

Here is my update for November. There are numerous items that you may find of interest and events that you might like to take part in. Please note particularly the various issues on which your comments are invited. These include further consideration of what to do with the Bramcote Hills Golf Course, New Car Parking Proposals in Bramcote and Stapleford, and the County Council's Budget proposals for 2012/13. I am pleased to help advertise The Star Safari to be held in Bramcote Village on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December for which tickets are now available., and provide information on the switch-on of the Christmas Lights in Beeston and Stapleford.

## **Update for November**

### **BRAMCOTE COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM**

The next meeting of the Bramcote Community Action Team is on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November starting at 7pm. The venue is the Memorial Hall, Church Street, Bramcote. There is always plenty to discuss (see some of the matters that I report on below) and the local police are always in attendance to provide an update on the situation in our area. If you have not been before, do come along and give it a try.

### **BRAMWELL CARE HOME DECISION**

Following a 4-hour debate at County Hall the Conservative administration voted to sell Bramwell Care Home and 5 other care homes owned by Nottinghamshire County Council. All the Liberal Democrat, Labour and Independent councillors voted against the sale. Our MP Anna Soubry had also expressed her opposition to the sale. Opponents argued that the sale would lead to deterioration in the quality of care provided. In addition, the offer from Runwood Homes for (literally) the 6 best care homes in the County was so low that it is best described as "The Sale of the Century". I am so concerned about this decision that I have written to the District Auditor and asked him to consider whether the sale is in the best interests of Nottinghamshire's residents. You can see my detailed objections in the letter that was published in the Nottingham Post You can access this at [www.thisisnottingham.co.uk/Care-home-sale-cost-money/story-13529092-detail/story.html/](http://www.thisisnottingham.co.uk/Care-home-sale-cost-money/story-13529092-detail/story.html/).

### **NEW HOUSING IN BROXTOWE**

Many thanks to all those who responded to the recent consultation on potential new sites for housing in Broxtowe and the wider area. As a result of that consultation a potential site at Toton has been removed from the "preferred site" list, although, at this stage, a site at Field Farm, Stapleford is still under consideration. More on this later. I have to say that I am very surprised by the scaremongering and negative comments being put out by our MP Anna Soubry in a leaflet currently being delivered to households throughout Broxtowe. I am always reluctant to criticize fellow politicians but on this matter Anna's criticisms of Broxtowe Borough Council are unfounded and wrong. They pay no regard to the real world and are party political in the extreme.

### **BRAMCOTE HILLS GOLF COURSE**

The owners of the Bramcote Hills Golf Course continue to look for possibilities for use of that land, and are consulting with architects who have an interest in creating a small retirement village similar to that at Larkhill to the south of Nottingham. The initial response from planning officers at Broxtowe BC to this suggestion is very negative indeed. However, given that something has to be done with this site, and also recognising the growing number of elderly people in Bramcote and Stapleford, I do wonder if others would have the same view? It is important, of course, to recognise the centrality of this site within the Bramcote Ridge. Do let me know what you think of the suggestion that is being put forward by the owners.

### **NEW CAR PARKING PROPOSALS IN BRAMCOTE AND STAPLEFORD**

A reminder that new proposals have emerged to restrict car parking in some hot spots in Bramcote and Stapleford. Please send me your comments on these. Alternatively, or in addition, send your comments direct to Broxtowe Borough Council.

The new proposals are:

- *Bramcote Leisure Centre*. Currently there are no charges or restrictions. It is proposed to charge £3 to park for over 3 hours but with no charge for up to 3 hours. This will apply from 8am to 3pm every day. This is because people are using the car park for commuting and this is taking up much needed space for users of the Leisure Centre.
- *King Georges Park (Town Street Car Park)*. Currently there are no charges or restrictions. It is proposed to limit parking to 3 hours in the period 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday. This is to discourage people from parking there all day and taking up much needed space for park users. Parking will remain free of charge.
- *Bramcote Hills Park (Coventry Lane Car Park)*. Currently there are no charges or restrictions. It is proposed to introduce a charge of 30p for up to 2 hours and 60p for over 2 hours from 9am to 6pm every day. Over a period of time this will generate revenue to offer better visitor facilities in this very popular location.

Incidentally, the final recommendations for alterations to residents car parking in Stapleford are due soon. I will pass these on when they are available.

### **COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET PROPOSALS**

The budget proposals for 2012/13 reveal a further £12M in cuts with further reductions in service and compulsory job losses. You can respond to the proposals at <https://secure.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/consultations/budget-conversation/budget-proposals/>

Alternatively look out for the latest edition of County News that is currently being delivered. The centre pages describe the details of the cuts and ask for your comments on them. I would appreciate it if you would let me have a copy of your response.

### **ROGUE ROOF REPAIRERS**

There have been some instances of roof repairers charging exorbitant amounts for work in Bramcote. Please beware! I have personal knowledge of people who have been approached. Do not make contracts with people who call at your door

and pressurize you into agreeing to such work. Trading Standards staff here at the County Council is very concerned about what is happening. Contact me if you need more information.

### **ROAD WORKS ON THE A52**

The works on the A52 at Thoresby Road, the Priory Island and the QMC Island are due for completion on 19 November. However, some night road closures are needed. Hopefully this will be a case of the pain before the gain!

### **POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER**

The police now have a new non-emergency telephone number. It is 101. For emergencies continue to dial 999, but for everything else now dial 101. You will be put through to the local police via an automated response system.

### **BROXTOWE COUNCIL COMMENDED**

Broxtowe Borough Council has been commended at a national awards ceremony for "delivering excellence" in five recent initiatives. These include a communication technology initiative to facilitate the Bramcote Today website. They were also commended in the best street cleansing and street scene, best parks, grounds and horticulture, best sports leisure and culture, and best partnership with a credit union categories.

### **BEESTON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The Christmas Lights in Beeston will be switched on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November. This is a great occasion so do go down to Beeston and enjoy the occasion. There are numerous events in Broadgate Park, The Square, Chilwell Road Methodist Church and at Barton's on Chilwell Road throughout the afternoon. The switch-on ceremony is at 5pm in Foster Avenue Car Park.

### **STAPLEFORD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The Christmas Tree Lights will be switched on at 6.30pm on Thursday 1st December and this will be followed by carol singing at the Salvation Army Hall on Albert Avenue.

### **FOIL AND CANS RECYCLING**

Metal foil, foil trays, metal food and drinks cans and empty aerosol containers can now be recycled at a new collection facility at Sainsbury's in Beeston. This is a new service that will contribute to increasing Broxtowe's recycling rates. To be clear, most food and drinks cans and also empty aerosol containers can still be deposited in your green bins at home, but foil, foil trays and the large sweet tins cannot. I hope this is clear!

### **CAR PARK AT BRAMCOTE HILLS PARK**

The car park at the Coventry Lane end of Bramcote Hills Park will be resurfaced from mid-November through to late February. It is planned to maintain some parking for park users throughout the period. Please ring 0115 9173634 if you experience any difficulties.

### **SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL**

I am very pleased that the County Council has now been able to appoint a new school crossing patrol at the Fairfield School on Toton Lane.

### **THE STAR SAFARI**

I have been asked to advertise this event to be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am and 2.00pm each day.

Some of Bramcote's best locations are the setting for a spectacular promenade Nativity, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of St Michael's Church.

The audience follows the action and becomes part of the story, in the robust spirit of the medieval Mystery plays. Written by Pat Ashworth, directed by Julian Hanby, with period music, a big cast of local people and not a teatowel in sight, it will take place whatever the weather - just wrap up warm for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile round trip, starting at St Michael's. Audience numbers are limited for each performance: buy tickets online at [www.bramcote.info](http://www.bramcote.info) or call the church office on 943 0137 (weekday mornings). Adults £5; children and concessions £3.

### **TREASURE HUNTING IN STAPLEFORD**

FOUR local parks and open spaces in Broxtowe Borough will be welcoming high-tech treasure hunters as Broxtowe Borough Council establishes one of four 'geocache' containers in its parks. Geocaching is simply a way of making outdoor pursuits a little more interesting. Not only do the 'treasure hunters' get to enjoy attractive locations, walks and open spaces. It is hoped that the containers will attract lots of new visitors who are involved in this interesting and exciting modern day past time. Geocache containers have been hidden in Hall Om Wong Open Space, Kimberley, Coronation Park, Eastwood; Broadgate Park, Beeston; and Queen Elizabeth Park, Stapleford. A 'geocache' is usually a small concealed waterproof container holding a pen and logbook for the 'treasure hunters' to sign. Larger containers may also include small toys, trinkets and trackable items which the geocacher exchanges. If items are taken out of the cache, then something of equal or greater value is left in return. Worldwide there are over 1.5 million active geocaches and over 5 million treasure hunters who take part in geocaching. More than 100 caches are already established within Broxtowe Borough. The coordinates of each geocache can found by registering for free membership at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com). The coordinates are then transferred to a Global Positioning System (GPS) or smart phone devise for people to seek out the hidden caches. Travel Bugs and geocoins can also be placed into the caches and each can be set on a special mission of the owner's choice. Each trackable item is etched with a unique code that can be used to log its movements from cache to cache. You can track the 'Brock the Badger' trackable geocoin at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) using the unique tracking code – TBNMTT.

For more information, please contact Broxtowe Borough Council on 0115 917 3659, or visit [www.broxtowe.gov.uk/geocaching](http://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/geocaching)

### **ELECTRONIC SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON BRAMCOTE AND STAPLEFORD**

With the growth of information technology there are now several ways of keeping up to date with, and having your say on, matters relevant to the Bramcote and Stapleford areas. Here are a few of them:

- Broxtowe Liberal Democrat's website at [www.broxtoweliberaldemocrats.org.uk/](http://www.broxtoweliberaldemocrats.org.uk/). This website site has just been redesigned to make it more user-friendly. Do give it a try.
- Cllr David Watts has a personal website at [www.davidwatts.org.uk/](http://www.davidwatts.org.uk/). As well as a councillor who represents Bramcote Ward, David is the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on Broxtowe Borough. David also produces a weekly *eNews* and would be happy to add you to the list of subscribers.
- You can keep in touch through my own website here at <http://stanheptinstall.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/>. The information provided is in the same format as in "Focus on Bramcote" and provides a preview of items to be included in future editions of Focus. My county council colleague in Bramcote and Stapleford also has a website at <http://brianwombwell.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/>.
- I also commend the Bramcote Today website at <http://bramcotetoday.org.uk/> where news that is relevant to Bramcote is provided on a regular basis.