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#### NEWTOWN LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 11th January 2023 at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall.

#### 0689/23. Members present:

Councillors Sue Pritchard (Chairman), Tim Porte (Vice-Chairman), Sue Greasley, Rob Haylock and Tara Pickles.

Also in attendance: Clerk - Hannah Shaw, Borough Councillor - David Snartt, County Councillor - Deborah Taylor, Bradgate Park Director - James Dymond, Tree Warden - Brian Anderson, PCSO Shaheen Abdulla and 2 residents.

# 0690/23. Apologies for absence:

Councillors Vicki Lightfoot and Harvey Singh.

#### 0691/23. Confirm and sign minutes of the November 2022 meeting:

These were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

#### 0692/23. 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.

Councillors Tara Pickles and 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 have therefore, recused themselves from any discussion.

Councillors Vicki Lightfoot and Rob Haylock declared a personal interest in item 12 – i of the agenda with regards to planning application P/22/2231/2 for 498 Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford – Erection of a two storey extension to front of bungalow.

#### 0693/23. Public Participation

A resident asked to speak under item 7 - Bradgate Park and the notes are included in minute reference 0695/22.

#### 0694/23. Police Matters and NHW reports:

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Shaheen Abdulla to the meeting who reported the following crime statistics:

x1 Criminal Damage - Damage to a gate at Bradgate Park.

A Speed Survey had been carried out in an unmarked vehicle on Markfield Lane within the previous two months. Cllr. Taylor reported the following data:

30mph and under – 44% 31 to 35mph – 24% 36-40mph - 20% 41mph + - 12%

The fastest speed was 47mph.

The Chairman expressed her thanks and was pleased to have monitoring of vehicle speeds.

Resolve: Noted.

# 0695/23. Bradgate Park

Bradgate Park Director, James Dymond, was in attendance and gave the following update:

The new National Forest-funded woodland to be planted at Alablaster Hayes, next to Swithland Woods, is now marked out and posters have been displayed. The works include 3,136 woodland trees, up to 43 parkland trees in frames and 1,705 hedgerow plants, path surfacing, fencing, gates and interpretation and will be complete by the end of February.

This new Platinum Jubilee Woodland sits in Newtown Linford Parish and James Dymond will be in touch soon regarding a photo opportunity on site with NLPC, Bradgate Park Trustees and the National Forest – this is likely to be in the last week of January when trees are planted.

The planning application for track resurfacing works has now been validated but is not yet at public consultation stage. Information sessions for members of the public will be organised.

BPT have received funding from Historic England to carry out measured surveys, historic investigations of the ruins and also repairs and prevention work to prevent further deterioration. In future, it is hoped the opening hours of the ruins can be increased through better access, providing a better visitor experience.

With regards correspondence received from a resident, the Chairman asked why the overflow car parks had not be in use some days over the festive period.

James Dymond explained the overflow car parks are used when they can be, however, only the tracks are gravelled but as parking remains on grass areas, the overflow car parks need preserving for peak days. They are more weather car parks but not all weather. If overflow car parks are not used daily during the Easter Holidays, they should be fine to use on peak days e.g. Sundays. When the gate at Newtown Linford car park is closed, a warden stands and allows access when approximately 20 spaces become available and a sign is displayed redirecting visitors to Hunts Hill car park.

A Councillor commented that signage is required on entering the village, directing visitors to all car parks, as cars slowing and stopping at the Newtown Linford access, creates tailbacks and stops traffic flow.

A resident spoke of the impacts on Bracken Hill residents when the Newtown Linford car park closes and that during the festive period, they had spoken to 3 visitors who were attempting to park on double yellow line restricted areas.

BPT will continue to push CBC for CEO attendance and would be happy to assist financially if additional enforcement visits are required during BPT events. The Chairman acknowledged that the situation with dangerously, obstructively and illegally parked vehicles in and around the Parish, had improved hugely since the installation of the double yellow line restrictions around the park.

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

#### 0696/23. Newtown Linford Biodiversity

The LCC Members Highways Fund had transferred £2938 into the PC Current Account on 28/11/22 for the post and rail fencing at the Markfield Lane wildflower verge and an application for a Structures License is now in progress. The Clerk had been informed that an excavation license is also required, as is street works accreditation. The Clerk had sent details to Cllr. Taylor.

Resolve: Noted.

## 0697/23. Report by County Councillor Deborah Taylor.

See Appendix One

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

#### 0698/23. Report by the Borough Councillor, David Snartt.

See Appendix Two

A Councillor asked Cllr. Snartt if there was any further information from CBC regarding licensing requirements for caravan and trailer parks. Cllr. Snartt asked for the enquiry to be sent to him by email.

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

## 0699/23. Village Governance and Residents.

Councillors considered possible plans for the King's Coronation on 06/05/23. A resident offered a commemorative stone which could be engraved. Cllr. Taylor informed the meeting that charges for road closures to allow for street parties, had been waived by LCC. The Clerk suggested one of the new pieces of play equipment at the park could be installed in celebration of the King's Coronation.

**Resolve:** Clerk to speak with other village organisations to gauge thoughts and to get costs for Coronation memorabilia e.g. water bottles for children of the Parish.

#### 0700/23. Planning: Buildings and Tree Issues.

#### Decisions

- a) P/22/1622/2 and P/22/1623/2 (Listed Building Consent) for Dell Cottage, 92 Main Street, Newtown Linford Alterations to roof to convert conservatory to kitchen at rear including new structural roof with velux windows and replacement windows at rear of house, internal alterations to chimney stack Grant Conditionally 19/12/22
- b) P/22/1593/2 Pear Tree Cottage, 39A Main Street, Newtown Linford Replacement windows and doors Grant Conditionally 05/12/22
- c) P/22/0756/2 Rough Hill, Benscliffe Road, Newtown Linford Demolition of existing conservatory to front of dwelling. Proposed two storey front extension, second storey front extension and roof alterations with side dormer, single storey front and side extension, two storey side and rear extension, two storey rear extension and single storey rear extension with balcony over. Raised roof and roof alterations, three chimneys and four dormers. Re-cladding, re-roofing and replacement windows and doors. Raised decking area with hard and soft landscaping. Detached triple garage with store over Grant Conditionally 02/12/22

- d) P/21/0450/2 9 Cravens Rough, Willoughby, Ulverscroft Lane, Newtown Linford Demolition of existing dwelling on-site, and the erection of a replacement dwelling and associated development, including new hard and soft landscaping works and a new water treatment plant Grant Conditionally 25/11/22
- e) P/22/1674/2 Lenthill Farm, 95 Main Street, Newtown Linford Proposed installation of secondary glazing to all windows to front elevation Grant Conditionally 25/11/22
- f) P/22/1822/2 Grey Lady Restaurant, Sharpley Hill- Application to determine is Prior Approval required for proposed: Change of use from Commercial, Business and Service (Restaurant Use Class E) to 1no. dwelling house (Use Class C3) under class MA of GPDO Grant Conditionally 21/11/22

Resolve: Noted.

#### Comments submitted through Planning Explorer

- g) P/22/1852/2 Land adjacent to Heatherfield Cottage, Benscliffe Road, Newtown Linford Demolition of existing dwelling, garage and outbuildings and construction of replacement dwelling and car port with associated landscaping and parking. Closure of existing access and formation of new access No Objection 06/12/22
- h) P/22/1923/2 and P/22/1915/2 Vine Cottage, 9 Main Street, Newtown Linford Application for Listed Building Consent to raise height of chimney stack/new clay pot (to dwelling house) and installation of solar panels to roof plane of pool house outbuilding to north No Objection 06/12/22

Resolve: Ratified.

#### Discuss

Councillors Lightfoot and Haylock have both recused themselves from the following planning application for 498 Bradagte Road, Newtown Linford.

- i) P/22/2231/2 (resubmission of P/22/0794/2) 498 Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford- Erection of two storey extension to front of bungalow.
- j) P/22/2153/2 Drumleaning, 9 Grey Crescent, Newtown Linford Proposed demolition of existing garage, construction of two storey side (north) extension and various external alterations.
- k) P/22/2263/2 Ivy House Farm, 72 Main Street, Newtown Linford Discharge of condition 3 (Rooflight and Door openings design) of P/22/1288/2 (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).

**Resolve:** Councillors agreed a No Objection response for all three of the above applications. Clerk to submit comments via Planning Explorer.

Cllr. Haylock re-joined the meeting.

#### Trees

The Clerk reported an application had been submitted to CBC for 1 x Oak tree fell at 5 Groby Lane, Newtown Linford.

Tree Warden, Brian Anderson, reported 2 x silver birch and 1 x horse chestnut trees growing adjacent to the highway on Main Street, required removal as the roots were now growing under the private dwelling. The Clerk reported she believed the owner had been making enquiries regarding having the trees taken out.

Tree Warden, Brain Anderson, also reported two trees had come down on land at the bottom of Markfield Lane and were blocking the water flow of the river.

**Resolve:** Noted. Clerk to investigate the river blockage and email Cllr. Taylor if required.

#### Other

l) P/22/2075/2 – Equipment Permitted Development Notification - SW off Groby Lane (Cell number 23464924) Newtown Linford Leicestershire LE6 0HH Replacement of existing 17m monopole with 20m monopole, updating of existing cabinet and installation of 1 additional telecommunications cabinet and 1 metre cabinet and associated ancillary works.

m) P/22/1814/2 – The Gatehouse, Leicester Road, Markfield, LE67 9RE - Construction of a 70 bed residential care home Hinckley & Bosworth BC pre-planning consultation (C2) (H7BBC ref: 22/10120/PREMAJ)

Cllr. Pickles had recused herself from the following application and left the meeting.

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 and drainage infrastructure (All Matters Reserved except Access) – Deadline for comments was extended to 15/12/22.

Cllr. Pickles rejoined the meeting.

o) Planning Appeal held on 15/11/22 at HBBC for Land North East of Ashby Road, Markfield - Residential development of up to 93 dwellings, public open space, landscaping and SuDS (Outline-access only) (cross boundary application with Charnwood BC).

**Resolve:** Noted. No further updates had been received.

#### 0701/23. Bob Bown Memorial Field.

- To note, an order had been placed for resurfacing works and replacement play equipment 06/12/22. Expected lead time 14-16 weeks plus 3 weeks for installation when the park will need to close to members of the public.
- The Annual inspection of the play park had been carried out by Independent Playground Inspections
  Ltd on 14/11/22. The report was cascaded to the Chairman and Bob Bown Memorial Field
  Committee.

**Resolve:** Noted. The issues raised through the annual inspection would be addressed by the forthcoming works.

## 0702/23. Village Magazine.

The annual meeting of the Village Magazine Committee is to be held on 23/01/23.

The Chairman reported the meal in celebration of 200 editions of the Village Magazine had been successful and was appreciated by the editors.

The Chairman suggested the Village Magazine could consider a commemorative edition for the King's Coronation in May.

**Resolve:** Noted. Chairman to send receipt for the Editor's meals to the Clerk for reimbursement of £53.00. Clerk to contact the Editors with regards to a commemorative coronation edition.

#### 0703/23. Parish Council Website/Facebook Page.

The Parish Council Facebook group had increased to 437 members.

#### <u>0704/23. Village Hall</u>

The Annual General Meeting and Committee Meeting of the Village Hall Committee will be held on 16/01/23. The Chairman reported Bradgate Drama Society were disbanding and various lighting had been offered to the Village Hall.

Resolve: Noted.

#### 0705/23. Highways, Footpaths, Street Furniture, Traffic and Transport:

The Clerk reported a number of bollards on both Main Street and Bradgate Road had been knocked down and were reported to LCC Highways.

Resolve: Noted.

#### 0706/23. Churchyard and Cemetery:

The Clerk reported she would be looking into the possibility of having a new bench installed at the Churchyard, subject to the necessary permissions.

**Resolve:** Noted. Clerk to report back at a later date.

## 0707/23. Correspondence:

Email received regarding the Charnwood Local Plan Examination – Resumption of Hearing Sessions 05/12/22 and cascaded to Councillors.

Leicestershire County Council: Budget proposals published. Email received 14/12/22 and cascaded to Councillors.

Invitation received to attend LCC Budget Webinar for Parish and Town Councils 11/01/23 and sent to Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Clerk and Vice-Chairman to attend in the absence of the Chairman.

Email received from CBC re Private Sector Housing Licensing Schemes and cascaded to Councillors 22/12/22.

Emails received (in copy) over the festive period regarding illegal and obstructive parking on Bradgate Road.

Resolve: Noted.

# 0708/23. Reports on Meetings and Training by Councillors and Clerk.

Clerk and Vice-Chairman attended LCC Budget Webinar for Parish and Town Councils 11/01/23

Clerk met with Craig Dawes, Leicestershire Development Lead for the Neighbourhood Watch Network 12/01/23

Clerk to attend LCC Clerks' Liaison Meeting 23/02/23

Resolve: Noted.

#### 0709/23. Items of interest of for future meetings.

Cllr. Porte will attend the LRALC EGM on 02/02/23 at 7pm

The Chairman and the Clerk will attend the LCC Annual Parish Liaison Event at County Hall on 03/07/23.

## 0710/23. Staffing Matters.

No matters to report.

### 0711/23. Finance.

Councillors reconsidered the budget as previously discussed at the November meeting and set the precept for the 2023/2024 financial year.

**Resolve:** Councillors approved the 2023/2024 budget and set the precept at £59,618.00 The Clerk reported this would calculate at an approximate 4.6% increase on last year.

#### Authorisation for payment of invoices: -

28.11.22	HS	November Broadband and out of	£58.84
		plan calls	
28.11.22	HS	November Salary and pay award	£1612.31
		backdated to 01.04.22	
30.11.22	NEST	Pension Contributions	£103.29
12.12.22	CBC	Annual Playground Inspection	£72.00
12.12.22	APB	Village Hall Rent 25/12/22 –	£750.00
		24/03/23	
16.12.22	Firetree	Grounds Maintenance 2022/2023	£1062.50
		Inv 10 of 12	
21.12.22	HMRC	Tax and NI Contributions	£923.38
28.12.22	HS	December Broadband and out of	£56.53
		plan calls	
28.12.22	HS	December Salary and pay award	£1275.22
		backdated to 01.09.22	
03.01.23	NEST	Pension Contributions	£66.43
Total Expenditure			£5980.50
Pending 12.01.23	PWLB	Public Works Loan Repayment	£2468.06

Pending by 17.01.23	LCC	Streetlighting Recharges and	£5652.05
		Maintenance 2022/2023	
Pending	Community Heartbeat	Emergency Telephone System	£120.00

#### Bank Balances:

Business Current Account @ 03/01/22	£ 1,986.19
Business Reserve Account @ 03/01/22	£ 84,055.60

Total £ 86,041.79

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

# 0712/23. Dates of the next three Parish Council Meetings.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 7.15pm Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 7.15pm Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed by Chair:Dated:		
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## Appendix One - Report by County Councillor, Deborah Taylor

# County Report January 2023

#### Numeracy Champions

A three-year programme aimed at helping adults in Leicestershire to boost their confidence with numbers and improve their numeracy skills is looking to recruit 100 volunteers from across the county to train as Numeracy Champions.

These Numeracy Champions won't teach maths – their role is to help to improve people's confidence with numbers by talking positively to those who may feel anxious about maths, support people to have a more positive approach to numbers and signpost them to ways of improving their numeracy skills.

Leicestershire County Council has been awarded £3 million from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and is working in partnership with charity National Numeracy to recruit and train the 100 Numeracy Champions, as part of the wider Multiply programme.

The funding means that over the next three years, the council will be able to deliver hundreds of free courses, support and workshops to adults aged 19 and over who do not already have a GCSE grade C/4 or higher in maths or equivalent and need to improve their numeracy skills.

The council and National Numeracy are holding a number of online training sessions in the new year, which are delivered in two three-hour sessions, a week apart. Volunteers will need to take part in both parts of the training in order to be accredited as a Numeracy Champion.

The sessions are being held on Tuesday 17 & Tuesday 24 January, Thursday 26 January & Thursday 2 February, Thursday 9 & Thursday 16 February and Tuesday 7 & Tuesday 14 March.

Anyone who would like to sign up to become a Numeracy Champion via this link: <a href="https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/appeal-for-people-to-sign-up-to-become-numeracy-champions">https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/appeal-for-people-to-sign-up-to-become-numeracy-champions</a>

#### **Budget Consultation**

We had our final budget webinar at lunchtime for Town and Parish Councils to provide information and answer any questions.

Consultation on the proposals, which include an extra £57m investment in service user support, a five% Council Tax rise, £508m major capital investment over four years, £59m of efficiency savings and £4m of service cuts, closes on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Although councils fared better than expected in the Government's Autumn Statement, the financial outlook remains extremely tough with the authority's budget gap set to rise to over £90m by 2026.

The consultation closes on 15th January 2023.

# Young person of the year

The Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Mike Kapur, is celebrating the achievements of young people in Leicester and Leicestershire. The Lord-Lieutenant's award for young people recognises the very best examples of achievement by young people in Leicester and Leicestershire.

You can nominate a young person in one of four categories. Finalists will be invited to attend a special awards ceremony where the overall winner will receive a £500 prize.

The criteria for nominations are: -

- The young person is aged 13-19 living or attending full-time education in Leicester or Leicestershire
- The young person can be nominated by other young people, their school, parent/carer, or any other agency
- Joint or group nominations cannot be accepted
- Previous finalists should not be nominated again unless there is a fresh story to tell.

There will be a separate award for each category. From the winners of these categories, one person will be announced as Lord-Lieutenant's Young Person of the Year 2023.

The Award categories are: -

- Young Person of Courage of the Year
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Young Artist of the Year (The Joe Humphries Memorial Award)
- Young Leader of the Year.

The deadline for nominations is Friday 17 February 2023.

Further details can be found on the County Council website: <a href="https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/">https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/</a>

If you would like a paper copy of the nomination form, please call 0116 305 6002 or email lieutenancyoffice@leics.gov.uk

# Flooding

I am still chasing up on the issue with the pipe down the PROW by the side of 19 Main Street. I have now escalated the issue with the Director and Lead Member.

# Highway Fund

I have a meeting set up next week to discuss with officers my projects from my highway fund. I will discuss the issue of the fencing around the wildflower area raised with me by the clerk and the other projects that are still waiting for progression.

#### Social Internet

The New Year is always a good time to stop and re-access your finances, even more so with the cost-of-living increases. There is a lot of support out there, especially on the County Council website: <a href="https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/find-help-with-cost-of-living">https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/find-help-with-cost-of-living</a>

Internet costs are one of the bills that doesn't get mentioned very much. We all rely heavily on the internet now and I wanted to highlight the help out there with these costs.

There are broadband social tariffs available. Social tariffs are special discounted deals available for certain low-income customers. They are generally cheaper than typical broadband tariffs, starting at just £12 per month. They are usually not subject to price rises or exit fees.

Social tariffs are designed to act as a safety net for households that may otherwise struggle to afford broadband services. Research by the telecom's regulator, Ofcom, has shown that an estimated 4.2 million households in the UK are eligible.

You are likely to be eligible for a social tariff if you receive a means-tested state benefit, such as Universal Credit, Pension Credit, or legacy equivalents. Available from BT, Virgin Media, Sky, Vodafone, Hyperoptic, Community Fibre, and others, social tariffs can help protect against digital exclusion.

It is worth having a conversation with your current provider to see if they offer a social tariff and to check if you are eligible. There are more details on the 'Which' website here: <a href="https://www.which.co.uk/">https://www.which.co.uk/</a>

# Cllr Deborah Taylor

#### Appendix Two - Report by Borough Councillor, David Snartt

Report from David Snartt.

Planning update Markfield Lane.

I am pleased to see the latest submissions to the consultation process for the planning application P/22/1031/2 for up to 150 dwellings, on land south of Markfield Lane. I note National Highways have now responded. They recommend that the application is not determined for a period of three months from the date of their notice (21<sup>st</sup> December 2022). It seems one of the reasons for this delay is to assess the cumulative impact of the other planning applications in the bigger area (which includes Anstey) on the Strategic Road Network.

You may recall this was one of my concerns, especially as there are proposals to develop a further 1,000 plus dwellings within Anstey. In my view, if all of these planning applications were successful it would certainly see extra traffic through the village to access the M1 and other locations to the north of the village.

I also note Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council object to this application. In their submission they say, Markfield has a Neighbourhood Plan which allocates a substantial and sufficient amount of housing in the village. The Neighbourhood Plan meeting all the criteria of paragraph 14 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Again, I alluded to the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan when I attended the appeal hearing for the other adjacent application for up to 93 dwellings adjacent to Ashby Road. I am still waiting for the decision notice from the Inspector.

If you would like to see the all the submissions to the consultation process please visit Charnwood Borough Council website, Planning Portal. The information is under planning application number P/22/1031/2.

# Draft Budget for 2023/24

Charnwood Borough Council has produced a draft budget for 2023/24 which was considered by the Council's Cabinet on the 15<sup>th</sup> December. The Cabinet resolved to endorse the draft budget for consultation.

This budget looks to spend around £20 million on services for the Borough. This does include a proposal to increase the Charnwood element of council tax by £5 across the year, or about 9p a week. The Council do not want to raise even the small element of council tax, but the Council feel this is necessary to help protect frontline services as they continue to look for ways to operate more efficiently. Historically, Charnwood Borough Council has one of the lowest rates of council tax in the country.

The Council is responsible for a wide range of services including; collecting recycling and refuse from more than 70,000 homes in the Borough; supporting homeless people; managing open spaces including the Outwoods; emptying dog bins, litter bins; street cleaning; food safety inspections; licensing of pubs, clubs and taxis; operating Loughborough markets; operating three leisure centres; handling planning applications and strategic planning and operating 24/7 CCTV system.

More information about the draft budget can be found on the Council's website <a href="https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/budgetsummary">www.charnwood.gov.uk/budgetsummary</a>.

#### Charnwood Local Plan 2021 to 2037

Hearing sessions will resume at 9.30am on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Victoria Room, Town Hall, Loughborough. Matters, issues and questions have been produced by the Inspectors, these include any questions which have not been addressed during the hearing sessions which have taken place thus far and any supplementary questions stemming from the Inspector's consideration of the Leicester and Leicestershire housing and employment unmet needs. The updated programme and guidance note have also been produced for the resumed hearings.

The Inspectors have been appointed by the Secretary of State to examine the soundness of the Local Plan. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) makes it clear that, to be sound, a local plan should be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with the NPPF.

There are three possible outcomes to the examination: The submitted plan is sound: The submitted plan is not sound but could be made sound by changes (known as main modifications), if necessary following additional work: The submitted plan is not sound and could not be made sound by changes.

As previously stated, I have sent my written submissions to the Inspectors, especially my concerns about the proposed developments within Anstey and the proposal to develop land close to Woodthorpe, which encroaches into the Woodhouse Parish.

All the details with key dates about the future hearings starting in February can be found on the Charnwood Borough Council's website, Charnwood Local Plan 2021-37 Examination.

## Creating Iconic Covid-19 Memorial.

A project to better connect Loughborough's Queen's Park with the Town Centre and create an iconic Covid-19 memorial in Queen's Park has been given the green light. The Hope Bell, a lasting memorial to those who lost their lives in the Covid-19 pandemic. The Hope Bell will also be a tribute to the NHS and key workers and a reminder of how communities came together to support each other in challenging times. The Hope Bell builds on Loughborough's unique place in the heritage world as it is the home to the last major bell foundry in the country, John Taylor and Co.

The Hope Bell will see the creation of a clock chime installation, comprising four quarter chime bells and the Hope Bell to sound the hours. The main Hope Bell will weigh over a ton and measure 4ft 11ins in diameter. The structure supporting the bells will be made of metal with a stone base, but the final decision on materials has yet to be decided, planning permission will also be required.

Stay in the Loop.

Charnwood residents are being urged to stay in the loop with news from Charnwood Borough Council by signing up to e-mail alerts. There are now over 16,000 subscribers to a range of topics to help keep people informed about Council services and news. The e-mail alerts are particularly useful for any changes to services, community events which involve the Council and to find out where support and advice may be available, either from the Council or a range of its partners.

To sign up to the Council's e-mail alerts, please visit <a href="www.charnwood.gov.uk/alerts">www.charnwood.gov.uk/alerts</a>.