



NEWTOWN LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall.

**0978/24. Members Present:**

Councillors Chairman Susan Pritchard, Sue Greasley, Vicki Lightfoot, Tara Pickles and Vice-Chairman Tim Porte.

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

**0979/24. Apologies for absence:**

Councillor Rob Haylock, Bradgate Park Director - James Dymond and Newtown Linford Biodiversity Chair Claire Costello.

**0980/24. Confirm and sign minutes of the February meeting:**

These were approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

**0981/24. 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.

Councillor Tara Pickles is a member of Newtown Linford Biodiversity.

**0982/24. Public Participation**

There were no public representations made.

**0983/24. Police Matters and NHW reports:**

A Neighbourhood Link warning had been circulated regarding recent attempted burglaries in the Charnwood area.

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

**0984/24. Bradgate Park**

Bradgate Park Director, James Dymonda had sent apologies to the meeting and the following update:

*“Re the query re dredging the River Lin in the last set of minutes – we have had initial conversations with an expert re this and the trust is also chasing Severn Trent for their interest, given it feeds into the reservoir. However, it will not necessarily be a simple project in terms of Environment Agency permissions etc and so nothing is planned until higher priority projects, such as the track resurfacing, are funded and underway.”*

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

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**0985/24. Newtown Linford Biodiversity**

Claire Costello had sent apologies to the meeting and there was no report available.

Cllr. Pickles reported NLB are currently working on updating the current PC Biodiversity Policy for consideration at the May Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The Clerk reported NLB are also looking at signage for the wildlife verges and would be looking for financial support from the PC towards printing costs.

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks. Clerk to seek quotations for signage once the artwork has been agreed.

**0986/24. Report by County Councillor Deborah Taylor.**

See Appendix One

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

**0987/24. Report by the Borough Councillor, David Snartt.**

See Appendix Two

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

**0988/24. Village Governance and Residents.**

- CBC had supplied Newtown Linford Parish with 3 boxes of Hydrosnakes 11/03/24.
- A Duty of Care Tree Inspection is now due. The last inspection was carried out April 2021. The Clerk had received a quotation from Symbiosis of £1125 plus VAT.

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks. Councillors voted in favour of accepting the quotation from Symbiosis to the value of £1125 plus VAT. Clerk to action.

**0989/24. Planning: Buildings and Tree Issues.**

- **Decisions**
  - a) P/23/2204/2- 482 Bradgate Road Newtown Linford - Proposed erection of detached garden room, installation of external pool in rear garden with pergola, front boundary wall with vehicular gates (Resubmission of Planning Application ref: P/23/1279/2) – Withdrawn 15/03/24.
  - b) P/24/0093/2 - 241 Markfield Lane, Newtown Linford - Erection of two storey side extension and ground floor porch extension to front – Grant Conditionally 19/03/24.
  - c) P/24/0052/2 - 520B Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Erection of single storey pitched roof open fronted double car port – Withdrawn 08/03/24.

**Resolve:** Noted.

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- **Comments submitted through Planning Explorer**

d) P/24/0093/2 - 241 Markfield Lane, Newtown Linford - Erection of two storey side extension and ground floor porch extension to front - No Objection 15/02/24.

e) P/24/0052/2 - 520B Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Erection of single storey pitched roof open fronted double car port - Objection as follows 15/02/24:

*"Councillors are concerned regarding the potential impact on the neighbour, due to possible restrictions resulting from the narrowed width of the driveway and wish to object to this application."*

f) P/24/0166/2 - 486 Bradgate Road Newtown Linford - Erection of part two storey and part single storey rear extension, new render and cladding - No Objection 15/02/24.

g) P/24/0190/2 - Charnwood, 28 Groby Lane, Newtown Linford - Replacement of existing flat roof dormer on side elevation with new dormer with tiled hipped roof - No Objection 15/02/24.

Cllr. Porte had previously recused himself from the following application

h) P/24/0205/2 - 15 Cravens Rough, Markfield, LE67 9PF - Demolition of Existing Dwelling; Erection of Replacement Dwelling and Detached Garage - No Objection 15/03/24.

**Resolve:** Ratified.

- **Discuss**

i) P/24/0197/2 - Grey Lady Restaurant, Sharpley Hill, Newtown Linford - Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and erection of two storey detached replacement dwelling including modifications to site access (TO BE CONFIRMED).

**Resolve:** Councillors reiterated their previous comments in relation to planning application P/23/0316/2. Clerk to submit comments via Planning Explorer.

j) P/24/0303/2 - 88 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Erection of detached garage with landscape alterations and gate to be extended.

**Resolve:** No Objection

- **Trees**

There were no tree applications to discuss.

- **Other**

k) It was noted that CBC Local Plan hearings had resumed on 20/02/24.

l) Correspondence regarding a Plans Committee Decision re P/23/0645/2 Lady Jane Grey Park 21/02/24 was noted. The Chairman, Cllr. Snartt and the Clerk would be attending a meeting with CBC Officers to discuss the matter further. Date to be arranged. Cllr. Snartt informed the meeting that a review of the constitution would be considered at next week's CBC Cabinet meeting, which

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includes a recommendation for Single Member Wards, where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

**Resolve:** Noted. Clerk to circulate Review of Constitution paper which will be discussed at the CBC Cabinet meeting on 04/04/24.

**0990/24. Bob Bown Memorial Field.**

Cllr. Greasley reported a microwave had been left by the bins at the park and a further unauthorised rope swing had been installed.

**Resolve:** Noted. Cllr. Greasley to arrange disposal of the microwave. Clerk to chase CBC regarding removal of the tree branch and blocked drains on the access track.

**0991/24. Village Magazine.**

There was nothing to report.

**0992/24. Parish Council Website/Facebook Page.**

The Parish Council Facebook group had increased to 501 members.

Councillors considered a new free website upgrade offered by Cuttlefish and migrating over to a .gov.uk domain and .gov.uk email addresses for the Clerk and Councillors.

**Resolve:** Councillors resolved to accept the new free website upgrade and migration to a .gov.uk domain. Additionally, Councillors voted in favour of new .gov.uk email addresses for both the Clerk and all Councillors. Clerk to action.

**0993/24. Village Hall**

It was noted a 70s themed event, Disco Inferno, had raised £350 for the Village Hall. The next event will be held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

It was also noted the Village Rummage Sale held on 02/03/24 had raised over £1900 for the Village Hall, Preschool, Coffee and Cake, Jolly Tots and Brownies.

**Resolve:** Noted.

**0994/24. Highways, Footpaths, Street Furniture, Traffic and Transport:**

- Concerns of speeding in the Parish reported to LCC Highways on 19/03/24 had been passed to the Traffic and Signals Team for further investigation and a response. The Clerk had requested costings for Average Speed Cameras along Bradgate Road and Main Street and for advice/guidance regarding existing VAS and possible MVAS unit. Enquiry number enquiry 948149.

- A blocked culvert under the road at Main Street/Sharpley Hill was reported on 20/03/24, reference HMS 948059.

- Blocked drains at the Bob Bown access track and garages had been reported to CBC on 13/02/24.

**Resolve:** Noted. Clerk to chase blocked drains at the Bob Bown access track.

**0995/24. Churchyard and Cemetery:**

- A new ash plot area at the Cemetery had been completed on 16/02/24 and plots are now available to purchase.
- 60 hedgerow saplings had been received from the Woodland Trust and planted at the Churchyard on 07/03/24.

**Resolve:** Noted

- Councillors considered increasing Cemetery Fees for the 2024-2025 financial year, effective from 1st May 2024 and to triple fees for Non-Residents.

**Resolve:** Councillors were in agreement to the modest increase in fees for residents but after careful consideration, felt a set pricing structure for non-resident applications would be more appropriate than 'tripling' fees. Clerk to devise a proposal for consideration at the May meeting, taking into consideration non-resident fees for other nearby burial grounds.

- Councillors considered a quotation for new post and rail fencing at the Churchyard, total £523.00.

**Resolve:** Councillors voted in favour of accepting the quotation of £523.00. Clerk to action

- Councillors considered a quotation for the supply and installation of hard standing for a new bench at the Cemetery. £150 of this will be borne by the donors of the bench.

**Resolve:** Councillors voted in favour of accepting the quotation of £250.00. Clerk to action.

**0996/24. Correspondence:**

Anstey Draft Neighbourhood Plan – Statutory Consultation period – 12 February – 25 March 2024 received by email 12/02/24 and cascaded to Councillors for comments.

Legislative change to postal vote handling and secrecy received from CBC 14/02/24 and sent to Councillors for information.

New Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer - Charnwood Borough Council received 26/02/24 and cascaded to Councillors. Karen Widdowson is the new Monitoring Officer and Nicola Ford is the new Deputy Monitoring Officer.

PCC's Hate Crime Scrutiny Panel - Applications Open received by email 04/03/24 and forwarded to Councillors.

**Resolve:** Noted

**0997/24. Reports on Meetings and Training by Councillors and Clerk.**

Clerk had attended LRALC training on Agendas and Minutes on 06/02/24.

Clerk had attended LCC Budget Webinar on 13/02/24.

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Clerk had attended LRALC training on Confidential Closed Sessions 04/03/24.

**0998/24. Items of interest of for future meetings.**

There was nothing to report.

**0999/24. Finance.**

• **Authorisation for payment of invoices:**

• Ledger Date	Payee	Payment Description	Amount	Legal Power	Notes
15.02.24	Newtown Linford Village Magazine	Donation towards production costs 2024	£700	LGA 1972 S142	
15.02.24	Firetree	Grave levelling and turfing x 11 graves	£699.60	LGA 1972 S214(6)	
16.02.24	Firetree	Grounds Maintenance 2023/24 Inv 12 of 12	£1230.55	LGA 1972 SS 19, 214 & 215	
16.02.24	Firetree	Clearance and turfing of new ash plot area	£790.78	LGA 1972 S214(6)	
28.02.24	HS	February Broadband & Out of Plan Calls	£66.32	LGA 1972 S111	
28.02.24	HS	February Salary and back pay	£1426.53	LGA 1972 S112	
04.03.24	NEST	Pension Contributions	£81.60	LGA 1972 S112	
07.03.24	Firetree	Hedgerow planting at the Churchyard	£118.92	LGA 1972 S215	
07.03.24	Cuttlefish	Website License, Hosting, Support and Domain	£552.00	LGA 1972 S142	
14.03.24	APB	Village Hall Rent April 2024 to June 2024	£750.00	LGA 1972 S133	
15.03.24	CBC	Bob Bown Lease Q4	£75.00	LGA 1972 S19	
19.03.24	Firetree	Grounds Maintenance 24/25 Inv 1 of 12	£1323.18	LGA 1972 SS 19, 214 & 215	1 <sup>st</sup> cut of the 2024-2025 season

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19.03.24	Firetree	Grave levelling and returfing x 1	£63.60	LGA 1972 S214(6)	
21.03.24	HS	Travel & Miscellaneous Expenses Oct 23 – Mar 24	£136.99	LGA 1972 S111	
<b>Total</b>			<b>£8,015.07</b>		

**Bank Balances:**

Business Current Account @ 21/03/24	£ 2,010.58
Business Reserve Account @ 21/03/24	£ 60,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 62,010.58</b>

**Bank Reconciliation:**

Carry Forward figure	£ 69,799.32
Expenditure	- £ 8,015.07
Income	+ £ 226.33
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£ 62,010.58</b>

**Resolve:** Councillors authorised payments, payments made under the Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk were ratified and the bank statements and invoices were reconciled and signed by the Chairman and Cllr. Lightfoot.

**1000/24. Dates of next two Parish Council Meeting:**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 7.15pm Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024 7.15pm  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 9pm

Signed by Chairman:-.....Dated:-.....

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## **Appendix One – Report by County Councillor, Deborah Taylor**

County Council Report – March 2024

### *Efficient*

New data shows that Leicestershire remains one of the top performing county councils in the country.

Detailed research, using more than 250 different measures ranging from adult social care, public health, and environment to schools, ranks the authority third for overall performance, despite continuing to be the lowest funded county.

The comparison against 31 upper-tier and county unitary areas places the authority second for adult social care delivery, second for highways and transport and fourth for school quality & access.

### *Transport Funding*



Leicestershire County Council is pleased to receive £238 million of additional funding for local transport from central government. We are currently waiting for the full guidance to be released before we can look at how this funding can be spent to achieve the most for our residents.

### *£8m 'green' bus funding*

The £8.1m slice of a £129m Government cash pot will help buy electric buses and chargers, cutting carbon emissions.

Bus operators Kinchbus and Arriva have worked with the county council on the proposal, emphasising the role of the Leicestershire Enhanced Bus Partnership, which fosters stronger links between the local authority and bus operators.

The emission-free buses will run on several routes focused on Loughborough, including Kinchbus 2, 5, 9, 11, 12, sprint, and the campus shuttle as well as Arriva's 127 service to Shepshed and Leicester. Elsewhere, similar buses would also feature on Arriva routes 5/5A to Melton Mowbray.

### *Free and green travel for youngsters this Easter*

Children and young people across Leicestershire can take advantage of free bus travel this Easter.



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Youngsters will be able to use the offer on single fares and returns when boarding the bus from 9.30am to 11pm on Monday-Friday, and all day at weekends and bank holidays from Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April.

Under 16s will need to show proof of age when boarding buses travelling throughout the county while some of the county's bus operators are also offering reduced travel fares to young people aged between 16-21.

The free child and youth bus fares initiative is being delivered on behalf of the Leicestershire Enhanced Bus Partnership which is a collaboration between the county council and the bus operators, funded by the Department of Transport's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

The aim is to encourage young people to explore the county by bus, travel independently and save money.

### *Leicestershire Family Hubs*

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, I attended our second Family Hub Conference. The conference was attended by many of our partners involved in our Family Hubs model and the day focused on our work with families and how we can move this to the next level now most of our Family Hubs are open.

As the Lead Member for Children and Families at LCC, I opened a further three Hubs on 19<sup>th</sup> March in Castle Donington, 20<sup>th</sup> March in Thurmaston, and 4<sup>th</sup> April in Mountfields, Loughborough. This takes our total in Leicestershire to 25, with one left to open over the next couple of weeks. We also have satellite hubs in many of our libraries.

The website has been launched but is undergoing soft testing before we can fully roll it out.

### *Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland Road Safety Partnership (LLRRSP)*

I thought it would be useful to provide some information to residents about the LLRRSP. The overall objective of the LLRRSP is to reduce the number of people killed and injured on the highway network within the Partnership area through collaborative working.

The LLRRSP brings together Leicestershire County Council; Leicester City Council; Rutland County Council; Leicestershire Police; National Highways; Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service; Public Health; and East Midlands Ambulance. There is a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the main LLRRSP partners, which runs from April 2023 to March 2028.

The LLRRSP seeks to achieve its objective through the provision of camera enforcement and evidenced based programmes of road safety education, training, and publicity, including:

- The Safety Camera Scheme, which is directly managed by Leicestershire Police. The police run and manage the static and mobile cameras. A key focus for the Camera Operations Group has been the establishment of new hard standing areas for mobile enforcement, plus the expansion of existing routes.
- The police offer Driver Education Workshops (DEW) courses to drivers within a prescribed threshold, which the County Council runs. Between 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023, 26,436 drivers attended a National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme course.

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- The Data Group produces casualty information to highlight trends and issues, informing the work of the Communications and Publicity Group.

A full programme of communication and training initiatives is developed and approved annually by the LLRRSP Board. There has been an ongoing focus on the use of social media and social media-based advertising which matches the national approach from the 'THINK!' campaign (<https://www.think.gov.uk/>).

### *Pre Driver Days*

The **Leicestershire County Council Safe and Sustainable Travel Team** offers year 11/12 students, who are 16/17 and have not yet started to drive, the opportunity to take part in a Pre-Driver Day aimed at young people who are interested in learning to drive.

The course offers a variety of workshops highlighting key issues faced by young and inexperienced drivers. The course will include an introduction to driving, issues relating to speed, and impairment, and a practical off-road driving session at Mallory Park accompanied by a qualified driving instructor in a dual-controlled car.

The following dates are currently available for Pre-Driver courses in 2024:



- 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- 30<sup>th</sup> May
- 5<sup>th</sup> August
- 6<sup>th</sup> August
- 21<sup>st</sup> October

For further information and to book a course, please click here:

<https://www.tjunction.org.uk/pre-driver-days/>

### *Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) Funding*

From April 2024, the government will be expanding the current 'Working Parent Entitlement' childcare offer in three phases:

- From April 2024 - working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 FEEE hours (570 hours per year)
- From September 2024 - working parents of children aged 9 months old will be able to access 15 FEEE hours (570 hours per year)
- From September 2025 - working parents of children aged 9 months old will be able to access 30 FEEE hours (1,140 hours per year).

Parents and carers are entitled to use their 570 or 1,140 hours over 38 weeks of the year (term time) or some providers will allow you to 'stretch' the hours over more weeks, using fewer hours claimed per week.

### *What are the eligibility criteria?*

You, and any partner, must expect to earn (on average) at least £167 per week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage).

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If you, or your partner, are on maternity, paternity, or adoption leave, or you're unable to work because you are disabled or have caring responsibilities, you could still be eligible.

You can't get either 15 or 30 hours childcare if you, or your partner, each individually expect to earn £100,000 adjusted net income or more.

*How can parents check if they are eligible?*

You can [check your eligibility and get further information on the scheme here: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/](https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/)

If you have any questions or are having difficulties in applying, please call the HMRC on [0300 123 4097](tel:03001234097).

### *'Care Experienced' as a Protected Characteristic*



Leicestershire County Council are working with Leicestershire Cares, a charity that supports young people.

Their aim is for an inclusive and safe Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland where nobody is left behind, and where all children and young people are supported to reach their full potential.

I met with Peer researchers on the 'Joining Up Joining In' project at Leicestershire Cares to discuss how being care experienced impacts on adult lives.

After a considerable amount of work at the council meeting on 21st February 2024, I was delighted to put forward a Motion to Leicestershire County Council to recognise 'Care Experienced' as a protected characteristic. All the council members approved the motion put forward.

I am now encouraging and supporting all the local borough and district councils within Leicestershire to also approve this Motion. This should ensure that people who have been in care experience the same opportunities in life as everyone else.



Further details can be found on our website by scanning this QR code:

*Cllr Deborah Taylor*

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

Report, David Snartt.

### Changes to Planning Policy.

One of the main reasons why speculative development has been allowed in Borough is because Charnwood Borough Council could not demonstrate a five year housing land supply. You may recall, this was one of the main reasons for the Government Inspector to allow the development on appeal, for up to 36 dwellings on the site adjacent to Maplewell Road, Woodhouse Eaves. I am pleased that the recent Government changes to the National Planning Policy Framework have allowed Council's like Charnwood who have done the right thing in producing a new Local Plan for examination can now demonstrate a four-year housing land supply based on the forecast delivery in a five year period. Therefore, following the guidance issued by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 it is now considered that a 4.49 housing land supply can be demonstrated by Charnwood Borough Council. In my view, this will be helpful when determining new applications, although I understand that other planning policies may affect the decision making process until the new Local Plan is in place.

### Local Plan Update.

I attended the latest Local Plan Examination hearings taking place between 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February at the Town Hall, Loughborough. Hopefully, after the completion of these latest hearings the Council can move forward to consultation on the main modifications. The hearing sessions focused on each of the pieces of evidence that was consulted on in the Autumn 2023.

It is expected that the Council will receive a letter from the Inspectors in the coming few weeks setting out the next steps and the examination will then move towards a formal consultation on the main modifications which are required to make the Local Plan sound. However, it should be noted that the programme of the examination is in the hands of the Inspectors. It is anticipated that the Council will be able to consider the Local Plan for adoption towards the end of 2024.

### Budget for the Year Ahead.

Charnwood Borough Council approved its budget for 2024/24 at a meeting of the Council on Monday February 26<sup>th</sup> 2024. The budget sets out the Council's spending plans for services in the coming year and includes the creation of a £100.000 grants pot to support community groups who help residents struggling with the cost of living and freezing the cost of the garden waste service.

The council tax increase means the annual charge for the element of council tax for an average Band D property will rise by £4.21p over 12 months (three per cent) from April

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1<sup>st</sup> 2024, The Council has one of the lowest council tax charges in the country. In my view, this is due to decisions the Council have made for many previous years, balancing good financial matters whilst providing excellent services.

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 and the annual four-day Loughborough Fair, handling planning applications and strategic planning.

Register to Vote.

People living in Charnwood have until midnight on Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup> 2024 to register to vote in the Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) election. The next PCC elections will take place across England and Wales on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024.

Most residents are currently registered to vote with over 133,000 people on the electoral register in Charnwood. However, if you are not currently registered to vote, you can visit the Government's website to find out how to register. Please remember, photo ID will be required when voting at a polling station. This requirement was introduced by the UK Government last year and applies to most elections including the PCC election on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024.

Name the Wagon Competition.

Youngsters are being invited to put forward name suggestions for two new bin lorries which will arrive in Charnwood in April.

Charnwood Borough Council is adding two new trucks to its current refuse fleet which consists of 41 lorries, vans and road sweepers. So whether it's Dustbin Bieber, The Trashformers or Binnie the Pooh, the more punstastic the better but remember to keep them clean!

The new vehicles will join the likes of Gary Bineker, Bindiana Jones and Trash Gordon. The refuse fleet was named by local children in 2020 when the Council invested in more efficient and safer fleet which included the latest technology. The first vehicle was named Florence as a dedication to the NHS heroes and key workers who were on the front line supporting the public during the coronavirus pandemic. Over 150 suggestions were received back in 2020, and it's hoped that youngsters will enter the Name That Wagon competition once more and put forward their name suggestions for the two new arrivals. The Council is investing around £450,000 in the two new lorries.

Entries for Name That Wagon competition are now open and will close on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024. A full list of the current vehicle names and details on how to enter can be found on the Council's website: [www.charnwood.gov.uk/NameThatWagon](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/NameThatWagon). The winners will be contacted by the Council directly and the new names will be revealed later this year.