



## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN – August 2019**

As your County Councillor, I am always on hand to try and deal with any concerns you may have about services provided by Leicestershire County Council. Such as street lighting, highways, footpaths, overhanging trees and hedges onto the highways/footpaths, social services etc.

### **Charley Road Cross Roads**

Following the meeting with officers from County and Cllrs from both Charley and Shepshed, officers have given a report of the proposals for this X roads.

1. Make additional signing improvements by adding Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) to both Charley Road approaches to the junction, replacing the existing VAS on Iveshead Road and Abbey Road approaches with a sign that shows the bend ahead as well as crossroads, add additional standard bend warning and give way signing at the junction.
2. Refresh all carriageway markings at and on approach to the junction and add edge markings and centre line markings where necessary.
3. Remove vegetation to enhance visibility of all signs, repair or replace damaged or missing signs and verge market posts. At the time of writing this report existing signs and posts are being repaired. Vegetation removal will take place from following the nesting season.
4. Undertake an assessment to see if any Vehicle Restraint System (VRS) crash barrier is required to prevent vehicles leaving the carriageway in the vicinity of the junction.
5. Undertake skid resistance testing of the carriageway surface on all approaches to the junction to see if any carriageway surface treatment is required to provide additional traction for vehicles in the vicinity of the junction.

Other suggested solutions such as Stop signs, Traffic Signals and a Roundabout do not meet the guidelines permitted by the Department for Transport (DfT).



Other suggestions such as Road Alignment, Staggered junction, changing the priorities were also discussed at this meeting, but were considered not appropriate by the officers.

Following this meeting the works 1-5 have already been ordered. County have agreed to continue to monitor the crossroads to assess the effectiveness of the new measures and to identify any other practical measures if required in the future. As will both myself and the Cllrs from Charley and Shepshed Town Councils.

### **A512/Ashby Road/Charnwood Road/Leicester Road Improvements**

I must thank everybody who attended the exhibition on 2<sup>nd</sup> July and signing the petitions.

I had a meeting with Nicky Morgan MP showing her the plans and explaining my concerns and the concerns of the residents. She said she would write in, in support.

There is a rumour going around Facebook that the proposal to remove the NO left hand turn from Iveshead road into Ashby Road is not now going ahead.

This has still to be considered at officer level at County. I submitted the petition the last week of July and will keep you all informed. Both myself and residents who live on the south side of Ashby Road could not understand the logic of this proposal. It will mean that residents who live in that area, if they wanted to go to Coalville or Ashby would have had to use the Charley Road X roads, which we all know is not the best route to take.

It does pay to protest as officers at County are reconsidering this proposal.

The road works should have started 29<sup>th</sup> July and regular reports should be being issued to keep the public up to date with what is happening from the main contractors Morgan Sindall. I am not sure how this information will be published; I will try to keep you informed when I can.

If you wish to comment on the proposed alteration on the A512 the details are [AMP@leics.gov.uk](mailto:AMP@leics.gov.uk) (Asset and Major Programs) or to view the plans go to [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/m1j23](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/m1j23) under supporting documents.



## **Have your say**

Since 2010 County have saved £200m but increasing demand for services, plus uncertainty over Government funding, means that County needs to save another £75m over the next four years.

Residents are urged to have their say by completing a short questionnaire. The consultation runs until 8<sup>th</sup> September. Your views are important, and County encourages you to have your say.

The questionnaire, supporting information and the interactive budget tool can be found at:

[www.leicestershire.gov.uk/priorities](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/priorities)

Leicestershire County Council are considering altering the opening hours of the waste sites in the County. To have your say go to [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/haveyoursay/wastesitechanges](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/haveyoursay/wastesitechanges) or email [waste.Project@leics.gov.uk](mailto:waste.Project@leics.gov.uk) or phone 0116 305 0001 consultation finishes 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

## **Police**

During the month-long Summer Drink Drug drive campaign and up to the third weekend of the campaign Leicestershire Police had made 63 drink and 8 drug drive arrests, this is considerably more than on the same day in June 2018 when there had been 34 drink and 6 drug arrests:

- 44 of the arrests have been in the Leicester conurbation (38 drink/7 drug) along with clusters in County districts, Charnwood (8 drink) NWLC (5 drink/ 2 drug) and Hinckley and Bosworth (6 drink)
- 18 of the arrests have been made following an RTC
- 14 involved a driver aged 24 or under
- 60 of those arrested have been male



- One of the highest roadside breath tests has been 124, over three and a half times the legal limit

## **Action Fraud**

### **Firms overcharging for services**

Leicestershire Trading Standards is warning about firms overcharging for services which can be applied for directly. These firms generally operate online and are known as copycat websites, they often charge for a service you can get for free or at a much lower cost on the genuine site. Sometimes they take an exorbitant cut of a refund, but this detail is hidden in small print and you only realise when it is too late. Examples are European Health Insurance Cards, tax refunds, passports, visas and driving licences.

All can be accessed legitimately through [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

Report a copycat website to Trading Standards or for consumer advice contact Citizens Advice on 03454 040506.

### **Beware of phone calls**

Leicestershire Trading Standards are warning residents to be aware of phone calls advising Council Tax refunds and requesting bank card details to be able to process the refund. This is then followed up by another call claiming to be from the bank's fraud department, advising them to move money into a 'safe' account. Both calls are scams.

Remember, a genuine organisation will never ask you for security details such as your PIN or password. Banks will never ask you to move money to another account. If you are not 100% sure who you are talking to DON'T give out ANY personal or financial information, even if you are told you have been a victim of fraud or a scam.

Sign up to Telephone Preference Service (0345 070 0707) to stop unwanted telephone calls and contact your phone provider who may also offer a call blocking service to stop unwanted calls.



### **Drivers targeted with fake fines**

Action Fraud have received an increase in reports and intelligence where elderly victims are being targeted by individuals purporting to be police officers or traffic wardens. The victims are being approached whilst parked in a car park and are told by the suspect that they have parked illegally or broken a speed limit and a photo has been taken of their car for 'evidence'.

Victims are advised that they will face a substantial penalty fine unless they pay a smaller upfront fee immediately. Victims who opt for paying the smaller penalty will be directed to a parking meter and asked to enter their card and PIN. The parking meters have been tampered with by the suspect in order to retain the card.

Once the victim inserts their card and are asked for their PIN the victims are shoulder surfed for their PIN by the suspect. Once victims input their PIN, the card is retained by the machine and victims are told by the suspect to seek help from the company who operates the parking meter or their bank.

What you need to do

- If you are suspicious about **the authenticity** of the fine, do not pay it until you have **verified** it with your local council.
- **Always shield your PIN** from view when using an ATM machine, and **never** share your PIN with anyone.
- If your bank card is retained by an ATM machine, contact your bank **immediately** to inform them.

### **Your help**

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.

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 come along to my monthly Surgery on the FIRST Saturday of the month in the Town Council Offices, 47a Charnwood Road 10-11am. No appointment is necessary.