



Wendy Rider



Charles Royden

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Brickhill FOCUS

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Save Our Intercity Trains

Cllrs **Charles Royden** and **Wendy Rider** have slammed the Government's double whammy of bad news for Bedford's rail services. Firstly, the government scrapped the full electrification project and then announced plans to axe peak time intercity train services from Bedford.

Charles Royden said "The government is snubbing Bedford and damaging the future of our area. Good links to London and other cities benefits local businesses and jobs."

The Government's plans to use slower, commuter-style trains to and from Corby instead of stopping the fast trains at Bedford and elsewhere would strip Bedford of the 37-minute link to London St Pancras. They would also mean trains to anywhere north of Kettering, such as Leicester, Nottingham, Derby and Sheffield would be seriously cut back and axed totally at peak-times.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said: "The Government's shocking plans to downgrade Bedford's status as an Intercity station and end our peak time intercity train services must be stopped. Many local residents have made major decisions in their lives based on our rail services; decisions such as moving home or changing jobs. These changes would cause them huge disruption, and would harm our shared economic prospects."

"The Council will be putting a powerful opposing case together, and I will be working with anyone and everyone I can to stop them going ahead. Please have your say on the plans, and add your voice to the fight to save Bedford's Intercity Fast Trains."

The Government is running a public consultation on its plans, which closes on 11 October. Please sign the petition below or online. Link to the full consultation can also be found online at www.mayordave.org.uk/intercitytrains

Save our Intercity Trains

I/we call on the government to:

- Reinstate the project for full electrification of the Midland Mainline, and
- Abandon plans to remove any intercity trains from Bedford.

Name Address email

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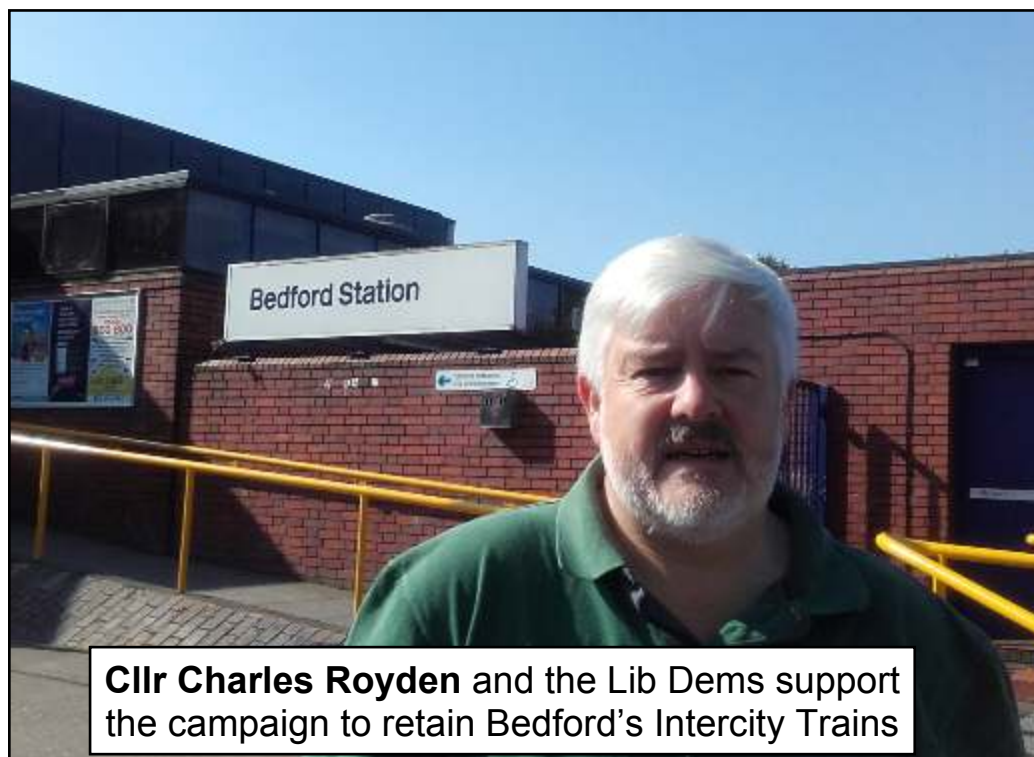
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Return to: Dave Hodgson, 37 Kathie Rd, Bedford MK42 0QJ

The Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you've given to contact you. Some contacts may be automated. By providing your data to us, you are consenting to the data holders making contact with you in the future by telephone, text or other means, even though you may be registered with the Telephone Preference Service. You can always opt out of communications at any time by contacting us. For more information go to www.liberal-democrats.org.uk or write to us at 7 Hadleigh Close, Bedford MK41 8JW. Printed by Swan Print, Shuttleworth Road, Bedford MK41 0EP

You can sign online at www.mayordave.org.uk/intercitytrains



Cllr Charles Royden and the Lib Dems support the campaign to retain Bedford's Intercity Trains

Brickhill Newsfile

Bus Real Time info for Kimbolton Rd /Ellis Rd



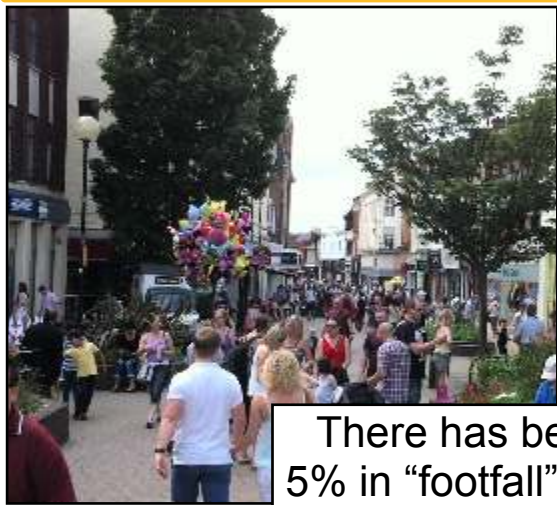
The bus stop in Kimbolton Road, by Ellis Road, is the latest Brickhill stop to be fitted with Real Time Information. It informs passengers when the next buses will turn up, both Stagecoach and Grant Palmer. Cllr Wendy Rider said: "I welcome the funding by Brickhill Parish Council as it encourages greater use of our local buses".

Good news for Highfield



Highfield, located in Avon Drive, Brickhill, is one on the residential homes now run directly by Bedford Council which have benefited from over £3 million of investment in improved facilities, like double glazing and upgraded facilities. Cllr Charles Royden said: "In this difficult financial climate it is important that we continue to look after our elderly residents and these improvements ensure that the vulnerable are protected".

Town Centre Good News!



Bedford town centre's footfall figures for the first half of 2017 show a striking **increase of 5.3%** against the same period in 2016, with the town on course for a fourth successive year of footfall growth.

Bedford and its traders continue to buck the wider nationwide trend of high street decline.

There has been an increase of over 5% in "footfall" in Bedford Town Centre

Help for Rough Sleepers

A new service has been launched to help rough sleepers in Bedford Borough. The service provides a combination of outreach support and assessment hubs where people can go to access help. It is a partnership between the local councils in Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes.

The new outreach team will work with individuals and, in more complex cases, mental health crisis workers will ensure more intensive support is provided.

Dave Hodgson said "Homelessness is a national crisis and this is our latest local initiative taken as part of our commitment to prevent homelessness. There is also the new Complex Needs Unit which is set to open later this year providing specialist accommodation and support for some of the most vulnerable."

If you are concerned about anyone sleeping rough, you can contact the national 24 hour rough sleeping referral line StreetLink on 0300 500 0914 or online at www.streetlink.org.uk

43% Carbon reduction!



Under **Mayor Dave Hodgson's** leadership the council has reduced the carbon footprint of its estate by a massive 43% since 2011.

Dave Hodgson set the aspirational 40% target six years ago and since then a lot of work has been done. This included the largest energy conservation

project ever undertaken by the Council with work completed at Borough Hall, Bedford International Athletics Stadium, Central Library, the Kempston Centre and Allhallows car park.

There has been the installation of hundreds of solar panels, with over 200 installed at Allhallows alone and the construction of the River Great Ouse Hydro Power Station.

Wendy Rider said "This is a win-win situation. It's good news for the environment but it's also saving taxpayers' money on fuel costs."

Concern for traffic problems in Brickhill Drive/Manton Lane

St Andrew's and Rushmoor School have applied to move to a new, joint, site in Manton Lane. Cllr Charles Royden says: "I am concerned that this would create greater traffic problems for Brickhill Drive and Manton Lane".



Brickhill FOCUS Team

www.facebook.com/BrickhillFocus

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☎ 357259 📧 mark.x.fitzpatrick@gmail.com

Parish Councillors: See www.PuttingBrickhillFirst.com for full details. Wendy, Charles & Mark as above plus:

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Vince Holloway ☎ 214533 📧 vholloway1975@gmail.com;

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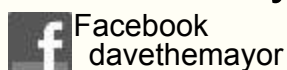
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Mayor of Bedford Borough Dave Hodgson

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www.mayordave.org.uk



www.PuttingBrickhillFirst.com

Keep up-to-date with Brickhill Liberal Democrats on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BrickhillFocus and on our main website, www.PuttingBrickhillFirst.com

FOCUS Team Advice Surgeries

Liberal Democrat Councillors Surgeries

Local Brickhill surgeries

Avon Drive shops: 10am, Saturdays 16th Sept & 14th Oct.

Brickhill Drive shops: 10am, Saturdays 30th Sept & 28th Oct.



Cllrs Mark Fitzpatrick, Wendy Rider & Charles Royden

Bedford Central Library

Every Saturday, 11am-12noon.

Mayor Dave Hodgson's Surgeries

Second Tuesday every month 4pm-6pm at Borough Hall

For an appointment ring 718620

Do you have a comment or an idea? If so, please get in touch.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Please return to:

Councillor Wendy Rider, 23 Orwell Close,
Brickhill, Bedford MK41 7BQ

Can you help us?

Yes I would like to help by:

- ☐ Delivering FOCUS in my street
- ☐ Displaying a poster at election time
- ☐ Making a donation
- (to Bedford Liberal Democrats)
- ☐ Joining the Liberal Democrats