

ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

LRALC – May 2020

**Parish Clerk's Quarterly Meeting
Virtual Presentation**

- As the quarterly meeting was cancelled due to COVID 19 we felt it would be valuable to provide an update for the Parish and Communities.
- This presentation will be published on our new Parish and Communities webpage (<https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/EandT-information-for-parish-councils>) which we have created to ensure that you are kept updated with news and information. It is early in its development and we would appreciate any feedback or comments to cscparishes@leics.gov.uk



The council's position on the response to Covid19 can be found at [COVID19 Impact and Response of the County Council](#). This report details the role the County Council is carrying out whilst focusing on managing the critical and essential services, particularly those supporting vulnerable people during the COVID19 crisis.

The Environment & Transport department is also encountering many challenges, some of our work areas are carrying on as normal, whilst other areas have been suspended or facing long delays.

The most up to date information on these changes is available on the County Council website, where you can find full details on all our services [Link to Affected Council Services](#)

Government guidance is constantly under review as it responds to the ever changing circumstances in the current situation, therefore we will continually realign to these changes and communicate as necessary.

Network Repairs

- More urgent repairs are continuing with workers following Government guidance.
- Carriageway defect patching is continuing incorporating some planned maintenance wherever possible.
- The majority of our planned highways maintenance works are suspended.
- Surface dressing is our main preventative treatment to extend the life of our roads for up to 7 years. The programme is under review and until there is a relaxation of the conditions for social distancing it is unlikely this year's programme will be implemented.

Highways Related Permitting

- Permits are still being processed for essential road works and for skips and scaffolding, although there has been a 25% reduction in permit applications from Utilities due to the lack of work being carried out on the network over the last few months.

Grass Cutting

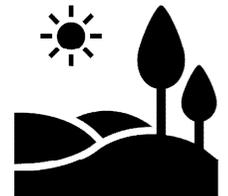
- Urban grass cutting is due to commence on 4th May, although due to the late start there may be only 5 cuts achieved this season.
- Rural grass cutting commenced late April however it is focussed on visibility splays at the current time.

Vegetation cut backs

- This is being done as normal operating within the Government's guidance. Enquiries are being processed and prioritised accordingly, with each site being assessed on an individual basis.

Gullies

- We are continuing to carry out routine gully emptying work and maintaining the reactive gully emptying service working within the Government's guidance.



Public Rights of Way and Country Parks

Public Rights of Way are all still open. Users should follow social distancing rules and occupiers should not block paths. The public can still report issues they find on the network. The current government advice is:

- Stay local and use open spaces near to your home where possible – do not travel unnecessarily.
- Follow the Countryside Code. Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home. Leave gates as you find them or follow instructions on signs.
- Keep dogs on a lead around livestock and away from other people/dogs.
- Respect other people and protect the natural environment. Remember your actions can affect people's lives and livelihoods.
- Visitors can access the country parks locally by using public footpaths and bridleways and are welcome to continue using them for daily exercise. However, car parks, playgrounds, cafes and other visitor facilities are closed and will remain closed until further notice.

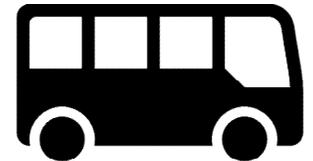


Buses

- Bus operators have reduced their services to the public and this is unlikely to change until the current social distancing restrictions have been relaxed.

Park and Ride

- The Park and Ride service has been suspended until the current restrictions have been relaxed.



Recycling and Household Waste sites



All our recycling and household waste sites are currently closed. Planning work is being carried out and we will be reopening 7 of our sites on 18th May.

Government advice is that only where waste cannot be safely stored at home and presents a risk of injury or a risk to public health or the local environment should residents visit a RHWS

We will be operating an online booking system and county residents will only be able to access these sites if they have a booking. We will accept the following types of waste only: general waste, green, wood and hardcore.

Applications for waste permits have now been suspended until further notice.

Further details can be found by following this link:

<http://www.lesswaste.org.uk/2020/04/28/canyourwastewait/>

Challenges

- Whilst endeavouring to carry out works on the highway unfortunately there have been cases of workers being abused by members of the public.
- During the lockdown with traffic flow being significantly reduced we have witnessed an increase in speeding in many areas increased the risk for our workers, cyclists and pedestrians who may be using the road for social distancing.



Challenges

- Seeking the appropriate PPE continues to be a challenge and our ability to deliver services will be dependant on this. We are also facing additional costs to deliver works whilst operating social distancing.
- It is likely that the challenges encountered in delivering our Highways programme will have an impact on the condition of the network, meeting a significant increase in demand once the restrictions are lifted.
- Dealing with an increase in illegal/unofficial activity they have encountered on the highway during the Covid crisis.
- Dealing with the requests for some additional cycle/pedestrian lanes to be added to the existing network as there is currently less traffic on the roads. We have significant concerns around this as the traffic is likely to increase.

Recovery work being undertaken on how we deliver services as restrictions are lifted by Government

Due to the Government guidance being updated continually, the department's situation is continually reviewed and reassessed and we will update as appropriate

This presentation and other information has been published on our new webpage designed for Parishes and Communities, please check this out.
[\(https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/EandT-information-for-parish-councils\)](https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/EandT-information-for-parish-councils)

If you have any questions about this presentation or any other queries, please contact us on

 cscparishes@leics.gov.uk