



Spring (May) 2022 Newsletter

Spring 2022 Newsletter Contents

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Chief Executive's Update

Welcome to the Spring 2022 LRALC Newsletter.

Whilst our query and advice service remain our bread-and-butter core service, LRALC is also quite clear that it has a pro-active role in raising standards in the sector, and alongside our other improvement and development activities (e.g., training, council governance reviews, etc), the newsletter is a key part of this. We are particularly grateful of the partnership working that we have in place with Leicestershire County Council which allows us to provide an additional layer of support and communication with Leicestershire parishes, including through this newsletter (please see LCC section below).

Related to this is news of the first major face to face event we will be involved in since the first lockdown in 2020, namely the joint annual **Leicestershire County Council/LRALC Parish Conference**, which return to its usual slot during the first week in July. As usual the event is open to clerks and councillors, and we'd like to ask you to save the event in your diary – **Monday 4th July 2022 starting at 5pm (tbc)**.

A full agenda and booking link will be published shortly, but as a teaser we are pleased to announce that Jonathan Owen, Chief Executive of NALC, will be a guest speaker with the theme of the Levelling Up agenda and the role for parishes in its delivery. We have based the agenda around the feedback from a straw poll we ran in April, and we were very interested to see that your most popular topics are the Climate Emergency, Levelling Up, and Neighbourhood Planning.

With the appointment of our new Deputy Chief Executive, John Kilcoyne, LRALC now has a complete staff resource once again and is able to refocus on our pro-active activity. This includes more forthcoming activity around the government's Levelling Up agenda, the environment and climate emergency, and a new series of courses around consultation and engagement with our communities.

This latter area is hugely important following the impact of coronavirus and the related lockdowns and loss of "normal" interaction during this period. Whilst we now return to what is a sense of normality, we must remember that there has been a substantial shift in how parishioners interact



and what they need and want from our councils, in other words we will never fully return to as it was before. As such it is critical that councils prioritise formal consultation and engagement, via a variety of methods, including all parts of the community, and these courses will assist you in doing this, in time for setting your 2023-24 budgets.

One area of our work which we are also very keen to continue supporting councils with is the Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS), the “quality council” scheme for the parish and town council sector. LRALC is able to assist member councils with identifying and compiling the necessary evidence for the award, as well as providing advice and support on criteria which the council may not yet meet. In addition, we continue to provide support to clerks wishing to undertake the CiLCA qualification, and our CiLCA trainer has the joint highest (with Somerset) number of passes in the country for CiLCA 2021. If you are interested in achieving CiLCA then please contact John Kilcoyne via the LRALC office.

One other thing that we’d like to do through our newsletter is provide updates on the work of the LRALC Board of Directors. The directors of LRALC are responsible for governing your association and making the decisions about LRALC’s priorities, policies, and future direct. All apart from two positions are currently reserved for councillors from member councils like yours, so the Association is truly *Formed by Local Councils, Run for Local Councils, Delivering to Local Councils*. One of our new directors has suggested the work of the board could be highlighted more to member councils, which I think is a great idea, especially if it encourages others to get involved in overseeing the operation of what is YOUR association.

Parish Council Matters

Oxford Fraud

You may have seen the headlines this week that two parish councils in Oxfordshire have been defrauded of £160,000 (see here: <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/20128249.chinnor-towersey-parish-council-clerk-scammed-162k-12-years>).

We are liaising with colleagues at the Oxfordshire Association to understand exactly how the crime was perpetrated, how it was not detected over the years, and how it eventually came to light. We will use any lessons learnt to provide additional guidance to member councils or to recommend new procedures.

New Code of Conduct

Local councils across Leicestershire and Rutland are currently being asked to consider adopting the new Code of Conduct. This new model code was developed at a national level by the Local Government Association and is endorsed by NALC. This code was taken by Monitoring Officers locally and minor amendments were made, though the substance of the original model is unchanged.



Here at LRALC staff are advising member councils that there are many advantages to adopting the new code, including extensive guidance on applying the code, standardisation of content between local parishes and the principal authorities, clearer standards of expected behaviour, and strengthened rules around interests. However, member councils should note that in order to meet the requirements of the code it will be necessary to provide information and ideally training to councillors and the clerk, otherwise the risk of unintentional breaches will be high. There are many material differences to any code our member councils are likely to currently have.

LRALC is working closely with the district, borough, and county councils to support parishes at a local level. For example, Blaby and Rutland have commissioned us to run training on the new code for their parishes, and though Charnwood chose not to offer any face to face training for their parishes, we co-ordinated with them to promote training we arranged at short notice within the borough. This work continues, as does the ability to book in-house Code of Conduct training for single councils (see [here](#)).

The Queen's Speech

In the absence of The Queen, the Queen's Speech on Tuesday was historic for its own reasons but it could also be historic for parish and town councils. Included in the Queen's Speech were various measures that will affect our sector one way or another.

On Wednesday, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, introduced the **Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill** in Parliament, placing a duty on the government to set Levelling Up missions and produce an annual report on delivery of these missions. This will include changes to the planning system and "empowerment of communities", including potential "Street Votes" for certain planning matters.

It's too early to say exactly what it all means for parish and town councils, but the direction of travel is to push decision making powers and funding down towards communities. Whether that means from Whitehall to principal councils only, or further on to parish and town councils, remains to be seen. As does whether any new powers or funding would come with strings attached. We will keep you posted as the Bill progresses.

Chairmans Training

Congratulations to those newly elected Chairmen of local councils! Whilst gendered titles are generally frowned upon these days, the term Chairman has continued to be used due to the position being a statutory one, with the title enshrined in law. However, this law is now 50 years old, and a lot has changed in the intervening period so we are interested to note that in the newly reissued Legal Topic Note 8 (Elections) NALC has started to use the term "chair", something that previously has been advised against. We are seeking clarification from NALC Legal on this seeming change in position and will update as soon as we have more information.



As the position of Chairman has very specific roles and responsibilities, we strongly advise all newly elected Chairmen to attend our popular training course covering the role. The next two courses are detailed below, and you will note that we offer both face to face and Zoom attendance (separate courses) to suit your needs.

- Wednesday 6th July 2022, 6.00pm - 9.00pm (JUBILEE HALL)
- Monday 12th September 2022, 10.00am - 1.00pm (ONLINE)

As with all our courses you can book online, [here](#).

Updated Guidance on Pavement Licences (2021 Regulations)

The government has issued updated guidance on the licensing process for pavement licenses based on the 2021 Regulations.

During the pandemic, many town and parish councils were involved in requests by local cafés, restaurants, and bars for pavement licences. The Business and Planning Act 2020 (Pavement Licence) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2021, allowed businesses to apply for a pavement licence to be in place for an extended period, up to 30 September 2022.

The streamlined process aimed to help provide much needed income for business and protect as many hospitality jobs as possible. A licence permits the business to use furniture placed on the highway to sell or serve food or drink and/or allow it to be used by people for its consumption.

The licence is granted by the local authority and remains in place for a year, but not beyond 30 September 2022.

Personal Safety for Councillors and Clerks

The Local Government Association (LGA) ran a webinar recently looking at personal safety for councillors. This was mainly aimed at principal authority councillors, but the safety tips are equally as relevant to parish and town councillors and clerks.

There are 4 things to consider when looking at your personal safety when out and about (whether it be in a council or private capacity):

1. Early choices – think about where you are going; how you will get there; when you will get back; who will you call to let them you you've got there safely and call again when you've got back?
2. Traceability – Have an ICE number in your mobile (In Case of Emergency number that the police could use if your phone is found); Use apps such as BSafe or Life 360 which will allow the phone to be tracked. Some apps will also have the feature of being able to press a



button and your phone will ring so anyone following you will think you are talking to someone.

3. Risk assessment – Paper based version can be used, but should also think about dynamic version, for example is your side of the road well lit? If not, mitigate the risk and cross to the other side.
4. Biofeedback – A technical way of saying intuition, if something just doesn't feel right, it probably isn't; Don't ignore it, better to be safe than sorry.

What can you do if you are in a situation where you can't speak because you are hiding from someone or do not want them to know you are calling the Police? If you are calling from a landline, dial 999 and wait for the operator to pick up, then dial 55 and this will let the operator know you are in trouble but unable to speak to them for whatever reason. The same can be applied to 112, wait for the operator to speak and then dial 55.

Did you know you can text the emergency services? This is particularly useful for those with hearing difficulties; however you must register your mobile phone number with emergency services before you can request help via text:

- Send the word 'register' in an SMS message to 999
- You will then receive SMS messages about the service
- When you have read these SMS messages reply by sending 'yes' in an SMS message to 999
- You will receive a SMS message telling you that your mobile phone is registered or if there is a problem with your registration.
-

Councillor surgeries are still not overly common in our sector, however if you are having a surgery, you should always have carried out a risk assessment before the surgery. You should never hold a surgery as a lone councillor, this is important from a safeguarding viewpoint as well as a personal safety viewpoint, always make sure there is at least one other person with you. It is never advisable to be alone in a building. This will also protect you from the risk of malicious allegations being made against you.

Finally, members of the public may not often turn up at your house, but in a small parish, most people will know where you live. If a resident turns up at your door, have the discussion on the doorstep. It is much better to persuade the person to meet you and other members of the council for a meeting at a mutually convenient time and (public) place, you should not invite them into your home for both safeguarding and personal safety.

Hopefully, this article has given you some tips on personal safety that can be used in everyday life and hasn't scared you too much! Being a councillor is a wonderful privilege and is mostly a very safe endeavour, but better to be safe than sorry.



Leicestershire County Council News (funded by LCC Project Funding)

Healthy Start Scheme

The Healthy Start scheme helps those that are pregnant or have a child under the age of 4 on a low income access vitamins and helps towards the cost of milk, fruits and vegetables.

Beneficiaries receive:

- £4.25 a week during pregnancy (from 10th week)
- £8.50 each week for children from birth to 1 year old
- £4.25 each week for children aged between 1 and 4 years old.
-

The scheme will be going digital from March 2022 which means all current beneficiaries will need to reapply online to receive their prepaid card which will replace the paper vouchers. All beneficiaries currently receiving the vouchers are being written to directly but please ensure any communications with beneficiaries can include reminders of this change so they can be registered in time for the change-over to prepaid cards.

For more information about registering for Healthy Start please visit www.healthystart.nhs.uk or call 0330 330 7010 to apply via telephone.

Leicestershire County Council Website - Information for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Leicestershire County Council have created a new area on their website, which will be regularly updated with news, information, links to resources, etc for the up and coming National and Local events and initiatives planned as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. New articles this month include:-

The Queen's Green Canopy
Lighting of Jubilee Beacons
Planning a Street Party or Event
Signs and Cones
Council Owned Land and Licences

Visit: [Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Webpage](#)

Get The Ball Rolling and Start A Conversation About Men's Mental Health

Men are being encouraged to talk to their friends about their feelings, as part of a campaign that aims to tackle the high levels of male suicide across the county.



The 'Get the Ball Rolling' campaign has been devised by the city, county, and Rutland councils' [Start A Conversation](#) partnership, and follows a report on male suicide published this year by Healthwatch Leicester and Leicestershire.

The report found that males are almost 3 times as likely to die by suicide than females. A total of 455 deaths by suicide in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland were recorded between January 2015 and June 2021. Of these, 353 were males, which represents 75.1% of all deaths.

The campaign, supported by local brewery Everards, uses sporting references on beer mats, posters and on social media to encourage men to 'Get the Ball Rolling' and talk about mental health.

'Get the Ball Rolling' has support from the [United Leicester](#) mental health hub. It is an online platform where members of the local sporting community share their own stories with the aim of helping others to talk and get the support they need.

United Leicester is a partnership of the city's four professional sports clubs and funded by their respective official charities.

Councillor Louise Richardson, lead member for public health, said: "It is so important to encourage more open and honest conversations about suicide and mental health, particularly in men. To have so many parts of the community, like United Leicester and Everards, come together to support Start A Conversation is brilliant."

Leicestershire resident achieves lifechanging weight loss with help from County Council experts

A Leicestershire resident has credited the Weight Management Service after losing nearly four stone.

Joanne Murray, 43, from Coalville used the service last year to start her weight loss journey. Working night shifts as a nurse, Joanne found herself snacking regularly and felt uncomfortable in her body. Residents across Leicestershire and Rutland can benefit from the free Weight Management Service, delivered by Leicestershire County Council. The Weight Management Service also offers free specialised services for families, pregnant women, men, and people with learning disabilities. Over the last six months she has lost considerable weight and is now training for a ten-kilometre run, having completed the NHS 'Couch To 5k' programme.

Joanne said: "It really has been a journey for me. I have a new lease on life. I'm a lot more confident and have more energy to enjoy doing the things I now love, like running and swimming."

As part of the free service, residents are partnered with an experienced nutritionist who develops a suitable plan with manageable goals. They offer tailored advice and guidance to help people make better decisions for their health and adopt healthy habits.



Read more about Joanne's story: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/leicestershire-resident-shares-her-top-tips-of-how-she-maintained-lifechanging-weight-loss-with-help-from-county-council-experts>

Find out more about the Weight Management Service: <https://www.leicestershirewms.co.uk/>

Value of Trees – study to look at re-establishing trees near the highway

Plans to make Leicestershire cleaner and greener are gathering pace, with the county council drawing up a blueprint which will help shape the county landscape for years to come.

Leicestershire County Council is taking the lead on a six-month project called Value of Trees, which will produce guidance regarding species choice and planting techniques to encourage the re-establishment of trees along the highway in both in rural and urban areas

National planning policy and design guidance now has a greater emphasis around 'beautiful places' and trees improve not only the visual aspect, but also the environment for both people and wildlife. The project will allow the council to draw up ideas for the Leicestershire landscape of the future; factoring in such details as climate change and how that might affect species choice and the planting design of trees and hedges.

The Value of Trees project ties in perfectly with the county council's pledge to plant 700,000 trees – one for every resident.

In selecting appropriate trees for a particular area, the council will be assessing the value of trees in terms of the ecosystem services that various species provide - such as reduced flooding and air pollution. Other factors which will be considered include the lifetime cost of a tree – from buying it through to long-term maintenance.

The Value of Trees project is supported by ADEPT – The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport, a specialist advisory body. It is funded by Rees Jeffreys Road Fund.

Environment Action Volunteers

Leicestershire County Council are looking for new volunteers, as part of its Environment Action Volunteer scheme.

As a volunteer, you'll encourage people in Leicestershire to take action to reduce their impact on the environment, and make Leicestershire a cleaner, greener place. Activities may include raising awareness, giving advice and practical support, to help people live more sustainably.



The scheme is particularly interested in recruiting volunteers who are keen to raise awareness of biodiversity and promote home composting. No previous experience of volunteering is needed, and free training will be provided.

If you're 18+ and interested in making a difference, you can find out more and apply by visiting www.lesswaste.org.uk/volunteering

Public Engagement Workshop Held 3 February 2022

For those of you that attended the above workshop, the recording of the session is now available to view on the Leicestershire Communities website. Please feel free to circulate this link to anyone member of your council who was unable to attend.

<https://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/cs/parish-and-town-councils.html>

Parish Nature Network

The Parish Nature Network is a group of 33 representatives from various parishes that want to talk 'nature'.

Discussion topics are varied, such as items like Hedge Surveys, Seven Trent Community Fund and Boosts for Biodiversity. The sessions also provide an opportunity to hear about what other parishes are involved in and share best practice.

Network meetings are regularly held via Microsoft Teams. New members are welcome! To register your interest please e-mail EnvironmentTeam@leics.gov.uk

Annual Parish Liaison Event – Monday 4th July 2022

We would like to invite you to this year's Annual Parish Liaison Event which will take place on the evening of Monday 4th July 2022 at County Hall, Glenfield. The event will begin with a Market Place of LCC service departments and Partner Agencies offering information, advice, and guidance on a variety of topics. Jonathan Owen, CEO of NALC will be providing a national update, and the focus of this year's event following a vote by Parishes will be focused on the topics of Climate Emergency, Levelling Up Agenda and Neighbourhood Planning.

To register for the Parish Liaison Event visit:- www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/cs/parish-council-liaison-event-201



Public Realm Guidance Note

The Environment and Transport Department at Leicestershire County Council (LCC) have prepared a Guidance Note for use by third parties that details the stages involved in preparing and delivering public realm development, with particular emphasis on schemes that require a Section 278 Agreement to work on LCC's adopted public highway.

The Note aims to advise about the necessary steps and aspects to consider regarding proposed highway that forms part of new development. It refers to all development phases but focuses on LCC's approvals process, traffic management arrangements and construction and maintenance considerations such as inspections.

The information summarises but does not replace guidance contained within the Leicestershire Highways Design Guide.

It's hoped that the note will clarify the role of LCC as Highway Authority and help third parties through the various key stages.

The Note will be posted on the [LCC website](#) and promoted to district/borough councils and parish councils.

New Coffee Morning starting

Go learn - Leicestershire County Councils Adult learning service are offering coffee mornings at their Adult Learning Centre at Roundhills Academy Thurmaston. The first one is on the 5th of May, followed by 19th of May, 16th of June and 30th of June 10.30am-12.00pm.

This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone to pop along for a drink and chat to see what we have to offer in the way of courses, no booking needed, any questions please contact Jo Beck on Jo.beck@leics.gov.uk or 0116 3050517

New Facebook page

@goodfoodleics is a new Facebook page with features, news, Q&As, recipes and money-saving tips. Based on Leicestershire's Good Food Charter, the page looks at the manifold aspects of the county's food system with the aim of promoting its strengths and new schemes.

For more, see the Good Food Leicestershire Facebook page and [here](#).



SHIRE Environment Grant 2022/2023

Information on Leicestershire County Council's SHIRE Environment Grant can be found using the link [here](#).

Grants of up to £3,000 are available for projects which:

- reduce the amount of household waste produced in Leicestershire
- reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions within communities
- improve biodiversity and support the creation, protection, enhancement and management of sustainable green spaces
- raise awareness and understanding on the above as well as providing necessary training and skills to manage and support projects

A simplified application process is also available for small grants up to £300.

Although applications can be received at any time, the SHIRE Environment Grants scheme will operate a series of deadlines and decision meetings. The round dates for 2022 / 23 are outlined below:

- Friday 24th June 2022 with decisions made by Friday 29th July 2022
- Friday 28th October 2022 with decisions made by Friday 25th November 2022
- Friday 24th February 2023 with decisions made by Friday 31st March 2023

Projects must primarily benefit Leicestershire residents.

We are particularly interested in projects that help reduce household waste within the county. Project ideas could include community give or take events, tool libraries, composting demonstration areas, furniture reuse classes, repair cafes and community fridges.

A number of case studies from previous projects we've funded that reduce household waste can be found here www.lesswaste.org.uk/community-engagement/shire-environment-grant

We hold regular virtual workshops to help with applications. When available, these workshops are advertised on the SHIRE Environment Grant webpage <https://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/grants/environment-grant.html>

If you have any queries about the grant fund criteria or process, or if you would like to request a copy of the guidance notes or application form, please contact the SHIRE Environment Grants Team by email: environmentgrant@leics.gov.uk or call 0116 305 7005.

Healthy Schools Plus Programmes & Training Opportunities



We have spaces available on our free Healthy Schools Plus programmes including Youth Mental Health First Aid and Think Family – Whole Family (parental mental illness). You can find more information visit [HERE](#). You can take part in our programmes anytime and upon completion you will be awarded Healthy Schools Plus status. You don't have to be registered with the Healthy Schools programme to access our programmes.

There are also lots of free training opportunities, including the following:

- o a variety of opportunities delivered by Brook for RSHE
- o Social Media, Body Image, & Self Esteem
- o Gambling Related Harm in Children & Young People Training
- o Mental Health in the Early Years & the importance of building Secure Attachments
- o And more!

To book onto these sessions or any of our other training opportunities, please visit the Leicestershire Healthy Schools website [HERE](#). If the training listed does not meeting your learning, development or wellbeing needs, please let us know by completing the 'Requests for Training' form on this page.

If you have any questions or queries about these training opportunities, please contact Manveer Kang (Healthy Schools Admin Support Officer) on: manveer.kang@leics.gov.uk.

New Care Technology service to enhance independence

A new technology service with the potential to boost independence, improve quality of life, reduce support needs, and protect vulnerable adults, is now available to residents.

Care Technology (CT) (sometimes referred to as 'telecare') is monitoring and alert equipment that can help people to remain independent in their home and in the community. This equipment will provide residents, their carers, family and friends with the reassurance that help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Care Technology covers a wide range of equipment, such as alarm systems, falls detectors and GPS location trackers.

User-friendly technology will be tailored for each person's circumstances, helping them to live safe and independent lives.

The Care Technology Service is non-chargeable for all adults who meet the eligibility criteria. To find out more visit www.leicestershire.gov.uk/care-technology

Breaks for carers with Carefree



We recognise the vital support unpaid carers provide to their family, friends, and neighbours and understand the value a break away from caring can have. Leicestershire County Council is a community partner with Carefree, an organisation that provides short breaks for full time unpaid carers. Visit <https://carefreespace.org/take-a-break/> to find out more about the service and to self-refer.

You can find information on other ways you could take a break from caring at:-
www.leicestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/looking-after-someone/breaks-for-carers.

Scams News

The latest edition of the [Leicestershire Trading Standards Services Scams News](#) is now available to view.

LCCs Parish Urban Verge Wildlife Project- training dates & workshops 2022



Leicestershire County Council continues to work with a wide range of Parish Councils and local communities to change the management of selected roadside verges to improve their biodiversity value, this is as simple as minimal intervention and reducing the intensity of cuts to help nature thrive. Local wildlife charity, NatureSpot continues to support the project by helping with wildlife surveys and by promoting the verges as bespoke Wild Places pages (https://www.naturespot.org.uk/verge_biodiversity). The annual scheme now has a staggering 51 parishes signed up, including a total of 63 roadside verges now been managed more sensitively for local wildlife.

As part of the scheme, we will be offering additional opportunities for the local community to get more actively involved this year with the wildlife surveys of some of these important verges, whilst also contributing important wildlife data to our local environmental records centre to aid future monitoring and protection.

The open days will give members of the public a chance to assist and shadow specialist wildlife volunteers and county recorders from Naturespot in undertaking a wildflower survey, whilst giving local people a chance to learn more about the diversity and role of these key habitats via species identification and survey technique. You do not need in previous experience, just a passion for nature!

In addition, a new set of 22 colourful guides to Leicestershire's wonderful wildlife have been produced. The guides are available for free from the NatureSpot website (www.naturespot.org.uk/IDguides). They are designed to help identify many of the common species in gardens, parks and the wider countryside. In total 210 different species are featured, covering all types of wildlife, including birds, mammals, butterflies, dragonflies, wildflowers, trees and fungi. There are also guides to the wildlife in woodlands, hedgerows and compost heaps.



If you are interested in attending any of the verge open days or would like more information, please register your interest via: Environment Policy and Strategy Team EnvironmentTeam@leics.gov.uk

Parish	Cropston
Verge Location	Leicester Road
Date/Time of Open Day	Thursday 2nd June 2022 - Start: 2pm
Wild Places Pages	www.naturespot.org.uk/Cropston Leicester Road Verges
Parish	East Langton
Verge Location	Church Causeway
Date/Time of Open Day	Saturday 30th July 2022 - Start: 10am
Wild Places Pages	www.naturespot.org.uk/East Langton Church Causeway Verge
Parish	Great Glen
Verge Location	London Road
Date/Time of Open Day	Sunday 24th July 2022 - Start: 2.30pm
Wild Places Pages	www.naturespot.org.uk/Great Glen London Rd Verge
Parish	Groby
Verge Location	Ratby Road
Date/Time of Open Day	Saturday 21st May 2022 - Start: 10am
Wild Places Pages	www.naturespot.org.uk/Groby Ratby Rd Verge
Parish	Hoby
Verge Location	Church Lane
Date/Time of Open Day	Monday 18th July 2022 - Start: 7pm
Wild Places Pages	www.naturespot.org.uk/Hoby Church Lane Verge
Parish	Kirby Muxloe
Verge Location	Glenfield Lane
Date/Time of Open Day	Monday 30th May 2022 - Start: 7pm
Wild Places Pages	www.naturespot.org.uk/Kirby Muxloe Glenfield Lane Verge
Parish	Newtown Linford
Verge Location	Groby Lane
Date/Time of Open Day	Monday 27th May 2022 - Start: 7pm
Wild Places Pages	www.naturespot.org.uk/Newtown Linford Groby Ln Verge
Parish	Peckleton
Verge Location	Church Road
Date/Time of Open Day	Friday 3rd June 2022 - Start: 2pm
Wild Places Pages	www.naturespot.org.uk/Peckleton Church Rd Verge
Parish	Rothley
Verge Location	Hallifields Lane
Date/Time of Open Day	Monday 4th July 2022 - Start: 7pm



Wild Places Pages [www.naturespot.org.uk/Rothley Hallifields Ln Verge](http://www.naturespot.org.uk/Rothley_Hallifields_Ln_Verge)

Parish Thurnby
Verge Location Hollies Way
Date/Time of Open Day Saturday 6th August 2022 - Start: 2pm
Wild Places Pages [www.naturespot.org.uk/Thurnby Hollies Way Verge](http://www.naturespot.org.uk/Thurnby_Hollies_Way_Verge)

Parish Woodhouse
Verge Location Forest Road
Date/Time of Open Day Monday 11th July 2022 - Start: 7pm
Wild Places Pages [www.naturespot.org.uk/Woodhouse Forest Rd Verge](http://www.naturespot.org.uk/Woodhouse_Forest_Rd_Verge)

Parish Kibworth
Verge Location Wistow Road Roundabout
Date/Time of Open Day Sunday 31st July 2022 - Start: 2.30pm
Wild Places Pages Coming soon!

2022 Wildlife ID Training



The four short courses below have been organised by NatureSpot on behalf of Leicestershire County Council in support of the Parish Urban Verge Wildlife Project. They are free to join and open to all Leicestershire residents. Booking is essential.

These courses are aimed at those with little previous experience of plant and invertebrate identification, though those with more knowledge should also benefit.

Each course will comprise an online introduction (of around an hour) and an on-site workshop (of around 2 hours). The online sessions will be recorded so can be viewed at your own convenience if you are unable to join the live event. The dates below relate to the site-based workshops. If you would like to attend any of these courses, please contact Roseanna Burton at Leicestershire County Council to book on: Roseanna.Burton@leics.gov.uk

Hedgerow Surveys and Management - Led by: Russell Parry and David Nicholls

Sunday 15th May, meet at 2pm Burroughs Road/Main Street, Ratby, SK51140588
Parking is available at Ratby Library, opposite. You will learn to identify all of the common shrubs found in Leicestershire hedges. An illustrated key will be provided and you will learn how to use it. You will also be given an introduction to hedge management and the best techniques to maximise the benefit to wildlife. This will include guidance on conducting a simple hedgerow survey.



Wildflowers on Road Verges - Led by: Russell Parry

Sunday 22nd May 2022, meet at 2pm, Goodwood Road/Gifford Close, Leicester SK62880325

You will learn to identify the 45 species of wildflowers most commonly found by NatureSpot during the recent surveys of road verges in the biodiversity project. You will be shown how to recognise the key features which identify each species. An illustrated guide to all of these species will be provided.

Grasses on Road Verges - Led by: Russell Parry

Sunday 29th May 2022, meet at 2pm in the Evington Park car park (off The Common) SK62530304

Street parking is available on Gifford Close. You will learn to identify around 20 of the grass species most commonly found during the recent verge surveys. A simple key will be provided and you will be taught how to use it.

Wildlife on Road Verges - Led by: David Nicholls

Sunday 10th July 2022, meet at 2pm Ferndale Drive, Ratby SK51820577

Parking available at Ferndale Play Park or on-street along Ferndale Drive. This course will look at the many wildlife species that are commonly found on grassland verges. This will include the invertebrate species most commonly found during the recent verge surveys and help you to recognise first the group type and then the species. Illustrated ID guides will be provided.

Mental Health Awareness

More and more people from all walks of life are becoming affected by loneliness and it's having an impact on people's physical and mental health. The [Start a Conversation](#) partnership is encouraging residents of Leicestershire and Rutland to start talking about their mental health.

Our Public Health team has put together a digital toolkit of messages to share across social media, aimed at reaching a number of different audiences, signposting to support services and advice available.

If you would like to sign up to receive this toolkit, please email emily.rodbourne@leics.gov.uk.