



COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN –
March 2021

I hope this finds most of you well. I have had my vaccination being in the 70+ age group at the surgery on Leicester Road. It was very well organised, in one door and out another. Standing in line everybody seemed positive. I do hope that if you are offered a slot you accept it.

During the cold weather spell we have been having, can residents check on your vulnerable neighbours, family and friends.

Police

The Suicide Audit and Prevention Group would like to bring your attention to the resources available on their website, for all residents of Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland www.startaconversation.co.uk

The police know that particularly across Leicester and areas of Leicestershire, the COVID outbreak and subsequent local lockdowns may have had a detrimental effect on us all and the relationships we all hold dear.

On the site, a number of resources are available but in particular the police would like to draw your attention to our COVID 19 and Mental Health & Wellbeing Pack. This includes resources of where to find help and 5 ways to Wellbeing, or you can click this link and it will take you straight there. Do you know there's a wellbeing cafe in Loughborough? They are based at the Emporium, 3 Wards End.

You will also find within the Advice and Support Section of the site, a number of support resources in relation to Coronavirus & Wellbeing, Mental Health problems, Abuse and discrimination. Financial problems, Substance misuse, Children and Young People, Students, Sexual or gender identity, Military personnel and Veterans,.

Finally, you will find a section on bereavement on their website. If you or anyone you know have been bereaved by suicide (not just as a family member), they can access their free bereavement Support Provider; The Tomorrow Project, The Tomorrow Project, offer ongoing emotional and practical support and also support families through the inquest process.



You can also find help and support from the Samaritans by calling them on 116 123. You can also find details for other bereavement providers here too.

This message has been sent by Ben Widdowson (Freemen & Eyres Monsell Sergeant, Sgt, South Leicester Neighbourhood Policing Area)

Cold weather and gritting

I have had confirmation from County Highways that areas outside of COVID vaccination buildings have been given priority.

At the time of putting this article together we have had our second fall of snow this year. The snow has led to disruption of services at several of the county's recycling and household waste sites. Residents are being urged to check the council website before travelling for their appointment.

County start preparing for the winter weather in the summer so by the time county need to send out their gritters, county are fully stocked up on salt and ready to tackle anything. County monitor the weather constantly and have teams across the county on call to grit whenever it is needed. At the moment, the lower traffic levels propose a unique challenge for their gritters as friction caused by the passage of vehicles on the grit is essential to complete the de-icing process.

The county council does not grit every road, check if your journey is gritted on their map, on www.leicestershire.gov.uk/winter-weather/gritting-and-travel-this-winter.

The county council has five gritting depots across the county, with 23 gritters and the 17 routes they follow cover 1,300 miles of the county which make up 47% of the county's road network.

This year, the council's grit barns are stocked up with 18,000 tonnes of rock salt, ready to tackle the worst of the winter weather. Community snow wardens also do their bit by gritting paths – and local farmers help out by fitting snow ploughs to their tractors and help the council to clear roads where necessary.



Trial Recycled plastics use on highways

Officers in Highways Delivery have been monitoring closely the ongoing developments with regards to the use of recycled plastics, tyres and low carbon materials in surfacing materials. The Highways Department will always strive to ensure they continue to get value for money from their maintenance treatments. They constantly assess industry developments and proprietary products as they arrive in the market place in partnership with their supply chains.

The department has been actively involved in the use of asphalt preservation treatments, low temperature foam mix bituminous products, low energy asphalts, medium temperature asphalts, surfacing materials using recycled aggregates and rubberised asphalts. Many of these products have been used to provide innovative and cost minimising solutions on their highway network.

With the life expectancy of surfacing materials to be in excess of 10-20 years, a complete understanding of the durability and performance of new products is often not fully understood for many years which can mean that trial products take many years to be fully understood and possibly adopted by the industry. As such we have assessed the products available in the market place for suitability with the schemes below.

Challenge fund summary / carbon savings

Approx £5m funding has been awarded from the Dft through the 'challenge fund' for highway maintenance on project at 426 Blaby bypass, A47 Hinckley bypass and A6 Market Harborough bypass. Further detailed information on the projects is available on the LCC website; www.leicestershire.gov.uk/bypass-maintenance-projects

Iveshead Campus 2020/Reg3Ma0174/LCC

As your County Councillor I am in favour of the proposals being carried out to the old Hind Leys block and St Botolphs School. BUT I have commented that I am concerned that with the large increase in numbers to pupils at this complex I do not feel the road network will be able to cope. I have asked that the highways department take a good look at the area around Loughborough Road and Forest Street which is the only vehicle entrance to the campus; we already have problems in this area currently.



Your help and support

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.