As the spring becomes the summer I’m amazed at how quickly this year seems to be passing us by and very much looking forward to the BBQ’s and drinks in the garden which come with the long summer evenings. That’s especially true this year with the forthcoming jubilee celebrations. There are going to be fantastic celebrations locally and nationally to mark Her Majesty The Queen’s 70 year service to this country and the Commonwealth, I certainly hope to spend the weekend attending the events being organised locally as well as spending time with friends and family. Whatever your plans are for the jubilee, I hope you have a wonderful time!

New technology is helping keep elderly and vulnerable adults in Leicestershire safe in their homes

The homes of elderly and vulnerable adults in Leicestershire are being fitted with equipment such as fall detectors to help keep them safe 24 hours a day. Leicestershire County Council has launched a new technology service with the potential to boost people’s independence, improve their quality of life and reduce the amount of support they need.

Care Technology (CT), sometimes referred to as telecare, involves monitoring and alert equipment to help people to remain independent in their home and in the community. This equipment will provide residents, their carers, family and friends with the reassurance that help is available round-the-clock, seven days a week. It allows people to be monitored by trained staff in case they should fall ill or have an accident so help can be quickly summoned while reducing the pressure on 999 services.

Technology can help people to live independently, stay in control of their own health and wellbeing and provide far greater peace of mind to those around them. The new service is designed to offer reassurance and support to anyone but is of particular value for those who are more vulnerable due to their health or social circumstances

Care Technology covers a wide range of equipment, such as alarm systems, falls detectors and GPS location trackers. User-friendly technology will be tailored for each person’s circumstances, helping them to live safe and independent lives. The Care Technology Service is available at no charge for adults who meet the eligibility criteria.

More information is available on the council's website:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/living-independently-at-home/care-technology>

Next phase for freeports promises more benefits for the East Midlands

Plans to create an innovative, inland freeport in the East Midlands have taken a big leap forward with the submission of a key document. The ‘Full Business Case’ (FBC), were sent to the Government in April, keeps the East Midlands Freeport on track to become fully operational later this year and builds upon the Outline Business Case approved in February. Government approval will unlock the complete range of benefits offered by the Freeport, adding to the special incentives already available to eligible businesses investing in the Freeport’s Tax Sites.

The blueprint sets out plans to make sure that the UK’s only inland Freeport is fully equipped to achieve its objectives, including promoting growth in advanced manufacturing and logistics, low carbon and renewable energy production and research and development, as well as supporting the Government’s Levelling Up, Net Zero, skills and innovation and trade and investment objectives. This will in turn enable the Freeport to create an estimated 61,000 new jobs and generate £8.9 billion for the economy over the next 30 years, playing a critical role in levelling up the region.

Building on the Freeport’s public and private sector partnership, it makes the case for £25 million of seed capital funding that will deliver new road infrastructure, cycle routes, land preparation works and a Hydrogen Skills Academy – subject to local planning processes. The plans include upgrades to regional transport infrastructure and cycle routes centred around delivering more sustainable connectivity across the Freeport’s three main locations at the East Midlands Airport and Gateway Industrial Cluster (‘EMAGIC’), East Midlands Intermodal Park (‘EMIP’) and the Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station Redevelopment Site.

New Mayor of Charnwood and Chairman of Leicestershire County Council elected

At the annual meeting of Charnwood Borough Council Cllr Jenni Tillotson was elected Mayor of Charnwood for the civic year 2022/23. The Mayor is the civic head of the Borough and in addition to chairing council meetings, they attend a huge number of community events across Charnwood each year. If you wish to invite the Mayor to an event you are holding you can do so online (www.charnwood.gov.uk/contacts/mayorality\_service) or by phoning 01509 634 602.

At the annual meeting of Leicestershire County Council Kevin Feltham CC was elected Chairman for the forthcoming civic year. The Chairman of the County Council plays a very similar role across Leicestershire that the Mayor does in Charnwood, supporting a wide range of community groups and charities across the County. If you would like the Chairman of the County Council to visit your group or attend an event you are holding this can be arranged on 0116 305 6002 or by emailing chairman@leics.gov.uk.

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

Cllr James Poland CC

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