

January 2024



## Borough Cllr Update To Brickhill Parish Council



**Brickhill Borough Councillors  
Charles Royden & Wendy Rider**



### Road Budget Restored

A joint Liberal Democrat and Labour amendment has stopped the Mayor's planned £1.2 million cut to the roads and pavements maintenance budget proposed by the Conservatives at the last Council meeting. The vital amendment removed the £1.2 million cut to roads and pavement maintenance that the Mayor and his Conservative cabinet put forward at the last council meeting. Charles and Wendy were pleased to bring forward amendments which will deliver more funding for crucial road and pavement renewal, as well as securing funds for key projects such as new GP surgeries and refurbishing leisure facilities.

We were also successful in removing the Mayor's proposal of a new leisure centre at the cost of millions of pounds of extra loans. This protected taxpayers from paying off this debt with increased council taxes for decades to come. Less money spent on repaying loans is more money to provide vital frontline services.

At the previous Full Council, the Conservatives' Capital Programme was sent back to them to think again through the Council's usual conflict resolution procedure. Full Council deemed the extra millions of borrowing to fund projects such as a Mayor's new leisure village to be excessive. Charles and Wendy were shocked that the all Tory Executive proposed spending millions of pounds of borrowed money without even producing a business case on any of their proposals. Charles and Wendy consider the Conservative Mayor and his colleagues to be making incompetent proposals which threaten the very financial stability of the council. It would cost council taxpayers £5 million every year to pay for the costs of the extra borrowing which they wish to introduce. The Liberal Democrat finance portfolio holder previously reduced the council debt by over £30m from over £90m handed down by the last conservative council, helping to keep Bedford Borough council tax bills down. It would be a tragedy if the Conservatives once again indulged in reckless spending to be handed on to future generations.

**Universal Studios** We were pleased to have confirmation of the investment proposed by Universal Studios which is an outstanding vote of confidence in Bedford Borough and is built on a reputation built under Mayor Dave Hodgson over many years. This investment will cement Bedford as a place of prosperity with the investment in our local economy and infrastructure.





### **Reinstatement of Brickhill Bus Service**

Following the collapse of the No21 bus service Grant Palmer expressed their dismay at the lack of action by Bedford Borough Council. The Traffic Commissioner noted that no response had even been received from the council. This is unacceptable and we have asked the council to explain what action they are taking to restore services and what has happened to the funding used to support this service.

### **Woodlands Park**

- **Ponds and Ditches** Our work to have the ditches and ponds cleared on Woodlands Park appears to have been timely. There has subsequently been heavy rain and ditches were at capacity. We asked the council to clear debris during the worst of the flooding and were grateful to officers who attended and carried out emergency works to prevent flooding.

- **Lighting on Crispin Drive**

Residents have been pleased that after many emails and calls we have successfully had street lighting connected on Crispin Drive. There is an ongoing issue with a damaged street light on Ashmead Road.

- **Junction Markings etc** Council highways engineers have determined that the layout of junctions on Woodlands Park would prohibit access to large vehicles if traffic islands were introduced. We have therefore allocated ward funding to improve some of the junction lining and road markings. We are still tackling the backlog of repairs including those associated with the slow progress towards adoption.

### **Road Signs**

There are a number of street nameplates which have seen better days or are damaged. We have requested renewals in Windrush, Wansbeck and Stour Way.

### **Clyde Crescent BPHA Development**

BPHA have advised us that they have received the tenders for the work and the costs are high. This is therefore subject to





further consideration and we will report back when we know more. We are pleased that BPHA are keeping us well updated on progress.

**Roads and Footpaths** We are eager to receive from the Parish Council a list identifying the most pressing need for resurfacing of roads and footpaths in Brickhill. Please can this now be discussed as a matter of urgency as only one councillor has responded. We have asked for works including around Tyne Crescent and Waveney Avenue areas and footpaths on Nursery Gardens and Kimbolton Road.

**Parking Restrictions** We have received requests from residents for additional parking restrictions in Wansbeck Road, Douglas Road and Larkway. We have spoken with highways officers and allocated funding to enable schemes to be brought forward



**Tree Planting** We have received requests from residents for trees and wherever possible we have allocated planting. In this season we will see 30 trees planted in streets where residents have asked for them. Residents should let us know if they have any future requests for streets by their properties. We also receive many requests from residents to have trees removed and where damage is being caused to property we can often assist.

**Overgrown Hedges** Residents have requested assistance in having hedges cut back from footpaths. We have arranged for this around Bourneside, Avon Drive and Falcon Avenue

### **Help us keep in touch**

It is always helpful to be able to inform residents with updates via our email list and if you have not yet signed up

for this yet then please do so as this is the best way for us 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](http://www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/sign-up)

**Wendy Rider**

**Charles Royden**

## ***Surgery at Woodlands Park***



## **We would be pleased to meet you at our surgeries**

*Brickhill Drive Shops 6 January 10.00am*

*Avon Drive Shops 20 January 10.00am*

*Brickhill Drive Shops 3 February 10.00am*

*Avon Drive Shops 17 February 10.00am*

*Brickhill Drive Shops 2 March 10.00am*

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

*Sign up to get our regular local email updates*

**[www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/sign-up](http://www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/sign-up)**

### **Wendy Rider**

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## **Working all year round not just at election time !**