



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

I do hope that this still finds you in good health. Even during the lockdown I am still doing County work , dealing with residents concerns and having virtual meetings.

### **Meeting of the Leicestershire County Council**

The first ever virtual meeting of the Full Council was held on 8<sup>th</sup> July and commenced at 2pm and finished at 6.40 pm. Due to the fact it had been quite a while since we had had a meeting there it was a very full programme.

The Leader made his statement which covered a number of topics. Which were COVID-19, Lockdown of Leicester and surrounding areas, Economic Recovery, Devolution and the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road.

A report was given regarding the Recovery Strategy and Financial Implications of COVID-19. We discussed the work being undertaken to address the on-going impact, together with the increasingly serious financial position facing the County Council and the measures in place to monitor and minimise the impact.

There were also a number of strategies discussed; those were the revised Environment Strategy and Action Plan, Equalities Strategy 2020-2024 and Equalities Action Plan 2020-2021, the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2020-2023 and the Annual Review of Overview and Scrutiny Bodies.

We were asked to note changes to the Cabinet and Cabinet Support Members, I am pleased to say that I am still Cabinet support to the Cabinet Leader of the Adult and Communities department. We were also asked to note the membership of Committees.

### **Health and Wellbeing Board**

I recently represented the County at a virtual meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board. We viewed and discussed the Annual Report of the Safeguarding Adult Board 2019/20 and the Strategic Plan 2020-2025. We also looked at and discussed the Health and Wellbeing Board's Annual draft report 2019. Healthwatch Leicestershire Annual Review. Coronavirus (CIVID-19) Impact and Response on the Local Care System.



## **Adults and Safeguarding Board**

I also attended and represented County at a virtual meeting of the Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board and the Leicestershire and Rutland Adults Safeguarding Board joint board meeting.

We discussed work in prisons, the most vulnerable residents, family carers under extra pressure, and homeless/rough sleepers and we looked at the Transforming Care in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland the story so far.

I have found that being on these Boards very useful in my position as Cabinet support I can focus on some of the issues raised. Such as people with learning disabilities living a good fulfilling life and living within their communities.

## **Covid-19**

Since my last report there has been a lock down in the City of Leicester and some areas of Charnwood and County. Fortunately Shepshed is doing quite well, but concerns were raised about residents from the lockdown area coming into Shepshed for a drink or a haircut.

County Cllrs have regular virtual briefings to keep us informed as to what is happening and the current situation.

Rules of wearing face covering in shops has now come into place, I am now used to taking mine with me when I am out and about.

The Record Office remains closed to staff due to extended lockdown in Wigston.

The Collections and Conservation team are working on the Snibston site to move collections in advance of re-opening of the Colliery Park in autumn and the Museum Collections team are working with Recovery to be able to go back into the Collections Resources Centre.

Day Services and short breaks remain closed except for emergency situations. Premises have been signed off as Covid compliant in readiness for most buildings re-opening hopefully in August with services in the Wigston area dependent on the Leicester lock down restrictions.



### **Adult Learning Service**

The Service is preparing its programme for the start of the new academic term in September. It will be aiming to deliver a mixture of live classes and online, but will need to take account of the Covid situation nearer the time.

County are continuing the new GO LEARN website for everyone to access with lots of advice, FREE resources and free courses. This website is open to anyone who wishes to access it – staff, service users or members of the public.

### **New Shepshed Special School**

The Special School in Shepshed, is for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), will be replacing St Botolphs School which will be relocating to the old High School. This is one of a number of new special schools and provisions in mainstream schools being created by Leicestershire County Council as part of its broader plans which involve investing up to £30m to develop new provisions for children and young people with special educational needs in the county.

The Community Inclusive Trust has been appointed to run the school when it opens in September 2023. It will be of great benefit to children and families here in Leicestershire and is part of County's wider plan to ensure SEND provision is available to families in the county, as close to their homes as possible.

### **Bosworth Medieval Festival 2020 goes virtual**

Bosworth Medieval Festival may not be going ahead this year at Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre due to the coronavirus restrictions – but people of all ages will still be able to enjoy the sights and sound of the annual event in digital version.

The build-up starts online on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August, with posts throughout the week on the Bosworth Battlefield Facebook, Twitter and Instagram channels. This will include Bosworth quizzes, historical information about the battle, craft and fancy dress competitions for children, living history videos narrated by a character caught up in the battle and an appeal for people to send in their images of past festivals.

It will culminate in the festival weekend of Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August, when events will be posted online and on social media at the time they would have been taking place at the festival site.



The two-day Virtual Bosworth Medieval Festival kicks off at 10am on the Saturday, when Jester The Fool Monty – huge hit at last year’s event – opens proceedings with a specially-recorded film of him performing magic tricks.

The annual rose laying ceremony to commemorate those killed in the Battle of Bosworth is taking place virtually at 11am, to mark the 535<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle. The Heritage Centre is inviting people to post pictures and videos of themselves laying their own roses remotely.

Join in the Virtual Bosworth Medieval Fun at [www.bosworthbattlefield.org.uk](http://www.bosworthbattlefield.org.uk) on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BosworthBattlefield](https://www.facebook.com/BosworthBattlefield) and on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BosworthLCC>.

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

A TTRO is to be made at the following location, The Lant, on behalf of Severn Trent Water to safely undertake works to replace a manhole cover and frame.

The TTRO will incorporate a temporary road closure and temporary suspension of one-way system. The duration of the restriction is not anticipated to exceed a period of 1 day commencing on 24<sup>th</sup> August.

### **Information I have taken from Leicestershire Police messages**

A dedicated operation to support the re-opening of the night-time economy and help support the policing of lockdown has been launched by Leicestershire Police.

The force has deployed additional officers, including members of their Special Constabulary, to work over the weekend period and beyond.

Operation Integrate saw more officers on duty than for a typical New Years Eve to help ensure communities across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland stay safe wherever they live.

The force has been working with community safety partners and the licensing trade to support and facilitate the reopening of premises.



ASB Use of Motorbikes – Tickow Lane Area – A note from the beat team that they are aware of residents concerns in the area of Tickow Lane and Oakley Road BMX track of motor bikes being used in an Anti-social manner.

The Police are actively patrolling the area where possible and they ask members of the public who see this type of behaviour to please get in touch with them to share any information. They ask that if you are able to note any registration numbers and any evidence that may assist in identifying those involved. Please call 101 or email the team.

Lee Taylor is moving on to pastures new in Melton Mowbray and PS4329 Catherine Collins is taking over from 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The rest of the beat team looking after Shepshed, Hathern, Dishley and Thorpe Acre (beat 64) is staying the same. These are PC 1969 ORTON, PCSO 6014 GEE, PCSO 6046 DAVIS, PCSO 6552 MUSA and PCSO 6542 PATEL.

### **Shepshed Library**

Since Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July Shepshed Library have been offering a click and collect service. This service is only at 11 of our 16 main libraries. County see this as a first tentative step towards resuming a normal service. I know that libraries play a vital role in supporting local residents, providing learning, enjoyment and supporting health and wellbeing.

Library members will have the opportunity to request a selection of books and audio books as the librarians have carefully selected titles across all genres based on customer's preferences.

I know that some members still enjoy the physical experience of borrowing a book rather than reading on a Kindle etc so that County are hoping the click and collect service proves popular.

Hand sanitisers will be available at all of the sites and any returned items will be put in safe storage for 72 hours before being put back on to the shelves.

To place a click and collect request, visit [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/click-and-collect](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/click-and-collect). Users who cannot complete an on line form can request their selection by calling 0116 305 269.

The Click and Collect scheme has been well received by users.



At the time of going to press libraries remain closed for browsing, but it hoped that they could re-open sometime in August, conditions permitting.

Leicestershire libraries call for children aged between 4 and twelve years old to join Silly Squad by signing up for this year's digital Summer Reading Challenge.

Over 9,000 children took part at Leicestershire's libraries in 2019 but the impact of social distancing on libraries across the country means the annual challenge led by The Reading Agency has moved online.

This year's theme is Silly Squad, a celebration of happiness, laughter and funny books. Children will set their own reading target and collect digital rewards as they work their way through their books over the summer holidays, collecting additional games, videos and activities along the way.

Children can sign up for the challenge at any time throughout the summer at [www.sillysquad.org.uk](http://www.sillysquad.org.uk).

### **Residents Issues**

GLW Feed – excessive smell /odour, noise and dust – I have received a report back that the Company are working to identify any necessary improvement to minimise emissions. I have also been advised that EA are undertaking a permit review to reflect the requirements of new Food Drink BREF. This imposes tighter dust emission limits, in particular on coolers and grinders in the feed industry. In anticipation of these new requirements GLW Feeds installed new blenders and grinders last year and relocated the exhausts stack so that it terminated vertically at the top of the new mill building. This was also fitted with a new filtration system that was fully compliant with the requirements of the new BREF documents.

GLW Feeds confirmed that further work is currently being undertaken on other exhausts as well as ongoing monitoring and maintenance in order to minimise emissions. Similarly they confirmed that there had been no reports of any specific abatement plant failures, breakdowns or malfunctions which may have contributed to the complaints.

Can I reiterate that residents should note when they have issues and contact the EA on 0800 80 70 60 and the Company direct on 01509 501802. You can also contact the Environmental Health department on 01509 634627.



Trees - I am pleased to report that following concerns raised by residents that the trees on Oxford St, Cambridge St, Glenmore Avenue and Hathern Road have now been sorted.

Buses – I hope following many concerns raised by residents, Town Council and myself, that ARRIVA have re-instated the 127 bus to revert back to the previous route, up Glenmore Ave along Tickow Lane and onto Anson Road, if this is not the case could somebody please let me know.

### **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.