



## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN – March 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.

### **County Council Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> February**

This meeting was taken up mostly to discuss the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-2022/23. The recommended revenue budget for 2019/20 totalling £377m was approved. An extra 1% was included for adult social care. The main areas of growth are listed below:-

- The Children and Families Services (£10.5m)
- Adult Social Care (£12.1m)
- Public Health (£0.7m)
- Environment and Transport (£5.2m)
- Corporate Resources (£0.9m)

I have highlighted just a few of items which County need to pay for, such as £9.5m+ on Special Education Transport, £3.9m+ Mainstream School Transport, £4.9m Concessionary Travel, £2.3m Subsidised travel.

### **M1 Junction 23 and the A512**

Residents will be aware the Leicestershire County Council are implementing a £25m project at M1 junction 23 and A512 to reduce congestion and unlock future development in Loughborough. The scheme is backed by money received through successful funding bids from Highways England (Growth and Housing Fund) and Leicester, Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (Local Growth Fund) along with developer contributions.

The first part of the work which started on 11<sup>th</sup> February was to clear vegetation and undertakes forestry works which are being carried out prior to the bird nesting season. These works are being undertaken with the agreement of the adjacent landowners.

The second phase of works is to provide a new roundabout access to the West of Loughborough Sustainable Urban Extension (WoLSUE) and the Loughborough



University Science and Enterprise Park (LUSEP). There will also be works to improve capacity at crucial junctions along the A512 including M1 junction 23 to handle the predicted future growth. This phase is currently being planned to be undertaken in summer 2019.

I will continue to keep you informed as and when I have information.

### **Advance Notice of a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO)**

A TTRO is to be made for the following location: Sullington Road. The purpose of the TTRO is to allow Severn Trent Water to undertake works on a new water connection.

The duration of the restriction is not anticipated to exceed a period of 3 days commencing on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

### **Tickow Lane**

Due to the amount of HGV's using Tickow Lane to access the next phase of the development in that area, a large number of potholes and ruts have developed. After contacting County I have been assured that the remedial work will be carried out shortly.

### **Shepshed Waste Re-cycling Centre**

I have not yet been given the date of when the site will be closed for works to be carried out, but will inform you as soon as I have that information.

Just a reminder that the site is closed Tuesdays and Wednesday, and the summer opening times start on 1<sup>st</sup> April and will be open until 6pm.

### **Fly Tipping**

Waste collection is the responsibility of Borough and District Councils, but Refuse Collection sites are the responsibility of County.

Anyone who produces waste has a legal duty of care to take all reasonable steps to ensure their waste is disposed of in the correct way. The householder can be fined or prosecuted if fly-tipped waste is traced back to the household it came from, a fixed



penalty notice for a duty of care offence can be issued. A fixed penalty notice means offenders can be dealt with speedier rather than going through the courts.

A fixed penalty notice can be issued if:

- Fly-tipped waste can be traced back to an individual who is found to have failed to take reasonable steps to ensure they transferred the waste to an authorised person.
- An unauthorised carrier is found to be carrying household waste that was directly given to them by the occupier of a domestic property.
- An individual is found to have transferred their household waste to an unauthorised person at a site that does not have a permit or exemption.

The cost of a fixed penalty notice is £400 but there is an early payment incentive of £280 if paid within 10 days.

## **Preparations across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland for Britain exiting the EU**

### **(LLR Prepared Partnership)**

The Government has recently announced additional funding for Councils and Local Resilience Forums to help them prepare for EU Exit. Across the two financial years 2018-9 and 2019-20 the County Council will receive £175,000, all district council will received £35,000 and Leicester City Council will be provided with £210,000. Areas that host significant ports will receive a share of £1.5m additional funding. It is understood that the County Council will be a recipient of such funding because of the presence of East Midlands Airport in the county, but this (and the sum involved) has yet to be formally confirmed.

Consideration is currently being given to the most effective use of these resources given the risks faced in Leicestershire.

Relevant Council services are actively preparing for any risks in conjunction with key partners. For instance in relation to there being a no deal exit; the possible disruption of freight at East Midlands Airport, which is a major UK cargo airport; and other services focussed on transport, trading standards and communication issues. In respect of these risks the Council's Environment and Transport Department and Trading Standards Service are working closely with NWLDC, East Midlands Airport, businesses, including major freight operators, based at and near to the Airport,



Highways England, Border Force and partner in nearby Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

County are holding a briefing session on 26<sup>th</sup> February, for all County Councillors to inform them of how prepared County are for the 29<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Stagecoach operation of East Midlands Trains**

Stagecoach operation of East Midlands Trains franchise has been extended until at least August 2019. The current franchise is due to end on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019. To bridge the gap and ensure a smooth transition to the new franchise, which is currently expected to start in August 2019, a new short term franchise agreement was required.

### **Be a step ahead from The Scammers**

Scammers use clever techniques to part people from their money and gain their personal details that are then used to commit fraud. Trading Standards has some tips as to how you can avoid becoming a victim of scams and protect your personal and financial information.

- Don't assume those contacting you, whether that is over the phone, by e-mail or in person, are genuine, even if they tell you information about yourself or show you some kind of identify card that looks 'official'. Contact the organisation they claim to be from to check they are genuine using the details on their website rather than any the caller gives you.
- Remember, a genuine organisation will never ask you for security details such as your PIN or passwords. If you are not 100% sure who you are talking to, DO NOT give out ANY personal or financial information, even if you are told you have been a victim of fraud or a scam.
- Be confident to refuse unusual requests for your personal or financial information. Don't be afraid to end conversations you're not comfortable with.

### **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](mailto:christine_radford@hotmail.com) or [christine.radford@leics.gov.uk](mailto: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.