



Cycling in Brickhill is encouraged but NOT on the pavement

Cycling offers mobility for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. It is a quick mode of transport for door to door short journeys and saves money on parking and fuel. At the same time it is great to keep you fit and healthy and goes some way to help reduce traffic congestion, air pollution and climate change.

In Brickhill some 5 to 10% of residents already use a bicycle to cycle to work, school, railway station, shops, etc or simply for leisure. They are able to do this using Bedford's extensive cycle network of off-road paths and tracks, quiet roads and on-road cycle lanes along more busier roads. Yes there are still some gaps and some sections not so good as others but it is possible to get to all locations in Brickhill and the whole of the town safely. There are more than 65 signalled cycle crossings of which Brickhill has four and three underpasses.

Please do not give cyclists a bad name by riding on pavements/footways by the side of roads unless they have been classified as dual use for cyclists and pedestrians.

Unfortunately it is not just in Brickhill where pavement riding occurs with regular frequency but in the whole of Bedford and many other towns and cities.

Most of Brickhill's residential roads are now 20mph zones which make them safer for vulnerable people including cyclists. Please use the roads instead of the adjacent pavement/footway.

A plea to motorists - please consider the possible presence of cyclists and respect the speed limit and when overtaking always leave a minimum clearance of 1.5 metres.

For safe cycling experienced cyclists always ride at least 0.75 metre away from the kerb to avoid drain covers, edge of road potholes and possible debris and when approaching a narrow section take the 'primary position', that is, the centre of the carriageway to avoid being squeezed or pinched against the kerb. In all manoeuvres please indicate your intention clearly and in good time.

A Code of Conduct for Cyclists on Shared Use and Segregated Paths

Cyclists tend to be the fastest movers on shared use and segregated paths, but most are not suitable for high speeds so it is important to keep cycling speed under control.

Following this code of conduct will ensure that everyone can benefit from shared paths:

- Cycle at a sensible speed and do not use the paths for recording times with challenge apps or for fitness training.
- Pass a cyclist as you would on the road, stay left, so that an oncoming cyclist passes on your right.
- Always give way to pedestrians.
- Be courteous and patient with pedestrians and other path users who are moving more slowly than you – shared paths are for sharing.
- Use your bell or give an audible greeting to avoid surprising people.
- Do not assume pedestrians (or other cyclists) can see or hear you – remember that many people are hard of hearing, visually impaired or may be using earphones.
- Slow down when space is limited or if you cannot see clearly ahead
- Be particularly careful at junctions, bends, entrances onto the path, or any other ‘blind spots’ where people (including children) could appear in front of you without warning.
- In dull and dark weather make sure you have and use both front and rear lights and wear high visibility clothing so you can be seen.

Tips for pedestrians:

- Keep dogs under control, particularly those on extended leads.
- Keep to the correct side of segregated paths.

For further information see:

Cycle training (Bikeability)	- http://www.cyclebedford.org.uk/cycletrainingcb.htm
Cycle Map of Bedford and Kempston	- http://www.cyclebedford.org.uk/cyclemapcb.htm
Cycling in Brickhill	- http://www.cyclebedford.org.uk/brickhill.htm
Bedford Cycling Quotes/Facts	- http://www.ccnb.org.uk/Bedford_Cycling_Quotes_Facts.pdf

Cycling UK in June 2019 has released five instructional videos and written guides to help further increase cycling awareness. They all be down loaded from :
<https://www.cyclinguk.org/press-release/uber-eats-partners-cycling-uk-road-safety>

For other local information see - <http://www.cyclebedford.org.uk> and <http://www.ccnb.org.uk/Bedford>

Cllr Peter Blakeman