

Brickhill



**Sustainable Community Plan
2011-2016**



Brickhill Community Plan 2011-2016

Over the past year, the Bedford Borough Partnership and Brickhill Parish Council, supported by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity have been working with volunteer representatives of the community in Brickhill to put together a Community Plan.

Brickhill was selected as a pilot for the new Sustainable Community Plan approach in Bedford borough that used the Borough wide Sustainable Community Strategy as a template for producing a local level plan in a format that is both useful to the community and which can easily feed up into borough wide strategies.

This contains a series of actions to address the priorities identified by you, the residents of Brickhill, through a number of community events and a detailed questionnaire to all households.

This Plan will be delivered by various agencies, but we will also need your help as local residents. Please visit www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk or phone **01234 271708** to find out how you can get involved in making Brickhill an even better place to live.

This is a summary version of the Plan. You can download the full community plan at www.brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk or view a hard copy of the plan at the Parish Council offices at St Mark's Church & Community Centre.

Thank you to all residents who took part in one of our consultation events or completed the questionnaire.



A Greener Brickhill

Environment and Climate Change

One of your highest priorities was to keep Brickhill as a green, quiet area. You wanted to maintain and improve the street scene and natural environment, and remove unsightly overhead pylons.

Our aims are to:

- Make a range of enhancements to the natural environment, and protect existing green open spaces
- Support successful completion of a Country Park for Brickhill
- Increase the accessibility and extent of the Public Rights of Way network, as well as routes and facilities for cycling
- Promote use of allotments
- Keep Brickhill clean and tidy, and improve maintenance of trees and verges
- Continue to pursue the removal of overhead pylons
- Focus on reducing Brickhill's carbon footprint



An Aspiring Brickhill

Children & Young People

Young people and their parents would welcome more activities and facilities being available in Brickhill, or more accessible through transport.

Already since starting this plan there is work being undertaken by a number of agencies including BPHA, local schools, the Youth Service and Brickhill Baptist Church to support and work with young people in the area.

Our aim is to:

- Provide more activities, facilities and transport for young people.

A Healthy Brickhill

Adult Health & Well-being

While people in Brickhill generally enjoy good health, many people experience difficulties in accessing health services, particularly when they do not have their own transport. Some people expressed an interest in receiving occasional help from neighbours in order to continue living independently at home.

Our aims are to:

- Set up a Good Neighbour Scheme to provide assistance to residents
- Increase accessibility of medical facilities for Brickhill residents
- Organise healthy living activities to help maintain long term health of residents



A Safer Brickhill

Safer Communities

People generally feel safe in Brickhill, although there is a wish for a more regular, visible Police presence. While crime rates for Brickhill remain below the Borough average, concerns were highlighted about anti-social behaviour, burglary, vandalism and vehicle crime. In terms of road safety, speeding, dangerous parking, potholes and road conditions were highlighted as problems.

Our aims are to:

- Further improve communication between Police & local community
- Seek volunteers in order to widen Neighbourhood Watch Scheme coverage
- Reduce fear of crime
- Reduce noise nuisance & anti social behaviour
- Remove or improve run-down garage blocks
- Reduce speeding and dangerous parking
- Improve road safety in icy weather



A Thriving Brickhill

Economic Development, Regeneration and Enterprise

Relatively few jobs are provided in Brickhill, so the vast majority of working residents commute outside the parish. Increasing the provision of shops and other services locally would help to provide more local employment and reduce reliance on transport.

Our aims are to:

- Increase range of shops and services available
- Co-ordinate provision of job search support
- Pilot different options to encourage more use of the bus service



An Inclusive Brickhill

Social Inclusion, Community Cohesion and Culture

Brickhill is already quite a vibrant community, and there is clearly demand for more community activities as well as more information about what is available. Less than a third of you felt that you could influence decisions made about your local area.

Our aims are to:

- Improve promotion of activities and services available in Brickhill
- Help residents to influence decisions affecting their local area
- Organise more community events & activities
- Encourage take-up of adult education classes





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BOROUGH COUNCIL



BRICKHILL
PARISH COUNCIL

Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP.
Town Hall, St. Paul's Square, Bedford, MK40 1SJ.

Phone: 01234 267422 **Fax:** 01234 221606 **Web:** www.bedford.gov.uk