

COUNTY COUNCIL - GARTREE NEWS ECO-TOWN CLASSICAL SOIREE

The County Council, after considerable research and independent reports, has now formally opposed the eco-town. Citing an unworkable location for employment and traffic and with the likely landscape damage, this is a real fillip to those who have been campaigning against the proposals by the Co-op for the past 15 months.

However, despite this news, neither the Co-op nor the Government have given any indication that this eco-town will be removed from the current list of 11 locations; with a final decision on up to 10 locations expected later this summer. A financial viability assessment has raised question marks but is still being validated.

CASCET still need to raise funds for professional, mainly legal, advice. A legal challenge brought by two other campaign groups in January failed, but there are plenty of other opportunities for challenging the Government's eco-town process, which CASCET will be exploiting, if funding is available, and the proposal remains on the Government's shortlist.

CASCET are holding a fundraising *Classical Soiree* on Saturday 21st March from 7.30pm, at the recently moved Leicester Grammar School, now on London Road in Great Glen. A number of brilliant local singers and musicians have agreed to perform including Paula Bayley, the well-known soprano, and Yvonne Bloor, the renowned classical guitarist.

Tickets at £10 for adults, £5 for children, are now on sale for this unique experience, from several outlets, including Ireland & Longhill on Station Street, Kibworth, or Great Glen Parish and Post Offices, or from me.

ON-STREET PARKING

I heard recently of a private survey being carried out into the number of cars that were being parked, with two wheels on pavements, in Kibworth Beauchamp. Such parking block pavements for pedestrians and those with buggies or electric scooters, so why do people do it, especially when the road width still allows large vehicles to pass when all four wheels are on the road? I quizzed a driver who had just parked his car with two wheels on the pavement – "I've had my wing mirror smashed in the past" was his response. Parking bays were constructed on High Street as part of the

safety measures because so many cars were parked half-on the pavement. It is unnecessary to park this way, especially where the road widths are suitable, so the survey may provide valuable evidence to help identify trouble spots.

I have also received comments about cars parking by the old cricket ground, adjacent to the new homes on Fleckney Road. There are parking spaces provided within the estate, yet still cars are parked on the road causing problems for residents on the other side of Fleckney Road who have nowhere off-street to park. Consideration of others would be appreciated, as draconian yellow lines should be the last resort.

BUS SPEEDS IN KIBWORTH

Kibworth Beauchamp Parish Council are discussing the potential danger from buses speeding along Station Street and Church Road. The speed cushions have minimal effect and they are discussing carrying out a survey to provide evidence to support a request to change the cushions into ramps.

As an infrequent user of the X3 service from the Kibworths to Leicester via Great Glen, my experience is that even ramps do not slow buses! Tearing through Great Glen at around 30mph without slowing for the ramps is quite an experience, and the crunch from the suspension sounded almost terminal.

The village has a lot of buses coming into the centre along Church Road and all are trying to keep to tight timetables, so a review of the speed reduction features, in the light of new evidence, is something I am pleased to support.

WIND FARM NEAR SHANGTON

Thank you to the many people who have responded to my request for views about this proposal. I shall feed them into the process in due course. Almost all comments opposed the location, and the majority questioned the technology's ability to deliver a constant source of reliable "green" electricity. A common concern was whether one or more of the turbines could distract drivers using the B6047, when there have been so many fatal and serious accidents in that area.

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