

Council Meeting Agenda Item 5

Leader's Report, 6th November 2023

At this time of unprecedented pressures on temporary accommodation services I have added my signature to a letter, through the District Councils' Network (DCN), to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. This letter covers a wide range of issues from service pressure to financial issues. I am arranging to circulate a copy of this letter to all members for information.

All Councillors have been contacted on the subject of polling stations and as part of a 2023 review. This is an important opportunity to input on the suitability of the current stations, potential concerns, comments or alternatives. I would encourage all members to engage.

The public engagement event, where we were hosted by Scraftoft Parish Council, was held recently. It was the first of what we intend to have as a regular event. Cabinet members will seek to attend as many parish councils, meetings and Lutterworth Town Council as we possibly can. At the upcoming parish event we will actively encourage those who would like to host an event to come forward and not wait to be asked. This public engagement is to be encouraged and is evidence of the wish to be more accessible to the whole of the District.

The news of the retaining of ticket office services at the Market Harborough Railway Station is welcomed - we made our concerns clear and I am pleased to say that the views we put forward during our meeting with the rail authorities registered and that the issues we raised were taken on board.

The letter regarding water quality has generated a departmental response. A copy will be circulated to all members. Our concerns on water quality, sewage discharges were clearly explained but I think it will be something we will need to monitor on an ongoing basis.

The officers identified a surplus in the car parking funds. This has enabled us as a one-off to introduce a free parking package on the four Saturdays in the build up to Christmas. It will in effect ensure that in the Council Car Parks in Market Harborough and Lutterworth, the four weekends will be effectively charge free within the packages. This we hope will assist traders in the build up to Christmas and offer some small assistance to our communities.

The Council will join with the community this weekend in commemorating the sacrifices of those who have served our country over so many years; we owe them our deepest gratitude. We remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, those who have served, those who currently serve and those who will serve in the future.

end