



NEWTOWN LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 30th November 2022 at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall.

0665 /22 Members present:

Councillors Sue Pritchard (Chairman), Tim Porte (Vice-Chairman), Vicki Lightfoot, Tara Pickles and Harvey Singh

Also in attendance: Clerk - Hannah Shaw, Borough Councillor - David Snartt, County Councillor - Deborah Taylor, Tree Warden - Brian Anderson and 1 resident.

0666/22. Apologies for absence:

Councillors Sue Greasley and Rob Haylock and Bradgate Park Director - James Dymond.

0667/22. Confirm and sign minutes of the 26th October 2022 meeting:

These were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

0668/22. Declaration of Parish Councillor's personal and/or prejudicial interests on agenda items:

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

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

Councillor Tara Pickles represents the Council on the Magazine Committee.

In addition, Councillors Tara Pickles and Harvey Singh declared a personal interest in item 12 - o of the agenda with regards to an outline planning application for the demolition of 287 Markfield Lane, and the development of up to 150 dwellings, together with open space, landscaping, and drainage infrastructure (All Matters Reserved except Access) and have therefore, recused themselves from any discussion.

0669/22 Public Participation

A resident asked to speak under item 7 - Bradgate Park. Notes had been prepared by the resident and are included at Appendix One. Following the meeting, the Clerk received a response from the Director of Bradgate Park, also shown in Appendix One.

In addition, the Chairman had noticed that the Hallgates car park was at capacity at 3pm on Saturday and is dangerous when cars overtake those queuing for the car park in a 50mph limit. Planning permission had now been granted for two out of the three overflow car parks. BPT should be encouraged to review the parking situation and staffing levels on event days and inform CBC of planned events so that Civil Enforcement Officers are aware and can be present. However, previous problems were not now at the same level due to having the double yellow lines in place. It will be interesting to see how much additional parking the two gravelled overflow car parks will absorb over the winter.

Concerns were also raised regarding the Cricket Club Duck Race planned for Boxing Day and the impact this would have on traffic and parking. A Councillor commented that events should ideally be ticketed to include parking where funding allows and BPT need to monitor traffic issues during events.

Resolve: Noted. Clerk to contact Newtown Linford Cricket Club and Bradgate Park with regards to arrangements for the Boxing Day Duck Race.

0670/22. Police Matters and NHW reports:

The Clerk reported the following crimes from a weekly Police Beat update but had not received crime statistics for sometime:

x1 Theft - Large wooden gates stolen. There are no suspects at this time.

x1 Vehicle Crime - Registration plates stolen from a vehicle. There are no suspects at this time.

A Councillor reported an abandoned car on Markfield Lane. Clerk to report the matter to Leicestershire Police.

The abandoned car on Markfield Lane had been removed and had been wanted by neighbouring Police Forces. The damage to the railings at the bottom of Markfield Lane had been reported and work was imminent.

Resolve: Noted.

0671/22. Bradgate Park

Bradgate Park Director, James Dymond, had sent apologies to the meeting but had sent the following update:

The Lord Lieutenant and Trust Chairman will be planting a Platinum Jubilee Tree (an alder, taken from the Tree of Trees) on the park on Wednesday 30th November.

New hedges are being planted at Waddlicotes field (aka Hallgates overflow) thanks to free trees from TCV.

Santa weekends (all sold out) will run on 3rd/4th, 10th/11th and 17th/18th December at Old John Tower. The Visitor Centre will be open daily over Christmas from 17th to 23rd and 27th to 2nd January.

The planning application for the track resurfacing works was submitted in early November but has not yet been validated by Charnwood Planning.

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

0672/22. Newtown Linford Biodiversity

The LCC Members Highways Fund had transferred £2938 into the PC Current Account on 28/11/22 for the post and rail fencing at the Markfield Lane wildflower verge and an application for a Structures License is now in progress.

The Clerk reported that the bird boxes had been removed for end of season cleaning.

Resolve: Noted.

0673/22. Report by County Councillor Deborah Taylor.

See Appendix Two

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

0674/22. Report by the Borough Councillor, David Snartt.

See Appendix Three

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

0675/22. Village Governance and Residents.

- Councillors considered responses received to date with regards to the Winter 2022/23 Resident Consultation. The Clerk reported there had been little response but three offers of volunteer help. CBC had not responded to an email asking if there was funding available to provide a warm space

Resolve: Clerk to send Cllr. Snartt email chain with CBC, regarding the possibility of funding. Councillors agreed for the time being, to open the Village Hall should there be a Met Office warning for a prolonged period of cold weather and to look into having a board games night in the New Year. Clerk to also look into protecting the Village Hall from any possible rota disconnections to the energy supply.

- A positive email had been received from Markfield Lane Residents regarding the Village Halloween Celebrations.

Resolve: Noted.

- Councillors considered the response received from HM Land Registry following NLPC's registry search on an area of land at Markfield Lane. NLPC can submit an Application for First Registration (Adverse Possession Application) and Statements of Truth evidencing ongoing maintenance over a period of 12 years or more. Total cost to apply is £85.

Resolve: Councillors agreed to pursue this matter and the expenditure of £85. Clerk to action.

0676/22. Planning: Buildings and Tree Issues.

- **Decisions**

a) P/22/1291/2 - 524 Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Erection of two storey detached dwelling, triple garage with annex above and associated landscaping and driveway works following demolition of existing dwelling - Grant Conditionally 15/11/22

b) P/22/0503/2 - 51 Markfield Lane, Newtown Linford, LE6 0AB - Single storey rear extension, 2 storey front and side extensions, single storey front extensions, roof extension and loft conversion - Objection 07/11/22 - Grant Conditionally 14/11/22

c) P/22/0965/2 - 528A Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Proposed erection of two storey rear infill extension - Grant Conditionally 02/11/22

d) P/22/1541/2 - 520B Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Proposed single storey side extension including alterations to workshop - Grant Conditionally 27/10/22

Resolve: Noted. The Chairman, Cllr. Sue Pritchard, stated she was very disappointed there had been no mechanism in place to allow the Parish Council to 'call in' application P/22/0503/2 for 51 Markfield Lane and to speak at Plans Committee following Cllr. Snartt's recusal.

- **Comments submitted through Planning Explorer**

e) 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 - No Objection 04/11/22

f) P/22/1593/2 - Pear Tree Cottage, 39A Main Street, Newtown Linford - Replacement windows and doors - No Objection 04/11/22

g) P/22/1674/2 - Lenthill Farm, 95 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Proposed installation of secondary glazing to all windows to front elevation - No Objection 04/11/22

h) P/22/1622/2 and P/22/1623/2 (Listed Building Consent) for Dell Cottage, 92 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Alterations to roof to convert conservatory to kitchen at rear including new structural roof with velux windows and replacement windows at rear of house, internal alterations to chimney stack - No Objection 11/11/22

i) P/22/1888/2 for Lea Cottage, Polly Botts Lane, Ulverscroft - Construction of 2 storey and single storey side extensions to dwelling, construction of detached 1.5 storey garage/home office to side and construction of porch canopy to front of dwelling - Objection 21/11/22

"Councillors wish to object to this application.

This house is in very close proximity to an historic asset of the Charnwood Forest.

These plans represent at least a doubling of the footprint of this already substantial dwelling. Although efforts are to be made to blend the added two storey extension with the current vernacular the added pool complex and garaging is a jarring addition that will substantially alter the character of the existing dwelling."

Resolve: Ratified. Cllr. Snartt informed the meeting he had requested application P/22/1888/2 for Lea Cottage on Polly Botts Lane, be 'called in' to Plans Committee.

- **Discuss**

j) P/22/1852/2 - Land adjacent to Heatherfield Cottage, Benscliffe Road, Newtown Linford - Demolition of existing dwelling, garage and outbuildings and construction of replacement dwelling and car port with associated landscaping and parking. Closure of existing access and formation of new access.

k) P/22/1923/2 and P/22/1915/2 - Vine Cottage, 9 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Application for Listed Building Consent to raise height of chimney stack/new clay pot (to dwelling house) and installation of solar panels to roof plane of pool house outbuilding to north.

Resolve: Councillors agreed a No Objection response for both applications. The application for the construction of a replacement dwelling at land adjacent to Heatherfield Cottage, was further away from the road to that of the existing rundown dwelling, therefore making the access safer, away from the junction.

- **Trees**

l) P/22/1896/2 - Linford House, 6 Main Street, Newtown Linford - Holly Fell, Western Red Cedar Fell, Scots Pine Fell, Rowan Fell.

m) P/22/2017/2 - 88 Main Street, Newtown Linford - T1, 2, 3, 12 and 13 Spruce - prune back overhanging branches. T4 - T11 inclusive conifers - prune back branches overhanging boundary and gable end (for information only).

Resolve: Tree Warden, Brian Anderson had no issues with any of the above tree applications. Noted. No objection.

- **Other**

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

Resolve: Cllr. Snartt informed the meeting this application was now with CBC and public consultation would follow.

Cllrs. Pickles and Singh recused themselves from the following item.

o) P/22/1031/2 - Outline planning application for the demolition of 287 Markfield Lane, and the development of up to 150 dwellings, together with open space and drainage infrastructure (All Matters Reserved except Access) – Deadline for comments extended to 15/12/22.

Resolve: Noted

Cllrs. Pickles and Singh rejoined the meeting.

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

Resolve: Noted. Both Cllr. Snartt and the Chairman has attended and spoke at the Appeal Hearing and await the outcome.

0677/22. Bob Bown Memorial Field.

- Councillors considered funding removal of a Sycamore tree stump felled in 2021 by CBC. Residents report members of the public standing on it and either gaining entry to private grounds or loss of privacy. Total cost £350.00 plus VAT.

Resolve: Councillors asked the Clerk to obtain costings to include cutting the stump shorter but not grinding out, as it was felt £350 was too costly. Clerk to action.

- Councillors considered the final quotation for improvement works at the Bob Bown Memorial Field play park as previously discussed. Total cost £18,571.97 plus VAT. NB Previous quotation provided for new carpeted surfacing was incorrect.

Resolve: Councillors agreed unanimously to fund the improvement works as detailed in the quotation, at a total cost of £18571.97 plus VAT.

0678/22. Village Magazine.

Councillors considered £52.00 of expenditure using the Chairman's discretionary budget, to pay for a celebratory thank you meal for Carole and Julian Heubeck, Editors of the Village Magazine, on the 200th edition.

Resolve: Councillors voted unanimously to fund the celebratory meal for the Village Magazine Editors. Chairman to pay and claim back the £52.00 cost.

0679/22. Parish Council Website/Facebook Page.

- The Parish Council Facebook group had increased to 429 members.

0680/22. Village Hall

A Christmas Advent Fayre will be held in the Village Hall, in liaison with NLPS PTA, on 01/12/22. The Village Hall Committee have organised festive stalls, a tombola, a guess the weight of the cake competition and will serve refreshments. The Choral Society will attend to sing carols around the Village Christmas Tree.

Resolve: Noted.

0681/22. Highways, Footpaths, Street Furniture, Traffic and Transport:

- All drains on Main Street, between the junction with Groby Lane and the Primary School are blocked with leaves and debris. Reported 21/11/22, reference FS466886402.
- The Chairman reported that winter bedding plants had now been planted in the village troughs.

Resolve: Noted with thanks to the Chairman for attending to the troughs.

0682/22. Churchyard and Cemetery:

To note, Michael Liggins (Firetree), had removed the self-set multi-stemmed yew bush at the Churchyard. Total Cost previously agreed at £266.00.

Resolve: Noted.

0683/22. Correspondence:

A letter had been received from the Police and Crime Commissioner for LLR by email on 27/10/22 regarding the recruitment process for the Vacancy of Chief Constable.

Resolve: Noted.

0684/22. Reports on Meetings and Training by Councillors and Clerk.

Chairman and Clerk attended LCC Budget Webinar 11/11/22.

Chairman and Cllr. Lightfoot attended East Midlands Airport – Airspace Modernisation Programme Phase 2 Arrivals and Departures webinars on 07/11/22 and 14/11/22.

Chairman attended Planning Appeal at HBBC re Ashby Road, Markfield development of 93 dwellings 15/11/22.

Claire Costello attended Parish Nature Network Meeting on 16/11/22 on behalf of Newtown Linford Biodiversity.

Clerk to attend Local Council Award Scheme Briefing 23/11/22

Resolve: Noted.

0685/22. Items of interest of for future meetings.

The Chairman reported the current payback time for streetlighting LED conversion is 3 years. NLPC currently have 39 non LED streetlights. NLPC to consider upgrading to LED at a future meeting.

Resolve: Noted. Clerk to include on the January agenda.

0686/22. Staffing Matters.

During a closed session at the end of the meeting, Councillors considered a recommendation put forward by the Staffing Committee following the Clerk's Annual Review.

Resolve: Councillors voted unanimously to award the Clerk a one scale point pay increase effective from 01/09/22. Clerk to inform payroll once confirmation is received in writing from the Chairman.

0687/22. Finance.

- External audit appointment - SAAA has announced auditor appointments for the next five financial years from 2022/23 to 2026/27. External audits for Leicestershire and Rutland will be provided by Moore UK, a change from pkf Littlejohn, who have carried out this task for the last five years.
- To note, the NJC Pay Award was agreed, back dated to 1st April 2022. Back pay to be received by staff at the end of November.
- HMRC VAT Reclaim received 21/11/22. Total amount refunded £2061.93.

Resolve: Noted

- Councillors considered the quotation received from Firetree for the Grounds Maintenance contract 2022/2023. Total £14,766.66.

Resolve: Councillors voted unanimously to accept Firetree's quotation for the 2023/2024 Grounds Maintenance contract.

- Councillors considered the 2023/2024 budget with a view to setting the precept at the January Parish Council meeting.

Resolve: Councillors discussed the budget for the 2023/2024 financial year and will set the precept at the January meeting. A Councillor commented that the budget was clearly set out and a proven way forward. The Chairman commented that works would also need undertaking to the bus shelters in the forthcoming year. Clerk to action the purchase of a new computer with dual screens in the New Year.

Authorisation for payment of invoices: -

28.10.22	HS	October Broadband and Out of Plan Calls	£56.59
28.10.22	HS	October Salary	£1148.81
31.10.22	Peter Haddon	Village Maintenance Jan – Oct '22	£315.00
02.11.22	NEST	Pension Contributions	£52.92
15.11.22	Firetree	Grave relevelling and turfing x5 plots	£290.00
16.11.22	Firetree	Grounds Maintenance 2022/2023 Invoice 9 of 12	£1062.50
17.11.22	LCC	Street Lighting glare reduction (paint out) (min ref 0505/22)	£120.00
21.11.22	Firetree	Removal of Yew Bush at Churchyard (minute ref 0588/22)	£266.00

Pending Payments at time of publication:			
28.11.22	HS	November Broadband and out of plan calls	£58.84
28.11.22	HS	November Salary and pay award backdated to 01.04.22	£1612.31

Total Expenditure **£ 4982.97**

Bank Balances:

Business Current Account @ 24/11/22 £ 3,859.51
Business Reserve Account @ 24/11/22 £ 85,000.00

Total **£ 88,859.51**

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

0664/22. Dates of the next three Parish Council Meetings.

- Wednesday 11th January 2023 7.15pm
- Wednesday 15th February 2023 7.15pm
- Wednesday 29th March 2023 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

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

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Appendix One – Public Participation under Item 7 of the agenda, Bradgate Park. Notes received from resident.

"I emailed James, the Director of The Bradgate Park Trust in October to ask what the Trusts plans were in the likely event that it would have to shut its visitors out of the NL car park by late morning during the Winter Fayre. All parties were copied in. Reminding James of the Jubilee event in the Summer when we returned from Coffee and Cake at the Village Hall and struggled to get by visitors' vehicles that had parked on the pavement and on no waiting/loading restrictions opposite the entrance to the NL car park, when the gate was closed and no one from the Trust was present.

This concern was noted in the Parish Council Meeting Minutes, maybe July's.

I also asked James when work was going to start on the 3rd grass car park at Newtown as planning permission was granted. I also asked if stewards/marshals like other organisations have when they hold events such as these and advertise them on Social Media.

In the reply to my email James said that the car parks at NL would be staffed so that the maximum number of spaces can be occupied, entry and exit flows monitored and visitors informed of the other car parks if NL is full. We will also be promoting the other car parks on social media. The 3rd grass car park, no decision on, if and when work will start.

In my response I said;

In my opinion, additional parking and/or other measures other than those mentioned are required to mitigate the parking issues that compromise resident's safety and amenity.

As well as parking on no waiting/loading restrictions and the pavement near the entrance, visitors that the Bradgate Park Trust has attracted through advertising and then shuts out by late morning, use Bracken Hill as a temporary car park even though it is double yellowed. They also use the small narrow cul-de-sac and private drives as a turning circle, something that the Trust should be facilitating for its own visitors that it has attracted and shut out.

I can't think of another venue with a parking capacity issue within a small village with restricted parking that advertises a free ticketless event, potentially attracting limitless numbers of visitors that then shuts out its own visitors that it has attracted by late morning.

I highlighted that at that point the Hunts Hill car park wasn't even mentioned in the social media post, this was later added along with a note emphasising that the NL car park would be very busy and try using another one.

Sunday 27th

I drove past the car park gates at NL, they were closed at 10.45am, no one from the Trust in sight.

At 12 noon when visitor's vehicles began to drive up and down Bracken Hill and using it as a turning circle, I walked down to Bradgate Road where vehicles were backed up along Bradgate Road, from the car park entrance to the car park exit and hardly moving, the gates to the car park were closed. If we had needed to get out quickly and turn left we wouldn't have stood a chance.

I walked through the tarmac car park and counted at least 20 empty spaces just on one side. There were also plenty of spaces in the two grass car parks.

At 3pm, maybe earlier, my neighbour walked by when I was outside and asked if I knew why there were cars parked on double yellows and over the pavement on Bradgate Road, going up the hill just past the exit to the car park. I had a look and also noticed cars parked on the pavement and on no waiting/loading restrictions near the car park entrance, outside All Saints'.

Questions to Bradgate Park Director, James Dymond:

- 1. Why all those empty spaces in the car park, yet the gates were closed?*
- 2. Why only 3 people at NL car park on an event day?*
- 3. From what I witnessed and the photos prove, what James said was going to happen with regards to the management of parking, so that the maximum number of spaces could be occupied, in my view, clearly didn't happen, why was this?*

For Deborah, did any vehicles on Bradgate Road receive PCN's? Did a CEO visit the village on Sunday and when?

This situation is not acceptable.

Due to the policies that the County Council choose to and not to adopt, some residents on a daily basis are very restricted to the number of visitors they can have to their homes. Yet the Bradgate Park Trust can invite unlimited numbers of visitors, then shut them out of their property, resulting in the Trusts visitors parking over pavements and contravening the same parking restrictions that are only there in the first place due to the Trust visitors, the same restrictions that residents have to adhere to. It appears that the Trust can act how it likes and the County Council turns a blind eye.

In my opinion the Bradgate Park Trust shouldn't be allowed to advertise ticketless events on social media and then shut its visitors, which it has attracted, out by 10.45am, maybe earlier. The Trust need to have robust plans, which they execute rigorously, to mitigate the parking/traffic issues that they cause. It's not fair for the residents effected.

Rather disappointedly, James replied to my email to say that the observations I had stated were factually incorrect and from James hearing conversations on the radios, things were being managed in the car parks. I replied back to say that the observations I had made weren't factually incorrect and please reply to say exactly how you believe they are."

Response received from Bradgate Park Director, James Dymond, post meeting on 05/12/22

Hi Hannah,

I've discussed the below with Deborah this morning and agreed that I would provide you with a note in the hope that you can add it to the minutes as a post-meeting addendum/reply from the Trust.

- Car park management – all Trust car parks were proactively managed throughout the Winter Fayre event. It is, though, not practical to open and close the Newtown Linford car park entrance gate each*

time a few spaces become available – this would cause tailbacks on the road with drivers waiting. Staff therefore wait until 10-20 spaces become free and then open the gate to the appropriate number of cars. This is why Mr XXXXXX may have seen empty spaces at certain times. 2 to 3 people to manage the car park in this way is sufficient and appropriate.

- *The Trust will ensure LCC Highways are notified of the dates of future events that will be similarly popular.*
- *The Trust is willing to approach LCC and discuss paying for extra Traffic Warden time during events in the future to help prevent unauthorised parking on double yellow lines etc in the village.*

I hope that helps.

*Kind regards,
James.*

*James Dymond BA MSc
Director, Bradgate Park Trust
0116 236 2713
director@bradgatepark.org
www.bradgatepark.org
www.facebook.com/BradgateParkTrust
www.facebook.com/SwithlandWood*

*Winner – Large Visitor Attraction,
2022 Leicestershire Tourism Awards*

Appendix Two - Report by County Councillor, Deborah Taylor

County Council Report – November 2022

Recycling Batteries

People are being reminded to ‘take charge’ when it comes to the disposal of batteries. Leicestershire County Council is supporting the national campaign – led by the Environmental Services Association - to tackle the growing number of serious “zombie battery” fires started by carelessly-discarded batteries at its recycling facilities.

Both Coalville and Barwell recycling and household waste sites were forced to close temporarily earlier this year, after discarded batteries caused fires.

When batteries are thrown away with the general rubbish, or mixed with other recycling, hidden “zombie batteries” can easily ‘return from the dead’ and cause serious fires. Lithium-ion batteries are particularly prone to causing fires or explosions if they are not recycled properly.

Some battery types can ignite or even explode when they’re damaged in waste collection and treatment processes. Once this happens, the batteries can set fire to other materials present in the waste, such as paper and cards, leading to serious incidents that, in some cases, put lives at risk and disrupt vital waste services.

These batteries are most commonly found in products such as laptops, tablets, mobile phones, radio-controlled toys, Bluetooth devices, shavers, electric toothbrushes, power tools, scooters, and even e-cigarettes.

Residents should follow this advice:

- Never put batteries in your general waste or recycling bins
- Only recycle batteries using a proper battery recycling service, such as at your local recycling and household waste site, or battery collection point often found in supermarkets
- Remove batteries from broken devices if you can and recycle both the battery and the device separately.

If you cannot remove the battery, please recycle it with your old electricals.

Residents can find out where to recycle batteries responsibly in the county, and more about the dangers of Zombie Batteries, by visiting www.takecharge.org.uk

Parliamentary Boundaries

Parliamentary constituency boundaries are changing - and it's your final chance to help shape the new map.

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is required by parliament to undertake an independent and impartial review of all constituencies in England, to rebalance the number of electors in each constituency.

Constituency sizes currently vary widely due to population changes since the last boundary review. The new map proposed by the BCE will make sure each constituency has between 69,724 and 77,062 electors, so that each MP represents roughly the same number of electors. The 2023 boundary review also requires that the number of constituencies in England increase from 533 to 543.

Following feedback, the BCE has changed nearly half of the initial proposals published last year. The new revised proposals are now available to view via an interactive map on the consultation website: www.bcereviews.org.uk This website also includes all the details on how to submit your comments.

The final public consultation is open now until 5th December and is the last chance to provide your views on new constituency boundaries.

Cllr Deborah Taylor

Appendix Three – Report by Borough Councillor, David Snartt

David Snartt Reports...

Borough Councillor for Forest Bradgate.

Remembrance Service.

On Sunday 13th November I represented the Leicestershire County Council Chairman at the Remembrance Service and Parade at the Arch of Remembrance, Victoria Park, Leicester. This Service of Remembrance continues to remember those men and woman of Leicester and Leicestershire who have given their lives in the service of their country, in the cause of freedom, justice and peace.

The Service was led by the Bishop of Leicester. The Right Reverend Martyn Snow and Dave Andrews DL. During the formal wreath laying part of the service I laid a wreath on behalf of the people of Leicestershire. It was so good to see so many people attending this service. We will remember them.

Planning Update.

I have been able to request information from a previous pre-application for the proposed site south of Markfield Lane, Newtown Linford, planning application number P/22/1031/2.

In my opinion, although planning policy may have changed since this pre-application, it does refer to the areas that I have raised in my submissions to the Charnwood Borough Council consultation, these include ecology, highways and sustainability. I note in the pre-application response from the Council it is stated: ‘ From a highway point of view, they do not consider that the location of the site is sustainable, as it is someway from the nearby village centre of Markfield and is separated from the village by the very busy A50’. I suggest if the A50 was very busy 10 years ago, it has certainly increased in the number of vehicles travelling along the road today.

I understand the Council are aware of the important ecological features onsite and the adjacent ancient woodland.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the residents who have sent their submissions to Charnwood Borough Council. I will keep you informed whilst this latest application goes through the planning process.

On the 15th of November I attended the Appeal Hearing at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) offices along with Newtown Linford Parish Council Chair, Sue Pritchard. This Hearing was because HBBC refused the application for up to 93 dwelling on land adjacent to Ashby Road, Markfield. The site is mostly within Newtown Linford Parish, you may recall Charnwood Borough Council permitted this development at a previous Plans meeting. We were able to take part in the Hearing process, I was keen to point out about the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan which, in my view, should be given full weight when decision are made, especially as the Markfield services and facilities will be used by the people living in the proposed houses. We now have to wait for the decision of the Inspector, possibly in the New Year.

Charnwood Community Action.

Charnwood Borough Council have relaunched the Charnwood Community Action Campaign to support people and Communities in the Borough who are struggling with the cost of living. The campaign will raise awareness of the support that is available to people, to help with the rising cost of living.

The campaign is also calling on local organisations and people who may be co-ordinating support to get in touch so all the information and help available in Charnwood can be brought together into one place. Any organisation, community group, business or individual that is offering support to those struggling with the cost of living crisis, may I encourage them to let the Council know by contacting Charnwood Borough Council website 'Tell us about your event or support'. The support can be anything that is helping the residents in Charnwood, from a one-off event to an ongoing activity, specialist support to advice service.

The Council will add the information to the Charnwood Community Action Campaign webpage to help promote and sign-post to the support being offered. The Council will also share this information on the Council's social media channels, e-mail alerts and printed materials where possible.

The campaign web page is www.charnwood.gov.uk/cca.

New Parliamentary Constituencies.

The Boundary Commission for England is redrawing boundaries for Parliamentary constituencies in order to rebalance the number of electors represented by each MP, and the final consultation is now open. Constituency sizes currently vary widely, due to population changes since the last boundary review. The new map proposed by the Commission will make sure each constituency has between 69,724 and 77,062 electors, so that each MP represents roughly the same number of electors. The Boundary Review also requires that the number of constituencies in England increases from 533 to 543. The Commission has listened to the feedback sent in from the public and have changed nearly half of the initial proposals published last year. The new revised proposals are now available to view via an interactive map on the consultation website. A final consultation is now open until 5th December 2022 and is the last chance to provide your views on the constituency boundaries. The Boundary Commission for England has invited the public to visit their website bcereviews.org.uk and comment on the proposals.

The proposals show my Forest Bradgate Ward, which includes Newtown Linford, Ulverscroft, Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves, are proposed to be in a new constituency called Mid Leicestershire along with Anstey, Cropston and Thurcaston. This proposal changes from the current Charnwood constituency boundaries. Looking at the map provided, Mid Leicestershire includes Markfield, and Ratby but not Syston and East Goscote which will become part of another new constituency, Melton and Syston.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.