Brickhill Borough Councillors Update
From Wendy Rider and Charles Royden



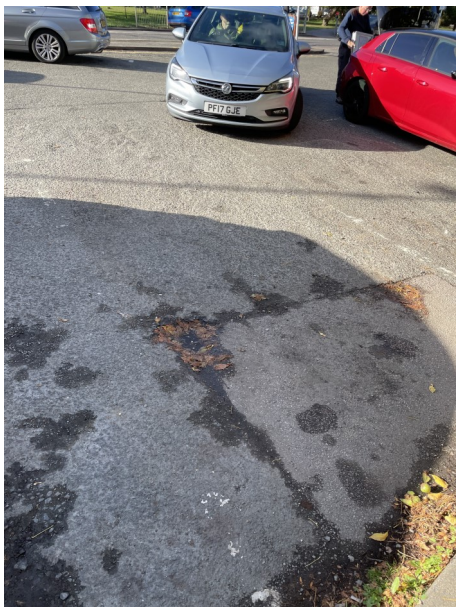
Motorcycle Training Centre Plans for Mowsbury Park

Liberal Democrat councillors have objected to proposals to relocate a motorcycle training centre from its current site at the Oasis Centre to Mowsbury Park on Kimbolton Road.
The plans, put forward by Bedford Borough Council, would see around a third of the existing car park set aside for motorcycle training, while the former toilet block would be converted for use as offices, classrooms and storage. The facility would also operate from 6.30am, seven days a week.



A major concern is the significant loss of parking spaces in a car park that is already heavily used, particularly when football and cricket matches are taking place. The car park serves not only visitors to Mowsbury Park but also those accessing Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort. It is widely used by families visiting the children's play area, dog walkers, sports participants and other park users.
There are also concerns about safety. The car park is already used by learner drivers during the day, and reducing the available space while introducing motorcycle training activities could increase risks for pedestrians and other users.

While everyone recognises the importance of high-quality rider training, Liberal Democrat councillors do not believe that turning part of this well-used leisure facility into a motorcycle training centre is compatible with the character of this parkland setting. Mowsbury Park is valued as a green recreational space on the edge of the town, and many residents are concerned that increased vehicle activity and noise would detract from its enjoyment.



Car Park and Road Lining

We have asked for road markings and lining to be renewed at numerous locations across Brickhill. This includes traffic restrictions on Dove Road and several mini-roundabouts. The car park lining at Brickhill Drive is now barely visible and is in need of repainting.

Council Failing in its Duty

It is deeply disappointing to see the position Bedford Borough Council now finds itself in. The situation has deteriorated to the point where even basic services, such as replacing street nameplates, have been halted, while essential budgets for repairing roads and pavements have faced significant reductions.

On 15 October, the Council was formally notified that it was failing to meet its Best Value Duty. Government inspectors concluded that they had little confidence the necessary improvements could be achieved without outside intervention and described a council whose position is both serious and worsening.

This assessment followed a detailed investigation by independent Government inspectors, prompted by the Council's growing financial difficulties. Readers of FOCUS will know that we have been highlighting concerns about the Council's finances for some time. For anyone who cares about Bedford Borough and the quality of services provided to local residents, it is profoundly troubling to watch the authority reach this point.

Sadly, the consequences now appear unavoidable. Government-appointed Commissioners will now be brought in to oversee the actions needed to restore the Council to a stable financial and operational footing. We believe the Council must fully accept the findings of the report, implement its recommendations in full. The Conservative led administration must take responsibility for the failures that have led to this situation. Acknowledging mistakes and addressing them honestly is the only credible route towards rebuilding confidence and delivering the standard of services that residents deserve.



Graffiti on Property

Please continue to report graffiti around Brickhill. If graffiti appears on your property, we have disclaimer forms that you can sign to authorise the Council to remove it on your behalf. We have been impressed with the speedy response from the council who remove graffiti quickly when it is reported.

Unfortunately, there continue to be frequent incidents of graffiti, and we would encourage residents to report anyone seen committing this offence. Please do let us know if you capture any videos from your doorbells or CCTV which can be passed on to the police.



Avon Drive Shops

We have approached council officers over the empty property at Avon Drive shops vacated by Morrisons. We are hopeful that the unit can be let soon, as we all want to see a vibrant and thriving shopping parade.

We will also continue keep you informed on this and other matters 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

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Email **puttingbrickhillfirst@gmail.com** with any issues. We aim to respond the same day, or within 24 hours at the latest. We aim to respond the same day or within 24hrs. If you have not received a reply to an email, please give us a call, as occasionally emails can go astray.