

## Woodlands Park Update

On the front page of Brickhill News (January 2014), the Parish Council reported that Bedford Borough Councilors had formally agreed that Woodlands Park would join Brickhill Parish from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. As part of that transfer, Brickhill Parish Council would receive £20,117.50 currently being held by Ravensden Parish Council which represented some of the council tax collected by Ravensden from Woodlands Park. The article made clear the intention of Brickhill Parish Council to consult with Woodlands Park residents to secure the maximum benefit from these monies for Woodlands Park and to ensure the money was used wisely. The newsletter is delivered to all houses on Woodlands Park.

On the front page of Brickhill News (May 2014), the Parish Council devoted the whole of the page to recapping the situation and announcing a consultation with residents. A tear off slip was provided for ideas to be sent into the Parish Council but residents were also encouraged to e-mail the Clerk. A request for ideas was mentioned on the newsfeed on the Brickhill Parish Council website.

Following the request for ideas, the Clerk logged all suggestions, including any contact details provided. In total, there were 49 ideas from 30 residents.

Suggestions by Woodlands Residents regarding the spending of the £20,000 held by Ravensden Parish Council	Respondents	Address
<b>Highways</b>		
Tackling highways problems (narrow section of Ashmead Rd and re-prioritise some of the junctions.	1	no address given
Traffic flow, rights of way and parking	1	Crispin Drive
Prohibit parking on Ashmead Rd (section leading to T junction at Lexton Way), two lines of parked cars/vans on bend make it impossible to see from a car any approaching vehicles - accident waiting to happen). At least prohibit parking on one side of road this section from pedestrian boulevard leading to care home to Laxton Way T junction.	1	no address given
Don't believe there is a problem with any "narrow" sections of Ashmead Road. The problem is the way that people park. I feel everyone wants to park right outside their doors rather than in their designated parking spots, this in my opinion is selfish as the new number 20 bus sometimes cannot make its way to the end of the route at Crispin Drive. Maybe the enforcement of traffic regulations should be considered, such as not parking opposite a T junction.	2	Saltcote Way
Speed calming on Ashmead Rd at the pedestrian cross roads for Anjuilita Court and also as you turn right at the bottom all along the road. Please could these be a Chicane system rather than speed humps. This will also help with the car parking problem along that stretch by Anjuilita Court.	1	no address given

Double yellow lines to all junctions along Ashmead Road as vehicles continuously park within these junctions creating vehicular conflict and potential for accidents. Bus stop road markings to the bus stops on there are vehicles always parked across the stops. Ashmead Road at the green belt as there are vehicles always parked across the stops.	2	no address given
Traffic calming/flashing signs or bollards to stop people parking in silly places	1	no address given
<b>Footpaths</b>		
Proper path around the Country Park - wheelchair access etc	1	Crispin Drive
Pavement running on the inside of the green of the approach road as well as the outside. In the Summer people walk that way in and out of the estate to save time, but in the Winter it is too muddy. Would provide a bit of shelter for people going to the number 6 bus stop each day and save mums with buggies and children going to and from school an extra long walk in the cold weather. If it is cold/wet/windy, the pavement into and out of the estate can feel like Siberia.	1	no address given
<b>Noticeboards</b>		
In the area of the bridleway where it meets Ashmead Road	1	Bramley Way
Info board near large play area with a "you are here" and indicating the footpaths round the park and up through and round the woods as this could include links to the Park Wood area and path through to Manton Lane, part of the John Bunyan trail.	1	no address given
<b>Seats</b>		
Places to sit and admire the views.	1	Bramley Way
Benches at highest point of country park (up the hill behind Anj Court). Good 360 degree view	1	no address given
A few benches in the country park overlooking Bedford would be nice.	1	Westrope Way
Bench near the lake	1	no address given
A covered picnic area or benches	1	no address given
<b>Dog Bins/Litter Bins</b>		
in particular on the promenade	1	Crispin Drive
in the area of the bridle way which runs through the development. Also one at the junction of Ashmead Road and one by the pond by the trees/play area	1	Bramley Way
Dog Bins Generally	1	no address given
A dog poo bin at the end of the path from the woods to the road for the visitors who drive from outside the estate.	1	no address given
Near the path at the bottom of Ashmead Road (Near the lake).	1	no address given
Litter bins and also dog bins	1	no address given

Play Areas		
Improvement to the play area adj to football pitches/entrance to WP - toddler equipment as there are no facilities for young children	1	no address given
Green gym - benefits all ages - helps delivery Public Health commitments of Borough by improving health and reducing vehicle movements	1	Woodlands Park
More for teenagers, perhaps a basketball net near the owl park with a seating area close by for them.	1	no address given
MUGA (floodlit) like on the Norse Rd estate - could be near existing changing rooms	1	no address given
Others		
Allotments - too far to travel to Brickhill ones especially carrying spades etc.	1	Aire Walk
Community Orchard - perhaps walnut and filbert trees as well - good future legacy	1	Aire Walk
"Woodlands Park" sign at the entrance to the estate off Tyne Crescent	1	Crispin Drive
Safety Gates on the big park	1	Crispin Drive
Formal gates for entry into country park rather than the fences being destroyed/unbolted. Living on Saltcote Way such an entry on this rd would be a great asset to this an surrounding roads. Need to be such to stop vehicles/motor cycles.	1	no address given
Child proof gates along the metal fence separating us from the countryside	1	Woodlands Park
Toilet provision for those visiting park and playground or watching matches	1	no address given
Put money back into the environment for the wildlife, since the development is now near full completion there does not seem to be as many wild animals around (missed the sound of the lapwings this year). Some colour of wild flowers would be nice, especially to the entrance of Woodlands	1	no address given
Faster broadband - the provision in Woodlands Park is no better than dial-up speed, whilst everywhere else in Brickhill appears to have superfast fibre connections.	1	Saltcote Way
Glass re-cycling point. Perhaps in the car park of the Woodlands Park football pitches	1	no address given
<p>Improvised footbridge that joins the two parts of the country park across the stream be improved to a higher standard. In winter or in the muddy conditions it is very difficult to cross the stream at this point if attempting to do a circular walk around the country park. the bridge further down that joins the sports pitches isn't suitable for a walk starting on the east along BW53.</p> <p>A better bridge was built last year by the contractors but was destroyed by vandals. Also the fences around the tree planting areas restricts access along the hedgerow. Some information boards showing the history and development of the country park in various locations would be good.</p>	1	Westrope Way

Directional signage through Clapham Park Wood to indicate where the various paths lead to	1	no address given
Tidy up communal grassed areas and tackle the regular fly- tipping issue from the Carron Rd estate including repairing/re- enforcing the boundary fence dividing the two estates	1	no address given
CCTV	1	no address given
<b>Community Centre</b>		
convert the changing rooms	1	no address given
Centre which could be used by elderly for local activities and families	1	no address given
Community Centre- possibly next to the football pitch	1	Sturmer Road
Community Centre	1	no address given
Community Centre	1	no address given
Woodlands Park is fortunate to have a car park and changing rooms close to its entrance, but to the best of my knowledge are rarely used. How about using funds to extend/transform the building in to some sort of community hall	1	Crispin Drive
Woodlands Park community centre	1	no address given
<b>Total:- 49 ideas from 30 residents</b>	49	

In the July issue of Brickhill News, a list of the suggested ideas was provided.

At the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014 Parish Council meeting, it was agreed that the Clerk contact all those contributors who had provided contact details and invite them to take part in a Working Group to review the ideas and decide the next steps.

In total, 6 residents expressed an interest in taking part; dates were offered and the first meeting took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014 with later meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December and 4<sup>th</sup> February. The aim was to look at the range of ideas and look at ways they might be taken forward. At the November meeting, a number of ideas were removed from the list. Some had already been dealt with e.g. broadband and Grenadier Close/Browney Path access; others which mainly centred around highways issues were identified as matters to be raised with the Borough Council and so removed from the list for consideration. In the December 2014 Brickhill News, mention was made of the Working Group and the suggestions being considered.

The Working Group appreciated that it would not be possible to fund all the suggestions from the £20,117.50, so at the February Working Party meeting, the ideas were split into:-

- Parish Council responsibility:- including provision of noticeboards (monies have been set aside in the budget for 2015-16 for those), or could be done with no finance from the £20,117.50 e.g. a community orchard/wildflower planting.
- From the £20,117.50:-
  - i) In total: The provision of kissing gates in the metal fencing around the estate,

benches/picnic benches both on the Country Park and around the estate, dog waste bins and signage for the Country Park were ideas that might be funded from the monies coming across from Ravensden and these ideas total led £8,785.

- ii) Seed Monies from the £20,117.50: Other ideas, a MUGA, CCTV cameras, a green gym and an area on the Owl Park more suitable to smaller children, could individually cost more than the sum available (£20,117.50), so the only way they could be delivered would be through obtaining grants or community contributions. Some seed monies from this sum may be needed to enable access to these funds.
- Community Facilities: This idea was supported by a number of residents, however the difficulty is that this is a big project and also would be expensive. The option of converting the existing football changing rooms was suggested but the FA requires changing rooms for senior football matches. A new building would be a six figure sum and so the sum available would be totally insufficient to even get the project started.

We looked at the possibility of a second-hand building but the costs of installing and making it operational would also likely to be in excess of the sum available.

The Parish Council is considering the possibilities of developing a neighbourhood plan in the future which would look at community provision across the whole area.

These were the recommendations put to the Parish Council at its February meeting. The Parish Council broadly accepted these proposals and in May there will be two elected representatives from Woodlands Park who will be involved in the final spending decisions from the £20,117.50.

The Parish Council welcomes further comments on this topic; please send them to the Clerk [clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brickhillparishcouncil.gov.uk) so that they can be considered.