

Nottinghamshire
County Council

Countylink

Issue No 59 December 2003



BASSETLAW
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



MANSFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL



NEWARK &
SHERWOOD
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Rushcliffe

Circulation to:

Councillors at Town and Parish Councils and Parish meetings; County Councillors; District and Borough Councils, interested individuals and organisations.

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Lord Haskins’ Review of Rural Delivery

In November 2002, Margaret Beckett, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, invited Lord Haskins to carry out an independent review of the arrangements for delivering government rural policies in England. The report, which was published on 11 November 2003, includes 33 separate recommendations for improving the delivery of rural policies. It clearly outlines the responsibilities of local authorities and government agencies for policy making and delivery of schemes and services to rural communities.

The terms of reference guiding the review centred upon recommendations on how best to improve the effectiveness of delivery arrangements for Defra’s rural policies, with a view to:

- simplifying or rationalising existing delivery mechanisms, establishing clear roles and responsibilities and effective co-ordination
- achieving efficiency savings and maximising value for money

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- providing better and more streamlined services
- identifying arrangements that can help deliver Defra's rural priorities.

The research undertaken by Haskins' team involved responses from 350 organisations, regional visits and tours, case studies, focus groups, interviews and a literature review.

Several regional and county based organisations, including Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group, East Midlands Rural Action Group, Forestry Commission, Greenwood Community Forest, National Forest Company, NFU, EMDA, Sherwood Forest Trust, Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and Nottinghamshire County Council made contributions to the review.

This research highlighted several specific areas which Haskins identifies for improvement.

- Poor accountability
- Failure to satisfy regional and local priorities
- Too many players
- Lack of co-ordination
- Confused customers.

The main recommendations made by the review are classified under the following headings:

- Improve accountability through a clearer separation of responsibility for policy and delivery functions
- Bring delivery closer to the customer by devolving greater responsibility to regional and local organisations to deliver economic and social policy
- Develop a more integrated approach to sustainable land management by rationalising agencies with overlapping agendas into a new agency
- Improve the co-ordination of delivery by enhancing the role of Government Offices for the Regions as co-ordinators and monitors
- Make things better for the customer and get greater value for money for the taxpayer through a more integrated approach to regulation and through simpler services.

The full report is available from DEFRA Publications on Tel: 08459 556000 Comments or suggestions can be sent to:
ruraldeliveryprogramme@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Source: Rural Delivery Review ©

Queen's Speech

The Queen outlined the government's plans for the coming year on 26 November 2003 at the State Opening of Parliament, which could be the last one before the next general election. Bills listed in the Queen's Speech include:

Child Trust Fund; Pensions, Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims; Children's; Fire and Rescue Services; Planning and Compulsory Purchase; Traffic Management; European Parliamentary and Local Elections (Pilots).

Draft Bills mentioned include a Housing Bill that will introduce home sellers packs to speed up house sales, a Disability Discrimination Bill to increase rights for disabled people to use public transport and buildings and a School Transport Bill to allow local authorities to introduce measures to cut down on 'school run' pressures.

The full speech can be found at:
<http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page4897.asp>

Sherwood Forest Branches Out!



A mosaic of woodland, heathland and orchards, criss-crossed by hedges and water courses, is taking shape as Sherwood Forest's heritage is restored to its former traditional glory, thanks to the Sherwood Forest Initiative.

Stretching over 25 miles from north of Worksop, down to Bestwood village and across from Mansfield in the west to Retford and Farnsfield in the East, and with more than 40 landowners and organisations involved, large areas of characteristic Sherwood Forest habitat and landscape will be

restored in one of the largest partnership schemes of its kind in the country.



Programme manager, Norma Saunders, said: "We are very lucky in Sherwood. We have one of the finest areas of ancient trees in Europe, if not the world. We have a brilliant team of experienced partners working together to protect our cultural and environmental heritage for

the benefit of local people and visitors alike, and to look after our wildlife. We are now planning historical and cultural activities to help people enjoy our beautiful landscape and bring historic Sherwood Forest to life."



Work began a year ago and people can now begin to see the transformation as the project reaps social, environmental and economic benefits.

Four orchards have been created; 3479 metres of new hedge have been laid; more than 150 hectares of woodland (378 acres) and over 30 hectares of heathland (74 acres) have been created; and 175 hectares of land have been restored by grazing under the heritage landscape project.

Heathland, wet woodland and fen habitat is being restored on Rainworth Water, in Clipstone Forest with involvement from the Forestry Commission, one of the Initiative's biggest partners. A 2 kilometre water course and a 30 hectare reed bed habitat have also been created.

On other sites, 2 backwaters, 5 hectares of flood plain, wader scrapes and otter holts, and 1200 metres of riverbank have been created. At Thoresby Park, an ancient water meadow has been restored and signage will soon be erected to explain the uniqueness of sites like this in Nottinghamshire.

This 5-year programme worth over £5 million is being co-ordinated by the Sherwood Forest Trust with nearly £3 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Public understanding, appreciation and involvement is encouraged. Four Sherwood Forest Community rangers based in Ollerton, Manton, Blidworth and Rainworth develop activities and link landowners and communities. Hugh McCahon is Heritage Education Officer and works with local schools and colleges, administering a visit fund to help children into the countryside.

For further information contact Norma Saunders, Sherwood Forest Trust, on Tel: 01623 758231

Creating Sustainable Communities

The Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott has described how "Community coding" will help to achieve sustainable growth and create desirable new urban environments. He will shortly be publishing revised guidance to planning authorities to modernise the 1947 Planning Act and put sustainable development at the heart of the planning system.

Source: www.odpm.gov.uk

Childcare Voucher Scheme



The Childcare Voucher Scheme is being re-launched in 2004 to better meet the needs of parents in receipt of benefits or on low incomes to return to work. For over 10 years the Childcare Voucher Scheme has been supporting the childcare costs of parents returning to work and training through time limited financial support of up to £25 per week per child. Every year the scheme helps over 100 parents return to work by supporting their childcare costs.

When the scheme was first established this type of support was rare but this is no longer the case; there is now a national childcare strategy and extensive childcare support is available for parents returning to work through the new childcare tax credit.

To reflect this, Nottinghamshire County Council has just agreed that the focus of the scheme should shift to better supporting those parents unable to access the childcare tax credits. The scheme will

work with these parents to help them secure the childcare tax credit, a source of long term financial support towards their childcare costs.

To achieve this, a number of changes to the current scheme are being introduced. These include:

- supporting **all eligible Nottinghamshire residents**, the scheme will no longer be geographically targeted as at present
- children with disabilities will be supported to age 16
- a budget to enable parents to have a trial period using registered childcare
- a small budget for travel and childcare costs for parents accessing careers guidance or trying out registered care
- access to Nottinghamshire County Council's jobs and training programmes and vocational guidance
- support to access Childcare Tax Credits
- support from the Children's Information Service to encourage and help family carers to register as childminders.

Financial support of up to £25 per week per child will be available for 26 weeks with the possibility of an extension to 52 weeks for parents working towards securing the childcare tax credit.

For further information please call the Childcare Voucher Scheme on 0115 977 4691

Nottinghamshire Children's Information Service



Nottinghamshire Children's Information Service (CIS) has moved, which means we have a new telephone number.

If you are a parent or carer combining work

with bringing up children, you might need childcare for when you can't be there. The best place to start is the Children's Information Service. We can send you a list of registered childcare in your area and give you advice on how to choose the best care for you and your child.

On our database we hold information about:

- Childminders
- Private day nurseries
- Nurseries attached to schools
- Pre-school playgroups
- Out of school clubs
- Holiday playschemes
- Crèches.

We can also give you information on how to get help covering the cost of childcare. If you work for more than 16 hours each week and use registered or approved childcare you might get up to 70% of the costs back through the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit.

Alternatively, if you are receiving a benefit or are on a low income and you are returning to work or attending a training course you might be able to get help through the Childcare Voucher Scheme (see *article titled Childcare Voucher Scheme*), if your child is under 11-years of age.

If your child has additional needs and you want to use local childcare, Inclusion Funding could help. It does not pay for the cost of a childcare space but it will help day nurseries, pre-school playgroups and out of school clubs to provide extra equipment, staff or staff training. Parents should enquire about this funding through their chosen childcare provider.

Call the Children's Information Service to find out more about childcare in your area on a free phone no: 0800 781 2168.

Community Cohesion in Broxtowe

A piece of work is taking place in Broxtowe, jointly initiated through the Local Area Forums and the Broxtowe Local Strategic Partnership. A subgroup consisting of representatives of the County and Borough Councils, the Primary Care Trust and Broxtowe College is looking at how best to celebrate the diversity of local communities across the borough, and is specifically looking at celebrating the Chinese New Year in the south of the borough, where there are significant numbers of Chinese students, lecturers and their families, associated both with Broxtowe College and with the University.

Broxtowe Borough Council is taking the lead on organising a range of events and activities around



Chinese New Year, which will culminate in a major event on Saturday 24 January in Beeston Square; this will include ribbon and Chinese folk dancing, a Chinese Dragon procession and a large firework display.

On a wider level, the group is also looking at how to incorporate the principles of encouraging the development of more cohesive and inclusive communities by taking advice from GOEM; there will be a discussion about this with an officer from GOEM at the next meeting of the LSP's Social Sector subgroup meeting at the beginning of December.

The subgroup plans to look at celebrating community diversity across the borough in future as part of an ongoing programme of events, in addition to developing a wider agenda around community cohesion.

For more information, please contact:
Kath Farmer at County Hall on 0115 977 3853

Stand out in the rain

Nottinghamshire children will be able to stand out in the rain this winter, thanks to bright new road safety umbrellas which will make them more visible to motorists.



The umbrellas, the first of their kind in the East Midlands, are aimed at 5 to 10 year olds and are bright yellow with a reflective strip around the bottom bearing the slogan 'Be Safe...Be Seen...Be Cool'.

Latest figures show that over 500 children are killed or injured on the county's roads every year.

The County Council's Road Safety Team is now helping local children to be bright at night by giving away 1,000 of the new umbrellas to children who successfully complete a road safety competition.

Flyers about the competition have been distributed to schools and are also available on-line at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/roadsafety.

Councillor Terry Butler, Cabinet Member for Environment, said, "The umbrellas are a bright idea because children will need to carry them around for most of the time anyway, especially in gloomy winter conditions. We hope that the umbrellas will be a real fashion favourite with Notts children, as well as an excellent way of keeping them safe on the county's roads."

Sarah Law, Headteacher at Jesse Gray Primary School, said, "We are keen to support any new ways of improving road safety and hope that these umbrellas will be a successful way of helping children to be seen by motorists on dark evenings."

Road Safety Minister David Jamieson, said, "These umbrellas are an excellent idea and yet another way in which children can be safe and be seen now the clocks have gone back and winter nights are drawing in. Although the number of child pedestrians killed or injured on our roads has fallen, every child killed or injured is one too many. So it's vital that young pedestrians are visible and road users take extra care when out on dark nights and mornings."

The number of accidents where children were killed or seriously injured has fallen by 30% compared to a 1994-98 baseline.

Contact: Nottinghamshire County Council
Environment Awareness on 0115 977 2802

New umbrellas are bobby dazzlers

David Dickinson came to Nottinghamshire at the end of November on the hunt for a brand new bargain – reflective road safety umbrellas for the more mature road user! New telescopic road safety umbrellas, which have fluorescent panels and reflective strips, have just been designed to make older pedestrians more visible to motorists this winter – even when they are not in use. Every year, 3 out of 4 accidents involving pedestrians over 60 in Nottinghamshire occur between October and March.

David Dickinson, from BBC TV's Bargain Hunt,

said, "Elderly pedestrians may not think about wearing bright, reflective clothing to help them stand out during the dark winter months, but these umbrellas are something they may need to carry anyway – so they are real Bobby Dazzlers."



The umbrellas were launched by the Pedestrian Safety Partnership, which is made up of Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire Police.

Contact: Nottinghamshire County Council Environment Awareness on 0115 977 2802

Safer cycling course goes on the road

The County Council is hoping to put the brakes on the number of children killed or injured whilst cycling in Nottinghamshire by taking its cycling course out on the road.

In the past 2 years there have been 419 cycle casualties on Nottinghamshire's roads – of which 149 were to children aged 15 or younger.

The County Council currently runs an off-road training course, which takes place in playgrounds and teaches children how to handle their bikes. The course will now be extended to include on-road training, which will enable children to learn safe cycling in realistic surroundings, whilst under the supervision of trained instructors.

A pilot on-road training course has been running at 6 of the county's schools, which showed that pupils taking part were more focused on their training and their surroundings, making them safer and more confident when out on the road.

Councillor Terry Butler, Cabinet Member for Environment, said, "We hope that this new training course will help to put the brakes on accidents and help children to be safer, more confident cyclists. By teaching these skills at an early age, in true road conditions, we hope to encourage more children to travel by bike, which will in turn reduce

pollution and congestion and give them a healthy start to life. We also hope that they will continue the cycling habit into adulthood."



Pam Shaw, Environment Department, said, "Cycling is a key element in making our School Travel Plans a success and by encouraging more children to go by bike, we hope to cut the number of cars driving to, and parking around, schools."

Helen Richardson is the Headteacher at John Blow Primary School in Collingham, which has been part of the trial. She said, "Not only did the cycle training provide excellent safety tips for the children, but they also had great fun in the lessons."

The training consists of a 2-part course. Part one, for children in Years 4 and 5 will be 3-off road lessons in basic cycle handling skills. Part two, for children in Year 6 and above, will consist of 6-lessons, 4 off which will be on the road.

Contact: Nottinghamshire County Council Environment Awareness on 0115 977 2802

School Crossing Patrols



Did you know that there are 265 authorised School Crossing Patrol sites in Nottinghamshire?

A number of these sites are vacant at the moment. If you are between 16 and 68 and in good health, you could apply for a job in this dedicated team. Contact your local road safety team for details of pay and conditions.

Relief patrols are also needed to cover a site or group of sites in the event of the regular patrol's absence. This may suit you if you only want occasional work.

Contact: Nottinghamshire County Council Environment Awareness on 0115 977 2802

Local Network Fund—Learning Through Riding Project

Young people from Newstead village recently took

part in a 10 day course at a British Horse Society approved centre. Throughout the summer and half term holidays, youngsters were given the chance to learn a whole range of new skills including grooming, animal husbandry, riding and maintaining tack and equipment. Each session also started with a classroom session where the young people work with a trainer on enhancing their personal skills including, self esteem, self confidence and communication skills.



The participants spent time at the Trent Valley Equestrian Centre at Fiskerton in Nottinghamshire working through disciplines designed to engage them in physical activities and to encourage their own personal development. Rose Wilson from the centre commented, "These young people showed great commitment and good riding skills which impressed us all." On the last day everyone took part in a show to test what had been learned over the weeks. Rosettes were awarded for jumping gymkhana games and best groomed horse.

A successful funding application was submitted to The Local Network Fund which is a grant making programme managed by Nottinghamshire Community Foundation and is available for children and young people from 0-19 years.

For further details contact either Susan Brown at the Foundation, telephone 01636 815158 or Jackie Colquitt at the RCC on 01623 727614.

East Bassetlaw Youth Team



Over 200 young people took part in the recent Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Service Summer Programme,

organised by East Bassetlaw Youth Team. They were involved in a variety of activities from learning how to steer a 72' Narrowboat on the Chesterfield Canal (not easy!) to honing their musical skills at

the 4-day Tuxford Rock School, which culminated in a performance on the Friday night in front of an enthusiastic audience of family and friends.

Build a Raft day took place in the summer. The



programme aimed to provide opportunities for Young People from the whole of the East Bassetlaw Area to try something new. It was

specifically targeted towards young people from disaffected backgrounds, many of who are supported by Housing Projects or linked to other supporting agencies.

Eddie Burgess, Senior Youth Worker added, "This is the second year that we have provided a full summer programme; it just seems to be getting better each year. One of the main highlights for me was the fact that some young people went to the Rock School, thinking that they had no particular talent and then finding that they could write music, sing and perform. Seeing those young people develop as a result, has been a major boost." Full-time and part-time Youth Workers supported this programme with a number of sessions planned and run by the young people themselves.

If you are interested in helping young people develop, and want to find out more, telephone Eddie Burgess, Senior Youth Worker on 01777 869003. If appointed, full training will be provided.

Ragwort Control Act

The Ragwort Control Bill received Royal Assent on 20 November and has become an Act. It applies to England and Wales, and will come into force on 20 February 2004.

The new Ragwort Control Act amends the Weeds Act 1959 and provides specifically for more effective management of ragwort, a poisonous weed which is responsible every year for the deaths and illness of many horses and other livestock. It enables the Secretary of State, or National Assembly for Wales, as appropriate, to make a Code of Practice for

landowners and occupiers to prevent the spread of Ragwort. It will also assist landowners and others to strike the right balance between the protection of animal welfare and the need to preserve bio-diversity within the countryside. The Code will also be admissible in evidence if enforcement proceedings under the Weeds Act are necessary.

The Bill was sponsored by The British Horse Society to help protect horses from Ragwort poisoning. It was presented to Parliament as a Private Member's Bill by John Greenway MP. The Government gave its backing to the Bill and welcomes its successful passage through Parliament.

The Government has already worked with the British Horse Society to prepare a draft Code of Practice to prevent and control the spread of Ragwort. This was launched by Rural Affairs Minister and Minister for the Horse Alun Michael, at the Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead in July. A separate but similar code is being developed by the National Assembly for Wales.

Alun Michael welcomed the Bill's success and said the legislation marked a new phase in protecting horse welfare; "This will be marked by co-operation in action between horse owners and the Government. Defra is committed to give priority to complaints about weed enforcement where horses and livestock are at risk or when weed spread will affect fodder".

Now that the Act is in place, the draft Code will be reviewed in the light of comments received so far. There will be then be a further opportunity for formal consultation on the revised Code of Practice, which is expected to be published early next year to coincide with the new law coming into effect.

Source: DEFRA: www.defra.gov.uk

Virtual Spanner

The Virtual Spanner is the unlikely name for a project that is going to improve IT usage and development amongst civil legal advice and information providers in Nottinghamshire. The Community Legal Service Partnerships in Nottinghamshire have been successful in getting funding for this exciting and important project.

The Virtual Spanner is offering 40 advice service providers a year of free IT system support and development with scope (no strings attached) for a second year half price. Beyond that it is hoped the Virtual Spanner will be a free standing social

enterprise in Nottinghamshire providing a much needed service to the advice sector.



The Project is being delivered by the Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council via a skilled IT technician who is offering the following services – all free for a year.

- A software valet service to inspect and tidy up the client's system four times a year
- A full software support service including a 48 hour call out for fault finding
- Hardware support to advise on hardware issues and best buys
- A small parts budget that allows the technician to obtain small parts that may be preventing full use of the client's system.

The Virtual Spanner Project is already making a difference and has been well received by the recipients. Civil legal advice and information services – focusing on issues like debt, housing, benefits – need to maximise their use of IT to deliver services more efficiently to people in Nottinghamshire. The Virtual Spanner is helping to achieve this goal. The funding for this Project has come from the Legal Services Commission Partnership Initiative Budget and Nottinghamshire County Council.

There are still a few places left on the Virtual Spanner Project – if you are interested ring Stuart Draycott on 01623 727600.

Contact: Adrian Dudley 0115 977 3058

Going batty on Ilkeston Road

The County Council is going batty to improve the habitat for wildlife along the A6007 Ilkeston Road, as part of its £450,000 safety scheme. Sixty new bat boxes will be placed on trees alongside the road and further back in Bramcote Park to encourage bats to take advantage of this ideal habitat of parklands and water areas.

Councillor Terry Butler, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: "The A6007 Ilkeston Road improvements aren't just about making the area safer for pedestrians and cyclists. By putting up these 60 bat boxes, we're actually putting back more than we've taken away and are encouraging a rich diversity of wildlife for everyone to enjoy. We're also

taking nature conservation one step further by fastening the boxes up with velcro-style material to prevent any damage to the trees.”

The £450,000 Ilkeston Road scheme includes:

- New footpath/cycle way in Bramcote Park
- Reconstruction of the existing park boundary retaining wall
- A new toucan crossing at the southern end of Coventry Lane
- Widening the existing pavement to improve access for pedestrians
- New central refuges on Ilkeston Road to provide additional crossing points and encourage traffic to slow down
- Upgrading existing pelican crossings to toucan crossings to cater for cyclists
- Signing, lining and extra lighting to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

The scheme has been introduced to address the road’s high accident record of 14 accidents in the past 3-years. The measures link in with the £5 m safety improvements at the A6002 Coventry Lane, which were completed in November 2001.

Last Posting Dates for Christmas 2003

UK

First Class Mail – 28p—up to 60g
Saturday 20 December
Second Class Mail—20p—up to 60g
Thursday 18 December

Airmail

Western Europe
Monday 15 December
Eastern Europe, Canada, USA, Japan
Friday 12 December
Rest of the World
Monday 8 December

Letters to Santa

Tuesday 16 December

The winter wish lists need to be sent before 16 December to Father Christmas, Santa’s Grotto, Reindeerland, SAN TA1. All letters need to have a stamp on and must include a return address. Santa will appear live on www.royalmail.com from 1 December 2003. There will be no collections or deliveries after Christmas Eve until Monday

29 December – that includes Saturday 27 December.

With more than 2 billion items of mail being posted this Christmas advice from the Royal Mail on Christmas mail includes:

- Always include the postcode
- Print both the postcode and the post town in CAPITALS
- Check the weight, underpayment can delay mail
- Put sender’s address on the back of the envelope
- Use International One-Stop Stamps for posting abroad – allows up to 40g anywhere in Europe
- Use a box or padded bag to protect parcel contents – mark ‘fragile’ if necessary
- Use adequate wrapping and seal with good quality self-adhesive tape.

Did you know that there are:

- During a normal week the NG postcode area, which covers 1,017 sq miles, handles around 10.8m letters and packets.

Illustrated Talks at: Mansfield Library January to March 2004

Evenings:

Thursday 22 January	7.30 – 9.00pm
Dr V Leach	Nile Cruise
Thursday 5 February	7.30 – 9.00pm
Ted Grey	Hidden France
Thursday 19 February	7.30 – 9.00pm
Hilary Ward	Up the Wall & Down the Yangtze

Afternoons:

Thursday 4 March	2.30 – 4.00pm
Sybil Blackett	South African Journey
Thursday 18 March	2.30 – 4.00pm
Ray Barratt	Bangkok & Amazing Thailand

Sutton Library January to March 2004

Evenings:

Tuesday 27 January	7.30 – 9.00pm
Bill Taylor	The Robin Hood Line
Tuesday 10 February	7.30 – 9.00pm
Pollyanna Pickering	The Eye of the Tiger
Tuesday 24 February	7.30 – 9.00pm
Malcolm Walpole	The Golden Road
Tuesday 9 March	7.30 – 9.00pm
Ian Chisman	America’s South West Natural Beauty

Each week, in this country, at least 2 women are killed by their partner or ex-partner. One woman in 10 is living with domestic violence right now and by the time you have read this advert the police will have received another report of domestic violence.*

Nottinghamshire County Council has recently launched a Corporate Domestic Violence Policy Statement. This sets out the Council's commitment to addressing the problem of domestic violence and abuse, both as a large employer and provider of diverse services.

Domestic Violence
24 hour free phone helpline:
0808 800 0340

supported by:

Nottinghamshire County Council

Free From Fear
Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum

Language Line

The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a man, a woman, and a child. The man is in the center, looking towards the camera with a serious expression. The woman is on the right, looking down. The child is on the left, looking towards the man. The background is dark, and there is a white silhouette of a person with arms raised in the center of the photo.

For a copy of the statement and for further information, please contact the Domestic Violence Policy Officer on Tel: 0115 977 3864/2040.

Nottinghamshire County Council provides financial and advisory support to a range of domestic violence services and projects throughout the county. If you need support, information or advice please contact the 24 hour Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline (see above).

*The Police receive a report of domestic violence every minute.

Welcome

Welcome to the following new clerks:



Ms J Flynn, Clerk to North Leverton with Hablesthorpe Parish Council

Mrs C Slim, Acting Town Clerk to Newark Town Council

Mr S Strickland, Clerk to Nuthall Parish Council

Mr J Lawrenson, Chairman to Staunton Parish Meeting

Useful Information:

County Council Waste hotline: 0115 977 1019

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

Domestic Violence: 0808 800 0340

Floodline: 0845 988 1188

Report Racial Abuse: 0800 085 8511

District Council websites:

www.ashfield-dc.gov.uk

www.bassetlaw.gov.uk

www.broxtowe.gov.uk

www.gedling.gov.uk

www.mansfield.gov.uk

www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

www.rushcliffe.gov.uk

City and County websites:

www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

Other useful websites:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

www.defra.gov.uk

www.odpm.gov.uk

www.countrysideagency.gov.uk

Aslockton Parish Plan

Kenneth Clarke MP launched **Aslockton's Parish Plan** last month. There is also an Action Plan which is hoped will give both the village residents and community groups ownership of the various projects planned for the next few years.

Contact: Aslockton Parish Council 01949 875878

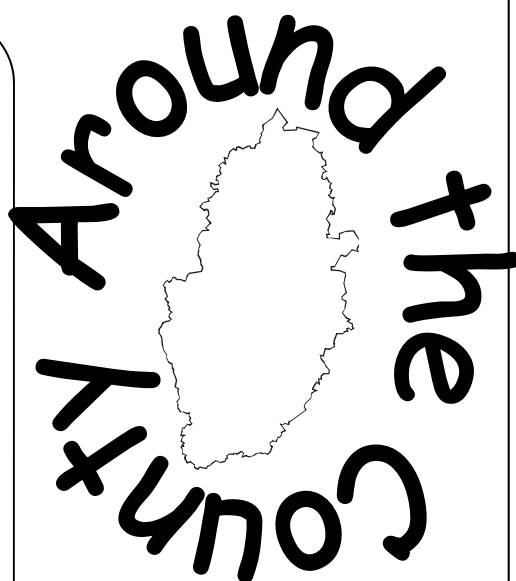
Granby is the Champion of Champions - again!

Forty **Parish Councils** entered the Best Kept Village Competition this year. The 18 winners were presented with their awards at the AGM of the Notts Association of Local Councils. The village judged **Granby** as the Champion of Champions for the second year in succession. Their prestigious Wilkinson 'Best of Nottinghamshire' award worth £1,000 beat the other category winners **Edwinstowe, Coddington and Oxtun**. **Granby** are the first village to achieve the Award twice.

Contact: CPRE Notts Branch
Tel: 01636 813560

Christmas Market

Approximately 40 shops and retailers have signed up to take part in Beeston's late night shopping each Thursday on the run up to Christmas. There will also be a French Market in Beeston Square 11-13 December 2003



Merry

Christmas

to all our

readers

Parish Plan

Shelford and Gunthorpe Parish Councils are looking to join forces to work together on preparation of a Parish Plan for the two villages. The two councils organised a joint meeting with officers from Notts Rural Community Council so that details of what is required to be done for the Plans to be produced could be explained to them.

Councillor Mrs Lesley Jeffery, chairman of the parish at **Gunthorpe**, said it seemed logical for them to hold a joint meeting because they were both setting off on the idea of the project at the same time, and because **Shelford** is the next parish to them. Both the councils have the same clerk - Mike Elliott - and he says members of both the councils have expressed their keen interest in being involved in Plans for their particular parish. He said it was acknowledged that a Parish Plan would help the councils find out what their local community wants for its village and would help in working out how to deliver it. "We shall be looking of course for an input from residents and organisations as we go ahead with the projects," he added. Parish Plans were announced in the 2000 'Rural White Paper' which set out the Government's plans for the countryside. They are intended to develop previous work such as village appraisals and village design statements and set a framework for communities to plan their own futures.

Contact: Mike Elliott, Clerk to both Shelford and Gunthorpe Parish Councils on 0115 937 6506

Your Newsletter

This newsletter is sent to **Town and Parish Councils/Meetings**, for distribution. Names and addresses are held on a database. I want mail to get to the right people without delay so please help by informing me of any changes as it is my responsibility to inform others within the authority who mail out to parish councils. Parish contacts information, the Code of Practice and this newsletter are on the authority's website at: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/parishcouncils.htm

Please contact me if you have:

- articles for Countylink
- information of an event during **February/March 2004** in your local parish
- changes of Parish Clerks details
- requests for extra copies of Countylink
- a request for Countylink in other formats
- information/photographs you would like to add to your details on the Nottinghamshire County Council's website
- links to your parish websites and e-mail contacts on the County Council's website.

Barbara Worrall

Your District Council Contacts:

Ashfield District Council, Public Relations
01623 457004

Bassetlaw District Council, Public Relations
01909 533726

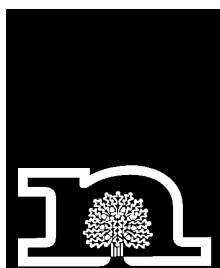
Broxtowe Borough Council, Public Relations
0115 917 3743

Gedling Borough Council, Public Relations
0115 901 3801

Mansfield District Council, Public Relations
01623 463021

Newark and Sherwood District Council
Public Relations 01636 655255

Rushcliffe Borough Council, Public Relations
0115 914 8555



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**Deadline date for articles for the next issue is:
23 January 2004**