

A scenic view of a pond with a fountain, surrounded by lush greenery and trees. The fountain is in the center of the pond, spraying water upwards. The pond is surrounded by tall green grasses and reeds. In the background, there are large trees and a building. The sky is bright and clear.

Briarhill Annual Parish Meeting

23rd May 2023

Brickhill Annual Parish Meeting 2023 - agenda

7.00 – 7.05pm	Welcome and apologies for absence - Mark Fitzpatrick, Chairman of Brickhill Parish Council
7.05 – 7.15pm	Update on Guiding – Gill Lake
7.15 – 7.25pm	Brickhill Primary – Dan Wiltshire, Deputy Head Teacher
7.25 – 7.35pm	Scott Primary School – Anita Barker, Head Teacher
7.35 – 7.45pm	St Thomas More – Martin Bonner, Head Teacher
7.45 – 7.55pm	Reports from other groups
7.55 – 8.00pm	Park Wood Nature Reserve Update – Tony Gill
8.00 – 8.10pm	Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan – Mark Fitzpatrick
8.10 – 8.15pm	Chairman’s Report on the work of Brickhill Parish Council 2022-23 - Mark Fitzpatrick
8.15 – 8.25pm	Report by Cllr Peter Blakeman, Chairman of the Planning Committee of Brickhill Parish Council
8.25 – 8.35pm	Question Time facilitated by Mark Fitzpatrick



Park Wood Local Nature Reserve – Review of the Year

Report by Tony Gill

- The most striking events of the year were weather related with the heatwave in the summer and a very cold snap in the winter. Five out of six of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee trees, gifted by the Borough Council, were kept alive with regular watering during the lengthy dry spell.
- The usual cycle of tasks included pruning of the 250+ fruit trees, litter picking, opening up paths and maintaining the wildflower areas. The Priory Volunteers again spent a few days on the reserve, felling trees along the main path through the 'plantation', which will let in much more light for the wild flowers. We made a start on transplanting some of the proliferating snowdrops and this will continue to give better and better displays each year.
- We counted just under 3000 Common Spotted Orchid flower spikes last June. It will be interesting to see if last year's weather affects this year's count, currently pencilled in for 8th June.
- And then the cycle continues.....cutting, raking, pruning, mowing.....

Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

- A neighbourhood plan is a document that sets out planning policies for your area and can:
- Protect local green spaces;
- Encourage better designed places;
- Bring forward housing that genuinely meets local needs.
- It's written by the local community and helps get the right types of development, in the right place.

Neighbourhood planning gives communities statutory powers to shape how their area develop.

Many parishes in Bedford Borough already have Neighbourhood Plans, including Oakley, Clapham, Bromham and Ravensden.

Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan



The Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan sets out a vision and planning framework for Brickhill up to the end of 2030. The aim of the policies in the Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan is to help achieve Plan's the vision for Brickhill.



Once 'made', the neighbourhood plan forms part of the statutory development plan for the area, together with the adopted local plan. Planning applications are required by Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act to be determined in accordance with the statutory development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.



The Parish Council will use the neighbourhood plan as a basis for making representations on planning applications.

A Vision for Brickhill

'Brickhill will continue to be a place people want to live in, renowned for the quality of the environment and for the local facilities. Open spaces will be retained and improved for residents and nature. Sustainable forms of travel will be supported and enhanced. The housing needs of residents are considered if any developments occur.'

Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan

Planning Aims

1. To enable sustainable and proportionate growth within Brickhill, to help create prosperity and meet the needs of the community.
2. To protect Brickhill's environment and green spaces to support the health and well-being of current and future generations.
3. To ensure that development in Brickhill is well-designed, safe and sustainable.
4. To support more sustainable live/work patterns and movement, including local food growing, walking, and cycling.

Achieving the aims, policies covering:

1. Sustainable growth
2. Local environment
3. Sustainable Design
4. Transport and Movement
5. Green Guidance



Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan

Policy BR-LE2: Local Green Space

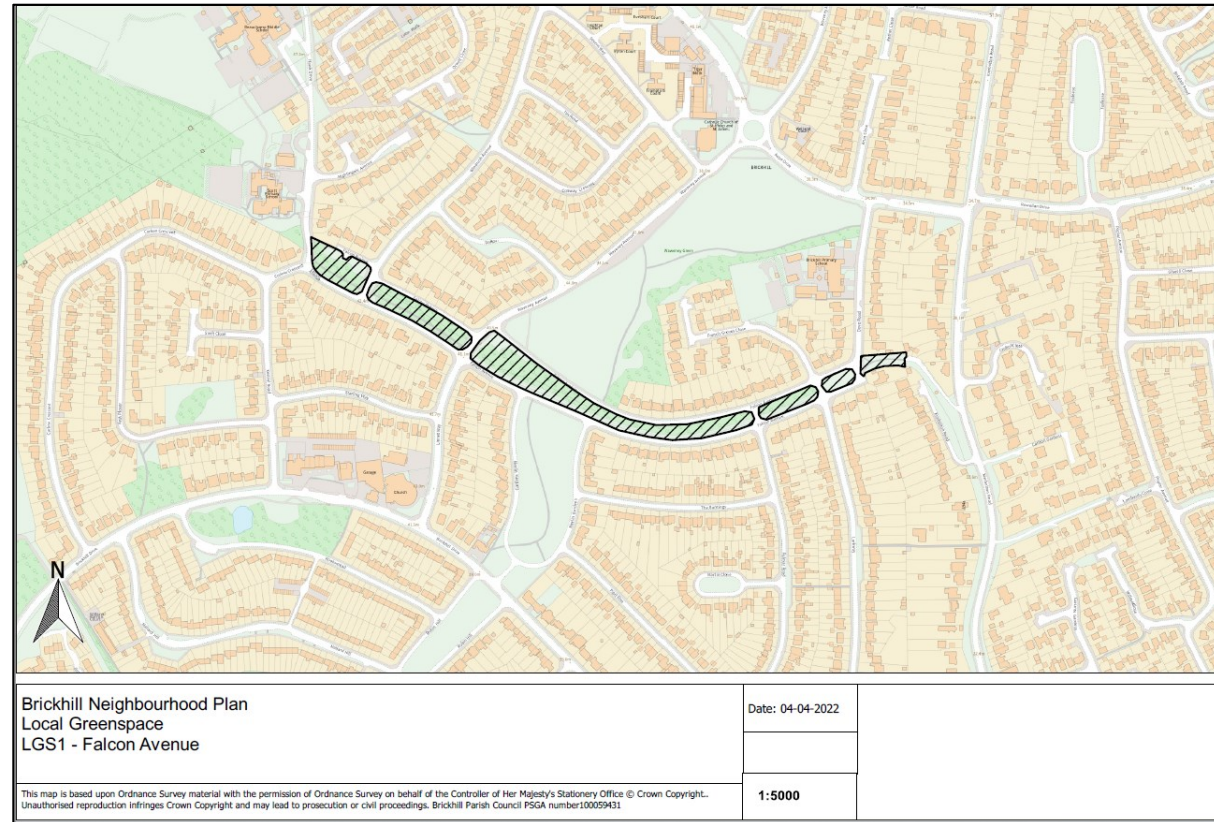
1. The following spaces are designated as Local Green Space:

LGS1 – Falcon Avenue

LGS2 – Brickhill Drive (Pond Site)

LGS3 – Brickhill Drive/Foster's Brow

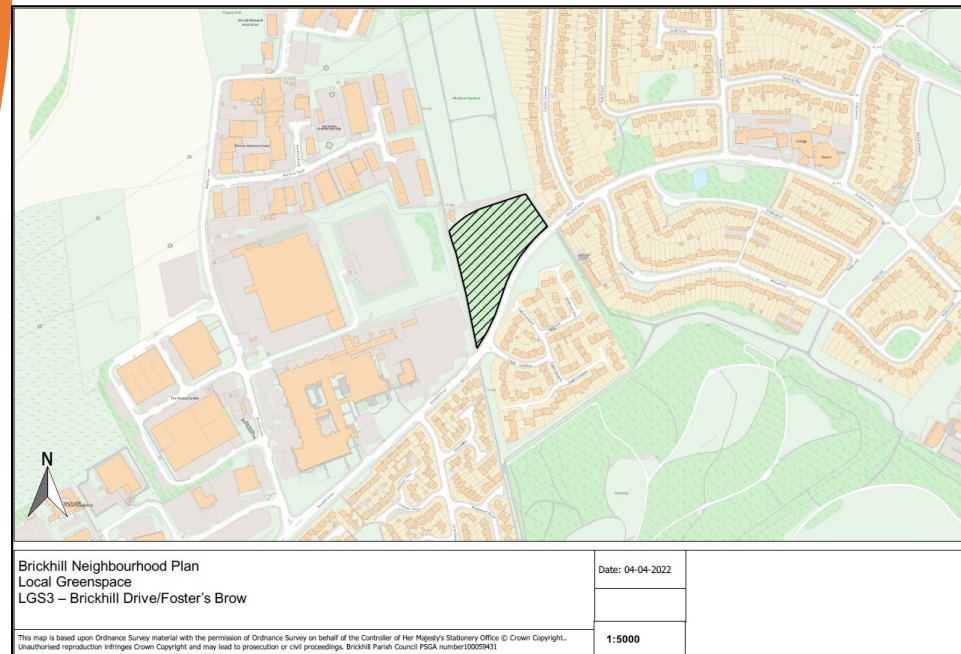
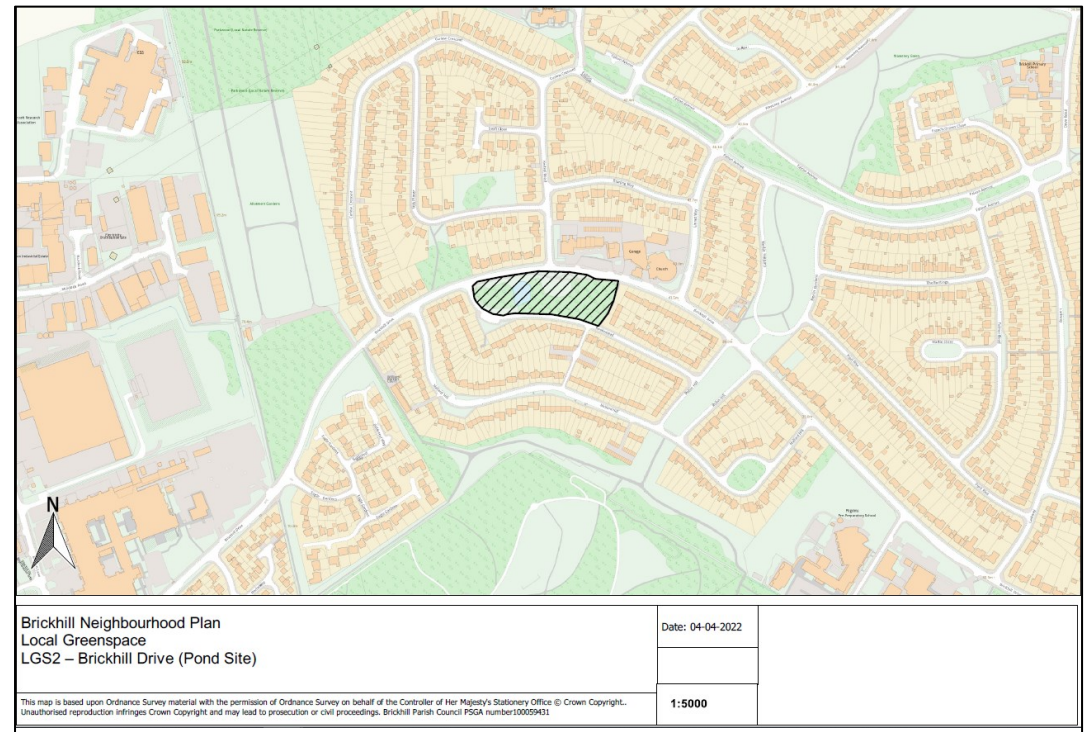
2. Development adjacent to or affecting Local Green Space must not harm its character, amenity, accessibility and special community value.



LGS1 – Falcon Avenue

Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan

LGS2 – Brickhill Drive (Pond Site)



**LGS3 – Brickhill
Drive/Foster's
Brow**



Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan

Brickhill Neighbourhood Plan – Next steps

May - June

Screening process – engagement with Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England to determine whether a full Strategic Environmental Assessment and/or Habitats Regulations Assessments are required.

Informal consultation with residents – through Brickhill parish council newsletter and online

July - August

Finalise Neighbourhood Plan document – take into account feedback

September

Parish Council agreed formal consultation document

September - October

Formal consultation with residents – six week period

November

Prepare submission documents and then submit

2024

Referendum – residents vote on whether to adopt the plan or not

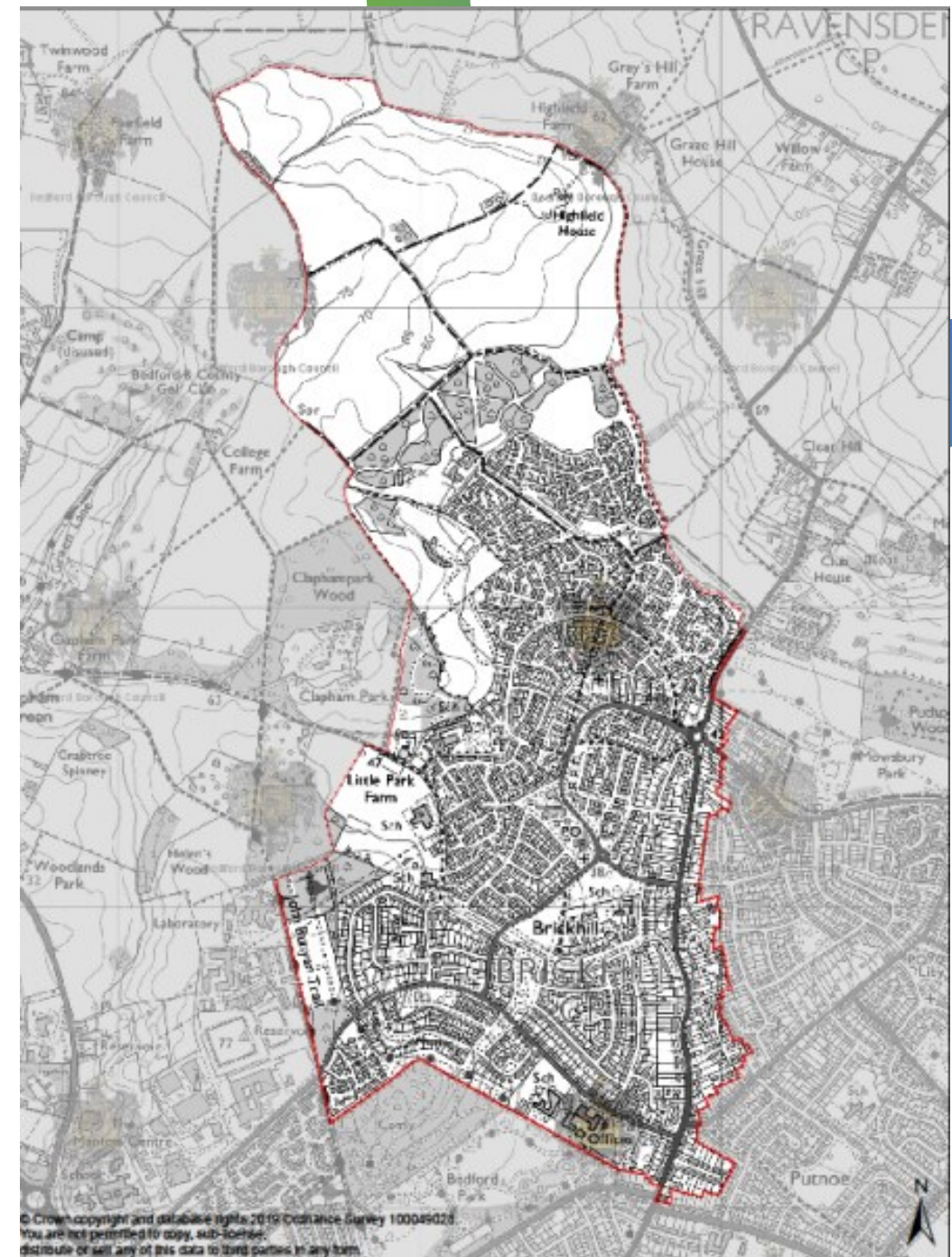
Brickhill Parish Council

- Councillor Mark Fitzpatrick is the Chair and Councillor Peter Blakeman is Vice-Chair.
- Sue Bottoms is the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer of the council. Dave is our regular litter-picker for Waveney Green.
- The parish council has its office at St Mark's Church Community Centre. The office is usually open on Monday and Thursday from 10am to 12noon, and other times by arrangement.
- During 2022/23 there were 10 meetings of the parish council, with additional meetings of the Planning committee and Allotments and Open Spaces committee.
- Peter Blakeman chairs the Planning Committee, Vince Holloway chairs the Allotments Committee.

Brickhill Parish Council - finances

Financial Year	Precept	Council Tax 'Band D'
2021/22	£121,500	£35.42
2022/23	£125,000	£35.32
2023/24	£124,600	£35.32

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



Brickhill Parish Council

Mike Barlow, Paula Brazier, Charles Royden, Corinne Royden, Michael Jarman-Webb, Morris Johns and Wendy Rider stood down at the May 2023 elections. Thank you to all of them for their service to the residents of Brickhill.

Our condolences to the friends and family of Borough Councillor Stephen Moon, Conservative Borough Councillor for Great Barford ward. He sadly died just before the May 2023 elections.

Thank you to the Borough Councillors of Brickhill ward, Charles Royden and Wendy Rider, and to the Borough Councillors of Great Barford ward, Phillippa Martin-Moran-Bryant and Stephen Moon, for their work on behalf of the residents of Brickhill parish.

Meeting attendance by councillors during 2022/23

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Sep	Oct	Nov	Jan	Feb	Mar
Barlow	✓	x	x	x	✓	x	x	x	✓	x
Blakeman	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brazier	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	✓	x	✓	x
Charles Royden	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓
Corinne Royden	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓
Fitzpatrick	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Green	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grant	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Holloway	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jarman-Webb	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x
Johns	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Lamswood	x	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rani	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x
Rider	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	✓	x
Ward	x	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x

Mowsbury Walk play area

- New play equipment
- Resurfacing (£25,700)





Woodlands Park

- Pig park, green gym & CCTV.
- Cleat Hill development
- East West Rail
- Road junction priorities
- New benches

Rooksmead

- Parking
- Pond & fountain



- Brickhill Parish paid £2,400 for repairs to the fountain

Brickhill Community Centre

- Leased by the parish council from Bedford Borough
- Managed on a day-to-day basis by Brickhill Community Association
- Working with BCA on the installation of a ventilation system



Brickhill allotments

- Located at Foster's Brow are 122 full and 18 half size plots available to rent.
- 28 Brickhill residents are waiting for a plot and 63 non-residents.
- Priority is given to residents of Brickhill Parish



Brickhill Drive – average speed cameras

- Now in use
- Funded by Brickhill Borough Councillors and Brickhill Parish Council. The parish contributed £75,000.
- Speeding remains a key issue in Brickhill



Waveney Green

- New swings installed (£9,700)
- Christmas lights on the green – thank you to Brickhill Primary, Scott Primary and the Lions.
- New bird nestboxes put up
- Planting of new hedge
- Decision taken to remove the ‘wildflower meadow’
- New benches



Next year

- Brickhill parish council newsletter to re-start – articles wanted!
- Repairs to play equipment on Waveney Green and Mowsbury Walk
- More planting on Waveney Green
- More benches
- New litter bins on Waveney Green
- Additional all-weather surfaces on Waveney Green
- Tree work on Waveney Green
- East West Rail?
- Co-option of new parish councillors
- Progress the Neighbourhood Plan
- Face-to-face Annual Meeting!



Brickhill Parish Council – planning committee

Members of the Planning Committee: Four councillors served on the committee; Cllrs Blakeman (chair), Grant, Green and Brazier.

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.

Brickhill Parish Council – planning committee

Report In the period covered by this report (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023) 63 (95 previous year) planning applications were considered. The Planning Committee objected to 14 and made comments on a further 6.

In detail the applications reviewed were:-

- **Extensions to private houses** – 37 (53).
- **New Dwellings** – 3 (6). Replacement of derelict house in Kimbolton Road, bungalow replacing garages in Mallard Hill and four storey 36 bed affordable housing block at Bedford Heights.
- **Major Development Graze Hill** – 2 (1). Change of conditions application for the 163 dwelling development of this site relating to affordable housing, to allow for the addition of a Mortgagee Exclusion Clause and change to allowing high quality timber fencing to replace brick screening walls on a number of plots.
- **5G Masts** – 4 (3). (1) Kimbolton Road/Putnoe Lane corner and three for notification only (Kimbolton Rd/Wentworth Drive corner, Brickhill Drive (east) and Brickhill Drive (west)).
- **Tree Surgery Work** – 3 (5). Four permitted/one outstanding.
- **Businesses** – 2 (2). Acorn House Veterinary Clinic extension and Brickhill Drive shops new roof.
- **School** - 1 (0). Reserved matters for new Greenacre School in Manton Lane
- **Miscellaneous** – 7: Boundary Wall – Nursery Gardens; Garden Shed/Summer House – Kimbolton Road/Highfields House (outbuilding); Façade Refurbishment – Evesham Court; External Lighting – Park Apartments (Kimbolton Road); Solar Farm – Near College Farm Clapham; Air Conditioning Units – Crofton Close.