

**Cllr. Brenda Seaton - Thurmaston Parish Councillor,  
Charnwood Borough Councillor for Thurmaston  
and County Councillor for Thurmaston Ridgemere  
(incorporating Barkby, Barkby Thorpe, Beeby, South Croxton & Thurmaston)**



## 'A greatly needed improvement to what was a village eye sore'

The village of Beeby is described as a rural hamlet comprising of a few remaining scattered houses that formed a medieval village. It is also described as an 'isolated settlement' and that remoteness is likely to be a factor to its constraint in growth. The village has associations with Stilton cheese production and brewing although cheese manufacture was short lived due to disease and the relocation of producers.

Brewing also had ceased by 1980. The village and its buildings have been little altered in the last 100 years.



The application site is adjacent to the Grade II Listed All Saints Church and also includes Grade II Listed Home Farm House, its outbuildings and Home Farm Cottage form a strong visual presence which occupies the central part of the village and is within the conservation area.

Over the last 20 years of regularly passing through the village I have seen the gradual deterioration of the Home Farm buildings. The previous application for residential and commercial uses including a bakery, farm shop and brewery/bistro was widely welcomed by the residents of Beeby but was unsuccessful. However, the application was resubmitted by Mr Shields and now will comprise of seven dwellings, two of which are existing. The five new dwellings will include conversions of outbuildings, car parking and landscaping. The Farm House, The Cottage and The Granary will be three bed dwellings whilst The Byre, The Old Barn, The Grain Dryer and The Open Barn will be four bedroom dwellings that could potentially increase the population of the village by 50%, helping build a vibrant and strong community as well as contributing to the character and appearance of the conservation area.



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Last month, Valerie, a rare but welcomed visitor to our monthly Parish Council meeting informed the council of a charity she manages, Together Against Cancer. The charity, based in Thurmaston, provides free support to cancer patients and their carers for up to three years post-treatment. They offer complementary therapies, one-to-one guidance, counselling, yoga and lots of educational workshops.

With 1 in 2 people predicted to experience some type of cancer, this is something that affects us all.

The centre is a safe and friendly space offering a huge range of support and guidance. You can meet other clients, try different therapies and have access to a range of wellness books and talks for free.

One of their clients said, "After a rigorous treatment via the NHS, I received complementary therapies at Together Against Cancer. I have enjoyed all the treatments offered at the centre. The centre is an absolute gem, with a friendly team and full of knowledge. I am so grateful I found this place."

They are opening their services to non-cancer patients too, on a limited basis with reflexology, massage, and hydroxy therapy. If you, or someone you know, has been diagnosed with cancer, contact Together Against Cancer for support on 0116 246 0195 or email [support@togetheragaincancer.org.uk](mailto:support@togetheragaincancer.org.uk) Follow them at [facebook.com/TogetherAgainstCancer.UK](https://www.facebook.com/TogetherAgainstCancer.UK)

## Apply now for food and fuel support

Leicestershire residents who need help with food and energy costs can apply for a new round of grants. Leicestershire County Council was awarded £7.2m earlier this year by the Department of Work and Pensions to help people who are struggling with bills. Eligible households can apply to receive an average of £200 in food and energy costs. During October half-term, £15 food vouchers were given to children receiving free school meals. The cost of living pressures on households has grown over the last year and the council has given more than £22m of support to help residents cope. I urge anyone who thinks they are eligible, or knows someone who is, to find out more and access the support they're entitled to. More information and the online application form for support can be found at [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/household-support-fund](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/household-support-fund)

## Families with children urged to consider fostering

Families who already have children are being encouraged to explore how fostering can fit into their lives. October was 'Children of Foster Carers' month, which aims to raise awareness of the role of children of foster carers and recognise their contribution to supporting children in care.

Ellie, her husband Tom and their two children are currently fostering an 18-month-old baby with Leicestershire County Council. They've opened up about their experiences of welcoming a foster child to their family. Ellie said, "We explained fostering to our children using age-appropriate language. We talk to them constantly and we remind them that they and the child are important to us. We also involved the children in the whole process; they love having a foster brother to play with. It's a positive experience for the whole family. We all get excited by the baby's milestones and that's lovely to share. It's a personal decision, but if you're thinking about it, it's probably likely it'll be right for you."

Her birth daughter, Imogen (10), added, "It's strange at first, but it's quite fun. It is sad when foster children leave, but it's not all bad, most of the time we see them again. I love to play with my foster brother. He makes us laugh because he likes watching the washing machine. He also loves posting things!"



Birth children of foster carers can make a massive difference to children and young people in care. We know that for some families, the potential impact on their children is a barrier to becoming a foster carer. However, the reality is that many children benefit from being part of the support network offered by a fostering family to a child they are looking after. We also know they can really help a child or young person settle into family life, helping them to feel welcome and loved. They do an amazing job and are wonderful in the support and care they offer.

If you would like to explore how fostering would fit into your family, then you're welcome to attend one of the council's virtual events to find out about fostering.

They are on the evenings of Thursday, 23rd November and Tuesday, 12th December.

You can book your place by emailing [fostering@leics.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@leics.gov.uk) or calling 0116 305 0505. Lines are open until 8.00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and on the first Saturday of the month 10.00am-12.00noon.

## If you have any concerns

Facebook 'brendaclrseaton' or 'brendaseaton', telephone/text 07790 083595 or email [Cllr.brenda.seaton@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.brenda.seaton@charnwood.gov.uk)