



Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan progress

Protecting Brickhill's green open spaces—and more

At the meeting of Brickhill Parish Council on 6th March, it was agreed to officially submit the Neighbourhood Plan to the Borough Council. This follows the public consultation that took place in April/May 2024, after which all comments received from members of the public and other organisations were considered, with changes made to the Neighbourhood Plan as appropriate. Thank you to everyone who sent in their views.

The fundamental aims of the Neighbourhood Plan remain to protect more green open spaces in Brickhill, by designating seven additional areas as Local Green Space—the equivalent of designation as greenbelt land. There are other policies that seek to protect Brickhill's heritage and encourage sustainable design, transport and movement.

The revised Neighbourhood Plan is available on the Brickhill Parish Council website, www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk, along with supporting documents. One of the documents is the Consultation Statement which shows all the comments received and the responses to those comments.



What happens next

The Borough Council will check that the submitted plan complies with all relevant legislation. If it does, then they will publicise the draft for a minimum of six weeks and invite representations. The Borough Council will publicise details about when and how to make representations; they will also appoint an independent examiner.

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.

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

Brickhill Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 8th May 2025, 7pm

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

☎ 01234 271708 ✉ clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCILLORS

EAST WARD

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✉mark.x.fitzpatrick@gmail.com

Cllr Peter Blakeman (*Planning Committee Chair*)

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Cllr Stuart Green

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Cllr Alastair Grant

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Cllr Vincent Holloway

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Cllr Peter Lamswood

✉lamswoodpeterbpc@gmail.com

Cllr Stefan Testa

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1 vacancy

WEST WARD

Cllr Cathrine Ward

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2 vacancies

SOUTH WARD

2 vacancies

WOODLANDS PARK WARD

Cllr Sudesh Rani

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✉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

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✉clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10-12 noon.

Police

Peter.Murphy@beds.police.uk

Parish Council 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 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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**BRICKHILL COMMUNITY
CENTRE**

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



As we see the welcome signs of spring around us, the parish council is gearing up for an exciting year ahead. We hope to see the Neighbourhood Plan come into force this year - if voted for by residents. The parish council has welcomed Stefan Testa as a new councillor. We will be working on an updated 'Action Plan', reviewing the work of the parish council and what can be done to make improvements, for the overall benefit of residents of Brickhill. This includes looking at the play areas and their equipment. Please come to the Annual Parish Meeting on 8th May.

East West Rail

Brickhill Parish Council replied to the recent consultations by East West Rail, focusing on the impact of the railway on local rights of way between Brickhill, Clapham, Thurleigh and Ravensden. The parish also wrote to the Planning Inspectorate's consultation of EWR's Environmental Statement, focusing again on public rights of way but also on mitigation generally. Both documents are available on the parish council website, www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Scott Primary pupils travel through time.

Over the last few weeks, our pupils have journeyed into Roman, Tudor and Victorian times and experienced life as an Egyptian.

Our Year 4 children learnt and practised lots of different formations the legions would have used in battle. After their exertions, they had a Roman Feast where some children were servants and prepared the food for the soldiers, dancers and actors.

We then travelled with Year 3 to Egyptian times and the children were in the royal court preparing a feast for them and for Tutankhamun. They enjoyed many activities including painting in hieroglyphics.

Year 5 experienced Tudor life including a visit to the apothecary, alchemist, candle maker, sewing station, leather workers, ink maker and tried pendant making. They also attended a Tudor banquet and provided entertainment in the form of dancing, singing and acting

Fast forward to Victorian times, Year 2 learnt how to polish shoes, set the dinner table and wrote letters using ink pens. In the afternoon they put on a show with their newly acquired skills in acrobatics, singing and comedy.

These themed days are a fun way to learn as part of their curriculum and they truly engage the children as they become fully immersed in the past.

To make it extra special, 'History off the Page' bring their experts and a vast array of props to ensure the children get a true taste of living in bygone times.

Our parents get involved too and dress up alongside the staff to get into the spirit and we are very grateful for their invaluable support.



Brickhill Borough Councillors Update March 2025

From Wendy Rider and Charles Royden



Serving as a councillor in opposition is very different from being a part of the administration. The Mayor and his Executive have enormous powers and our duty is to work hard to get the best for Brickhill residents. A recent example was the cut to our school crossing patrol at Scott Primary which was closed with less than 24hrs notice on the last day of the Christmas term. There was no consultation with residents, councillors, the parish council or the school. You can sign our petition here: www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com. We will continue to campaign for our local community and the services which make Brickhill a great place to live. It is unacceptable that we have seen a stop to our road resurfacing in Brickhill, especially when some roads and pavements are so badly in need of attention. When Woodlands Park came into our Brickhill Ward we made it a priority to have all the public areas adopted from the developers. We are pleased that we are making real progress with this and Grenadier Close is now close to completion. Residents have contacted us concerned that previous plans by the council to sell land off for development on Ashmead Road, Mowsbury Golf Course and Freemans Common might now once more be brought forward. We have asked the Mayor to disclose the list of sites he is considering and he has refused to do so. As soon as we know more we will make residents aware and we will robustly campaign against further development of these sites.

We will continue to work hard and keep you informed through regular deliveries of FOCUS, surgeries and our website www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com. Please sign up for our emails and we will keep you updated with local information, we won't bombard you and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Sign up here www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/sign-up

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

Charles Royden, The Vicarage, Calder Rise, Brickhill. 01234 309175 charlesroyden@gmail.com

De Parys Ward Borough Councillors Update March 2025

From Henry Vann and David Sawyer

The area of Brickhill Parish that falls within De Parys Ward is best summarised as Brickhill Drive, Robin Hill, Rooksmead, Mallard Hill, Eagle Gardens and Goldcrest Way.

In 2024/25 we have continued with our push for improvements to the environment of our local area has included supporting Christmas lights at the Brickhill Drive shops and pushing hard to get the paving

repaired at this location. This year our ward fund has also supported the installation of a new **bench** on Mallard Hill near Robin Hill as well as more **bulb planting** in the Robin Hill / Mallard Hill area. On the Council we have backed Charlie and Wendy's petition for the reinstatement of the school crossing patrol at Scott Primary that was removed with no consultation. We have also reported **potholes along Brickhill Drive** and noticed the council have unilaterally removed benches in **Bedford Park** and are reducing the flowerbeds as well. We are also concerned by proposed cuts to street cleansing, library services, streetlights and telecare services as well as ongoing borrowing costs. For the first time in recent years the Council's own finance officer has had to highlight the risks to the council's financial stability. As ever if you have any casework you would like to report to us, we would be delighted to help so do get in touch at the details below.

Sign up to our regular emails here: <https://www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/sign-up> or come to our next surgery at Budgens on Kimbolton Road, Saturday 12 April 2:00pm.

Contact us anytime:

David Sawyer, 53 Devon Road, Bedford, MK40 3DF, 07711 692 937, sawyerbedford@hotmail.com

Henry Vann, 5 Park Avenue, Bedford, MK40 2JY, 07791 138 853, henrypaulvann@gmail.com



News from Brickhill Primary...



We are very proud of our pupils at Brickhill Primary School and they have had a fabulous start to 2025. The children have once again loved learning across all of the subjects and have produced some wonderful pieces of artwork too. We were treated to a pantomime, were visited by a former winner of The Voice, Year 5 have been learning to play the ukulele and Reception have been learning about instruments with a special music teacher too. Year 4 and 5 went to the theatre to watch the Demon Dentist and we have had specialist teachers come and teach dance and

gymnastics. Year 1 have been interviewing government representatives too! Our best highlight has to be dancing to music at lunchtimes – if you hear the music at lunchtime as you walk past, have a boogie too! We are also looking to develop our sensory room so if you have any lights or tents that you no longer use, please do consider donating them to help improve our provision. Thank you to everyone in the community who supports our local schools, and thank you to our wonderful parents for being a fundamental part of our team.



North Beds Ramblers Walk every Saturday:

Please note change of start time for afternoon walks – Summer start 13:30

Come and join us for a walk. We walk every Saturday afternoon approx. 6 miles and Saturdays twice a month in the morning for approx. 12 miles

Or try our “Ramble” on first Saturday morning each month – slightly shorter, slower pace

April Walks

5th am Flitwick “**Ramble**”, 5.5 miles, pm Ampthill 6.5 miles

12th am London – Unlock Church walk, 7.5 miles or pm Wilstead 6 miles

19th pm Willen, Milton Keynes, 7.5 miles

26th am Thrapston, 12 miles or pm Stoke Hammond, 6.8 miles

Contact; Margaret Sawyer 07780933729 Facebook; North Beds Ramblers

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire>

GAMES AND COFFEE GROUP FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Brickhill Community Centre are arranging to hold a free games and coffee afternoon once a month on a Friday. We are looking for board games ie. dominoes, playing cards, scrabble etc for the group to play.

If you are interested in joining us for a coffee and a game of cards, please contact Clair on 01234 312332 or email:

brickhillcommunitycentre@googlemail.com

Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive

Brickhill Allotments

Have you ever thought of having an allotment? Brickhill Parish Council are inviting local residents of Brickhill to join our waiting list for an allotment plot.

The allotments are situated at Foster's Brow, off Brickhill Drive.

Please email:

allotments@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

with your name and address and contact telephone number





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