

Brickhill Borough Councillors Report to Brickhill Parish Council October 2026 From Wendy Rider and Charles Royden

Cuts to Speed Enforcement

Brickhill benefited from the council's mobile speed enforcement vehicle, which worked with police to issue first offence warning letters. The Conservative administration has now scrapped this service as part of their cuts — removing a tool that helped keep our roads safe.



Debenhams: More Good Money After Bad

The council has spent £450,000 trying to find a commercial partner to rescue the failed Debenhams project. Only one company showed interest — and they suggested the council might have to sell the £1.8 million building for as little as £1. Working with councillors from other parties, Charles helped pause the deal, forcing the Mayor to reconsider. The proposed agreement risks huge future costs for taxpayers. We await the revised proposal.

Ashmead Road Car Park

Thank you to Woodlands Park residents who volunteered to close the car park overnight to reduce anti-social behaviour. We have used ward funds to install signage showing the new closing times.



Campaign Success

Safer Crossing for Avon Drive

After our sustained campaigning, design work is now underway for a new crossing near The Pheasant. We will update residents as the project progresses.

Footpath between Browney Path and Ashmead Road. When the council closed this footpath because it was dangerous, they wanted to leave a rough stone surface which was unsuitable for many users including the disabled and parents with biggies. We are delighted that the council took on board our call for a proper footpath replacement and this should be laid soon. Sadly in July the Mayor and his Conservative led Executive took £1million out of the budget for our roads and pavements to help pay of their council debts. No wonder Bedford has been shamed as one of the 13th worst authorities in the country for roads and pavements.



Motor Madness — Please Support Our Petition

Our last petition helped prevent the fields along Ashmead Road from being sold for development. Thank you to everyone who supported it. We now need your help again to tackle the growing problem of illegal motorised vehicles — e-scooters, quad bikes, motorcycles and off-road bikes — damaging pavements, sports pitches, the country park and fields off Woodlands Park. We are calling for coordinated action: increased patrols, CCTV, and robust prosecution. Frontline police work hard, but management decisions not to intervene more firmly are affecting public confidence. Please sign the petition at bedfordlibdems.org.uk/protectbrickhill.

Chaos on the Buses

Stagecoach's cuts have left parts of Bedford without any buses at all. Brickhill kept the Number 6, but the 7 and 10 were axed — affecting residents who boarded on Kimbolton Road. During the worst bus crisis in Bedford's history, the council removed £300,000 from government bus funding to help bail out its debts. It also failed to spend £1.2 million of government bus funding that could have bought four new buses.

Graffiti

Brickhill has recently suffered from an enormous amount of criminal damage by graffiti on public and private property. Please report any graffiti you see to us or on the council website. We would be pleased to receive any CCTV from doorbells or dashcams of those responsible. The police already have images of some of the offenders responsible.

Roads & Pavements Cuts

Roads & Pavements Funding Cut In July, the Mayor and his Conservative Executive removed £1 million from the roads and pavements budget to help pay off council debts. Bedford has now been ranked among the 13 worst authorities in the country for road condition.

We will also continue keep you informed through regular deliveries of FOCUS, surgeries and our website 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.

www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/sign-up

Wendy Rider, 23 Orwell Close, Brickhill. 07905869663

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

Email puttingbrickhillfirst@gmail.com with any issues. We aim to respond the same day or within 24hrs. If you haven't had a reply to an email please call us because they can go astray.



We have successfully campaigned for this footpath to be resurfaced between Ashmead Road and Browney Path



We have also asked BPHA to tackle the graffiti on their properties

Working all year round, not just election time !