

November 2022 – County Council Update

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below some updates from the County Council this November, which your Parishes may find useful.

Thanks to those of you who got in contact over the past month with questions in relation to updates I've provided in person or through my newsletter.

As always, please continue to stay in contact with me should you have an issue that needs addressing and I will investigate it as quickly as possible.

SHIRE Environment Grants

- Thank you to all local organisations and Parish Councils that have got in contact about SHIRE grants.
- Applications closed last Friday (28th October). Please do keep me updated with how your application progresses, and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Members Highways Fund

- During the year I have continued to work with Parish Councils, and residents, to take forwards schemes under the LCC Members Highways Fund from this year and last.
- We have had success in getting Mobile Vehicle Activated Speed (MVAS) signs, resurfaced footpaths, village gateways, improvements to the local scenery of villages and the installation of kissing gates.
- I am now working with Nadia to process all the requests for this year's fund, and we'll be getting in contact in the coming months with next-steps and updates.
- If you have any questions, please let Nadia and I know.

NatureSpot

- We work in partnership with local wildlife charity @NatureSpot to increase interest in and improve biodiversity
- NatureSpot features 7,220 different species that are found in Leicestershire and Rutland!
- This number grows all the time as it receives more records from the public.
- You can get spotting today here: <https://crowd.in/8J6NSq>

Topic Requests:

- Each month some of you get in contact with me requesting more information on areas of council business.
- As we head into the last two-months of 2022, and the New Year, I'd really like to know what areas of the County Council's business you may like more information on?
- If you could please let me know via email I would be most grateful.
- Please can you put in the subject of your email: '*Newsletter Topic Request*'

Members Group Room

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Environment Matters

- Want to stay informed with the Council's latest waste, environment & NetZero news?
- You can read the Autumn edition of Environment Matters and previous editions on our website
- Sign up today to receive future quarterly editions here: <https://crowd.in/AyvJjN>

Noise Camera Trial

- Earlier this year, with the support of our MP Dr Luke Evans, myself and local Parish Councils applied to the Department for Transport to take part in a Noise Camera Trials along the A444.
- Unfortunately, we haven't been successful on this occasion which I appreciate will come as a disappointment to you as it has to me.
- I would like to thank you all for all the hard work that went in to putting our application together. If any similar opportunities arise in the future, Luke has promised to keep us informed.

Budget Update

As with last month's update, I'd once again like to share the below information on the County Council's budget.

I appreciate the information below is quite detailed, however it will have an impact throughout our communities.

As a result, I would urge all to read the information, and any questions you have on the potential impacts, I can present to the portfolio holder at County Hall.

- Leicestershire County Council's budget gap is set to grow from £8m to £28m next year – and could even top £140m by 2026 - as the 'dire' financial situation affecting local authorities intensifies.
- As the Leader recently stated.
 - *"Our financial situation is frightening, worse than the years of austerity. We've lost £230m a year in spending power since 2010. We're very lean so it's not possible to balance the books without impacting front line services. We pride ourselves on doing the best we can with the money we have but we will have to make some tough decisions. Nothing is off the table"*
 - *"As the lowest funded county council under the Government's funding system, Leicestershire will always be sensitive to financial shocks. But the challenge currently being faced will put even the best funded local authorities under pressure."*
- More information on the Councils current financial situation can be found using the following links:

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- Firstly, the latest LCC press release:
<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/sobering-report-sets-out-dire-financial-challenge>
- Secondly, the cabinet paper which lead member Cllr. Breckon presented at Cabinet roughly a week ago:
<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/b18075/Supplementary%20Report%20-%20Medium%20Term%20Financial%20Strategy%20-%20Latest%20Position%20Friday%2023-Sep-2022%2011.00%20.pdf?T=9>
- I would also like to draw your attention to the following document which gives an overview of the Council's current service costs:
<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2022/9/20/Our-service-costs.pdf>

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