**Blaby District Council – November 2024 Report**

**Press Releases**

* **Nominations open to recognise unsung community heroes.**
* **Update on Huncote’s BMX Track**
* **Drivers warned of text message parking fine scam.**
* **New conservation area approved.**

**Flooding – be ready, be prepared.**



Please see the attached poster produced by LCC to help residents and Parishes understand who to contact regarding areas of responsibility in times of flooding. Please put on your website(s) or notice boards to help residents. If you require any “hard copy” posters I can obtain them.

A drop in event is being held at County Hall in Glenfield on Thursday 7th November from 2pm to 6pm. At the event, officers from the County Council and representatives from the Environment Agency, District Councils, water companies and other key organisations will be on hand to offer advice on preparing to reduce the risk of flooding.

This information is very timely in light of the terrible flooding that has recently occurred in Spain. Please continue to publish emergency contact details on your website(s).

**Budget Summary, SOME Headlines – Local Government Implications – More detail will be known when the Local Government Finance Settlement is released later.**

3.2% real term increases in core spending power (CSP) for the whole sector for 2025-2026. This will include £1.3bn additional grant funding, of which at least £600m will be directed to social care.

The Budget was silent on council tax referendum limits, but expectation is that referendum principles will stay at 2.99% for Districts.

£233m new funding for homelessness prevention. This will be in addition to the £1.3bn grant funding.

£1bn to extend the Household Support Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments into 2025-26.

£1.1bn new funding through implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for recycling.

Reduction of the Right to Buy discounts and enabling councils to keep 100% of receipts, allowing homes to be replaced.

£1bn extension to the Household Support Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments.

The government also indicates that, through its Devolution White Paper, it will look to move to “simpler structures” of local government to deliver “efficiency savings from council reorganisation”.

Funding for an additional 300 planners and to boost and upskill LPA capacity to deliver the government’s wider planning reform agenda.

Allocating £70m in 2025-2026 to support infrastructure and housing development.

Confirming the Planning and Infrastructure Bill will be launched early next year.

**Food waste Implementation**

This is due for implementation on April 1st 2026. This will be an in-house service for the Blaby District using compliant HVO vehicles. More information will be forth coming shortly. A useful document is Household Food Waste Collections Guide.

**By-election called in Blaby Village**

A by-election has been called for two Parish Council Seats in Blaby Village. Voters within Blaby South will go to the polls on Thursday 28th November 2024.

**Nominations open for Blaby District Council Community Awards**

Nominations are open for the fourth Blaby District Council Community Awards. The categories are:- Volunteer of the Year, Young Volunteer of the Year and Community Group of the Year.

Nominations close at midnight on Sunday 10 November. You can see how to nominate on the Community Award page.

**Solar panel plans progress at Council depot**

Plans to install solar panels at Blaby District Council’s vehicle depot in Whetstone are progressing as part of a major switch to green technology. All preparatory investigations for the project have been completed and works will start within the coming months.

**Update on Huncote’s BMX track**

The safe removal of BMX track equipment from Huncote’s closed BMX facility took place at the beginning of October. Huncote Hornets BMX Club cleared some equipment such as start and finish gates. Councillors discussed the future use of the site at Full Council meeting in May 2024, voting to return the land to public open space. This requires further work on the land to ensure it is in a safe state prior to re-opening it, the clearance of some of the BMX club’s equipment is the first phase of this work.

**New conservation area approved.**

Braunstone’s historic village centre will receive extra protection after Blaby District Council approved proposals to designate it as a new conservation area. The designation was accepted at Full Council in September, following public consultation. It means the part of Braunstone village which lies within Blaby District will now benefit from the same heightened planning controls as the area which falls within the Leicester City boundary.