



COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN – October 2019

As your County Councillor, I am always on hand to try and deal with any concerns you may have about services provided by Leicestershire County Council. Such as street lighting, highways, footpaths, overhanging trees and hedges onto the highways/footpaths, social services etc.

No left turn Iveshead Road

I am pleased that County saw sense and the petition to do away with the no left turn at the bottom of Iveshead Road where it joins the A512 have been approved. Residents will still be able to turn left into Ashby Road without having to use the X roads at Charley.

A512 roadworks update

Morgan Sindall the company carry out the works are currently installing a haul road to install new BT poles from Snell's Nook up to M1 J23. They are also tree felling and clearing on the A512 Shepshed side of the M1 and locating the existing STW and Gas Main. They are also conducting badger surveys and archaeological recordings.

They are continuing the development of the Hanson Offices (which will be their offices) by renewing electrics and installing IT. They are also awaiting BT Overhead diversion on the A512 East of the M1.

Charley Road X Roads

The majority of works to improve safety at the Charley Road/Iveshead Road cross roads has been completed. The roads have been resurfaced and County have applied and enhanced anti-skid surfacing. In addition new advanced warning signs and give way signs have been installed. The area of new anti-skid surfacing was increased and applying rumble strips on this surface would decrease the skid resistance. New bend with cross road warning signs have been installed on Iveshead Road and Abbey Road approaches to the junction. New advanced give way signs have been installed on both Charley Road approaches to the junction. Damaged chevron signs, marker posts and give way signs have also been replaced.



County are currently waiting on dates to begin further improvement works, including introducing additional vehicle activated signs.

I keep being asked if County could reduce the speed. The reply I get from County is the national criteria for setting speed limits does not justify a 30 mph speed limit at this location. I will keep monitoring this junction along with the support of residents.

Traffic and Safety issues in Shepshed

A number of residents have raised issues about traffic and safety concerns around Shepshed. In terms of taking any action with regard to the speed of traffic on local roads and in respect of implementing any traffic calming measures the County Council is only able to take further action where there is evidence of a safety need as demonstrated by the number of personal injury accidents recorded by Leicestershire Police.

Speeding traffic is the responsibility of the Police and is responsible for enforcement of the speed limit. Residents are able to report suspected speeding incidents to the Police. There is also a Community Speed watch scheme details can be found on <http://www.communityspeedwatch.org.uk/>.

Shepshed has two Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) on Hathern Road near to the Motorway bridge, which I recently reported as faulty and was found to have a few LED units faulty and this repair has been requested. The second VAS sign can be found on Iveshead Road.

The placement of static speed cameras on the road network is also subject to a fairly rigorous set of nationally applied criteria. In placing these, County are only allowed to do so at locations that meet criteria that include recorded injury accidents and a high level of speeding traffic.

With regard to suggestions of double yellow lines at junctions, any such measures involve a fairly lengthy and expensive legal order making process and as a result County are only able to consider this type of measure at location where the evidence, including recorded injury accidents, shows that action must be taken.

Residents only parking schemes are generally only considered for streets where the majority of residents have no access to off street parking.



Residents can be assured that any request to me will be forwarded to County for their consideration.

Recycling simplified across Leicestershire

Districts councils in Leicestershire have joined forces to make recycling easier than ever by providing a more consistent recycling service for Leicestershire residents.

The majority of county residents are now able to recycle exactly the same materials in their recycling wheelie bins wherever they live in the county.

Six district councils have worked together to produce one simple list of what can and cannot be put into the recycling bin. It is hoped that not only will this offer better consistency for residents countywide, but that it will also encourage residents to recycle more things, more often.

A complete list of items that can be recycled can be seen here:

www.lesswaste.org.uk/items-accepted-for-recycling-at-casepak/

Until recently when recycling bins were emptied by crews in each council area, the contents were taken to several different recycling sites for sorting. Each recycling site had different rules and different processes which meant items that could be recycled in some districts could not be recycled in others. That changed last year and now recycling collections from most districts – Blaby, Charnwood, Harborough, Hinckley & Bosworth, Melton and Oadby & Wigston – are now taken to a single materials recycling facility in Leicester which has enabled the councils to team up for the first time.

Up to date information on what the recycling is used for is also available at

www.lesswaste.org.uk

It is hoped that this will make recycling easier for Leicestershire residents, leading to more recycling and less waste going to landfill.

Blackbrook Reservoir

Following the recent problems with the dam at Toddbrook Reservoir, Waley Bridge in Derbyshire when part of a village had to be evacuated. I contacted Severn Trent to ask how often the dam at Blackbrook is inspected.



I have received confirmation that not only this dam but all dams and reservoirs are inspected under a statutory responsibility once a year. However Severn Trent stated that they go far beyond the statutory requirements by inspecting all of their dams at least once a week and some of them three times a week. Severn Trent went on to say that the dam at Blackbrook is inspected at least weekly by one of their trained operatives, four times per year by my contact, a Reservoir Technician and annually by the Reservoir Supervising Engineer as required by the Reservoirs Act 1975. It is also inspected by an independent Inspecting Engineer.

Post Office

Pensioners are being asked to close their Post Office Card account. Letters have been sent from Whitehall to the elderly telling them to switch to a bank account for the receipt of their state pension.

The Post Office card account provides a simple way to receive pensions, tax credits or benefits, with no overdraft, fees or charges to worry about. **You can refuse to move and keep your old card.**

The Department for Work and Pensions contract with the Post Office to provide the accounts expires in August 2021. I campaigned some years ago to keep open the 2 Post Offices we still have in Shepshed if we do not use them we will lose them. I refused to cancel my Card and shall carry on doing so.

Register your child for school

If you have a child who is due to start school next September, 2020 you have until 15th January to get them registered. You will receive your offer of a place sometime around 16th April. You need to put down 3 options, not just your preferred one.

If your child is currently in year 6 you have until 31st October to apply for secondary schools and an offer will come out to at the beginning of March.

Drivers leave car engine ticking over

A planned crackdown aims to protect children from toxic air at school gates. Commercial delivery drivers who stop to load vans, plus those who wait at taxi ranks and bus stops will be targeted. I have approached Arriva regarding how often their bus drivers are stationary with their engines running and have taken this up with their



Head Office. Complaints have also been made about HGV's delivering to building sites in Shepshed early in the mornings and leaving their engines idling/ running. These complaints have been followed up. Putting a stop to idling is an easy way to drive down dangerously high levels of pollutions, reducing its impact on the environment and on our health and our children's health. These can trigger health problems from heart and lung disease to strokes and cancer and are particularly damaging to children.

Advance notice of a temporary traffic regulation order (TTRO)

A TTRO is to be made for the following location: **Church Street**. The purpose of the TTRO is to allow Cadent Gas to safely undertake gas service works in the carriageway.

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 12 days commencing on the 21st October.

I have made County aware that this part of Shepshed has very narrow roads and to make sure that any signage indicates this.

Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

As Cabinet support for Adults and Communities I attended this scrutiny committee. There were various topics up for scrutiny such as Domiciliary Care Service post November 2020, Carers Support Update, Progress report on the relocation of the Record Office and an update on Phase One of the Collections and Learning Hub Project. Next steps in the Library services and provision.

Following on from this meeting I have arranged to visit the current Records Office and Collection facilities and I am down to visit Libraries around the County and have opened the Libraries Live Exhibition Launch at Newbold Verdon Library on 9th September.

Over the summer I visited Bosworth Battlefield, this was the first time I had been and was surprised of how large an area it was, not just a field. I was invited to attend



The Bosworth Battlefield Rose Laying Ceremony on 22nd August which was the anniversary of the death of King Richard III .

I have also visited the 1620's house at Donington le Heath which has undergone a refurbishment; they have a lovely garden and café. These 2 properties fall under the Adults and Communities department, I am learning just how many different types of properties County look after such as Museums as well as Libraries, Care homes etc.,

VAS Sign – Hathern Road

I am aware that the VAS sign is not working again and County are aware of this and are awaiting parts to repair it.

Your help

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 come along to my monthly Surgery on the FIRST Saturday of the month in the Town Council Offices, 47a Charnwood Road 10-11am. No appointment is necessary.