

# HUNCOTE VILLAGE NEWS

## ISSUE 83 – WINTER 2023/24

WISHING YOU A HAPPY 2024 FROM HUNCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Also available on our website Newsletters page - <https://www.huncote-pc.gov.uk/latest-newsletter.html>



### Happy New Year from all at Huncote Parish Council and looking to the year ahead

We would like to wish all the parishioners of Huncote the very best for 2024.

2023 brought some of the warmest temperatures on record and saw the increased use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Locally, the fields at Huncote Leisure Centre reopened, Blaby DC committed more funding for gas mitigation works at the leisure centre, Councillors stood unopposed for re-election, hearings began for the planning application for a large rail interchange at M69 J2 and new speed signs were installed at the village entrances.

We're hopeful 2024 will see the BMX track reopen, commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day on 6th June, while we also anticipate an increase in major planning applications with the launch of Blaby district's new Local Plan, which is reviewed every 5 years.

### Former Parish Councillor passes away

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Jan Melville, who passed away peacefully on the 3rd of January 2024 at the LOROS Hospice, Leicester with her family by her side, aged 81 years. Jan gave a huge amount of her time and energy to our village, helping with the Community Association, regularly volunteering in the Community Library and was a parish councillor for many years. She will be hugely missed for her help and support with all sorts of community events.

### New Councillor co-opted

We are pleased to welcome Cllr Jon Wells as a parish councillor.

Cllr Wells has been a village resident for many years and during that time has had various roles working in local government. Cllr Wells brings a wealth of experience from his previous roles and we look forward to working with him for the benefit of the local community.

### Village sign revamped

The parish council would like to thank Jason Marriott Design Limited for the supply and installation of the new village sign on The Green.

Great work updating the 'pig on the wall' design.



### Congratulations to winners of Enhancement Awards

Throughout the year we have reviewed nominations for the annual Huncote Community Awards, and 2023 brought us another great selection of contenders for your parish councillors to choose from.

This year's winners were 71 Forest Road for the Best Kept Front Garden Award, with commendations also going to 16 Denman Lane, 1 Forest Road, 13 Ratcliffe Drive and 34 Ratcliffe Drive. Mr John Benfield won the Environment Award for his daily litter collections from across our local area on his electric scooter, and the Community Award was awarded to two equally great contenders: Kevin Peacocke for his years of volunteering and support for Huncote and Croft Scout Group and Pam Cook for all her work, commitment and care to ensure the success of the Summer Club each year.

Do you know someone from the village who would be worthy of an award in 2024? Details of how to nominate people/groups will be published in March, so please keep your eyes peeled for details and nominate worthy contenders again next year.



### Communicating with your Parish Council

The parish council currently try to communicate with as many people who live in Huncote as possible, via our website, social media, notice boards and newsletters. We would like to know your thoughts on ways we can improve, to get more people involved. Please send suggestions to the Clerk (contact details can be found on the back of this newsletter).

### New Speed Indicator Devices installed

You may well have noticed the new Speed Indicator Devices on Main Street and Narborough Road. These signs record traffic movements in and out of the village and the speeds at which vehicles travel.

We are currently awaiting a new post being installed to enable us to install another device on Forest Road as well. The data collected by these signs will help the Council analyse the impact of vehicles travelling through the village, and could be used by the Police to prepare anti-speeding campaigns for motorists.

We ask everyone to drive safely, within the speed limit.



### Resurfacing work planned for play area

As part of our latest review of the parks and play equipment, we have decided to replace some areas of grass matting with wet pour surfacing. This work may cause a temporary closure of some pieces of play equipment while the surfacing is installed, however we hope it leads to a more enjoyable experience for those using each item.

### Works at Huncote Leisure Centre see area made safer

The most recent phase of repair operations started on 24 October and involved the installation of a new gas cut-off trench to the side and rear of the leisure centre building. Unforeseen challenges have arisen due to greater than expected ground movement resulting from landfill waste decomposition. Problems with pooling water were also identified.

These works were made possible by an extra £200,000 which Blaby DC have approved for mitigation here and at other legacy landfill sites in the District if necessary.

The former band hut has also been demolished as this was no longer structurally sound. There are currently no plans to replace the hut.

Blaby DC Officers are now reviewing when they can announce the re-opening of the remaining areas of the field and the BMX tracks.



Report anything suspicious online at [www.leics.police.uk/reportonline](http://www.leics.police.uk/reportonline)



### Leicestershire Police news

Please take a minute to consider the **security of your vehicle** and pass the message onto friends, family and neighbours.

There have been several incidents of **keyless vehicle crime and residential burglary** related to **keyless car crime** recently in the **Hinckley and Blaby** area. **Areas affected over recent weeks include Cosby, Earl Shilton and Stoney Stanton.**

Please be vigilant if you have a **keyless vehicle or a high powered vehicle** at your property. Lots can be done to reduce the risk of criminals targeting your vehicle such as **steering locks, driveway bollards, blocking your car in and RFID wallets.**

PLEASE do not leave car keys in your vehicle and unoccupied whilst clearing windows with the icy mornings here.

**Please remember to call 999 (emergency) or 101 (non-emergency) immediately if you see anything suspicious.** These incidents usually happen with another high powered vehicle in convoy, so if you manage to get registration details, please pass them onto us.

Please also be aware of online and door to door scams. The latest **Trading Standards newsletter** which has lots of good information that may help you can be found at

[www.leicestershire.gov.uk/business-and-consumers/trading-standards/trading-standards-news](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/business-and-consumers/trading-standards/trading-standards-news).

## Volunteers sought to help record county's important trees

A new app which allows people to record the most valuable and important trees in the county has been developed by Leicestershire County Council – and volunteers are now being sought to test it out in the field.

The Mergin app can be used to capture details of ancient trees and those which might benefit from Tree Preservation Orders. All the data collected is then used by the council to build up a record of the county's important trees to help safeguard them for the future.

The app will enable the volunteers to record a large amount of data about each individual tree, including location, species, size, condition, age and shape, as well as any potential threats which might put the tree at risk. Volunteers will need to complete around two hours of training on how to use the app, and will be signed up as Environment Action Volunteers, before being asked to go out and catalogue an initial 10 trees.

The app is being promoted to Leicestershire's 125 Tree Wardens in a bid to build a clear picture of the county's trees. Those wardens who come forward to do the training and have permission from their parish to participate can get involved.

All the data gathered in the project will also be shared with the Woodland Trust and the tree officers from each of the county's seven district councils. Trees have a vital role to play in keeping our air clean, helping to prevent flooding and providing valuable habitats for local wildlife.

Anyone who would like to find out more about volunteering to become an Environment Action Volunteer and to help catalogue to county's trees should email [environmentteam@leics.gov.uk](mailto:environmentteam@leics.gov.uk).

## Consultation on development east of Forest Road

We would like to thank the 100+ people who attended the consultation by Bloor Homes on a potential new housing development east of Forest Road of 150-180 houses.

This has not yet been submitted as a planning application, so is still subject to change, but we welcome developers coming to the Council and parishioners, to understand local issues and appetite for development. As things stand, we have asked Bloor Homes to prepare a report of the results of the consultation which can be shared with the public, and we will of course continue to put parishioners concerns forward as and when a planning application for the site is brought forward.

## Examination on Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange continues

Since September 2023 the Planning Inspectorate have been examining the merits, viability and impact of the proposal to build a rail freight interchange on land next to M69 J2 at Sapcote.

Multiple public hearings have been held, looking at the impact the site will have on the main highway network as well as local roads during and after construction, the environmental impact and why developers believe the site is needed.

The Planning section of our website links to [further examination details](#).

The examination is expected to close on 12 March 2024.

Once the examination closes, Inspectors will send a report to the Secretary of State to decide if the application can go ahead.

## How to contact your local Councillors

Should you have an issue to raise or a question about something going on in your community that you would like answers to, please don't hesitate to contact the Clerk or one of your local Councillors for help, support and advice.

Cllr ALEC KNIGHT (Chairman) - (0116) 284 1285 or [a.knight.hpc@gmail.com](mailto:a.knight.hpc@gmail.com);

Cllr JILL CHEESMAN - (0116) 319 3991 or [jcheesman.hpc@gmail.com](mailto:jcheesman.hpc@gmail.com);

Cllr ROY BAILEY - (0116) 286 6773 or [rbailey.hpc@gmail.com](mailto:rbailey.hpc@gmail.com);

Cllr LIAM McENTEE - [lmcentee.hpc@gmail.com](mailto:lmcentee.hpc@gmail.com);

Cllr MARK INGHAM - [mingham.hpc@gmail.com](mailto:mingham.hpc@gmail.com);

Cllr KEITH CLARKE - [kclarke.hpc@gmail.com](mailto:kclarke.hpc@gmail.com);

Cllr JON WELLS - [j.wells.hpc@gmail.com](mailto:j.wells.hpc@gmail.com).

**8x PARISH COUNCILLOR SEATS TOTAL - Anyone interested in becoming a parish councillor can put themselves forward for consideration to be co-opted. See existing Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk or the 'Become a Councillor' page on our website for details of what's involved and how to apply.**

Cllr MAGGIE WRIGHT (County Councillor) - 07815 450 031 or [maggie.wright@leics.gov.uk](mailto:maggie.wright@leics.gov.uk);

Cllr MAGGIE WRIGHT (District Councillor) - (01455) 888 306 or [cilr.m.wright@blaby.gov.uk](mailto:cilr.m.wright@blaby.gov.uk);

Contact the PARISH CLERK (STUART BACON) on (01455) 844 539, 07875 291 366

or [clerk@huncote-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@huncote-pc.gov.uk). Find us on the web at [www.huncote-pc.gov.uk](http://www.huncote-pc.gov.uk).

Would you like to know more about what is happening locally? Have you been keeping up to date with the Parish Council and what's happening in the village on social media? Why not look us up and 'Like' / 'Follow' us to be kept up to date with the latest news and info from the Parish Council and links to other helpful, informative and important news from our partners.



Facebook - [facebook.com/HuncoteParishCouncil](https://facebook.com/HuncoteParishCouncil)

Facebook - [facebook.com/Huncote](https://facebook.com/Huncote)

X (Twitter) - [@HuncotePC](https://twitter.com/HuncotePC)