

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



**Tree Planting**

Thank you to everybody who turned up to plant trees at Jackman's Farm on Saturday 5 February 2022. We were overwhelmed by the response and we certainly smashed the previous record of 3,000 trees planted in a day. There were just a some left to the following week and now 5,000 are planted.

**Buses in Brickhill**

We have made representations to Stagecoach to try and restore the route to the railway station. Bus tables for Brickhill [can be downloaded here](#) on Puttingbrickhillfirst.com

**Police**

We continue to meet with our local police team and Officer ASHIQ Junaid 441 has spent time with us discussing Brickhill priorities. We have our next meeting on March 15 so please do let us know any issues of concern which you wish to be discussed.

**Pond at Rooksmead**

We are aware the pump is now in the country and through customs and should be fitted soon

**Average Speed Cameras Brickhill Drive**

We still await a date for installation delayed by materials, covid, Brexit etc

**Pheasant Public House**

Following conversations with Charles Wells we were pleased to be informed that it is expected that the Pheasant will reopen on 25 April. Work appears to be well underway for a major refit and it will be opened under its managed model.

**Fly Tipping**

Following the large amount of waste being tipped off Ashmead Road we went through the waste to try and identify the source and supplied addresses to the Borough Council. We are pleased that the council is now deploying cameras at fly-tipping hotspots around Bedford Borough. The Council is using this footage both to identify vehicles and people who are caught fly-tipping, so that fines and appropriate enforcement action can be taken. Fly-tipping is a criminal offence and can be punished with a maximum fine of £50,000, or a 12 month prison sentence if convicted by a Magistrates Court. Where individuals cannot be identified, the footage will be posted on the Council's 'Caught on Camera' webpage at [www.bedford.gov.uk/caughtoncamera](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/caughtoncamera). If you recognise someone fly-tipping, you can let the Council know on that webpage. The Council will then be able to investigate and look to carry out appropriate enforcement action from fines to prosecution. As the cameras are moved around the Borough you will be able to see incidents of fly-tipping that we need your help with. You can also report incidents fly-tipping to the council at [www.bedford.gov.uk/flytipping](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/flytipping) so they can investigate and get it cleared."

## Green Bin Collections

Garden waste collections resume from 1st March 2022, following the usual pause in this service over winter. Please put your green garden waste bin out alongside your orange recycling bin by 6am on your next recycling day, and it will be collected every other week. Garden waste can go in the green-lidded bin, including grass cuttings, plants and weeds, hedge clippings and more, [check online for more information](#). Please make sure garden waste is placed into the green bin loose, not in bags.

To find out when your next bin collection is, please use the [online collection day finder](#).

## River Festival

Bedford Borough Council has announced that the River Festival will be back on 23 and 24 July 2022, following postponements due to COVID-19. For the first time in the River Festival's history, Bedford High Street will be closed for the whole weekend to bring the fun and celebrations into the town centre. The High Street, sponsored by Bedford BID, will host the Festival of Motoring, with 100 unique and electric vehicles on display.

There is still time to get involved and if your business or organisation would like to find out more, please visit <https://riverfestival.bedford.gov.uk/>

There is also still time to apply to trade at the River Festival; if you have something unique to bring to this fantastic local event, please visit <https://riverfestival.bedford.gov.uk/>

You can already apply for a place on the Community Stage, and register to take part in the dragon boat and raft races, and register your interest in boat mooring at <https://riverfestival.bedford.gov.uk/>.

For more information, please contact [events@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:events@bedford.gov.uk). The deadline for applications is noon on Friday 18 March.

## New Adult Social Care Charging

Mayor Dave Hodgson has put forward a new Adult Social Care Charging Policy that ensures the most vulnerable on the lowest incomes are treated fairly and supported with the cost of their adult social care. For the first time, residents claiming Universal Credit are recognised within the Council's Adult Social Care Charging Policy. Residents will also be given an allowance to claim broadband costs, which previously was not included in the policy, to help with using internet equipment that meets their needs for their social care. The Council's policy will also promote independent living for people who are receiving care, by giving these residents a higher amount of minimum income to live on.

Guidance issued from government every year on how to set the minimum income people need to live on currently fails to recognise anyone who needs care and also receives Universal Credit. This means that if this guidance was followed without a change in policy, some residents would likely lose out on income they are entitled to through Universal Credit. Currently, over 60% of benefit claimants in Bedford Borough are now receiving Universal Credit.

As Bedford Borough Council can set their own policy in relation to minimum incomes allowed under their Adult Social Care Charging Policy, the Council is stepping up to support the residents that the government has failed to account for in their outdated guidance.

Councillor Wendy Rider, Portfolio Holder for Adults Services agreed the policy with the Mayor. New technology can be used to help someone with their social care needs. This technology is usually internet based and it is only right that the Council treats broadband expenditure as a necessity to help with someone's care.

# **Come and see us at our surgeries**

Sat 5 March 10.00am - Avon Drive Shops

Sat 19 March 10.00am - Brickhill Drive

Sat 2 April 10.00am - Avon 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](http://www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com)

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