

Brickhill Borough Councillors Update September 2017

From Wendy Rider and Charles Royden

Homes in Brickhill received an anonymous leaflet which stated that the Mayor was considering proposals for New Towns in Bedford Borough. It is understandable why those responsible wanted to keep their names secret. The law demands that any published and distributed publication which conveys a message must state the printer's name and address. This cowardly political attack on the Mayor and his executive was designed to provoke anxiety and misinformation amongst local residents.

It is not the Mayor but the government which places house building requirements on councils and Bedford Borough is required to allow anybody who wants to build houses to submit their proposals for consideration. Those writing the leaflet should have the courage to write to the government who set these targets, they should also supply their name and address!



The government required the Council to produce a local plan allocating land for development of a further 8,103 homes on new sites by 2035. However the government has just said that it intends to increase its requirement to an additional 6,620 homes in excess of those we are already planning for! We believe this is way over the top and we will be making a robust response to make clear that the level of housebuilding proposed for Bedford Borough is wildly excessive and our infrastructure just cannot cope.

The Council is obliged to invite applications to meet these government housing requirements and consult locally. Anybody can bring forward proposals which the council must consider. At this stage, the Council has made no decisions whatsoever on what land will be allocated for development under the Local Plan, despite the misleading implication of the leaflet. Eventually the Full Council will decide on the Local Plan, not the Mayor or his Executive.

As your local councillors we will continue to work hard and keep you informed through regular deliveries of FOCUS, surgeries and website where you can sign up for a regular Brickhill newsletter.

www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com

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