



## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN – NOVEMBER 2020**

Keep safe everybody, keep following the COVID rules as at the time of writing the coronavirus cases locally is on the rise. The virus hasn't gone away. I have held a number of virtual meetings and also managed to visit residents to see problems they have and discuss with them at a safe distance. These can be as varied as flooding, anti social behaviour, speeding traffic, overgrown hedges.

### **Covid-19**

#### **Rising Covid-19 cases across the county**

Data published by County on the 15<sup>th</sup> October shows that for the week ending 10<sup>th</sup> October, every district in the county now has rates of over 100 cases for every 100,000 people.

Rates for Oadby & Wigston (178.8 cases per 100,000 population) and Charnwood (154.4 per 100,000) are also above the national average of 150.1 per 100,000. As of the 21<sup>st</sup> October the rates for Charnwood had increased to 293 per 100,000 and the rate nationally is 168 per 100,000 and above the national average for the over 60's with 10% of test being positive double the national average. At the time of going to press there is a possibility of Charnwood going into tier 2.

The data also shows that higher infection rates are now being seen in young people aged 16 to 24.

The county council, along with NHS, local authorities, Leicestershire Police, universities and Leicestershire and Rutland Sport, launched a new 'it's down to us' campaign.

The campaign includes:

- Posters and banners for pubs – reminding customers to wear a face covering
- 'Shop safe' posters for businesses
- Posters for sports clubs
- Social media posts urging parents to take care at the school gates

Also available are the government guidance at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)



## **Confirmed Covid-19 Cases in Leicestershire Schools**

As at 23<sup>rd</sup> October the following cases in schools have been reported to the Local Authority.

Cases 320, of these 202 were Children and 118 Staff. Charnwood had 103 cases in 29 schools which had not been broken down into staff or children.

## **Cabinet 20<sup>th</sup> October**

There was a full agenda at the Cabinet meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October. Items for discussion were the Adult Social Care Winter Plan and Measures to Support Care Home Provide Sustainability.

The item was presented by the Director of Adults and Communities. The report set out how the Council would support providers of care during Covid-19 pandemic and the plans in place to manage the risk to the sustainability of the care market over the winter and that the Council is working with care providers, highlighting any key issues if needed.

Another report was given by the Director of Public Health to inform the Cabinet of the Council's ongoing work with partners to improve air quality across the County.

Air pollution has a significant impact on public health and wellbeing, and poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK. The public need to be aware of the impact their behaviours have on air pollution and measures that could be put in place to address these.

The Environment Act 1995 (Part IV) places obligations on both county and district councils to work together to develop their approach to addressing air quality and, with respect to Action Plans, ensure that all necessary measures to address air pollution in their local area are included. Whilst statutory responsibilities for addressing air quality rest with the district council, some County Council function such as Highways and Transportation will impact air pollution.

A second report was given by the Director of Public Health on the development of a healthy weight strategy for Leicestershire. With two thirds of adults and one third of children in Leicestershire being overweight or obese, it is important that action is taken to address this important issue.



The economic burden of overweight/obesity is significant across England. The NHS spends £6.1 bn on obesity-related ill health, local government spends an estimated £0.35bn in social care costs and the cost to the wide UK economy is around £27bn. There is also emerging evidence that people with a high body mass index are more at risk of developing complications of Covi-19.

The Director of Environment and Transport on the community speed enforcement initiative (CSEI). The report is to establish the County Council's formal position on the establishment of a Community Speed Enforcement Initiative following the trial of average speed cameras at seven locations in Leicestershire.

The results of the CSEI trial show that average speed cameras have had a positive impact in reducing vehicle speed. The recommendations will facilitate the introduction of a new CSEI that incorporates the experience gained through the trial and will provide an appropriate framework to identify and deliver new sites using a consistent and evidenced based approach.

### **Advance Notice of a Temporary Regulation Order (TTRO)**

County have agreed to a TTRO for a No Overtaking at any time restriction on Ashby Road East from 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020 for up to 12 months.

The restriction will be enforced, in both directions, between the junction of Leicester Road and the M1 Junction 23 roundabout.

The TTRO will be implemented for public safety to allow Leicestershire County Council safely continue with major improvement works of the A512/J23.

Full closure of the A512 Ashby Road Loughborough from the M1 J23 roundabout to Snell's Nook Lane in both directions from (20.00 – 06.00) – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Full closure of the A512 Ashby Road Central at the Iveshead Road/ Charnwood Road junctions for resurfacing works (20.00 0- 06.00) each night Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Full closure of the A512 Ashby Road East from the M1 J23 roundabout to Leicester Road Junction in both direction (20.00 – 06.00) each night. Monday – Friday from 2<sup>nd</sup> November until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.



Full Closure of the M1 J23 North bound exit slip (20.00 – 06.00) Monday – Friday from 16<sup>th</sup> November – 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Leicestershire County Council apologises for any inconvenience caused during these works. Visit <http://one.network> to view on line. For further information contact LCC Highways on 0116 305 0001

A TTRO 'Prohibition of Right Turn at any time' restriction is required on Ashby Road East from 9<sup>th</sup> November up to 12 months.

The restriction will be enforced at the access to the Hanson Quarry when travelling East bound.

The access into the Hanson Quarry will be maintained via J23 roundabout.

## **Police**

### **Lock up and Light Up this Winter**

As the evenings start to draw in, officers are reminding people to ensure their homes look occupied during the darker nights.

The force traditionally sees a seasonal rise in burglaries around the time the clocks go back, with offences often rising through December and January.

The winter months can make it easier for burglars to go unnoticed and also makes unoccupied homes easier to spot. The force is encouraging residents to review their home security and take a few simple and inexpensive precautions to protect their homes.

One of the easiest things you can do is to leave a light on when you go out, you can use an automatic light timer to switch lamps on in your home when you go out for the evening or when you go away to give the appearance you are home.

There are lots of other things you can do to make your home more secure including:

- Keep doors and window locked at all times and remove keys from the lock
- Keep valuables, bags, cash and keys out of sight and keep them in a safe place
- Don't keep large quantities of cash and jewellery in your home



- Avoid leaving packaging from expensive items outside your house – take it to be recycled or put it in the bin
- If you have a house alarm make sure you remember to set it before leaving the house
- Check your outdoor security lighting is in full working order
- Prevent easy access to the back and sides of you home with locked gates and fencing
- If you are going away, don't advertise this on social media
- Ask a neighbour or relative to collect post and open and close curtains while you are away.

For more information on how to protect your home, please visit <https://www.leics.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/>

If you do spot anyone acting suspiciously, report this to us online via <https://www.leics.police.uk/report-online> or call 101

Always call 999 if you witness a crime in progress.

### **Your views on crime and anti-social behaviour in your local area**

The OPCC would like to invite you to share your views on crime and anti-social behaviour in your local area by completing a survey. This survey has been created in partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire and Community Safety Partnerships across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

<https://www.leics.pcc.police.uk/Have-Your-Say.Consultations/Community-Safety-Survey.aspx>

### **Scams**

#### **Mystery shopper recruitment scams**

Fraudsters are targeting job-seekers with a recruitment scam that has already claimed 35 victims with losses totalling over £51,000. All of the victims have so far been from London. The fraudsters use recruitment websites and apps to identify potential targets. The victim is then cold-called by someone claiming to be an



employee of a mobile phone network. The caller explains to the victim that they will need to take part in a 'mystery shopper' test in order to pass the recruitment process. The victim is instructed to visit one of the mobile network's high street stores and take out a phone contract using the victim's own personal and financial details. They are assured that the contract will be cancelled after the recruitment process is completed.

Once the victim has successfully taken out the contract, they are directed to drop-off points to deliver the phone and SIM card to a 'colleague' of the caller. The victim is reassured that the contract will be terminated.

In reality, the victims will never hear from the suspects again, and are left liable for the mobile phone contract they were convinced to purchase. Some victims are also asked to move the 'employer's' money through their own bank accounts, putting them at risk of committing money laundering offences. Others find out that their personal details have been used to take out loans, for which they are also now liable.

What you need to do

1. Personal information such as your full address, DOB , or NI Number should not be included on your CV or public profiles on a recruitment sites.
2. To protect yourself against identity theft, always verify that the employer/recruiter you're speaking with is who they say they are. Contact the employer via a telephone number or email address on their official website, or via the company's verified social media accounts.
3. Never allow an employer to move their money through your personal bank account. Legitimate employers won't ask you to do this.

For more information about how to protect yourself online, visit [www.cyberaware.gov.uk](http://www.cyberaware.gov.uk) and [takefive-stopfraud.org.uk](http://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk)

If you have been a victim of fraud or cyber crime, report it to [Actionfraud.police.uk](http://Actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0330 123 2040.

### **Heritages sites' schools programme receives £71,500 grant from Government's Culture Recovery Fund**

Leicestershire County Council has been awarded £71,500 as part of the Government's £1,57 billion Culture Recovery Fund (CRF) to help face the



challenges of the coronavirus pandemic. The grant will be used to further develop the education programme at its five heritage and museum sites, to look at new and sustainable ways of telling the many stories surrounding the county's rich history.

The award-winning schools programme, which delivers tailored learning at Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre, the 1620's House & Garden at Donington le Health, Charnwood Museum, Harborough museum and Elton Carnegie museum, is along the 1,385 cultural and creative organisations across the country receiving urgently needed support. £257 million of investment has been announced as part of the first round of the Culture Recovery Fund grants programme being administered by Arts Council England

The education programme provided by the five sites is already high quality. It holds the prestigious Sandford Award for the schools programme at Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre, as well as the Learning Outside the Classroom accreditation for the other sites.

The latest grant award will allow the existing programmes to be developed and improved to provide a more sustainable future in responses to the challenges of Covid-19, including looking at new ways of delivering the work, making more use of digital platforms and telling the stories in new ways.

### **County heritage attractions awarded 'We're Good to Go' accreditation**

All five of Leicestershire County Council's heritage sites have been awarded the nation 'We're Good to Go' safety mark, which guarantees that visitors can be confident that national guidelines on Covid measures are being followed and cleanliness and social distancing is assured at the attractions.

Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre, the 1620s House & Garden and Donington le Health, Charnwood Museum, Harborough Museum and Elton Carnegie Museum were all successful in their applications for the industry standard, which is awarded by Visit England.

To be awarded the mark, all five sites had to show that they have followed government and industry Covid-19 guidelines, have risk assessments in place and processes to maintain cleanliness and aid social distancing.



The five sites reopened to the public at the start of September. Visitors to all the heritage sites-excluding Charnwood Museum – have to pre book a timed slot, to enable the attractions to control the numbers of visitors in the venue and ensure a safe and enjoyable visit.

Measures in place to ensure that visitors can be confident and protected include one-way systems and signage throughout all venues to ensure social distancing. Hand sanitising points are provided throughout the attractions and there is regular cleaning.

Where possible, interactive exhibits have remained in place with some added safety measures to make them Covid-secure, including the use of a stylus to allow visitors to push buttons, lift flaps and use touch screens without touching the surfaces. The styli are collected and sterilised after every visit.

Beacon Hill Cafe, which is also run by Leicestershire County Council, already holds the 'We're Good to Go' mark.

### **MOT test in the coming months**

In March vehicle owners were granted a six-month MOT exemption to enable frontline workers to get to work during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The comparison website Confused.com estimates 37% of eligible drivers – the equivalent to four million – made use of the extension, meaning they now must book their car in for an MOT within the next couple of months.

With this in mind, Confused.com are asking drivers to carry out a number of checks before heading to the garage – to help ensure their vehicle passes the test.

This includes checking lights, registration plate, wheels and tyres.

According to data from the DVSA, bald or defective tyres accounted for the most 'dangerous' faults between April and September last year.

However with so many people making use of the holiday, there will be a lot of pressure on garages now to keep up with the tests. Make sure you are booking with plenty of time so you don't risk driving without a valid MOT.





Carrying out a few checks on the car will increase your chance of passing without any issues.

### **Petition for speed restrictions on Tickow Lane- Anson Road to the Wm Davis Estate**

An ePetition has been set up by a resident who lives on the Wm Davis estate. The petition asks that the County reduce the speed limit to 30 mph on Tickow Lane from Anson Road to the new Bluebells development. The petition also asks for calming measures and to add a crossing where the public footpath crosses Tickow Lane leading down to the stream which is widely used by local people every day.

I have been asking for something to be done on the section of Tickow Lane for a number of years.

The ePetition runs from 20/08/2020 to 30/11/2020

Details are ePetition – Petition for speed restrictions on Tickow Lane, Shepshed.

### **Update on Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Hospitals Consultation**

The three NHS clinical commissioning groups covering Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are carrying out a public consultation into proposals to spend £450 million transforming acute hospital and maternity services.

The link [www.bettercareleicester.nhs.uk/news-and-media-centre/partner-toolkit/](http://www.bettercareleicester.nhs.uk/news-and-media-centre/partner-toolkit/) provides a toolkit of resources including a PowerPoint presentation, newsletter articles, leaflets and social media content and additional contents.

The consultation, which runs until 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020, concerns the services delivered at the three main hospitals in Leicester, run by University Hospitals of Leicester NMHS Trust, as well as services delivered at the midwifery-led unit at St Mary's Hospital, Melton Mowbray.

The proposals will help achieve a local healthcare system fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. I would encourage you to visit the website [www.betterhospitalsleicester.nhs.uk](http://www.betterhospitalsleicester.nhs.uk) to view the full consultation document and have your say via the consultation questionnaire.



If you do need further resource to assist you with sharing the information on the consultation, please contact 0116 295 0750 or email [beinvolved@LeicesterCityCCG.nhs.uk](mailto:beinvolved@LeicesterCityCCG.nhs.uk)

### **Your help and support**

Again I would like to thank the residents who keep me informed regarding issues around Shepshed, such as overgrown hedges, litter, dog mess, inconsiderate parking (on pavements, yellow lines, outside of schools) etc., without your eyes and ears I could not get them reported and sorted.

If for some reason you do not receive your copy of the Eye. I now have my information posted on my web page at County. This will also help you to keep track on road closures etc.

For help and advice on County matters, I can be contacted on 01509 502974 or e mail [christine\\_radford@hotmail.com](mailto:christine_radford@hotmail.com) or [christine.radford@leics.gov.uk](mailto:christine.radford@leics.gov.uk) or due to the lock down I will not be able to have my regular monthly Surgery on the FIRST Saturday of the month in the Town Council Offices, 47a Charnwood Road.