

## **County Council – East Gartree Division**

### **KB/1 housing update**

The four week consultation period on the HDC proposals began on 29<sup>th</sup> January and runs until 26<sup>th</sup> February - unless a two week extension has been added by the District Council executive. Four weeks is a very short time and the County Council have already signified to HDC that this is too short a period to ensure the relevant departments such as Highways, Education, Social Services and Transport have the necessary time to provide reasoned responses.

I have attended further meetings with both HDC and LCC officers in an attempt to understand the different emphasis being put on the proposals by the two sets of officers. On the one hand, HDC officers are expressing concern that the shortfall of 33 houses indicates a possible rising trend which would make it difficult for the District to fulfil its quota of 1,700 more houses in the Central Leicestershire Policy Area unless they release KB/1 now. The CLPA includes the Kibworths, Smeeton Westerby, Burton Overy, Wistow and Great Glen as well as Thurnby, Scraptoft, Stoughton, Fleckney, Houghton-on-the-Hill and Broughton Astley. Whereas, on the other hand, LCC officers are saying that the 33 shortfall is sufficiently insignificant thereby making it unnecessary to release the allocated land for 440 houses in the Kibworths or for 300 in Great Glen, but rather the District should be looking to the fringes of Leicester City and re-consult on new allocations to fulfil their quota.

Currently HDC are consulting the public on the changes to the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). This asks for formal comments of objection or support of the changes to be sent to Harborough District Council by 26<sup>th</sup> February 2004. **I urge readers to make their comments by that date.**

Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council held a Parish Meeting to discuss the matter on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2004; and the outcome was a

formal motion calling on HDC to hold a referendum on the subject within 25 days. Now Kibworth Beauchamp Parish Council have arranged a public meeting for 25<sup>th</sup> February in the Grammar School Hall. Again I urge you to attend this meeting to find out the latest details of this housing development.

### **East Midlands Airport**

Despite the abhorrence expressed by the County Council for the prefix “Nottingham” when the airport lies wholly in Leicestershire, I asked a question at last month’s Full Council meeting, and I received assurances that the County Council would be collaborating with Harborough and Melton Councils to engage some expertise on assessing the environmental, including noise, nuisance over the East Gartree area. Edward Garnier raised these matters in Parliament on 11<sup>th</sup> February and has also been meeting with EMA executives and asking further searching questions. The answers will hopefully be made public over the next few weeks.

### **Grass Cutting**

Just to inform Chronicle readers that Blaby District Council are the first of the seven to agree a partnership with LCC whereby a collaborative approach is made to grass cutting of verges etc. such that additional cuttings are performed where necessary. So if you drive through Blaby District and spot “bowling green” style grass verges, then please thank the LCC agreement and let us ask HDC to come to a similar mutual arrangement with County.

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