



COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – September 2018

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 into the highways, social services etc.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO)

A TTRO is to allow Leicestershire County Council to facilitate gully cleansing works in Forest Street on Wednesday 17th October.

The TTRO will incorporate a temporary parking restriction in Forest Street.

A Press Release will be issued to confirm these details approximately 2 weeks prior to the works commencing.

These works are necessary to enable rain water to drain away from highways and not cause flooding issues. Gullies get emptied regularly by County, if you have concerns about a gully near to your property then please get in touch.

Ash Dieback

Ash dieback is now present throughout Leicestershire and is particularly evident on young trees, new shoots and in young plantations, mainly in the north-west of the county; there is very little evidence of the disease affecting mature trees.

There are no exact figures of the number of ash trees in Leicestershire. However it is estimated that there may be over 500,000 ash trees in the county. In terms of County Council controlled land, there are 6,020 recorded ash trees on adopted highway verges with a further 120,00 plus ash trees in private ownership within falling distance of the highway. In addition, there are 2,014 recorded ash trees on school and other County Council sites. It is prudent to assume that the disease may result in the loss of between 75% and 90% of ash trees in Leicestershire. However, the levels of decline and mortality that will result are matters of considerable uncertainty.



The potential loss of trees in Leicestershire and the adverse effect on the county's landscape is a significant consideration. It is essential that a robust replanting programme forms a major part of the authority's approach to managing ash dieback. Although the authority currently runs a suite of schemes to encourage landowners to plant trees, a much wider ranging approach with significantly increased targets is required. A range of suitable native and naturalised tree species, appropriate to the planting location should be made available to encourage early replacement planting to mitigate ash dieback.

Unitary Authority

The Leader of Leicestershire County Council Mr. N. Rushton has launched a consultation on a new council for Leicestershire.

This would see all current district and county councils abolished and replaced by a single, new, all-purpose council. Any new council for Leicestershire would see empowered Town and Parish Councils (for those wanting them) with a greater say over local planning decisions in conjunction with new Area Executive/committees (with significant budgets) making decisions on licensing and other issues devolved to them.

These arrangements are in place in other areas that went unitary in 2009 (e.g. Cornwall, Wiltshire).

At the strategic level, a single new council would be part of a Strategic Alliance with other local authorities, including Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire CC.

This is to rebalance the power of the West Midlands and is an opportunity for the East Midlands to get its act together bidding for funding for strategic housing and planning, infrastructure and transport, as under the current 2 tier structure, we're at the back of the queue.

A letter has been sent from the Leaders of Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire to the Secretary of State seeking a meeting to discuss the proposed East Midlands Strategic Alliance.

It was recommended at the Cabinet meeting on 6th July that the timetable for consideration be as follows:-



- 16th October it will go to Cabinet to consider outline proposals and agree to engage with stakeholders on options.
- 14th November it will go to Scrutiny Commission to comment on the outline proposals
- 23rd November it will go to Cabinet to consider the outcome of stakeholder engagement and the way forward
- 5th December it will go to Full Council to debate the proposed way forward recommend by the Cabinet

School's Recycling Poster Competition

A competition was open to schools in Leicestershire to design an eye catching poster to encourage others to recycle more, all Key Stage 2 and 3 year pupils were able to apply. 60+ pupils entered the competition and a pupil from Burton on the Wolds Primary School won. I was part of the panel that picked the winning design. I presented the pupil with a book voucher for £10 and the school received a £50 book token.

Shepshed Library

I reported in the August edition of the Shepshed Eye that Shepshed Library was on the list to be adapted into a Smart Library.

I have now been informed that this is due to take place from 17th September for 2 weeks in order that the technology can be installed.

Library customers will be alerted to the closure through notices in the library, on their website and via social media. Specific groups who use the library will be contacted by the staff.

Community groups will be encouraged to use the library during Smart library times as a free meeting space.

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 etc., without your eyes and ears I could not get them reported and sorted.



For help and advice on County matters, I can be contacted on 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.