

County Council – East Gartree Division

KB/1 housing development

The spectre of a large housing development off Warwick Road is back in the news again. Ever since Sheila Leslie-Miller committed political suicide with her brave support, as a Kibworth District Councillor, for 750 houses leading to the birth of Keep Kibworth Rural in the mid 1990s, there have been on-off plans for this development. The Harborough District Council as the planning authority have the final say over the numbers, the timing and the actual plans. Over three quarters of the latest proposed 440+ houses could be constructed within Kibworth Harcourt; almost doubling the size of the village.

I fail to understand the haste with which this latest turn of events was brought to the HDC executive and I would ask that full consultation is allowed on this critical housing plan which has consistently had thousands opposing it. If the District Council believes there are real positive advantages to be gained then let's hear about them; primary school and high school expansions? more doctors and dentists? Fleckney through traffic diverted along an upgraded Warwick Road? improved traffic management? what else? If the Kibworths are to have this development then surely we should know the size of the bribe? Well thought-out developer contributions to community and infrastructure need to form a major part of the negotiations should the plans get the go ahead, as I understand District officers are recommending. I hope to meet with both developer and landowner to get a measure of their commitment to the future for both Kibworths.

One possible victim of these housing proposals could be the traffic management plans for Kibworth Beauchamp. The consultants employed by Leicestershire County Council have been preparing outline proposals for Fleckney Road, High

Street, Station Street and New Road; many people attended a preliminary exhibition during the summer. As a reserve scheme this year, there is a strong likelihood that the scheme would be funded next year and so go to a full consultation phase with villagers and businesses before implementation.

However, if the housing development plans get the go ahead in January, it would be prudent for the County Council to request developer contributions for the traffic management scheme rather than charge you, the Council Tax payers. The downside of this would be that longterm developer contributions could set the traffic management plans back years again. Watch this space and let me have your views on the housing and traffic management.

Social Services

The Department of Health rates County Council Social Services each year and for the third year running, Leicestershire County Council has been awarded the highest accolade of 3 stars. This is a marvellous achievement and proves we are very fortunate to have such a well run department.

School terms

Proposals are being considered which would move the schools in Leicestershire to a pattern of 6 terms. This would lead to the length of each term being almost the same, allow a 2 week break in October each year, but would move away from the traditional 2 week break at Easter, which would be replaced by a standard break in the first 2 weeks in April.

The number of days pupils are required to be in school in the school year is unchanged at 190 days. If you want to know more, or complete a questionnaire, then visit the County Council website:

<http://www.leics.gov.uk/>

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