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**Issue 13** of our Parish and Communities update can be found below.

Please continue to let us know what you think, your feedback is important to us and will allow us to improve our services to you.

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NEWS

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

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

Youngsters will be able to use the offer when boarding the bus from 9.30am to 11pm on Monday-Friday, and all day at weekends and bank holidays from Saturday 23 March to Sunday 7 April.

Under 16s just need to show proof of age – such as their student ID – when boarding buses throughout the county.

Some of the county’s bus operators are also offering reduced travel fares to young people aged between 16-21.

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

Visit the website for further details on specific journeys: <https://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/free-child-and-youth-fares-this-easter/>

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REMINDERS

* **Flooding Drop-in Events**

Following the recent storms, there has been over 500 residential and commercial properties that have reported internal flooding across Leicestershire and the number is rising. The worst affected communities were situated within the Charnwood Borough, Blaby District and Melton Borough.

The County Council have been working together with other Risk Management Authorities to better understand the flooding and identify responsible bodies and actions to help reduce flood risk to affected communities. To date it hasn’t been possible to visit every resident and/or community affected by the recent flooding. The County Council is therefore coordinating a number of drop-in sessions to allow members of the public to be able to talk to key agencies about their experience, get advice on how to be prepared against further flooding, as well as find out what is being done to help the community recover. Information about recovery grants can also be obtained at these sessions.

The drop-in sessions are to be attended by representatives from Leicestershire County Council, the Environment Agency, District and Borough Councils and water companies. All drop-in events are from 2pm to 7pm and at the following locations:

* + Thursday 21st March – Blaby District Council Offices

Whilst these events have been organised with the worst-hit communities in mind, they are open to all members of the public.

* Keep up to date on the latest information on gritting and travel, including the interactive gritting [map here.](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/winter-weather/gritting-and-travel-this-winter)
* All Recycling and Household Waste Sites (tips) have moved to winter opening hours from 1st October 2023 to 31 March 2024 (09.00 to 16.00 hrs), Visitors are encouraged to arrive at least 10 minutes prior to closing with the last admittance at 15.55 hrs.
* Three of the LCC waste sites are due to be temporarily closed due to the installation of the Rehome Zones which is part of the Reuse Project (along with essential maintenance work at Coalville site).   The sites involved are below:
  + Coalville; (4 weeks) Now re-opened
  + Melton; (2 weeks) Now re-opened
  + Barwell; (3 weeks) 4th March to 22nd March 2024

Click [here](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/waste-and-recycling/find-a-recycling-and-household-waste-site) to find an alternative waste sites during this period.

* We would encourage residents to only travel to a RHWS in icy / snowy conditions if it is necessary to do so. Sites may need to open late / or temporarily close if the conditions on site are not safe at any time.  Reminder to always check the website before planning a visit to a waste site as the website will be kept updated where closures over 4 hours occur.
* The Government has passed legislation that introduces a 'free allowance' for construction and demolition waste received at Recycling and Household Waste Sites from works undertaken by residents themselves. Steps will be taken to introduce the free allowance (two bags or one large item per week) from 1st January 2024.  Existing charges shall apply to waste above the free allowances.
* Details of weekly planned roadworks throughout Leicestershire can be [found here](https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/parishes-and-communities/useful-links). This is updated every Monday and shows the following 10 days, please note this is only up to date at the time of creation and will not contain information on emergency works, however this can be found on the [one.network](https://one.network/) site.
* One.Network – please see below some links to you tube clips to assist when using one.network
  + How to create a public account <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Ea7TKuSZW0&list=PLvOLqkS39GthwFEFH4el1gpoNM1ib0BZD&index=1>
  + How to reset your password <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzBqaFwhUFs&list=PLvOLqkS39GthwFEFH4el1gpoNM1ib0BZD&index=2>
  + How to set up an email alert <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKzT1BEhAD8&list=PLvOLqkS39GthwFEFH4el1gpoNM1ib0BZD&index=3>
  + If you need any help or support please contact [support@one.network](mailto:support@one.network)
* To log an enquiry, we would ask that you use the ‘[Report a problem’](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/report-a-road-problem) online form wherever possible - this form guides you through the identification and location of the issue,  allowing easy input of the relevant data.  You do not have to log in or have an account to do this and you will receive an acknowledgement, reference number, and receive regular updates on the issue reported.
* For all other enquiries that do not fit into the ‘Report a problem’ form, please submit these using the exclusive email address '[CSCparishes@leics.gov.uk](mailto:CSCparishes@leics.gov.uk), this was introduced several years ago to ensure that Parish Councils and Community Organisations are provided with a consistent and centralised approach.

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**Information on local services, latest news and events can also be found on our** [**Information for parishes and communities webpage**](https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/parishes-and-communities/information-for-parish-councils-and-communities/news-and-updates) **and** [**LCC website.**](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/)

**Contact the Special Projects Team, Environment and Transport Department on 0116 305 5186 or at** [**etdspecialprojects@leics.gov.uk**](mailto:etdspecialprojects@leics.gov.uk)