

Brickhill Borough Councillors Report to Parish Council March 2026

From Charles Royden
and Wendy Rider



No Confidence in the Mayor

This report is submitted including our update for the latest Brickhill Parish magazine.

Since that report, there has been a significant development at the council in that Liberal Democrat, Labour, Green and Independent councillors have all organised petitions expressing no

confidence in Mayor Tom Wootton and calling for him to resign. As your local Brickhill Councillors we have signed the petition as we believe that enough is enough and the breakdown and bankruptcy of the council is his fault. We believe that his call for the resignation of the Chief Executive of the Borough Council is a disgraceful failure to take responsibility for his catalogue of mistakes and he should do the honourable thing and resign. This would allow councillors from across the political parties to work together to sort out the mess that he and his Conservative Executive have caused. Residents who wish to join us in [signing the petition may do so here](https://www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/mayormustresign) (https://www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/mayormustresign)

Electric Vehicle Charging

Since election nearly three years ago not a single new electric charging point has been installed by the council. We have complained about this failure which is more upsetting as under Mayor Dave Hodgson, funding was applied for under the government council Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) scheme, which subsequently received £1,010,000. Alongside this capital funding, Bedford Borough Council has also been allocated £346,000 in LEVI capability funding to support planning, staffing, and procurement for EV infrastructure. The council must get moving and we have asked the Parish Council to suggest any locations deemed



suitable in the parish for charging to be allocated. It is particularly important that support is provided for residents to access who do not have off-street parking.

Bench Seating

Since the cancellation of ward funding by the Mayor, we no longer have access to ward funds for local projects. We have asked the Parish Council for support in taking forward the cost of provision for the bench as Avon Drive shops.

Bus Cuts

We have been asked to attend a forum by the council transport team to be advised by Stagecoach their proposed changes to services across the Borough. We are aware of proposals to reduce services and cut some routes entirely. Stagecoach claims that bus patronage levels are falling and this affects the commercial viability of some town services. Sadly, since the privatisation of the public transport network our buses are provided by commercial companies and Stagecoach is not a public transport service. However, government and tax payers do make financial contributions towards services and we will campaign against cuts to essential public transport on behalf of our residents.

Sale of land off Ashmead Road

Thanks to residents who signed our petition calling on the Mayor to stop his proposed sale of land off Ashmead Road. The Mayor stopped the sale but warnings have been given that council bankruptcy may lead to further pressure to sell. We will 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 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. We would be delighted to receive information which leads to those responsible being apprehended by the police. If you have any knowledge of those responsible please contact the police or your Borough Councillors in confidence.

Road and Pavement Repairs

Our roads are falling apart and Bedford has fallen among the worst authorities for fixing potholes. Currently 527 Local Roads in Bedford Borough are in the worst 'Category Red.' Cuts this year to the highways budget means that roads in Brickhill are no longer scheduled for resurfacing. We continue to campaign for proper funding and it is imperative that we all report dangerous potholes and pavements.



Please note that we are advised that the failed resurfacing on Avon Drive is expected to be replaced with road closure expected in March. Following our report to the council, it was revealed that poor quality materials were used and as we requested the new surface will be laid at no cost to residents.

We are particularly disappointed at the damage caused by council service vehicles to our verges and pavements. We have supplied evidence to the council and have received assurance that this will be stopped. If you see any damage of this nature being caused, please take details and let us know so that action can be taken.

Parking around St Thomas More

We receive numerous complaints about parking problems created by inconsiderate parents. 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.

We are still waiting for the allocation of cameras to enforce the school street protection in Kennet Rise. This is in spite of the funding being allocated by the Liberal Democrat administration three years ago. We have been repeatedly told that this will take place shortly.

Waste Collections on Carron Road Estate

We are currently working with Bedford Borough Council to tackle the poor provisions for waste collection. This was highlighted recently with the delivery of food waste containers to residents who had no place to put them. They have promised us proposals in the near future and we will keep residents updated.

Help us keep in touch

It is always helpful to be able to inform residents of Brickhill 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. We won't bombard you and you can unsubscribe at any time. Sign up here

www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/sign-up

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.

Avon Drive Shops Saturday 14 March 10.00am
Brickhill Drive Shops Saturday 28 March 10.00am
Avon Drive Shops Saturday 11 April 10.00am
Brickhill Drive Shops Saturday 25 April 10.00am
Avon Drive Shops Saturday 9 May 10.00am

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

Wendy Rider - Brickhill Borough Councillor

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Charles Royden - Brickhill Borough Councillor

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Email us at puttingbrickhillfirst@gmail.com

We aim to always respond within 24 hrs

Working all year round, not just at election time !

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