



9th September 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

Community Governance Review for the Parishes of Brickhill and Clapham

1) Brickhill Parish Council supports the re-alignment of the boundary between Brickhill and Clapham parishes [as shown on the enclosed map](#), as we believe that the area that would become part of Brickhill Parish is more closely related to Brickhill than it is to Clapham:

- The area either side of Ashmead Road, including the two formal football pitches, the changing rooms, the informal kick-about area and the open grassed area, are only accessible by road from Brickhill. Residents of Woodlands Park, now part of Brickhill Parish, drive through this section of Ashmead Road when entering and leaving the estate.
- St Thomas More Upper School is accessed solely from Brickhill. Currently only part of the tennis courts are within Brickhill.
- Little Park Farm - this is accessible solely from Hawk Drive in Brickhill.
- A simple re-alignment of the parish boundary to include the above would also move a small wooded area into Brickhill.

Moving these areas into Brickhill Parish would give the parish council a more formal role in commenting on and addressing issues that arise there.

2) A number of properties on the eastern side of Brickhill should be formally removed from the Parish ([maps have been sent with this letter to illustrate this](#)).

In the case of Rowallan Drive, No.2a Rowallan Drive was formally moved out of Brickhill Parish in the previous Community Governance Review, but due to an error in the map published in the “Bedford Borough Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance Order 2014)” this is not shown. Instead No. 1 Rowallan Drive appears to have been moved out of Putnoe and moved into Brickhill. Yet for council tax and electoral purposes both properties are treated as Putnoe. As a result of this map error, both Nos. 1 and 2a Rowallan Drive are shown on Election Maps UK as in Brickhill. In the case of Maple Place, a developer bought No.2 Polhill Avenue, on old house in Kimbolton Road and bits of 2 adjacent gardens. The developer then built four houses which became Maple Place (accessed from between 2 and 2a Polhill Avenue) and two houses that are accessed directly from Kimbolton Road. The current boundary corresponds to the former boundaries between the Polhill Avenue houses and the Kimbolton Road/Ellis Road houses. Two of the Maple Place properties are completely in Brickhill, while two are partly in Brickhill.

In the Brickhill/Ravensden Community Governance Review, No. 2a Rowallan Drive was removed from Brickhill Parish. To be consistent, the same action should be taken to No. 1 Rowallan Drive and the four properties in Maple Place. None of these properties are accessed directly from Brickhill Parish. In both council tax and electoral registration perspectives, none

of these five properties are being considered to be in Brickhill. However the definitive parish boundary map shows they are either in or partly in Brickhill Parish.

3) The Borough Council wishes to see any parish governance in the Borough to be robust, representative and enabled to meet the challenges that lay before it. Brickhill Parish Council has 15 councillors (including one current vacancy) representing the parish through 4 parish wards. The Parish Council has achieved Foundation Status in Local Council Award Scheme and is working towards Quality Status. It communicates with residents through newsletters, its website and social media. Adjusting the parish boundary would enable greater cohesiveness between the local community in Brickhill and the Parish Council.

4) The Borough Council is consulting on a range of aspects of Community Governance. Brickhill Parish Council's views on these matters are:

1. Parish Council name - no change is proposed to the name 'Brickhill Parish Council'.
2. Parish Warding - no change from the current 4 wards. Having wards supports a closer relationship between councillors and the residents of an area.
3. Names of parish wards - no change needed to the names of the current wards (East, North, South and West, Woodlands Park). They are descriptive and fair representations of the parts of the parish.
4. Number of councillors - no change from the current 15. This number enables a similar ratio of electors to councillors to occur across Brickhill Parish.
5. Electoral arrangements - the parish council supports changes taking effect as soon as possible; on the assumption that it is not necessary to have a further set of elections prior to May 2019.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Sue Bottoms
Clerk
Brickhill Parish Council