

PARISH NEWSLETTER



29 September 2023 | Issue 10

Vaccinations Update

Autumn vaccinations are back

Top up your protection and boost your immunity to protect yourself and others. If you're eligible you can book your Covid-19 and flu vaccinations now.



People who are 65 and over, and others who are at particular risk, are now able to get their [flu and Covid-19 vaccines](#) ahead of winter. Find out [who is eligible](#).

A free transport offer to and from a flu/ COVID vaccination provider is available to all eligible residents of Leicestershire, (not city or Rutland). The idea is to help vulnerable people living in rural villages access their vaccination offer conveniently. People should call 01530 512456, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, to book free transport to and from their own home. Please share this widely.

D-Day 80 Beacons

Town and parish councils are being invited to take part in [D-Day 80 commemorations](#) on 6 June next year by lighting a beacon. D-Day 80 is aiming to achieve the lighting of at least 14 beacons per county within England and Wales as part of this 80th anniversary event.

Those taking part will receive a certificate of Grateful Recognition, which can be framed and displayed to commemorate this historic occasion. See attached letter for further information.



Winter Risk Ready?

The next Community Resilience online engagement event will be held on Wed 4 October, 7.00 - 9.00pm, and will cover the topic of 'Winter Risks: Are we ready for the colder weather?'

The aims and objectives of this evening session will be how communities can be more resilient by raising awareness of seasonal risks and potential incidents.

These online engagement events are being used to highlight different areas of concern and explore what we can do to reduce the identified risks and increase safety and awareness within our communities of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Agenda to include:

- Introduction and welcome by Zoe Heath, Community Resilience Co-ordinator
- The Met Office
- The Environment Agency
- UK Health Security Agency

Click on the [Zoom meeting link](#)
Meeting ID: 823 5942 4992
Passcode: 124825

LRLC Training

Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Councils (LRLC) is running two popular and very useful training sessions. Have you signed up yet?

- [Planning Nuts and Bolts training - Tues 10 October](#)
- [S106/Community Infrastructure Levy \(CIL\) training - Wed 25 October](#)

Spaces are still available and you can book your place [here](#).

Free Trees

The ever popular [Free Tree Scheme](#) is back for 2023. This year local residents can choose two free trees from four varieties:

- Rowan
- Elder
- Wild Cherry
- Hazel



There is also an option to request up to 30 metres of free hedging, which is a Hawthorn and Hazel mix with a Rowan tree at 10 metre intervals.

Applications open from Monday 9 October until Friday 27 October, with collection day scheduled at Coalville, Ashby and Castle Donington on Sunday 19 November.

Please help us promote this year's scheme with local residents in your area. See attached A5 leaflet and A4 poster PDFs, which you are welcome to print off or use on your social media sites.

Forestry Skills Funding

Those of you who own and manage parks are likely to have grounds' staff who might be interested in the following. The Government has just announced a £1million [Forestry and Arboriculture Fund](#), formerly known as the Forestry Training Fund.

The fund has been extended to cover arboriculture courses, with £250,000 ringfenced specifically for courses that cover the care, management and safety of amenity trees, through skills such as aerial tree pruning, branch removal and assisted felling.



Home Upgrade Grant



The [Home Upgrade Grant](#) is administered by Leicestershire County Council's Warm Homes

service together with YES Energy Solutions. The grant can provide homeowners and private tenants with fully funded energy efficiency measures improving the warmth and comfort of homes, whilst also reducing energy bills, carbon emissions and levels of fuel poverty across the county.

The scheme supports households that do not have mains gas as a primary heating system such as those with electric, heating oil, LPG or solid fuel heating. Households that only use gas for cooking or secondary room heating can still apply.

Eligibility criteria includes households within priority neighbourhood areas and more widely, households with an income of £31,000 or less per year or in receipt of means tested benefits, with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D,E,F or G (D or E in private rental).

It will prioritise the most energy inefficient households and runs to the end of March 2025.

Doorstep Crime

Leicestershire Police has received a number of reports of tradespeople operating door-to-door offering their services. At times little or no work is required but homeowners are being charged large sums of money for the work. This type of behaviour causes a great deal of stress and anxiety for the victims.

The advice is to never agree to have work carried out by cold callers and to always obtain at least three quotes from reputable companies.

If you have been approached in this way, call 999 if offenders are currently on site. If it is a non-emergency, please report via Leicestershire County Council's [Trading Standards team](#).



Flood Resilience

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has just [announced £25 million](#) to be invested in projects that use nature to protect communities from flooding.

The ring-fenced funding, provided by the Government and the Environment Agency, will support [natural flood management schemes](#) across England that use techniques such as planting trees and creating wetlands to slow and store water to reduce the risk of flooding. These schemes are also proven to improve air and water quality, provide habitats for wildlife and create green spaces for communities.

The new funding is available to environmental non-governmental organisations, businesses, farmers, catchment partnerships, flood risk management authorities and community groups.

Successful projects will cover a large enough area to provide demonstrable flood risk benefits. Expressions of interest will close on 10 November 2023.



Community Ownership

For any councils that are considering applying for the Government's [Community Ownership Fund](#), it is strongly recommended to spend some time researching how the fund operates and the level of detail required. There is some very useful information on the ['My Community' webpages](#), including webinars/advice on:

- [How to raise match funding](#)
- [How to write a strong application](#)
- [Advice and Support](#)
- [Community Ownership Fund stories](#)

The Government has also just announced a list of the latest 45 [successful projects](#); this is worth a read in addition to the [decision-making notes](#).

Funding

[UKSPF Community Grant](#)

Has your community successfully applied for funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund? You can check which areas in North West Leicestershire are still eligible [here](#).

We will be holding an information session in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 3FJ on Wednesday 25 October 2023, 6.30 - 8.30pm.

We will deliver a presentation about the grant and there will be an opportunity to speak to officers about your ideas ahead of submission. [Book your place](#) via Eventbrite now.

[Zero Carbon Grants](#)

As part of our Zero Carbon commitment, we are offering Zero Carbon Grants of £50 to £500 each for environmentally-focused community projects across the district. These are simple projects that make a big impact and are open to groups and organisations, including parish councils. Match funding of £50 to £500 is required; this needs to be cash as opposed to in-kind funding.



[Community Ownership Fund](#)

This Government fund is to help communities across the UK to take ownership of assets/properties at risk of closure. Capital grants of up to £250,000 and revenue grants of up to £50,000 are available. Parish and town councils can also now apply. Expressions of interest can be submitted at any time. If successful, applicants will be invited to submit a full application. This round for full applications closes on 11 October but the programme will run until March 2025.

[SHIRE Environment Grant](#)

This grant offers up to £2,500 for projects that meet one of the following outcomes:

- Reduce household waste
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Improve biodiversity and support the creation, protection, enhancement and management of sustainable green spaces

Deadline for applications is 1 December.