

## **Countylink No 54 December 2002**

Circulation to:

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

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### **THE QUEEN'S SPEECH**

The Queens' speech delivered on 132002 outlined the government's main priorities for the new session of parliament. Proposals that will affect local councils include the following:

- investment in public services, while supporting major programmes of reform on health, education, transport and crime
- tackling anti-social behaviour
- introducing a Bill to help ensure that local authorities support older people awaiting discharge from hospital
- continuing to raise educational standards
- proposals to tackle problems of truancy
- a Bill to modernise local government by improving the delivery of local services through better financial management and greater freedom for councils based on performance. Legislation will also be introduced to provide for the holding of referendums on the issue of regional governance in England
- legislation on the conservation and proper management of water
- introduce legislation to speed up the planning system while improving the involvement of local communities.

### **MOSAIC AT NETHERFIELD**

Local community groups in Netherfield are producing three mosaic artworks. The mosaics are to be installed in the floorscape in Netherfield Town Centre, which is currently undergoing environmental improvements.

The improvements include new paving, tree planting, new street furniture and

lighting. The scheme was designed by the Landscape Team at Nottinghamshire County Council and is due to be completed early in 2003.

The improvement works have been part-funded by Gedling Borough Council, following a successful bid to the East Midlands Development Agency, and by Nottinghamshire County Council.

The new Netherfield environmental improvements will have three very individual pieces of art designed and created by local community groups working with professional mosaic artist Peter Massey, programmed and supported by Community Services Next Stage. Next Stage works with groups county-wide to create pieces of public art by and for the local community.

The three groups involved in the Netherfield project have worked alongside the artist to learn the ancient skills of mosaic-making using a technique dating back 2,000 years.

The groups have chosen themes reflecting their own interests with a group from Manor Road Day Centre creating fishes in a pond, inspired by the Centre's interior which features fish tanks and paintings of fish and water subjects.

The Pentecostal Parent and Toddler Group focused on the future embodied in their young children. Their mosaic shows toys from Victorian times to the present day.

The third mosaic created by parents and friends of the Netherfield Junior School focuses on an old school satchel spilling its contents onto the pavement, again representing the changes which have taken place since Victorian times.

The 'Trompe l'oeil' technique used to create the three mosaics will give the pieces a three dimensional effect and should create a unique and original piece of art for Netherfield.

*Contact: Sue Crabtree at Next Stage on Tel: 2988*

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FOREST JOINS THE WILDLIFE PREMIERSHIP

English Nature, the Government's nature conservation agency, has recently declared an ancient part of Sherwood Forest as Nottinghamshire's first National Nature Reserve (NNR) in recognition of its outstanding value for wildlife.

His Royal Highness The Duke Of Gloucester KG GCVO formally opened the NNR before an audience of invited guests, local schoolchildren and members of the public. The new NNR includes the ancient forest of Birklands at Edwinstowe, home to the famous Major Oak, and the declaration forms part of this year's Golden Jubilee celebrations. The site now becomes one of an elite group of NNRs in the country that represents the very best of the nation's natural heritage.

Tim Challans, Nottinghamshire County Council's Assistant Director for Community Services/Leisure, who manages part of the new NNR at Sherwood Forest Country

Park and Visitor Centre said: “We are delighted that the NNR declaration recognises the County Council’s management of the country park and are honoured to become the first local authority in the East Midlands to manage a NNR. This new status ensures that the Forest will be celebrated as much for its natural heritage as its Robin Hood associations.”

Andy Medhurst, District Manager of Forest Enterprise, which also manages part of the NNR, said: “We are delighted by the NNR declaration, which reflects the site’s unique landscape and also acknowledges 15 years of hard work by Forest Enterprise to restore the native woodland habitat amongst Sherwood’s ancient oaks. The creation of the new NNR underlines our commitment to the long term management of this very special place.”

Announcing the landmark declaration, Sir Martin Doughty, Chair of English Nature, said, “Sherwood Forest is a magical place for both people and wildlife, and is one of the most important places in Europe for ancient trees and woodland wildlife. It is steeped in history, with magnificent old trees rich in birds, beetles and bats and is truly deserving of its status as a NNR. English Nature is delighted to recognise the management of this fantastic site by both Nottinghamshire County Council and Forest Enterprise by declaring the new Sherwood Forest NNR in Golden Jubilee Year”.

The ancient forest of Birklands is part of the famous Royal Forest of Sherwood which, in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, covered over 100,000 acres of Nottinghamshire. It is known throughout the world as home to the mighty Major Oak and has over 900 large ‘veteran’ oak trees over 500 years old – one of the largest concentrations of old trees in the UK. For over 600 years, the wood remained the property of the Crown and was used as a source of timber and grazing and a hunting ground for the kings and queens of England.

*English Nature's Eastern Area Team, Tel: 01476 584800 website: [www.english-nature.org.uk](http://www.english-nature.org.uk)*

*Nottinghamshire County Council, Community Services: Tel: 01623 821327 website: [www.sherwood-forest.org.uk](http://www.sherwood-forest.org.uk)*

*Forest Enterprise – Sherwood & Lincs Forest District Tel: 01623 822447 website: [www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)*

## QUALITY MARK FOR LEGAL ADVICE PROVIDERS

Nottinghamshire County Council provides financial support to many organisations giving legal advice and information in the County. This advice and information may for example be about debt, housing, welfare benefits or employment problems for example. Poor advice is more dangerous than no advice, so the County Council has asked all the organisations it funds to get the Community Legal Service Quality Mark to ensure the advice and information they give is up to date and accurate.

The Quality Mark is a rigorous quality standard that ensures organisations that give legal advice are well run and have all the procedures in place to ensure the advice given is accurate.

The County Council set a deadline of October 2002 for organisations to have the Quality Mark and with a few exceptions (who are now almost there) they have all hit the deadline. This is reassuring news for people seeking legal advice.

If you need civil legal advice or information look out for organisations that have this logo.

If you do not know where to get help then ring this number – 0845 608 1122 – or log onto the JustAsk website [www.justask.org.uk](http://www.justask.org.uk) where you will be able to locate your nearest source of help. Remember – don't let your legal problems get you down – someone will be able to help you!!

*Contact: Adrian Dudley, Nottinghamshire County Council on 0115 977 3058*

## RECYCLING SCHEME IS CREAM OF THE CROP

The County Council's Recycling Team is runner-up for a national award for its Christmas Card Recycling Scheme. The scheme is runner-up in this year's UK Charity Awards and the Cream Awards 2002, which are backed by the Institute of Public Relations. The Cream Awards selected the Christmas Card Recycling Scheme on the basis of excellence, creativity and evaluation.

The National Christmas Card Recycling Scheme is run as a partnership between the County Council, local authorities, the Woodland Trust, Tesco and WH Smith. The scheme encourages people across the UK to recycle their old Christmas cards by placing them in special recycling bins inside Tesco and WH Smith stores.

At the end of each recycling scheme, local authorities pay the Woodland Trust a sum of money known as a recycling credit for the cards collected in their area. The recycling credit is equal to the sum of money saved by local authorities because the cards were not dumped in a landfill site. Recycling credits are then used by the Woodland Trust to plant new woodlands and maintain existing woods.

Last year the national scheme was a huge success with over 670 tonnes of Christmas cards recycled – saving the equivalent of 11,400 trees!

Getting the award is a real tribute to the hard work that has gone into administering the recycling scheme and making it such a huge success. It is also down to the public to make the scheme work and they have shown that they are very keen to do their own bit and give something back to the environment.

Let's hope that this year's scheme is even more successful so that our woodlands can also enjoy a Happy Christmas.

Due to the success of the Christmas Card Recycling scheme it has now been endorsed by the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO) and Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

In recognition of the County Council's work on the Christmas Card Recycling Scheme, the Woodland Trust has planted and dedicated a tree in Hollinwood, Calverton.

*Contact: Nottinghamshire County Council on 01152019*

## WAR MEMORIAL GRANT

Grants are available through English Heritage and the Friends of War Memorials (FoWM) for the repair of War Memorials.

War memorials stand at the heart of virtually every community, representing a poignant reminder of the scale of losses endured by people in two world wars and numerous other conflicts. It is important to ensure they remain valued and cherished by future generations.

To be eligible for a grant, war memorials must be situated within a conservation area in England and listed grade II. If you are unsure whether your memorial is listed and/or is within a conservation area, the County Council can give you information by calling Jason Mordan on 0115 977 2159.

Grants are available for work between £500 and £5000. The memorial must be a free-standing monument, it cannot be a building or be part of another building and graves are also not eligible.

Bearing in mind those provisos and with the exception of those instances specified below, anyone may apply. Applications are not normally considered from Treasury-funded bodies such as government departments, executive agencies, regional health authorities, courts, universities and non-departmental public bodies. Local authorities are eligible to apply.

Money can be grant aided for work that restrains the process of decay of a monument, without causing damage to the monument. For more information regarding eligibility and please obtain the Guidance Notes for Applicants.

If you are interested and would like to find out more information please contact:

*The Conservation Officer, Friends of War Memorials, 4 Lower Belgrave Street, London, SW1W 0LA Tel: 020 7259 0403*  
*Website: [www.war-memorials.com](http://www.war-memorials.com)*

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

A partnership of the County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council and the Police has been operating a Rural Mobile Information Unit for 20 months across the north of the county. The Unit is proving to be increasingly successful at contacting isolated rural communities and individuals. The unit provides advice and information as well as contact points for the council and police services. The unit is one example of the commitment of the Council to address community safety issues in rural areas.

Rural crime and disorder together with rural community safety issues have a high priority within the County Council's Corporate Community Safety Strategy, as they do in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Strategies of Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood. Rural communities and individuals, when the victims of crime, often experience the added stress of isolation. This unit helps provide the

opportunity for such communities and individuals to address crime and disorder whilst improving their access to services and sense of community safety.

*Contact: Tony Shardlow, Nottinghamshire County Council on 0115 977 3846*

## RADIO SALISTUNE

Selston Parish Area Forum is very proud to be the first of the local area forums to launch its own 24 hour community radio station – “Radio Salistune”.

The forum has worked with local people and local agencies to develop the concept of a radio station dedicated to news, views and happenings across the parish.

Local experts have provided training in radio production and presentation and the project has involved large number of people, of all ages, from across the parish, who will now present and host the majority of the programmes to be broadcast during the seven days that it will be on air.

Programmes will include talk shows, news items, music, competitions and much more. A local radio station represents a fantastic way to get information across the parish and enables the Forum to communicate with those people and groups that are geographically remote from the rest of the parish.

The Chair of the Selston Parish Area Forum, County Councillor Joan Taylor said,

“I am amazed at what we have achieved. Credit is due to the enthusiasm of the people of Selston Parish and to the partners on Selston Parish Area Forum, who through their hard work and commitment have made this unique venture possible”.

The radio station went live on 18 November at 7.00 am on frequency 106.5 fm. The Forum hopes that this is just the start of a more permanent local radio station for the Parish.

In case you were wondering “Salistune” is the ancient name for Selston.

*Contact: Tony Shardlow, Nottinghamshire County Council on 0115 977 3846*

## WARSOP VALE MOVES ON TO PASTURES NEW

One of the county’s rarest landscapes could thrive under County Council plans to create pastures new at the former Warsop Main Colliery site in Warsop Vale.

Councillors have approved new plans to breathe life back into Warsop Vale and restore the site to provide rare limestone pastureland, which has been reduced to just 1% of its amount at the turn of the century.

Limestone landscapes contain a very diverse range of wildlife and the plans will benefit rare, nationally protected species including the Burnt Orchid and Meadow Oat Grass and wildlife like the Skylark and the Brown Hare.

The former colliery restoration will also provide paddocks, tree planting areas for community use and a new cycleway/footpath linking Warsop Vale to the restored Shirebrook Tips. The local community will also benefit from the proposals, which will improve access, provide a cycle/footpath linking to the restored Shirebrook Tips and return land to local people for their own use.

Work will begin on the restoration in the New Year when weather and ground conditions permit.

*Contact: Nottinghamshire County Council, Environment Awareness 0115 982 3823*

## WE NEED TREES!

The end of November saw National Tree Week and the Greenwood Partnership were keen to make it easier for community groups and individuals to plant trees in their own community.

Community groups keen to plant up small pieces of land can still apply for a grant of up to £200 to help them get together to improve their area. It's easy to apply and funding is available right through the tree-planting season from November to March 2003.

Tree cover in Greenwood, Nottinghamshire's Community Forest, has increased by well over a million trees over the last 10 years since the inception of the Community Forest programme. That's at least one tree planted for everyone living in and around Greenwood.

Dean Skrabania, Project Manager for Greenwood, said: "Our aim is to get as many community groups involved as possible in order to join up the small areas of planting that go towards creating the bigger picture. Since the Community Forest programme was set up the aim is to increase tree cover to 30% in England, there's more work to be done but we're well on the way to our target."

*To find out if your area is within Greenwood, which stretches from Warsop to Nottingham and Eastwood to Farnsfield, visit our website [www.greenwoodforest.org.uk](http://www.greenwoodforest.org.uk) or contact the Greenwood Team on 01623 758231.*

The Mayor of Broxtowe with children from a local school have planted native trees at Bramcote Park to celebrate National Tree Week. The Mayor will also be planting an English Oak at Greasley to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. For further information about parks and open spaces in Broxtowe Borough contact 0115 917 3507

## REPAIRING THE HARM CAUSED BY YOUNG OFFENDERS

The principal aim of the Youth Offending Teams, which are made up of seconded staff from the Police, Social Services, Probation, Education & Health, is to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has made the

promotion of Restorative Justice within YOT's a national priority throughout England and Wales.

The introduction of Reparation Schemes as part of restorative justice is aimed at enabling young people involved in criminal activity to repair the harm caused to victims or their local Community.

Where victims decline to get involved in direct reparation or when individual victims of crime cannot be identified, the YOT teams are looking at ways of developing and promoting Reparation schemes within communities, so that the public can directly benefit and identify with the work carried out by offenders.

If you have any ideas for schemes which you feel would benefit your local inhabitants or their environment, where the work is appropriate to young people between the ages of 10 and 17 who will be under constant supervision, please *Contact: Mark Tomlin at: 15 West Hill Avenue, Mansfield, Notts NG18 1PQ or E-mail yots@notts.gov.uk*

## BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

At this year's AGM of the Notts Association of Local Councils, 19 villages received cheques and certificates before an audience representing parish councils in Nottinghamshire. At the end of the ceremony it was announced that Granby had been judged the Champion of Champions and had won the prestigious Wilkinson 'Best of Nottinghamshire' Award, this year worth £1,000.

The presentation of cheques and certificates was made by Mr Ian Hopkinson, Financial Controller of Wilkinson which sponsors the competition. Mr Hopkinson said "Wilkinson has been sponsoring the Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition for over 10 years and it is obvious that yet again all the entrants have made a tremendous effort. We are impressed by the great sense of community pride displayed in Nottinghamshire's villages".

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON THE CARDS

80% of the money raised through the sale of council houses to Rushcliffe Homes will be used by the borough council to give grants to Housing Associations to build new affordable housing. This comes at a time when Rushcliffe house prices are rocketing at the fastest level in the East Midlands. Rushcliffe has also got the fastest growing population in Nottinghamshire - having seen a growth in population of 6,600 people in the last 10 years according to the recent Census, while the populations of other parts of the county are either declining or growing at a much slower rate.

Young people in Rushcliffe are really struggling to buy their first home as they are being priced out of the market. So the Council will be helping by encouraging the development of new affordable homes.

On 20 January 2003 (anticipated transfer date) Rushcliffe Homes will become the new landlord for almost 3500 tenants.

The new not-for-profit organisation has been set up specifically to support local communities by providing quality homes and services into the future.

Existing staff are currently working in partnership with tenants sitting on the Tenant Advisory Group to ensure that tenants will be at the centre of the new organisation and that services offer quality and choice and reflect tenant priorities.

For a similar rent to that which the Council would charge, tenants of Rushcliffe Homes will benefit from:

- A choice of home improvements
- A quicker repairs service
- A Gold Service scheme for tenants who pay their rent on time and keep to their conditions of tenancy
- An improved Grounds Maintenance Service
- Fast access to a Customer Service Team to deal with general queries and access to specialist staff
- External improvements to Sheltered Schemes
- And a range of other quality Customer Services.

Tenants have already been asked what home improvements they would like and the Tenant Advisory Group is beginning work to develop the other commitments made.

Rushcliffe Homes will remain at the Civic Centre in West Bridgford until suitable new premises are found. Information on the range of services provided and details on how to contact staff, including the new telephone number, will be sent to tenants in December.

*Contact: Rushcliffe Borough Council on 0115 9819911*

## TREE SURVEY

The County Council has been branching out to improve safety - by completing a massive survey of more than 90,000 trees alongside roads around Notts.

The survey, which is thought to be the largest in the country by area and number, has enabled tree specialists to identify dead, dangerous or poor trees, which were then treated with tree surgery or removed completely for safety reasons. Every time a tree is cut down for safety reasons, the County Council endeavours to plant a new tree in the same location or elsewhere in the county.

The cut down trees or branches are turned into chippings and recycled wherever possible, such as for bridleway surfacing or firewood. The timber is sometimes even sold if the quality is high enough.

The County Council now hopes to expand the survey to include trees on private land which might affect roads. This would involve tree specialists advising private landowners as to any work that needs carrying out on trees on their property.

If you have any queries about trees alongside roads, please contact the County Council on (0115) 977 2166 or e-mail [trees@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:trees@nottsc.gov.uk)

## A BETTER COUNTRYSIDE IN RUSHCLIFFE

Karen Derry, Rural Officer for Rushcliffe, is a welcome recruit for Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council (NRCC). Karen operates 4 days a week at Rushcliffe Borough Council's offices in West Bridgford and one day at the NRCC offices in Newstead. Karen has previously worked with rural communities to identify transport needs and initiate projects to improve transport and is one of 5 officers covering the county.

The NRCC has acquired funding from Europe, the Countryside Agency and East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA) to develop the CASE project (Community Action for Social Exclusion) which addresses rural regeneration.

Karen says, "Rural communities can receive poorer services due to their location – and I work with local groups and Parish Councils across Rushcliffe to tackle major issues of concern to the community. In rural Rushcliffe this means issues, for example, such as lack of youth facilities like skate parks and play areas, closure of facilities such as shops and Post Offices and the infrequency of public transport.

Funding is available to tackle these issues via the Countryside Agency's 'Vital Village' programme. One element of the programme is funding for parish plans – and I am helping East Bridgford, Aslockton and Gotham Parish Councils to prepare documents that outline their vision for the future of their parishes covering their environment, economic and social well-being. A further grant aid scheme is the 'Community Services' grant, which provides funding to introduce new or enhance existing services in villages. For example, I have worked with Ruddington to get funding for community IT facilities in St Peter's Rooms.

In the future I will encourage applications to gain funding for young people's projects through the 'Local Network Fund' run by Nottinghamshire Community Foundation."

*Numerous funding opportunities are available.*

*Further information is available from Rebecca Evans on 01623 727600 or Karen Derry (Rural Officer) on 0115/01623*

## PROMOTING THE HIDDEN VALLEYS

The Hidden Valleys Guide has been developed by a steering group made up of representatives from Ashfield District Council, Gedling Borough Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Groundwork, parish councils and other organisations. The guide will promote the literary heritage, countryside and history of Hucknall, Jacksdale, Selston, Underwood, Bagthorpe, Annesley, Ravenshead, Newstead, Linby and Papplewick. A conference to launch the project and its associated guides will take place in the spring.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMPETITIONS

Four environmental competitions are being run this year by Rushcliffe Borough Council to raise awareness about the quality of life in Borough now and in the future.

*The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* - tell us what you like or dislike and would like to see changed in Rushcliffe by sending in photographs, drawings, paintings or collages.

*Towards a Better Environment* - an annual competition to find the best practical environmental projects being carried out in the Borough. There are five entry categories - schools, businesses, community groups, parish councils and individuals.

*Write a Poem about Rushcliffe waterways* - local poets are being given the opportunity to write a poem focusing on the waterways in the Borough. Poems need to be original and a maximum of 25 lines.

*A House for the Future* - a competition encouraging young people to think about the environment by designing a house they would like to see in the future.

The closing date for all competitions is 28. The winners will receive their prizes at the Mayor's presentation evening on 3.

*Further details on the competition are available from James Bond on 0115 914 8224.*

## RECYCLING AND WHEELED BIN SCHEME – NEW RURAL TRIAL

Villagers across south east Nottinghamshire will be next to benefit from Rushcliffe Borough Council's pioneering 'recycling2go' scheme – after it won a £225,000 grant from the Government.

The kerbside recycling scheme – using 2-wheeled bins and a separate collection of paper and card – has seen recycling rates climb to over 50% since it was introduced in Radcliffe-on-Trent, Tollerton and Lady Bay in March 2002. In 2001 the figure was less than 10%. The pilot recycling scheme has reduced the amount of rubbish going to landfill or incineration by 35%.

Now a second trial scheme will start in February 2003, covering 3,500 properties in villages including Cropwell Butler, Flintham, Kinoulton, Whatton, Langar, Saxondale, Orston and others in the Cotgrave and Bingham area.

Cllr Neil Clarke, cabinet member with responsibility for the environment, said: "Before we decide whether to roll out recycling2go across the borough we need to test the workings of the scheme in a more rural environment.

Some operational practicalities of providing kerbside recycling and wheeled bins in a predominantly rural area will be different to those in more urban areas and it is important that these are assessed before final decisions are made.

Recycling2go has attracted a lot of attention for its innovative approach – we're delighted the Government has recognised our work by making this funding available. The money will also allow us to extend and improve the recycling 'bring' sites in the area."

Early results from the council's survey of households in the first pilot area show that 80% of people are either satisfied or very satisfied with the new service – and are embracing the concept of the twin-bin alternate week collection system.

Cllr Clarke added: "Many people weren't sure when we introduced this scheme – but now people have had a chance to get used to it the system is working well. The high recycling rate shows how enthusiastic and committed the people of Rushcliffe are to reducing their waste. The first pilot will also continue for another six months so we can collect as much data and public comment as possible, before looking to roll out the scheme across the borough from the middle of next year."

In the next 3 months each household will receive more detailed information on how the scheme will work and why we need to change. There will also be a series of roadshows taking place in January 2003 to give you the opportunity to speak to our staff, our partners and people in the current pilot area. These will be held at:

Saturday 11 January 2003

8.30 am to 11.30 am - Wellbeing Church (lay-by at front), Westminster Drive, Upper Saxondale

12.30 pm to 3.30 pm - Royal Oak public house (car park), The Green, Car Colston.

Saturday 18 January 2003

8.30 am to 11.30 am - Unicorn public house (front car park), Main Street, Langar.

12.30 pm to 3.30 pm - Neville Arms public house (car park), Owthorpe Road, Kinoulton.

*For more information contact Rushcliffe Borough Council's Kevin Pickaver on 0115 914 8404*

## ON THE PATH TO RECOVERY

Nottinghamshire's rights of way are on the path to recovery – as the County Council's 'Milestones' review shows a big step forward to survey and record all 3,492 of the county's paths and bridleways by 2007.

Milestones, the annual progress report to March 2002, shows that 18.2 km of new paths and 2.8 km of bridleways have been added to the county's network – giving a total of 2,468 km across Nottinghamshire.

The Milestone targets require the County Council to survey every single public right of way in Nottinghamshire to make sure they are:

- Properly defined and recorded on maps along with up to date legal details;
- Well maintained and available for use;
- Promoted to encourage all users – cyclists, walkers, horse riders – to make the most of the network.

Nottinghamshire is also recording a 5% improvement in performance from 57.5% of paths easy to use in 2000/2001 to 62% this year. Any path that fails a condition survey is being inspected by the Enforcement Officer and the problem resolved.

Annual maintenance grass cutting was carried out on 445 km of rights of way, with just over half of this carried out through the Wayfinder Project by Parish Councils and the farming community. Over 8 km of paths also benefited from surface improvements.

Milestones also reports that 150 obstructions were resolved, which could relate to anything from overgrown hedges or misleading signs to barbed wire and electric fences.

## GET YOUR COMMUNITY MOVING

A step-by-step guide to the Parish Transport Grant is available from The Countryside Agency. The document is packed with lots of useful information as well as several examples of Transport Questionnaire, Transport Survey Form, letter, interview sheet, travel diary, agenda for transport forum, flyer for public meeting, completed application form, monitoring sheet. *Copies available from the Countryside Agency on 0870 120 6466 reference CA 116*

## **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS AGM**

Brian Holdsworth, Head of Economic Development at the County Council was invited to address the Annual General Meeting of NALC. Brian commented "I was delighted to be asked to speak. It is always a very well attended event and provides an excellent opportunity to connect some of the big picture planning at County level with the perspectives of local community representatives." Brian's presentation touched on developments taking place at regional and sub regional level and stressed the importance of parishes being effectively engaged in these discussions.

## **INTERESTED IN EDUCATION?**

The County Council is looking for people to serve on the panels which consider appeals about children who have been refused a place at the school they would like to go to, or who have been excluded from school. Panels meet mainly during the day, at locations around the county.

Maybe you have experience in education as a teacher, governor or parent. Or maybe you are just interested. Training will be provided.

*To find out more about these voluntary positions, please contact. Members' Services, Policy and Resources Department, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP for an information pack or leave a message on the answerphone on 0115 977 3813. Closing date 24 January 2003*

### **Useful Information:**

County Council waste hotline 0115 977 1019;

Domestic Violence 0808 8000340;

Floodline 0845 988 1188 website [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

### **District Council Websites:**

District Council website addresses are as follows:

[www.ashfield-dc.gov.uk](http://www.ashfield-dc.gov.uk)

[www.bassetlaw.gov.uk](http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk)

[www.broxtowe.gov.uk](http://www.broxtowe.gov.uk)

[www.gedling.gov.uk](http://www.gedling.gov.uk)

[www.mansfield.gov.uk](http://www.mansfield.gov.uk)

[www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk](http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk)

[www.rushcliffe.gov.uk](http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk)

City and County addresses:

[www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

[www.nottscc.gov.uk](http://www.nottscc.gov.uk)

## **AROUND THE COUNTY:**

## Community Quiz

The Community Development team at Rushcliffe Borough Council are preparing the annual Community Quiz which celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary last February with a record number of teams fighting it out to become quiz champions of Rushcliffe. The quiz will be held again at Cotgrave Welfare on Tuesday 11 February 2003, at 6.30 pm. Sandwiches and refreshments will be provided and entry is free.

*Please contact James Bond on 0115 914 8224 if you would like to enter a team.*

## Voting by post?

It's highly likely that everyone will be voting by post at the local elections for Rushcliffe Borough and Parish Councillors on 1 May 2003. That means it will be easier to vote - and there will be no polling booths in schools and village halls. Rushcliffe Borough Council has put in a bid to the Electoral Commission to get permission to trial an all-postal voting system and we will know the outcome of this in mid-December. Everyone on the Register will be written to in February with further details.

A supplement "A-Z of Funding 2002-2003" from Regeneration and Renewal magazine lists many funding opportunities including Coalfields Regeneration, Neighbourhood Nurseries, community funding, lottery funding, green spaces, heritage, market towns, Sure Start, youth inclusion, Rural Transport Partnerships/Rural Transport Grants as well as projects for parish councils.

The Countryside Agency is the contact for Parish Transport Grants on 0870 333 0170 and Parish and Town Plans Grants on 01242 521381 or visit the website at [www.countryside.gov.uk/vitalvillages](http://www.countryside.gov.uk/vitalvillages)

Community Services Grants ranging from £500 to £25,000 are now available. Application forms are available on the website: [www.countryside.gov.uk/vitalvillages](http://www.countryside.gov.uk/vitalvillages) or ring the call centre on 0870 333 0170

**Broxtowe Borough Council recently made 4 councillors; Sir Dennis Pettitt, Tom Martin, Hazel Braithwaite and Ann Morris honorary aldermen.**

## WELCOME

Welcome to the following new clerks:

Mrs Leivers, Ollerton & Boughton Town Council

Mrs Pegg, Aslockton Parish Council

Ms Barlow, Warsop Parish Council

Miss Lane, Lound Parish Council

Mr Ward, Headon-cum-Upton, Grove and Stokeham Parish Council

Mrs Raven, Gotham Parish Council

Mrs Titmuss, North and South Wheatley Parish Council

Ms Keeley Dunham on Trent Parish Council and Sturton le Steeple Parish Council

Mrs Pickard, East Drayton Parish Council

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.nottscc.gov.uk/council/local/parish/index.htm](http://www.nottscc.gov.uk/council/local/parish/index.htm)

*Is there an article or information in your local parish newsletter that you would like to share through the next issue of Countylink? Then please contact me.*

Barbara Worrall

Your County Council contact for:

Changes of Parish Clerk, Requests for extra copies of Countylink, Countylink in other formats, Articles for Countylink, or if you wish to add information/links/photograph of your parish to your details on the NCC Website:

Barbara Worrall  
Regeneration Division, Policy and Resources Department,  
Nottinghamshire County Council,  
County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2QP

Tel: 0115 977 4085  
Fax: 0115 977 3859  
E-mail: [poldiv1@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:poldiv1@nottscc.gov.uk)

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

**Deadline date for articles for the next issue is:  
21 January 2003**

