

Brickhill Borough Councillors Update
February 2022
From Wendy Rider and
Charles Royden



Tree Planting

We are encouraging residents to come and join in a tree planting event at Jackman's Farm on Saturday 5 February 2022. The event will run from 11am to 3pm. All residents are invited to volunteer and join council staff. You can just turn up to Woodlands Sport Fields, Ashmead Road, MK41 7GA between 11am and 3pm on the day. The Council is encouraging people to use a sustainable form of transport to get to the event, a small amount of on-site parking will be available. This planting is part of a commitment by Mayor Dave Hodgson to plant over 5,000 trees in the neighbouring woodland and country park to help combat the climate emergency and enhance our country park. The Mayor has also committed to plant over 10,000 trees during the current tree planting season. This planting will deliver 6 hectares of meadow, adjacent to Clapham Park Wood and North Brickhill Country Park.

Jackman's Farm is valuable land and it offers significant potential meadow and grassland habitat. Woodland planting at Jackman's Farm will better integrate Clapham Park Wood and Brickhill Country Park and help to solidify the green corridor around northern Bedford. The addition of woodland plots would better bridge the boundary of Clapham Wood as it draws closer to the sports fields and Woodlands Development. This would create a buffer zone to enhance and protect the adjacent ancient semi natural woodland. The woodland pasture will be planted with standard or half standard trees at a density of 25 trees per hectare. The ultimate goal is to create a meadow with increased tree cover and shading. The differing light levels would encourage diverse plant and animal life.



Tree Give Away

As part of the commitment by Mayor Dave Hodgson to plant 10,000 trees this season Bedford Borough Council is giving away 5,000 trees for local residents, businesses, schools and community groups to collect and plant in their local areas. This give away will be held on Wednesday 16 February and Saturday 19 February, between 10am-3pm at Oasis Beach Pool. Residents can collect up to five trees, and businesses, community groups and schools can collect up to twenty five trees, with stakes and guards provided if needed. The trees must be planted on private land within the Borough, with the owner's permission and addresses of the locations will be taken when the trees are collected. Guidance and advice about how to look after your new trees, including a species guide will be available on the Council's website at www.bedford.gov.uk/trees

Northern Gateway—Clapham Roundabouts

There has been good progress on the Northern Gateway project with the widening of Clapham Road between the two roundabouts complete, along with the dedicated left hand turn lane from Clapham Road into Manton Lane.

Please note this junction is not in its completed form! Please also be aware that the lights outside Bedford Modern are not yet linked into the traffic management control and will continue to go red on Manton Lane even when no traffic is leaving the school.

Police

We have held further meetings with our local police team who have assisted with surgeries and public meetings. Our local police officer ASHIQ Junaaid 441 continues to be supportive in addressing concerns which residents have expressed to us. The Police Priority Setting meeting for Brickhill and De Parys was held online as a consequence of the pre Christmas lock down on Wednesday 8 December 2021. This was helpful in expressing residents concerns, particularly around speeding, burglaries, drugs and anti social behaviour. A significant number of complaints continue to be received about a begging by persons who are not homeless.



Pond at Rooksmead

The pond pump has been inoperative for a while and council staff are seeking to have the replacement fitted as soon as it is available.

School Parking

The Borough Council continue to monitor the effects of the School Street Trial in Tyne Crescent/ Kennet Rise. We are delighted that St Thomas More school is providing practical support to the scheme assisting with the School Street closure. This has been well received by residents as the school is pivotal in helping change the behaviour of parents who park unlawfully in proximity to the school. Another accident was reported to us in Moriston Road and we have passed details to the police. The School Street enforcement may be included in the powers to be passed to councils (as mentioned below). This would allow the council to enforce without the need for the road to be physically closed with people present.

Buses in Brickhill We are grateful to Cllr Peter Blakeman who has compiled the latest bus tables for Brickhill [which can be downloaded here](#) Please note that the No6 frequency is no longer every 20 minutes and the bus does not go to the railway station.

Extra Powers for Council to Enforce On Our Roads - Have Your Say

As part of the Traffic Management Act (2022), the Government will be giving councils the option to apply for powers to enforce against 'moving traffic offences'. Currently, only the Police can enforce against these offences. Bedford Borough Council is considering acquiring these powers, and wants to hear the views of local residents, businesses and interested parties. These powers would enable the Council to expand the work it already does enforcing against illegal and dangerous parking, and misuse of bus lanes. The Council Parking Services Team would carry out this enforcement work, as part of their current duties. Other offences would also be enforced where the appropriate signs are in place. These include one way streets, no U-turn allowed, no left/right turns, no entry, box junctions, as well as areas where cars are not permitted such as cycle lanes. To see the full list of offences, for further information and to have your say, please visit www.bedford.gov.uk/mtoconsultation

With the powers the Council already has, our team works hard to keep our roads safe. The proposed further powers to enforce against 'moving traffic offences' would complement this work and help tackle that minority of irresponsible drivers. You can have your say online

at www.bedford.gov.uk/mtoconsultation, by emailing highway.consultations@bedford.gov.uk or by writing to Traffic Operations, Room 109, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street Bedford MK42 9AP. Hard copies are available on request via the Highways Helpdesk on 01234 718003. Comments should be received by 18 March 2022 and may be published.

Average Speed Cameras Brickhill Drive

Whilst the scheme has been designed and agreed by all parties we continue to wait for installation which has now been delayed due to difficulties associated with materials supply. Brexit and Covid have not been helpful especially given the supply of parts to Siemens from Germany.

Covid

Please can we remind residents of the prevalence of Covid in our community. We are currently the fourth highest location in England with over 150 patients in the Bedfordshire Hospitals Trust and 100 people in Brickhill had Covid in the last 7 days. With two more deaths this week in Bedford please wear masks and take precautions where possible. There are positive signs that the numbers may have peaked but we are still 1400 cases per 100,000 and numbers of people having their booster has dropped.

Bedford High Street.

Following the dramatic improvements to the High Street you may have seen some scaffolding up in Bedford High Street, this is part Borough Council's High Street Heritage Action Zone restoring and improving properties on Bedford's High Street as part of the, supported by Historic England. [You can find out more about this project here.](#)

Come and see us at our surgeries

Saturday 5 February 10.0am - Avon Drive Shops

Sat 19 February 10.00am - Brickhill Drive Shops

Sat 5 March 10.00am - Avon Drive Shops

Sat 19 March 10.00am - Brickhill Drive

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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