



**Wendy Rider**



**Charles Royden**

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# Brickhill FOCUS

**Liberal Democrats**  
Open, Tolerant and United  
No. 375  
September 2018



# Extra ~~£1m~~ <sup>2million</sup> for Road and Pavement Work

Dave Hodgson has added another £1 million to the budget for resurfacing roads and pavements. This is on top of an extra £1m that had previously been added.

Brickhill's Lib Dem Borough Councillors, Charles Royden and Wendy Rider have backed Mayor Dave Hodgson's plan for adding an extra £2 million to this year's budget to be spent on resurfacing work and major repairs to roads and pavements in Bedford Borough.

Wendy Rider said "It has always been one of our top priorities to get the state of local roads and pavements improved. That is why we want to see this extra funding put to good use - bringing even more roads and pavements up to a higher standard."

"We know that there is a lot still to do but, even in this time of funding cuts, we are keeping this as a priority. Time and time again residents tell us how important this is as it affects everyone - pedestrians, cyclists and motorists."

The extra funding has been found thanks to good financial management of the council under Mayor Dave Hodgson. Last year the council managed to keep within its budget without overspending - just as it has done every year since Dave Hodgson's first budget was set in 2010.

Charles Royden added "If you know of particular roads and pavements that you think should be a priority for work just let us know by email or using the slip over the page."

## Massive Response to Walk-in Centre Petition



Thank you to everyone who completed our petition calling on NHS Commissioners not to close the Putnoe Walk-in Centre.

The petition has now been presented to the commissioners.

As we go to print on this FOCUS, the commissioners have just announced that they are halting their consultation on closure and instead have said they need to reconsider their proposals.

We will keep you up to date on what this means through FOCUS, but don't forget for breaking news you can also "like" the Brickhill Liberal Democrat Focus Team on facebook [www.facebook.com/BrickhillFocus](http://www.facebook.com/BrickhillFocus) or sign up to our email updates at [www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/signup](http://www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/signup)



**Cllrs Charles Royden & Wendy Rider** want to see more roads and pavements resurfaced in Brickhill and across the Borough

## Travellers mess

As soon as three caravans moved onto the green at the top of Brickhill Drive on 7th August, we reported this to the Borough Council, to start the process of removal. They left before the legal eviction process was complete, but left behind an area polluted by human excrement. Cllr Charles Royden said: "It is an absolute disgrace. Council officers will have to clear this up - a horrible job. This all costs money, which we would much rather spend elsewhere. We will ask the Borough to apply for an Injunction to help prevent future unauthorised encampments here. We will always respond to unlawful encampments immediately and update residents on our website [www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com](http://www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com) and on the Brickhill Focus Facebook page".

Meanwhile we are very pleased that the long-awaited Injunction for **Waveney Green** has now been granted. This should deter people from trying to move onto the green in future.



**Charles Royden & Wendy Rider** inspect the mess at the green off Brickhill Drive



# Brickhill Action File



During the recent dry weather, the **Rooksmead pond** fountain began to tilt and was not working fully. Your Borough Councillors arranged to switch it off. When the pond refills, they will get any repairs made and the fountain restarted. Cllr Wendy Rider said: "The fountain is very popular and we will make sure it is looked after properly".

For news on other action taken locally by **Wendy Rider** and **Charles Royden**, including the No. 6 bus route and real time bus information; Hawk Drive road safety; Kimbolton Road school crossing and speeding see [www.PuttingBrickhillFirst.com](http://www.PuttingBrickhillFirst.com) or [www.facebook.com/BrickhillFocus](https://www.facebook.com/BrickhillFocus) where you can also sign up to the free Brickhill Bulletin email newsletter.

## FLASHBACK

Remember when the **Tories** downplayed this year's cuts to our rail services?

What the Tories said:

**Rail Lines Upgraded**

Conservative leaflet  
February/March 2018

What we got:

... trains hit by  
timetable 'shambles'

BBC News

While the Tories refused to stand up for the future of our local rail services, Dave Hodgson and the Lib Dems have been fighting relentlessly for a return of our full intercity services that have been cut by the government. Local rail travellers will not see an "upgraded" service either now or in the future under the government plans.

## Brickhill FOCUS Team

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

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## More Support to Help Rough Sleepers off the Streets in Bedford Borough



Dave Hodgson, in partnership with local organisations, is ensuring there is extra help for rough sleepers

The Borough Council has successfully obtained additional funding for helping rough sleepers. This comes after the recent opening of Clarence House in St John's Street that provides supported housing for the most vulnerable people with complex needs.

Now the Council is expanding its range of support services to include:

- 6 additional support workers
- 36 new units of accommodation
- 10 extra emergency beds in the winter

**Dave Hodgson** said "This range of additional support services will help some of the most vulnerable people in our community. They were designed in partnership with excellent local charities and other partners, to ensure they reach those most in need."

Just compare our local services under Mayor Dave Hodgson with a nearby Tory-run council

## Tory-run Northamptonshire Council in Turmoil!

Northamptonshire council backs 'bare minimum' service plan

*The Guardian 9 August 2018*

**Libraries** Plans to close 21 of 36 libraries facing a legal challenge

*The i 10 August 2018*

A cash-strapped council has approved massive cuts to jobs and services in a bid to tackle a £70m funding shortfall.

*BBC.co.uk 9 August 2018*

## FOCUS Team Advice Surgeries

**Liberal Democrat Councillors Surgeries**

Local Brickhill surgeries

Avon Drive shops: 10am, Saturdays 15th Sep & 13th Oct

Brickhill Drive shops: 10am, Saturdays 29th Sep & 27th 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

If you have a grumble please get in touch.

Name:

Address:

Can we keep you updated by email and phone? If you enter your email and/or phone below, we will use them to contact you in accordance with our Fair Processing Notice below and Privacy Policy at [www.libdems.org.uk/privacy](http://www.libdems.org.uk/privacy).

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

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