

Brickhill Annual Parish Meeting

25th April 2024

Welcome to
**BRICKHILL
PARISH**
Please drive carefully



Brickhill Annual Parish Meeting - agenda

- 7:15 – 7:20 pm Welcome and apologies for absence - Mark Fitzpatrick, Chairman of Brickhill Parish Council
- 7:20 – 7:30 pm Brickhill Primary School – Dan Wilshire, Deputy Head Teacher
- 7:30 – 7:40 pm Bedford Women’s Institute (Brickhill group) –
- 7:40 – 7:50 pm Good Neighbours –
- 7:50 – 8:00 pm Park Wood Nature Reserve update – Tony Gill
- 8:00 – 8:10 pm Report from the Borough Councillors representing Brickhill
- 8:10 – 8:30 pm Reports from other groups
- 8:30 – 8:40 pm Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan – Mark Fitzpatrick
- 8:40 – 8:50 pm Chairman’s Report on the work of Brickhill Parish Council 2023-24 - Mark Fitzpatrick
- 8:50 – 9:00 pm Report by Cllr Peter Blakeman, Chairman of the Planning Committee of Brickhill Parish Council
- 9:10 – 9:10 pm Question Time facilitated by Mark Fitzpatrick

Mowsbury Walk play area

Over past year:

- Minor work to tackle safety recommendations



Future work

- Probable replacement of some smaller items of play equipment



Woodlands Park

Over past year:

- New bench installed in Ashmead Road
- Discussed loss of Grant Palmer service 21



Brickhill Community Centre

- Leased by the parish council from Bedford Borough
- Managed on a day-to-day basis by Brickhill Community Association



Over past year:

- Completion of installation of ventilation system
- 'Pigeon proofing' of solar panels.
- Routine maintenance

Brickhill allotments

- Located at Foster's Brow are 122 full and 18 half size plots available to rent.
- As of February 2023, there 19 Brickhill residents are waiting for a plot and 66 non-residents.
- Priority is given to residents of Brickhill Parish.



Future work

- Parish is likely to take over a small area of land between the allotments and a house in Curlew Crescent
- Gardening competition to restart!
- Supporting connection of a cycle-path connection from Fosters' Brow to Manton Lane industrial estate.

Waveney Green

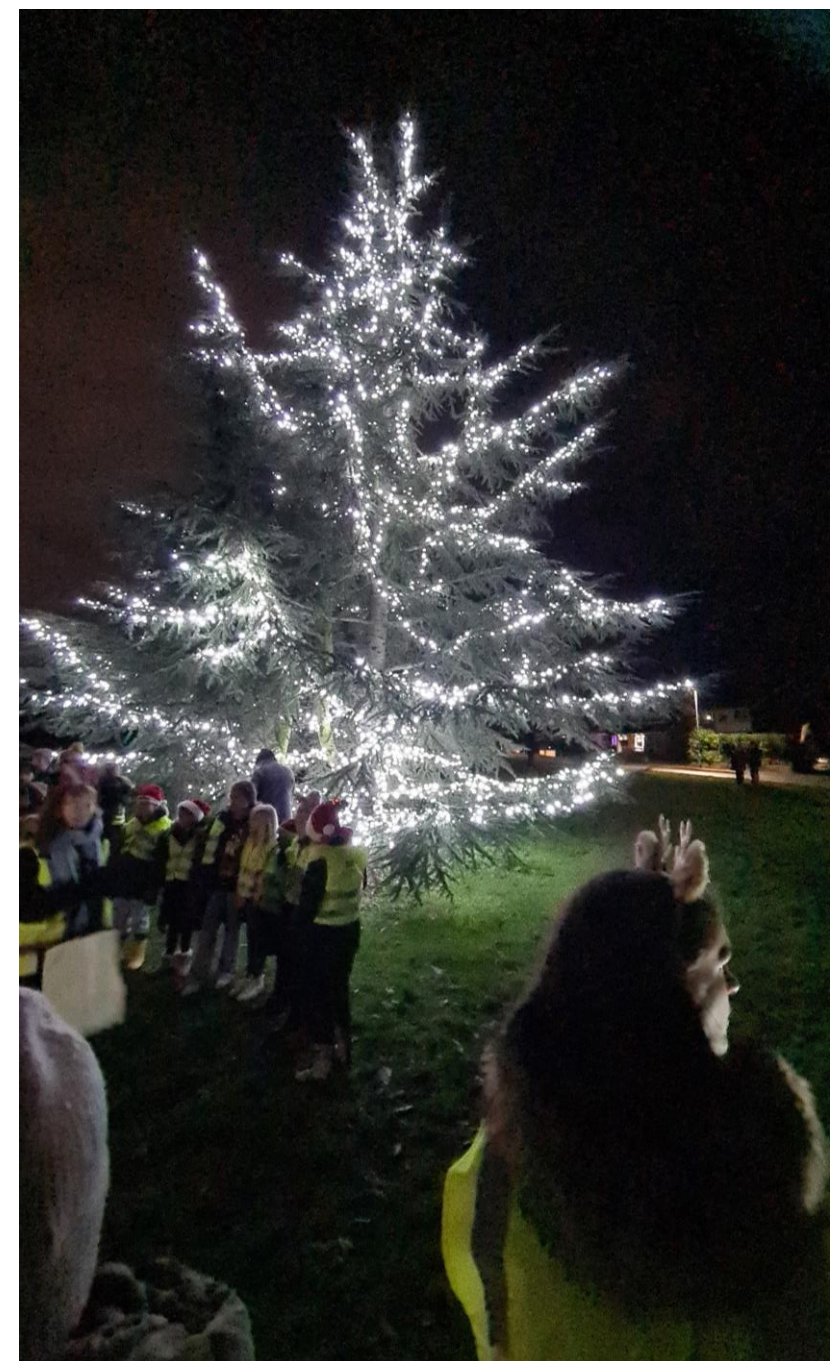
- Christmas lights on the green. Thank you to Brickhill and Scott Primary Schools and the Lions for supporting the switch on.

Over past year:

- New lights for Christmas tree
- Agreed replacement of dog waste bins
- Tree maintenance
- Green gym area resurfacing
- Discussions on unauthorised encampments and injunction.

Future work

- Replace some smaller play equipment



East West Rail

Action over the past year

- Councillors have attended meetings with EWR of the Bedfordshire Local Representatives Group.
- Two councillors met with East West Rail staff in August 2023 to show them the possible impact on the public rights of way network.
- Councillors have attended the community drop-in meetings organised by East West Rail

Purpose of EWR drop-in events:

- Sessions aim to inform communities and businesses about the statutory consultation process which begins in June
- Drop-ins are open to all members of the public to hear how the statutory consultation and Development Consent Order (DCO) processes work

Likely next steps

- East West Rail is holding further **drop-in events** before the start of statutory consultation:
 - Tue 7th May, 2pm-7pm, the Swan Hotel.
 - Mon 20th May, 2pm-7pm, Roxton Village Hall, High Street, Roxton
 - Fri 24th May, 2pm-7pm, Marston Moreteyne Community Centre, Great Linns, Marston Moreteyne.
- When East West Rail launch the first stage of their planned statutory consultation (due summer 2024), the parish council will review and reply as appropriate.
- Depending on impact on Brickhill, the parish council is likely to take further action. Key aspects likely to be: impact on rights of way, noise and disruption during construction.
- Continue attending Local Representative Groups meetings.

Brickhill News

Action over the past year

- First two editions of 'Brickhill News' published since COVID

Future work

- Aiming to increase to five editions a year

Thank you to contributors, advertisers and volunteer deliverers!



BRICKHILL NEWS Waveney Green
The newsletter of Brickhill Parish Council
Issue No 65 December 2023

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

Welcome to the latest 'Brickhill News'. In this newsletter there are updates from the Parish Council, from the Borough Councillors who cover Brickhill Parish and more besides. There is a lot happening in Brickhill in the run-up to Christmas. I am looking forward to the switch-on of the Christmas lights on Waveney Green on the 5th December. I hope you can come and join in.

Focus on Waveney Green.....

Brickhill Parish Council lease the Green from Bedford Borough Council and we continue to work hard to maintain it as a real asset to residents. Following the recent visit by travellers, we work with the Borough Council to seek effective ways to discourage future visits. Recent work on the Green includes installing new benches, re-surfacing under the green gym equipment and creating an additional surface area near the rear entrance to Brickhill Primary. We have been undertaking works along the boundaries with the school, Francis Groves Close and Falcon Avenue and have agreed more tree work to remove some dead trees as well as open up the footpath onto the Green from Falcon Avenue. We are also paying to install new use bins to replace the existing dog and waste bins across the Green.

Would you be interested in joining a volunteer group to help maintain the Green? The group would help tidy the corner near the roundabout on Avon Drive and bulb planting among other things. Please contact the Clerk (see page 2) if you are interested.

Christmas is coming.....

For a number of years now, Brickhill Parish Council has been holding this event marking the start of the Christmas period. Bedford Borough Council have always dressed the tree. Unfortunately the Borough Council will now only dress trees up to 15 feet. Our tree is 53 feet tall!! The Parish Council looked at various options including reducing the height and spread of the tree. It consulted with a tree surgeon who advised against this, reporting that it is a juvenile Cedar in exceptionally good condition and potentially will grow 4-5 times its current height over the next 30-40 years and will be an important asset to Waveney Green. Following discussion, the Parish Council have entered into a three year contract with the Christmas Tree Decorators. Even they cannot quite reach the top of the tree but will dress it to give the effect, once it is lit and dark, that the top is reached. We hope you are satisfied with the result.

Please join us.....

The switch-on of the Christmas lights on Waveney Green

Tuesday 5th December 2023
5.30 pm

Brickhill and Scott Primary School Choirs will be singing with us from Santa at 6 pm approximately

All welcome



BRICKHILL NEWS Ashmead Road
The newsletter of Brickhill Parish Council
Issue No 66 April 2024

Regulation 14 Public Consultation

From Mark Fitzpatrick, Chair of Brickhill Parish Council

The main article in this edition of 'Brickhill News' is about the Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan. There is also a 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

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

Brickhill Parish Council - finances

Financial Year	Precept	Council Tax 'Band D'
2023/24	£124,600	£35.32
2024/25	£126,050	£35.32

For more information see <https://brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk/aboutus/financial-accounts-and-reports/accounts-archive>

Brickhill Parish Council – the council

- In the May 2023 election, Charles Royden, Corinne Royden, Wendy Rider, Morris Johns, Mike Barlow, Paula Brazier and Michael Jarman-Webb stood down. The other eight parish councillors continued to serve.
- There are therefore seven vacant places which are available to be filled through co-option.
- During 2023/24 there were nine meetings of the parish council.

Meeting attendance
by councillors
during 2023/24

	Apr*	May	Jun	Jul	Sep	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Mar
Blakeman		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fitzpatrick		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Green		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grant		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Holloway		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lamswood		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Rani		✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
Ward		✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x

*No meeting was held in April 2023.

- Sue Bottoms continues as the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer for the council.
- The parish council has its office at St Mark's Church Community Centre. The office is open 10am – 12noon on Mondays and Thursday, and other times by arrangements.
- Dave Brittan has worked as a part-time litter picker on Waveney Green for the parish council. He has now retired. His replacement is Rachel Howton.

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Annual Accounts Summary 2023-24

2022-23		2023-24
£		£
	Operating Income	
125,000.00	Precept	124,600.00
599.44	CIL Monies	
1,075.00	NDP Grant	-
7,544.90	Allotments	6,080.00
9,012.47	Other Receipts *	21,500.00
1,049.00	Interest	4,714.00
9,234.25	VAT Data	15,516.40
	FIT Monies	732.74
	Advertising	395.00
153,515.06	Total Receipts	173,538.14
	Running Costs	
38,417.30	Staff Costs	42,366.62
3,308.53	Administration	3,665.81
4,116.26	General Expenses	7,180.09
1,903.00	Subscriptions	1,936.00
11,479.83	Allotments	12,344.81
123,337.69	Community Initiatives	17,112.56
26,141.26	Waveney Green	31,797.90
4,583.45	Brickhill Community Centre*	29,856.24
15,516.40	VAT Data	14,847.16
228,803.72	Total Payments	161,107.19
	Receipts and Payments Summary	
336,437.85	Opening Balance	261,149.19
<u>153,515.06</u>	Add Total Receipts (As Above)	<u>173,538.14</u>
489,952.91		434,687.33
<u>228,803.72</u>	Less Total Payments (As Above)	<u>161,107.19</u>
261,149.19	Closing Balance	273,580.14

These cumulative funds are represented by :

21,455.92	Current Bank A/c	29,172.95
10,372.58	14 day Deposit A/c	10,552.70
71,682.98	Stafford Pullmans A/C	73,186.27
71,641.14	Nationwide	73,024.99
85,996.57	Cambridge	87,643.23
261,149.19		273,580.14

Reserve Balances are represented by :

- 75,288.66	Current Year Fund	12,430.95
96,672.33	General Reserves	32,415.06
1,837.00	EMR - IT Fund	1,837.00
4,540.83	EMR - Election Costs	4,812.18
10,001.00	EMR - Allotment Maintenance	9,501.00
700.00	EMR - Key Deposits	700.00
1,000.00	EMR - Plot Deposits	1,000.00
37,455.00	EMR - Brickhill Community Ctr	39,455.00
44,922.00	EMR - Waveney Green	28,408.82
1,730.00	EMR - Legal Fees Asset Trsfs	1,730.00
60,000.00	EMR - Capital Purchases Fund	60,000.00
8,836.00	EMR - Woodlands Park	9,244.44
3,318.69	EMR - CIL Monies	3,318.69
3,800.00	EMR - Youth Initiative	3,800.00
10,000.00	EMR - Mowsbury Walk Play Area	12,000.00
550.00	EMR - BPHA Grant Woodlands Park	550.00
30,000.00	EMR - Transport Initiative	30,000.00
1,075.00	EMR - NDP	
20,000.00	EMR - Footpaths WG	22,377.00
261,149.19		273,580.14

* £20,000 was a grant via Bedford Borough Council for ventilation upgrades at the Brickhill Community Centre. The spend is reflected in the budget heading for Brickhill Community Centre

BRICKHILL

PARISH COUNCIL



PLANNING COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2023/2024 for Annual General Meeting on Thursday 25 April 2024

Members of the Planning Committee:

Four Councillors served on the committee; Cllrs Blakeman (chair), Grant, Green and Ward.

Brief

The committee meets monthly prior to the main Parish Council meeting including August and December when there is no main meeting.

Each application is assessed not just with neighbours in mind but for how it may be seen by the wider community. For extensions, new dwellings and small infill developments the eight design codes in the Borough Council's Guidelines (Residential Extensions, New Dwellings & Small Infill Developments - January 2000) are followed; looking at basic shape and scale, detailed character, space around building, car parking provision, privacy, daylight and sunlight, overbearing and safety and for new buildings also land use.

Planning matters not valid are the right to a view, impact on property values and construction concerns.

It should be remembered however that the final approval or rejection of any planning application rests with the borough's planning officers or planning committee (BBCP) and NOT the Parish Council.

Report

In the period covered by this report (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024) 42 (63 previous year and 95 in 2021/22) planning applications were considered.

The Planning Committee objected to 4 (14) and made comments on a further 4 (6).

In detail the applications reviewed were:-

- **Extensions to private houses – 29 (37).** One objected by both BPC/BBC. All others permitted

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- **New Dwellings – 2 (3).** Replacement of bungalow in Kimbolton Road by new bungalow and four bedroom house. Objected by BPC/BBBC. Mallard Hill Garages – Removal and erection of bungalow – No objection by BBPC/BBC.
- **5G Masts – 1 (4).** New mast opposite Brickhill Drive shopping parade. Objection by BPC/BBC
- **Tree Surgery Work – 7 (3).** One objected by BPC, All permitted by BBC.
- **Miscellaneous – 3 (7)**

Little Park Farm - change of use to residential care home for teenagers and young adults with learning difficulties and autism – Further information requested by BPC but permitted by BBC.

Residential Dwelling – change of use to residential institution – Objection by BPC but still outstanding by BBC.

Highfield House – Deconstruction and reconstruction of chimney stacks – No objection by BPC. Still outstanding by BBC.