



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

As your County Councillor I would like to wish all residents a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 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.

### **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

In May 2020 there will be an election for a Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The Conservative Prospective Candidate is Rupert Matthews and I have therefore booked the Glenmore Centre on Thorpe Road to enable Shepshed residents to meet him and ask him questions.

The date is Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30 pm. Rupert has an online survey [www.rupertmatthews.org.uk](http://www.rupertmatthews.org.uk) for you to make your views known. Also in attendance will be myself and some of your Borough and Town Councillors. We look forward to seeing and speaking with you.

### **A512 road works**

Whilst County are working at the junction with Charnwood/Ashby Road/Iveshead with temporary traffic lights the semi –permanent traffic lights at Leicester Road junction are currently set to the same timings as the existing lights, the reason they are still in place is to allow County's contractors to return when necessary to continue their works, they will then be able to adjust the timings as required.

The site can be emailed directly [A512improvements@morgansindall.com](mailto:A512improvements@morgansindall.com) if you have queries about the work at J23 and A512 improvements the Public Liaison Officer, Beth Miles will respond.

### **Reply from County following petition regarding white lines top of Charnwood Road with Ashby Road**

According to the response from County, these lines were only instigated following a request from a member of the public, (I would love to meet them) as your County Councillor I never got to comment on them before the alterations. County can see



no problem following these alterations which are now causing major problems with vehicles trying to leave Gelders Hall, Meggitt and the Ford garage in the area.

I have had meetings with owners of businesses in Gelders Hall regarding parking and have in fact arranged a site visit with an officer from County. I will report on this next month. I will ask why they thought it was a good idea to do away with the left turn from Iveshead Road onto Ashby Road but had not considered doing a left filter lane from Charnwood Road into Ashby Road whilst the right filter lane from Ashby Road into Charnwood Road is active, this would move traffic forward in Charnwood Road rather than it be stationary.

### **Recycling and Household Waste Site.**

The proposed site which was closed from 2<sup>nd</sup> September for a period of 12 weeks has now been completed, This was to carry out essential maintenance works to meet Environment Agency standards for drainage. The site was re-opened as planned on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Footpath L7 from Butt Hole Lane L17 to Boundary Way**

I have received a number of complaints regarding the state of this footpath which runs to the rear of the new houses currently being built by Persimmon on Hathern Road. County is aware that the builder has encroached and blocked this footpath and enforcement action has already started, but unfortunately this can take time.

### **Country Parks and open spaces strategy 2019-2029**

The draft Country Parks and Open Spaces Strategy was referred to the Scrutiny Commission for comment and the strategy will be submitted to the Cabinet in March 2020. County's major parks will be developed as a network of destinations, catering for the local community that they serve but also attracting residents and visitors. These parks are Snibston Country Park, Beacon Hill Country Park, Broombriggs Farm and Windmill Hill, Watermead Country Park, Market Bosworth Country Park and Bosworth Battlefields Country Park.

County's secondary parks and open spaces, whilst not having the same scope as our major/destination parks, are still a significant part of the green infrastructure. They will still be managed in accordance with the primary themes of the strategy but perhaps with them there will be even greater opportunity to involve and engage the



local community and partners and they are therefore classified more as local parks than destination parks. These parks are Donington Le Health Country Park, Jubilee Wood, Sheet Hedges Wood, Burrough Hill Country Park, Sarah's Wood, Donisthorpe Woodlands, Saltersford Valley Picnic Areas, Bagworth Heath, New Lount Nature Reserve, Oakthorpe Picnic Area, Ashby Woulds Heritage Trail and Brampton Valley Way.

The purpose of the strategy is to use the parks and open spaces and to provide multiple benefits to support residents and communities of today and tomorrow. There is now an opportunity to use the green spaces to tackle a wide range of ecological and environmental benefits and beyond. Undeniably, many of the solutions for preserving and protecting the natural environment are also potential enablers to support health and wellbeing and develop local communities and the local economy. In a nutshell, the aim of the strategy is to explore a sustainable way to manage and fund the parks and open spaces across Leicestershire so that they can be utilised to support broader strategic priorities and align with the needs of County's residents and communities as well as national, regional and local policy priorities.

### **Local Beat Team – Police**

See below the contact details for the Police Local Beat Team if you wish to contact them via email, I thought you might find these details useful:-

PCSO Kelly Davis – [Kelly.Davis@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Kelly.Davis@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk)

Sgt. Lee Taylor – [Lee.Taylor@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Lee.Taylor@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk)

PC Danielle Mistretta – [Danielle.Mistretta@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Danielle.Mistretta@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk)

PC Richard Neville – [Richard.Neville@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Richard.Neville@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk)

Police Inspector Mark Botte – [Mark.Botte@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Mark.Botte@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk)

### **New equality strategy for Leicestershire**

You are invited to comment on Leicestershire County Council's draft Equality Strategy 2020-24. The council's current strategy ends in 2020 and, to continue their commitment to equality, fairness and respect in everything they do, council are consulting on a new strategy for 2020-24. The strategy has two aims:



- For Leicestershire County Council to be recognised for its leadership and high performance in advancing equality of opportunity and celebrating diversity and inclusion
- For Leicestershire to be a place where there is equality of opportunity, that is free from discrimination, harassment and victimisation and there are good relations between different people in the community.

How to have your say:

The consultation is now open and runs for three months until midnight on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020. The draft strategy and online questionnaire, including an easy read version and British Sign Language video about consultation, can be accessed at:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/equality-strategy-consultation>

If you require a paper copy or any other accessible format – Braille, large print, audio – or language, please contact [equality@leics.gov.uk](mailto:equality@leics.gov.uk) or by telephone on 0116 305 5501

### **Development of a new model for homelessness prevention and housing-related support**

A report was taken to Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> October by the director of public health and the purpose of the report was to advise the Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation on a proposed new model for homelessness prevention and housing-related support and to set out the recommended option for similar support which it is intended would be put in place from April 2020.

It was recommended that:

- An external provider is commissioned to deliver a combination of both hostel-based accommodation and outreach housing-related support for people at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness in Leicestershire, which would:
  - 1. Reflect the alternative proposal put forward as part of the consultation on changes to the current housing-related support service,
  - 2. Deliver hostel-based accommodation which matches the current level of provision (30 beds)
  - 3. Provide more than 3 full-time equivalent specialist housing-related support workers,



4. Ensure cross-Leicestershire outreach housing-related support and equality of access

### **Transitions – preparing for adulthood**

A report from the Director of Adults and Communities was discussed at the Adults and Communities overview and scrutiny committee on 11<sup>th</sup> November. The Whole Life Disability Strategy and associated protocol for young people with special educational needs or a disability, “Preparing for Adulthood” was approved by the Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

The Preparing for Adulthood protocol has been developed jointly between the Children and Family Services (CFS) and Adults and Communities (A&C) Departments and outlines how children and young people should be involved in decision making, careers advice, the Local Offer, Post-16 programmes and funding arrangements. The Local Offer gives children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and their family’s information about help and services in Leicestershire. Partners have been engaged in the development of the protocol and pathway that sets out clearly what needs to happen at each stage with a young person.

The key priorities include:-

- Ensuring the availability of appropriate accommodation and support services;
- Ensuring that staff have the right level of skills to support young people;
- Projecting future need accurately as young people have increasing levels of need;

The current work of the Transitions Team is predominantly from the Year 12 cohort, the school year when young people turn 17 years old. County are working to move this earlier with detailed assessment and planning commencing at year 11. The Transitions Team already attend parent evenings and open days for younger pupils in special schools, to promote understanding of adult life and support options. This offer will be developed, and County will explore the benefits of more focussed input beginning, at Year 9, for those with the most significant levels of need.



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

A temporary road closure is required on Ashby Road East for 8 nights. The road will be closed between the M1 junction 23 and Ingleberry Road, in both directions on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December, 20.00 hours till 06.00 hours each night.

I have just been informed by the contractors that the works on Abbey Road/Oaks Road in Charley are going to be postponed until early 2020. An updated notification will be sent out once the new dates are confirmed.

### **Road Safety Awareness**

I have been asked to bring to your attention now that dark nights are here so wear something light or reflective so that you can be seen, especially if you ride a bike or are running.

Please be aware of horses whilst driving, slow down and give them space, the British Horse Society continue to be concerned at the amount of incidents being reported, Hathern Road is like a race track at times.

### **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.

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 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.