



COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN – **SEPTEMBER 2020**

I do hope that this still finds you in good health as lockdown has eased, and life is slowly getting back to normal. I have held a number of virtual meetings and also managed to visit residents to see problems they have and discuss with them at a safe distance. These can be as varied as flooding, anti social behaviour, speeding traffic, overgrown hedges.

Covid-19

Market Town recovery, temporary social distancing highway measures are continuing to operate successfully following retail opening on 15th June 2020, with monitoring of these temporary measures ongoing and changes being made as required.

Collaborative working with districts authorities and the Police continues, following the opening of hospitality sector on 4th July 2020 and subsequent relaxation of the Leicester extended lockdown restrictions for some businesses on 3rd August 2020. Public nuisance and social distancing related incidents are continuing to be monitored and County are working closely with partners to avoid these types of incidents in the future.

Enquiries and applications under the new Planning and Business Bill are now being received, although numbers have been low. Collaborative processes are in place to ensure the interests of all parties are considered and protected, namely with Highways and the Police as formal consultees.

Any queries can be sent to the ETDSpecialProjects@leics.gov.uk, with concerns raised passed to the relevant district authority for their consideration.

Temporary cycle lanes are currently being constructed on the A6 Loughborough Road and on the A47 Hinckley Road, with works at the Kettering Road Bridge in Market Harborough planned to start week commencing 24th August 2020.

I have asked County to look at improving the cycle route into Loughborough on the A512 and to look and constructing a cycle route between Shepshed and Hathern.

Active Travel Road shows to promote the cycle lanes are planned for September, as part of the Behaviour Change campaign. The Safe and Sustainable team will be



running various other promotional campaigns, including radio, on the run up to the events.

Following a significant number of enquiries, with many residents concerned about consultation on the proposals, a Question and Answer section will be uploaded to the webpages. More information is available on www.leicestershire.gov.uk/covid-travel-fund

Work is to start soon on the preparation of walking and cycling pipelines projects in readiness for the submission of a bid for a share of the Governments forthcoming £2 billion wider transport funding stream expected to be announced later in 2020.

New Independent Living Accommodation – Brookfield, Great Glen

More people across Leicestershire are living more independently following a county council investment in adult care services.

Over the past 12 months, around 90 adults with long-term disabilities have moved into supported living services from residential care.

A shining example of this approach is the council's investment of over £1m in an independent living scheme at Great Glen and known as Brookfield.

Following the refurbishment of the former sheltered accommodation, Creative Support, who provide the care and support; have now welcomed the first tenants to the supported living scheme. Over the next few months, around 20 adults, in total, will make Great Glen their home.

In fact I was invited along with the County Councillor for the area, a district Councillor and Parish Cllrs to look around the building. I spoke to some of the new tenants who have settled in very well and enjoying the facilities.

For a lot of these residents, it will be the first time they have lived out of residential care, the first time they have had more than just a bedroom to themselves.

Brookfield represents a small part of County's huge commitment to investing in adult social care across the county. County are developing housing for older people, adults with learning and physical disabilities and adults with mental health needs as a priority.



County are committed to providing the best care that they can across the county. Wellbeing is at the heart of the work they are doing and living in suitable accommodation is a vital part of this.

The Brookfield development consists of self-contained flats and communal areas for the tenants. Each flat can be altered to cater for a number of physical needs and has its own private bathroom, bedroom, lounge area and kitchen area. The communal areas offer a place to relax, watch television or to cook in the shared kitchen, giving the residents an opportunity to socialise.

Schemes, like Brookfield, allow tenants to live with greater independence, to have choice and control over where they want to live, who they want to live with and the support they receive.

County found there was a particular demand for a scheme such as Brookfield in the Harborough area as it means families can stay close to their loved ones as they work towards living more independently.

Reach your learning goals this year with GoLearn

Classes in yoga, cookery, pottery, British sign language, confidence building and many more are now available from Leicestershire County Council's adult learning service, Go Learn.

Hundreds of part-time day, evening and weekend courses are now open for enrolment as GoLearn continues its commitment to helping learners to achieve their goals, despite the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.

A mixture of classroom-based and online courses are available for enrolment, with all learners receiving expert help and support with tutors on hand to provide all the guidance and expertise needed.

The courses County are offering can make a real difference to people's lives, I found this out last year when I was invited to present certificates and to meet those who had finished their courses. There are courses designed to help learners get back into the job market, improve their maths and English, support learning and improve their health and wellbeing.



County have taken all possible precautions to ensure that classroom-based courses are safe for learners and all centres will adhere to Covid-secure procedures. There may be many changes because of the ongoing restrictions, but County will not let them get in the way of people achieving their learning ambitions.

The courses on offer range from one-off two-hour sessions to 15-week or 30-week programmes. You can sign up at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/golearn.

For the first time this year, Go Learn is offering the new Essential Digital Skills Qualification, which is aimed at complete IT novices to help them in the digital world.

There are also free courses available for people who are seeking work and looking to gain basic skills, including planning first steps towards employment, increasing confidence, help with job search, CV writing and interview skills, as well as English and maths GCSE. Benefit recipients or on a low income can get up to 70% discount on course fees or may be entitled to attend for free.

The Leicestershire Adult Learning Service can also be contacted on 0800 988 0308 (lines open Monday – Friday 8am-7pm) to find out more about the courses, fees or the option to pay in instalments.

More Council Services back in business

All 14 county waste sites are back in business. Nine of the sites will be open five days a week, the same number of days as before the coronavirus pandemic disrupted the service.

Two sites have increased to opening seven days (from five days a week before the pandemic – Whetstone and Mountsorrel) and the remaining sites will be open for 2-3 days each week during the ongoing pandemic.

The county council has been monitoring site usage, and the new opening times reflect demand across the sites.

For more information about individual sites opening times, to book an appointment and for further details on recycling and waste in Leicestershire visit www.leicestershire.gov.uk/waste or call 0116 305 0001



The council is also working hard to re-open other services over the coming weeks, including children and family wellbeing centres, day services for older and vulnerable people as well as visitor attractions including Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre and market town museums.

Keep up to date by visiting www.leicestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-10

Registrars – Anstey Frith House at County Hall HQ in Glenfield has now re-opened alongside the registration office

Appointments for births are still being offered at Loughborough, Coalville, Hinckley, Melton Mowbray and Market Harborough

People wanting to book an appointment should complete an online form at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/resistrars/birth-resistration/register-a-birth and the council will respond as soon as it can

Beacon Hill cafe

Visitors to Beacon Hill Cafe can now experience table service, as well as taking away food and drink, during their stay at the popular Leicestershire beauty spot.

In line with the current restrictions, there are limited tables available due to social distancing requirements, and customer details will be taken to comply with track and trace requirements

Customers will also be requested to wear a face covering if they are purchasing takeaway food.

For more details visit <https://www.facebook.com/beaconhillcafe/>

Libraries

Digital loans from the library service rose dramatically with June 2020 figures showing a rise of 136% on the same month the previous year. The library online offer has been further developed to include or signpost people to more digital content including:



- Two Code club sessions helping families and young people learn computer coding skills
- A monthly book club for people to discuss their reading with an online community
- Virtual Wriggly Readers sessions targeting under 5's and families
- The annual Summer reading challenge moved online, encouraging young readers to maintain the reading habit during the summer months
- The reading Well for Health and Wellbeing offer has continued to guide people to free resources. One of the reading lists focuses on mental health and wellbeing <https://reading-well.org.uk/books-on-prescription/mental-health>
- Volunteer partners have moved some of their shared reading activities online. These sessions offer therapeutic reading activity for those emerging from their experience of mental health issues.
<https://www.leicestershiresharedreading.org/>
- A virtual work club has been set up to assist people with job searching and job applications.

All Council funded libraries are now offering a Click and Collect library service as well as some libraries that are managed by local communities.

As of the 10th August, all 16 Council funded libraries, of which Shepshed is one, are offering managed access to browsing in the library. Customers can book online or telephone to book a slot. On entering, people will be asked to record their contact details for test and trace purposes. Hand sanitiser will also be provided for people to use on entry. All returned books will be placed in quarantine for 72 hours before being returned to shelves.

The library at Gartree Prison was closed and resources put on the wings for prisoners to access and staff supported delivery through provision of quizzes and competitions.

Museums and Heritage

The planned summer exhibition for Charnwood Museum (DoYouSeeWhatIsee?) was transformed into an online exhibition, allowing nine months of co-produced work by over 100 people from targeted groups (Homeless, Black and Minority Ethnic Communities, learning difficulties, vulnerable young, migrant communities), to be showcased.



Record Office

The two most popular family history services, Ancestry and Find My Past have been made available for library and Record Office customers to access from home instead of on site therefore extending its reach beyond the Record Office.

Museums, Heritage sites and the Record Office are planning managed access to venues from early September. This is to allow remedial collections and building preparation to take place before opening.

The Collections and Conservation Team are supporting the Strategic Property redevelopment of Snibston Colliery Park, around the development of a Heritage trail and relocation of material on site.

Advance Notice of a Temporary Regulation Order (TTRO)

A TTRO is to be made at the following location, **Spring Lane**. The purpose of the TTRO is to allow British Telecoms to safely undertake Pole Testing works. The TTRO will incorporate a temporary road closure.

The duration of the restriction is not anticipated to exceed a period of 1 day commencing on 1st October 2020.

A TTRO is to be made at the following location on **Hathern Road**. The purpose of the TTRO is to allow Danaher and Walsh (Civil engineering) Ltd to safely undertake junction improvement works in the connection with the Persimmon Homes development. The TTRO will incorporate a temporary road closure.

The duration of the restriction is not anticipated to exceed a period of 3 days commencing on the 19th October 2020.

A TTRO is to be made for the following location, **Loughborough Road**. The purpose of the TTRO is to allow Leicestershire County Council to safely undertake works to install a new Gully in the carriageway. The TTRO will incorporate a temporary road closure.

The duration of the restriction is not anticipated to exceed a period of 3 days (09.00 till 15.00 each day) commencing on the 19th October.



A TTRO is to be made for the following location: **Charley Road, Charley/Shepshed; Oaks Road** from 21st – 27th October between 07.00 to 18.00. Works are scheduled to take place Monday to Fridays only. The purpose of the TTRO is to allow LCC to safely facilitate water retexturing.

Gelders Hall Road

Following the Consultations County have decided that they will carry on with the proposals having taking comments into consideration with additional double yellow lines. Having said that to assist with the one way part of the scheme it is proposed to extend the buildout to make a narrowing, however following recent events and the unforeseen additional burden on budgets there is some uncertainty whether this can now be funded. Consequently County need to do a costing for this work before deciding if it can go ahead, this could have implications as to whether the one way is implemented.

County have also arranged for an estimate to be done for the widening of the access road onto Charnwood Road, this was something that was mentioned by a few of the businesses and whilst County would not fund it, if the businesses were prepared to do so, this is something County would consider.

Residents Issues

Residents who live on the Bluebell estate who have contacted me regarding the issue of bikes riding around their roads and the off road muddy humps which have been built off of the Jubilee Walks. Together with the police a meeting has been arranged to meet with the estate management company (Savills) and an officer from Natural England as the site is an SSSI site.

Waste land in Hall Croft where the old cafe and fabric centre used to stand, since it has been demolished is looking a mess. I am working with an officer at Charnwood on the regeneration team to ascertain what the owner intends to do with the site.

Brick Bus Shelter, Ashby Road opposite Brick Kiln Lane, this is not the responsibility of County but the Town Council, it was knocked down by a bus and is currently in the hands of the insurance company who require at least 3 quotes before work can be agreed.



The road works at the bottom of Iveshead Road should have been opened by the time you are reading this, but ongoing works will still be carrying on for a further 12 weeks. A letter has gone out to residents in the area keeping them informed.

If you have concerns about these works, please call 07779 417695 or you can email A512improvements@morgansindall.com.

I keep being asked about the speeding on Tickow Lane between Anson Road and the new part of Tickow Lane where there is a 30 mph limit. I have asked County to look and making this section 30 mph and putting in speed humps and shall keep asking until something is done before somebody is seriously injured especially where the right of way crosses Tickow Lane.

Police

As part of the local policing team across Charnwood they are keen to hear from any community groups that would like a crime prevention chat or a scheduled opportunity to speak with their dedicated local officers.

By having such interactions it gives you an opportunity to share your concerns or simply hear what your local team do in YOUR community.

The police already attend parish Council meetings, neighbourhood watch groups amongst others but they are keen to get out to more places.

If you run a karate club, football team, sewing club or anything else please reply to this alert and they will have an officer from their team contact you direct to arrange something.

Contact Sgt Chris Wharton on Christopher.Wharton@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk

Disappointed

Within days of the Town Council having new keep fit kit equipment erected in the Glenmore Park it was vandalised. This equipment was well received by residents and was beginning to be used. I dare not put into words what I would do with whoever did this if I caught them. These costs the rate payers of Shepshed money to get it repaired.



I am also a Town Councillor and in fact Chairman of the committee who decided for this to be purchased, and it is very disheartening when this happens.

The vandalism is on the increase, the public toilets have been set alight, a bench in the park broken, hedge and trees in the park set fire. This all costs rate payers money to repair.

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 or 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