

BRICKHILL NEWS

Ashmead Road

The newsletter of Brickhill Parish Council

Issue No 66

April 2024

Regulation 14 Public Consultation

A public consultation about the draft Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan, in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, begins on **Monday 8th April** and ends on **Thursday 30th May**.

The consultation is a precursor to the submission of the draft plan to the local planning authority.

The draft plan and supporting documentation are available on the website of Brickhill Parish Council and will also be available for inspection throughout the consultation period during normal opening hours at:

- St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise
- NISA Local, Brickhill Drive
- Putnoe Library, Putnoe Street

Representations about the draft plan or support documentation should be made online at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/Brickhill2024 or in writing to the Parish Clerk, Brickhill Parish Council, St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill, Bedford MK41 7UY.

Comments must be made by **30th May** and need to state clearly which policies in the draft plan or supporting documentation the comments refer to.

As well as residents and businesses in Brickhill, those bodies listed in Schedule 1 of the 2012 Regulations who the Parish Council considers may be affected by the draft plan will also be consulted. There include: Bedford Borough Council, Historic England, Natural England, the Environment Agency, local schools and churches, and the Harpur Trust.

For more information see pages 4 and 5

From Mark Fitzpatrick, Chair of Brickhill Parish Council

The main article in this edition of 'Brickhill News' is about the Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan. Please do take the time to review the plan and send in your comments. The aim of the plan is to help protect more of Brickhill's green open spaces and heritage, also to encourage sustainable design, transport and movement. There is also a questionnaire about the re-launched Good Neighbours Scheme; if you want to help please fill in and return it.



To find out more about what is going on in Brickhill, please come along to the Annual Parish Meeting on 25th April. See details on page 6.

Our main police contact for Brickhill, PC Junaid Ashiq, has left the Bedford Community Team to start a new role. Thank you Junaid for your work on behalf of our community. Until a new PC or PCSO is in post, the main police contact is Sergeant Chloe Lloyd-Jones.

Lastly, I want to thank Dave Britton, who worked for the parish council for many years, to keep Waveney Green free of litter. Dave has now retired. I am pleased to say that his replacement, Rachel Howton, has now started work.



Falcon Avenue green corridor
- proposed Local Green Space

BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCILLORS

EAST WARD

Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick (*Chair*)

☎01234 357259

✉mark.x.fitzpatrick@gmail.com

Cllr Peter Blakeman (*Planning Committee Chair*)

☎01234 343908

✉pj.blakeman@btopenworld.com

Cllr Stuart Green

☎01234 354339

✉stuart.green5938@ntlworld.com

Cllr Alastair Grant

☎01234 342076

✉agrantbpc@gmail.com

NORTH WARD

Cllr Vincent Holloway

☎01234 214533

✉vholloway1975@gmail.com

Cllr Peter Lamswood

✉lamswoodpeterbpc@gmail.com

2 vacancies

WEST WARD

Cllr Cathrine Ward

☎01234 295951

✉mahovoward@yahoo.co.uk

2 vacancies

SOUTH WARD

2 vacancies

WOODLANDS PARK WARD

Cllr Sudesh Rani

☎07891 014007

✉sudesh2021@hotmail.com

1 vacancy

Borough Councillors for Brickhill Ward

Cllr Charles Royden

☎01234 309175

✉charlesroyden@gmail.com

Cllr Wendy Rider

☎01234 303254

✉wendyrider41@gmail.com

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

Cllr Henry Vann

☎07791 138853

✉henry.vann@bedford.gov.uk

Cllr David Sawyer

☎07711 692937

✉david.sawyer@bedford.gov.uk

Mrs Sue Bottoms,

Clerk to the Council

St Marks Church and Community Centre,

Calder Rise, Brickhill, MK41 7UY

☎01234 271708

✉clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 10-12 noon.

Police

chloe.lloyd-jones@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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In the December 2023 Brickhill News, we explained what a Good Neighbours scheme involves and our hope to set up a scheme for Brickhill. We have now acquired a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary but more volunteers are always welcome and needed.

We have listed below the services we think a Good Neighbour scheme could offer that might be useful to people in the area. Please read the list and tick the boxes to show whether you might use the service listed or might be able to volunteer your help. You can tick boxes in both columns. **Amanda from Good Neighbours will be at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 25th April (see pg 6 for details) so come along and ask any questions you have about how the service would operate.**

If you think you might like to help, the amount of time you volunteer is entirely up to you – even a couple of hours a month helps! All volunteer expenses are reimbursed and all volunteers are fully insured and DBS checked for free (as appropriate).

Brickhill Good Neighbour Scheme Residents' Survey

Possible Services	I might need this myself	I might be able to help with this
Occasional lifts to doctors, lunch clubs, shops, etc.		
Befriending – popping round for a chat & cup of tea		
Form filling / letter writing / help with using a computer		
Collecting prescriptions and occasional help with shopping		
Small household repairs/practical tasks (such as changing a light bulb)		
Pet-care / dog-walking etc.		
Indoor plant watering / light gardening		
Being part of the phone rota, to answer callers and match them to a suitable volunteer		
Being part of the organising group – helping with publicity, fundraising, etc.		
Other – please specify		

Please print your name and address here:

Name:

Address:

Telephone/ email:

If you need further information and to return the completed survey, please email amanda.higham@bedsrc.org.uk or drop to Carol, 13 Calder Rise, Brickhill, or bring to the Annual Parish Meeting on the 25th April.

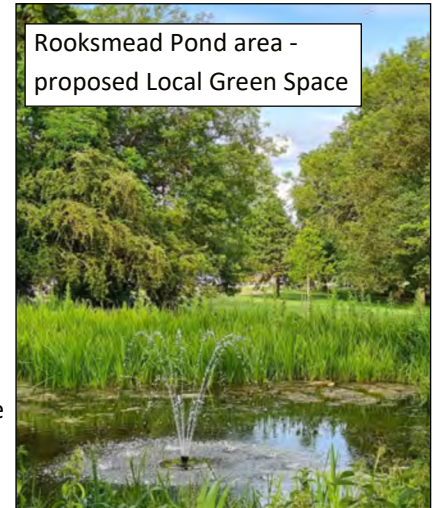
Alternatively, please scan the QR code to fill in the survey.



A Neighbourhood Plan for Brickhill

19 parish councils in Bedford Borough and thousands across England have agreed Neighbourhood Plans for their parishes. The aims of Neighbourhood Plans are to agree planning policies for their areas. These are then used when determining planning applications. Parish Councils can only comment on planning applications, but once a Neighbourhood Plan is agreed, the policies are also relevant for the Borough Council.

The Neighbourhood Plan has to relate to the Borough Local Plan. There are no sites in Brickhill parish that have been identified in the Local Plan for development. Based on the comments received from previous questionnaires (Feb 2020 and Aug 2023), the themes the plan has focused on are the protection of Brickhill's green open spaces, sustainable development, transport and design, and sustainable design. The Plan seeks to support the retention of the Brickhill Drive and Avon Drive neighbourhood centres and is supportive of the expansion of existing community facilities.



Protecting Brickhill's green open spaces

Brickhill is renowned for its green spaces. Only three of these are currently designated as Local Green Space, which gives equivalent protection from development as Green Belt. Following consultation with residents and discussion by the parish council, an additional seven sites are proposed for designation as Local Green Space. These sites are important for various reasons including: recreation, environment and visual amenity,

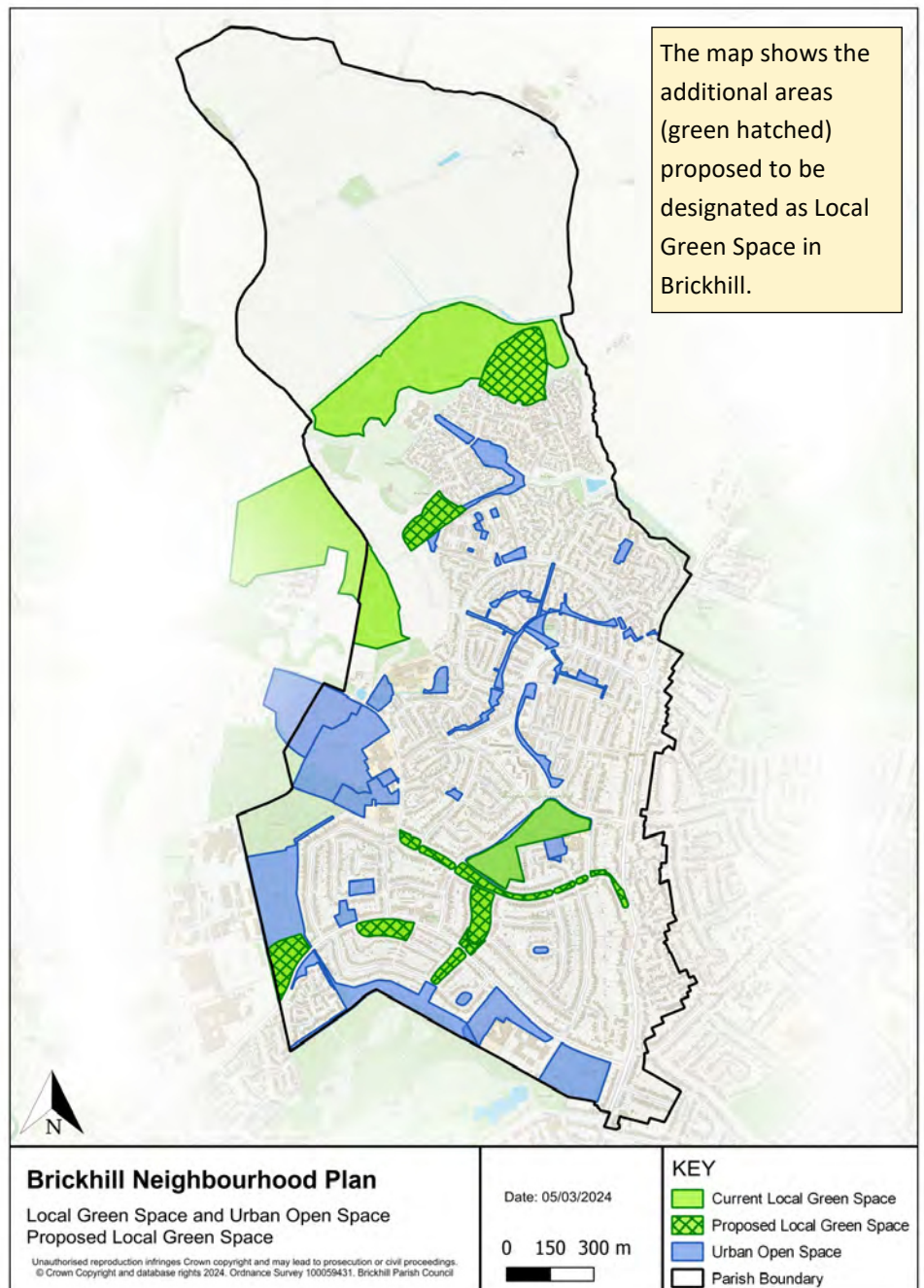
Please review the draft policies and send in your comments. Do state which policy your comments refer to.

Existing Local Green Spaces in Brickhill parish:

- Waveney Green
- North Brickhill Country Park
- Clapham Park Wood (part)

Proposed additional Local Green Spaces in Brickhill parish:

- Brickhill Drive/Rooksmead pond area
- Brickhill Drive/Foster's Brow
- Robin Hill
- Merlin Gardens
- Falcon Avenue green corridor
- Carron Road kickabout space
- Meadow off Crispin Drive



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
- Supporting documentation

Or come along to two drop in sessions in the Wren Room, St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, on **Friday 26th April 10am-12noon** and **5pm-7pm**.

How you can comment

The best way is to fill in the online survey:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/Brickhill2024

or you can write to the Parish Clerk, Brickhill Parish Council, St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill, Bedford MK41 7UY.

What happens next

After the closing date, we will consider the representations and the extent to which any concerns expressed can be addressed. The draft plan, amended as necessary, will be considered by the parish council. If approved it is then submitted to the Borough Council who will publicise the draft. This provides a further opportunity for people to make representations about the plan's proposals. The Borough Council will publicise details about when and how to make representations.

The next stages after that will be:

- Submission of the draft plan for independent examination.
- Publication of the independent examiner's report and decisions.
- A referendum of residents of the draft plan and
- If the referendum result supports the draft plan, the bringing of the plan into force.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan contains the following policies:

Policy BR-SG1 Local Employment: supporting office and other workspace (Use Class E) on brownfield sites and the retention of existing employment sites for employment use.

Policy BR-SG2 Local Facilities: supporting new community facilities near the Brickhill Drive and Avon Drive neighbourhood centres and the expansion of existing community facilities.

Policy BR-SG3 Housing Mix and Standards: supporting infill development within existing built frontages. Opposing the loss of single storey housing and other housing suitable for the elderly.

Policy BR-LE1 Green Environment: development should not harm the ecology or trees and should achieve biodiversity gains. Seek opportunities to enhance recreational value of green open spaces.

Policy BR-LE2 Local Green Space: designate three areas as Local Green Space: Falcon Avenue, Brickhill Drive/Foster's Brow, Brickhill Drive/Rooksmead pond.

Policy BR-LE3 Local Heritage: Avoid harm to the historic lane in Falcon Avenue, which led to Clapham Park. Development should have no adverse impact on five non-designated heritage assets.

Policy BR-SD1 Place and Context: Development should complement the local context and create safe environments through provision of active frontages to overload roads and spaces. Landscape design should be integral to any development.

Policy BR-SD2 Green Design: Balance carbon and other environmental impacts by incorporating positive green features in design and landscaping, taking into account the Plan's Green Guidance Note.

Policy BR-TM1 Sustainable Transport: Enhancing pedestrian connectivity, sustainable forms of transport and the inclusion of electric charging points.

Policy BR-TM2 Footpaths and Cycleways: No significant adverse impact on footways and cycleways. Enhancing footpaths and cycleways where opportunities allow.

BRICKHILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday 25th April 2024
7.15pm

at Brickhill Community Centre,
Avon Drive, Brickhill

All residents of Brickhill are warmly invited.

This is your chance to find out what has been going on in Brickhill over the past year and what may happen in the year to come, to ask questions and have your say. There will be representatives from local schools, community groups, churches, agencies and local councillors.

Do you run a group in Brickhill? come along and tell residents what you have been doing and future plans or leave some details about your activities.

light refreshments will be available

For more details please contact:

The Clerk: Sue Bottoms

Tel: 01234 271708

clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parking Problems in Brickhill.....

Residents have raised a couple of issues with the Parish Council. Highways issues are the responsibility of Bedford Borough Council so the Parish Council has raised them with it.

Van laden with pallets on Avon Drive near Highfield House: The Borough Council is aware of this vehicle as the owner has several parked around the town being used as on street storage. It has served a Community Protection Notice on the owner requiring them to remove all these vehicles from the Borough. CPN's allow the Borough Council to specify this person must not store any vehicle like this within the borough and is an ongoing requirement.

Transit vans parked in the layby on Avon Drive adjacent to Waveney Green: The Borough Council are looking at whether any parking restrictions can be imposed. There is a road safety issue as the layby is used by parents dropping off/collecting from Brickhill Primary.

Brickhill Community Centre



Adult Dance classes for Beginners

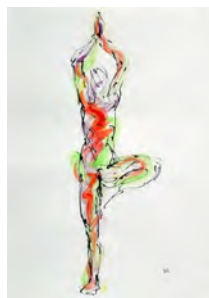
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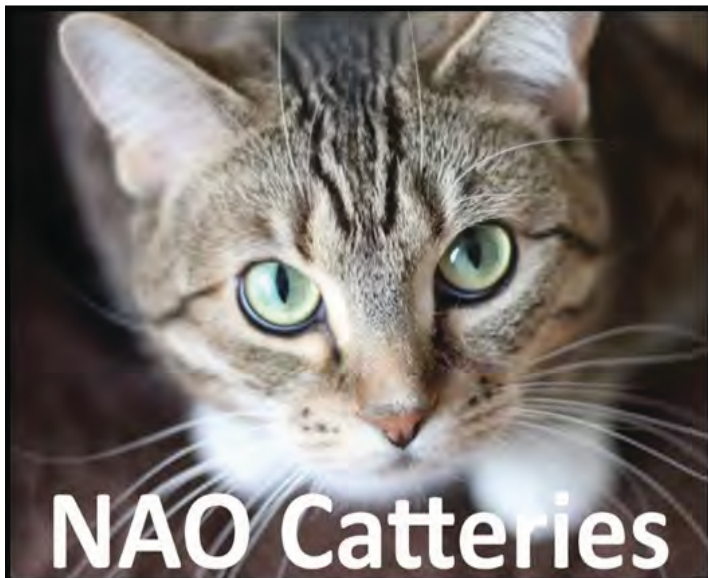
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