



Wendy Rider



Charles Royden

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Brickhill FOCUS

Liberal Democrats
Stronger Economy Fairer Society

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Save Our Services from Tory Cuts

**Lib Dems
Fighting for
our Local
Services**

Shocking £25 million funding shortfall by 2019

Brutal funding cuts threatened by the government will mean Bedford Borough Council must save an estimated £25 million more each year from its budget by 2019. Mayor Dave Hodgson and local councillors Charles Royden and Wendy Rider are asking residents to join them in fighting back against these government imposed cuts.

Charles Royden said "We need to send a clear message to the government that cuts of this size will undermine all our efforts to provide good, efficient services for local residents. With vast savings of £81 million a year made already since 2010, it is going to be impossible to sustain this level of cutting for another 4 years without the loss of important local services."

... if the reductions in funding were "anything like the level that people are predicting", in some areas all but statutory services would be stopped.

*Conservative Chairman of the Local Government Association
quoted in the Financial Times online 19/7/15*

The Government will confirm the size of the funding reductions which will hit Bedford Borough Council before the end of the year. Until then, Mayor Dave Hodgson is gathering support for his campaign for Bedford Borough to get a fair funding deal from the Government, in order to provide a fighting chance for key local services to be saved.

Please sign Dave's petition to help the campaign.

Fair Funding For Local Services

I/we call on the government to give Bedford Borough Council a fair funding deal in order to protect vital frontline services that local residents rely on.

Name	Address	email
.....
.....

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.libdems.org.uk/privacy.

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You can sign online at www.mayordave.org.uk/fair-funding

Tackling dog mess



**Cllr Charles Royden
and Cllr Mark
Fitzpatrick in Dearne
Walk**

Allowing dogs to foul the pavement without clearing up is not acceptable and we have asked Borough Council enforcement officers to prosecute offenders. In addition we have used our ward funds to put dog poop bag dispensers in problem areas such as this one in **Dearne Walk**. We are delighted that they have been welcomed by responsible dog owners and they have not been vandalised. We will continue to allocate funds for replacement bags.

Local Plan 2032

Bedford Borough Council is preparing a Local Plan that will set out how much growth there should be in the borough in coming years (housing, jobs and associated infrastructure) and where it should take place. Current planning policy documents look ahead to 2021 and this new local plan will extend the period that development has been planned for to 2032. After a call for possible sites for development, none were submitted for Brickhill but 11 applications were sent in for Ravensden parish, including 500-600 homes on land at Graze Hill off Cleat Hill. Extra housing north of Brickhill is going to result in additional traffic through Brickhill and loss of green space, plus possible considerations about provision of schools, GP surgeries and other local facilities. The Local Plan also includes developing policies that will be used to make decisions on planning applications. The consultation period ends on 14th December 2015 and you can take part by visiting planning at www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2032. Please do take the time to comment on the plan.

School Changes Update



Local schools have been approached by the Borough and offered financial support for new classrooms to enable a change to a two-tier structure. This means that schools would become primary and secondary instead of lower, middle and upper.

Cllr Wendy Rider said "Some schools have already

changed and many others are keen to do so. We cannot have a situation where it is confusing and uncoordinated, so the council is stepping in to help ensure we have a smooth transition. Whatever your views on the different systems, a mixed picture in any one area is not helpful for local pupils, who must come first."

Locally, the suggestion is for Brickhill Lower School to become a Primary school with one class in each year group instead of two classes as now. Scott Lower School and Beauchamp Middle will become a Primary school, expanding to three form entry in September 2017.

At the time of printing this FOCUS, the council is considering the proposals put forward by schools. The council and schools will then consult with parents and the community on the proposals. Look out for information on this – it may already be available by the time this FOCUS reaches your letterbox – and make sure you have your say. Look for information on this on our website www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com.

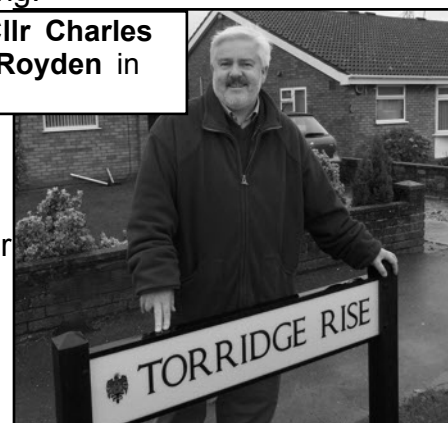


Cllr Mark Fitzpatrick
by the damaged tree
in **Pipit Rise**

Tree planting in Brickhill

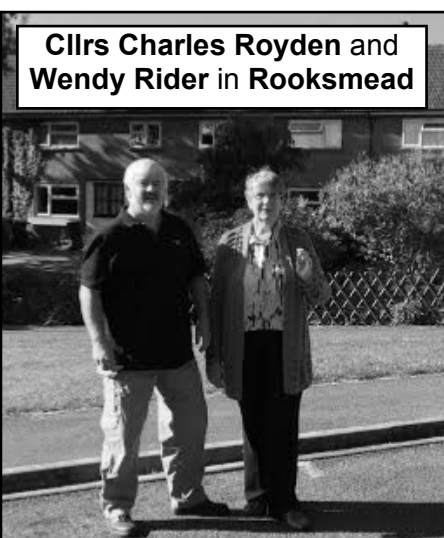
The tree planting season is from November and February and we have asked for trees to be planted in many roads across Brickhill. **Pipit Rise** will see many trees planted; this tree which was planted last year will be replaced as it was damaged by grass cutting.

Cllr Charles Royden in



Street Name Plates

We work hard to keep Brickhill looking great. This street nameplate in **Torridge Rise** was broken and has now been replaced. We have asked for other damaged street signs to be replaced including one in **Curlew Crescent**.



Cllrs Charles Royden and Wendy Rider in **Rooksmead**

Rooksmead parking

We are concerned about continuing parking problems around **Rooksmead**. Some people are parking on pavements and the green which causes obstruction and damages grassed areas. We have asked for the parking bays to be repainted to enable cars to be parked more efficiently and measures will be introduced to prevent parking on pavements where it is a hazard for pedestrians.

FOCUS Team Advice Surgeries

Liberal Democrat Councillors Surgeries

Local Brickhill surgeries

Avon Drive shops: 10am, Saturday 5th December

Brickhill Drive shops: 10am, Saturdays 21st Nov & 19th Dec



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

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

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Parish Councillors: See www.PuttingBrickhillFirst.com for full details. Wendy Rider, Charles Royden & Mark Fitzpatrick as above plus: **Peter Blakeman** ☎ 355952 📧 pj.blakeman@btopenworld.com; **Linda Darbon** ☎ 325962 📧 lindadarbon@googlemail.com; **Vince Holloway** ☎ 214533 📧 vholloway1975@hotmail.co.uk; **Ann Reeve** ☎ 343260 📧 r_reeve1@sky.com; **Corinne Royden** ☎ 309175 📧 corinneroyden@gmail.com;

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What kind of Britain do you want to live in?

Next year we will face the biggest decision of our generation – whether to stay in or leave the EU.

By voting to remain in the EU, Britain will remain a world leader and continue to be a beacon of hope, freedom and tolerance. This is the most important decision we will make. We need to make sure we win.

Only the Liberal Democrats are fighting for an open, tolerant Britain staying at the heart of Europe. The Conservatives have always been split on Europe, and Jeremy's Corbyn's Labour appears to have split as well.

Will you join our campaign to keep Britain in Europe?
www.libdems.org.uk/europe

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