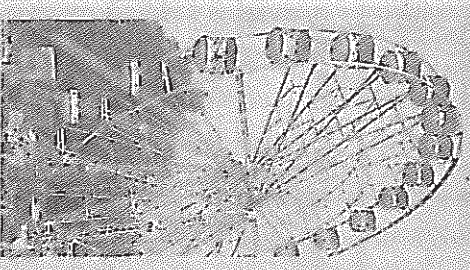


Letters

WRITE TO: Letters, Loughborough Echo, Princes' Court, Royal Way, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 5XR
EMAIL: andy_rush@mfn.co.uk

Poem of the week



THIS week's prize-winning poem is by Jean Benall

The Fair.

The big wheel turns
Cups and saucers
spin
Candy floss to eat
Coconuts to win
Sprawling Heter
skelter
Pirate ships fly
Carousel horses
Go galloping by
The smell of hot dogs
and onions
The fair comes each
November
Lots of happy
memories
For us all to
remember

Brand turn off

I WONDERED if I was the only one of your readers to find the letter about external house insulation more interesting and stimulating than the long (Oh so long) letter headed 'If Mr Brand wants to do something....'

Even to mention Russell Brand, possibly the most objectionable person to appear on television, was a turn off.

Kel Prince
Rothley

Fair effect?

FOR several hundred years the fair comes to town in November and the market place as we know it is blocked off.

I would like to know how the bus companies organise the change to their routes and the impact it has.

I would also welcome hearing comments from passengers about their experience on these days and wonder whether their journeys were significantly delayed.

I am voting for option 'C' until there is strong negative feedback.

Coun Margaret
Smdowicz

Flooding - emptying the gullies would be a start

'LAST chance to talk on flooding' (*Loughborough Echo*, Friday, November 22) prompted me to complete the on-line questionnaire.

Of the many factors that contribute towards flooding in different areas, road surface water run-off is the one that affects us and many others around the town.

Blocked gullies in Forest Road have been brought to the attention of the LCC Highways Department several times since 2007.

In September 2012, Leicestershire Highways admitted that following that summer's floods they had experienced an unprecedented

number of blocked gullies and drainage issues.

The problem of blocked gullies was also raised at the SW Area Forum meeting on 7 February this year when we were invited by the County Council to 'have our say' and find out more about how the problem of flooding will be tackled in the future.

How much more information do they want before getting on with effective maintenance, rather than talk of 'flood risk management strategies'?

County Council claim to empty gullies



'The seal of line marking remained unbroken from 2006 to 2008, before this grating was lifted to unblock the gully. In spite of appearances, silt rather than debris, seems to be the predominant cause of blockages. This photograph was taken in September, 2007.' Photograph supplied by Martin Hodson.



Martin Hodson
Forest Road
Loughborough

"Beneath the puddle there is a blocked gully. It was reported blocked in October 2011 and not emptied until March 2013.

Small wonder that property on the opposite side of Forest Road suffers flooding during heavier rain fall."

Photograph supplied by Martin Hodson

A complete waste of money as traffic flow will not improve

THE work to build an inner road in Loughborough being built to bypass the Rushes and Swan Street is going to be a white elephant and a complete waste of money, traffic flow will not be improved.

Allowing buses to travel along Swan Street to the Rushes is

courting disaster as this is intended for pedestrians only, accidents are sure to follow.

There was until recent years a purpose-built bus station in Fennel Street.

The site of Loughborough Hospital in Baxter gate could be developed as a bus station where

all services in Loughborough would be obliged to use. East Midlands Traffic Commissions could alter route licences so that a call at the bus station had to be made.

Withdrawing all pick up and setting down by buses in Swan Street and the Rushes would

help traffic flow. To have a bus station in Baxter Gate would bring all buses to a central point where locals and visitors would know where buses operated from.

At present there are departure points from Swan Street, High Street and Ashby Square to all

Mr P C Roulston
Burton on the Wolds

Spot the Sock Man and you could win £25

LOUGHBOROUGH'S famous Sock-Man has been hidden somewhere within an advert in this week's Echo. And it could be anywhere.

If you do spot it, send in your name, address and a daytime

contact number to us, along with the number of the page and you saw it.

Send your entry on a postcard or the back of a sealed-down envelope to

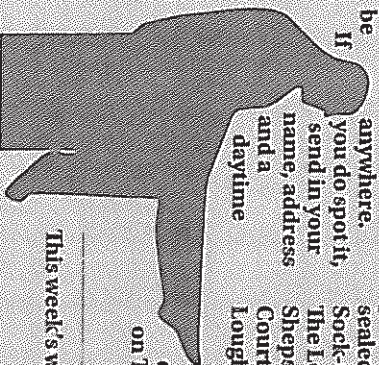
Sock-Man Competition, The Loughborough and Shepshed Echo, Princes' Court, Royal Way, Loughborough, LE11 5XR.

Closing date for entries is first post on Tuesday, December

3rd, 2013.

One lucky reader will be chosen at random from the correct entries. Normal Trinity Mirror competition rules apply. The editor's decision is final.

No alternative prize will be offered. A full list of rules can be found at www.trinitymirror-midlands.co.uk/



This week's winner is Wendy Coley, Anchor Lane, Hathern

Happy birthday to you all!

Off to see JLS

THIS week's Very Important Newshound is Rihanna Isufi. Rihanna, of Maple Road, Loughborough turns seven on December 4.



Happy birthday Rihanna.

Do you want to be a Newshound like these lucky boys and girls? The club is free to join. Just call 01509 232632.

Should lay out facts and let people make own decision

THE consultation about the pedestrianisation of the Market Place is a farce.

Pedestrians First, the Town Team, The Chamber of Trade, the Business Improvement District Area Forums, SARG, and correspondents to the Echo and many other organisations, all make it clear that the Inner Ring Road is being constructed at a cost of £14m in order to take traffic out of the Market Place.

They do not want a non stop bus route through the middle of this pedestrian area.

It should be an area where we can walk without looking over the shoulder to see if a bus is coming where we can extend the market, and other displays throughout what will be a large and significant traffic free area.

The County Council have now established a "Consultation" to try to find evidence that the people of Loughborough do not want a pedestrianised Market Place.

The Consultation form asks for people to indicate whether they want options A or B with non-stopping buses running across the Market Place, or option C without buses. The consultation document offers a whole series of misleading statements to encourage people not to opt for C.

"Town Services may have to be split". There is no good reason to split them. The ridiculous and unnecessary "alternative loops for cross town services" shown on the map suggest that there would be no cross town service. The lack of logic in the document becomes rather overwhelming at this point.

"Southbound long distance bus stops would be on Fennel Street" Why would they be there, it is most inconvenient even worse than the present location of stops.

"Passengers would have to cross the Inner Relief Road to catch Southbound stops". This makes the points that all the bus stops should be in the high Street/Baxter Gate bus centre.

"Some neighbourhoods could lose their local bus services due to the time taken to traverse the Inner Ring Road". This is nonsense. The inner ring road is designed to speed up the flow of traffic, so it will not take more time to traverse the inner ring road.

"Potential reductions in the number of passengers using us services to access the town centre, which may affect the long term viability of Loughborough's current bus network". There is absolutely no evidence that the number of passengers using the bus services will be reduced, so long as

they do not implement the farcical suggestion of moving the Swan Street stop out into the Rushes. Northbound and southbound buses can all use the loop of Inner Ring Road, High Street and Baxter Gate with stops really close to the Market Place.

All of these misleading points are based on the assumption that the Inner Ring Road will take more time to traverse than the congested and slow moving A6 through the town centre.

This is unsubstantiated scare mongering. A consultation document should lay out the facts and allow the consultees to decide?

As well as the county council trying to persuade us that we really do want buses running without stops through the Market Place, Kinch bus have been distributing leaflets as if they are supporting a campaign to retain town centre stops.

This is again misleading. All the options put forward in the consultation document show that the town centre stops will be removed.

Option C+ which is being advocated by the Town Team and many other groups show that all bus stops can be brought really close to the town centre while maintaining a traffic free Market Place.

The final nonsense of this flawed consultation exercise includes a video of a "pedestrianised street with buses in Exeter" it is worth looking at this carefully to appreciate that this is not a pedestrianised area.

Most of the pedestrians can be seen to stop on the edge of the road and look both ways before crossing. There is a little episode where a mother with a wheel chair and a toddler has to get her family organised to cross the bus corridor safely and a remarkable scene where a cyclist has to jump onto the pavement to avoid being run down by an oncoming bus.

This is well worth looking at to show that a non-stop bus corridor will completely destroy the concept of pedestrianisation.

The Pedestrian First Group has been allowed a presence in the exhibition in the Town Hall on 21, 22 and 23 November, but have been told not to have any specific exhibition materials on display, and that "any leaflets should only be provided at the end of the visit to the exhibition, rather than being used instead of the (highly biased) exhibition materials, to encourage a response to the consultation".

Why not? what are the county officers afraid of? Could it be an embarrassment if the consultation shows that the people of Loughborough do not want non-stop buses running through the pedestrianised area?

Through a combination of a flawed and biased consultation document and a campaign designed to mislead it is hoped that some people will opt for A or B, a bus corridor across the Market Place.

hope that no-one will be fooled by this and that all the returns will indicate we want option C with the sensible proposals in the leaflet labelled C+.

Whether the county officers and councillors will take any notice will be an interesting test of our democratic system.

The biggest danger is that county (with councillors from as far afield as Melton and Hinckley) will decide on a trial of with buses running through the market place first, and if this "works" will leave this as the solution.

When I suggested that it would be sensible to try out the full pedestrianisation first Kinch bus said that it would be very dangerous to introduce buses into an area where people had got used to not having buses. Which implies that a non stop bus corridor will have to be part of the awareness of anyone walking towards that part of the market place. This really does give the game away.

A proper pedestrianised market place will add to the attraction of the town, increase football and prosperity, plan C+ shows that bus stops can be brought really close to the town centre and provide an excellent service combined with nearby taxi ranks and with car parks reasonably close.

It will be difficult to comprehend why anyone would vote for options A or B with a non stopping bus corridor. I really hope they will not do so.

David Walker,
Beacon Road
Loughborough

Don't feel alone if living with dementia

IF YOU or one of your readers is supporting someone living with dementia, or is living with dementia themselves then it may be tempting to feel alone.

In reality, there are around 1800 people living with the condition in the Charnwood Borough - and many more who are in regular contact with family and friends with the condition.

We want to take the opportunity as the Alzheimer's Society support workers for Leicestershire to highlight local help which many people simply don't know about.

As well as our local groups - such as our Loughborough Dementia Café - we also provide a free 'Dementia Support Service'.

From the beginning of someone's journey with dementia right the way through the condition - our role is to provide information in the right way, at the right time and to provide emotional support.

We provide accurate, accessible information to help people with dementia and their carers make informed decisions. As the person's needs change, we can answer a variety of questions from 'is it safe for

me to drive?' to questions about care homes or respite care.

Although we are in contact with many people locally, we know that there are many more that are missing out on support that can help them live well with the condition.

If anyone wants more information, we would encourage them to contact us on 01162 311114 or e. mcsweneey@alzheimers.org.uk or tracy.price@alzheimers.org.uk

Tracy Price and Liz McSweneey,
Alzheimer's Society Dementia Support Workers for Leicestershire

Baxter Gate is the key

REGARDING the buses and the pedestrianisation of the town centre, I think Dave Dunkerley has got it spot on.

Make Baxter Gate two-way and make town bus services use it, out of Baxter Gate onto new road to go North, out of Baxter Gate to go south onto High Street.

At the moment all buses using Baxter Gate go to Nottingham or Leicester so no problem there. The only change would be town services.

Pete Dalby
Cleveland Road
Loughborough.

Food parcel service being abused

THERE has been much publicity lately concerning the introduction of charities providing essential supplementary food for needy persons and families.

This is an admirable concept, both environmentally friendly and, more importantly, assisting those in need. They are run by marvellous, community-spirited persons giving freely of their time and efforts.

There is a need for this service, but it is such a shame that it is being abused by so many greedy persons who feel it is their right to be provided with extra food to supplement the income they receive which is being misspent on cigare-

ttes, expensive mobile contracts and satellite TV etc.

Also persons with incomes and private pensions which they are failing to declare. That this abuse is taking place is widely known to many.

Whilst it may be difficult to monitor, could not more controls take place to ensure that the parcels are being provided only to those being referred via a voucher system provided by social services for example.

The demand is escalating and, consequently, insufficient parcels will be available for distribution.

Name and address supplied



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