



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

I hope you all had a good Christmas and happy start to the 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 – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

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 and concerns known and ask him questions. **Also in attendance will be your new MP Jane Hunt**, myself and some of your Borough and Town Councillors. We look forward to seeing and speaking with you. The first part of the meeting will be taken up with policing matters and the second part with other concerns.

### **Local Beat Team – Police**

Since my last report in December there has been 2 further PCSO's the one for Shepshed is Rhiannon Gee (6014) and the one for Dishley is Lisa McNeill. (6564)

Both have now completed their 'in company training period' and will be out and about across the whole of the beat. Rhiannon and Lisa are keen to get to know the area and all of you. If you see her, or any of the team, out and about then please come over and say 'Hi'. They are really keen to understand your needs and concerns and work together to try to resolve them.

### **Online Shopping Advice**

First and foremost, before you start shopping, please ensure that your devices are up to date as this is your first line of defence and ensure that passwords are unique, don't reuse the same password on different sites.

- if it sounds too good to be true, it more than likely is.



- To avoid fake pages, do not click on pop up ads or links in emails or messages with offers – search for the offer yourself on a browser – that way you won't end up on a scam fake page.
- Stick to names that you are familiar with to avoid the fraudulent one
- Do not make purchases on public Wi-Fi it is often insecure and your details could potentially be intercepted. Use your mobile data instead.
- When you are ready complete your purchase, check for the padlock and 'https' when checking out – often shown as a green padlock in the address bar, this means that your data being transmitted is encrypted.
- Payments – use trusted payment methods such as PayPal – remember to check you are paying “Goods and Services” – if you change to “Friends and Family” you LOSE your PayPal protection. For goods over £100 you have far more protection if you pay by Credit Card. If you are asked to pay by bank transfer, be very wary, as you have no protection at all.
- Beware of phishing emails- these could be fake offers taking you to fake pages, or they may be regarding a purchase of delivery. Make it a rule, never log in via a shortcut or link in an email or a text – log in the way you normally would.
- Watch out for those great offers posted on social media – fraudsters use social media to post very enticing offers, via fake websites, but these offers don't exist. Your money will be paid, but your goods will never arrive. Be aware that just because a page is “sponsored” on Facebook, does NOT mean that it is legitimate, they do not carry out checks.
- “Sponsored” pages on social media HAVE NOT been verified, it just means they have paid for advertising. THE BIGGEST GIVEAWAY IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE PRICES.

For more info, please visit: [www.actionfraud.police.uk/shoponlinesafely](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/shoponlinesafely) or <https://www.getsafeonline.org/christmas> or contact Sam Hancock (Police, Cyber Protect Officer).

### **Meeting with officer re problems at Gelders Hall**

Following my meeting with businesses in Gelders Hall and my follow on meeting with an officer from County regarding the parking problems in Gelders Hall and the problems with leaving at busy times it was decided that Businesses will be asked to comment on proposals in the new year such as yellow lines on one side around Gelders Hall, allowing parking on only one side and making part of it one way.



County are also looking at keep clear lines at the junction of Gelders Hall with Charnwood Road, which should allow cars to cross over into the left lane to turn left towards Loughborough.

I did 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 the officer said he would go away and look at it.

### **Celebration of Learning**

I had great pleasure in presenting certificates to adults with disabilities in recognition of what they had achieved via County's Go Learn programme. A typical course runs weekly for 30 weeks between September and June. Qualifications were awarded in a range of subjects: exploring volunteering, food preparation, money management, literacy, drama and art and leisure skills. It highlights the varied learning activities that have taken place which include café projects, charity sales, visits, drama productions, classroom-based learning and gardening projects. Every individual receiving a certificate today had also achieved learning outcomes personalised to them. In fact, following the presentations there was refreshments, mince pies baked by those who had done the food preparation course, music and dancing, which was enjoyed by all recipients of the certificates along with their parents or carers.

### **Flooding**

If your problem is urgent then please contact the Emergency services on 999 or 101. For water supply or sewage problems please contact the water company for your area which is Severn Trent Water – 0800 783 4444, Trent River IDB 01507 328095 or for the main river or reservoir enquiries contact the Environment Agency on 0370 850 6505 or [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk) for more information and guidance about flooding visit county's website at the link:- [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage) out of hours emergency number is 07860 569137 for any County Highways problems, such as flooding or trees down etc.,



## The Green Plaque Awards

The Green Plaque awards bring communities together to recognise and celebrate the county's rich cultural and historic heritage. The scheme invites residents and those associated with the county to nominate and vote for people and places they think are worthy of commemoration. To date, 23 Green Plaques have been unveiled to a balanced mix of people and places across the county.

I recently attended the unveiling of the plaque in Castledine Street in Loughborough to honour the Corcoran Sisters, Kathleen and Nora, who were Suffragettes. It was fascinating to read the history of the early suffragettes in Loughborough. On 19<sup>th</sup> January 1910 Emmeline Pankhurst addressed two meetings in the Town Hall. I have a copy of the booklet if anybody would like to look at it.



By the time the Suffragettes became active in Loughborough the town had developed from a base of the 'traditional' trades in the textile industry to include a



range of manufacturing employment and foundry work as well as railway and municipal work.

In 40 years prior to the 1910 General Elections the population had doubled to almost 23,000. The Parliamentary electorate for Loughborough wards was just 4,341. In Shepshed the electorate was just 1,085.

Shepshed Town Council have asked that the Jelson Estates, roads off Tickow Lane are named after Suffragettes due to the fact this estate was commenced 100 years after Women won the vote.

### **Shepshed Library**

I was part of a group of officers from County who met up with officers and Councillors from Worcestershire who came to look at Shepshed Library to see how a Smart Library works. 16 of the top libraries in the County, one of which is Shepshed, deliver 80% of the business. Feedback from residents regarding the change of Shepshed 's Library to 'Smart' is positive.

As well as Smart Libraries there are Community Managed Libraries which are now an established and successful part of the service. There are currently 33 community managed libraries embedded in local areas and offering a wide range of hub services including adult learning, work clubs, keep safe places, cafe facilities, meeting areas for community groups and bases for Local Area Coordination, in

addition to traditional library services. These libraries are run by volunteers and in some cases by the Parish Council.

County are going to provide extra funding for technology to the Smart libraries in the next financial year.

### **Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 – 2023/24 (MTFS)**

An all-member briefing on the MTFS was held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December and consider by the Cabinet on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December. These proposals will be the subject of consultation at the Overview and Scrutiny bodies (OSC) on the following dates:-





Health OSC – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 2.00 pm  
Environment & Transport OSC - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 2.00 pm  
Adults & Communities OSC – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 2.00 pm  
Children and Families OSC – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at 2.00 pm  
Scrutiny Commission – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 10.30 am

The Cabinet will consider any comments arising from the consultation and the scrutiny process at its meeting on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and the recommendation of the Cabinet will then be put to the County Council at its Budget meeting on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

### **Shepshed Campus Proposals for redevelopment –( Iveshead School )**

I attended a briefing with officers from County regarding the Shepshed Campus. County will be spending in the region of £16 million on these proposals. The large housing developments create the need for extra places, especially in the primary age group. Work has already started on the Youth Block and should be finish by the end of March 2020.

County will be holding a session to inform residents of what is being proposed on this Campus sometime in March. It will be held in what we knew as the High School , as yet there is not date, but I will keep you all informed via the Eye or via social media.

One of my main concerns was the Swimming Pool, this I have been informed will not be closing neither will the Theatre which is situated in the Iveshead School (old Hind Leys).

### **My job as the County Councillor**

In my capacity as Cabinet support for Adults and Communities, I have visited various care homes in which we support Leicestershire residents. I recently visited a property in Sharpley Road Loughborough which County have just purchased and are altering it into a home for Adults with learning difficulties who wish to live independently but with some support. This follows on from a consultation County undertook in the summer when County asked for views from carers, users of our services and providers. Locally I have also visited Waterside Court Loughborough and others around the County. I attend regular briefings from the Director and



officers in the Adult and Communities department as well as Cabinet and Cabinet briefings.

I also attend if my diary allows it, regular training and information sessions given by officers at County. The most recent one was given by officers from the highways planning department which gave me an insight into what County can comment on regarding planning applications. This planning information is going to be given to Borough and District Council's in the New Year. Charnwood is scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> March. This information will also be forwarded to Town and Parish Councils. I learnt that Planning Committees do not have to take into account the comments/recommendations from County Highways. I am also a Borough and Town Councillor.

I have regular meetings with residents to discuss their concerns as well as holding meetings with residents groups, the most recent one being with residents from Tickow Lane regarding the proposals for speed humps in the section of road in front of the new development.

When I am not doing Council work, I sit on various Charities. I am also Chairman of the Shepshed Special Community Bus; sit on the Volunteer Centre and Glenmore Centre Committees. I have just been asked to sit on the Vine House Trust and have again helped run the lunch at the Glenmore Centre on Christmas Day for people who would otherwise be alone. Weather permitting I enjoy gardening. Just thought I should let you know what else I do, (sorry).

### **Thomas Cook**

As you are aware Thomas Cook the holiday company closed down some months ago. The Company had a large amount of historical information and County submitted a claim to have all of this information kept at their Records Office. County were up against a number of others across the country who also put in a claim. I am pleased to report that Leicestershire County Council won this bid and will be coming to Leicestershire. It will be a number of years before it has all been itemised and logged; part of the items is a large stain glass window, which I understand will be put to good use in the proposed new Records Office. I will keep you all informed when this archive material is ready to view.



## **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.