



## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN –August 2022**

In my role at county, libraries and museum fall under my portfolio. I visited Melton Mowbray library which is undergoing a refit to accommodate two new multi-purpose adult learning classrooms which is part of a wider strategy to upgrade our county libraries and where possible integrate learning space to improve accessibility to programmes. The new class rooms will increase County's ability to provide adult learning courses from across Go-Learn offer, including courses from our Learning for Wellbeing programme such as art courses, fitness courses, crafts and more.

Whilst in Melton Mowbray I visit the museum which had an exhibition show-casing visits by members of the royal family over the years to Melton.

### **Cabinet Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June**

Medium Term Financial Strategy - A statement from the Leader made it very clear the overall financial situation which affects all councils including Leicestershire. With inflation already at nine percent – and expected to pass 11 percent by October – the cost of providing day-to-day council services, as well as crucial long-term major infrastructure projects to accommodate a growing County population, have surged.

Previously the Council calculated there would be an £8 million gap between what we need to spend and our income next year, but these pressures have widened the gap to around £20 million. By 2025/26 the budget gap is predicted to increase from £40 million to £70 million unless further action is taken.

Over the summer work will be undertaken to identify new savings proposals. These are almost certain to mean looking at service reductions to discretionary services such opening arrangements for recycling and household waste sites and bus services. There is no doubt that some existing capital schemes will need to be cancelled, mothballed or reduced in scope.

The Cabinet will consider the saving options in autumn. He went on to say that though no decisions have been taken he wanted to level with members and with people about the frightening financial situation we face.

### **Census 2021**

The Census figures published at the beginning of July underline that Leicestershire is growing – and confirms we are one of the fastest growing areas in the country in



terms of economic growth and in population. With our population set to rise by 20 percent in 20 years.

Charnwood has risen by 17,800 since 2011 a difference of 10.7%.

The following link to the Office for National Statistics website provide further information:

Population\_and\_household\_estimates.\_England\_and\_wales\_Census\_2021 also  
How\_the\_population\_changed\_where\_you\_live:\_Census\_20212

### **Queens Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS)**

We have just celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and with that in mind the Lord-Lieutenant is reminding people that the QAVS was set up twenty years ago to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and it sets to recognise and celebrate exceptional local volunteer groups across the United Kingdom.

It is important that we recognise the work our volunteers here in Leicestershire and Shepshed and the job they do in our communities.

I encourage you to nominate volunteers further information can be found via the national Queen's Award Service website – <https://gavs.dcms.gov.uk/> or via the Leicestershire Lieutenancy website – <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/civic-and-ceremonial/the-lord-lieutenant/honours-awards-and-recognition>

If you have any queries, please email [Lieutenancyoffice@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Lieutenancyoffice@leics.gov.uk) and they will be happy assist.

### **Quorn Solar Farm**

Yet another initiatives of the county to support their green ambition is a new £5.9 million solar farm near Quorn that will generate enough electricity each year to power all the County Council's properties and thousand of its streetlights, or £600,000 towards revenue.



### **Summer reading Challenge – Gadgeteers**

As part of the Summer Reading Challenge I attended the launch part on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July, at the Space Centre in Leicester. Children from 3 schools attended the launch with a full day's programme looking and experiencing the Space Centre and gaining information about gadgets.

Children can sign up for the challenge at any time throughout the summer at any library or on line <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> it is free to join.

### **Tourism Awards for Excellence 2022**

The 2022 Leicestershire Promotions Tourism and Hospitality awards were launched on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Hot on the back of the success of two of last year's finalists in the national awards, organisers are encouraging all tourism and hospitality businesses to get involved and apply for the 2022 awards.

Horseshoe Cottage Farm in Cropston won for B & B/Guest House of the year while Brooke Meadow near Market Harborough won for Camping, Glamping and Holiday Park of the year in the recent national awards.

All details of how to enter can be found at the tourism awards website. [www.goleicestershire.com/trade/leicestershire-tourism-awards](http://www.goleicestershire.com/trade/leicestershire-tourism-awards). Closing date for entries is September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and the winners will be announced at a gala awards ceremony on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **129 Bus**

I am pleased to report that the 129 bus will continue to run by Midland Classic from 1<sup>st</sup> August. It runs from Ashby-de-la-Zouch to Loughborough (goes via various villages such as Griffydam, Osgathorpe, Lount, Gelsmoor and Belton and into Loughborough down Snells Nook and Nanpantan Road) and serves the Hathern end of Shepshed. The new operator will be using the same route as the previous operator. This area of Shepshed is very poorly served and I have been trying to get a better service now for a number of years to this end of Shepshed. But, if we do not use the service we have it will be lost.



### **Trading Standards warning**

Leicestershire County Council Trading Standards has published a warning to consumers on its Facebook page regarding purchasing goods from shops whereby delivery is not received within the agreed timeframe and refunds refused.

Trading Standards urges consumers to report these matters to the Citizens advice consumer services team via the telephone number 0808 223 1133 or via the online reporting form, Here, consumer will be able to receive advice on their civil rights and redress and any 'criminal;' element will be passed to trading Standards.

The link to the Facebook post is <https://www.facebook.com/leicstradingstandards>.

### **Go Learn – free courses**

Do you know anybody whose first language is not English, or anybody who has taken in refugees, who need to improve their skills for life, community and work in the UK. Our Summer School courses run for 4-weeks and are completely FREE for refugees. They will learn a broad range of speaking and listening skills, focusing on the language they need for everyday life.

Contact for more information and to enrol 0116 305 0820 or FREEphone 0800 988 0308 or [Leicestershire.gov.uk/GoLearn](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/GoLearn).

### **Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTRO)**

At the time of going to press, I have not been informed of any TTRO, I do know that the Town Council but these on their web page regularly. This can be found on one network <https://www.shepshedtowncouncil.org.uk> who are able to put up to date information on it.

### **Your help and support – my contact details**

Without your help in keeping me informed regarding issues around Shepshed, I would not be able to do my job. For help and advice on County matters, I can be contacted on 01509 502974, or 07796 544817 or e mail [christine\\_radford@hotmail.com](mailto:christine_radford@hotmail.com) or [christine.radford@leics.gov.uk](mailto:christine.radford@leics.gov.uk) , my monthly surgery, is held on the first Saturday of the month in the Town Council Offices, 47a Charnwood Road, (opp. Tesco) You do not need an appointment; I will be there from 10-11 am