

# BRICKHILL NEWS

Rooksmead pond

The newsletter of Brickhill Parish Council

Issue No 72

June 2026

## Protecting Waveney Green - update

Thank you to everyone who took part in the recent consultation about possible measures to protect Waveney Green from unauthorised encampments. 54 people sent in their views online and others came to the session on **Waveney Green** on 29th March.

Residents gave a wide range of views, but the overwhelming majority favoured action to be taken. The parish council considered the responses and has decided to go ahead, using bollards around the green to give better protection. These will not interfere with normal use of the green.

Go to [www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk) for the full results of the consultation.



Waveney Green play area

## Community Litter Pick

**Saturday 20th  
June, 10am,  
Waveney Green**

Meet in the layby in  
Avon Drive.  
All welcome.  
Equipment  
provided.

## Flood risk in Brickhill - more action is needed

Though we are a long way from the River Great Ouse, there are still flood risks in Brickhill. The main risk is from surface water flooding, as can be seen from this UK government flood map. The blue shows the areas with a calculated risk of flooding of 1 in 30 years. The reality in some areas has been more frequent than this. **Renhold Brook**, adjacent to **Woodlands Park** has a similar risk. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/BrickhillFlooding> for the full map, where you can amend various parameters and view other areas.

Brickhill Parish Council is liaising with **Anglian Water**, pressing for outstanding work to be carried out in **Larkway** to tackle recurrent problems there. It is also asking **Bedford Borough Council** to clean out gullies (the kerbside drains) in Brickhill, many of which are blocked and have not been cleared out for a very long time.



Parish Council Chair, Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick, with Anglian Water's Brendan Wilson, at the recent Borough Flood Forum

*This blocked drain in Pipit Rise has not been cleaned out for several years. Blocked drains can make surface water flooding worse.*



# 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 Peter Lamswood**

✉lamswoodpeterbpc@gmail.com

**Cllr Stefan Testa**

✉stesta2@hotmail.com

2 vacancies

## 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 MK41 7UY.

**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.

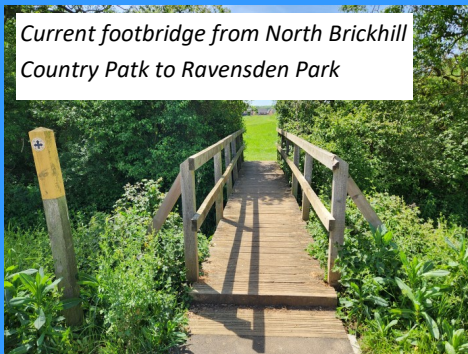
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## News in brief around Brickhill

### Ravensden Park to Woodlands Park connection

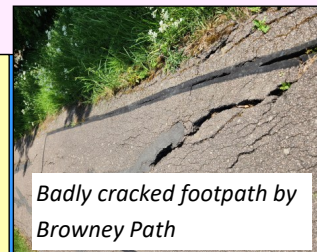
As part of the new Ravensden Park development, £778,000 was paid by the developers for a cycle and footpath connection to **Woodlands Park**. There will be improvements to the bridleway running across Freeman's Common to Kimbolton Road also. Brickhill Parish Council is urging the Borough Council to get this work underway.

Current footbridge from North Brickhill Country Park to Ravensden Park



### Woodlands Park boundary path

Part of the path running parallel to **Grenadier Close** and **Browney Path** is badly cracked. The Borough asked the Parish Council for its view on what surface should be used to repair it. The parish has said it wants a properly restored path, suitable for everyone to use.



Badly cracked footpath by Browney Path

### New bench for Avon Drive

Following requests from residents, the parish council is funding a new bench for outside **Avon Drive shops**.

### New bpha bungalows in Brickhill

Underused and run down garage blocks have been replaced by bpha, with two bungalows off **Clyde Crescent** and two more in **Moorhen Way** (the connection between Mallard Hill and Rooksmead),

### Action to clear path

The public footpath by the eastern side of the Ravensden Park development is currently blocked. The Ramblers contacted the Bedford Borough Rights of Way team. Action to re-open it should take place soon.

### Tackling speeding in Brickhill

Perhaps the greatest safety risk in Brickhill is speeding traffic. A new **Community Speed Watch** group has been set up and is looking for volunteers to take part. The activities are supervised and approved by the police. For more details contact Tim Papworth, Coordinator, email: [tjpapworth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tjpapworth@yahoo.co.uk).

Norway Spruce on Waveney Green



### More trees on Waveney Green

New conifers have been planted on **Waveney Green** and other open spaces, forming a link to Bedford Park. Bedford Borough is working in partnership with the Forest of Marston Vale Trust and has been supported by the parish council. The cost for the trees and their maintenance is met by the **Trees for Climate** programme.

### Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive

The community centre is used by a wide variety of groups and also for many family parties and celebrations. For more information, see the **Community Centre** page on the parish council website, email [brickhillcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:brickhillcommunitycentre@gmail.com) or call 01234 312332.

For more details on all these stories, go to [www.BrickhillParishCouncil.gov.uk](http://www.BrickhillParishCouncil.gov.uk)



Coffee Mornings all welcome

**Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive**

11am to 1pm on the last Friday of each month. Pop in for a cuppa and a chat.

For more information, call Clair on 01234 312332, just call in or email [brickhillcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:brickhillcommunitycentre@gmail.com).



### Have you been to Sao José Coffee yet?

The former sales office for the new Ravensden Park estate is now a café. It is at the junction of Graze Hill and Cleat Hill and can be reached on foot via Woodlands Park. It is open Tue-Fri 8am-4:30pm, Sat: 9am-3pm, Sun: 10am-2pm.



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

Sadly despite government funding being available the council has not installed a single electric charging vehicle charging point in the last three years. Residents who have or would like to own electric vehicles have asked us to campaign for facilities in Brickhill. Please tell of locations where you think a charging point should be suitable.



We are deeply saddened by the announcement that the Morrisons shop and Post Office on Avon Drive will close on 13 July, as part of Morrisons' decision to shut around 100 former McColl's stores across the UK. While we understand the wider business pressures behind these closures, the loss of our local store is an enormous blow to our residents who rely on it every day. The Post Office inside the store provides essential services that many people cannot easily access elsewhere. We are also concerned for the staff, who have served our neighbourhood with dedication and kindness over many years. We are working to ensure that the council which owns the building now engages with us to protect our community and prevents this from becoming a long term vacant property.

Throughout the coming year we will work harder than ever to protect essential services. We will also continue 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)

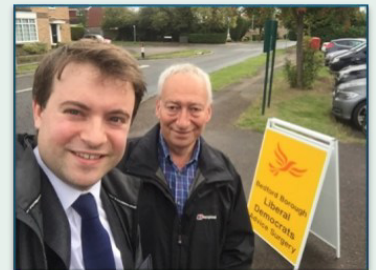
**Wendy Rider**, 23 Orwell Close, Brickhill. 01234 303254

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

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

*(Covering Brickhill Drive, Robin Hill, Rooksmead, Mallard Hill, Eagle Gardens and Goldcrest Way.)*

In addition to the issues Charles and Wendy share above, you will have seen **potholes** appearing in almost all of our local roads, which is very disappointing for us after years of our providing additional funding to repair them as quickly as possible. We have reported as many as possible, using <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/roads-and-pavements/potholes>.



**Buses:** Stagecoach have now announced their bus service cuts. This will have a negative impact on many residents, with the **withdrawal of Route 7**, which serves **Kimbolton Road**, and reductions in other services. Many residents rely on buses for transport around the town and have suffered from the cuts in recent years. We continue to argue strongly for better public transport. Please sign our petition to show your support: [Stop the Bus Cuts - Bedford Liberal Democrats](#)

**Yellow lines** on street corners and other hazardous sections can significantly improve road safety and we are currently working towards new double yellow lines in **Mallard Hill** (around the corners and the gyratory at the lower end) and at the **Robin Hill/Rooksmead** junction.

**New food waste collections:** You will know that the Council started the new food waste recycling service at the end of March. Most residents have received their kitchen caddies and food waste bins; if not, you can report it at: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/household-bins-and-recycling/replace-damaged-or-missing-bins-and-food-caddies>.

You have also reported that not all the waste bins are being emptied; you can report this at the usual page: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/household-bins-and-recycling/missed-bin-collection>.

**Drug dealing and anti-social behaviour:** We continue to work 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.

Our next surgeries are on June 13th at 1pm at Shaldon Court on Barnstaple Road and 2pm outside Budgens on Kimbolton Road.

Please sign up for our emails 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)

## News from Brickhill Primary ....



We have had another fun-filled few months at Brickhill Primary School, with discos, sports competitions, World Book Day and karaoke at lunchtimes! We continue to be on a mission to make play one of most important principles and we cannot thank our community enough for their donations of toys, crates, guttering and the rest. I know our children are incredibly thankful.



We are also on a mission to continue with planned improvements and we are looking to make more Friends of Brickhill. These local companies have helped us out and are being invited to a

special afternoon tea at the end of the year. We are on the lookout for any support with getting materials for building two lean-tos, for well needed outdoor storage space and are looking to see if we can connect with local people to see if they can help make Brickhill Primary School even better. We also would take any donations of old toys, materials, crates, pallets etc and give them a new lease of life. We haven't said no yet to a single donation!



Please reach out to us on [office@brickhillprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@brickhillprimary.co.uk)



## News from Scott Primary ....

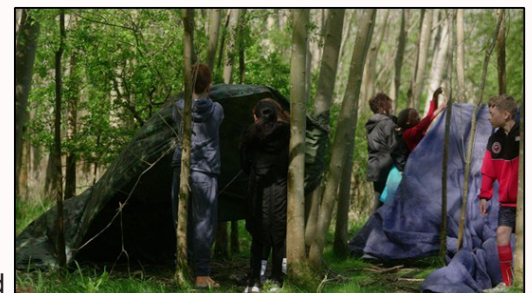
Our Year 4 children recently enjoyed an unforgettable day making the most of our wonderful outdoor learning space.



Nestled within almost 30 acres of magnificent grounds, including 8 acres of beautiful woodland, our children enthusiastically embraced every opportunity to build new skills, collaborate with one another and experience the joy and adventure of the great outdoors.

The day was led by Edusports and was packed with exciting activities, including archery, orienteering and den building. The children showed fantastic teamwork and determination as they

navigated woodland trails, built impressive dens and practised their aim during archery sessions.



One of the highlights of the day was learning how to safely light a fire. Under careful supervision, the children discovered important outdoor survival skills before using the fire to cook delicious pizzas they had prepared themselves. There was great excitement as everyone enjoyed tasting their freshly cooked creations around the campfire.

Experiences like these are a wonderful way for children to build confidence, resilience and independence while developing a love and appreciation for the natural world. It was truly a fabulous day filled with laughter, learning and adventure.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a fantastic outdoor space, and we are committed to continuing to make the most of it across the school. What a brilliant day our Year 4 children had!

If you want to see more of our exciting outdoor adventures, follow us on Instagram [@scottprimary](https://www.instagram.com/scottprimary).

**News from St Thomas More ....**



It has been another exciting and productive term at St Thomas More Catholic School, with students taking part in a wide range of activities that have extended their learning beyond the classroom.

One of the highlights was a special visit from representatives of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in London. The visit celebrated our long-standing commitment to Polish language teaching and recognised the important role that languages, cultural identity and inclusion play within our school community. It was a memorable opportunity for students to see how their studies can open doors and connect them to the wider world.

Our English department has also been working with the Queen's Park Community Organisation on a poetry project inspired by Irish heritage and the writing of Seamus Heaney. Key Stage 3 students created their own poems, which were later displayed as part of Bedford's St Patrick's Day celebrations.



We were delighted to welcome local Year 5 pupils to St Thomas More for Masterclasses in Business and Media, where they explored entrepreneurship and film-making through practical activities.

A number of our sixth form students recently attended the Ignite Young Entrepreneurs launch event at Bedford School. We were especially proud that two of the guest speakers were St Thomas More students, who shared their experiences of running successful businesses while studying for their A Levels.



Students also showcased their creativity and confidence in our annual Tommy's Got Talent competition, which featured an impressive range of performances from across the school.

From languages and literature to enterprise and the arts, it has been a term full of opportunities for students to develop their talents, broaden their horizons and contribute to the wider Bedford community.



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**Includes:** Return flights • Accommodation on a half-board basis • Farewell lunch • Transfers & internal flights • Guided sightseeing and monument entrance fees as per itinerary

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