



NEWTOWN LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 5th April 2023 at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall.

0736/23. Members present:

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

Also in attendance: Clerk – Hannah Shaw, Borough Councillor – David Snartt, County Councillor – Deborah Taylor, Tree Warden – Brian Anderson and 7 residents.

0737/23. Apologies for absence:

Councillor Vicki Lightfoot, Bradgate Park Director James Dymond, PC Greg Moore and PCSO Mitch Harvis

0738/23. Confirm and sign minutes of the February 2023 meeting:

These were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

0739/23. 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.

0740/23. Public Participation

Residents asked to speak under agenda items 11m and 11s – Planning.

Council **resolved** to bring these items forward on the agenda.

Cllrs. Pickles and Singh recused themselves from discussions.

Re: Planning Re-Consultation P/22/1031/2 - Land South of Markfield Lane Field Head Markfield Leicestershire LE67 9PQ – see minute reference 0747/23 item s.

Cllr. Snartt reported that National Highways had recommended that the application not be determined for a period of three months from the date of last notice (expiring 2 June 2023), to enable the applicant to provide further information and the potential impacts on the Strategic Road Network. In the meantime, the consultation would remain open to further comments. Hopefully, by then, the Charnwood Local Plan should carry more weight.

The Chairman explained to meeting attendees that new sites cannot be added to the Charnwood Local Plan without further public consultation and currently, the site south of Markfield Lane had not been identified and was therefore, not included.

A meeting attendee offered further updates and information including work being carried out with regards to a surface water drainage scheme, the management of surface water on site during construction of the development, the long-term maintenance of the surface water drainage system within the development and infiltration testing, all of which will need submitting to the Local Planning Authority, as directed by the Lead Local Flood Authority.

A resident asked what impact the Charnwood Local Plan has on determining this application.

Cllr. Snartt explained that currently, CBC cannot demonstrate a 5-year housing supply and therefore, more developments not included in the plan are being passed. Once the Local Plan has been agreed, it will carry more weight when opposing applications for sites not identified in the plan.

The Chairman asked what the timescale is for the Local Plan being approved.

Cllr. Snartt said CBC are currently making modifications to the plan and re-consultation is expected in early Summer. It is hoped the new Local Plan will be adopted sometime in the Autumn.

A resident expressed their concern should the application be refused and the Planning Inspectorate overrides the decision on appeal, similar to a recent application for 93 dwellings at land north east of Ashby Road, Markfield.

The Chairman explained that the reason the appeal for Ashby Road had been allowed was due to CBC having granted permission, leaving the final decision to HBBC, when only 3% of the land concerned was within the HBBC boundary and all dwellings proposed were within Charnwood.

The Chairman hoped the planning application for land south of Markfield Lane, would not be considered by Plans Committee before the Autumn, when it is thought the Local Plan may be adopted.

Re: P/23/0449/2 - Land between 151 and 185 Markfield Lane, Markfield, LE67 9PQ - Erection of detached two story dwelling house with associated parking and landscaping - see minute reference 0747/23 item m

Councillors discussed previous applications for this land and also land adjacent to the site, which had all been refused. Enforcement officers had visited the site on more than one occasion following reports of tree felling taking place. Cllr. Snartt reported he had 'called in' the application for consideration by the Plans Committee at CBC and does not consider it a suitable location for development, due to the unsustainability of the area.

The Chairman had considered the plans and noted that the application would be considered limited infilling and would not affect the street scene, as the linear nature of the housing would not be affected. However, Councillors felt that the area was indeed unsustainable due to the lack of public transport and the distance between the site and services; that there would be a negative impact on biodiversity, wildlife and habitats in the area and with the exception of the lack of a 5 year housing supply in Charnwood, nothing had changed since previous applications had been refused.

Resolve: Please refer to minute references 0747/23 item s and 0747/23 item m.

Cllrs. Pickles and Singh re-joined the meeting.

0741/23. Police Matters and NHW reports:

Crime statistics for March 2023 had been received from PC Greg Moore:

- 1 x Theft of motorbike
- 1 x Criminal Damage to a vehicle at Bradgate Park
- 1 x Hunting Arrow found in Bradgate Park
- 1 x 4 males seen with BB guns at Bradgate Park

Local Beat Officers have upped patrols around the area of the Cemetery following the damage and theft of 2 x 3ft Christmas Trees.

The last speeding operation carried out was 2-3 months ago and in one hour on Markfield Lane, local officers caught nearly 50 drivers going over 30mph - all had been sent warning letters.

Resolve: Noted.

0742/23. Bradgate Park

Bradgate Park Director, James Dymond, had sent apologies to the meeting and the following update:
"The Visitor Centre will be open daily over the Easter holidays. There will also be fairy-themed crafts in the Visitor Centre, linking with our Fairy Trail which will run between the Visitor Centre and Newtown Linford from Saturday 1st to Sunday 16th April. <https://www.bradgatepark.org/Event/easter-holidays-fairy-trail>

The Ruins and Old John will also re-open (<https://www.bradgatepark.org/walks-talks-and-group-visits>).

New parking charges will apply to all 3 park car parks from this Saturday, 1st April:

£3 rate (3hrs on weekdays) becomes £3.30 and the £4 rate (3hrs at weekends) becomes £4.40

We have recently secured funding for a 1-year mental health & wellbeing project in partnership with NCHA, the Charnwood mental health service provider."

Councillor Taylor added that following bad weather, the ground is currently too wet for overflow car parks to open. A Summer Fayre is also being planned for June and BPT will request additional patrols by Civil Enforcement Officers.

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

0743/23. Newtown Linford Biodiversity

Chair of Newtown Linford Biodiversity, Claire Costello, was in attendance to give an update (see Appendix One)

Resolve: Noted with thanks to Claire and Newtown Linford Biodiversity for the excellent comments submitted with regards to planning application P/22/1031/2.

0744/23. Report by County Councillor Deborah Taylor.

See Appendix Two

Resolve: Noted with thanks

0745/23. Report by the Borough Councillor, David Snartt.

See Appendix Three

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

0746/23. Village Governance and Residents.

Councillors considered a grant application for the total sum of £500 to help towards the Village Coronation Event, to be held on 07/05/23 12-6pm. NB Councillors to approve £40 expenditure as part of the grant for printing costs. Clerk to update on arrangements.

Resolve: Councillors voted unanimously in favour of approving the grant application of £500 towards the Village Coronation Event and approved initial expenditure of £40 towards printing costs. Invoices/receipts to be presented to the Clerk for payment.

Cllr. Porte recused himself from discussions.

Councillors discussed a possible licensing issue within the Parish and considered if the Council wishes to report the matter to CBC for further investigation.

Resolve: Councillors agreed unanimously to request further investigation by CBC. Clerk to forward report to Cllr. Snartt.

Cllr. Porte re-joined the meeting.

0747/23. Planning: Buildings and Tree Issues.

- **Decisions**

- a) P/22/1798/2 (Listed Building Consent) and P/22/1797/2 for Linford Farm, 36 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Proposed installation of 9no replacement windows comprising timber framed, single glazed window units - Grant Conditionally 22/03/23.
- b) P/22/2281/2 - 488 Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Erection of single storey outbuilding at rear of house - Grant Conditionally 07/03/23.
- c) 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 open - Conditions discharged 08/02/23.
- d) P/22/1462/2 - Lady Jane Mobile Home Park - Discharge of conditions - Conditions discharged 01/02/23.
- e) P/22/1595/2 - 13 Markfield Lane, Newtown Linford- Proposed first floor side extension - Grant Conditionally 16/01/23.

Resolve: Noted

- **Comments submitted through Planning Explorer**

- f) P/22/1835/2 - Bradgate Park, Estate Office, Deer Barn Buildings, Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Resurfacing of 3.8km track within parkland - Mixed Comments 17/02/23

"Whilst Councillors appreciate the efforts to minimise erosion and make pathways safer and areas of the park more accessible for pedestrian visitors, they are concerned the proposed track could lead to excessive use by Bradgate Park Trust vehicles and unwanted incursions such as trials bikes. They are also concerned regarding the visual impact the proposed track will have on the view from the top of Groby Lane, Newtown Linford."

- g) P/22/2281/2 - 488 Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Erection of single storey outbuilding at rear of house - No Objection 17/02/23
- h) P/23/0078/2 - 4 Grey Crescent, Newtown Linford - Proposed dormer extensions to rear and front, canopy to front porch, pitched roof over garage and changes to fenestration of dwelling - No Objection 17/02/23

- i) P/23/0152/2 - Linford House, 6 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Alterations to existing annex including conversion of garage to habitable accommodation and insertion of additional windows and construction of detached, timber framed car port - No Objection 17/02/23
- j) Planning Re-consultation P/22/0434/2 and P/22/0475/2 (Listed Building Consent) for 114 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Proposed new access and single storey extension to rear. Changes to window/door colours, new retaining wall and the demolition of rear outbuilding - No Objection 10/03/23

Resolve: Ratified

- **Discuss**

- k) P/22/2202/2 - 520B Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Conversion of outbuilding to ancillary accommodation (retrospective).

Resolve: Objection. Councillors had reservations about this retrospective application as there remains the potential for a separate dwelling to be created at a later date. If retrospective planning is granted, Councillors would like to see conditions in place that will ensure the conversion of the outbuilding to ancillary accommodation, remains as such and cannot extend to the creation of a separate dwelling. Clerk to submit comments via Planning Explorer.

- l) P/23/0261/2 - 23 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Erection of single storey rear extension and changes to fenestration.

Resolve: No objection.

- m) P/23/0449/2 - Land between 151 and 185 Markfield Lane, Markfield, LE67 9PQ - Erection of detached two story dwelling house with associated parking and landscaping.

Resolve: Please also refer to minute reference 0740/23. Councillors agreed to object to this application based on the unsustainable location, history of the site and impact on biodiversity. Clerk to submit comments via Planning Explorer.

- **Trees**

- n) P/23/0231/2 - 544 Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Tree Works in a Conservation Area
1 x Pine within the front seating area - Remove to ground level.
- o) P/23/0439/2 - 88 Main Street, Newtown Linford - T1 - Yew - Overall crown reduction by approx 2m for containment G1 - Group Fir - Sectional fell - Outgrown location; No plans to re-plant as existing site tree cover already good G2 - Leyland Cypress - Reduce height by approx. 50% for containment T2 Spruce - Reduce height by approx 4m to previous cuts for containment.

Resolve: No objections were raised by Councillors nor Tree Warden, Brian Anderson.

- **Other**

- p) Planning Appeal Decision 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) – Appeal Allowed 17/02/23

Resolve: Noted

- q) P/22/2141/2 - The Bradgate, Main Street, Newtown Linford- Proposed installation of illuminated and non-illuminated signage (Advert Consent – for information only).

Resolve: Noted

- r) Pre-Application Consultation for proposed Three (3 UK) installation of telecommunications apparatus at Markfield Lane, Linford, Charnwood, LE6 0AT (NGR: E: 451575 N: 310215) -
- Proposed 15m Phase 9 slimline monopole (grey)
 - Proposed 3no. Antenna
 - Proposed 3no. Street Equipment Cabinets (grey)

Resolve: Councillors agreed green cabinets and monopole would be better suited to the surroundings and less obtrusive.

- s) Planning Re-Consultation P/22/1031/2 - Land South of Markfield Lane Field Head Markfield Leicestershire LE67 9PQ -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).

The application has been amended and the amendment(s) comprise the following: Visual Plans, Master Plan, Flood Risk & Drainage Strategy and Biodiversity information.

Resolve: Please also refer to minute reference 0740/23. Councillors agreed unanimously to re-iterate previous comments submitted in response to this application and continue to strongly oppose this application.

- t) P/23/0257/2 Applicant: A2G Services - Field Head (P95213) A50 /Markfield Lane Newtown Linford Leicestershire LE67 9PQ - Proposed installation of electronic communications apparatus/development consisting of proposed replacement of existing telecommunications dish (Equipment Permitted Development Notification).
- u) P/23/0380/2 - NW of 11 Markfield Lane - Prior Notification Telecoms Application for 15m high slim-line monopole, supporting 3 no. antennas, 3 no. equipment cabinets and ancillary development including a proposed armco barrier thereto (Equipment Permitted Development Notification).

Resolve: As before, Councillors agreed green cabinets and monopole would be better suited to the surroundings.

0748/23. Bob Bown Memorial Field.

Councillors considered a quotation of £100 plus VAT to cut the tree stump lower on the access track to the Bob Bown Memorial Field following complaints received from residents. CBC have refused to carry out the required works following their tree fell but have granted permission to the Parish Council should Councillors resolve to cover the cost. Clerk to advise.

Resolve: Councillors voted unanimously in favour of accepting the quote of £100 plus VAT. Clerk to liaise with CBC and the arboriculturist.

Councillors considered the new Bob Bown Memorial Field Commercial Lease with CBC. The documentation had been cascaded to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Resolve: Councillors reviewed and approved the new lease for the Bob Bown Memorial Field. The Clerk signed the Ordinary Declaration and Cllrs Pritchard and Porte signed the new lease in the presence of the Clerk as witness.

Cllr. Greasley reported installation works of new equipment had commenced at the play park this week. Contractors, Wicksteed, had not informed the Clerk.

Resolve: Noted. Clerk to monitor progression of works which will take approximately 3 weeks.

0749/23. Village Magazine.

There was nothing to report.

0750/23. Parish Council Website/Facebook Page.

The Parish Council Facebook group had increased to 452 members.

0751/23. Village Hall

The recent 'Club Tropicana' event on 17/03/23 raised £1500 for the Village Hall. Plans are now underway for a possible two-night 90s event in early November.

The annual Village Rummage Sale on 04/03/23 also raised £1500 for the following five village organisations: Village Hall Committee, Brownies, Preschool, Jolly Tots and Coffee & Cake.

Resolve: Noted with thanks to the Clerk, Cllr Pickles and Ian White of Bradgate Events.

0752/23. Highways, Footpaths, Street Furniture, Traffic and Transport:

The Clerk reported an issue with the surfacing of the service road on Markfield Lane which was awaiting attendance by Highways.

Resolve: Noted. Clerk to send details and photos to Cllr. Taylor.

0753/23. Churchyard and Cemetery:

Notification had been received from Ground Control on behalf of National Grid Electricity Distribution, with regards to tree works required to an Ash tree at the exit gate of the Cemetery. Side pruning to gain 4m from the overhead electricity line is required at no cost to the Parish Council. Permission granted by Clerk under Scheme of Delegation 08/03/23.

Resolve: Noted.

0754/23. Correspondence:

Email received from CBC regarding Constitution Changes - Speaking on Planning Applications, cascaded to Councillors 08/03/23.

Resolve: Noted.

0755/23. Reports on Meetings and Training by Councillors and Clerk.

Clerk attended the LCC Clerks' Liaison Meeting 17/02/23.

Clerk attended Coronation Event Meeting 20/02/23.

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

Resolve: Noted.

0756/23. Items of interest of for future meetings.

Nomination Forms for the forthcoming election had been submitted to Katie Owens, Election Officer at CBC. Cllr. Singh had decided not to stand for re-election. The Council may fill the vacancy by Co-option following the election should no other nomination forms be submitted. The Chairman expressed regret that Councillor Singh would not be standing for re-election and thanked him for his time on the council.

Resolve: Noted

The Clerk reported concern had been raised by residents with regards to a review of the current 125 bus service which suggests the service may not continue to operate and could be replaced by a 'passenger demand' service. The Clerk reported no official information had been received but will hold off on obtaining quotations for a replacement bus shelter on Main Street, until further information is received.

Resolve: Noted. Councillors and Clerk to keep up-to-date with progress and respond to any possible future public consultations. Clerk to arrange for a safety check of the bus shelter outside the Village Hall and organise any remedial repairs required.

0757/23. Finance.

Exercise of Public Rights - Councillors considered and approved the dates for the period of exercise of public rights of the unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return (accounts are for the year ended 31st March 2023).

Resolve: Dates were set from Monday 5th June 2023 to Friday 14th July 2023. Clerk to publish.

Authorisation for payment of invoices: -

15.02.23	LRALC Ltd.	Internal Audit Service 2022-2023	£220.00
15.02.23	Naturespot	Annual charge for maintaining parish Naturespot pages 2023	£50.00
16.02.23	Firetree	Grounds Maintenance 2022/2023 Inv. 12 of 12	£1062.50
22.02.23	Early Years Bookkeeping	Payroll Services 2023/2024	£161.90
28.02.23	HS	February Salary	£1226.36
28.02.23	HS	February Broadband and Out of Plan Calls	£59.70
28.02.23	HS	Expenses - Purchase of laptop, screen, wireless keyboard and mouse	£592.99
28.02.23	NEST	Pension Contributions	£61.08

08.03.23	HS	Expenses – Purchase of MS Office Home & Student	£119.99
08.03.23	CBC	Non-Domestic Rates Bill for Cemetery	£133.61
13.03.23	APB	Village Hall Rent March to June 2023 inclusive	£750.00
16.03.23	Firetree	Grounds Maintenance 2023/2024 Inv. 1 of 12	£1230.55
23.03.23	Peter Haddon	Village Maintenance	£125.00
28.03.23	HS	March Broadband and Out of Plan Calls	£64.56
28.03.23	HS	March Salary	£1226.36
28.03.23	Sign Here	Signage for Bob Bown Memorial Field	£54.00
28.03.23	HMRC	Tax and NI Contributions	£656.01
30.03.23	HS	Travel and Miscellaneous Expenses October – March 2023	£168.49
31.03.23	NEST	Pension Contributions	£61.08
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			£8024.18

Bank Balances:

Business Current Account @ 30/03/23 £ 2,702.34
Business Reserve Account @ 30/03/23 £ 66,000.00

Total £ 68,702.34

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

0758/23. Dates of the next three Parish Council Meetings.

Wednesday 10th May 2023 7.15pm (Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting)
Wednesday 14th June 2023 7.15pm
Wednesday 19th July 2023 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

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

Appendix One – Newtown Linford Biodiversity Update

Newtown Linford Biodiversity update for Parish Council meeting 5th April 2023

- 1) We’ve produced a **flyer** for the Post Office Tearooms aimed at visitors to the village. Colin has kindly agreed to have them on display there for people to take

home. Flyer has suggestions of what people can do this spring to help Nature thrive in their gardens. E.g., Introduce water into the garden or start a compost heap. We hope we'll be able to have them available in the Conservatory Tearooms too.

- 2) **Jack Matthews**, Geoheritage Conservation Officer at the **National Forest Company**, attended our planning meeting on 1st March and gave an interesting presentation on Charnwood Forest Geopark. We may invite him to speak later in the year, possibly at an Open Evening.
- 3) We held our first **Wildlife Walk** of 2023 on **25th March** to Sheet Hedges Wood. We're going to Derbyshire on Sunday 16th April for a walk in Shining Cliff Woods, an S.S.S.I. near Ambergate. (Numbers are very limited because of lack of car-parking space there so we've kept this trip as an in-house visit) For our May walk we're piggy-backing on a walk in the National Forest Walking Festival programme – Wildlife Walk in Bradgate Park on 20th May. We hope to organise a few wildlife walks in June, probably at least one evening walk, and visits to local areas managed with biodiversity in mind, including Nigel's field, and what is turning out to be an annual visit to Benscliffe Hay Cottage.
- 4) **Village Magazine April** – article reminding people that we are on Facebook, and encouraging the posting of photos of local wildlife etc. Also details of our webpage, and the NatureSpot website, where we have both a parish page, and details of our parish's 'Wild Places'.
- 5) **Field Head Outline Planning Application:** A sub-group of N-L Biodiversity met to discuss the re-consultation documents and as Chair of the Group I submitted additional comments in response to the re-consultation.
- 6) **Markfield Lane verge.** As planned, a path has been mown through the wildlife section. I understand this will be mown regularly throughout the growing season.

Claire Costello

Appendix Two - Report by County Councillor, Deborah Taylor

County Councillor Report – April 2023

Beacon Hill

After two successful years of creating a thriving environment for nature at Beacon Hill Country Park, visitors are being encouraged to continue supporting Leicestershire County Council's conservation initiative.

Jewels Hill in the country park was first closed during the peak season in 2021 to help improve the conservation of the fragile heathland and protect wildlife.

Restricting access to the beauty spot in Beacon Hill between 1st April and 1st August has been a success, with ecologists monitoring the area seeing the undisturbed grass and vegetation creating small micro-climates ideal for insects, birds, lizards and plant growth.

Beacon Hill welcomes more than 250,000 visitors per year and this year will see events being held on the park that explains more about the Jewels Hill conservation work and the wildlife that attracts so many people every year. This closure amounts to just 3% of the total area of Beacon Hill.

Climate Change

Leicestershire County Council has teamed up with key partners and stakeholders from leading organisations to draw up an ambitious set of principles setting out Leicestershire's commitment to tackle climate change, nature decline and carbon reduction.

'The Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact' is based on the principles of the Glasgow Climate Pact, signed by the UK government in November 2021. It supports national and international efforts to tackle climate change by bringing together the businesses and private sector, voluntary, community, and social enterprises, universities, the education and research sector, the public sector, and the people and communities of Leicestershire, to drive local action and work towards a number of shared environmental aims.

The core requirements of the Pact include the need to act quickly on reducing the impacts of climate change, reducing carbon emissions to net zero, halting ecological decline, supporting climate recovery, and working together to deliver effective action on climate change.

The Pact was officially launched at a signing ceremony on Tuesday 28th February, attended by representatives from more than 40 organisations who gathered to share their ideas on how to work together towards the common goal of making Leicestershire a net zero county by 2045.

The county council is now calling upon other organisations and groups across the county to sign up to the Pact and play their part in combating climate change and nature decline.

The Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy and Action plan can be found on the Council's [Net Zero web pages](#), which have been developed to make the Council's Net Zero information and resources easier to access and to increase involvement with residents.

You can contact netzero@leics.gov.uk to find out more.

Tree Nursery

A new tree nursery is to be developed by Leicestershire County Council in partnership with the National Forest Company (NFC). The project is to develop a new community-focused nursery involving local groups and organisations to help collect seeds and grow new trees to plant across Leicestershire and the National Forest.

The project – which aims to produce around 20,000 trees per year - will be trialled for four years with ambitions to inspire other communities to start up tree nurseries.

Work on the site located in the heart of the National Forest at Hanging Hill Farm, Moira is due to start soon, with phase one of the project involving the development of the site, access, infrastructure, polytunnels and growing beds.

Seeds will be collected and planted later this year and the trees will eventually help to support the council's ambitious plans to increase the level of tree planting across Leicestershire and the drive to eventually plant 700,000 - one for every person in the county.

Send School

The county council has been successful in its application bid to the Department of Education (DfE) for a 90-place school for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), in Quorn.

There is an increasing demand in the county for SEND school places and this funding from the DfE's Special Free School programme, will provide much needed school places.

The school is set to be built on county council-owned land off Farley Way, Quorn, close to the A6, and will serve both the local community as well as the neighbouring Melton and north-west Leicestershire areas.

When opened, the school will have pupils from Key Stages 2-4 on its roll and will specialise in helping to meet the communication and interaction needs of children. It is also planned that the school will support pupils into post-16 progression.

Cllr Deborah Taylor

Appendix Three - Report by Borough Councillor, David Snartt

Report from David Snartt.

Update Charnwood Local Plan.

I just wanted to let you know that the public hearings which have been held as part of the examination process of the draft Charnwood Local Plan 2021-37 have now concluded. The hearings at the Town Hall started in June last year and were put on hold by the Inspectors to consider how the Local Plan proposes to manage issues relating to Leicester's unmet housing and employment need. The Inspectors reconvened in October before the final set of hearings that have just concluded during February.

I did attend the latest hearing sessions on the 14th and 15th February. Although I had already sent my written representations to the Inspectors about my concerns in areas that affected my Forest Bradgate Council Ward. I was keen to understand how the examination was moving forward, especially in the areas of the plan I had already raised with the Inspectors.

Next Steps: The Planning Inspectors will now consider everything that has been put before them and will send a letter to the Council in the next couple of months outlining

the timetable for public consultation on the main modifications necessary to make the local plan sound.

The consultation on the main modifications will be for at least six weeks and is expected to commence in the early summer. Responses are made to the Inspectors for them to consider when writing their final report on the Local Plan. Once the final Inspectors' report is received, the Council can then consider adopting the Local Plan in the autumn. When it is adopted, it will replace the current Core Strategy and the Borough of Charnwood Local Plan and it will be the starting point for all planning decisions going forward.

Council Approves Budget For 2023/24.

Charnwood Borough Council approved its budget for 2023/24 at a meeting on Monday February 27th 2023. The budget sets out the Council's spending plans for services in the coming council year.

The Borough Council Tax remains one of the lowest in the Country and is only a small part of residents' overall Council Tax bill. The budget sees the Charnwood element of an average Band D property rise by £4.78p (3.52 per cent) to £140.47p for the year. People on low incomes can apply for Local Council Tax Support, this gives up to 85 per cent reduction on the whole Council Tax bill.

The Council's budget for 2023/24 looks to spend around £20 million on services for the Borough. The Council is responsible for a wide range of services which include: Collecting recycling and refuse from more than 70,000 homes in the Borough: Supporting homeless people: Managing open spaces including the Outwoods: Emptying bins, litter bins and street cleaning: Food safety inspections: Licensing of pubs, clubs and taxis: Handling planning applications and strategic planning.

Action to Tackle Fly Tipping/Poor Dog Control.

Nine fines totalling £3,000 have been handed out following reports of fly tipping, dog fouling and poor dog control in Charnwood over the last 3 months. Charnwood Borough Council has taken action as part of its ongoing commitment to look after the local environment and crackdown on those who show a disregard for the area.

If you see any fly-tips across Charnwood or dog problems, you are encouraged to report it directly to the Council by visiting the Council's website; report something to us.

Residents are reminded to only use authorised waste carriers to dispose of their waste and make sure the carrier has a license from the Environment Agency.

Have Your Say.

Charnwood residents have until midnight on Monday April 17th to register to vote in the local elections in May. Charnwood Borough Council has 52 Councillors across 24 Wards with all seats up for election on Thursday May 4th 2023. Most residents are currently registered with over 130,000 people on the electoral register in Charnwood.

I have previously stated, for the first time photo ID will be required when you visit a polling station to vote. This new requirement has been introduced by the UK

Government. It means voters across England will be required to show an acceptable form of photo ID when voting at a polling station. I am hopeful with the amount of different acceptable forms of ID, most voters will be able to vote without applying for a free voter ID. All the information about voting in the May 4th elections, including details of acceptable forms of photo ID and postal voting can be found by visiting www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/electoralservices or for further help and advice telephone 01509 634546

Appeal Decision.

I recently received disappointing news from the Planning Inspectorate. Following the appeal hearing that I attended at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) about the development of 93 dwellings on land north east of Ashby Road, Markfield, the Inspector allowed the appeal. Therefore, planning permission is granted for this residential development on this site.

The Inspector states in his decision notice that consideration of this appeal is limited to the impact of the development on the land within HBBC administrative area. Although it results in a failure to accord with policy DH4 and policy M1 of the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan, there would be no substantial harm caused as a result. The development would not therefore undermine the aims of those policies, both of which seek to protect the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.

In my view, after reading the decision notice, it seems that because Charnwood Borough Council (CBC) granted planning permission this was a factor in the decision making process. Noting all the dwellings will be within CBC administrative area, with only land within HBBC being a narrow strip alongside the road containing the proposed main access and a tree belt. This makes the land split of approximately 7% in HBBC and 93% in CBC administrative area.

At the hearing I did raise my objections to this proposal, especially that in my opinion, the development didn't fit with the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan policies and the impact this would have on the services and facilities of the village. After receiving the decision, I did write to the Inspectorate to try and find out more about the decision making process. The information I received back was: Unfortunately, I am not able to add anything further to this as the Inspector is not able to further comment or explanation of the decision once it has been issued.