# On.

#### NEWTOWN LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 19th July 2023 at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall.

#### 0815/23. Members Present:

Councillors Sue Pritchard (Chairman), Ronnie Bains, Sue Greasley, Vicki Lightfoot and Tara Pickles.

Also in attendance: Clerk - Hannah Shaw, Borough Councillor - David Snartt, County Councillor - Deborah Taylor, Tree Warden - Brian Anderson and Newtown Linford Biodiversity Chair - Claire Costello.

#### 0816/23. Apologies for absence:

Councillors Rob Haylock and Tim Porte (Vice-Chairman) and Bradgate Park Director - James Dymond.

# 0817/23 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Ronnie Bains to the meeting following co-option. Cllr. Bains signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

# 0818/23. Confirm and sign minutes of the June 2023 meeting:

These were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

## 0819/23. 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.

# 0820/23. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

#### 0821/23. Police Matters and NHW reports:

Crime statistics had not been received and there was nothing to report.

# 0822/23. Bradgate Park

Enforcement data from the weekend of the Bradgate Park Summer Fayre had been received from Bradgate Park Director, James Dymond. The Chairman commented that the data showed people were in general, adhering to the parking restrictions.

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

# 0823/23. Newtown Linford Biodiversity

Chair of Newtown Linford Biodiversity, Claire Costello, was present and delivered an update on the group's current work (see Appendix One).

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

# 0824/23. Report by County Councillor Deborah Taylor.

See Appendix Two

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

# 0825/23. Report by the Borough Councillor, David Snartt.

See Appendix Three

The Chairman asked Cllr. Snartt if there had been any development on the progress of planning application P/22/1031/2 for the development of up to 150 dwellings on land south of Markfield Lane.

Cllr. Snartt said there had been no further update, including additional supporting information requested by LCC Highways. There had also been some confusion over the number of dwellings associated with this application and it is therefore, likely a further re-consultation will be required.

**Resolve:** Noted with thanks.

## 0826/23. Village Governance and Residents.

The Chairman invited Cllr. Ronnie Bains to introduce himself to the meeting. Cllr. Bains gave a summary of his background and areas of expertise.

Resolve: Councillors welcomed Cllr. Bains who will stand on the Bob Bown Memorial Field Committee.

## 0827/23. Planning: Buildings and Tree Issues.

#### Decisions

- a) P/23/0773/2 Willoughby, 9, Cravens Rough Ulverscroft Lane, Newtown Linford Discharge of Condition 4 (Materials) of Planning Permission ref: P/21/0450/2 (Demolition of existing weekend/holiday chalet and erection of new weekend/holiday chalet) Conditions Discharged (Confirmed) 07/07/23.
- b) P/23/0722/2 Polly Botts Farm, Polly Botts Lane, Newtown Linford, Leicestershire, LE67 9PT Erection of replacement dwelling and associated works following demolition of existing Grant Conditionally 04/07/23.
- c) P/23/0728/2 Field Lodge 38 Main Street Newtown Linford Erection of single storey rear extension Grant Conditionally 22/06/23.
- d) 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 Grant Conditionally 19/06/23.

Resolve: Noted.

# • Comments submitted through Planning Explorer

- e) P/23/0923/2 Heatherfields, Priory Lane, LE67 9PA Demolition of existing porch and canopies including new/replacement porch in alternative location, replacement windows and doors, conversion of garage into habitable space, alterations to entrance gates and associated landscaping works No Objection 05/07/23.
- f) P/23/0942/2 10 Cravens Rough, Ulverscroft Lane, Newtown Linford Erection of replacement dwellinghouse and detached garage, with associated works (following demolition of existing dwellinghouse) No Objection 13/07/23.

**Resolve:** Ratified.

#### Discuss

g) P/23/0956/2 - Oaklands, 500 Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Erection of single and two storey rear extension (with juliet balcony at first floor level). Fenestration alterations to existing dwelling to include rooflight to rear roof slope, replacement doors and windows and insertion of first floor windows to side elevation.

**Resolve:** The Clerk informed Councillors this application was currently showing as invalid on Planning Explorer. Councillors will discuss the application once it has been validated.

h) P/23/1088/2 - Lenthill Farm, 95 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Installation of 1 no. replacement window to front elevation.

**Resolve:** No objection.

#### Trees

There were no tree applications to discuss.

## Other

 i) P/23/1026/2 - Lady Jane Park, Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Certificate of Lawful development (existing) for confirmation of implementation of planning permission P/19/2119/2.

**Resolve:** Noted. Cllr. Snartt confirmed the Certificate of Lawful development relating to the Lady Jane Park, refers to the original application for bungalows and that work had commenced within the permitted 3 year window since planning permission was granted.

In addition, concerns were raised regarding planning re-consultation P/22/1835/2 - Bradgate Park - Resurfacing of 3.8km track within parkland. A Flood Risk Assessment had also now been added to the application.

**Resolve:** Councillors resolved to reiterate previous comments made in relation to this application as follows –

"Councillors would like to reiterate their previous observations in relation to this application. Councillors are concerned by the potential appearance of the proposed track from outside vistas of the park and would hope that

consideration be given to sufficient and sympathetic contouring and variation of line of the track, to minimise the visual effect of a straight structure in a natural landscape."

## 0828/23. Bob Bown Memorial Field.

The Clerk reported the new surfacing had wrinkled in places and would be reporting the matter to Wicksteed for attention.

Cllr. Greasley reported there had been further rope swings found attached to trees at the park.

Tree Warden, Brian Anderson, reported concern for a broken tree branch in the woodland at the rear of the Bob Bown Memorial.

**Resolve:** Clerk to action all matters as soon as possible.

#### 0829/23. Village Magazine.

There was nothing to report.

#### 0830/23. Parish Council Website/Facebook Page.

The Parish Council Facebook group had increased to 469 members.

Councillors considered IT Support and Cloud Backup service offered by Astley Computers at the half-price discounted rate of £70 per machine for the first 12 months. Offer valid until 31st August 2023.

**Resolve:** Councillors voted in favour of signing up to the Cloud Backup Service offered by Astley Computers. Clerk to action.

## 0831/23. Village Hall

The Chairman updated Councillors on a recent complaint received with regards to the fire exit doors being opened onto private land during events and the actions taken.

Village Hall bookings and income had increased and the Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work since taking on the role of Bookings Secretary.

Resolve: Noted.

## 0832/23. Highways, Footpaths, Street Furniture, Traffic and Transport:

Tree Warden, Brian Anderson, commented that a number of trees and hedgerows adjacent to public footways, were overgrown, making it difficult for pedestrians to pass safely.

**Resolve:** Clerk to include request for trees and hedges to be cut back in the September edition of the Village Magazine.

The Chairman reported an audit had been carried out on the Parish Council owned bins and troughs and five bins were in poor condition and require repainting.

**Resolve:** Clerk to seek volunteers for a working party to repaint the bins and troughs.

# 0833/23. Churchyard and Cemetery:

NLPC had been admitted to the ICCM as a Parish Council Corporate Member on 19/06/23.

Tree Warden, Brain Anderson, commented on the untidy area under the Cherry trees at the Churchyard. The Clerk explained this is where the Brownies had built bug hotels in 2022.

**Resolve:** Noted. Clerk to speak with Newtown Linford Biodiversity and the Parish Council's Grounds Maintenance contractor, Firetree, to ask if some sympathetic tidying work could be carried out without impacting on the natural biodiversity of the area.

# 0834/23. Correspondence:

New safeguarding leaflet for Parish and Town Councils received from CBC 09/06/23 and cascaded to Councillors.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland received from LCC 12/06/23 and forwarded to Councillors and Newtown Linford Biodiversity.

Invitation to the Leicestershire Police Intercultural Event at FHQ received by email 13/06/23 and cascaded to Councillors.

Places of Worship security schemes information received from CBC and passed onto Rev. Richard Trethewey 26/06/23.

Details of Summer Risks On-Line Event - Wednesday 5th July, received from LCC 27/06/23 and cascaded to Councillors.

Email received from CBC re Police Crime Commissioner Public Perception Survey and cascaded to Councillors 29/06/23.

EMA Community Flyer Summer 2023 Issue received by email and cascaded to Councillors 05/07/23.

Commissioner's Safety Fund Launched received 05/07/23.

LCC flood risk management strategy consultation received 06/07/23.

Charnwood Road Safety Committee received 06/07/23 and cascaded to Councillors.

Street Lighting Consultation received 06/07/23 and cascaded to Councillors.

Homeless Support Service Consultation received via the LRALC Round Robin 11/07/23

LRALC July 2023 Newsletter received 12/07/23 and cascaded to Councillors.

**Resolve:** Noted.

## 0835/23. Reports on Meetings and Training by Councillors and Clerk.

Cllr. Pickles attended Planning: Nuts and Bolts training 21/06/23

Clerk attended LCC Clerks' Liaison Meeting 22/06/23

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

# 0836/23. Items of interest of for future meetings.

The Clerk had been contacted by Friends of Charnwood Forest with regards to applying for a licence for a replacement bench on Polly Botts Lane, which would be fully funded by the Friends of Charnwood Forest.

**Resolve:** Clerk to add to the agenda for the September meeting and speak with the Chairman of the Ulverscroft Parish Meeting, to see if they would have any objections and will report back.

# 0837/23. Finance.

# • Authorisation for payment of invoices:

Ledger Date	Payee	Payment Description	Amount	Legal Power	Notes
16.06.23	Firetree	Grounds Maintenance 2023/24 Inv 4 of 12	£1,230.55	LGA 1972 SS 19, 214 & 215	
16.06.23	ICCM	Corporate Membership 2023/24	£95.00	Local Authorities Cemetery Orders 1977 & 1986	
16.06.23	APB	Village Hall Rent June to Sept 2023	£750.00	LGA 1972 S133	
16.06.23	Community Heartbeat Trust	Defibrillator Electrodes	£56.34		
20.06.23	CBC	Bob Bown Lease Q1	£71.50	LGA 1972 S19	
20.06.23	HS	Expenses - Amazon Printer Cartridges (Refunded 27.06.23)	£57.05	LGA 1972 S111	
27.06.23	HMRC	Tax and NI Contributions	£656.01	LGA 1972 S112	
27.06.23	HS	Expenses – Currys – HP Envy Inspire 7924e Printer & 3 yr warranty	£131.99	LGA 1972 S111	
27.06.23	LRALC Ltd	Planning Nuts & Bolts training for Cllr. Pickles	£40.00	LGA 1972 S111	
28.06.23	HS	June Salary	£1,226.36	LGA 1972 S112	
28.06.23	HS	June Broadband and Out of Plan Calls	£68.23	LGA 1972 S111	
03.07.23	NEST	Pension Contributions	£61.08	LGA 1972 S111	
05.07.23	Natwest Debit	**Unpaid Cheque – Payment Stopped**	£75.00	-	Clerk/RFO chasing payment to include bank charges

					once confirmed
10.07.23	SLCC	Membership Fees 2023/2024	187.00	LGA 1972 S111	
12.07.23	PWLB	Public Works Loan Repayment	£2,468.06	LGA 72 S214	
TOTAL			£7.174.17		

#### **Bank Balances:**

Business Current Account @ 12/07/23

Business Reserve Account @ 12/07/23	£ 70,000.00
Total	£ 72,910.95
Bank Reconciliation:	

£ 2,910.95

Balance		£ 72,910.95
Income	+	£ 9,458.03
Expenditure	-	£ 7,174.17
Carry Forward figure		£ 70,627.09

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

## 0838/23. Dates of next two Parish Council Meeting:

Wednesday 27th September 2023 7.15pm Wednesday 1st November 2023 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed by Chair:	Dated:

Appendix One - Report by Claire Costello, Newtown Linford Biodiversity

Newtown Linford Biodiversity update for Parish Council meeting 19th July 2023

# Wild about Nature

Launch of our Wild about Nature summer challenge for children on 7<sup>th</sup> July, available to download from our webpage. This is a quiz designed to encourage local children to get

out and about and find out more about the nature and wildlife on their doorstep. Apart from encouraging the enjoyment of observing and identifying wildlife, the more that children develop an interest in nature, the more likely they'll try and help protect it in the future.

# **Himalayan Balsam-pulling**

Our series of summer Himalayan Balsam-pulling sessions have started. We've already tackled an area by the river in the village, and at Poultney Farm wet woodland in Ulverscroft. Tomorrow we've got an evening session at the tennis and cricket club, and one alongside the footpath in Ulverscroft next week. We may add more, if needed. We're certainly still finding that where we've had sessions last summer - and in some locations the summer before as well - there are a lot fewer plants, so it really is worth doing.

#### Wildlife Walks and Visits

We've had several wildlife walks and visits to places of biodiversity interest in June and July, mostly in the parish but occasionally slightly further afield – in early July we had a walk in Bagworth Heath Woods which is a particularly good area for butterflies and orchids. We also had permission to visit the meadow in Swithland Wood one evening and found an impressive diversity of plants there. Also, we've had visits to Lea Meadows Nature Reserve, and Nigel's meadow in Groby Lane, which is always full of interest. Those in the Group who are experienced in botanical I.D. are continuing to carry out surveys of local areas within the parish, including the wildlife verges. We may ultimately be able to produce some sort of parish wildlife map.

# **NatureSpot WildIfe Guides**

David Nicholls of NatureSpot has set up wildlife guides for the two verges in Newtown Linford, with photos and brief very readable information about our two sections of wildlife verge, and some of the flora and fauna you can expect to see. You can find these on the NatureSpot website on each of the verge's webpages. They are also linked to the respective Wild Place pages and also on NatureSpot's ID Guides page. We'll be promoting these on Facebook, the village magazine and on our webpage.

https://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Groby\_Ln\_Verge https://www.naturespot.org.uk/WildlifeGuide/NewtownLinfordGrobyLaneVerge

https://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/WildlifeGuide/NewtownLinfordMarkfieldLaneVergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/WildlifeGuide/NewtownLinfordMarkfieldLaneVergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/WildlifeGuide/NewtownLinfordMarkfieldLaneVergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown\_Linford\_Markfield\_Ln\_vergehttps://www.naturespot.org

#### Claire Costello

Appendix Two - Report by County Councillor, Deborah Taylor

County Council Report – July 2023

#### **Trees**

Tree planting is continuing at pace in Leicestershire, with more than 250,000 now planted towards our target of 700,000 – and people are being urged to play their part in preserving them for future generations.

New urban trees need at least 50 litres of water a week, so now that the warm summer months are here, residents are being urged to do their bit by giving them a much-needed water. Volunteer tree waterers are also being encouraged to source the water sustainably, by using harvested rainwater or 'grey' waste water, including dishwater, bathwater, and water from washing cars, windows, and even clothes, as long as it does not contain bleach.

Young trees which need a helping hand are being marked with easy-to-spot 'please water me' tags.

According to the Arboricultural Association, young trees need regular watering during the first three years of their life to allow them to thrive. The best time to water the trees is in the early morning or evening.

Please help us keep the trees in our area healthy.

#### Bus Reviews

The County Council has been awarded £1.78m 'Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus' (BSIP+) funding in the current financial year as part of a Department for Transport (DfT) settlement to more than 60 local transport authorities in the country.

The Leicestershire allocation comes from a £80m national pot with the same amount available (£80m) in 2024/25, although allocations to individual authorities have not yet been confirmed for the second year of funding.

In using this additional money, the council will ensure it is directed to offer greater connectivity for our communities rather than continuing to subsidise low-value and poorly used services. Therefore, the council intends to pause the current Passenger Transport Policy and Strategy (PTPS) review of services that the council currently subsidises.

This includes the two bus services in my Division, the CentreBus 154 (Leicester - Loughborough) and the Roberts 125 (Castle Donnington – Leicester).

Following a revision of the PTPS, it is anticipated that the Council will start to review their position on all their contracted services from late 2023 into spring 2024, with any planned changes being subject to a transparent engagement process with affected communities.

The BSIP+ funding will allow us to retain our existing subsidised bus services, the cost of which significantly exceeds the current budget, whilst giving the Council the opportunity to reshape our PTPS into supporting a more sustainable rural public transport model.

I encourage all my residents to make use of the Department for Transport's current £2 fare cap which has been extended until the end of October this year, rising to £2.50 for the rest of the year and into 2024. This will support our bus services going forward and make them more sustainable.

#### **Potholes**

£3m is being earmarked to top up the budget for fixing and maintaining Leicestershire's roads, cycle paths, and pavements.

Leicestershire County Council proposes to redirect the one-off cash to mend potholes and 'patch repair' across its 2,800-mile network to mitigate the impact of funding pressure and cost increases.

The money is the equivalent of 30,000 repairs or 75,000m<sup>2</sup> of damaged road and will be used to target areas across the county.

I am currently waiting to see if any major maintenance will happen in my Division. If you know of any potholes in the area, I encourage you to report them for repair. You can report potholes here: <a href="https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/report-a-road-problem">https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/report-a-road-problem</a>

## Consultations

# Homelessness Support

Leicestershire County Council is running a consultation on their role in homelessness support.

The upper tier authority - which is required to give a range of advice and support on health and wellbeing – will be asking key stakeholders for views on not renewing the current homeless support service when the current contract with Falcon Centre and Nottingham Community Housing Association runs out next March.

District councils are responsible for preventing homelessness and supporting people who are homeless and receive Government funding to do so.

The county council is investing an extra £57m in supporting vulnerable people over the next four years and making £22m available to ease the cost of living pressures.

The consultation is now available for you to give your views and runs until 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023. The link to the consultation can be found here: <a href="https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say/current-engagement/homeless-support-services">https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say/current-engagement/homeless-support-services</a>

# Street Lighting

Cost and energy savings through dimming streetlights are outlined in a questionnaire that residents are encouraged to complete.

The online survey seeks views on the Council's proposal to dim most streetlights in the county to levels of 30% from 8:00 pm (down from 50%), depending on the location, and to understand where there should be exceptions to this approach.

The majority of residential street lights are already dimmed to 30% at 10:00 pm, which will help give residents an understanding of what this lower lighting level looks like.

Making minimal changes to lighting levels during less-busy periods would mean a large reduction in carbon emissions by 315 tonnes as well as a big saving on council budgets - around £500,000 over the next four years.

The consultation will run until Thursday, 3rd August, and can be found at: <a href="mailto:leicestershire.gov.uk/street-lighting-consultation">leicestershire.gov.uk/street-lighting-consultation</a> and for more information, email: <a href="mailto:streetlights@leics.gov.uk">streetlights@leics.gov.uk</a>

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

A new statutory duty will see Leicestershire County Council and other partners working together to take action to preserve and improve habitats and protect and recover nature.

The council has been appointed as the 'responsible authority' by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (Defra), to lead on the work to enable nature recovery across the city, county, and Rutland.

As part of developing the Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland Local Nature Recovery Strategy, individuals and organisations including landowners, farmers, parish councils, environmental groups, and walking groups will have the opportunity to be involved in cocreating the strategy and inputting into how to increase and improve habitats and biodiversity, and provide opportunities for nature to thrive across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland.

The main purpose of the LNRS is to identify locations to create or improve habitat, and to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment.

Further details can be found on the GOV.UK website.

## Annual Report

Every year all elected members are required to produce an Annual Report. I have now published my 2022/23 report and it can be found here:

https://www.bradgateconservatives.org.uk/news/deborahs-annual-county-councillor-report-0



Cllr Deborah Taylor

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

Report from David Snartt.

Borough Councillor for Forest Bradgate.

#### Charnwood Sports Awards.

Nominations for this year's Charnwood Sports Awards are now open. The awards run by Charnwood Borough Council, will celebrate sporting achievements of individuals and clubs, as well as the commitment of volunteers. The awards are in their 13 year and will also highlight workplaces and schools in the Borough which are making a difference to the health and wellbeing of residents.

This year's awards ceremony will take place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December. The deadline for nominations is midnight Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

There are nine categories which include: Junior sports person of the year: Senior sports person of the year: Club of the year: Outstanding contribution to sport. For a full list of the categories and to nominate online or find out more about the awards, please visit <a href="https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/sportsawards">www.charnwood.gov.uk/sportsawards</a> or alternatively call 01509 634966.

## Photographic Competition.

A competition to find the best photographs of parks and open spaces in Charnwood Borough has returned for a second year. Charnwood Borough Council ran the competition last year as part of the 'Love Outdoors in Charnwood' campaign to celebrate the Borough's fantastic range of country parks, nature reserves and ancient woodland. The competition received over 100 entries in 2022 and it is hoped residents of all ages will get involved once again. All residents need to do to enter is grab their cameras and phones and capture snaps at their favourite park or open space in Charnwood.

Photos need to have been taken in the last six months and there are three different categories for people to enter: Open category (age 16 and above): Young photographer (under 16's): Wonderful wildlife (open to all ages). Winners will receive a £50 voucher and a £25 voucher will be awarded to each runner up. Entries close on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and winners will be contacted directly.

To enter, all you need to do is: Visit charnwood.gov.uk/photo: Choose your category: Complete your details: Upload one photo. To find out more about the 'Love the Outdoors in Charnwood campaign and the full terms and conditions for the competition please visit <a href="https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/LoveOutdoors">www.charnwood.gov.uk/LoveOutdoors</a>

#### **Bulky Waste Collection.**

After receiving a request for information about Charnwood Borough Council's bulky waste collect, I thought would be of interest to share some up-to-date information about the collection.

This year Charnwood Borough Council made changes to the service due to national legislation. It means upholstered/soft furnishing items can no longer be collected as part of the standard bulky waste collection service. These types of items can contain Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) which are a danger to human health and the environment. The Council can still collect upholstered/soft furnishing bulky waste items, but they must be booked and collected separately. There are alternatives to using this service such as taking items to the local tip where they can be recycled or donated to charity.

Standard bulky waste items which include such items as tables, wardrobes or fridge freezers are collected on a Saturday. Upholstered/soft furnishing bulky waste items which include such items as armchairs, sofas, settees and sofa beds are collected on a Monday. In both cases there is a £25 charge for collecting up to three items up to a maximum of nine items in one collection. All items need to be out on the day of collection before 6.00am. For a list of items collected and more information on this service provided by the Council, please visit the Charnwood Borough Council website (bulky waste collection) This includes if you have items that appear on both lists, exceptional hardship concessions and the deadline for collection requests.

#### Electoral Register.

The next stage of the annual check of the electoral register is underway. Residents in Charnwood are being urged to respond to this year's check of the electoral register as thousands of forms will be delivered by hand across the Borough. Every year the Council must carry out the checks and all households are contacted asking people to confirm the details or inform the Council of any changes. The Council recently sent an e-mail to 42,000 households to carry out the check, over 14,200 responses were received which has saved time, money and helped the environment.

Charnwood Borough Council is legally required to check its electoral register is up to date each year to make sure that everyone who is eligible to vote is registered and can have their say in future elections and referendums. People are being asked to check whether the information that appears on the on the electoral register for those living at their address is correct.

Households which receive a form are encouraged to read the letter carefully and respond by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The Electoral Officer needs the information to be able to publish a complete and accurate electoral register on the 1<sup>st</sup> December each year. More information can be found on the Charnwood Borough Council website or residents can contact the helpline on 01509 634546.

#### Nominate Great Days Out.

Residents and visitors in Leicestershire are encouraged to nominate their favourite places for a great day out in the County. The prestigious Leicestershire Promotions tourism and hospitality awards have been launched for 2023 and this year includes for the first time a new category which is open to public nomination.

A simple application process allows anyone to put forward their nomination for a place they have the best day out. Any tourism or hospitality venue can be nominated, including attractions, cafes, parks, theatres, in fact anywhere you choose to go for a day out in Leicestershire. Nominations for the best day out category close on the 31st October 2023.

Once the winner is announced in November, everyone who nominated the winning entry will be entered into a prize draw to win vouchers to attractions across the County. For more information, please go to Leicestershire Promotions website.