



## NEWTOWN LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall.

### **0594/22 Members present:**

Councillors Sue Pritchard (Chairman), Tim Porte (Vice-Chairman), Sue Greasley, Rob Haylock, Vicki Lightfoot and Harvey Singh

Also in attendance: Clerk - Hannah Shaw, Borough Councillor - David Snartt, County Councillor - Deborah Taylor, Tree Warden - Brian Anderson, PC Greg Moore, Newtown Linford Biodiversity representative - Claire Costello and 17 residents.

### **0595/22. Apologies for absence:**

Councillor Tara Pickles and Bradgate Park Director, James Dymond.

### **0596/22. Vacancy in Office of Councillor**

Councillor Harvey Singh signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Register of Members' Interests

### **0597/22. Confirm and sign minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 meeting:**

These were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

### **0598/22. Declaration of Parish Councillor's personal and/or prejudicial interests on agenda items:**

The Chairman represents the Gardening Club on the Village Hall Committee.

The Chairman is a member of the Management Committee at Lingdale Golf Club.

Councillor Tara Pickles represents the Council on the Magazine Committee.

In addition, Councillor Harvey Singh declared a personal interest in item 12 - n of the agenda with regards to an outline planning application for the demolition of 287 Markfield Lane, and the development of up to 150 dwellings, together with open space, landscaping, and drainage infrastructure (All Matters Reserved except Access) and has therefore, recused himself from discussions.

### **0599/22 Public Participation**

17 members of the public were in attendance, many of whom with regards to Item 12 (n) on the agenda for an Outline planning application for the demolition of 287 Markfield Lane, and the development of up to 150 dwellings, together with open space, landscaping, and drainage infrastructure (All Matters Reserved except Access) P/22/1031/2.

The Council **resolved** to bring Item 12 (n) forward on the agenda.

Councillor Harvey Singh joined attendees in the public gallery as a member of the public.

The Chairman opened the discussion by delivering a presentation regarding all the information available to date and guidance (see individual slides in **Appendix One**). NLPC had requested an extension to the consultation period and this had now been extended until 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

The outline plans submitted indicate access would be made available by the demolition of 287 Markfield Lane to create an access route. Alternate representations within the same boundary, show access could also be through demolition of either 211 Markfield Lane and 273 Leicester Road, Field Head, should this outline application be refused.

Comments had already been submitted by Cllr. Snartt, Cllr. Taylor, Cllr. Matthew Lay for Markfield, Stanton Under Bardon and Field Head and Markfield Parish Council.

Councillor Snartt has called the application in for consideration by the Charnwood Borough Council Plans Committee if not recommended for refusal. The Chairman of the Parish Council would also request an opportunity to speak as part of NLPC's response. Cllr. Snartt said previous historic applications on adjacent land had been refused.

Newtown Linford had been mentioned only four times throughout the submitted planning documents and it was clear Markfield had been identified as the service centre for this development.

The Chairman delivered guidance on Material and Non Material Planning Considerations including lack of infrastructure and transport links, impact on community including the primary school, GP surgery, shops and traffic and loss of privacy and daylight etc. It was noted, Mercenfeld Primary School are only just within the permitted sustainable limits.

Highway safety is also a concern and traffic levels were assumed to increase by 103 more traffic movements during morning peak times and 112 more traffic movements during late afternoon/evening peak hours, in the direction of Field Head upon exiting the development. Cllr. Taylor informed the meeting there had already been 34 personal injury accidents recorded in that location and should planning be granted, improvements to the A50 roundabout at Field Head would be required.

The Chairman commented that the traffic survey carried out had been conducted whilst Covid restrictions were still in force and many people were working from home. The survey was also not carried out during weekends.

The Design and Access Statement submitted by Pegasus on behalf of Davidsons Developments, shows a two carriageway access road to the proposed development, with a single footpath on one side and a 0.5m wide verge alongside number 285 Markfield Lane, leaving only 2 metres between the road and the side entry door/garage.

A resident had also calculated the geometry of the access road. They believe an 11.3m width is needed to accommodate the proposed access road within the land of 287 Markfield Lane based on the proposed dimensions of 5.5m road width, 6m curb radii, 2m pavement and 0.5m verge, however, the actual width of the existing land is 10.4m.

Visibility would be poor for motorists exiting the proposed development but removal of trees and bushes would result in a loss of privacy for both houses either side of the access road.

Tree and habitat loss across this area of land and the negative impact on biodiversity and green space is a concern. The Ecological Appraisal prepared on behalf of Davidsons by Brindle and Green, was carried out off season in February and shortly after vegetation clearance, including the felling of mature trees and flailing of hedgerows. Grassland has also been incorrectly described and the report lacks an adequate assessment of the impact of the proposals upon vegetative habitats.

The Chairman advised attendees, that should outline planning permission be granted, Newtown Linford Parish Council must submit a request for Section 106 funding during the statutory consultation period of the planning process, as it will be of vital importance to install equipment to monitor traffic and control speeding within the Parish and upgrade facilities for such a large number of new residents.

Residents were encouraged to submit comments now the statutory consultation period is live. Comments can be submitted by email, letter or directly on Planning Explorer by 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022. All valid comments must be considered by the Planning Authority at CBC.

Resident A commented that light pollution would increase from dwellings, street lights and cars and this would have an impact on wildlife too.

Councillor Tim Porte joined the meeting at 7.45pm

Resident B commented that transport links in the area were already unreliable and believed Leics. Police Safer Roads Team would be objecting to the plans. Resident B had also requested Air Pollution monitors for Markfield Lane, Newtown Linford and Leicester Road, Field Head. The same resident later stated documentation and emails had not been uploaded to the case on Planning Explorer. Cllr. Snartt said he would address this matter.

Resident C asked if HBBC would need to grant access should the proposed plans change to access route via 273 Leicester Road, Field Head.

The Chairman referred back to a recent cross boundary application at Ashby Road, Markfield and explained CBC were the responsible authority for planning permission but HBBC were the responsible authority for granting access to the site. In this case, CBC approved planning permission but HBBC refused access. This application is now subject to an appeal which has been lodged against HBBC's refusal.

Resident D commented that traffic already backs up along Markfield Lane from the A50 roundabout in the mornings and would encourage traffic to turn right out of the proposed access road, onto Markfield Lane and route through Newtown Linford. This would also pose a further danger when turning right with reduced visibility, when traffic is queuing towards the A50.

Resident E stated that as there are already difficulties navigating across the A50 roundabout into Markfield, Anstey would be the preferred service centre, thus further increasing traffic movements through Newtown Linford.

Resident F stated they already have to reverse their vehicle onto their driveway on Markfield Lane and this would be more dangerous to do with increased traffic movements. Resident G agreed and said due to the turning circle onto their driveway, they have to cross the carriageway to swing back in.

Resident H asked if the same analysis would be carried out if the access route was changed to either of the other two possible dwellings at 211 Markfield Lane and 273 Leicester Road.

The Chairman suggested everyone needed to be clear on all the access issues for each possibility and the effects on Markfield Lane and Leicester Road, sustainability being key.

Other residents commented that many neighbours had been approached by developers asking if they wished to sell their homes.

The Chairman asked Councillors if they were in favour or against this development

**Resolve:** Councillors voted unanimously against this planning application and agreed comments of strong objection, including a request for S106 funding for community benefits, will be prepared and submitted via Planning Explorer by mid-September.

Councillor Singh rejoined the meeting. 12 residents left the meeting, 5 remaining.

#### **0600/22. Police Matters and NHW reports:**

PC Greg Moore was in attendance and reported the following crime statistics:

1 x Burglary and Arson at chalets on Roecliffe Road on 05/08 – Chalets were entered and culprits returned the next day and set alight to a mattress in a field. No suspects identified.

1 x Criminal Damage at Bradgate Park on 12/08 - Vandals tried to gain access to the burial chamber at the Bradgate Park ruins and caused damage to fencing. No suspects identified.

1 x Criminal Damage at Sandhills Lodge Farm – Vandals broke in and caused damage to trees. No suspects identified.

Police have also been receiving regular reports of anti-social behaviour within Bradgate Park at night. Between 7 and 9 adults have been riding motocross bikes around the park after closing and had been abusive and threatening upon being challenged. PC Moore advised this was difficult to enforce due to Health and Safety regulations not allowing Police Officers to give chase but also, the park cannot be closed due to Public Rights of Way. Police are currently looking at the pattern of events and possible operation to include the Police drone.

Reports had also been received regarding anti-social behaviour in the lay-by on Groby Lane at night and included regular incidents of fly-tipping.

The Chairman asked if speeding operations continued in the Parish. PC Moore advised 12 to 15 sites had been identified for regular speed checks by both marked and covert police vehicles. Data collected is passed onto LCC Highways.

A Councillor informed PC Moore a poster had been displayed on Roecliffe Road identifying two suspicious vehicles, including registration plates. PC Moore will look into this.

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

### **0601/22. Bradgate Park**

Bradgate Park Director, James Dymond, had sent apologies to the meeting.

The Chairman advised a rock dam which had been placed in the River Lin on BPT land, will be removed following concerns raised by a resident and thanked Cllr. Taylor for her assistance with this matter.

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

### **0602/22. Newtown Linford Biodiversity**

- Newtown Linford Biodiversity representative, Claire Costello, was in attendance to update Councillors on current work (see **Appendix Two**).
- The SHIRE Environment Grant 2021/22 was now complete. £591.00 funds had been received from LCC 12/08/22.
- Councillors considered purchasing equipment for the ongoing maintenance of the wildflower verges on Markfield Lane and Groby Lane, following advice received from BHIB Councils Insurance, to include: 1 x petrol strimmer, strimmer cable, 1ltr 2 stroke oil, 10ltr fuel can, 2 x scythes, scythe sharpening stone and hay rake. Total cost £241.89.

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks to Newtown Linford Biodiversity and to LCC for the SHIRE Environment Grant. Councillors agreed to purchase the equipment for the ongoing maintenance of the wildflower verges, costing and estimated £241.89. Clerk to action.

**0603/22. Report by County Councillor Deborah Taylor.**

See Appendix Three

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

**0604/22. Report by the Borough Councillor, David Snartt.**

See Appendix Four

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

**0605/22. Village Governance and Residents.**

Nothing to report.

**0606/22. Planning: Buildings and Tree Issues.**

- **Decisions**

a) P/22/0878/2 - 209 Markfield Lane, Newtown Linford - Erection of single storey extension to front of house - Grant Conditionally 17/08/22.

b) P/22/0457/2 (and Listed Building Consent P/22/0757/2) for Linford Farm, 36 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Proposed alterations to front porch, part two storey and part single storey extensions to rear of dwelling and installation of swimming pool with additional detached plant room at rear of dwelling - Withdrawn 03/08/22

c) P/22/0586/2 - Longdale Land off Warren Hill, Newtown Linford - Proposed Extension to Existing Agricultural Building (part retrospective) - Grant Conditionally 02/08/22

d) P/22/0157/2 (Listed Building Consent) and P/22/0155/2 for Linford Farm, 36 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Works to enable proposed alterations to the front entrance, construction of single storey extension to rear of existing dwelling and installation of swimming pool and associated plant room to rear - Grant Conditionally 19/07/22

e) P/22/0729/2 - 34 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Construction of single storey annexe building to rear of existing dwelling with glazed link and walkway between dwelling and annexe - Grant Conditionally 19/07/22.

f) P/22/0731/2 - 488 Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Alterations and extension to garage at rear of house - Grant Conditionally 18/05/22.

**Resolve:** Noted.

- **Comments submitted through Planning Explorer**

g) P/22/0776/2 - Thatched Cottage, 45 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Replacement windows - No Objection 14/07/22

h) P/22/0965/2 - 528A Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Proposed erection of two storey rear infill extension – No Objection 14/07/22

i) P/22/0914/2 - 502 Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Proposed erection of single storey front extension and loft extension – Mixed Comments 20/07/22

*“Councillors have no objection to this application providing Planning Officers have no concerns regarding the proposed materials and any potential impact on the street scene.”*

j) P/22/0878/2 - 209 Markfield Lane, Newtown Linford - Erection of single storey extension to front of house – No Objection 14/07/22

k) P/22/1138/2 - 57 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Proposed single storey rear extension and external alterations – No Objection 17/08/22

l) P/22/1347/2 (Listed Building Consent) and P/22/1288/2 - Ivy House Farm, 72 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Alterations to dwelling including the installation of roof lights to side roof slopes, infilling of existing opening with timber door, repairs to existing timber window and loft conversion. Internal alterations to dwelling including removal of internal partition to garage and various other internal alterations to main dwelling – No Objection 17/08/22

**Resolve:** Ratified.

- **Discuss**

Since publication of the agenda, the planning application outlined in item 12 (n) of the agenda, had been registered and was now within the 21 day statutory consultation period and was discussed as detailed in minutes 0599/22 and 0606/22 (Other).

- **Trees**

m) P/22/1351/2 - Pilgrim Cottage 97 Main Street Newtown Linford - T1- Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*), front garden Remove and grind out stump.

Tree Warden, Brian Anderson, reported a Cherry tree at the Churchyard had died and needed felling urgently, as it was at risk of falling.

**Resolve:** Tree Warden, Brian Anderson, had no objection to the application for Pilgrim Cottage. The Clerk had checked with CBC regarding the Cherry tree which was exempt from the usual procedures for works to trees within a conservation area. Clerk to organise an emergency fell.

- **Other**

n) P/22/1031/2 - Outline planning application for the demolition of 287 Markfield Lane, and the development of up to 150 dwellings, together with open space, landscaping, and drainage infrastructure (All Matters Reserved except Access).

Cllr. Singh had recused himself from discussions and removed himself from the meeting to join members of the public in the public gallery. This item was brought forward on the agenda to include public participation; please see earlier notes at minute reference 0599/22.

To note, three Ecological Consultants had been contacted for quotations regarding an Ecological Survey of the site. Clerk awaiting responses. Early indications suggest a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal will

cost in the region of £3000. Advice had been sought from Rupert Simms, Senior Ecological Officer in the Planning & Regeneration Service at Charnwood Borough Council.

Comments submitted by Cllr. Taylor had been received by email on 19/07/22 and cascaded to Councillors for information.

**Resolve:** Noted. Councillors voted unanimously in favour of objecting strongly to this application. Chairman and Clerk to prepare submission.

#### **0607/22. Bob Bown Memorial Field.**

- Appointment of Cllr. Singh to the Bob Bown Memorial Field and Play Park Committee.
- The Clerk had met with a representative from Wicksteed on 25/07/22 regarding possible new equipment for the play park, alternative surfacing to wetpour and issues arising with current equipment following the heatwaves. The Clerk had received some costings for replacement 'carpet' style surfacing but awaits further information and designs. The Clerk advised this new surfacing would come with an 8 year guarantee and is laid over the current wet pour. The price also included a climbing wall to replace part of the old wooden play equipment, which had formed large cracks during the two heatwaves. The cracks could cause finger entrapment and would be likely raised during this years' annual inspection.

**Resolve:** Cllr. Singh was appointed to the Bob Bown Memorial Field and Play Park Committee. Councillors asked the Clerk to enquire how the carpet surfacing is held down and how it fairs in wet weather and if it requires any further drainage. Clerk to add quotes and designs to the agenda of a future meeting.

#### **0608/22. Village Magazine.**

The Chairman reported the Village Magazine was about to celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> edition.

**Resolve:** Congratulations to Carole Heubeck, Editor of the Village Magazine and everyone on the Village Magazine Committee.

#### **0609/22. Parish Council Website/Facebook Page.**

The Parish Council Facebook group had increased to 418 members.

The Clerk had requested costings for individual Councillor email accounts from 2Commune and would include on the agenda of the September meeting.

**Resolve:** Noted.

#### **0610/22. Village Hall**

Councillors were advised of the increases to Village Hall hire charges effective from 01/09/22. The Clerk will be advertising the new pricing structure through the Village Magazine, Facebook page and on noticeboards.

**Resolve:** Noted

### **0611/22. Highways, Footpaths, Street Furniture, Traffic and Transport:**

A three day road closure had taken place on Main Street during the first week of August to allow LCC Highways to undertake repatching works, including the speed hump by Tyburn footpath.

Tree Warden, Brian Anderson, reported overhanging tree vegetation on the corner of Markfield Lane. A member of Newtown Linford Biodiversity offered to cut these smaller branches above head height.

The Chairman reported the village bins and troughs were in need of repainting.

**Resolve:** Noted. Clerk to action.

### **0612/22. Churchyard and Cemetery:**

- The Clerk had contacted Eddie at Arboreco regarding regrowth of the multi-stemmed poplar tree (now the Eternal Light Sculpture). Advice received is to add an annual cut of regrowth to the grounds maintenance contract as treatments will deteriorate the wood quicker, thus decreasing the longevity of the sculpture.
- A second coat of wood treatment had been applied to the Eternal Light sculpture at the Cemetery on 09/08/22.

**Resolve:** Noted.

### **0613/22. Correspondence:**

125 Bus Service Update received by email 13/07/22. Now operated by Midland Classic.

HMRC Research on Dealing with Taxes received by letter dated 14/07/22. NLPC have been selected to help with a research study. Survey to be conducted with the Clerk by telephone.

Changes to RCC Membership received by email 20/07/22 - membership now free of charge.

LRALC AGM date has been arranged for Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 9.30-1pm at the Mountsorrel Memorial Centre.

Charnwood Local Plan Examination - Unmet Need Consultation received by email 15/08/22 and cascaded to Councillors.

**Resolve:** Noted and actioned where appropriate. There were no Councillors available to attend the LRALC AGM on 17/09/22.

### **0614/22. Reports on Meetings and Training by Councillors and Clerk:**

Cllr. Singh to attend Councillor training on 30/08/22.

**Resolve:** Noted.



### 0615/22. Items of interest of for future meetings

Clr. Snartt asked if a reminder of how to use the village defibrillator could be published in the Village Magazine.

**Resolve:** Clerk to contact Community Heartbeat for confirmation of current procedure and publish in a forthcoming edition of the Village Magazine.

### 0616/22. Finance:

- LE0169 2021/22 AGAR Section 3 External Auditor Report and Notice of Conclusion of Audit received by email from PKF Littlejohn 28/07/22 and published on website.

**Resolve:** Noted

- Councillors to consider the purchase of a high back office chair for the Parish Council office. Total cost £125.99.

**Resolve:** Councillors agreed in favour of purchasing a high back office chair for the Parish Council office, costing £125.99.

### **Authorisation for payment of invoices: -**

12.07.22	PWLB	Public Works Loan Repayment	£2468.06
18.07.22	Firetree	Grounds Maintenance 2022/2023 Invoice 5 of 12	£1062.50
20.07.22	SLCC	Membership Fee	£186.00
22.07.22	ICO	Data Protection Fee (Direct Debit Instruction set up)	£35.00
28.07.22	HS	July Broadband and Out of Plan Calls	£55.98
28.07.22	HS	July Salary	£1149.01
03.08.22	NEST	Pension Contributions	£52.92
05.08.22	HS	Cemetery Expenses – Wood treatment and brushes	£37.58
05.08.22	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit 2021/2022	£360.00
05.08.22	Leics. & Rutland Bat Group	Donation re SHIRE Environment Grant	£50.00
11.08.22	Leics. & Rutland Ornithological Society	Donation re SHIRE Environment Grant	£50.00
17.08.22	Firetree	Grounds Maintenance Invoice 6 of 12	£1062.50

**Total Expenditure** **£ 6569.55**

Business Current Account @ 17/08/22 £ 1889.58

Business Reserve Account @ 17/08/22

£ 68000.00

**Total**

**£ 69889.58**

**Resolve:** Councillors authorised payments, payments were ratified where necessary and the bank statements were reconciled and signed by the Chairman.

**0617/22. Dates of the next three Parish Council Meetings.**

- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 7.15pm
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 7.15pm
- Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

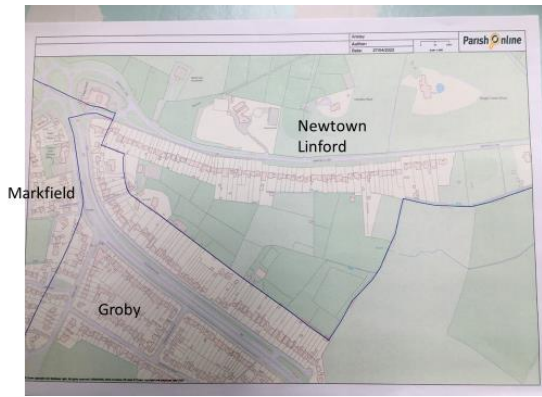
Signed by Chair:-.....Dated:-.....



**Appendix One - Presentation delivered by NLPC Chairman, Cllr. Sue Pritchard**



Agenda Item 12 Planning (other) Outline planning permission for the demolition of 287 Markfield Lane, and the development of up to 150 dwellings, together with open space, landscaping and drainage infrastructure. (All matters reserved except for access)



Newtown Linford is defined in Charnwood Local Plan as “a small settlement suitable for limited infilling” Eg the bungalows planned for Lady Jane Grey mobile home plot, replacement of one dwelling by two.....  
Markfield is a ‘service centre’

When a planning application is received

Parish Council and residents can express their views via email, letter, or direct access to the Planning Portal at Charnwood.gov.uk

Overlooking/loss of privacy  
Permanent noise issues  
Loss of daylight  
Layout and density of buildings

Proposals in local development plan- housing need

Previous planning decisions

Highway safety

Increased traffic on Markfield Lane  
Increased use of Field Head Roundabout (a documented congested accident spot)  
Increased traffic through Newtown Linford, especially if the 650 house scheme goes ahead.

Safety of access

Material Planning considerations:

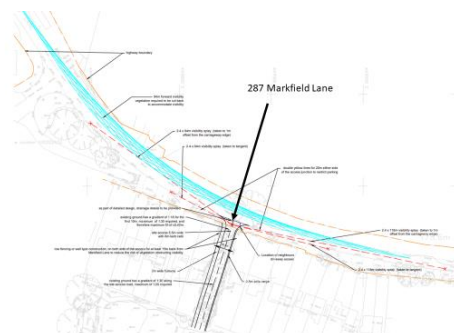
Impact on community  
Highway safety (traffic and parking)  
Effect on trees and wildlife/nature conservation  
Impact on character/appearance of area

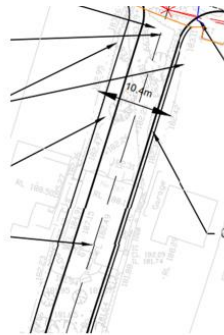
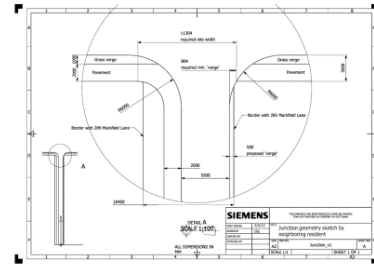
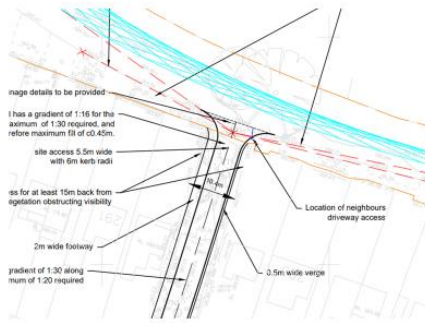
Impact on community

Markfield- school, GP surgery and shops and traffic

Newtown Linford- Effect on amenity of residents, school, traffic, GP surgery

Groby- Effect on amenity of residents





Effect on trees and wildlife/nature conservation

Habitats  
Loss of biodiversity  
Ecological Surveys

Comments from a Charnwood Ecology expert.....

Proposals in the plan would lead to a significant biodiversity loss

Ecological constraints have not been properly considered

Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) not in line with CBC guidance

Survey was carried out in February (out of season) after a vegetation clearance (including felling mature trees and hedgerow flailing)

The BIA used a methodology (Phase 1 habitat survey) rather than DEFRA 3.1 cal  
The grassland was inaccurately described

Impact on character/appearance of area

Planning previously refused for a single dwelling.....

Markfield Lane has an established linear character typically consisting of dwellings located on long, narrow plots with open countryside to the front and rear. As such, the area has a distinct pattern of built form and spaces. This pattern is an important part of the established character of the area. The local planning authority is of the opinion that the provision of a new dwelling on this backland site would not result in a satisfactory form of development and would lead to an incongruous built form which would be out of scale and character with the locality and thereby detrimental to visual amenity

### Overlooking/loss of privacy

Proposed access will result in Permanent noise issues and possible loss of privacy to properties adjacent to access road.

Loss of daylight – the proposed development is to the south of the existing buildings on Markfield Lane

Layout and density of buildings- this will be dealt with in future detailed planning application

Proposals in local development plan- housing need

Previous planning decisions

### Next steps

Councillors to discuss and vote on outline planned response  
Detailed response formulated, circulated to councillors and posted on Planning portal.  
Discussions with Markfield and Groby Parish Council

Residents to submit responses by email, written letter or directly on planning portal.

MORE REPONSES= MORE IMPACT

CLOSING DATE NOW SEPTEMBER 28th

## Appendix Two – Update from Newtown Linford Biodiversity

Newtown Linford Biodiversity Group - update for N.L.P.C.meeting 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022

**Webpage** on the Parish Council website now up and running

**Wildlife walks:** We've continued with our monthly wildlife walks. Next one: 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. in Benscliffe Wood.

**Local visits:** We visited Nigel Blythe's wildflower meadow and pond in June, and Benscliffe Hay Cottage in July. It's encouraging to visit areas in the parish managed with biodiversity in mind.

**Conservation work** has continued with:

### Himalayan Balsam-pulling

We've held several sessions over the summer at various locations in the parish, including alongside the public footpath in Ulverscroft. We always get permission from the landowners. We were delighted that our efforts last year at several sites were rewarded by significantly reduced regrowth, proving it to be a worthwhile exercise. We'll be carrying on with this next year.

### Markfield Lane and Groby Lane verges – County Council's Leicestershire Urban Verge Wildlife Project

In September, we'll be carrying out conservation work on the wildlife sections of these two verges. This involves cutting the grass, waiting a few days for the wildflower seeds to drop on to the ground, and then raking up the resulting hay (or arisngs); wildflowers flourish in soil that's poor in nutrients which is why the arisings are cleared away.

*A selection of tools (scythes/trimmer/hay rake) owned by the Parish Council would be an extremely useful resource, enabling N.L. Biodiversity Group volunteers to be covered by P.C.'s insurance when undertaking conservation work.*

### All Saints Churchyard

The efforts of last year in tackling the thistles threatening to take over the wildflower corner also paid off as there were far fewer this year. Interesting to see how the variety and diversity of the wild plants changes from one year to the next. We'd like to encourage more people in the community to get involved in this, and in other practical conservation work.

### **Shire Environment Grant**

We were delighted that at least three of the bird boxes have already been used this year. In each case, adult blue tits were seen going in and out of the box, feeding the chicks. We'll be asking local residents to help in monitoring the use of some of the bird, and other wildlife, boxes.

In June, the last of the wildlife boxes purchased by the Parish Council as a result of the successful Shire Environment Grant application were installed. For this the P.C. and N-L Biodiversity had invaluable assistance from Peter Williams of Leicestershire and Rutland

Ornithological Society, and Jools Partridge of the Leicestershire and Rutland Bat Group. We are very grateful to them for this help.

Bat boxes were sited at all three areas maintained by the Parish Council – cemetery, Bob Bown Field and churchyard; a Barn Owl box was installed in a hedgerow tree at the cemetery (which proved to be a tricky procedure), and a Tawny Owl box on one of the trees in the woodland at Bob Bown Field.

One of our members has bat recording equipment and we will try and monitor the future occupancy of the bat boxes (though we won't be able to have a look inside the boxes ourselves - need to be registered for this)

**Field Head planning application:** Members of the group have many concerns about the potential loss of this green area and its accompanying biodiversity, and are planning to send in comments to Charnwood Borough Council.

### **Forthcoming events:**

- Newtown Linford Scarecrow Festival Weekend 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> September: N.L. Biodiversity have a stall at the village primary school fete on the Saturday
- N.L. Biodiversity Open Evening Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm Village Hall FREE Includes a short update about the group, and also a slide presentation on the birds of Bradgate, given by Toby Manning and illustrated with local photographer Jan Croft's excellent photos.

### **Appendix Three - Report by County Councillor, Deborah Taylor**

County Councillor Report – August 2022

#### *Cost of Living Crisis*

We are all suffering from the cost-of-living crisis, and this impacts our daily lives. I just wanted to share some details about the support that is available locally through Leicestershire County Council covering:

- ☞ *Public Health*
- ☞ *Environment & Transport*
- ☞ *Adults & Communities*
- ☞ *Children & Families.*

At a partnership level across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) a 'social welfare cell' has been established under the Local Resilience Forum. The Group is chaired by Leicester Cathedral and draws membership from across LLR. The welfare cell seeks to maximise impact by adding value and supporting the work of partner/constituent agencies. Key areas of focus within the Group's Action Plan are understanding the impact of crisis through data and analysis and supporting key organisations and partners to:

- ☞ Build financial capabilities through financial literacy and education
- ☞ Increase access to appropriate financial services and affordable credit
- ☞ Increase access to money and debt advice.

A website has been being developed to show the full support on offer. Information is being added all the time and this will be a useful webpage to look for help and support:

[www.leicestershire.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

### *Green Living Leicestershire*

This scheme will fund help for Leicestershire residents go green, reduce costs and tackle climate change. Some homeowners in Leicestershire will be eligible for efficiency improvements which will reduce energy costs as well as making households warmer and greener.

As part of the new 'Green Living Leicestershire' programme, eligible county residents will benefit from fully funded home improvements including loft and wall insulation, solar panels, heat pumps and new efficient windows and doors.

'Green Living Leicestershire' is funded by £3.6 million provided by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and administered through the Midlands Net Zero Hub ( <https://www.midlandsnetzerohub.co.uk/> )

The eligibility criteria include households with an income of £30,000 or less per year or in receipt of means-tested benefits, and an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D, E, F or G. It will prioritise supporting low-income households heated by mains gas, those off the gas grid, and those at high risk of fuel poverty.

For more information on the grants, or to apply, visit the county council's <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/green-living-leicestershire-scheme-will-help-county-households-cut-their-energy-bills> or call project delivery partner YES Energy Solutions on 03309 126199, who can support residents with their applications.

### *Bradgate Park Trust*

I am really pleased that Bradgate Park Trust have been awarded a Green Flag Award. The award is an international mark of excellence for parks and green spaces.

I have a walk up to Old John a few weeks ago to be part of the photo call to celebrate with staff and our big band of volunteers.



### *Video Highlights Growing County*

Leicestershire's population is set to grow by 20% over the next few years, highlighting the need for increased planning for the future. A new video is showcasing how we are shaping the county of tomorrow.

With new homes and business space being created across Leicestershire, we're supporting communities by putting the right infrastructure in the right place.

This includes investing £100 million over the last five years to create an extra 5,000 school places, including six new schools.

Over £15 million has also been invested in new residential accommodation, supporting older people those with learning disabilities and those living with mental health conditions.

Other achievements include the creation of the £3 million Snibston Colliery Park, expanding green space across the county, the rollout of superfast broadband to 75,000 houses, hundreds supported into skills and employment and the advancement of the East Midlands freeport.

Link to the video: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/new-video-highlights-growing-county>

### *Planning*

I have sent in my response to the planning application for Markfield Lane, which I sent to the Clerk for information.

If there is anything else the Parish would like me to highlight, please let me know.

### *Reservoir Road, Cropston*

Reservoir Road was closed on Tuesday following an issue with the water main pipe. Following this emergency road closure, an explosion occurred. A female was injured but hopefully she will make a full recovery, I wish her well.

There will now be an investigation by the Health and Safety Executive so the road closure could be extended.



23 August, 2022

**PRESS  
RELEASE**

**EMERGENCY PRESS RELEASE**

**TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER:-**

**RESERVOIR ROAD, CROPSTON**

Leicestershire County Council Highways has agreed to a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order at the above location.

An emergency temporary road closure is required on Reservoir Road from today 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022 for up to 21 days.

The Road is closed between Station Road and Bradgate Road

The Temporary Traffic Regulation Order will be implemented for public safety to allow Severn Trent Water undertake works on a collapsed water main.

The proposed alternative diversion route will be via :- Station Road, Bradgate Road and vice versa.

The works can be viewed at <https://one.network/?m=GB130665624> or by scanning the QR code below



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Leicestershire County Council Highways Tel: 0116 305 0001

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT  
NETWORK MANAGEMENT TEAM \* ARBOR ROAD \* CROFT \* LEICESTERSHIRE \* LE9 3GE  
TELEPHONE: 0116 305 0001 \* EMAIL: [networkmanagement@leics.gov.uk](mailto:networkmanagement@leics.gov.uk)

Public Relations Unit, Chief Executive's Department

*Annual Report* – I am required to produce an annual report each year for the County Council. The link to my report is here:

<https://www.bradgateconservatives.org.uk/news/deborahs-annual-county-councillor-report>

*Census* - New census data shows Leicestershire growing, with new population figures available by sex and age group. The overall population of Leicestershire has risen from 650,489 in the 2011 national census to 712,300 in the 2021 census (rounded to the nearest 100).

This is broken down by sex, with 351,700 men (49.4 per cent of the population) and 360,600 women (50.6 per cent of the population) living in the county.

The number of households in the county has risen by 11% from 267,434 in the 2011 census to 296,400 in the 2021 census (rounded to the nearest 100).

Further details can be found here: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/census-reveals-growing-county>

*Cllr Deborah Taylor*

#### **Appendix Four – Report by Borough Councillor, David Snartt**

Local Plan Update.

The Inspectors conducting the examination of the Charnwood Local Plan have provided a further update. As you will recall from my previous reports, the hearings were paused in July as the Inspectors wanted interested parties to have an opportunity to comment on the evidence which underpins the

apportionment of Leicester's unmet housing need. The consultation, which is a focussed piece of work and aimed at those involved in the examination process, is now underway. The Inspectors have now confirmed examination hearings will resume in October and sessions will take place on October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> to consider housing and employment needs.

The Inspectors say there will be a 'reflective pause' to enable them to reach a position about the apportionment of the unmet need for both housing and employment and for the Council to respond as necessary, enabling any implications for the plan to be properly considered. Charnwood Borough Council has challenged the need for this further pause, as the Council feel it is in the best interests of the Borough to ensure the Local Plan is adopted as soon as possible. However, the Council respects the Inspectors' decision and process.

Dates for future hearings after the October sessions have yet to be confirmed by the Inspectors. The Inspectors are responsible for the examination process, including setting the timetable. The Council are awaiting further information before they can properly assess what this means for the timetable to adopting the Local Plan. More information is available on the Council's website, Local Plan 2021-37 In my view, as I have previously stated, this is particularly bad news for our local area. Any delay in adopting the Local Plan will see more piecemeal development coming forward, because Charnwood Borough Council cannot demonstrate a five year housing land supply. That said, I still believe certain modifications to the Local Plan need to be in place, in line with my submissions to the Inspectors during the consultation process. These reflected on the large number of dwellings allocated to Anstey and the large development close to Woodthorpe that encroaches into the Woodhouse Parish. In my opinion, both these proposals will have serious consequences for the surrounding infrastructure and the wellbeing of local residents.

#### Financial Help.

After receiving a telephone call from a resident, there seemed to be some confusion about current Government grants that have been announced. Therefore, I thought it would be appropriate to give the details I have received from Charnwood Borough Council.

The Government is providing a range of extra support which will be paid to eligible individuals automatically, to help with the rising cost of living and the pressure that puts on household budgets. £650, cost of living payment for most people on means tested benefits, payable in two instalments, the first paid in July (£326) and the second will be paid in the autumn (£324).

Households in England, Wales and Scotland will receive £400 discount to help with the cost of their energy bill from October onwards.

£300, pensioner cost of living payments that will be paid with the winter fuel payments to all pensioner households across the UK.

£150, disability cost of living payments for those on an eligible UK disability benefit, paid in September. More information can be found on the Government website, Cost of Living Payment. I understand further Government announcements will be made on future help with the rising cost of living.

#### The Charnwood Sports Awards.

The Charnwood Sports Awards are back for 2022 and residents are being encouraged to enter their nominations. The awards run by Charnwood Borough Council, will celebrate the sporting achievements of individuals and clubs as well as the dedication of volunteers. They will also highlight schools and workplaces making a difference to health and wellbeing in the Borough. It is the first time the sport awards have taken place in three years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This year's ceremony will take place on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The deadline for nominations is midnight on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Nominations for the awards are now open and include in the nine categories: Lets get moving schools award: Junior sportsperson of the year: Senior sportsperson of the

year and Club of the year. For the full list of categories, to nominate on line and find out more about the awards, visit [www.charnwood.gov.uk/sportsawards](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/sportsawards) or call 01509 634966.

#### Photo Competition.

The search is on to find the best photograph of parks and open spaces in Charnwood. Charnwood Borough Council has launched a competition as part of the 'Love the outdoors in Charnwood' campaign to celebrate the Borough's fantastic range of country parks, nature reserves and ancient woodlands. Residents of all ages are being invited to enter the competition by grabbing their cameras and capturing snaps at their favourite park or open space in Charnwood. Entries need to be of recent photos taken in the last six months. There are three categories for people to enter: Open category (age 16 and above): Young photographer (aged under 16): Wonderful wildlife (open to all ages). There will be Love Loughborough vouchers for the winners and two runners-up in each category. £50 voucher for the winners and £25 voucher will be awarded to each runner-up.

How to enter: Visit [charnwood.gov.uk/photo](http://charnwood.gov.uk/photo): Choose a category: Complete your details: Upload up to two photos. Entries close at 5pm on Monday September 19<sup>th</sup> 2022 and winners and runners-up will be contacted directly. To find out more about 'Love the outdoors in Charnwood' campaign and full terms and conditions for the competition please visit [www.charnwood.gov.uk/LoveOutdoors](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/LoveOutdoors).