

On the 6th February HM The Queen marked 70 years on the throne and the Platinum Jubilee year began. I talk more about Leicestershire's plans to mark this historic event below, but its an amazing thought to me that that a young woman whose reign began in the aftermath of World War Two, when rationing was still in place and our cities were still scarred by the blitz, should still be serving our country a lifetime later in third decade of the 21st century, in the age of the internet. I very much look forward to celebrating this landmark during the Jubilee celebrations at the start of June!

Leicestershire invited to negotiate devolution deal

Leicestershire has taken the next step towards securing a ground-breaking, multi-million-pound deal to bring devolved powers to the county. The Government confirmed on the 2nd February that Leicestershire County Council will be one of the first nine areas it will invite to agree a new 'county deal'.

The announcement is part of the government's Levelling Up White Paper and follows a bid submitted by the County Council in the autumn. Leicestershire is in the vanguard of county deals and the County will work with Government to get the very best deal for Leicestershire's businesses and residents.

The council will now wait to hear from the Government about next steps. One potential effect of the county deal could be a re-organisation of how Leicestershire County Council is run, with the possibility that the County could move to a directly elected Mayor model instead of the current Cabinet and Leader system in place currently.

Charnwood Boundary Review - Final recommendations published

As I've reported on previously Charnwood has been going through a boundary review, where the Boundary Commission are redrawing the ward boundaries in the Borough of Charnwood to ensure each Councillor represents approximately the same number of electors (the last time this process took place was in 2002). The plans propose to put Rearsby into a much larger ward than is currently the case, at present the village is in the Wreake Villages ward with one Borough Councillor representing it. The proposals will put Rearsby into a new three-member ward named Wreake Valley (along with Cossington, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, Thrussington, East Goscote, Queniborough, South Croxton and the avenues area of Syston).

This will make no difference in terms of the services Rearsby receives, nor will it affect the County Council Division or Parliamentary constituency (although the latter is subject to a separate boundary review which is ongoing at present). The difference is at the next Borough elections in 2023 residents will get to vote for three Councillors instead of just one.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in Leicestershire

A host of special events will be held in the city and county this year to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and mark her 70-year reign as monarch.

The events, announced on Monday, 7th February by Mike Kapur, Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, include a garden party which he will host for people turning 70 in 2022 as well as the planting of trees and an art competition for primary school children. There are also awards for businesses and communities for 70 organisations.

All you need to know can be found at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/platinum-jubilee with information also available on how you can arrange your own community event or street party.

An extended four-day bank holiday, from Thursday, 2nd June to Sunday, 5th June 2022, has been chosen for the celebratory weekend.

Events include:

- An art competition open to primary school children – with the simple brief of painting a picture about what the Platinum Jubilee means to them. It is open to children in KS1 and KS2 year groups with a winner and runner-up award for each group. The closing date for entries is Friday, 1st April.
- A 70 at 70 garden party is the Lord Lieutenant's special invitation to people who are celebrating their 70th birthday this year. It will take place on Tuesday, 31st May at Beaumanor Hall, Woodhouse near

Loughborough. Nominations can be made by anyone meeting the criteria and the closing date is Friday, 1st April.

- An award for 70 organisations, such as school, businesses, voluntary and community groups that has done something exceptional to develop community spirit.
- Dozens of beacons will be lit on the evening of Thursday, 2nd June to mark the Platinum Jubilee. Local communities, parish councils, schools, youth groups, and farming communities can get involved by setting up and lighting beacons, sponsoring beacons, or illuminating a home or building – the National Space Centre will also be lit up.

Everyone in the city and county is also being invited to plant a tree as part of The Queen's Green Canopy initiative. Anyone wishing to plant their own tree for the Jubilee can access trees through schemes offered by the Woodland Trust.

Residents can also apply to close their street or road for a street party to celebrate on a day over the extended bank holiday weekend, from Thursday, 2nd June to Sunday, 5th June or as part of The Big Lunch on the 5th itself, again visit the website for further details. Normally, a street party road closure would be subject to an administration fee. However, Leicestershire County Council is waiving the fee for Platinum Jubilee street parties.

If you need my help with anything please do get in touch.

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