



Wendy Rider



Charles Royden

Cost of Living Crisis: Survey shows residents are already having to make difficult choices

Dave Hodgson and the local Liberal Democrats are very concerned about the impact the cost of living crisis is having on local residents. To help understand the range of issues faced by people we have launched a Cost of Living residents survey.

The first responses to the Cost of Living Survey are coming in and they show the difficulties many residents are already facing. Residents across the Borough have told us that they have already changed habits or routines to cope with the rising cost of living, including sitting in the dark, skipping meals and selling their vehicles which affects their ability to get to work. Bedford Borough Liberal Democrats are calling on the government to do more to help residents who are already struggling to cope.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said, "It's terrible to read how people are having to make such difficult choices. We need urgent action from the government to support our residents. All too often the government's response is too little and too late."

You can share your experiences by filling in the Cost of Living Survey at www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/Cost

A428 to Cambridge Upgrade

A vital upgrade to improve hundreds of thousands of journeys between Bedford, Cambridge and beyond has been given the green light to proceed.

Planning permission has been given by the government for National Highways to begin work on the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements, which will tackle one of the region's most notorious congestion hotspots.

Plans will see the creation of a new 10-mile dual carriageway linking the A1 Black Cat roundabout in Bedfordshire to the A428 Caxton Gibbet roundabout in Cambridgeshire. Both existing roundabouts will be upgraded into modern, free-flowing junctions.

Dave Hodgson said, "It's great to see that we have passed another important milestone for the upgraded route. I know so many local residents support this project and look forward to the vital carriageway and junction upgrades. Together we are making the Borough a better place to live, work and visit."

For the latest information about the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements visit nationalhighways.co.uk/a428



FOCUS ACTION FILE

Ashmead Road Crossing

Wendy and Charles have been asked by residents to help get the green markings renewed on an important crossing point for residents on Ashmead Road on Woodlands Park. This is a road which is adopted by the council.



We have asked for green safety surface to be replaced on Ashmead Road



Drought has caused dangerous cracks in pavements

Cracked Pavements

The effect of the drought on local clay has caused severe cracking on some local footpaths and we have asked Council Highways officers to look at ways to make repairs to some which have become unsafe.



Repairs needed in Grenadier Close



Keeping Your Council Tax Down: £97 Saving

If Council Tax rises in our Borough had kept pace with the AVERAGE percentage increase of all unitary Councils since 2009 then Band D council tax would be £97 more per household.

Under Mayor Dave Hodgson and the Lib Dems services are protected and you still get to keep more money in your pocket - especially important in these challenging times.

Mayor's 10 Year Record of Renewable Energy Innovation



The Hydro Power Facility on the River Great Ouse has been generating clean, renewable energy for Bedford Borough and beyond for over 10 years. Since then the Council has been installing and promoting new innovative ways to generate clean energy and reduce the Borough's carbon emissions. The two Archimedean Screw Generators run independently and produce approximately 130,000 kWh of power each year. The energy is then exported to the National Grid for which the Council has received over £300,000.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said, "The screws have been a great success. They produce lots of energy that was previously being lost and they have a very low environmental impact. We must continue to find innovative solutions to the climate emergency and ensure a just transition to renewable energy sources."

Wendy Rider added, "Under Lib Dem leadership the Council has installed solar panels on many council-owned buildings and most recently, the Elstow Solar Farm has been fully energised and has started exporting low-carbon electricity to the National Grid."

Work Starts for Wixams Station



Dave Hodgson recently visited the site of the proposed **Wixams railway station** to observe the current works that are underway. Geotechnical surveys are ongoing and a programme for ecology works has commenced. Dave Hodgson said, "It was great to see that enabling work has commenced as we work towards the station opening in 2024."

FOCUS Team Advice Surgeries

- Saturday 17th Sept 10am Avon Drive shops
- Saturday 1st October 10am Brickhill Drive shops
- Saturday 15th Oct. 10am Avon Drive shops
- Saturday 29th Oct. 10am Brickhill Drive shops
- ◆ Mayor Dave Hodgson's Surgeries - Second Tuesday of every month 4 - 6pm - for an appointment ring (01234) 718620



www.BedfordLibDems.org.uk/surgeries

Putnoe walk in centre **SAVED**

Charles and Wendy would like to thank all those residents who responded to our petition to save Putnoe walk in centre from closure.

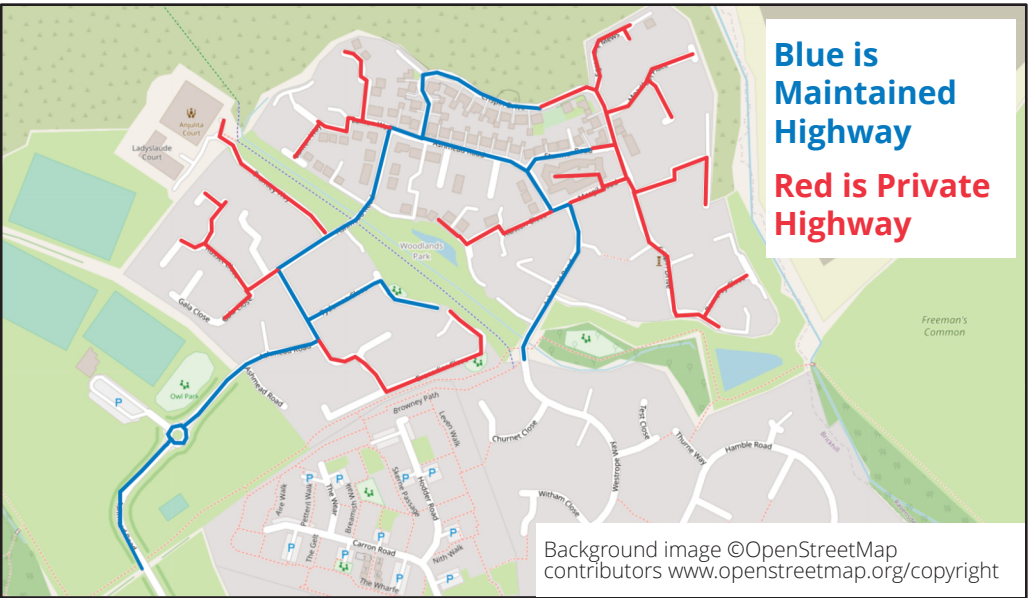
We are pleased that the previously planned closure has been stopped for now.

We are now campaigning for a guarantee of future support by the NHS for Putnoe Walk in Centre to remain as a critical health provision for Brickhill residents.



Adoption of roads on Woodlands Park

Wendy and Charles have asked for progress to be made on repairs by the developer to enable the adoption of some outstanding roads on Woodlands Park. Wendy Rider said 'These roads need to be brought up to standard as quickly as possible and roads handed over to the council for ongoing maintenance.'



Brickhill FOCUS Team

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Name
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Can we keep you updated about the Liberal Democrats' campaigns and ways to get involved?
Yes please ☐ No thanks ☐

Please return to Wendy Rider at the addresses above

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