

ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

LRALC – 11th September 2019
Environment & Transport - Update

**Jo Guyll – Assistant Director Environment &
Waste Management**

- Introduction (JG)
- Structural Licenses (Licenses for Street Furniture) (LB)
- Forestry
- Tree Wardens (JG)
- Ash Die Back (JG)
- Wildflowers (LB)
- Recycling & Household Waste Sites (RHWS) (JG)
- Future Planning (LB)

Environment and Waste Management

- 14 Recycling Household Waste Sites
- 2 Transfer Stations
- Responsible for the Council's Environment Strategy
- Bio-diversity
- Tree Preservation Orders
- Landscaping Services
- Green Infrastructure
- Recycling and Waste Initiatives - 40% of waste collected in Leicestershire is from the kitchen and garden - ideal for composting

Any structure placed on the highway must have been licenced by the Highway Authority

- That the structure / equipment be removed at the applicant's expense if so required by the County Council as the Highway Authority.
- That the structure / equipment be maintained to a safe and acceptable standard.
- That the applicant indemnifies the County Council against any incident arising that would not have occurred if the structure had not been erected. (The indemnity is £5 million).
- That consultation has been carried out with all residents / landowners in the locality.
- That no part of the structure / equipment shall be less than 0.5m from the kerb face or interfere with the visibility from nearby junctions or drives.

SAFETY MUST BE A PROIRTY

Forestry Team

- Corporate Services
- Policy
- Tree Professionals
- Inspections
- Look after all the Council's Tree Stock
- Parishes can buy services

Environment and Transport

- Arborculturalist services
- LCC Highways Tree Stock
- Responds to emergency call outs (bad weather, accidents)

- Tree Wardens are volunteers appointed by their parish council to be a contact and support for all things tree related in their parish.
- Tree Warden scheme is a national initiative under the umbrella of the Tree Council.
- LCC acts as the network coordinator for Leicestershire and offer support to tree wardens in terms of advice and training and networking events.
- LCC's commitment to the Tree Warden initiative supports our Environment Strategy and other plans such as the Ash Die Back Action Plan.
- Autumn 2019 LCC carrying out review of current database of tree wardens and support needed by parish/town councils under this scheme.
- For more information about the Tree Warden scheme and how it could benefit your parish / town council contact Leicestershire County Council on 0116 305 7264 or email treewardens@leics.gov.uk

It is important to retain existing (healthy) ash trees so that more tolerant individuals can be identified to provide stock for the future. Ash dieback affects young trees and new regrowth most severely, so it's likely to be several years before it causes structural problems in mature trees. As a landowner, you should try to:

- retain ash trees where possible.
- check for signs of ash dieback regularly
- minimise any pruning or tree surgery, young regrowth is more susceptible disease.
- keep an eye on the tree's safety as the disease progresses. monitor trees near highways and rights of way or areas with high levels of public access for signs of the disease, and if risk assessments show these as a hazard, plan careful pruning or felling.
- consider planting other species appropriate to the location.

- Achieving a level of bio-diversity combined with pleasing aesthetics is likely to increase the costs of the current verges maintenance regime.
- The challenge is to achieve the required bio - diversity outcomes without either a major budgetary impact or making the grass cutting process inefficient.
- In order to create a wildflower verge extensive preparation needs to be undertaken including:
 - completely clearing the ground of existing vegetation, potentially using glyphosate weed killers;
 - preparing the ground for planting to ensure the correct level of nutrients; and
 - seeding the area.
- Wildflower verges also need to be regularly maintained, they can not be left to be wild. Ongoing maintenance requirements include:
 - annual removal of indigenous grasses/weeds;
 - reseeding at the beginning of the growing season;
 - regular swathe cutting if required for safety purposes; and
 - yearly full mow at the end of the season (November) with collection of cuttings.

- A) Summer 2019 & 2020, offer support to any parish that wishes to develop their own wildflower area:
- details still being developed, however all sites must be approved by LCC and be considered safe;
 - no funding will be provided to parishes to do this;
 - guidance on how to create and maintain a wildflower verge is being developed; and
 - all complaints arising from the change in mowing regimes within the locality will need to be dealt with by Parish.
- B) Identify and undertake a pilot within Leicestershire in 2020:
- use the pilot to understand the associated costs and practicalities of wild flower verges;
 - inform the bio diversity review; and
 - align with national guidance.
- C) Continue with the wider review of encouraging bio diversity within Leicestershire as greater species diversity is essential to the ongoing sustainability of the environment. The review will:
- address the long term issue of poor bio-diversity within Leicestershire; and
 - develop long term sustainable approach to verge management across the County.

- LCC continues to face financial challenges
- Aiming to save £330,00 from RHWS service over 6 years
- Proposing to reduce summer opening hours at the RHWS to 9am – 5pm between April and September (currently 9am – 7pm)
- Public consultation started 1st July – will close on 23rd September
- Have your say at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/wastesitechanges

Planning to:

- Increase reuse
- Set up a chargeable service for difficult to dispose of waste such as car tyres and railway sleepers
- Introduce measures to prevent commercial fridges and freezers being disposed at the taxpayers' expense



What	When	Who
Winter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snow warden scheme • Salt Bins 	July /Aug	cscparishes@leics.gov.uk
Christmas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licence decorations • Road Closures 	July / Aug 12 weeks minimum (Aug latest)	cscparishes@leics.gov.uk eventsnetworkmanagement@leics.gov.uk
Remembrance	12 weeks minimum (Aug latest)	eventsnetworkmanagement@leics.gov.uk
VE Day	12 weeks minimum (Jan latest)	eventsnetworkmanagement@leics.gov.uk
Events – General	12 weeks minimum	eventsnetworkmanagement@leics.gov.uk



- On 15th May 2019 LCC declared a climate emergency with unanimous cross party support
- Acknowledged the new climate science and the need for urgent action and the increasing public calls for action
- Committed to achieving carbon neutrality for its own emissions by 2030
- For LCC it means going 20% further, 20 years sooner (80% to 100% / 2050 to 2030)
- A review of the Council's Environment Strategy will be undertaken to identify how these commitments can be met
- Carbon neutrality by 2050 or before for the county's emissions
- Work with others and to lobby government to make the wider 2030 target possible and to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C
- Meeting these commitments and moving Leicestershire to a low carbon economy will require us all to work together
- Parishes and communities will have an important role in enabling this to happen
- Will provide opportunity to improve the quality of life of people, create new jobs and improve energy security

- Installing 872 kilowatts of solar panels across the council estate and a biomass boiler at County Hall
- Roll out of the streetlighting LED scheme has resulted in a 79% reduction in emissions and reduced electricity consumption by 63%
- Programme of rationalising the Council's estate and disposing of inefficient buildings
- Energy efficiency improvements such as automatic lighting, window frame and glazing improvements etc.
- Replacement of inefficient vehicles and greener driver training
- Provision of standard recycling facilities across most of the Council's estate.

