**Issue 25** 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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WITH CHRISTMAS COMING, DON’T FORGET…

The last date for receiving S178 applications for putting Christmas lights on lighting columns is 31 October.   [Guidance](https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/resource/files/field/pdf/2021/5/25/licensing-s178-guidance.pdf) and the [application form](https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/parishes-and-communities/attachments-to-highway-lighting-columns) can be found online. Please read the guidance before starting the application process, as there are several mandatory pieces of information required before the system will accept your submission. Ensure all information is included, as missing information may cause a delay in the application being processed.

**Recycling and Waste**

All of the recycling and household waste sites close at **4pm** over the winter months (on the days they're usually open) last admittance is at 3.55pm. As always, please check our [website](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/waste-and-recycling/find-a-recycling-and-household-waste-site) in preparation for your visit as some sites are unable to accept certain materials and in extreme cases sites may have to be closed until there is sufficient capacity to run them safely.

Disposal of batteries – reminder that discarded batteries can cause fires.  Information on how to recycle batteries correctly can be found on the [Take Charge site](https://www.takecharge.org.uk/).   General information on recycling can be found on our Welcome to [Lesswaste site](https://www.lesswaste.org.uk/).

Halloween celebrations. REDUCE food waste by eating leftover pumpkins; REUSE costumes and decorations and as above RECYCLE batteries safely. For those who have carved, but have not eaten their pumpkins, a Pumpkin Smash is being held by a Leicestershire Master Composter to help people reduce their waste. The Pumpkin Smash encourages residents to bring pumpkins that have not been eaten for smashing and composting in a fun morning activity on Saturday 9th November at 10.30-12.30, Stokes Wood Allotment, LE3 9BR. More information on how to have a fun but lower waste Halloween can be found here <https://www.lesswaste.org.uk/2024/09/19/halloween-waste/>

LAST CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY!

* **National Highways and Transport (NHT) Public Satisfaction Survey**

Reminder to all parish councils to complete the National Highways and Transport (NHT) Public Satisfaction survey which is now live.

Download the survey here <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/resource/files/2024-09/public-representative-online-survey.pdf>

All paper copies can be emailed to [**cassandra.haywood@leics.gov.uk**(link sends email)](mailto:cassandra.haywood@leics.gov.uk) or posted for Cassandra Haywood’s attention via  Room 700 County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire, LE3 8RJ.

The survey is designed to accept one response from each Parish Council so its important to ensure the responses represent the overall views of the Parish Council.

The survey closes on **31 October** however, if your parish meeting falls outside of this time please contact [**cassandra.haywood@leics.gov.uk**(link sends email)](mailto:cassandra.haywood@leics.gov.uk) who will do her best to accommodate a later return date.

* **Customer Experience Strategy – Consultation live**

Leicestershire County Council would like to invite views on our draft Customer Experience Strategy, that supports our vision for customer service at the council.

The consultation is now live and can be [found here](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say/current-engagement/draft-customer-experience-strategy) for individuals and partner organisations to complete, the consultation closes on **10th November.**

NEWS

Free fare super Saturdays

People across Leicestershire can take advantage of free bus travel this autumn, details below:

* WHEN – All Saturdays between 19th October and 30th November 2024 inclusive people can travel for free.  You can travel from the first timetabled service of the day to the last bus.
* WHO – No age restrictions, if you already qualify for free travel, board the bus the usual way.
* HOW - To qualify for free travel, passengers on the participating routes and services will need to start or end their journey in [Leicestershire](https://mapit.mysociety.org/area/2231.html)
* WHAT - Types of journey included: single journeys (and return journeys where applicable) in Leicestershire. ‘Tap on, tap off’ will be excluded. Some services are excluded from this scheme, for details of these please visit <https://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/public-transport/enhanced-bus-partnerships/leicestershire-buses/schemes-and-projects/leicestershire-ticketing-schemes/free-fare-super-saturdays/>

This free fare scheme is brought to you by [Leicestershire Buses](https://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/public-transport/enhanced-bus-partnerships/leicestershire-buses/) and funded by the Bus Service Improvement Plan plus allocation (BSIP+).

**Flooding drop-in sessions**

* 7th November at County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester, LE3 8RA between 2-6pm, there is no need to book. You can drop in whenever you please.  The session will provide an opportunity for residents to discuss flooding matters with agencies including the Council, water companies and the Environment Agency.

Information on the County Council’s role as the Lead Local Flood Authority  (LLFA) and other useful information can be found on our [website](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage).

**Winter Planning**

The Winter gritting teams are in place from now until the end of March preparing for the winter weather.  The grit barns are full, and the 23 gritting lorries are ready.  Road temperatures are monitored round the clock.  An interactive gritting map showing all first priority and second priority road gritting routes is available [here](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/winter-weather/gritting-and-travel-this-winter).  See LCC’s winter plans by following the council’s face book page or Twitter account @LeicsCountyHall

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REMINDERS

* **Property Flood Resilience Grant**

If you have experienced internal flooding to your home or business during Storm Babet (October 2023) or Storm Henk (January 2024), you may be eligible for a grant of up to £5,000 (inclusive of VAT) through the Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Repair Grant Scheme.

To see if you are eligible have a look at the information on our website.

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage/property-flood-resilience-repair-grant>

* **Environment Action Volunteers**

Environment Action Volunteers are Leicestershire residents who work within their communities to raises awareness of key environmental issues and encourage positive behavioural changes. They are a key part of Leicestershire County Council’s mission to reduce waste, protect the environment and tackle climate change.

This September, a recruitment campaign is inviting Leicestershire residents aged 18+ with an interest in environmental issues to join the scheme and give their time to support activities such as running stalls at community events, providing talks and workshops for schools and community groups, as well as completing practical tasks such as recording ancient trees and tackling invasive non-native species. New recruits will be invited to a face-to-face training session at County Hall on 12th October, alternatively they can attend a training webinar on 8th November 2024.

For more information on how to apply please visit our website following this link

<https://www.lesswaste.org.uk/volunteering/>

* 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 you can find this on the [one.network](https://one.network/) site.  If you need help or guidance on one.network please contact the Special Projects team.
* Causeway One.Network guide

Have you tried using One Network for finding details of changes to roads and temporary disruptions such as roadworks?

One Network is a unique digital web-based road management platform that connects road operators, utilities, contractors, traffic management teams and the public with an aim to reduce disruption, keep traffic moving and improve journeys.

To assist users in setting up an account and finding locations we have developed a simple guide

Please click the following link to view the guide <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/resource/files/2024-09/one-network-step-by-step-instructions.pdf>

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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/)

**For enquiries relating to problems or defects on the roads or pavements please use the** [**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) **or email** [**CSCParishes@leics.gov.uk**](mailto:CSCParishes@leics.gov.uk)

**Information on traffic schemes can be found via this** [link](https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/traffic-management-schemes) <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/traffic-management-schemes>

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