

Brickhill Borough Councillors Report June 2012

**Cllr Wendy Rider
and
Charles Royden**



Parking Brickhill Drive. There are ongoing parking problems in Brickhill Drive shops and we are seeking to have parking restrictions introduced as quickly as possible in the area. We have arranged for a large metal bell to be placed on the pavement in Kestrel Road where damage was caused to the pavement and we are working with residents to identify those responsible and ensure that companies who damage pavements are invoiced by the Borough Council to pay for the repairs.



We hope that by contacting delivery companies we may be able to avoid large unsuitable lorries being used for delivery purposes. The photograph below shows one of the lorries reversing into the back of the shops. Clearly when there are cars parked in this area the vehicles use the pavements to negotiate the turn. This is unacceptable and necessitates that parking restrictions are introduced. We have received requests from residents to ensure that the car park outside the shops also has parking bays clearly defined and measures in place to ensure that those causing an obstruction can be prosecuted.



Tyne Crescent 20mph Limit. Following the survey work which was carried out recently it has been established that Tyne Crescent would meet the criteria for the introduction of a 20mph speed restriction. We are working with the highways department to ensure that this takes place in the coming year.

Verge Parking We continue to seek the implementation of a no verge parking zone in the Brickhill Drive, Falcon Avenue area. New legislation has been introduced to allow zones to be created with less signage and this will take place in the near future.

Bus shelters. We have been campaigning for the faster replacement of bus shelters that have been removed across Brickhill. Unfortunately many local residents have been left exposed to the elements when old bus shelters were removed in an uncoordinated way by the company which lost the contract this year. Under the new deal there are no costs to the council for removal or replacement of the bus shelters. The council will pay nothing for the

maintenance of the new bus shelters and the contractor will seek to recover all costs through advertising. The new company now has three crews working seven days a week across Bedford to install the new shelters which will be in place until 2027. This is a complicated process since UK Power have to be on hand to disconnect the old shelters and then subsequently reconnect the new ones.

Roundabout Avon Drive. We were disappointed by the condition of the roundabout at Avon Drive and Waveney Avenue. The Council have now tidied up the area and are drawing up plans for an enhanced planting scheme.



Weeds. There are an extraordinary number of weeds around the roads and pavements following the exceptional rain and these are due to be sprayed in July, one of several treatments which take place each year. However there are some areas which we feel do not receive the treatment which they require and we have asked for special attention in places such as Dearne Walk and Lune Walk.

Trees. Following the successful planting of many new trees in Brickhill over the past twelve months, we still continue to receive many requests for attention to be paid to trees which were planted in unsuitable locations many years ago. Some of these concern trees such as large Field Maples planted in small residential roads. We continue to work with residents and the tree officer of Bedford Borough Council to arrange pruning or in some cases removal of the tree, if it can be shown that substantial damage has been caused.

Number 6 Bus Woodlands Estate. The Borough Council has sought to gain permission from Persimmon the lead contractor on the Woodlands Estate for the construction of a roundabout at the end of Ashmead Road. Progress is slow and there has been no agreement reached on the provision. For this reason buses are required to wait on the access road prevented from entering the estate as they cannot turn safely. This is absolutely a safety issue and not due to residents campaigning against the bus. Planning permission would be required before construction could take place and with no agreements in place we are extremely disappointed that residents still do not have a proper bus service as was set out in the original plans for the estate. Negotiations are ongoing and we hope to have a further update in the next few weeks.

Manton Lane traffic lights The junction at Manton Lane has been a source of concern for some time and the matter has been raised at the community safety forum. We are eager to see the removal of the two lane ahead system which encourages racing off from the junction towards Brickhill, increasing the speed of traffic down the hill towards Curlew Crescent. We are very pleased that after highlighting the issue, the traffic signals are due for removal and a new junction will be put in place which includes our suggestions for a left hand turn and a safe cycle lane and crossing. Plans are currently being drawn up and it is hoped the new junction will be in place in August/September.



Recycling. We have highlighted the problem of overflowing bottle banks and this is now being tackled by the Borough Council. In preparation for celebrations this coming summer, the Council is providing extra glass recycling containers at some of the busiest bottle banks in the Borough.

Last year residents recycled over 2,150 tonnes of glass, and it is expected that this figure will continue to increase as more and more residents continue to make use of these facilities. Over the festive period this summer extra containers will be available at Sainsbury's in Clapham and Kempston, Tesco's in Goldington and Kingsbrook, and **Avon Drive Shops** in Brickhill.

Mayor of Bedford Borough, Dave Hodgson, said: "We are committed to continuing to improve waste and recycling services in the borough. We hope that these additional facilities will make glass recycling more convenient for residents, which will in turn help to increase the councils' recycling rate and reduce the amount of glass needlessly going to landfill."

Glass is perfect for recycling – it can be recycled back into new bottles and jars over and over again; used for road surfacing or in construction products such as bricks and concrete blocks. Recycling glass saves energy too - recycling two bottles saves enough energy to boil water for five cups of tea, or to run a Nintendo Wii for 10 hours! Remember: blue glass bottles can be recycled in the green container and red glass bottle can be recycled in the brown container! For more information on recycling and waste services in Bedford Borough or to find your nearest glass recycling site and please contact us on 01234 267422 or visit www.bedford.gov.uk/recycling.



We are currently negotiating new waste contracts for the domestic waste of Bedford and the Mayor is expected to announce proposals in the near future. We are expecting great news about the ability to recycle glass in the orange bins.

Brickhill Action Day We were delighted to be able to spend time at the recent Action Day with all the major agencies involved in supporting the local community. Brickhill Parish Council, The Police, Fire Service, Borough Council, BPHA and Places for People. All worked together in Brickhill visiting homes and tackling local problems. These days are extremely helpful and sometimes help save lives, the Fire Service were giving away free smoke alarms.



BPHA Garages Brickhill Drive

We continue to work closely with all of our partners to provide the very best services. We are particularly appreciative of all of the youth work which takes place run by BPHA. This has had a dramatic impact upon some areas of anti social behaviour and has been welcomed by residents. Sadly we are not impressed that BPHA have still not responded to our request to clean up the unsafe garages in Brickhill Drive. We have made it clear that this issue will not go away and we will continue to work hard on behalf of local residents who are fed up with this neglect.

Contact us

If we can of any assistance to residents then please do not hesitate to contact us, we are always pleased to help.

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