



Coronavirus Epidemic

The new Covid 19 situation has placed an extraordinary demand upon the Borough Council and has required considerable resources to ensure that protection is provided to the entire community.

In Brickhill we have been contacting residents who are vulnerable to ensure that they have no unmet needs. Usually this can be done by telephone but occasionally this requires a visit to the home address to establish a connection. We have been able to ensure that anybody who requires assistance receives the necessary support with the most common matters being those such as shopping, prescriptions. The Mayor quickly acted to establish a Community Support Hub with 24/7 helpline 708181. Requests for volunteers were met with over 700 people offering help. If you know of any people in any kind of need please advise us so that we can provide support.

Rough Sleeping

We have received reports of more rough sleeping in the woods at the rear of the allotments on Foster's Brow. It must be stressed that everybody rough sleeping in Bedford has been offered accommodation in the Mercure Hotel on the embankment. There are currently over 50 people who are taking advantage of this provision and there is no need for anybody to sleep rough or be homeless. Bedford Borough Council officers visit anybody sleeping rough and where unlawful encampments occur action is taken through the courts for eviction, which of course can take time.

Council Services

Some council services were required to close at the start of the outbreak. Some workers were required to self isolate immediately and some services could not be provided due to the requirement for social distancing.

Services adversely affected included the very obvious matters of collection of green waste and grass cutting. We are grateful to residents who understood the difficulties associated with keeping frontline staff safe and these services are now being restored.

The Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) on Barkers Lane will be re-opening on Monday 11 May. Bookings must be made in advance.

Given the ongoing seriousness of the coronavirus outbreak and guidance still in place there have had to be some changes to how the HWRC will operate.

Anyone planning to visit must book a slot, to ensure the site is not overwhelmed and so that everyone can follow social distancing guidelines. There will be 15 minute slots available which must be booked at least a day before you plan to visit, and will be available to book up to 14 days in advance.

You will be asked to show your booking to a member of staff, it does not need to be printed; on a phone screen will be accepted. Anyone coming to the HWRC without a booking will be turned away.

Access to the tip will be via a one way system on Barkers Lane accessed only from Newnham Avenue.

The tip will be open from 9am-5pm, 7 days a week, to give staff time to empty the containers and clean effectively at the beginning/end of the day. Due to a new layout to enable social distancing, only cars, 4x4s and small vans, up to 1500kg payload, will be allowed into the tip.

Waste that will be accepted includes:

- general rubbish (black lidded bin)
- small items of furniture
- garden waste (green lidded bin)
- recycling (orange lidded bin)
- small electrical appliances (e.g. microwaves, kettles, and toasters)

Any other waste including fridge/freezers, DIY waste or textiles will not be accepted as a number of disposal sites are still closed.

To ensure that everyone is safe and social distancing, site staff will not be able to help people unload items from their vehicles. The Council is also restarting bulky waste collections on Monday 11 May, so larger items can be disposed of that way.

Through the booking system we hope to keep queues down but we will be operating a one-in/one-out system, similar to what you will have experienced at the shops in recent weeks, so we do ask for your patience as there may be a wait to dispose of your waste.

Please abide by social distancing guidelines during your visit to the tip, wear gloves, and make sure you wash your hands after your visit to stay safe.

To book a slot to visit the HWRC, please call 01234 718013. You can see full details about the opening on our website.

Highway Delays

Work has now been completed on Manton Lane junction. The footbridge was due to be delivered in the summer and the roundabout on Clapham Road in 2021. Obviously all previous dates may be affected by the pandemic.

Kimbolton Road Pedestrian Crossing

This crossing on Kimbolton Road was partially completed before the lockdown

Traffic light junctions in Kimbolton Road.

Work was expected to be started in April. This will provide for better traffic flows and safer use by pedestrians and cyclists. The road will be resurfaced afterwards.

Rooksmead Grasscrete Also delayed

Parking Restrictons

These are being implemented at Brickhill Primary School and Tyne Crescent. These can be enforced with static CCTV cameras. One camera has been vandalised at Hawk Drive

We are concerned about the future implications of the effect of the Coronavirus outbreak. We will keep residents updated on our website about this and other important matters

www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com

Playgrounds and Community Centres

The crisis has necessitated the closure of all leisure and play facilities.

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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