

**Brickhill Borough Councillors
Update
November 2022
From Wendy Rider and
Charles Royden**

Liberal Democrats



Brickhill Flooding

On Thursday 20 October we took lots of calls from residents who had flooding problems and we visited premises to see the issues, some homes had sewage coming into their gardens. Many residents did not know that the sewers are the responsibility of Anglian Water and it was very disappointing that Anglian Water took a long time to answer phone calls and never turned up on site until after the event. Some residents have asked for the council to clear drains and we are ensuring this takes place, but the problem was that the main sewer not coping with the volume of water. As the picture in Larkway shows the sewers in the middle of the road were full and the drains had nowhere to go. One sewer cover in Brickhill Drive was actually pushed open. We recognise that 2.5 inches of rain fell in two hours, which is a Brickhill record but there are nevertheless ongoing issues with the sewers in Brickhill Drive. Anglian Water have now attended following our calls and they have reported that they have carried out more sewer cleaning. We are told that the blockages have been caused by a drop in the sewer pipe and bricks falling into the sewer from a manhole chamber and getting lodged, causing further blockages.

Repairs have been requested to repair the drop on that section of sewer in Brickhill Drive and also to carry out a repair to stop any more bricks entering the sewer. This is the same problem we had in September 2021. Anglian Water have cleared the blockages on two occasions last week and are visiting again to carry out a CCTV survey on the rest of the sewer to ensure there are no more problems needing repair. We are told that if any more issues are found these will also be rectified when they carry out the above work.

We have asked that Anglian Water should make a full public apology for the ongoing sewer failure. They should advise residents directly what they intend to do to remedy it. They should also communicate directly with residents and advise who they can call in a future emergency. We need assurances that these things are in process and this is being taken seriously.

Speeding

Following our request the police placed counters on Avon Drive near our suggested locations for 7 days between the 24/8 & 07/9/22.

Eastbound sampled 16,772 vehicles in that time. The average speed was 35mph, so only just on NPCC enforcement levels.

Westbound sampled 16270 vehicles in that time, the average speed was 37mph - again only just on the enforcement thresholds.

The police have advised us that these averages suggest that compliance with the limit is generally fairly good.

We have requested additional speed enforcement across Brickhill and locations are being agreed with the police. We have also asked for a speed indication device to be relocated from Brickhill Drive to Waveney Avenue.

Bus Stops

Following our request the bus stop on Avon Drive Crescent has been marked out and accessibility provided. We have asked for repairs to a bus stop on Tyne Crescent with broken glass and for Stagecoach to have the latest timetables displayed.

Pedestrian Crossing

Following our allocation of funding for new crossings on Waveney Avenue we are now seeking a crossing on Avon Drive between Tyne Crescent and the Pheasant. This is a wide stretch of road and there is poor provision to encourage walking to the park etc. Hopefully this can incorporate road marking which will make the approaching junction safer where we have witnessed many accidents over the past years.

Pond at Rooksmead

With water levels rising we are hopeful that we will soon be able to have the pond pump switched on.

Fosters Brow

Work is being organised for the resurfacing work on the potholed approach. This was more costly than expected and was not covered by the social value contribution from Hansons. We have allocated our ward funding to cover the excess and allow this work to proceed.

Tree Work Falcon Avenue

We have been contacted by residents concerned at the half finished tree surgery on Falcon



Avenue. Work was halted when the team were stung by wasps from a nest on site. The work will be completed when the wasps have gone.

Pavement Repairs

We are pleased that pavement resurfacing is taking place across Brickhill, including this area on Kimbolton Road. Where repairs are needed we do report them, please do report any yourselves and this can be done online at www.bedford.gov.uk.

Come and see us at our surgeries

Avon Drive Shops Saturday 12 November 10.00am
Brickhill Drive Shops Saturday 26 November 10.00am
Avon Drive Shops Saturday 10 December 10.00am

You can also speak with us or another Lib Dem Councillor every Saturday morning 11.00am - 12 noon at Bedford Central Library
As your local councillors we will continue to work hard and keep you informed through regular deliveries of FOCUS, surgeries and our website where you can sign up for our Brickhill newsletter. www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com

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