

Brickhill Borough Councillors Report to Parish Council May 2026

From Charles Royden
and Wendy Rider



No Confidence in the Mayor

We are pleased that many residents have told us that they have now signed the petitions by Liberal Democrat, Labour, Green and Independent councillors expressing no confidence in Mayor Tom Wootton and calling for him to resign. Residents tell us how angry they are at the

cuts to services, such as the Telecare Tax on residents who have a personal alarm. Whilst the Mayor has publicly blamed the Chief Executive of the Borough Council for his catalogue of mistakes, residents are angered by the waste which has been evident across the council and the huge debts which have resulted in massive increases to council tax. Councillors from across the other political parties are working together to hold the Mayor and his Conservative Executive to account. Residents who wish to join us in [signing the petition may do so here](https://www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/mayormustresign) (<https://www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/mayormustresign>) waste of this conservative administration.

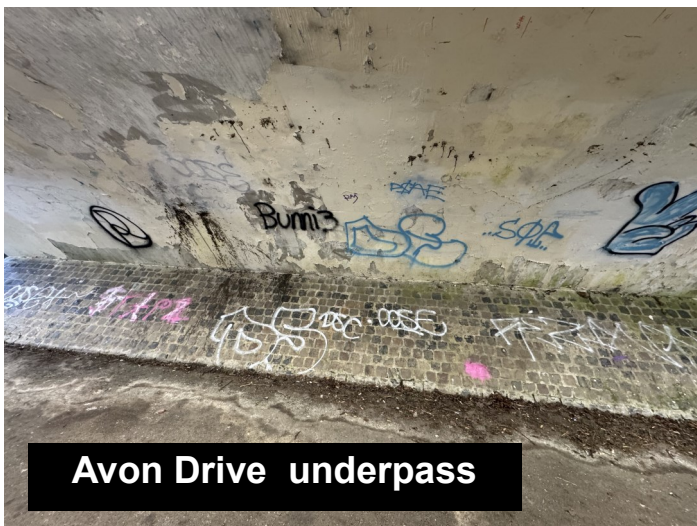
Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Three years ago the Liberal Democrat administration successfully applied for over £1 million of government funding under the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure programme — abbreviated as LEVI. This was set up to enable EV charging points to be allocated across the Borough with special attention to areas outside the town centre. This would provide help to those without off street parking to charge their vehicles. It is extremely disappointing that there has not been a single charging point provided by the Conservative administration, despite this funding being agreed. Brickhill Parish Council suggested locations which were rejected due to the

cost of providing supply. This funding should have been used to enable charging points to be provided in these areas, such as Woodlands Park. We will continue to make representations to the council to have this government money spent.

Kennet Rise School Street Enforcement

The failure to provide electric charging points is sadly made worse by the ongoing failure to implement traffic enforcement cameras outside Thomas More School. Once again the Liberal Democrat Council under Mayor Dave Hodgson had funding and government agreement in place three years ago. Sadly, the Conservatives have once again sat on their hands and we appear to be no further forward. Meanwhile, residents are left to suffer from this shocking delay. We have contacted council officers and expressed our disappointment but sadly this is just another case of the failure of the current Mayor.



Brickhill Graffiti

Thank you to residents who have continued to report to us instances of graffiti around Brickhill. We are working with the council to have these removed as quickly as possible. Council officers are usually quick to respond and we are grateful to them for their efforts. In Brickhill we report graffiti and fly posting regularly to have it removed and this helps to keep Brickhill tidy and

ahead of other areas across the Borough where these issues are not reported so readily. If residents see graffiti and wish to report it themselves they can do so on the council website and we also have quick links on www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com We would be delighted to receive information which leads to those responsible being apprehended by the police. If you have any knowledge of those responsible, please contact the police or your Borough Councillors in confidence.

Road and Pavement Repairs

We are pleased that our campaigning for repairs to roads and pavements has seen some success. There is planned pavement resurfacing on Kimbolton Road and Dove Road with road resurfacing on Fulmar Road.

However, there are a significant number of additional places where roads and pavements are in a shocking state. Residents have contacted us to ask why these locations are being ignored. We have asked the Conservative administration to spend the £2 million allocated for roads and pavement maintenance that has still



not been spent. This money could have enabled a significant investment for proper resurfacing work, instead of just refilling the same potholes over and over again.

This important footpath linking Ashmead Road to Browney Path has been closed at short notice. For two years we have asked for this footpath to be properly repaired and now it has been declared unsafe. We have also been told that there will be a delay reopening due to financial issues. Council officers have suggested that the footpath should be replaced with a rough stone

surface the same as the footpath across Ashmead Road leading into the woods. This would be more difficult for wheelchairs and prams, making the footpath more difficult for many residents. We would be grateful for the response of Brickhill Parish Council to this proposal.

Whilst money has been wasted on vanity projects, basic services - like fixing our roads - have clearly fallen off the Conservative Mayor's priority list. Bedford is one of just 13 local authorities rated Red by the Government, the lowest performing in the country for maintenance.

East West Rail Opens Consultation

After broken promises from the Conservatives about how they would make route changes, it has now been declared that the East West Rail route has been confirmed by government. Whilst we have been making a positive difference for residents, leadership from the Conservatives has been poor, offering false hope, whilst not tackling the details that we expect. They have been splashing taxpayer's cash on consultant reports on "alternative routes," which were never on the table. Meanwhile Liberal Democrats have been working to ensure that East West Rail provides the best for Bedford. We are delighted to have successfully campaigned for the inclusion of a new fast line platform at Bedford which has been announced, ensuring fast intercity trains to London. However, there is still much work to be done. For example, we need to ensure that footpaths remain open for access to the countryside and that there is the minimum of disruption for residents during construction. Please help us and now is the time to have your voice heard. We strongly encourage everyone to look at the consultation and have your say. eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation/consultation2026/feedback

Avon Drive Closure

We highlighted the fact that potholes appeared on Avon Drive almost as soon as the resurfacing work was recently completed. We asked the council to review the condition of the road and significant coring and investigation work took place. It has now been agreed that the contractor will complete full resurfacing of the works undertaken and use a superior material to that originally laid. This will be at no cost to council tax payers. The work has provisionally been programmed for 17 June to 1 July 2026, subject to permit approvals. The contractor will arrange for a letter drop to local residents, informing them of the works. However, this will no doubt affect all of us who use Avon Drive, as it will be closed to traffic at different times. We asked the council to include the part of Avon Drive which was missed last time around. We are pleased to say that this has now been agreed and safe systems of working have been agreed under the pylon cable on Avon Drive. This will ensure that this additional section of resurfacing can be undertaken at the same time as the remedial work.



Bus Cuts

The Council receives significant funding from government to ensure that commercial bus services are improved for residents. Bedford Borough Council receives a total of £2,298,965 in BSIP (Bus Service Improvement Plan) funding for 2025–

26. Unfortunately, the council blames the commercial companies for cuts without acting themselves to ensure that important routes are protected and improved. We have met with council officers and Stagecoach to express our concern that residents are being badly let down, especially by the failure of the Conservative administration to exercise its allocation of government funding. They have been slow to respond and as a consequence, services such as the Number 7 have been axed. Residents have told us that this bus is vital to enable them to get to places like the De Parys Surgery and blood tests in Kimbolton Road. When services are reduced and unreliable it is no coincidence that people decide not to use them. However we know that the Number 7 was well used and appreciated, which makes the cut even worse..

We continue to argue strongly for better public transport. Please sign our petition to show your support at bedfordlibdems.org.uk/stopbuscuts

[Stop the Bus Cuts - Bedford Liberal Democrats](#)

Help us keep in touch

It is always helpful to be able to inform residents of Brickhill with updates via our email list and if you have not yet signed up for this yet, then please do so as this is the best way for us to keep in touch. We won't bombard you and you can unsubscribe at any time. Sign up here

www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/sign-up

We always aim to respond to residents the same day or within 24hrs. If you haven't had a reply to an email please call us because they can go astray.

Avon Drive Shops Saturday 9 May 10.00am
Brickhill Drive Shops Saturday 23 May 10.00am
Avon Drive Shops Saturday 6 June 10.00am
Brickhill Drive Shops Saturday 20 June 10.00am
Avon Drive Shops Saturday 4 July 10.00am
Brickhill Drive Shops Saturday 18 July 10.00am
Avon Drive Shops Saturday 1 August 10.00am
Brickhill Drive Shops Saturday 15 August 10.00am

You can also speak with us or another Lib Dem Councillor every Saturday morning 11.00am - 12 noon at Bedford Central Library

Wendy Rider - Brickhill Borough Councillor

23 Orwell Close, Brickhill, MK41 7BQ 01234 303254

Charles Royden - Brickhill Borough Councillor

The Vicarage, Calder Rise, Brickhill. MK41 7UY 07973113861

Email us at puttingbrickhillfirst@gmail.com

We aim to always respond within 24 hrs

Working all year round, not just at election time !

Printed, Published and Promoted by Charles Royden on behalf of the Liberal Democrats at The Vicarage, Calder Rise, Brickhill, Bedford MK41 7UY.

