



**Wendy Rider**



**Charles Royden**

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# Brickhill FOCUS

**Liberal Democrats**  
Open, Tolerant and United  
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## Lib Dems Demand Hospital Guarantees

**Good news for A&E, maternity and paediatrics services at Bedford Hospital but Lib Dems demand no backsliding on announcement.**

It has been announced that A&E, maternity and paediatrics services will stay at Bedford Hospital, under plans for the merger of Bedford with Luton and Dunstable Hospital.

**Mayor Dave Hodgson** said "We've been fighting for years against threats to remove A&E, maternity and paediatrics at Bedford Hospital, and this announcement commits to keeping those services. There must be no backsliding over these assurances. We need those services here in full, not reduced versions of them - and we need them here for good. If these arrangements do safeguard services, I will do all I can to make them work."

Local Lib Dems believe that residents need to know that vital hospital services will be there locally when they or their loved ones need them. Thanks are due to all of those who have fought to save Bedford Hospital from this threat and previous downgrade attempts.

**Cllr Wendy Rider** said "Government and NHS reviews, which have looked at downgrading Bedford Hospital and taking away key services, have dragged on for seven years and cost millions of pounds. It's amazing that the recognition that services like A&E, full maternity and paediatrics must stay in Bedford has come so late when it was so obvious for our growing population."



**Wendy Rider & Charles Royden demand that key services are protected in Hospital Merger Plan**

## Massive Response To Intercity Trains Petition



Thank you to everyone who has signed a petition and responded to the government consultation on the future of Bedford's Intercity trains.

The government plans would downgrade the status of Bedford by taking away our place on the Intercity network and replace the trains with commuter style trains between Corby and London. This not only threatens the fast journey times for London commuters from Bedford it also removes through journeys north of Kettering - to and from places like Leicester, Derby, Nottingham and Sheffield.

You can find out more on the campaign at [www.mayordave.org.uk/intercitytrains](http://www.mayordave.org.uk/intercitytrains)

**Cllr Charles Royden** said "We will continue to campaign alongside the Mayor, commuters and other rail users to fight these government plans. The current service is worth £3.5m to the local economy and is important for all local residents whether we use the trains ourselves or not."

## Action: Tyne Crescent resurfacing



Tyne Crescent is to be resurfaced from the Avon Drive roundabout to Ashmead Road. The roundabout is also to be repaired, as it is breaking up. Brickhill Lib Dem Borough Councillors Charles Royden and Wendy Rider have asked for many roads in Brickhill to be considered for resurfacing, to keep drivers and pedestrians safe.



# Brickhill Newsfile



**Bottle banks at Avon Drive shops**  
The bottle banks at Avon Drive are some of the most heavily used in the Borough. As a result, despite being emptied frequently, they often become full with bottles left on the ground. **Cllrs Wendy Rider and Charles Royden** have obtained agreement for the underground bins increased from 3 to 4 cubic metres. If you find that a bin is full, please call 01234 718060 to report it. Other local bottle banks are at Brickhill Drive shops, Mowsbury Park (Wentworth Drive car park), Scott Primary School (carpark of old Beauchamp site) and Carron Road.

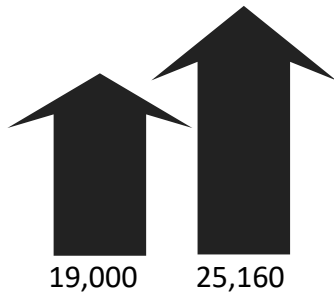
**Falcon Avenue - 'wildlife corridor'**  
Work is underway to cut back ivy from the trees growing along the 'wildlife corridor' in the middle of Falcon Avenue. The ivy is in danger of killing off many of the trees. **Cllrs Wendy Rider and Charles Royden** are using their Ward Fund to enable this work to go ahead. **Cllr Wendy Rider** said "We hope this work will allow the trees to continue to provide a welcome green space in the heart of Brickhill".

We have received several complaints about overhanging tree branches blocking paths or obscuring streetlights. Do get in touch if you know of a problem.



## Shock as Government Proposes Massive Increase in Bedford Borough Housebuilding Targets

Under government plans to impose new housebuilding targets on local areas, Bedford Borough Council will be required to plan for the building of 25,160 new homes by 2035, an increase of almost a third on current plans.



The shock figures come as Bedford Borough Council is at an advanced stage in producing its local plan on the basis of an extra 19,000 homes by 2035. This was considered an ambitious figure itself, and was calculated on the basis of local need.

**Mayor Dave Hodgson** said "We've never been anti-housing growth, because we know we need the homes that allow people to live in suitable housing for them and their family. But this is far in excess of our local need, and there's no mention of the funding for the infrastructure needed to cope."

"Quite simply, If the government goes ahead with this massive increase in our housebuilding target, it will mean a major extension of housebuilding across the borough, with huge extra pressure on local infrastructure."

The government's proposals can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-right-homes-in-the-right-places-consultation-proposals>. All responses must be sent in by 23:45 on 9th November.

**www.PuttingBrickhillFirst.com**

Keep up-to-date with Brickhill Liberal Democrats on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BrickhillFocus](https://www.facebook.com/BrickhillFocus) and on our main website, [www.PuttingBrickhillFirst.com](http://www.PuttingBrickhillFirst.com)

## FOCUS Team Advice Surgeries

### Liberal Democrat Councillors Surgeries

#### Local Brickhill surgeries

Avon Drive shops: 10am, Saturdays 11th Nov & 9th Dec.

Brickhill Drive shops: 10am, Saturdays 28th Oct & 25th Nov.



**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

## Brickhill FOCUS Team

[www.facebook.com/BrickhillFocus](https://www.facebook.com/BrickhillFocus)

**Borough Councillor Wendy Rider**  
23 Orwell Close, Brickhill, Bedford MK41 7BQ.  
☎ 303254 ✉ [wendyrider41@gmail.com](mailto:wendyrider41@gmail.com)

**Borough Councillor Charles Royden**  
St Mark's Vicarage, Calder Rise,  
Brickhill, Bedford MK41 7UY  
☎ 309175 ✉ [charlesroyden@gmail.com](mailto:charlesroyden@gmail.com)

**Chair of Brickhill Parish Council Mark Fitzpatrick**  
20 Nursery Gardens, Brickhill, Bedford MK41 8DU  
☎ 357259 ✉ [mark.x.fitzpatrick@gmail.com](mailto:mark.x.fitzpatrick@gmail.com)

**Parish Councillors:** See [www.PuttingBrickhillFirst.com](http://www.PuttingBrickhillFirst.com) for full details. Wendy, Charles & Mark as above plus:

**Peter Blakeman** ☎ 355952 ✉ [pj.blakeman@btopenworld.com](mailto:pj.blakeman@btopenworld.com);

**James Cross** ☎ 07490 367607 ✉ [james.cross@live.co.uk](mailto:james.cross@live.co.uk);

**Vince Holloway** ☎ 214533 ✉ [vholloway1975@gmail.com](mailto:vholloway1975@gmail.com);

**Ann Reeve** ☎ 343260 ✉ [r\\_reeve1@sky.com](mailto:r_reeve1@sky.com);

**Corinne Royden** ☎ 309175 ✉ [corinneroyden@gmail.com](mailto:corinneroyden@gmail.com);

**Lynne Seymour** ☎ 305683 ✉ [lynne@puttingbrickhillfirst.com](mailto:lynne@puttingbrickhillfirst.com).

**Mayor of Bedford Borough Dave Hodgson**  
37 Kathie Road, Bedford MK42 0QJ  
☎ 718620 ✉ [dave.hodgson@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:dave.hodgson@bedford.gov.uk)

[www.mayordave.org.uk](http://www.mayordave.org.uk)



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**If you have a grumble 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