



**Wendy Rider**



**Charles Royden**

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# Brickhill FOCUS

Liberal Democrats

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## Parking Charges Frozen Again



Charles Royden & Wendy Rider supporting the continued freeze of car park charges

There will be no increase in council car park charges this year thanks to the decision by **Mayor Dave Hodgson** and colleagues. This is the third successive annual parking charge freeze and is a major boost for Bedford's retailers and shoppers.

This includes the two hours free parking deal. The deal was first introduced by **Mayor Dave Hodgson** in 2013. As well as two hours free on Saturdays in council town centre car parks, Queen Street car park is free for the first two hours every weekday as well.

**Charles Royden** said "This is great news for residents as well as our local town centre shops. I know that local people want to see a thriving town centre in Bedford and this free parking deal really helps. With the Queens Street Car Park offer, you can park for two hours free every day."

## Emergency Beds for Rough Sleepers

Rough sleepers in Bedford Borough will be able to access emergency beds every night throughout the winter. This means that for the second successive year in Bedford Borough accommodation will be available every night throughout the winter to 31st March, rather than just offering basic emergency beds in very cold weather.

This is on top of existing accommodation which provides 39 beds for rough sleepers **throughout the year** at the 'Somewhere Safe to Stay Hub' run by SMART in the town centre and the Kings Arms Project Nightshelter.

The announcement follows the opening of the 'Somewhere Safe to Stay Hub' which is open 24 hours a day providing short-term accommodation and wrap-around support for rough sleepers. A number of multi-agency professionals work together from the Hub providing advice from a variety of support services to help people get back into a home and living independently.

If anyone has concerns about someone they see sleeping rough, please report them to the outreach teams at [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk)

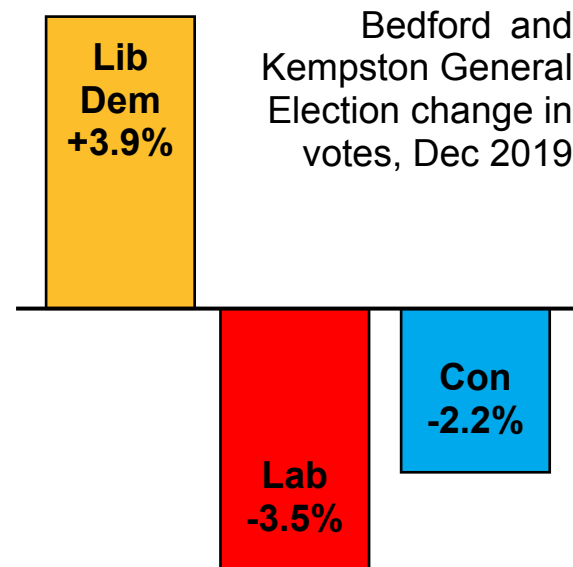


Mayor Dave Hodgson at the 'Somewhere Safe to Stay Hub'

## General Election 2019 Thank You!

Following December's General Election, local Lib Dem Parliamentary Candidate **Henry Vann** said "A huge thank you to everyone who supported me and the local Liberal Democrats in the election. It was inspiring to hear from so many people about the difference their local Lib Dem FOCUS Team makes to the local community day in day out and in Bedford and Kempston we saw a huge increase in our vote share; *thank you.*"

"Nationally, whilst we may not have gained seats, the Lib Dems saw the biggest increase in their share of the vote of any party and locally we will continue to fight to get a fair deal for Bedford and Kempston from Central Government including proper funding for our health services and schools, decent transport links and for vital local council services."



## Quick Action on Mowsbury Park Encampment



Shortly before Christmas there was another unauthorised encampment at Mowsbury Park. Following swift action by the Borough Council, with support by the Police, they were moved on. Charles Royden and Wendy Rider were pleased that this incident was resolved so quickly. When issues like this arise, we keep residents informed through [www.PuttungBrickhillFirst.com](http://www.PuttungBrickhillFirst.com) and [www.Facebook.com/BrickhillFOCUS](https://www.facebook.com/BrickhillFOCUS).



# Brickhill Action File

## St Thomas More parking problems

Borough Council officers have been working with St Thomas More to address unlawful parking around the school and a significant number of fines have been issued by council enforcement officers. **Wendy Rider** said "Parents are literally putting the lives of their own children and others at risk and we will continue to do all we can to clamp down on this motoring menace outside our schools".



Charles Royden and Wendy Rider by the parking enforcement cameras in Kennet Rise

## Extra £500,000 for Renewing Roads and Pavements



Charles Royden & Wendy Rider supporting extra funding for road and pavement resurfacing. Regent Close is the next road to be resurfaced in Brickhill

At a recent council meeting Wendy Rider and Charles Royden voted for an extra £500,000 to be added to the budget for road and pavement renewal.

**Charles Royden** said "This is a top priority for us. Local residents tell us that more pavements and roads need bringing up to a higher standard and we agree. Despite government funding cuts to councils, this is still a priority."

## Highfield Residential Home improvements

The Borough Council is making significant investments in its Residential Homes. At Highfield, in Avon Drive, a lift is being installed and a new enclosed outdoor seating area being created.

**Mark Fitzpatrick** said "It is great to see this continued support for Highfield and the other Residential Homes. They provide a vital service to the community".



Wendy Rider and Mark Fitzpatrick at Highfield, where construction works are well under way

## Investing in Our Schools



Henry Vann & Dave Hodgson are spearheading a major investment in new schools and extra classrooms.



**Mayor Dave Hodgson** has launched the latest phase of the investment plans in our local schools. Over the 4 years from 2019 to 2023 there is a £27m of investment planned in new schools and new classrooms.

Dave Hodgson said "I have always worked with colleagues across the council to make sure that our local schools get the improvements they need. It is vitally important that old temporary classrooms are replaced with permanent buildings and new schools are built for areas of growing populations."

The recently announced plans include a new school for the Wixams as well as new classrooms in areas where school numbers are growing and to finish the programme to replace temporary classrooms.

## Brickhill FOCUS Team

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

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## FOCUS Team Advice Surgeries

**Liberal Democrat Councillors Surgeries**

**Local Brickhill surgeries**

Avon Drive shops: 10am, Saturdays 1st & 29th February.

Brickhill Drive shops: 10am, Saturdays 18th January & 15th February



**Bedford Central Library**  
Every Saturday, 10am-11am.

**Mayor Dave Hodgson's Surgeries**

Second Tuesday every month 4pm-6pm at Borough Hall  
For an appointment ring 718620

[www.PuttingBrickhillFirst.com](http://www.PuttingBrickhillFirst.com)

## 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