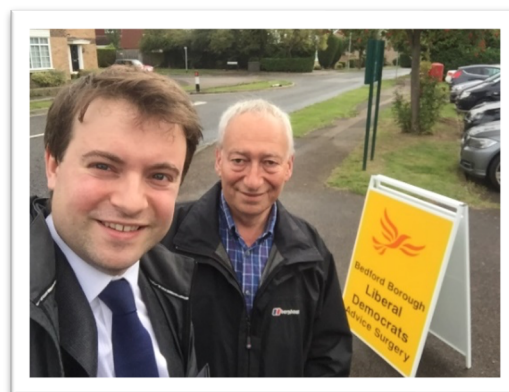


De Parys Borough Councillors Update to Brickhill Parish Council

October 2026

The area of Brickhill Parish that falls within De Parys Ward is best summarised as Brickhill Drive, Robin Hill, Rooksmead, Mallard Hill, and Eagle Gardens and Goldcrest Way.



Councillors Henry Vann and David Sawyer

1. Current developments

Ward Fund We have offered a financial contribution to Brickhill Parish Council in their intention to replace the existing fountain in the **Rooksmead pond** (in De Parys ward) with a more sustainable solution. Although the main aim of the fountain is to aerate the pond, we know that in drought periods there is no water, and residents have told us that they prefer the fountain to work throughout the year. We are also looking at other ward fund projects, including new trees, new dropped kerbs and heritage streetlight maintenance.

Stray cats We received a report during the month about stray cats, which can present a serious hazard, causing traffic accidents, entering properties uninvited and can themselves come to harm. The problem can be made worse by unneutered cats (with or without owners). The local branch of the Cats Protection League (<https://www.cats.org.uk/bedford>) can provide some assistance, for example, by lending humane traps to safely capture the cats, who would then be transported to an agreed veterinary practice for neutering. This is the most effective and humane way to manage stray cat populations.

The Rowan Club Families who are caring for someone with dementia, Parkinson's, frailty or another long-term condition may benefit from the services of 'The Rowan Club'. This is a new weekly respite service, based in the MS Therapy Centre in Barkers' Lane. Starting on 9th October, it will provide companionship, coffee, conversation, lunch and gentle activities, including some exercise. Find out more and book here: [The Rowan Club - Carers In Bedfordshire](#)

2. Ongoing developments

CCTV Frustratingly the Borough Council continue to refuse requests for CCTV around the north or Cemetery Hill and the surrounding residential streets. We are continuing to request this and ask for support.

Bedford Park and automatic toilets The Borough Council permanently closed the automatic public convenience in Bedford Park a few months ago. We have opposed this and will continue to push for longer term investment in the Park, including free tennis access, the return of flowerbeds, as well as reporting graffiti in the area. At present, when open, there are other toilets available at the Pavilion in the Park which takes part in the Community Toilet Scheme.

Council finances The Borough Council continues to face financial ruin being “in effect bankrupt” since July last year. The report from Government inspectors should be published soon at which point any further steps taken will be announced.

3. Standing items

Surgeries in October 2026

- Saturday 10 October:
 - Shaldon court (Barnstaple Road) at 1pm
 - Outside Budgens, Kimbolton Road at 2pm
- Saturday 24 October:
 - Outside Brickhill Drive shops at 10am

*shared with Brickhill Ward Borough Councillors

You can also speak with us or another Lib Dem Councillor every Saturday morning 10:00am – 11:00am at Bedford Central Library.

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



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Working all year round not just at election time!

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