one of the main sources is transport. If significant action is not taken over the next few years to stop or reverse the levels of emissions the future of the planet as we know it today will be in doubt. The greatest threat however is the belief is that somebody else will save it, be it governments, local authorities, etc. The truth is that everyone MUST do their bit NOW no matter how small. In Bedford Borough around 40% of all carbon dioxide emissions originate from road transport.



### Gases and ultrafine particles from exhausts and ultrafine particles also from tyres, brakes and road surfaces affect both the climate and people's health

In addition there is significant air pollution from diesel fueled vehicles (nitrogen dioxide) and from all types, including electric vehicles, small molecular particulates from brakes, tyres and road surfaces. This pollution has been shown to cause a range of different health issues for all the population from the unborn baby to the elderly.

With two thirds of all car journeys under five miles and half less than two miles, Brickhill (including Woodlands Park) is ideally situated in the northern suburb of Bedford for residents to consider whether or not some of their journeys can be made using sustainable transport such as local buses, or actively by cycling or walking.

### Public Transport

Brickhill has a regular bus service - Stagecoach No 6 seven days per week from Tyne Crescent to the town centre via Brickhill Drive. There is also Grant Palmer No 22 once on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from Anjulita Court via Larkway, Brickhill Drive, Gainsborough Drive and Roff Avenue.

For residents on the east side of the parish there are Grant Palmer Nos 28 and 28A from the north of the county via Kimbolton Road and those in the south east corner Stagecoach Nos 7 and 10, the former via Kimbolton Road and the latter via Park Avenue.

The government has now extended their £2 single fare scheme until the end of December 2024 for people using Stagecoach (and UNO) services. Grant Palmer has not participated but since 1 November after discussions with the Department for Transport has agreed to do so until the end of December 2023 when it will review the situation.

### Cycling

Cycling is fun - good for your health - great for your fitness - fastest mode of transport for door to



door short journeys - environmentally friendly - saves money on parking and fuel. It also offers mobility for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities and creates safer and more pleasant streets. Bedford is ideal for cycling being compact and relatively flat (unless you are going over Manton Heights on Brickhill Drive/Manton

Lane) and has always been a town of cyclists. It has an extensive, relatively safe cycle network of off-road paths/tracks, on-road quiet residential roads and cycle lanes on more busier roads enabling access to all parts of the town for work, school/college, shopping or simply leisure. Brickhill has two signed cycle routes; Bedford Cycle Network (BCN) No 7and the outer orbital route, the Green Wheel (GW). NCN 7 leads to the town centre via Dove Road, Bedford Park and De Parys Avenue. The GW passes through Brickhill along Otter and Mowsbury Walks. Cycle Network (NCN) Route 51 between Willington and Priory Park on the surfaced track of the old EW railway line. Eastwards Route 51 goes to Sandy (The Bedford to Sandy Way) and via St Neots and Huntingdon to Cambridge and Harwich while westwards the route goes via Bedford town centre, Kempston and Milton Keynes to Oxford. Westwards the GW route is along Brickhill Drive/Manton Lane and via the A6 bypass (Great Ouse Way) to Biddenham for Bromham and Great Denham and crosses over NCN Route 51at Kempston.

### **Brickhill Borough Councillors**

### Wendy Rider and Charles Royden

Wendy and Charles are pleased to have been trusted to serve again as councillors for the Brickhill Ward, which now includes Woodlands Park. We will work hard all year round to help with any local matters of concern. If you have not yet signed up for our local Brickhill email bulletin then please do so as this is the best way to keep in touch

with local news. We won't bombard you and you can unsubscribe at any time. Sign up here www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/sign-up

To avoid unnecessary emails we also keep you updated on Brickhill News

via our website www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com

Please also feel able to call or if possible email us with any concerns which you have. We are always grateful to receive reports from residents and we will always respond to your concerns. Our contact details are shown below and you can speak to us directly at our surgeries which are also advertised on our website.

Saturday 9th December 10.00am - Brickhill Drive Shops

Saturday 23rd December 10.00am - Avon Drive Shops

We always respond quickly so get back to us if there is any delay.

Wendy Rider 23 Orwell Close, Brickhill, MK41 7BQ 01234 303254 wendyrider41@gmail.com

Charles Royden The Vicarage, Calder Rise, Brickhill, MK41 7UY 07973 113861

charlesroyden@gmail.com

### **De Parys Ward Councillors**

### **David Sawyer and Henry Vann**

We're delighted in our first Brickhill Parish newsletter report to introduce ourselves as new local Councillors for the part of Brickhill Parish covering the following roads: Brickhill Drive, Rooksmead, Mallard Hill, Robin Hill, Eagle Gardens and Goldcrest Way, part of Kimbolton Road and Ellis Road. Our Ward also includes the cemetery and Bedford Park.

We have already raised: the pond in Rooksmead, drains in Mallard Hill and Brickhill Drive, anti-social behaviour and drug dealing in two hot spots, and fixing the bin at the entrance to the cemetery above Robin Hill.

If you have any casework or anything you think we need to be raising with the council please don't hesitate to get in touch.

**Surgeries:** We hold regular surgeries outside Budgens on Kimbolton Road and at Chiltern Avenue shops on the second Saturday of alternating months and joint with Brickhill Ward Councillors at Brickhill Drive shops (see the Focus leaflet for the latest times and dates).

**Ward Fund for 2023/24:** For this year, we are supporting Christmas Lights at Brickhill Drive shops, and a new dropped kerb over the southern entrance to Mallard Hill. Please do contact us with suggestions for future years.

Cllr David Sawyer / <u>sawyerbedford@hotmail.com</u> / 07711 692937

Cllr Henry Vann / <u>henrypaulvann@gmail.com</u> / 07791 138853



# Vacancies on the Parish Council—We need you!!

We have 7 vacancies, 1 in Woodlands Park Ward, 2 in South Ward, 2 in North Ward and 2 in West Ward. Please consider applying. It is not a big commitment as we only meet once a month except for August and December. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the role of a parish councillor, please contact any of the existing parish councillors or the Clerk (contact details page 2).

#### Are you concerned about speeding in Brickhill? Do you want to try to do something about it?

**Community Speedwatch Groups** operate across Bedfordshire and nationwide. There is no group in Brickhill. All members would be volunteers and fully trained. Anyone caught speeding will receive a letter from the police. The police also monitor the data so they can take action against repeat offenders or those severely breaking the speed limit.

### If you would like to join a Community Speed Watch group, or want to know more about the scheme contact:

WatchSchemes@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

### Withdrawal of Grant Palmer's Bus Service No 21 from/to Woodlands Park (Brickhill)

Brickhill Parish Council learnt in late September that the Grant Palmer bus service No 21 from/to Woodland Park in Brickhill for the last ten years was to be withdrawn from Monday 2nd October 2023.

Brickhill Parish Council has written to Bedford Borough Council asking to see the service reinstated with the possibility of an additional early and late service to cater for school/ college children and workers to get to their school/college/work place by public transport. It understands that the route had been previously supported by a 'deminimis' grant and has asked if this be increased for a period following the possible return of the service.

### Did you realise that the parish council offer grants???



If you run a group or activity or take part in one which serves or has members who live in Brickhill, you can apply for a

grant. An application form and the grant criteria can be found on the parish council website or contact the Parish Clerk (see pg 2). Grants are usually in the region of up to £500.

### Good Neighbour Schemes

Beds RCC help local people set up and run Good Neighbour groups in their town or village.

Good Neighbour volunteers help local residents with jobs such as shopping, walking the dog, or simply popping round for a chat – anything one neighbour might do for another.

Would you like to join your local group or help to start one in your town or village?

Find out more:

Debra Aitken

Good Neighbour Scheme Officer (rural) 07951 175241 / debra.aitken@bedsrcc.org.uk Amanda Higham

Good Neighbour Scheme Officer (town) 07534 484954 / amanda.higham@bedsrcc.org.uk







### Become a Good Neighbour volunteer

Do you like talking on the phone? Maybe become a group phone-holder!

Do you enjoy driving? Maybe take someone to the doctors or to a local coffee morning!

Like having a chat over a cup of tea? Maybe become a befriender, visiting someone stuck at home!

These are just some of the ways you can help - there are lots of ways a Good Neighbour can make a difference.

### Interested? Get in touch:

Debra Aitken

Good Neighbour Scheme Officer (rural) 07951 175241 / debra.aitken@bedsrcc.org.uk Amanda Higham Good Neighbour Scheme Officer (town)

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# **Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan update**

### Thank You for your views and questions

As mentioned in the August 'Brickhill News', a group of parish councillors and residents started work on creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Brickhill in 2016. In the August newsletter, via an online survey, we asked residents for their views on the designation of three sites in Brickhill as Local Green Space, to increase their protection against development (although none is planned currently). There was very strong (over 92%) support from residents for this designation. At the October meeting of the parish council, the results of the survey were discussed and it was agreed to propose the designation of four additional areas.

### Additional sites for designation as Local Green Space

# **Robin Hill and Merlin Gardens**

The open areas of Robin Hill and Merlin Gardens form a link from Bedford Park through to the Falcon Avenue green corridor and to Waveney Green. Used primarily for casual recreation, such as walking, they are a vital part of Brickhill's green lung. Currently they are designated only as Urban Open Space.



# Carron Road

kick-about

space





This area, between Carron Road and Ashmead Road is used for informal recreation, including some kick-about football. It is also the site for a green gym provided by Brickhill Parish Council. Especially for younger residents of the Carron Road and Woodlands Park area, it is a very useful facility. It is currently designated only as Urban Open Space.

### Additional site for designation as Local Green Space

# Meadow off Crispin Drive



This area lies between Crispin Drive/Egremont Mews and the planted area of trees, which is officially the North Brickhill Country Park. It is used for casual recreation (mostly dog walking) but also has archaeological and wildlife value. It is currently designated only as 'Bedford Northern Fringes'.

### **Existing Local Green Spaces**

- Waveney Green
- North Brickhill Country . Park
- **Clapham Park Wood**

### Why designate an area as Local

Green Space? Local Green Space (LGS) designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities. Once designated, the LGS is subject to the same strong development restrictions as Green Belt, and new development here is ruled out other than in special circumstances. It does not however protect sites against the East West Rail proposal.

### How you can find out more

See Brickhill Parish Council's website for more information

### www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

- about Neighbourhood Planning
- History of Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan
- Draft Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan

### Additional proposed Local Green Spaces

- Brickhill Drive/Rooksmead Pond open space •
- •

(As mentioned in the August 'Brickhill News')

- Brickhill Drive/Foster's Brow open space
- Falcon Avenue Green corridor

### **Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan revised** timetable

**November 2023** - Officially inform owners of sites mentioned in the plan, so that they are aware and can give their feedback.

December 2023 - the Neighbourhood Plan is finalised.

January 2024 - Brickhill Parish Council is asked to approve the Plan for Regulation 14 consultation.

January to March 2024 - formal 'Regulation 14' consultation, when residents and other stakeholders can comment.

March 2024 - consider representations and amend the Plan as necessary

April 2024 - Brickhill Parish Council to approve the amended plan, and supporting documents.

May - July 204 - Independent examination.

Summer 2024 - Referendum. When residents will be asked to approve the Plan. A simple majority is required.

### St Mark's Church



### Join us for a joyful Christmas !

### Saturday 16 December

### 6.30pm 'Carols in the Car Park'



Bedford Town Band, with free mulled wine & mince pies to warm us up !

### Saturday 23 December

### 3.00pm Children's Crib Service

Great for little ones but bring the whole family for carols as we build the Christmas crib

### Sunday 24 December

### 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

A traditional service of nine lessons and carols by candlelight with Bedford Town Band

### 11.30pm Candlelit Midnight Mass

We gather together this most holy night to welcome the birth of the Christ Child

### Monday 25 December - Christmas Day

9.30am Christmas Day Service for all the family

### St Mark's Church, Calder Rise, Brickhill, Bedford. MK41 7UY

### www.stmarkschurch.com 01234 342613 office@stmarkschurch.com

### News from Scott Primary......



The Year 4 children at Scott Primary School travelled back in time with history experts, History off the Page, who brought Roman Times to life.

They enjoyed role playing, experiencing life as it would have been living in the year 60 AD and used authentic tools and materials to learn skills as apprentices in a wide variety of workshops.



Children (and adults!) made oil from olives to test Roman oil lamps, used traditional herbs and ingredients to create authentic medicinal cures and made wax tablets from beeswax and wrote on them with styli.







As the day progressed, everyone learnt about issues of the time by taking part in a range of cross-curricular activities and they ended a really fun and knowledgeable day with a story telling session

Everyone got into the spirit and looked the part in their amazing costumes.

# CompareRiskNightKorst</

### CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

We have the privilege of joining together in caring for our community by providing local people in crisis with hampers during the Christmas holidays.

### YOU CAN HELP

- O Get a box and wrap it
- O Buy the food

www.allnationsbedford.org/christmasinabox

christmasinabox@allnationsbedford.org

O Bring it in the open box

Sunday 3rd December, 3pm - 5pm or Monday 4th December, 4pm - 6pm All Nations Church, Brickhill Drive, Bedford, MK41 7QF

 You can also donate the cost of a box at allnationsbedford.org/christmasinabox

O Coca-cola/Lemonade

### FAMILY SHOPPING LIST

- O Tinned Potatoes (Ige)
- O Tinned Carrots (Ige)
- O Tinned Peas (Ige)
- Tinned Ham (Ige)Tinned Tuna
- SquashTea/Coffee

O Tinned Fruit

- O Soup
- O Christmas Pudding
- O Carton of Custard
- O Mayonnaise
- O Gravy Granules
- Mince PiesStuffing Mix
- O Crisps

O Savoury Biscuits

O Pack of Biscuits

O Box of Chocolates

O 2 Selection Boxes



All Nations Church Brickhill Drive Christmas Services Saturday 9th December 2.30 pm Living Nativity - Christmas activities for young children and a living nativity.

Wednesday 13th December 10.30 am

Just Pray Daytime Carol Service

Sunday 17th December 6.00 pm

All Nations Carol Service

Sunday 24th December 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Sunday Service

Monday 25th December 10.00 am

**Christmas Day Service** 

If you would like more details, please call 01234 273773 or email office@allnationsbedford.org



### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Kempston Musical Society, together with Goldington Green Academy Choir, will be performing a selection of Christmas carols and festive music on

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December

at Putnoe Heights Methodist Church Putnoe, Bedford The concert will start at 7.00pm.

Tickets will cost £7.00 for adults and £3.00 for children and will include mince pies and refreshments.

There will be a collection for motor neurone disease

To find out more about all our forthcoming concerts or information about the choir, please email info@kmschoir.co.uk.



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Always happy to help!

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- 🖻 info@blissplumbing.co.uk
- www.blissplumbing.co.uk

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