

Cllr Wendy Rider and Cllr Charles Royden Borough Councillors Report to Brickhill Parish Council

1 October 2011

Please remember we seek to keep residents informed on what is happening around Brickhill through regular updates in Focus and on our website www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com

Policing Issues

We have asked for police attention to difficulties experienced by residents in Dearne Walk and we have asked for the issue to be raised at the Community Safety Forum. All of the flats in Aelfric Court are privately owned and it appears that some new tenants are behaving in anti-social manner with drunken brawls in the street and noise late at night. We have spoken with St Cuthberts the management company to express the views of residents and private landlords have been advised of the problems being caused. The Police are monitoring the situation and have used CCTV which operates inside the building. Last year we used our ward councillor funds to purchase wireless CCTV for Brickhill which can be deployed if the police believe that this might be helpful.

The new number to call



The Police have now launched a new number providing people with a new way to get in touch about non-emergency issues. 101 is now the main number to call Bedfordshire Police when it is less urgent than 999. As well as making the police more accessible to communities, it is intended that 101 will reduce the number of inappropriate 999 calls. There will be a single flat charge of 15p per call, regardless of the duration, time of day, mobile or landline. You should call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response. However in an emergency always call 999 when you need an immediate response such as when a crime is in progress. If you wish to make contact with Police from your local Safer Neighbourhood Team their details are E-mail - SNT.Brickhill@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk Telephone – 01234 275229.

Dearne Walk Landscaping

We wrote to residents in March about our proposal to allocate ward funding towards landscaping in Dearne Walk and this received a favourable response. The first landscaping took place in Lune Walk and now that this is nearly completed we propose to instruct the Borough Council to carry out similar works in Dearne Walk. This involves the removal of some slabs and tarmac and replacement with grass. We believe that this offers an opportunity to enhance the appearance of Dearne Walk

Buses

Thank you to all of those residents who have contacted us to express views on the bus services in Brickhill. We are aware that bus services are very important to residents in Brickhill and are vital to many elderly who depend upon them. We also appreciate how important the continued bus service along Larkway has been and it is important that we are able to establish a regular and reliable service. Some residents have asked us for additional buses and we are pleased to report that following our survey, Bedford Borough Council have agreed to provide an additional service which will be of direct benefit to

people living in the vicinity of Larkway.

On a Monday to Saturday there will be a Bedford Borough Council bus service to Bedford Town Centre, the vehicle can be accessed by passengers waiting at the current bus stops on Larkway or via a hail and ride service on Dove Road. There are two additional journeys to the town centre, Monday to Saturday at 09:57 and 12:02 and two journeys arranged back from the town centre at 11:30 and 14:15.

The first bus will leave Anjulita Court at 09:50, it will arrive in Dove Road at 09:55 (Dove Road will operate on a hail and ride basis, where passengers can simply flag down the bus anywhere along Dove Road), it will then proceed to Larkway at 09:57 where it will collect passengers from the current bus stops before turning right out of Larkway onto Brickhill Drive completing the rest of its journey arriving in Harpur Street at 10:15. The second journey will leave Anjulita Court at 11:55 arriving in Dove Road at 12:00, Larkway 12:02 and Harpur Street at 12:19.

The first return journey will Leave Harpur Street (opp The Bedford Central Club) at 11:30, arriving at Larkway at 11:45, Dove Road at 11:47 and finally Anjulita Court at 12:02, The second journey will Leave Harpur Street at 14:15 arriving at Larkway at 14:30, Dove Road at 14:32 and finally Anjulita Court at 14:37.

If you have any comments about this new bus service we would be delighted to hear from you and we will be monitoring this and the existing service to ensure that the best possible public transport provision is made for residents. Full timetables can be obtained from our website www.puttingbrickhillfirst.com

There has been some concern about the quality of the vehicles used by Grant Palmer on the 28 route. These are only temporary vehicles until it can be established what size of vehicle each route requires. New vehicles will be introduced which may be smaller in size such as minibuses and people carriers which will save fuel, and be more sustainable.

We have complained to Stagecoach about the failure to operate the Number 6 around the Woodlands Estate. We are now promised this will happen in two further weeks.

Westrope Way

We are aware that Westrope Way is now being used as a through route by vehicles. The bus bollard will be operative soon. We have now agreed installation of a gate in addition to the rising bollard and also bollards across the grass. This is because we believe that bollards often fall into disrepair and they do not deter motor cycles. We are also requesting the Borough Council to change the street sign at the entrance to Westrope Way to show that the road is a cul-de-sac.

Tesco plans for Brickhill

We await the outcome of the parish poll and hope that a firm message is sent to Tesco on behalf of the community. There is currently no news from either government or the council that they will be able to take legal action against Tesco to prevent them opening. Tesco have taken over the alcohol licence from Charles Wells, which they are entitled to do unless the Police object. They will in due course have to seek to amend the alcohol licence with different terms and conditions and at this stage there can be formal objections. Tesco have now also made planning applications for infrastructure on the site.

Street Clutter

We have had complaints of the removal of signs alongside double yellow lines, such as in Wansbeck Road. These are no longer required by law and we are removing them as part of the 'Mayor Dave Street Clutter Campaign'. Please tell us if you do spot any more which you think may have been overlooked.

Proposal for Telecomms Mast in Avon Drive / Kimbolton Road

This was rejected by the Bedford Borough Council planning committee after the campaign against it. We will continue to argue for consolidation and better sites away from homes.

BPHA Garages Brickhill Drive

These are once again a health and safety risk and we have asked the Borough Council to take action to compel BPHA to behave as a responsible land owner and make the necessary repairs.

Verge Parking

Following consultation with the parish council no verge parking signs have been fitted along the full length of Tyne Crescent.

Trees

We receive continued requests for work on trees, planting or removal in equal measure! We have agreed to allocate some ward funding towards trees in Windrush and outside William Harpur House.

Catholic Federation: Proposals for changing age ranges

We have written to the Catholic Federation concerning plans to extending the age range at St Thomas More. This school currently create severe traffic and parking problems in the local areas. We recognise that all schools creates traffic and parking issues, but the situation in Kennet Rise /Tyne Crescent is made significantly worse by the lack of a normal catchment area for this school which means that a greater proportion of children travel over longer distances. It is our clear view that issues such as this are issues for the whole of the local community and need a joined up approach to resolving them. We have talked to the school on a number of occasions, and have experienced a lack of engagement. Although it will be necessary to update the schools' Green Travel Plans, not least as part of the process of submitting planning applications, these typically suffer from inadequate or incomplete implementation. We therefore ask that the Catholic Federation is requested to devise some appropriate and achievable targets alongside this process, and agree them with us, on behalf of our communities, in advance of submitting their planning applications.

Wendy Rider Charles Royden

Borough Councillor Borough Councillors, Brickhill

Please help us keep Brickhill a great place to live. Tell us about things like broken street lights, graffiti, damaged street signs. Or call the Council direct on 01234 267422