

Annual Report

2011- 2012



Brickhill Parish Council's Gathering on the Green, August 2011

CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

The Annual Parish Meeting is not a council meeting. It is a meeting of parish electors and local organisations, including the Parish Council. It gives the chance to share news of achievements over the past year and of plans for the future.

WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL 2011/2012

Over the past year, the Parish Council has met 10 times. There have also been meetings of its Planning Committee and other groups.

There were no elections during the last municipal year. Jacky Hall and later Dean Crofts were co-opted. Jacky resigned in the autumn; after advertising the vacancy, no election was called, so the Parish Council will fill this vacancy by co-option shortly.

Francesca Johnstone is the Clerk to the Parish Council; she joined in June 2011 and has been settling in well. She has thrown herself into the job, including undertaking various training courses. Alison Southern is the Assistant Clerk and Allotments Officer.

The Parish Council appoints one representative to the Brickhill Community Association, which manages the Brickhill Community Centre on behalf of the Parish Council. I am an ex-officio member of the Brickhill Community Safety Forum committee. I continue to serve as a member of the County Committee of Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils.

Cllr Peter Blakeman is Brickhill Parish Council's nominated highways representative. Several councillors are regular participants in the Borough's Town and Parish Council partnership. Cllr Ray Waterhouse is the Vice-Chair of the Parish Council. I want to thank all the councillors for their work on behalf of Brickhill. All are volunteers, who receive no financial gain for their work as Parish Councillors.

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE

The Parish Council office moved from St Mark's to Brickhill Community Centre during the year. I am sorry to have left St Mark's, but think that having its own new office will be a benefit to the Council staff.

BRICKHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE AND WAVENEY GREEN TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

These were leased by the Borough Council to the Parish Council at the start of May 2011, for 99 years. Considerable work has been undertaken over the past year to ensure that the Green is properly managed. Contracts have been let for grass cutting and other services; a local resident has been appointed to pick litter and recently some dangerously cracked sections of footpath have been repaired. This autumn work will be carried to some of the trees. Following consultation with various groups, an application has been submitted for funding for additional play facilities for very young children; this would be sited near the existing play area.

Waveney Green continues to be used for Saturday morning football and also by the Brickhill Baptist Church's football tournament during May and June.

Another successful Gathering on the Green event was held on the Green last summer, with this year's event moved to Tuesday 5th June to coincide with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Offers of help for the event would be welcome.

Brickhill Community Association continues to run the Brickhill Community Centre on a day-to-day basis, with the Parish Council responsible for the more structural maintenance. The relationship has worked well over the past year.

ALLOTMENTS

The Parish Council continues to run the allotments at the top of Brickhill Drive. Demand for plots remains high and we give priority to Brickhill residents.

COMMUNICATION

The Council has published 4 newsletters over the past year. We have display boards at Avon Drive and Brickhill Drive shops and a new board by the bus shelter next to Waveney Green. The website continues to grow; the Parish Council is now on Twitter and Facebook.

BRICKHILL COMMUNITY PLAN

Work has started on the implementation of the plan. The Brickhill Good Neighbours Scheme was launched at the Annual Parish Meeting tonight. The Safer Brickhill section of the plan is being looked after by the Brickhill Community Safety Forum. Other parts of the plan are being progressed by the Parish Council and other partners, such as bpha.

POLICING

There have been further changes in local policing. Brickhill no longer has a beat PC or PCSO. Consequently the Police Post in St Mark's Church Community Centre has closed. It had been funded by the Parish Council as part of our 'Brickhill Policing Partnership', with the Police and St Mark's. The Parish Council has written to the Chief Constable expressing our concern about the loss of this local police presence, as we believe it will lead to reactive policing, with much less engagement with the Brickhill community.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tidy-ups were held in June (Westrope Way) and September (Brickhill Drive). Bulb planting took place on Waveney Green earlier this year.

TESCO

The decision of Charles Wells not to support the 'Keep the Bird' community group was disappointing; their decision to sell to Tesco even more so. After residents requesting a Parish Poll, the Parish Council provided support to this process: facilitating a Parish Meeting and then distributing a leaflet to explain the Poll to residents. Despite an overwhelming vote opposing the opening of a Tesco Express in the former Bird in Hand, the store was opened earlier this year. There were no powers available to the Parish Council to prevent this. Subsequent to the opening of the Tesco Express, further problems have been caused by the impact of extra parking and deliveries to the store; these are still unresolved.

WOODLANDS PARK

Most of the houses on the new estate are now built and the playing fields and North Brickhill Country Park is taking shape. Only the approach to Woodlands Park is officially in Brickhill Parish. The Parish Council's policy is that it believes it makes sense for the housing to be part of Brickhill Parish; progress to achieve this was delayed by discussions about parishing other parts of Bedford. I hope it may now be possible to make progress regarding Woodlands Park.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Parish Council is supporting the Brickhill Community Safety Forum and the Good Neighbours Scheme. The grant scheme is open to all local groups.

PARISH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE SINCE MAY 2011 ELECTIONS

COUNCILLOR	MAY	JUNE	Extra June	JULY	SEPT	OCT	NOV	JAN	FEB	MAR
Blakeman	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chambers	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Darbon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Josephs	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Fitzpatrick	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ovenell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rider	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Charles Royden	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Corinne Royden	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Waterhouse	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wilkins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hall		✓	✓	✓	✗	✗				
Dean							✓	✓	✓	✓

FINANCES

YEAR END ACCOUNTS SUMMARY 2011-2012

2010-11	RECEIPTS	2011-12
57,700.00	Precept	107,734.00
6,814.18	Allotment Receipts	6,650
268.00	Newsletter Advertising	650.00
86.75	Interest	120.09
631.95	VAT	2,376.14
-	Grants Received	
405.27	Admin	152
719.14	Other/Smartwater	3455.45
66,625.29		121,137.68
	PAYMENTS	
32,567.69	Staff Costs	29,585.18
11,767.25	Administration/Audit Fees/Affiliation Fees	10,035.53
4,148.71	Allotments	4,664.11
-	Allotment Maintenance Reserves	4,000.00
2,400.00	Brickhill Policing Partnership	1,800
3,884.41	Publicity	3,715.10
572.52	VAT on payments	4,980.35
400.00	Grants/Community Events (S137)	4,731.06
-	Waveney Green/Brickhill Community Centre	21,158.95
367.88	Hall Hire	318.50
-	Brickhill Community Centre Residual Fund	21,000.00
6,543.42	Other	2,975.81
62,651.88		109,611.41

ALLOCATED RESERVES HELD	2011-12
Gratuity Fund	1,134.00
IT Fund	78.00
Election Costs*	12091.00
Allotment Maintenance	4804.00
Allotment Key Deposit	700.00
Plot Deposit	1000.00
Brickhill Community Centre	7000.00
Waveney Green	6000.00
Legal Fees relating to transfer of assets	1730.00
Brickhill Community Centre Residual Fund	21,000.00
	55,537.00
Bank Balances as at 31.03.2012	
Current Account	46,876.99
Allocated Reserves (Deposit Account)	58,082.31
Total	104,959.30

The Parish Council precept for 2012-2013 is £107,855.

Parish Council tax is £33.16 for Band D properties, no change from 2010/11.



Mark Fitzpatrick

Chairman

14 May 2012

REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Councillor Rider gave a brief report on behalf of the Ward Councillors

Full reports for can be viewed on the website within the Borough Councillors page.

Update on roundabout for Woodlands Park Estate- Cllr Rider reiterated that they are not ward councillors for the housing estate however they are currently investigating installing a roundabout. This would enable buses to penetrate the development and turn safely.

Brickhill Drive shops - as discussed at a previous Parish Council meeting they are currently looking into feasibility of expanding the car park to ease congestion. They have also been encouraged to hear from the Nisa store manager that their business has not been adversely affected by the new Tesco store and that takings are unchanged.

PRESENTATIONS

- Simon Fisher- Parks and Countryside Manager Bedford Borough Council (North Brickhill Country Park)
- Vicki Barrett (Chair of Brickhill Good Neighbours Scheme)
- Ed Burnett- Countryside Sites Officer (Parkwood Nature Reserve)
- Anita Barker -Headteacher, Scott Lower School Update
- Brickhill Guides 3rd Divison- update on grant received to attend World Scout Jamboree
- Cllr Dean Crofts-Brickhill Parish Council (Update on Community Led Plan)
- Brian Marsh- Community Safety Forum
- PcSO Nick Attwater- Update from Bedfordshire Police
- Kim Norris- BPHA

CLOSE

Cllr Fitzpatrick thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk to the Council:	Francesca Johnstone
Assistant Clerk to the Council:	Alison Southern
Parish Council Office:	Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive, Bedford MK41 7AF
Telephone:	☎01234 271708
Email:	clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website:	www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk
Meetings:	First Thursday of every month (except August and December) at St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford MK41 7UY
Weekly "drop-in" session:	Every Tuesday 10 am to 12 noon at Brickhill Community Centre Avon Drive, Bedford MK41 7AF
Parish Councillor Surgeries:	Saturday mornings – see notice boards for details Before each Parish Council Meeting 7 pm to 7.30 pm at St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford MK41 7UY