

Brickhill Borough Councillors Report January 2020 From Wendy Rider and Charles Royden



School Parking Since our last update we have been looking with officers at extensions to zig zag lines at all schools. We have already had these introduced at Scott School and we have asked for plans to be brought forward for additional measures at Brickhill Lower and St Thomas More. The parking at St Thomas More is truly shocking and we have attended at peak times and assisted officers in issuing fines for parents who are placing lives of children at serious risk. At St Thomas More we have asked for consideration of the introduction of an exclusion zone. This would allow fines to anybody driving in or out of Kennet Rise who was not authorised to do so. Officers have held preliminary discussions with the school and discussion is also taking place concerning a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

Unlawful encampments We were delighted with the quick response from council officers on Christmas Eve. They responded immediately when we advised them of an unlawful encampment and made a request for the police to use their S61 powers to evict travellers from Mowsbury Park. We were delighted that on this occasion the police responded immediately and the encampment was moved. We have asked for no camping signs to be erected at locations such as Brickhill Drive advertising High Court Protection of land. We are pleased that there have been no encampments since we introduced ditches at the site.

Transporting Bedford 2020 Manton Lane roadworks are due to be completed at the end of March and the council is progressing with plans for a restoration of the footbridge which of course we campaigned against and which should never have been removed from outside Bedford Modern School.

EV Charging We have asked the Borough Council to look at the possibility of installing fast charging points at the shopping parades on Avon and Brickhill Drive shops. These are installed as a part of a council scheme with BP/Chargemaster at no cost to the council.

Graze Hill Development The planning committee of Bedford Borough Council supported the planning officers recommendation for a development of 165 houses on Graze Hill by six votes to nil. The development will see an extension to the country park and there was agreement to our request for average speed cameras brought onto Cleat Hill to slow traffic.

Local Plan Bedford Council has been successful with the Local Plan 2030 which can now be adopted and was supported unanimously at Council Executive this week following the Inspectors report. In their final report to the Council just before Christmas the Inspectors concluded that with some modifications the Local Plan satisfies the requirements of Section 20 (5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and meets the criteria for soundness in the National Planning Policy Framework. Bedford Borough Council. This is good news for Bedford as other local councils are still struggling to have their plans approved.

2020 is River Festival Year! 2020 has arrived which means it is River Festival year here in Bedford Borough. There are so many things that visitors to the ever-popular River Festival can expect to see and do at Bedford's biggest event, returning on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 July

2020. Bedford River Festival is one of the largest outdoor events of its kind, with around a quarter of a million visitors expected at this free Festival on our beautiful river and Embankment.

This weekend brings activities on and off the water, with dragon boat and raft racing, river parades with over 100 boats on the river, and water sports demonstrations. On dry land, there will be music, entertainment, stalls to browse, the funfair, heritage village, sports activities, hovercraft rides, fireworks, and much more.

The River Festival is a fantastic community event, with clubs, groups, and companies all coming together to take part in the dragon boat or raft races, and in other events and activities throughout the weekend. If you are a trader, community group, or would like to take part in the Bedford River Festival please contact the River Festival team at events@bedford.gov.uk or visit the website <https://riverfestival.bedford.gov.uk/>

Allhallows Toilets To Be Closed for Refurbishment Works

The public toilets at Allhallows car park will be closed for 5 days next month, to enable Bedford Borough Council to carry out refurbishment works on these well-used facilities. The toilets will be closed from Sunday 2 February to Friday 5 February. In that time all the fixtures and fittings will be removed, repairs carried out to any defective or loose plasterwork, and the walls, doors and woodwork will be repainted. The fixtures and fittings will then be put back in, with the toilets reopening in time for the weekend. There will be signage in place in advance of the closure, and throughout directing people to closest alternative facilities. There are attended public facilities at St Paul's Square and Lurke Street, the Harpur Centre, and a number of facilities available throughout the town centre through the Community Toilet Scheme.

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

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