

## **Brickhill Borough Councillors Report April 2011**

As we enter the election period we would like to extend our thanks to all of those who have assisted us throughout the past two years as we have served Brickhill as Borough Councillors. We are pleased to have served in a Borough which has dealt so sensitively towards protecting front line services whilst managing to deliver what has been reported as the largest council tax reduction in England.

### **Woodlands Estate**

We continue to be asked for assistance by residents of the Woodlands Estate with a variety of matters.

1. A bus service has now been provided specifically for the residents of Anjulita Court. This has been necessary especially since the No 10 service is still unable to access the estate owing the poor condition of the roads. We hope that this will be rectified shortly and then a proper trial and assessment can be made of the suitability of the entire route. This will then enable us to assess future commercial operations and address the concerns of those residents of Falcon Avenue who have complained about the bus service operating and wish to see an alternative route used. There is considerable and justifiable concern about the destruction of the grass verge in Falcon.
2. The landscaping has started and work is proceeding with the football pitches and eventually the building of changing rooms on site.
3. The Mayor toured the estate, every home was invited to meet with him and concerns were made known. The Mayor subsequently met with the MD of Persimmon to discuss resolving the matter raised.
4. We understand that there is progress on providing a 'gate' between Browney Path and Grenadier.
5. We are currently working to address an allegation that contractors have buried rubbish on site.

### **Ward Fund**

Late in the day we received news that the crossing proposed at Falcon Avenue/Waveney would cost in excess of 80k. We have therefore put our remaining funds into resolving problems in Lune Walk with landscaping and also the provision of a wireless CCTV camera for use in Brickhill only. This camera has now been purchased and will be sited at the entrance of Carron Road to help tackle some anti-social behaviour issues. The camera can be moved four times in a year included in the funding. We have also provided 1k towards the Waveney Green football to help line pitches etc. We are delighted to report that Scott Lower, Brickhill Lower and Beauchamp have all received Photo Voltaic Panels completely free of charge, funded half by our ward funds and half by the Mayor's Climate Change Fund. This will effectively give the schools some carbon free electricity and a grant worth £1,500 tax free and index linked for 25 years!

### **Road Resurfacing**

Avon Drive will be subject to road resurfacing in the next 12 months on those parts which were not covered previously. Nursery Gardens is expected to be fully resurfaced in the next few weeks. The pothole hit squads are working hard to address our crumbling roads which have suffered after years of neglect, these are more readily fixed and councillors should report any issues. We are aware that some road humps on Tyne Crescent need attention.

## **Street Clutter**

We have asked for signs to be removed at the new roundabouts on Avon Drive and Tyne Crescent and also the pedestrian crossing. Please advise us if you know of any additional unwanted signs.

## **Gritting**

We are delighted that Curlew Crescent will now be routinely gritted as part of the normal run by Bedford Borough Council. We are also pleased that Plover way and Swift will be cleared of snow and gritted during severe winter weather.

## **School Parking**

The CCTV vehicle is having an effect at schools and many tickets have been issued. However there are problems at Beauchamp Middle and we have met with the Headteacher Mrs Ellis and involved the Borough Council Highways to see if a better system can be devised. We have received several concerned emails from residents who feel that the expansion of St Thomas More will have a detrimental impact. Changes will soon be made to the yellow lines in Kennet Rise which will allow better enforcement.

## **Anti-Social Behaviour**

Wendy Rider is working with BPHA to address the concerns of residents living on the Goldcrest Way / Eagle Gardens Estate. Karen Nicholson from BPHA is now operating a youth group at St Marks and this is going well. We have reported several issues of graffiti which have been dealt with quickly by the Borough Council. Some graffiti in private areas is more difficult to have removed, requiring owner permission, this is the case with obscene drawings in Dearne Walk garages.

## **Trees**

We continue to address the reports of overgrown trees, dead trees and requests for new trees. Tree requests are dealt promptly. We have been disappointed that the Borough Council plans for tree planting in Hamble Road met with opposition from residents and this has now been cancelled. However there are other residents who are keen to see trees near their homes.

## **Road Marking**

We have requested that the road markings on the uphill approach to the junction of Brickhill Drive and Manton Lane be changed to left lane turn left, right lane straight ahead. We have also asked for cycle signs to be placed on the footpath and the bottom of Larkway.

## **Places for People & BPHA**

We have attended the walkabout on the Carron Road Estate and reported several issues subsequently including, fly tipping and graffiti. We have asked BPHA to investigate their policy in relation to persons trapped in the lift. This follows a lengthy episode in which residents were trapped and advised that they might be stuck for an hour.

## **Wendy Rider & Charles Royden**