De Parys Borough Councillors Update to Brickhill Parish Council

November 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. Parish/Ward developments

Toilets in Bedford Park

The automatic public toilet at **Bedford Park** has now closed and has been removed. The nearest toilets in Bedford Park are now some distance away, and only if the Pavilion, or Robinson Pool are open. We are particularly frustrated that this action was taken without alternative solutions. Both David and Henry (and Charlie and Wendy) voted against these proposed closures.

Ward Fund update – fountain, bench and trees

Our offer of a financial contribution to Brickhill Parish Council to help replace the existing fountain in the **Rooksmead pond** has been deferred whilst possible solutions are investigated .We are working with the parish council to consider jointly funding a **new bench outside the Brickhill Drive shops**. We have also submitted applications for other ward fund projects, including new trees in **Brickhill Drive**, **Chiltern Avenue** and **Barnstaple Road**, new yellow lines and dropped kerbs and heritage streetlight maintenance (see below).

CCTV in Eagle Gardens

We have secured costings for CCTV in Eagle Gardens and will be sharing this information with the Parish Council to see whether ward funding, some Community Infrastructure Levy funding or similar can support this work.

2. Best Value Inspection

On Thursday 15th October, Bedford Borough Council was formally told that it is “failing to meet its Best Value Duty.” Government inspectors said they “have no confidence that the necessary improvement will be secured without external intervention” and found the council in “a difficult and deteriorating position.”

This follows an extensive inspection by independent Government inspectors who were sent in as a result of the financial crisis unfolding at the Council. You will have read about the unfolding crisis in FOCUS newsletters over some time.

For those of us who care passionately about Bedford Borough and all its residents, it has been hugely distressing to see the council descend into this mess. The consequence is that the Government will almost certainly send in "Commissioners" to take the actions needed for the Council to recover.

It is our view that the Council should all accept the recommendations in the report and take responsibility to move forward. For those of us committed to serving residents and delivering services, it is the best way out of the mess.

Report in full: Bedford Borough Council: Best Value Inspection report.

3. Standing items

Surgeries in November 2026

- Saturday 14 November:
  - Outside Chiltern Avenue shops at 1pm
  - Caves Lane/Goldington Road junction at 2pm
- Saturday 28 November:
  - 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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