



COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE RADFORD'S COLUMN

May 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.

Charnwood Forest Regional Park

I am vice-chairman of the Charnwood Forest Regional Park. We held a stakeholders meeting at County Hall on 5th April when presentations from the National Forest Company, Charnwood Borough Council and British Geological Society. The Stakeholders are putting together a report to submit a bid of £2.9m to the National Lottery Heritage fund.

Charnwood Forest consists of Jubilee Wood, Outwoods, Beacon Hill and Bradgate Park which consists of 45 acres of Ancient Woodland (SSSI).

It has a unique landscape there are 13,807 records held which found 528 different species (birds, beetles etc.) covering 11,117 ha.

Woodland/grassland/heath/fens/bogs and open water.

The presentation given by the British Geological went onto say fossils as old as 570m-540m years old have been found in the area. Some of these were named after the area Charnia Masoni and Charnioclicus.

The talk given by the officer from Charnwood reported on events taking place at the Outwoods. The barn and play area will be open for Easter. Other improvements taking place will be a visitors centre and café in the old ranger's cottage which is planned for early 2020. Other improvements to the car park, new pathway for users with limited mobility, improved access for non-car users, improve connectivity between the Outwoods and Loughborough by upgrading the paths and improve the connectivity between other sites such as Beacon Hill, all this is part of the application to the National Heritage Lottery fund.



Charley Road Cross Roads

This cross roads is one of the worst accident black spots in the County. I have had numerous meetings with officers at County to discuss what additional improvements could be carried out to make this junction safer.

Rumble strips and give way signs have already been put in place; speed reductions are due to come in force. I have discussed changing the priority going across from Charley Road rather than down the hill. I also discussed traffic lights and a roundabout, but this was not supported by County nor the police.

I shall keep speaking with County and the Police to see how these cross roads could be improved.

A512/Ashby Road/Charnwood Road/Leicester Road Improvements

There was due to be a public exhibition on these improvements during May, but this has been postponed until sometime in June. I will keep you all informed when I have a date.

I have had a chance to look at some of these proposals and am very concerned that one of the proposals is to stop traffic leaving Iveshead Road and turning left into Ashby Road. The proposals are to make traffic cross over into Charnwood Road or turn right towards Loughborough. I am concerned that traffic from dwellings on Iveshead Road which wants to go towards Ashby will use Charley Road cross roads, which we know already is a dangerous junction.

I ask residents if they visit this exhibition and they are also concerned about this proposal they could make a comment regarding this, together with other concerns they might have about the alterations/improvements on the A512.

Supporting Families in Crisis

The County Council supports a Local Welfare Assistance scheme. The service has been developed from an application based model to one that now supports many more people through targeted referrals. The process is part of an integrated approach to assistance through front line workers and voluntary sector organisations that is coordinated under a partnership model involving all District Councils, Charity Line, The Bridge Housing Services, Leicestershire and Rutland Reuse Network and



Women's Aid. Leicestershire County Council agrees with the benefits of this scheme and has committed to continue funding it.

The Council's budget for this work has a focus on supporting people with predominantly re-used furniture and white goods to enable them to move out of temporary accommodation, and access tenancies. The service includes providing emergency short-term food and fuel support to people in hardship and crisis. In addition the Service is complemented by preventative support focused on debt and money management advice from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Shepshed Re-cycling centre – tip

An up to date regarding the proposals of the closure of the tip for renovations. It is now scheduled for the end of June. If this date is altered I will keep you informed.

Leicestershire County Council forthcoming events

LCC hold events around the County on the 6th June they are at the Picnic in the Park, Loughborough, on the 15/16th June at Bradgate Park Wildlife Weekend, on both occasions it is regarding General Waste initiatives.

Leicestershire Trading Standards

Have received a report that local residents are being telephoned by an organisation claiming that their registration on the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) needs to be renewed and asking for payment details. The telephone Preference Service is a free service and is the official central register on which residents can record they do not wish to receive unsolicited sales or marketing call. To register with the TPS residents can call the registration line on 0345 070 0707 or visit www.tpsonline.org.uk.

Trading Standards would like to remind residents not to give out any personal or financial information over the phone even if they are told this is to prevent them becoming a victim of scam or receiving unwanted calls.

What to do if you get scammed? You can make an online report via Action Fraud by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk or telephone 0300 123 2040. Stay Safe.



Parcel Scam

If you received an email which appears to come from the Royal Mail saying that you need to pay extra postage for a parcel before an item can be released for delivery, prompting you to open a link or document is doing the rounds. If you follow the line and provide details the email asks for credit card details, or call a premium telephone number etc. If you do get an email which you think is suspicious, you can always check whether it is a valid request by contacting Royal Mail's customer services online or by calling it on 0345 7740 740.

Advance Notice of a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO)

A TTRO is to be made for the following location. Ring Fence. The purpose of the TTRO is to allow County to undertake carriageway patching works.

The TTRO will incorporate a temporary road closure. The duration of the restriction is not anticipated to exceed a period of 1 day commencing on the 29th May.

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.

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.