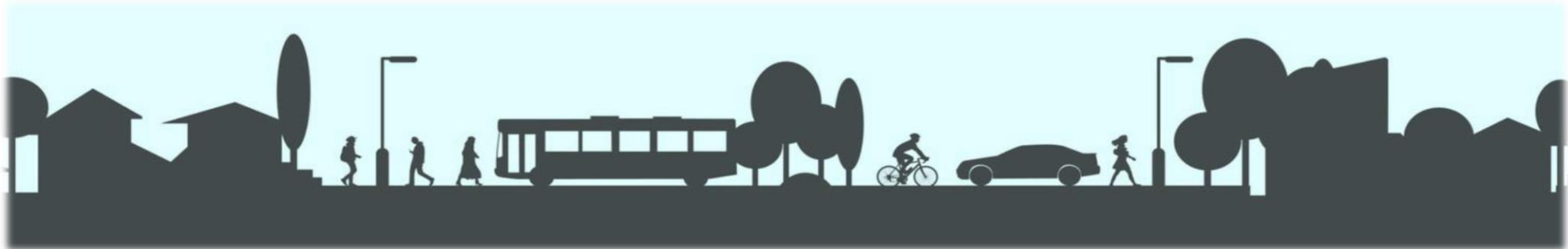


Parish Conference 18th September 2021

Environment & Transport

Update and Opportunities

Ann Carruthers

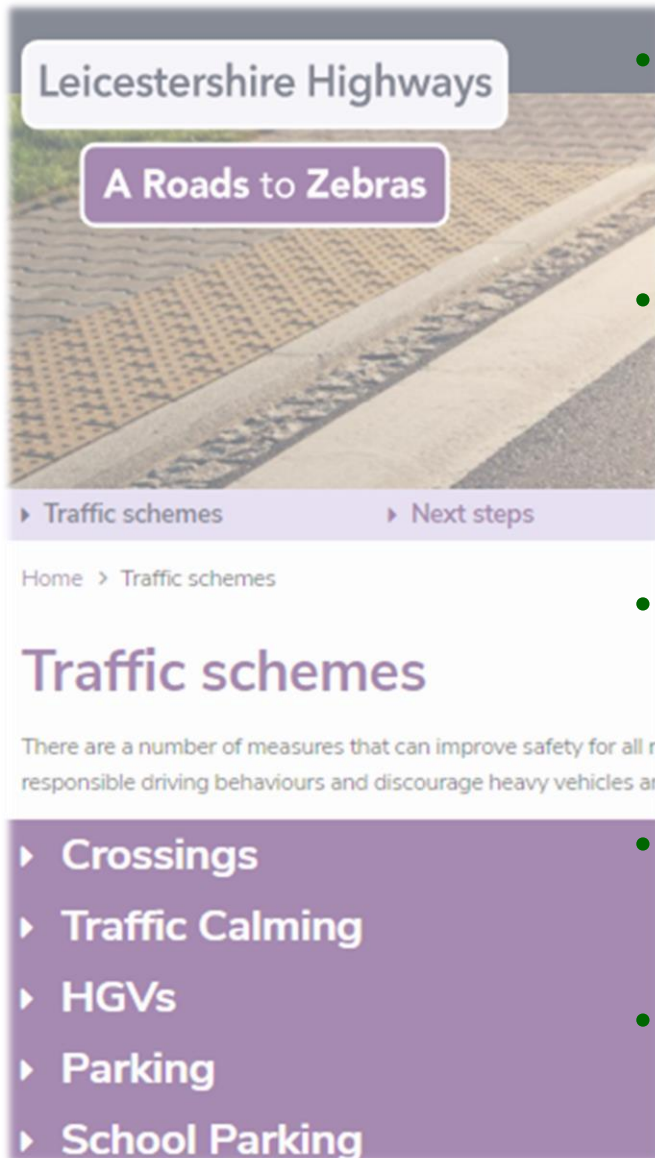


- Funding Position
- Members Highways Fund
- Leicestershire Highways - A Roads to Zebras website
- Bus Service Improvement Plan
- Highway Development Management
- High Speed 2 (HS2)
- Flooding
- Environment & Waste Initiatives
- Recycling & Household Waste Sites (RHWS)
- Vegetation Postcard Initiative
- Communication Channels 2021

- The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic continues to have an effect on resources and staffing.
- The longer-term impact of the pandemic is still being assessed but it is likely it will influence the ongoing long-term viability of some of E&T's existing policies and strategies.
- In the short term however, an extra £5m of funding has been allocated for improving Leicestershire's Highway Network.
- £2.2m of the fund will be used for road repairs, verges, sign cleaning, drains and gulley emptying, refurbishing bus stops and improving rights of way.
- £1m of this fund will be used for addressing speeding issues under our Community Speed Management initiative
- £1.5m has been allocated to members for them to make to make improvements to their local areas (the Members Highway Fund)



- Each County Councillor (Member) has been allocated £25,000 to make highway improvements to their local area.
- Requests to be submitted by the 30th November 2021 with an aim to be delivered by the end of the financial year (31st March 2022).
- Requests should be around improvements that are not currently funded through core budgets but considered as important by the local community, such as extra street furniture, speeding measures and vegetation work.
- Any suggestions should be discussed with your local County Councillor. As some County Councillors may have a number of suggestions, they will agree and prioritise these.
- All requests will be assessed for suitability, allowability and cost.
- Any ongoing maintenance costs and liability for assets that Highways would not normally provide will need to be met by a third party/parish council.



- The first part of our new website <https://leicestershirehighways.org.uk/> has now been launched.
- The website contains information, guidance and estimated costs on the more common traffic schemes that we frequently get asked for e.g. parking, traffic calming and crossings.
- The website will continue to be updated and expanded to include other key areas e.g. flooding, drainage and highway operations.
- The aim is for this site to become the main information hub for the work and processes carried out by H&T.
- Positive feedback has been received but we would welcome ideas and suggestions for development of this website.

- As required by the Government's National Bus Strategy, we are currently drafting a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for Leicestershire, in collaboration with the county's bus operators.
- The aim of the BSIP will be to increase public transport usage across the county through improved, financially sustainable, higher standard services that better meet the needs of Leicestershire residents, employees and visitors – making bus travel a preferred choice for travel around the county.
- The government has pledged £3 billion across the country to help progress these plans.
- Responses to a recent survey asking the public what improvements they would like on their local bus services will be used to develop the BSIP
- It is anticipated that the plan will be launched towards the end of the year.
- A key component of the BSIP will be the commitment to enter into an Enhanced Bus Partnership with bus operators.

- Our role as the Local Highway Authority in the planning process is as a statutory consultee.
- Local Planning Authorities (LPA) consult with us on planning applications where they consider that there will be an impact on the local highway network.
- In 2020/21 we responded to over 3,000 consultations on planning applications.
- We can only provide advice to the LPAs.
- LCC can only advise on refusals – not insist.
- The LPAs, in reaching their decision on planning applications, will consider this advice, along with responses from other statutory consultees e.g. parishes, and any other representations.
- Our advice is based on factual evidence, and takes into account the latest policy and guidance including the National Planning Policy Framework and the Leicestershire Highway Design Guide.

- The government is expected to make the final decision on the HS2 Phase 2b (eastern leg) via the publication of its “Integrated Rail Plan for the East Midlands and the North (IRP)”. Whilst nothing is confirmed, there is an expectation that it will be released as part of the Government’s spending review in the Autumn 2021.
- As soon as the IRP is issued, we will refresh our programme of engagement with affected stakeholders, including departments across the council whose service delivery may be impacted
- Parish drop-in session – First Tuesday of every month – email hs2@leics.gov.uk to join the call If you have any questions (questions appreciated in advance).
- <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/high-speed-two-hs2/about-hs2> for information on HS2 or visit HS2 directly at [hs2@org.uk](https://www.hs2.org.uk)
- Update will also be included on our resources page for Parishes and Communities - <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/parishes-and-communities/information-for-parish-councils-and-communities>

New Flood Risk Management Strategy (FRM)

- There will be a refresh of the FRM strategy which was last published in August 2015.
- The aim is to make the strategy more user friendly and interactive.
- It will include guidance notes and use videos and interactive maps on an improved and interactive website.
- A key focus of the Strategy will be a much closer collaborative relationship with Parishes and communities to build more flood resilient communities

Information and Guidance on 'preparing for' and 'what to do after' a flood is available on the Market Stall.



Shire Environment Grant Scheme

- Provides funding to community groups for projects that reduce household waste, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve biodiversity etc
- New virtual drop-in workshops to answer any questions
- See: <https://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/grants/environment-grant.html> for more information

Environment Action Volunteers (EAV) Scheme

- Provides support and training to residents to help them and their communities reduce their impact on the environment
- EAVs can attend local events and we are currently recruiting for new volunteers
- See: <http://www.lesswaste.org.uk/volunteering/> for more information



- Subsidised home **composting bins** available.
Go to www.getcomposting.com for more information
- Virtual and in-person **talks and workshops** available to attend. See <http://www.lesswaste.org.uk/talks/> for more information
- **LALS Waste Prevention Classes** on food waste reduction, reusing textiles and wood. See: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2020/7/29/GoLearn-brochure.pdf> for more details
- Information and advice on **recycling** available at: <http://www.lesswaste.org.uk/recycle/>
- **Biodiversity Training** – Covers the role of parish councils, legal responsibilities, actions that can be taken to protect and improve nature. Next training on **23 Sept, 30 Sept & 7 Oct** (7.30pm-8.30pm). Email EnvironmentTeam@leics.gov.uk to sign up



Parishes Nature Network

- A network for knowledge exchange and co-operation on nature projects for parishes
- Network meeting every 2 months via Teams
- See <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/parishes-and-communities/biodiversity-information-for-parishes-and-communities> for more information or email EnvironmentTeam@leics.gov.uk

Roadside Verges – Wildflower areas

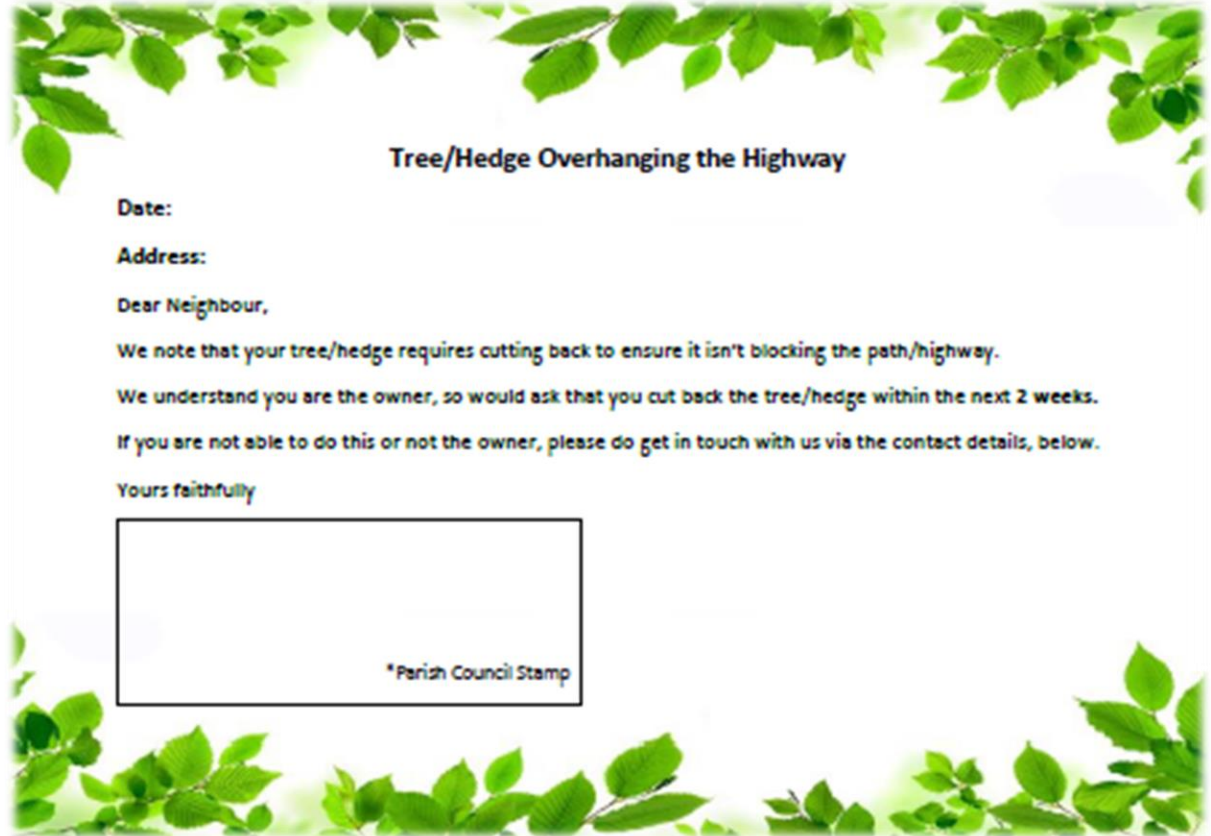
- Opportunity to turn urban roadside verges into wildflower verges
- Only available to parish, district and borough councils
- All requests must be made via EnvironmentTeam@leics.gov.uk
- See <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/conservation-and-sustainability/develop-your-own-wildflower-area> for more information

- **Booking system** - This was removed on 19th July, staff continue to encourage safe social distancing on site and controls are still in place in line with Government guidance. As such, we remain unable to provide physical assistance at the site.
- **Temporary Site Closures** - Due to significant resource pressures, measures have been taken to ensure that statutory obligations continue to be met. Unfortunately, this has meant we have had to implement temporary closures at Bottesford, Shepshed and Somerby. We are making every effort to reopen these sites as soon as possible.
- **Staff shortages** - The national shortage of HGV drivers in the UK is impacting on our service at our waste sites, we are exploring all options available to urgently recruit to vacancies. We regularly have vacancies for Recycling Operatives, Plant Operatives and HGV drivers. If any of your parishioners are looking for work, we would encourage them to visit [EMSS Jobsite - East Midlands Shared Services](#)
- **Website** - Whilst we are doing our best to meet demand, at peak times such as weekends, we may run out of capacity to accept certain waste types. Please do ask your parishioners to check the relevant site's page on our website, which we endeavour to keep up to date, before setting off to a site [Find a recycling and household waste site | Leicestershire County Council](#)

We are intending to relaunch this initiative that will allow parishes to request postcards that parishes can use for informing local residents of their problematic overhanging vegetation.

This is an informal measure for parishes to use which forms part of our tree and vegetation enforcement process. If you would like further details please contact us on:

CSCParishes@leics.gov.uk



Tree/Hedge Overhanging the Highway

Date:

Address:

Dear Neighbour,

We note that your tree/hedge requires cutting back to ensure it isn't blocking the path/highway.

We understand you are the owner, so would ask that you cut back the tree/hedge within the next 2 weeks.

If you are not able to do this or not the owner, please do get in touch with us via the contact details, below.

Yours faithfully

*Parish Council Stamp

- Information for Parish Council & Communities webpage – <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/parishes-and-communities/information-for-parish-councils-and-communities>
- Parish and Communities weekly briefings – to be relaunched mid-September
- Parish and Communities Newsletter – Qtly
- Training: Biodiversity courses
- Roadworks in progress – weekly update for the following 10 days
- <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/resource/files/field/pdf/2021/8/23/roadworks-weekly-update-blaby.pdf>
- one.network <https://one.network/> – one platform showing all live traffic disruptions/roadworks

