

Since my last article we have had the deeply sad news about the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty was the one constant in our national life for 70 years, the only monarch generations of people in the country have ever known. She was a towering figure on the world stage for nearly three quarters of a century, meeting Presidents and Popes, Kings and commoners and feeling equally at ease with them all. Elizabeth II will be spoken about with admiration and pride not just by those of us fortunate enough to have lived during her reign, but by countless generations in centuries yet to come.

This moment also of course marks the start of the reign of King Charles III. As so many around the world loved and admired his mother, so I hope the King now receives the support of us all as we move into a new era in our national story.

P/22/1168/2 – Application for 65 dwellings off Gaddesby Lane

An application has been submitted for 65 dwellings at the top of Gaddesby Lane (planning application number P/22/1168/2). Although the site is included in the Rearsby Neighbourhood Plan and the emerging Charnwood Local Plan, I nevertheless have concerns about the sustainability of building that number of houses in Rearsby, the impact it will have on local services as well as the highway network (particularly at the Gaddesby Lane junction with Melton Road). For that reason I have called the application into Planning Committee at Charnwood Borough Council. Although its not yet know when the application will be heard by the Planning Committee, my guess is it will probably be early next year. The deadline for the public consultation on this application is 30th September, if you haven't had a chance to comment and wish to do so I would recommend you email development.control@charnwood.gov.uk and your comments should still be taken into account.

Charnwood Member Grant

I have a grant of £500 which I can use to support community groups and projects in the Wreake Villages ward (Rearsby, Thrussington, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, Cossington and Seagrave). If you know of any groups which may benefit please get in touch with me (my contact details are below).

Free tree scheme aims to give away 50,000 trees to landowners

A popular scheme which offers free trees to landowners and farmers in a bid to encourage more tree planting across Leicestershire is now open for applications again. Leicestershire County Council has once again teamed up with the Woodland Trust to offer the free tree and hedgerow packs, which are designed to help renew and restore existing woodland and vegetation, as well as replacing trees which have been affected by diseases such as ash dieback.

Each tree pack includes 45 native trees - 15 each of oak, crab apple and hazel. The hedgerow packs are made up of 250 hedgerow shrubs, including a mix of hawthorn, hazel, blackthorn, field maple, dog rose as well as oaks to plant at regular intervals along the hedgerow. For larger areas of land, the scheme will also help advise and support the creation of new areas of woodland planting over half a hectare through the MOREwoods scheme.

The tree packs are being made available to anyone who lives in Leicestershire with suitable areas of land to plant – including community groups, parish councils and schools, as well as landowners and

farmers. Eligible applicants are now being invited to register for their free tree and hedgerow packs, in a bid to help the county council plant 700,000 trees – one for every person in Leicestershire.

Last year, the county council gave away just over 30,000 trees from this and other similar schemes – and is hoping to top 50,000 trees this year. Leicestershire is one of the least wooded areas of the country, with around six per cent woodland – well below the national average of 10 per cent. Anyone who would like to apply for a free tree or hedgerow pack can register by emailing lctreepacks@woodlandtrust.org.uk or by calling 0330 333 5303, quoting 'Leicestershire County Council trees'.

Successful applicants will be able to collect their trees from the county council tree nursery at Beaumanor Hall in Woodhouse in November 2022 or February 2023.

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

Cllr James Poland CC

Tel: 07764 966677

Email: james.poland@leics.gov.uk and cldr.james.poland@Charnwood.gov.uk

Facebook: Cllr James Poland