



Wendy Rider



Charles Royden

Published & Promoted by Mark Fitzpatrick on behalf of The Liberal Democrats all at 20 Nursery Gardens, Brickhill, Bedford MK41 8DU. Printed by Swan Print, Shuttleworth Road, Bedford MK41 0EP

Brickhill FOCUS

Fighting for Local Services in the Face of Tory Cuts

The Council budget put forward by Mayor Dave Hodgson and his team was passed in February with unanimous support from every Councillor, of all parties and the Independents.

In the face of massive government funding cuts - with the main government grant cut from over £30m in 2015 to under £6m in 2019 - it's a budget which protects those in need, with extra funding for care for the elderly and vulnerable.

Dave Hodgson said "As well as protecting those most in need, we have included investment in our children's future with all temporary classrooms we inherited being replaced and new capacity to avert the school places crisis seen elsewhere."

"I'm glad our careful financial management is recognised across the political parties on the council, especially when we don't have to look far to see a nearby Council literally facing financial collapse. We've had to take tough decisions that we didn't want to in the face of the brutal government cuts but we have protected services from the drastic cuts being proposed in other councils, such as widespread library closures or three-weekly bin collections."

"We'll keep fighting to protect services and put local communities first."

This budget includes the freezing of car park charges again and retaining the Saturday two hour free parking deal in the town centre, introduced by the Mayor in 2013.

Bedford Borough's core council tax will increase by 1.75% and the government's Social Care Precept will add another 2% on top of that. Overall, as we go to print, this is lower than the increases proposed nearby such as in Central Beds, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Milton Keynes or Luton.

What's happening nearby.....

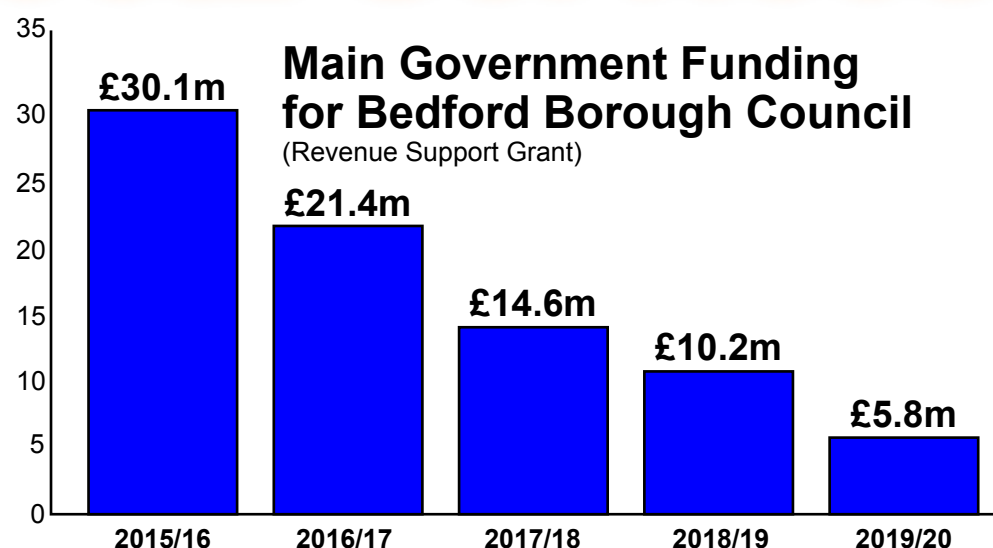
Northamptonshire council faces up to cost of effective bankruptcy.

theGuardian.com 11 Feb 2018

Three-weekly black bin collections and £40 garden waste charge for Central Bedfordshire?

Dunstable Today 6 Feb 2018

..... but not here!



Save Putnoe Walk-in Centre



Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to back the campaign to save the Putnoe Walk-in centre from closure. The local NHS commissioners have now given the centre a short reprieve but only until 30 September when they still want to close it.

Wendy Rider said "We are pleased that pressure has led to a stay of execution, but that isn't enough. We will continue campaigning to keep a walk-in centre in our area. It is an essential service and we cannot just let them close it."

Please sign the petition below or online to support the campaign.

I/we oppose any plans by NHS managers to close the Putnoe Walk-in Centre.

Name

Address

email

Return to: Wendy Rider, 23 Orwell Close, Brickhill, Bedford MK41 7BQ.

The Liberal Democrats and their elected representatives may use the information you've given to contact you. By providing your data to us, you are consenting to us making contact with you in the future by mail, email, telephone, text, website and apps, even though you may be registered with the Telephone Preference Service. Your data may be stored or otherwise processed in the US, governed by European Commission model contract clauses. You can always opt out of communications at any time by contacting us or visiting www.libdems.org.uk/optout. For more information go to www.libdems.org.uk/privacy.

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You can sign online at www.bedfordlibdems.org.uk/walkincentre

Council Savings Directed to Local Priorities

Good financial management has enabled Mayor Dave Hodgson to redirect extra council savings made during this year to tackle high priority areas.

✓ Extra £1m for Roads & Pavements



Charles Royden said “As we talk to local people in Brickhill, it’s clear that the legacy of inadequate funding for repairing roads and pavements is of great concern. We already allocate over £2 million a year to this on top of the government grant. An extra £1 million will mean that even more resurfacing work can now be done.”

✓ Tackling Speeding



Wendy Rider said “Speeding across the Borough is a top concern that is raised with us by local residents. It’s good news that at least six more pairs of average speed cameras can now be installed. We know many residents prefer this approach to the alternatives of road humps or fixed point speed cameras.”

Mayor Dave Hodgson - taking action to improve road safety

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 3rd & 31st March.
Brickhill Drive shops: 10am, Saturdays 17th Mar & 14th Apr.



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

Brickhill Action File



Delivery vehicles for Avon Drive shops have badly damaged the verge at the junction of **Severn Way** and **Conway Crescent**. Cllr Charles Royden said “we will ask the Borough to repair the damage, but then we want to stop it happening again”. Parking restrictions have already been agreed for the junction and should be implemented this year.

Bedfordshire Police want to engage more closely with the community. They plan to hold surgeries at St Mark’s. Dates will be published on www.BrickhillParishCouncil.gov.uk and www.PuttingBrickhillFirst.com. Their current community policing priority for Brickhill is speeding.



Cllr Charles Royden - fighting to keep our peak time fast trains

Fighting the Rail Betrayal of Bedford

Don’t forget you can still sign up online to our petition to fight the Tory government’s removal of peak time fast trains at Bedford.

www.mayordave.org.uk/bedfordtrains

Brickhill FOCUS Team

www.facebook.com/BrickhillFocus

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Borough Councillor Charles Royden
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Brickhill, Bedford MK41 7UY
☎ 309175 ✉ charlesroyden@gmail.com

Chair of Brickhill Parish Council Mark Fitzpatrick
20 Nursery Gardens, Brickhill, Bedford MK41 8DU
☎ 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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Facebook.com/
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Twitter
@davethemayor



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