

# BRICKHILL NEWS

Waveney Green

The newsletter of Brickhill Parish Council

Issue No 71

March 2026

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



Thank you to everyone who voted in the recent Referendum for the Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan, especially for those who voted in person on such a cold, damp, day. I am really pleased that the Neighbourhood Plan has been approved by residents, as it will increase the protection of more green areas within Brickhill.

In this newsletter are updates from the parish council, local schools and our Borough Councillors, as well as other news about Brickhill. Please could you read the article about Waveney Green and send in your views about the proposals to make it harder for unauthorised encampments to take place.

It is great to see the early signs of Spring, with crocus and daffodils in flower. It is not long until Easter!

## Protecting Waveney Green

Waveney Green is a green lung for Brickhill, a place for casual recreation and part of many residents daily lives. Unfortunately, a number of unauthorised encampments have taken place on Waveney Green over the years, most recently in 2023. Brickhill Parish Council is asking for your views on possible steps to reduce the likelihood of this happening again. **Your views are wanted about these measures.** See page 3.



## Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan update

The Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan was approved by residents on Thursday 5th February. 1,017 voters took part in the referendum, with 917 votes for 'Yes', 99 votes for 'No', plus one spoilt ballot paper. The turnout was 14%.

The next and final step in this long-drawn out process is for the Borough Council's Executive to decide to make (adopt) the plan. This should be, as we understand it, a formality. After that the Neighbourhood Plan takes effect and would be used when considering any planning decisions within Brickhill in the future.

The Neighbourhood Plan can be seen here [www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk/brickhillnp](http://www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk/brickhillnp).

## Parish Council budget and Council Tax

Brickhill Parish Council has set its budget for 2026/27 at £125,150. This leaves the Band D Council Tax yearly amount at £35.32, for the fifth year in a row. The sums raised cover such things as the maintenance of Waveney Green and Mowsbury Walk play area, Brickhill Community Centre, the allotments, various CCTV cameras, grants to Brickhill and Scott Primary Schools and Christmas lights on Waveney Green.

Merlin Gardens is one of seven additional areas to be designated as Local Green Space

MERLIN GARDENS



A welcome sign of Spring in Rooksmead

# 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

**Cllr Stefan Testa**

✉stesta2@hotmail.com

1 vacancy

## 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

## Mrs Clair Tyrell, Assistant Clerk and Allotments Officer

St Marks Church and Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill, MK41 7UY ☎01234 271708

✉allotments@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk

## Office Hours:

**Clerk :** Monday and Thursday 10-12 noon.

**Allotments Officer: Wednesday and Thursday 10-12 noon.**

**Police** PC Paul Garrad [paul.garrad@beds.police.uk](mailto:paul.garrad@beds.police.uk)

PC Phoebe Prossor-Jones [phoebe.prossor-jones@beds.police.uk](mailto:phoebe.prossor-jones@beds.police.uk)

PCSO Charlie Jarvis-Banks [charlie.jarvis-banks@beds.police.uk](mailto:charlie.jarvis-banks@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

**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? Even to deliver to a few local streets near to where you live, please contact the parish office.

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## Protecting Waveney Green

The majority of large open spaces in the Bedford urban area have measures put in place (combinations of shallow ditches, low mounds and bollards), leaving Waveney Green as an exception. It can take several days for encampments to be removed, after which the site is left with human excrement and other waste. The cost of clean-up has been covered by the Borough Council in the past, but this may not be the case next time.



Shallow trench and low mound, Ashmead Road

There are a number of options for creating protective measures, with the costs ranging between £11,000 and £47,000. There may be

additional maintenance costs in the longer term.

The tarmac paths through Waveney Green would not be affected by the proposals, while authorised vehicles will also be able to access the Green. Small gaps in the protective measures would be left, to allow people on foot to cross the green as now in specific locations.

### Your views wanted

The Parish Council will consult residents directly around Waveney Green. Views from all residents are welcome. Take part in the consultation online by going to:

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BrickhillWaveney](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BrickhillWaveney)

or come to:

**Waveney Green , 4pm - 6pm, Sunday 29th March.** (next to the bus shelter, opposite St Philip and St James church).

More information will be on the Brickhill Parish Council website:

[www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk).

## Implications for Brickhill of the Borough Council's financial problems

Residents are likely to have heard of the Borough's current problems. The full impact on Brickhill and on Brickhill Parish Council is still not fully clear. The council had been told that it would have to pay for the maintenance of the Average Speed Cameras in Brickhill Drive, but an amendment to the Borough's budget leaves the cost with the Borough for now. Other costs, such as for Christmas lights at Brickhill Drive and Avon Drive shops are likely to be something that the Parish would need to pay for. The Parish Council will keep residents informed of any future developments.



## Brickhill in pictures



bpha are building bin stores for their five tower blocks in Brickhill. They have plans for major refurbishment of the flats later.



The Salvation Army has removed their clothing banks across the Borough. In Brickhill there are still clothing banks at St Mark's, Calder Rise, and also at Carron Road.



PC Paul Garrad, Cllr Wendy Rider, PCSO Charlie Jarvis-Banks and Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick at the recent Priority Setting meeting at Police HQ. The priorities for Brickhill will be tackling e-scooters and off-road motorbikes.

## Looking after Brickhill

Dog fouling is an ongoing, unnecessary and unpleasant problem. Bagged up dog waste can easily be disposed of in



Larkway to Kimbolton Road footpath - reports of dog fouling problems from here recently

**To report dog fouling go to:**

[www.tinyurl.com/BrickhillDogFouling](http://www.tinyurl.com/BrickhillDogFouling)

## Brickhill Borough Councillors Update From Wendy Rider and Charles Royden



**Sale of land off Ashmead Road:** Thanks to all residents who signed our petition to stop this proposed sale. The state of Council finances may lead to future pressure to sell. We continue to do all we can to protect this important green space for our community.

**The Motorised Menace:** There is an ongoing problem of quad bikes, motorbikes and electric scooters driven on our pavements and through Woodlands Park into Clapham Woods. We have raised this with the police and passed details to them shared with us by residents.

**Brickhill Graffiti:** There is an epidemic of graffiti in Brickhill and we have discussed this with the police at the recent priority setting meeting at police headquarters. If you have any knowledge of those responsible please contact the police or your Borough Councillors in confidence.

**Road and Pavement Repairs:** Cuts to the highways budget means that roads in Brickhill are no longer scheduled for resurfacing. We continue to campaign for proper funding. It is imperative that we all report dangerous potholes and pavements.

**Parking around St Thomas More:** We receive numerous complaints. Some roads such as Moriston Road and Wansbeck Road are clearly unsuitable to be used by vehicles waiting for passengers. We have asked the council for additional enforcement as a matter of urgency.

Throughout the coming year we will work harder than ever to protect essential services. We will also continue to keep you informed through regular deliveries of FOCUS, surgeries and our website [www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com](http://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](http://www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/sign-up)

Email [puttingbrickhillfirst@gmail.com](mailto:puttingbrickhillfirst@gmail.com) with any issues. We always aim to respond to residents the same day or within 24hrs. If you haven't had a reply to an email please call us because they can go astray.

**Wendy Rider**, 23 Orwell Close, Brickhill. 01234 303254

**Charles Royden**, The Vicarage, Calder Rise, Brickhill. 07973 113861

## De Parys Borough Councillors Update From Henry Vann and David Sawyer

**Planning good news.** We have been successful in objecting to the proposal to install a new 5G mast 15m high at the end of **Ellis Road**. This would have been in addition to the mast on Brickhill Drive, though replacing one at the Kimbolton Road/Putnoe Lane junction. Thank you to the residents and Parish and all who worked together on this.

**Rooksmead Pond fountain update.** The Rooksmead Pond has been cleaned and improved but the fountain is not working due to an electrical wiring problem. We are waiting for a resolution timeframe.

**Graffiti:** The Council's graffiti machine is back in action. We will follow up on reports as some seem to have been marked as resolved when actually not yet fixed – please do let us know of any reports.

**E-bikes and e-scooters.** We attended the police priority setting meeting on 30 January and agreed the priorities for the next 6 months should be anti-social behaviour on St Peter's Green and drug related crime. The police are also prioritising e-scooters and speeding. The police are now exercising their powers to stop and seize e-scooters, which are all illegal if they are driven on the public highway in the Borough. If you see them, you can report them by visiting <https://www.beds.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/> and providing details about the incident and the rider.

**Drug dealing and anti-social behaviour.** We are working closely with our community policing team – who now attend our ward surgeries – to address criminal behaviour, including drug dealing and anti-social behaviour. Residents affected are asked to contact 101 (or 999 if appropriate) or make reports online and if any specific addresses or registration numbers of vehicles are known that is particularly helpful. You can also share details with us.

**Email communication.** We keep residents up-to-date with developments in the ward area with our email list as a quicker alternative to FOCUS. If you have not yet signed up, then please do so. 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) and contact us any time at:

David Sawyer, 53 Devon Road, MK40 3DF, 07711 692 937, [sawyerbedford@hotmail.com](mailto:sawyerbedford@hotmail.com)  
Henry Vann, 5 Park Avenue, MK40 2JY, 07791 138 853, [henrypaulvann@gmail.com](mailto:henrypaulvann@gmail.com)

**Surgeries:** Sat 28/3 10am Outside Brickhill Drive shops (shared with Brickhill councillors)  
Sat 11/4 1pm Shaldon Court, Barnstaple Road  
Sat 11/4 2pm Outside Budgens, Kimbolton Road.





## News from Brickhill Primary ....

We have had a fun-filled couple of months at Brickhill Primary School, where our focus has been on inspiring our young people and giving them opportunities to play and be creative at playtimes. We have been fortunate to have been visited by Kieran Lai, BGT semi-finalist who inspired us through dance; Paul Sturgess, Britain's tallest man, who came to inspire us to embrace who we are and to love ourselves; Widdershins Theatre who came to inspire us through story; Steve Cole, famed Astrosaurus author, who inspired us to become daring writers and our Year 4s were inspired to try a new instrument during a tamboo-bamboo musical workshop.



Lunchtimes have seen the introduction of a mud kitchen and a lot of wood and crates, which are used by children of all ages (even Year 6!) to create obstacle courses and other creations too!



We want to share a big thank you to our community for making donations of objects used in our play and we also want share a huge thank you to our Parish Council for agreeing to fund our next project as we look to make improvements to our Year 1 learning environment.



If you would like to come and have a look around our wonderful school, please contact us on [office@brickhillprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@brickhillprimary.co.uk) and before you take anything to the tip or put it in a skip, please reach out to us as we could probably make good use of it!



## News from Scott Primary ....

### Pupils at Scott Primary School Travel Back in Time with Roman and Tudor Days

Pupils at Scott Primary stepped into the past during two exciting immersive history experiences: a Roman Day and a Tudor Day. The school hall was transformed into a time machine as pupils explored what life was like centuries ago through hands-on, practical activities that brought history vividly to life.

On Roman Day, children discovered how people lived during Roman times, learning about daily routines, beliefs, and innovations. One of the highlights was exploring Roman medicine, where pupils found out how natural ingredients such as herbs and plants were used to treat illnesses and injuries. They were fascinated to learn how different Roman remedies compared to modern medicine and enjoyed discussing which treatments might actually have worked.



Creativity played a big part in the day as children took part in jewellery making, designing and creating pieces inspired by Roman styles. Using a range of materials, they carefully crafted necklaces and bracelets, gaining an understanding of the importance of jewellery in Roman society and what it revealed about status and fashion.

The Tudor Day offered another exciting step back in time. Children learned about life during the Tudor period, including food, clothing, and the strict rules that shaped everyday life. Through practical tasks and role play, pupils were

able to compare the lives of rich and poor Tudors and gain a deeper understanding of how society was organised.

Across both days, the emphasis on practical activities helped children to stay engaged, curious, and enthusiastic about history. By handling objects, creating their own items, and taking part in interactive learning, pupils developed a stronger connection to the past and a clearer understanding of how people lived long ago.

## St Thomas More Celebrates Achievement, Innovation and Community

St Thomas More Catholic School has enjoyed a highly successful autumn term, with students excelling academically, creatively and through enrichment opportunities beyond the classroom.

This year we celebrated excellent GCSE secondary schools for GCSE results.

Students across all year groups have benefited from Inspiring learning experiences. Year 8 pupils took part in a STEM Formula 1 Race

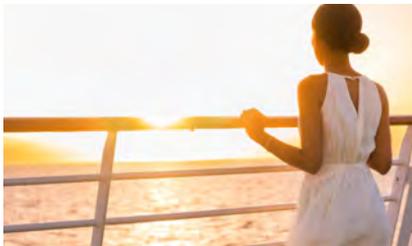


Day, designing and racing

model cars and exploring careers in engineering and technology with Red Bull. Sixth Form students visited the University of Bedfordshire for hands-on careers experiences in criminology, psychology and social work, gaining insight into future study and professional pathways. Creative subjects have also flourished. Media students visited The Guardian newsroom, and explored digital innovation at EGX Comic Con.

We also have enjoyed welcoming Year 5s from local primary schools to take part in masterclasses in Business and Science Masterclasses. To find out more please contact us.

Headteacher Martin Bonner said the term highlighted the school's commitment to excellence, opportunity and service. St Thomas More continues to provide students with enriching experiences that prepare them for future success. To read more about what students at St Thomas More have been doing read More News – Links can be found our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/STMBedford](http://www.facebook.com/STMBedford)



# Bedfordshire Cruise Collection Weekend

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## Coffee Morning Brickhill Community Centre

We are holding game and coffee social drop-ins for all Brickhill residents. They take place on the **last Friday of each month, from 11am to 1pm**

When:  
The 4th Friday of every month



50p per cup

- POP IN FOR A CHAT AND A CUPPA
- Board games
- Badminton
- Table Tennis
- Come and chat to your bpha Housing Officer
- Children welcome

For more information, call Clair at Brickhill Community Centre on **01234 312332** or email: [brickhillcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:brickhillcommunitycentre@gmail.com)

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**FOR MORE INFO CALL: 07757 548324**  
**EMAIL: [JOEYFOOTBALLFUN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JOEYFOOTBALLFUN@GMAIL.COM)**  
**OR VISIT: [E/JOEYFOOTBALLFUN](http://E/JOEYFOOTBALLFUN)**

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[www.naocleaningservices.co.uk](http://www.naocleaningservices.co.uk)  
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- Heating ✓

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- www.blissplumbing.co.uk