



COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN – July 2021

As we have all done throughout the pandemic, we must continue to follow the latest health and safety advice. I hope that you have been able to meet up with family and friends safely again over the last few weeks and will continue to be able to do so safely until I hope restrictions are eased later in the summer.

Have a say on bus services

The county council is working closely with local bus operators to come up with bold plans to improve public transport – and encouraging more people to use it.

The Government has pledged £3 billion to help progress these plans across the county – and Leicestershire is aiming to secure a fair share of the funding.

However, to secure this funding, the council must develop a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) The council needs input to help it develop the plan.

It wants to find out what people think would improve local bus services – and what would encourage them to use local buses more.

County would like to hear from people who already use buses, those who currently don't as well as from public, private and voluntary organisations.

There is a questionnaire at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/bus-strategy-survey for people to have their say. The closing date is Friday 30th July.

New project for autistic people launched in Leicester and Leicestershire

Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council have joined together to encourage autistic people, their families, and carers to share their experiences of diagnosis and receiving support.

The Every Voice Counts initiative is asking residents to share their personal experience of health and social care services from the day of their autism diagnosis to their ongoing support, to help improve the care autistic people receive in the county and city.

To gather people's views the councils held virtual focus groups and one to one discussions. These sessions were chaired by an autistic person and took place either via zoom or the phone.

As cabinet member for Adults and communities, I feel that this new project seeks to break down the barriers and boundaries between professionals, communities and



the people who use county's services and their carers, so that we can work together better and create really positive changes to the services county offer.

The aims of this project is to support autistic people aged 18 and over, and their families, and carers to enable them to share their experiences with us so that we can feed back to other specialist groups. We will share and celebrate good practice but also make sure we address where things have gone wrong.

Summer Reading Challenge 2021

Leicestershire Libraries call for children aged between four and 12 to join the Wild World Heroes by signing up for this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

The relaxing of restrictions this summer means the annual challenge is back in your local library this year as well as online and runs from Saturday 3rd July to Saturday 4th September.

Thousands of children take part across the UK and Leicestershire each year and the aim is to encourage children to read whatever makes them happy, have fun and , as this year's theme suggest, get wild!

Children have been through an intense period of disruption and it's great to see Libraries open for children to visit again.

Children can collect six special stickers, including smelly ones, for their colourful collector's poster, and other incentives, including a medal, as they read, listen to or share six library books, eBooks or eAudiobooks over the summer and make two visits to a library.

All children taking part are entitled to free admission to Bosworth Battlefield and Donington-le-Health Manor House by showing their Wild World Heroes poster on entry (one per full-paying adult).

To find out more and for updated information about events visit www.leicestershire.gov.uk/libraries.

Carers week

Leicestershire County Council encouraged unpaid carers to apply for their carer's passport to ensure they could receive the right advice and support and are recognised for their valuable role within our communities.

An identity card was developed as a response to the difficulties and challenges which carers faced, often daily, to offer them vital recognition, which has been particularly important during the pandemic.



The passport offers an aid to identification for carers which is vital in ensuring they receive the help and support they need to support them in their caring role.

Caring will touch each of us in some way during our lifetime, whether we become a carer or need care ourselves. Whilst caring can be a rewarding experience, county recognise it can also have a huge impact on a person's health, finances and relationships.

Since the launch of the carers passport in November 2020 over 4,000 passports have been issued to unpaid carers in Leicestershire. To apply for a carers passport, or for more information please contact Support for Carers on 0185 468543 or visit www.supportforcarers.org.

A carer is someone who provides unpaid care and support to a family member or friend who has a disability, mental or physical illness, substance misuse issue or who needs extra help as they grow older.

County Council celebrated Leicestershire Shared Lives carers

Leicestershire County Council celebrated Shared Lives Week (14-20 June) by thanking carers across the county who went above and beyond to provide care every day to the county's vulnerable adults.

Shared lives schemes support adults with learning disabilities, mental health problems or other needs that make it harder for them to live on their own.

There are many different types of Shared Lives carers, some carers live with the person they care for full time, some offer short breaks for days or weeks or are day time support for a one-to-one basis or groups.

Throughout the past year our Shared Lives carers have continued to provide meaningful activities to the people they care for. These have helped to create a sense of routine and develop people's independent living skills, as well as support their health and wellbeing.

To find out more about becoming a Shared Lives carers contact the Shared Lives Team on sharedlives@leics.gov.uk or call 0116 305 8133 or visit www.leicestershire.gov.uk/shared-lives-service.

Children asked to draw their memories of Loughborough Market and Fair

Children have been given the exciting opportunity to create drawings based on the historic fair and market – which will take pride of place in a display on the front of Loughborough Library to celebrate the milestone anniversary later this year.



The first fair was held in Loughborough on 31st July 1221 to mark the feast day of St Peter. It was in the same year that a charter to hold a market in Loughborough was granted to the Lord of the Manor. Both a market and a fair have taken place in some form in Loughborough since that date.

Themed events are taking place throughout the year to celebrate the anniversary, including exhibitions at Charnwood Museum, Loughborough Library and Loughborough Town Hall. The My Magical Market, My Fantastical For! Project is a partnership between Leicestershire County Council and Charnwood Borough Council, with Loughborough Local Studies Volunteers leading on the historical research.

For more information on the project visit www.cultureleicestershire.co.uk/projects/my-magical-market-my-fantastical-fair/.

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 e mail christine_radford@hotmail.com or christine.radford@leics.gov.uk , I am pleased to say that my monthly surgery, which is held in the Town Council Offices in Charnwood Road, will be starting up again in September. You do not need an appointment; I will be there from 10-11 am on the first Saturday of the month.