



# RCC Weekly Bulletin

Tuesday 26th April 2011

## Rutland Community Spirit recognised by Edith Murphy Foundation

Rutland Community Spirit has recently been recognised by the Edith Murphy Foundation with a grant of £5,000 which will be used as match funding for its impending resubmission to the Big Lottery.

The bid is currently being worked up and has the following main components

Project to continue in Rutland only, with 100 elderly people helped each year using a team of Community Spirit Champions and Volunteers

Up to 18 volunteers will be recruited to embrace Big Society with each volunteer looking after a cluster of 2- 3 villages

After help is given to vulnerable people the next

stage will be to offer support to them by arranging activities with others outside the home environment

6 Good Neighbour Schemes will be set up based on the model of Whissendine to allow communities to take ownership of the process and support themselves.

Jeremy Prescott Chief Executive of the RCC states "This grant is excellent news as recognition by the Edith Murphy Foundation on the excellent work carried out by Rutland Community Spirit can only help in our future Lottery bid."



## The Localism Bill in North West Leicestershire

The Localism Bill was published on 13th December 2010. It is a wide-ranging bill which has a variety of implications for local authorities, including a number of provisions relating to planning. It is currently anticipated that the Bill will complete its passage through Parliament later this year. Whilst no firm date has been established for the enactment of the provisions of what will by then be the Act, the Government has previously suggested April 2012 as a possible date.

The Government has made it clear that the philosophy behind the Localism Bill is to "return power to local communities". Key amongst the planning matters included in the Bill to deliver this is the promised revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy which made certain decisions at a regional level.

Whilst the Bill proposes some changes to Local Development Frameworks currently prepared by Local District Councils, the Government expects that local planning authorities will continue to make progress on the preparation of their LDFs.

Use the contact details below if you would like to get involved in the preparation of the North West Leicestershire Local Development Framework. Your details can then be included on the Council's Consultation Database. This will ensure you are notified of progress and consultations regarding the Local Development Framework in the NWL area.

Planning Policy  
North West Leicestershire District Council,  
Council Offices, Whitwick Road,  
Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 3FJ  
[planning.policy@nwleicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@nwleicestershire.gov.uk)  
01530 454684

## Scrutiny review finds housing improvements two years on

Thousands of homes across Blaby district have benefited from a £34 million investment following the transfer of all council properties to Three Oaks Homes in November 2008, according to a Scrutiny Commission review.

The report, which was accepted by Blaby District Council's Cabinet Executive on Monday April 11, said more than half of all 2,200 Three Oaks Homes properties now meet the decent homes standard compared to just 25 per cent in 2008, with the housing association predicting all homes will comply with the code by 2013.

A number of other benefits were identified since the housing transfer including the installation of 743 kitchens in homes across the district and the introduction of a boiler replacement scheme which has seen 547 new heating units fitted. The report also cited a major rewiring programme which has begun to help bring all properties up to the decent homes standard.

The housing transfer enabled Three Oaks Homes to access funding which was not available to the Council and allowed them to carry out the extensive improvement programme.

Steve Beard, director of operations at Blaby District Council said: "Huge improvements to former council properties since the stock transfer have improved the quality of life for hundreds of residents, some of whom are the most vulnerable in our community."

Three Oaks Homes were also praised for working with partners to promote community safety, quality environments and local services.

Bruce Kerr, managing director at Three Oaks Homes said: "We've made great progress against the promises we made to tenants when we took on their homes back in 2008. Just under half way through our investment programme we've completed more than half the work, so we're well on track to complete all homes by 2013.

"The report recognises there is still work to be done to improve customer service and communication with residents but an action plan has been agreed to resolve these issues.

"We're pleased to have a strong working relationship with Blaby District Council which has been an important factor in our success."

To view the full report visit [www.blaby.gov.uk](http://www.blaby.gov.uk)

## Up to £500,000 available for renewable energy projects



The energyshare grant fund has just launched with up to £500,000 for community renewable energy projects. Communities across the UK are being asked to register their interest now.

energyshare is a 100% renewable energy community giving everyone in the UK the opportunity to get involved in sourcing, using, and generating your own renewable energy.

energyshare's founding partners, River Cottage and British Gas are committed to finding more funding. As a start British Gas are distributing a further £3m

to communities for renewable energy projects through the energyshare fund over the next 3 years.

For more information visit [www.energyshare.com](http://www.energyshare.com) where you can view case studies of community projects like Woolserly Community Hall who have cut their running costs by 90%, and MOZES where each household is saving an estimated 20% a year on their energy bills!

If there is anything else you'd like to know about the scheme contact [info@energyshare.com](mailto:info@energyshare.com)

## Don't let allergies get up your nose this summer

Local pharmacies are offering help to those suffering from runny noses and itchy eyes this summer.

Thousands of people will suffer from hay fever this summer, as well as grass and pollen allergies. NHS Leicester City and NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland are reminding people that local pharmacists stock hay fever and allergy remedies which can help to ease the symptoms associated with summertime allergies.

Jeremy Bennett, pharmacy contract account manager at NHS Leicester City, said: "Community pharmacists can provide advice on over the counter remedies which ease symptoms of hay fever and pollen allergies. They provide a quick and convenient point of access for advice on a range of health issues from hay fever to tummy bugs, without having to wait for an appointment with your GP."

Mr Ranjit Singh, pharmacist at Knights dispensing chemist, Queens Road, Leicester, said: "Many people start to feel the effects of hay fever at this time of year. Hay fever can cause unpleasant symptoms such as itchy eyes, a runny nose and sore throat and we can provide people

with simple remedies to help ease their symptoms."

Alternatively, some milder cases may be alleviated through a regular intake of garlic in the diet or by drinking nettle or chamomile tea. Though for severe and chronic cases it is highly recommended that professional medical advice is sought.

For more information on hay fever and how to treat the symptoms log onto [www.leicestercity.nhs.uk/allergies](http://www.leicestercity.nhs.uk/allergies) or visit NHS Choices at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk).



Whilst its pollen may often be a cause, chamomile also possesses properties that may help alleviate the symptoms of hay fever.

## Nuffield Health Leicester Hospital welcomes new spinal service

Nuffield Health Leicester Hospital is pleased to announce the launch of a professional spinal service in conjunction with the Spine Care Specialists Group. The team of consultants offer specialist services for those suffering from spinal conditions, including spinal trauma that unfortunately are all too common in the UK.

The Leicestershire arm of the group comprises of 3 Leicester based spinal surgeons, Mr Philip Sell, Mr Omar Gabbar and Mr Jason Braybrooke.

Andrew Davey, Hospital General Manager said "We are very happy to be involved in such a new and exciting project. Spinal surgery is a specialised area and sometimes people just don't know where to

turn. I'm sure these 3 surgeons can really make a difference to our patients".

Nuffield Health Leicester Hospital provides modern facilities for those in and around Leicestershire. Founded in 1969, the hospital was built from funds raised by the local community and is one of the leading private healthcare providers in the area.

For more information on the Spine Care Specialists at Nuffield Health Leicester Hospital please call 0116 276 9401 or visit:

[www.spinecarespecialists.co.uk](http://www.spinecarespecialists.co.uk)



## Your Waste: Your Responsibility

Beware who you let remove rubbish from your home.

That is the message from Harborough District Council which has issued a reminder that householders are responsible for any waste they allow to be removed from their homes.

Residents are being urged to check that anyone they hire to take away rubbish is legally allowed to do so.

If residents are thinking about hiring a company, 'man and van' or a skip to dispose of your excess rubbish, building waste or garden rubbish from your property, they need to ask the person or contractor you have hired for their waste transfer licence/permit which authorises them to carry the waste.

This should have the description of the waste and the site where they intend to dispose of your rubbish and that they are registered with the Environment Agency.

In recent weeks, there have been incidents of fly-tipping in Claybrooke Magna, Ashby Parva and Broughton Astley.

The council is reminding people that it is the resident's duty to make sure that waste is going to a registered site by a registered

carrier and ultimately if not they remain liable to prosecution as well as the company/carrier. Rubbish that is dumped on the highway or farmers' fields, etc, is classed as fly-tipping and is a criminal offence and carries a penalty of up to six months imprisonment and/or £20,000 fine.

Enforcement officers will always check flytipping for evidence to help trace which home the waste has come from.

If in doubt as to whether workers are registered then do NOT use them, or call the Environment Agency to check on 08708 506 506.



**Flytipping, Frolesworth Lane, Claybrooke Magna.**

## The best cycling routes – revealed!

The best cycling routes in the district are being promoted in a new map aiming to get people back on their bikes this summer.

The easy-to-use map is being produced by Leicestershire County Council, in partnership with Harborough District Council, along with keen cyclists and cycle shops.

It is part of Leicestershire's Choose How You Move campaign which helps people get fit, save money, have fun and help their local environment by leaving cars at home.

The map, one of a series of six available for Leicestershire, details various cycle routes and paths through Market Harborough, as well as

routes around the rest of the rural district.

To coincide with the launch of the map, Harborough District Council's Active Together team has organised a cycling proficiency course for adults on Saturday, May 14, from 10.30am-4.30pm.

The course, for people aged 16 and over, costs £5 and all you need is a bike in good working order and a cycling helmet.

Places will be limited, and can be booked by calling 01858 828282 or emailing [activetogether@harborough.gov.uk](mailto:activetogether@harborough.gov.uk)

The map will soon be available to download at [www.harborough.gov.uk/cycling](http://www.harborough.gov.uk/cycling)

# Make a WILL Month

**rainbows**  
hospice for children and young people

Throughout May 2011

Write or Update your  
WILL for only £35\*+VAT  
Book today and support Rainbows, your local  
children's hospice.

Throughout May many Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire  
solicitors will write a new WILL or update your current WILL  
at a huge discount.  
This offer is made in the hope that you might consider  
supporting Rainbows with a gift when you make  
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Over  
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Please call now to book your appointment (quote 'RAINWILL')

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**Robert Barber & Sons**  
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\*£35+VAT is our agreed discounted rate for a simple, single WILL (typical cost without discount is £120+VAT).

If you would like any further information about  
Make a WILL Month, please contact Patricia Brookes  
on 01509 638 000 or patricia.brookes@rainbows.co.uk

[www.rainbows.co.uk/wills](http://www.rainbows.co.uk/wills)

Registered Charity Number: 1014051



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RCC members



# Walk of Life



Superhero Sunday 22nd May

Be a hero for Rainbows by simply walking 5 or 15 miles and raising money for the families at your local children's hospice



New route for 2011



*"I'm calling on you to be a hero and fundraise for Children's Hospice week."*  
Simon Cowell

Register now online, or call  
**0800 952 1133**  
[www.rainbows.co.uk/walkoflife](http://www.rainbows.co.uk/walkoflife)

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**If you don't convert your TV to digital by the time of the switchover, you won't be able to watch any TV programmes.**

**Perhaps you know someone who needs a helping hand at Switchover time?**

The BBC run Help Scheme can help certain people to convert one television to enable them to get the new Digital Signal however some people may not realise that they can access this help scheme, may find this a daunting prospect or maybe won't really understand that their television will cease to work if they don't retune or get a set top box.

The RCC has recruited a trained band of volunteers who are able to help people to access the help scheme, if you know someone who may need help please contact Diana Cook [dcook@ruralcc.org.uk](mailto:dcook@ruralcc.org.uk) 0116 2689706 and she will put you in touch with a volunteer in your area.

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