



NEWTOWN LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 26th October 2022 at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall.

0641 /22 Members present:

Councillors Sue Pritchard (Chairman), Tim Porte (Vice-Chairman), Sue Greasley, Rob Haylock, 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 3 residents.

0642/22. Apologies for absence:

Bradgate Park Director - James Dymond.

0643/22. Confirm and sign minutes of the 28th September 2022 meeting:

These were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

0644/22. 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 - j 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.

It was noted Tree Warden, Brian Anderson, also has a personal interest in item 12 - g of the agenda with regards application P/22/0503/2 - 51 Markfield Lane, Newtown Linford - Single storey rear extension, 2 storey front and side extensions, single storey front extensions, roof extension and loft conversion.

0645/22 Public Participation

There were no representations made.

0646/22. Police Matters and NHW reports:

Local Police were not present and no crime statistics had been received.

The Clerk reported a new Police Inspector for Charnwood had been appointed, Inspector David Stokes.

The Clerk also reported a bin on Main Street and some road signage had had graffiti sprayed/ written on them which would be difficult to clean off.

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

Resolve: Noted.

0647/22. Bradgate Park

Bradgate Park Director, James Dymond, had sent apologies to the meeting.

Cllr. Taylor reported the Lord Lieutenant had received five trees from the 'Tree of Trees' Sculpture at Buckingham Palace reflecting the Queen's Green Canopy, following the death of Her late Majesty, one of which had been gifted to Bradgate Park Trust for planting.

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

0648/22. Newtown Linford Biodiversity

Newtown Linford Biodiversity Chair, Claire Costello, was in attendance and delivered an update (see Appendix One).

Resolve: Noted with thanks. The Chairman thanked NLB for submitting comments in relation to planning application P/22/1031/2 for outline planning of up to 150 dwellings and the demolition of 287 Markfield Lane.

0649/22. Report by County Councillor Deborah Taylor.

See Appendix Two

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

0650/22. Report by the Borough Councillor, David Snartt.

See Appendix Three

It was noted the Parish Council Chairman will also attend the Planning Appeal Hearing for a development of 93 dwellings at Ashby Road, Markfield on 15/10/22 at Hinckley Hub.

The Chairman asked Cllr. Snartt if he might have a problem speaking against CBC at HBBC. Cllr. Snartt will seek advice on the matter.

Following on from the previous Parish Council meeting, Cllr. Snartt confirmed there are no licensing requirements for Mobile Home/Caravan Parks but planning permission/conditions would still apply.

A Councillor asked if monitoring was still taking place with regards to an Ice-Cream Trader in the Village. Cllr. Snartt advised there had been no feedback yet from proprietors regarding impact on businesses.

Resolve: Noted with thanks.

0651/22. Village Governance and Residents.

- Councillors considered responses received to date with regards to the Winter 2022/23 Resident Consultation. Councillors discussed various options for providing 'warm spaces' during the winter months, including possibly extending the weekly Coffee and Cake meeting and an afterschool homework club. It was also suggested the Community Action Response Volunteers reform to assist residents throughout the winter months. The Clerk advised the consultation would feature in the November edition of the magazine and therefore, expected more responses. Two volunteer residents had offered help.

Resolve: Councillors agreed to await any further responses following the magazine article. The Clerk will investigate possible funding grants to assist with providing a warm space during the winter months.

- The Clerk reported a response had been received from HM Land Registry following an application for an area of land at the bottom of Markfield Lane. The land is not registered and there are no records held by HM Land Registry. Newtown Linford Biodiversity expressed an interest in maintaining the land if the Parish Council wished to adopt the area. Councillors discussed the impact this would have on Parish Council funds and it was felt the cost would be minimal and the area could become a valued community asset.

Resolve: Councillors asked the Clerk to investigate the process for adopting the land by the bridge at the bottom of Markfield Lane.

0652/22. Planning: Buildings and Tree Issues.

- **Decisions**

a) P/22/1138/2 and P/22/1233/2 - 57 Main Street, Newtown Linford -Proposed single storey rear extension and external alterations – Grant Conditionally 03/10/22.

b) P/22/0499/2 - Blakeshay, Ulverscroft Lane, Newtown Linford - Single storey extension with first floor balcony with external alterations and associated works – Grant Conditionally 12/10/22.

Resolve: Noted.

- **Comments submitted through Planning Explorer**

c) P/22/1394/2 - Land at North of Pollards Road, Anstey - Full planning application for residential development of 48 no. dwelling houses (Use Class C3) with landscaping, open space, car parking, access works and associated infrastructure - Objection 04/10/22.

d) 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 – No Objection 04/10/22.

e) P/22/1541/2 - 520B Bradgate Road, Newtown Linford - Proposed single storey side extension including alterations to workshop – Objection 05/10/22.

“This application once again suffers from poor quality of drawings which make the extent of the amendments difficult to appreciate. It now appears that, contrary to the previous application, the barrel vaulted work shop is to be incorporated into the main building whilst the previous ‘garage’ has been rebuilt (apparently under permitted development rights) and repurposed as a gym, store and bathroom. This has substantially increased the footprint of the available living space even before the ‘joining section’ is added to the proposed rebuilt workshop.

These ‘stealth’ developments taken together triples the available ‘amenity space’ and converts a modest dwelling into a large house. Potential future plans to build upwards from the new footprint could lead to an even greater increase in the visual impact of the house from the adjacent footpath and from neighbouring properties and there also remains the potential for a separate dwelling to be created from the rebuilt garage or for this structure to be incorporated into the main dwelling.

The Parish Council has reservations about this development and would like to object to these plans until as and when clarification has been obtained by the borough council regarding existing development taking place on this site.”

f) P/22/1595/2 - 13 Markfield Lane, Newtown Linford- Proposed first floor side extension – No Objection 12/10/22.

Resolve: Ratified.

- **Discuss**

g) P/22/0503/2 - 51 Markfield Lane, Newtown Linford - Single storey rear extension, 2 storey front and side extensions, single storey front extensions, roof extension and loft conversion.

Although Councillors welcomed the applicant’s efforts in reducing the impact on the street scene by altering some of the original proposals, it was still felt the large window at the rear would result in a loss of privacy for neighbours and the height of the roof, although reduced, would still be higher than the dwellings either side and would not follow the natural slope of the roof heights along Markfield Lane. The proposed white render and grey aluminium window frames are also not compatible with the Village Design Statement.

Resolve: Objection. Clerk to submit comments via Planning Explorer.

h) P/22/1822/2 - Grey Lady Restaurant, Sharpley Hill - Application to determine is Prior Approval required for proposed: Change of use from Commercial, Business and Service (Restaurant Use Class E) to 1no. dwelling house (Use Class C3) under class MA of GPDO.

Resolve: No Objection.

- **Trees**

i) P/22/1860/2 - Fell 1 Apple tree - 80 Main Street, Newtown Linford.

Resolve: Noted. Tree Warden, Brian Anderson had no objection.

- **Other**

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

j) 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) – The deadline for comments had been extended to 03/11/22. A member of the public spoke by permission of the Chairman and informed Councillors of an issue with surface water run-off from the A50 and a natural spring under Jacqueline Road, Markfield, both draining into the field as a natural soak away, however, this had not been identified through flood surveys. Councillors were also told of a planning application within the Hinckley and Bosworth boundary concerning The Islamic Foundation on Ratby Lane, Markfield, whereby the traffic island at Field Head had been described as ‘over capacity’.

Resolve: Noted.

Cllrs. Pickles and Singh rejoined the meeting.

0653/22. Bob Bown Memorial Field.

- Annual playground inspection to take place sometime after week commencing 7th November by Independent Playground Inspections Ltd. Councillors to approve cost of £60.00 plus VAT.

Resolve: Noted.

- Councillors considered information received from NLPC Solicitor, Mark Tildesley, regarding the new Draft Lease of the Bob Bown Memorial Field.

Resolve: Councillors agreed vehicle access via the track would be required for contractors and inspections and due to the Parish Council's high investment at the park, 6 months' notice for terminating the agreement, would not be sufficient time to find alternative land and to re-site the existing equipment and surfacing. Clerk to respond to the Council's Solicitor, Mark Tildesley for action.

- Councillors considered final plans for improvement works at the Bob Bown Play Park, however, the quotation received was substantially more than previously indicated and the Clerk had queried this and was awaiting a response.

Resolve: Councillors deferred this item until the next Parish Council meeting, when hopefully the final quotation will have been confirmed.

0654/22. Village Magazine.

The Chairman reported the Village Magazine was about to celebrate its 200th edition and the Editors, Carole and Julian Heubeck, would be taken out for a 'thank you' meal in early December by the Village Magazine Committee. The Chairman wishes to use her discretionary budget to fund the meal for Carole and Julian only.

Resolve: Noted. Clerk to include on the next Parish Council meeting agenda to agree the expenditure.

0655/22. Parish Council Website/Facebook Page.

- The Parish Council Facebook group had increased to 427 members.

0656/22. Village Hall

The Chairman reported the Village Hall awaits further information on the energy price cap for businesses.

A Christmas Advent Fayre will be held in the Village Hall, in liaison with NLPS PTA, on 01/12/22. The Village Hall Committee are organising 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.

0657/22. Highways, Footpaths, Street Furniture, Traffic and Transport:

• The following requests submitted to the Members' Highways Fund had been approved, are now being processed and grant monies will be transferred:

a) Post and rail fencing for urban wildflower verge at Markfield Lane. Firetree to complete installation. Total cost £2938.00.

b) 4 x new parish welcome signs. Quotes currently being obtained.

• A replacement bin for Bradgate Road had arrived and will be installed soon. Total cost £420.91. The Clerk reported she had received no response to an advertisement for village bin and trough painting.

Resolve: Noted with thanks to Cllr. Taylor. Clerk to organise an onsite meeting at the Markfield Lane wildflower verge, with regards to plans for the post and rail fencing, for members of NLB and any concerned residents.

0658/22. Churchyard and Cemetery:

Permission had been granted for removal of the yew bush at the Churchyard. Firetree to remove as soon as possible. Total cost £266.00 as previously agreed.

Resolve: Noted.

0659/22. Correspondence:

East Midlands Ambulance Service - CPR awareness to your parish received by email 12/10/22.

Resolve: Clerk to organise a Defibrillator and CPR awareness course for residents.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) development -public engagement on draft networks received by email 18/10/22 and sent to Councillors.

Resolve: Noted. The Clerk had already responded to include an improved footpath along Groby Lane and a Cycle Lane between Newtown Linford and Anstey.

East Midlands Airport - Airspace Modernisation Programme Stage 2, Phase Two received by email 18/10/22 and sent to Councillors.

Resolve: Cllr. Pritchard and Cllr. Lightfoot to attend. Clerk to book places for the online events.

Advance notice for LCC Budget Webinar, Friday 11th November, 12.30pm – 1.30pm. The Leader of Leicestershire County Council will chair a session on Zoom on the current financial challenge, supported by LCC colleagues. An invitation and further details will be sent at a later date, for parishes to sign up for the session.

Resolve: Both the Chairman and the Clerk will attend the LCC Budget Webinar on 11/11/22.

0660/22. Reports on Meetings and Training by Councillors and Clerk.

Clerk attended CBC Clerks' Liaison Meeting 04/10/22.

Cllr. Haylock attended the Groby Quarry Liaison Committee Meeting on 18/10/22.

Resolve: Noted.

0661/22. Items of interest of for future meetings.

- The Clerk reported the Parish Precept deadline date is Friday 13th January 2023 and the Council Tax Base Rates would be published on the CBC website week commencing 12th December 2022. Clerk to prepare a budget to present at the November Parish Council Meeting.
- Councillors are invited to a Remembrance Service at All Saints' Church on Sunday 13th November at 10.50am.
- A Councillor reported 3 streetlights not working on Bradgate Road.

Resolve: Noted. Clerk to report issue with streetlights on Bradgate Road.

0662/22. Staffing Matters.

Councillors considered a resolution to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge.

Resolve: Councillors voted unanimously to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge. Clerk to action.

The Chairman reported the Clerk would have her Annual Review during November and the staffing committee await the outcome of the NJC Pay Award effective from April 2022.

0663/22. Finance.

Authorisation for payment of invoices: -

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|----------|----------------|---|----------|
| 23.09.22 | APB | Village Hall Rent Sept – Dec 2022 | £750.00 |
| 23.09.22 | HMRC | Tax and NI Contributions | £523.76 |
| 28.09.22 | HS | September BT Broadband and Out of Plan Calls | £65.15 |
| 28.09.22 | HS | September Salary | £1149.01 |
| 03.10.22 | NEST | Pension Contributions | £52.92 |
| 03.10.22 | HS | Travel and Miscellaneous Expenses April to Sept '22 inclusive | £111.39 |
| 17.10.22 | Firetree | Grounds Maintenance 2022/2023 Inv 8 of 12 | £1062.50 |
| 19.10.22 | Firetree | Grave Releveling and Returfing x 3 plots | £174.00 |
| 19.10.22 | Glasdon UK Ltd | Topsy Jubilee Bin – Replacement for Bradgate Road | £420.91 |

Total Expenditure **£ 4,309.64**

Bank Balances:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Business Current Account @ 19/10/22 | £ 1,870.62 |
| Business Reserve Account @ 19/10/22 | £ 88,000.00 |
| Total | £ 89,870.62 |

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 30th November 2022 7.15pm
- Wednesday 11th January 2023 7.15pm
- Wednesday 15th February 2023 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

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

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Appendix One – Report by Claire Costello on behalf of Newtown Linford Biodiversity

Newtown Linford Biodiversity Group

Update for Parish Council meeting 26th October 2022

- 1) **Open Evening:** Tuesday 4th October at Village Hall. 25 people attended. 2 presentations: one about the work of the group over the previous 12 months; the second presentation on the Birds of Bradgate Park, given by Toby Manning, and illustrated with Jan Croft’s photographs. We also had a plant stall, and a greetings cards stall (cards sold in aid of charity). Good feedback from people attending the event and some of them came on our wildlife walk last Saturday.
- 2) **Scarecrow Festival:** We had a scarecrow on the Markfield Lane verge, and a stall at the School Fete.
- 3) **Shire Environment Grant bird boxes.** We’ve taken down the bird boxes that have been used so that the nests can be taken out and the boxes cleaned. This is in line with RSPB advice. “The nests of most birds harbour fleas and other parasites, which can remain and infest young birds that hatch the following year.” All 5 boxes – 2 in Bob Bown, one at the cemetery, and one each in Groby Lane and Markfield Lane wildlife verges, had been used by families of blue tits.
- 4) **Markfield Lane and Groby Lane wildlife verges**
As reported at the last P.C. meeting, we cut and raked the verges in September, using the tools purchased by the Parish Council. We’re planning to carry out additional raking in Markfield Lane verge this Friday, and are going to make some areas of barer soil where we can sow Yellow Rattle seeds. This is an annual wildflower which helps to reduce the growth of the grass. We did set some 2 years ago but it hasn’t self-seeded and spread as much as we’d liked.

- 5) **Wildflower corner of Churchyard:** We've been continuing to help Jane Woolmer, one of the churchwardens, also a member of our group, to manage this area, which has now also had its end of season cut and rake. We'll also be sowing Yellow Rattle seeds here to help control the grass growth.
- 6) **Field Head planning application:** As Chair of the group, I sent in comments objecting to this application on the grounds of the considerable impact it would have on the biodiversity and wildlife of the area. At least one other group member has also sent in comments.
- 7) **Village Life magazine article:** The editor of Quorndon Village Life (a bi-monthly magazine) saw a reference to the biodiversity group on the N-L Parish page of the NatureSpot website, and asked if I'd write an article about the group. This has now been published in the October issue.
- 8) **At next month's meeting, we'll be planning our activities for next year.** One of the things we'd like to do is to have a banner made with our logo on, and acquire a set of display boards.

Appendix Two – Report by County Councillor, Deborah Taylor

County Council Report – October 2022

I have chased up regarding the repairs needed to the pipe that runs from the field at the top of Grey Crescent, down the path to Main Street, and now escalated this work as urgent.

Highway Grant - I have approved the following request for Newtown Linford:

- Birds Mouth Style Fencing for the urban wildflower verges in Markfield Lane
- New Parish Welcome Signs x4 locations (without planters)
- 40mph repeater carriageway roundels on Bradgate Road in Newtown Linford where the 40mph starts on the road from Anstey until the 30mph signs.

Total of £7,500 from my fund so far.

Cost of Living

An extra £3.6m of support is set to help people this winter- taking the total to £14.8m

The money will be used to offer £1.5m emergency food and fuel support – triple the amount allocated last year – and will ensure 14,000 children across the county have free school meal vouchers during the Christmas, February half term, and Easter holidays. The support includes:

-
- Energy efficiency grants and advice - through the council's [Warm Homes scheme](#)
- A £4m [Greener Living Leicestershire](#) project - helping to cut household bills by fully-funded home improvements including loft and wall insulation, solar panels, heat pumps, and new efficient windows and doors
- £15 [free school meal](#) vouchers for 14,000 children across Leicestershire - also benefiting families during half term this week.

Waste Sites

The seasonal change in opening hours for Leicestershire's recycling and household waste sites has now come into effect.

From Saturday 1st October 2022 to 31st March 2023, autumn and winter opening times apply, with all county council waste site opening times changing to 9 am to 4 pm, on the days that they are open. The last entry will be at 3.55 pm.

Sites at Lount, Lutterworth, Melton, Mountsorrel, and Whetstone are closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Barwell, Coalville, Loughborough, Market Harborough, and Oadby sites are closed on Thursdays and Fridays. Shepshed is closed from Sunday to Wednesday.

Adult Numeracy Project

£3 million in government funding has been secured by the council. This will fund a three-year programme that will help adults in Leicestershire to improve their numeracy skills and enable businesses to upskill their workforces.

The 'Multiply' programme aims to level up opportunities for more people by increasing their confidence with numbers, giving them the tools needed to improve their job prospects and life chances. It also aims to improve the financial well-being of individuals and families by supporting them in managing money, becoming financially self-sufficient and ensuring parents support their children with numeracy-based homework.

Anyone aged 19 or over who fits the criteria will be eligible for these free courses - but there will be a particular focus on supporting hard-to-reach learners and those who may not traditionally engage with adult learning courses.

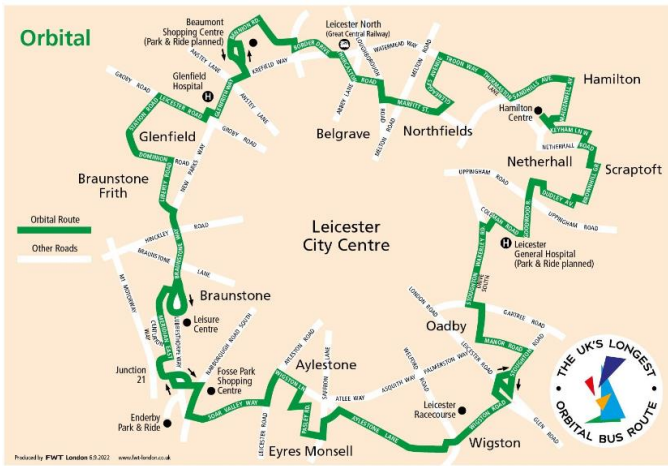
Leicester City Orbital Bus

A new Orbital Bus Service has been launched, serving key shopping and workplace hubs, including General Hospital, Oadby, Wigston, Fosse Park, Thorpe Astley, Glenfield, Glenfield Hospital, Beaumont Leys, Rushey Mead, Hamilton, and Nether Hall. The new Orbital Bus will be part of the Greenlines Electric Network with links to the Hospital Hopper service at General Hospital, Glenfield Hospital, Beaumont Leys, and Hamilton.

The service will run every hour, Monday to Saturday, and operates in a clockwise and anticlockwise direction.

This service is operated by [Centrebus](#). Below is the diagram of the bus route.

Further details can be found here: <https://www.leicesterbuses.co.uk/orbital>



Digital Leicestershire Matters

The County Council already delivers a paper copy of Leicestershire Matters to all residents three times a year.

There is now a new digital version as well, that is sent out approx. every couple of weeks and includes up-to-date information on services and council news.

You can sign up using the link below.

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/digital-leicestershire-matters-sign-up>

Leicestershire Secondary School Places

Parents and carers across Leicestershire are being encouraged to complete applications for their child's secondary school place for entry in Autumn 2023.

Parents and carers with children transferring from primary to secondary school will have received a letter explaining how to complete school place applications online by the application deadline of Monday 31st October 2022.

Leicestershire County Council is advising parents to apply online using the link provided in the letter, and to ensure that at least one of the schools applied for is the child's catchment school.

The closing date to apply for secondary school places is Monday 31st October 2022 and the national offer date is 1 March.

For more information on the admissions process, including help and guidance on how to apply, visit www.leicestershire.gov.uk/admissions.

Clr Deborah Taylor

Appendix Three - Report by Borough Councillor, David Snartt

Information from David Snartt.

Planning Matters.

I have now received information about a planning appeal against Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's refusal to permit the development for up to 93 dwellings on land north east of Ashby Road, Markfield. You may recall most of the development land is within Newtown Linford Parish, only the entrance is within the administrative area of Hinckley and Bosworth.

The Inspector has now been appointed to decide this appeal, starting at 10.00am on Tuesday 15th November 2022, venue yet to be decided.

I have sent my written submission to the Inspector, outlining my concerns when Charnwood Borough Council decided to approve this application. The Markfield Neighbourhood Plan wasn't given full weight during this decision making process. In my view, just because Markfield is within another administrative area it should still give maximum protection against piecemeal development, which does not conform to Local Plans. This especially because the residents of this development would use the services and facilities within Markfield.

I believe this is important because Charnwood Borough Council will be deciding the latest planning application for up to 150 dwellings on land south of Markfield Lane. The same circumstances will be part of the planning process albeit, this site is further away from the services and facilities in Markfield, In my view, this makes the development unsustainable, along with the highway safety issues on Markfield Lane and Leicester Road.

I am grateful to all the residents who have taken time to register their concerns and objections to this latest planning application. There is still time to make a submission to this planning application by e-mailing development.control@charnwood.gov.uk making sure you include the planning application number P/22/1031/2.

10 Groby Lane

Newtown Linford

Leicester

LE6 0HH

5TH October 2022.

For the attention of Pauline Dun.

Dear Ms Dun,

Appeal APP/K/2420/W/22/3300552

Land Northeast of Ashby Road, Markfield.

I represent the Forest Bradgate Ward, Charnwood Borough Council. When this site was determined by Charnwood Borough Council (P/21/1260/2), I spoke against this proposal primarily because of the disregard of the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan. There is great concern that Charnwood Borough Council views Markfield being consistent with a service centre within the hierarchy of the Council's Local Plan but, in my view, gives very little weight to the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan. This is especially important as the proposed development residents will be using the services and facilities within Markfield village.

The local community of Markfield have spent many hours developing a Neighbourhood Plan, which was made by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) in September 2021 (under 2 years old). It allocated a site for housing to the south of the village and provides a range of policies including those to manage and assist decision making such as for design, landscape, biodiversity, heritage, climate, open spaces and community facilities.

The simple question must be, why just because Markfield is within a different administration area maximum weight cannot be given to the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan. If Markfield was within Charnwood Borough it would be able to give maximum weight in line with paragraph 14 of the NPPF, especially as the Plan is under 2 years old and HBBC, I understand, has a land supply of over 3 years.

It would be helpful to have a view from the Inspector about the boundary situation which hopefully, now this appeal is being determined by the refusal of HBBC to grant planning permission, the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan will be given maximum weight through the appeal process.

The majority of the site is located within the administrative boundary of Charnwood Borough Council, but it is recognised that the services and facilities will be used in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council administrative area, Markfield. Therefore, the question must be, if it is recognised Markfield will be used as a service centre why is the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan not given maximum weight, noting it has been 'made' under 2 years when the decision was to permit development by Charnwood Borough Council?

In my view, this could have had serious consequences for planning decision making, just because of a cross border decision. Surely decisions should be made on the effects on the local area as a whole and not an administrative boundary. In my opinion, if this appeal

was approved it would have serious consequences for the local area and would undermine the excellent work carried out by local people developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

David Snartt,

Councillor Forest Bradgate Ward

Charnwood Borough Council.

Scarecrow Festival Weekend.

It was good to have the return of the Newtown Linford Scarecrow Weekend. I must thank all the people that came together to make this such a fantastic weekend, and all the residents, including the young people, who took the time to make and display scarecrows, they were all excellent. I am sure the judges had great difficulty in choosing the winning scarecrows.

Friday night started the weekend off with a Scarecrow Drive in the Village Hall, proceeds in aid of the Village Hall and the Brownies. It was good to see so many Brownies attending the event. Thanks to Dick Howard, who looked the part on the night, dressed up as a scarecrow (he could have won first prize) and all the volunteers that made the event so successful.

On Saturday and Sunday we had lots of visitors to the village to see the many scarecrows, the theme this year was the movies, also participating in the activities and events, including the Newtown Linford Primary School Annual Fete. It was great to see so many people walking around the village enjoying the occasion and the good weather was a bonus.

Sign Up to Help Local Elections.

A call has gone out for people to apply for short term paid roles at next year's local elections in Charnwood. The Borough Council is encouraging people to sign up to be considered for a number of roles such as polling clerks and vote counters. Most of the roles are just for the day of the election.

The local elections in May next year will see all 52 Borough Council seats contested. Votes will be cast over 70 polling stations and thousands of postal votes also needed to be processed and counted. Whilst many Council staff support elections, the Council needs to call on local people to help out. The minimum age for all roles is 18 years of age, most vacancies do not require experience.

Residents who are interested in working during the May 2023 elections should get in touch as soon as possible. A description of the roles and an online application form can be found at www.charnwood.gov.uk/electionroles any further questions can be e-mailed to electoral.services@charnwood.gov.uk.

Historic Fair Returning.

All the fun of the fair will be coming to Loughborough for the 801st year. The historic fair, which is operated by Charnwood Borough Council will be running from Wednesday 9th November to Saturday 12th November. Thousands of people attend the attraction which fills the Town Centre. The fair will be opened by the Mayor of Charnwood at 6pm on November 9th with the reading of the official fair proclamation. The first official charter for Loughborough was granted to the Lord of the Manor, Hugh le Depenser in 1221 by King Henry III.

You can find out more about the Loughborough Fair on the Charnwood Borough Council dedicated webpage.