

Brickhill Borough Councillors Update April 2019

From Wendy Rider and Charles Royden



Health Issues

It is important for residents to recognise that Measles is a highly infectious viral illness which spreads very easily. People with measles can get a cough, runny nose, rash and fever. The illness can be very unpleasant and can sometimes lead to serious complications, in particular for people whose immune system is not working normally. Last year there were several measles outbreaks across the country and the total number of measles cases quadrupled to 966. 1 in 3 of those infected with measles were admitted to hospital. The best way to prevent measles is through the MMR vaccination, which is safe and highly effective; however 1 in 10 five year olds in Bedford Borough have not had both doses of MMR. The MMR vaccine is available to all adults and children who are not up to date with their 2 doses. Anyone who is not sure if they are fully vaccinated should check with their GP practice. If you would like more information on measles visit <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/Pages/introduction.aspx>

Policing in Brickhill

We have met with the police to discuss priorities for policing in Brickhill and continued progress with tackling drugs has been made a priority. The police have had considerable success in targeting offenders and some premises have been closed down as a consequence. We should encourage residents to report to the police any concerns which they have regarding drug use and dealing.

Transporting Bedford 2020

Works Begin On Manton Lane

Improvement works are set to begin on Manton Lane, as part of Transporting Bedford 2020; a £18 million project to cut traffic congestion and improve journeys across the town.

The latest phase involves the work on Manton Lane and from 23rd April, works will start to:

- Install three-way traffic lights at the junction with Bedford Modern School
- Widen the road to accommodate traffic at this new junction
- Make improvements to the operation of the existing traffic signals at the junction of Brickhill Drive/ Manton Lane

During term time, works will be restricted to between 9.30am-3.30pm which will be extended during the school holidays to 8am-6pm. This phase of works is expected to be completed by late Autumn. Further works to install a footbridge over Manton Lane, and wider improvement works around the Manton Lane/ Clapham Road and Paula Radcliffe Way/Great Ouse Way roundabouts will follow at a later date.

A Borough Council spokesperson said "Transporting Bedford 2020 will see major investment in the town roads including these measures at a well-known congestion hotspot. We apologise for any inconvenience caused while the works are carried out but ultimately they will bring benefits for all road users. There will be signage in place to make everyone aware and we would encourage you to leave ample time for your journey while the work takes place."

The work follows an in-depth study of the way traffic moves in and around the town in order to improve the situation for all road users and includes future schemes at Amphill Road, Britannia Road, Bromham Road and the High Street.

Road and Pavement Re-surfacing

The north of Kimbolton Road will be resurfaced in second week of May This has been made possible by the allocation by the Council of additional funds to tackle this priority. Mayor Dave Hodgson has also allocated additional funding to the Pot Hole Hit Squad and the new thermo patcher machine has been active to help tackle potholes across the Borough.

We are pleased at footpath resurfacing which has recently taken place on Waveney Avenue, Mowsbury Walk and road resurfacing in Windrush, Torridge Rise. More resurfacing is planned in the near future and investment continues in this priority area.

Speeding Vehicles

The Borough Council Speedwatch Vehicle has continued to operate around Brickhill and it has been greatly welcomed by residents. We have requested operation of the vehicle in additional roads including Tyne Crescent and Windrush Avenue.

Zebra crossing and Kimbolton Road crossing patrol

We have received confirmation that the zebra crossing will be completed on Kimbolton Road near to the junction with Avon Drive. This is being supplemented with the school crossing patrol in Kimbolton Road. We encourage applications for patrol persons for Waveney Avenue, at the junction with Falcon Avenue.

Rooksmead Grasscrete

Planning permission for this area of Rooksmead Green will be made soon and we look forward to this being installed over summer.

New school development for Rushmore School

Plans for the new school buildings were refused planning permission by the Borough Council. The government inspector has heard an appeal and the outcome is expect in April or May

Homelessness

The Council has been very proactive in addressing the issue of real long-term empty homes, with a reduction of over 30% in properties that have been empty for more than 5 years between August 2014 and March 2019. Through the successful Empty Homes Strategy we continue to bring down the number of these long-term empty homes in our Borough, and bring them back into use for the community.

Concorde

RAE Bedford's Contribution to Concorde at The Higgins Bedford celebrates RAE Bedford's major, but often unrecognised, contribution to Concorde, the world's first fully operational supersonic airliner. Fifty years ago, on 9 April 1969, the UK's prototype Concorde supersonic airliner made its maiden flight at Filton, near Bristol. This was the culmination of more than 20 years of advanced research at the Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE) Bedford and elsewhere. To celebrate this event the Bedford Aeronautical Heritage Group, in collaboration with The Higgins Bedford, has created a display to illustrate the major research contributions made by RAE Bedford to the Concorde project. RAE Bedford was the UK Government's main centre for flight and wind tunnel research from 1952 to 2001. It was located at two major sites to the north of Bedford, the wind tunnel complex outside Milton Ernest and the research airfield at Thurleigh.

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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