Foreword by Leader of the Council

One of the most important consultations on leisure provision in the history of this council is underway. Whether you are active and involved in sport or physical activity, or would like to be, your views will influence what facilities and activities can be provided. You are the experts and we want to hear from you.

I’m pleased with the excellent work we are doing with local communities to bring neighbourhood plans from conception to formal adoption. Neighbourhood plans give residents real planning powers to decide on housing and other development in their local area. To have three neighbourhood plan referendums taking place on the same day is a real achievement for
residents, parish councils and neighbourhood planning groups in
the district. I hope more will follow.

Finally, one of the highlights of the social calendar, Harborough
by the Sea, will this year include a classic car show. If it is well
supported we hope to make the display of vintage vehicles an
annual fixture. So if you own a vintage vehicle get involved! And
if not please come out and support what will be a great family
day out.

Future of leisure facilities and activities - tell us your views

You have a unique opportunity to help shape leisure facilities
and activities across the Harborough district and we want to
hear your views.

We’re currently gathering feedback on proposals for new and
improved leisure facilities to help us promote healthy lifestyles
and physical activity.

This will help inform the council’s new Active Harborough
Strategy which aims to create accessible, sustainable sport and
leisure opportunities across the district to encourage
participation, improve health and enhance quality of life.

We would welcome your thoughts on proposals for a new
leisure centre in Market Harborough – replacing the existing
building – and a refurbishment of Lutterworth Sports Centre.

Share your views today at
www.harborough.gov.uk/active before the consultation closing
date of 15 August 2017.

Harborough by the Sea & classic car show

Hugely popular family event Harborough by the Sea takes place
this month - with a classic car show as an added attraction.

Vintage is the theme for the 2017 event – with live bands on
The Square playing classic rock 'n' roll and sixties hits, along
with the traditional giant sand pits and deckchairs, plus a host
of other activities and entertainment.

And keeping with the theme, for the very first time Harborough
by the Sea will also host a classic car show in the town on the
Sunday – with retro vehicles displayed on the streets, all vying for the best in show award.

Anyone with a classic car is invited to display their prized vehicle as part of the show. It is free to exhibit vehicles but these must be registered on the Harborough by the Sea website before 14 July. The only stipulation is that the vehicle – whether car, motorbike, scooter, van or other classic vehicle – ideally pre-dates 1990.

More than 50 classic vehicles have already been registered and more are registering every day.

The event, organised by Harborough District Council, will take place in Market Harborough from Friday 28 to Monday 31 July 2017, with support from a number of sponsors – including Jeakins Weir which will deliver and assemble the sandpits.

Supermarket Tesco will sponsoring the Best In Show award for the Classic Car Show, as well as giving away free ice lollies and fruit during the event.

There are also some opportunities available for traders to apply to run food and retail pitches during the event.

Register your classic vehicle, apply for a retail pitch and find out more about Harborough by the Sea 2017 at www.goleicestershire.com/harboroughbythesea

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**TV chef judging market bake off**

The Great Market Harborough Bake Off is coming to the town's indoor market - with VIP judges including MasterChef finalist Tony Rodd.

Home bakers are invited to rise to the occasion and submit a picture of their family-sized cake, a recipe, and contact details to the competition. The best entries will make it through to the live round of judging at Harborough Market with MasterChef finalist Tony Rodd (pictured), Harborough District Council vice chairman Councillor Lesley Bowles and Barry Badger from HFM on the judging panel.

The winner will receive vouchers to spend at Frank Gilbert Homewares in the high street. There will be two categories 12 to 16, and over 17.

There will be a live HFM broadcast on the day and interviews with the judges, contestants and stall holders.
Send your entries, including your name, age, address, and email, to sairah@mpel.co.uk by 5pm 19 July 2017.

**Bid to bring empty homes back into use**

More empty properties could be brought back into use for residents under new proposals.

Harborough District Council is asking for views on the proposed changes to council tax, which would come into effect from 1 April 2018, which aim to encourage property owners to bring vacant properties back into use.

It is proposed that:

- Properties that have been empty for more than two years will be subject to an additional 50 per cent premium (150 per cent council tax)
- The current 10 per cent discount on second homes be removed – ie. they will pay 100 per cent council tax
- Properties under major and/or structural repairs have the discount of 50 per cent removed – ie. they will pay 100 per cent council tax.

In 2016, there were nearly 590,000 empty homes in England, according to the statistics published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). In the Harborough district there are currently more than 400 empty properties which have been empty for more than six months.

Have your say before 20 August 2017 at www.harborough.gov.uk/counciltaxchanges

**Local Plan published prior to consultation**

The new Local Plan - which sets out how the district will grow up to 2031 - will be published in September.

The Local Plan sets out planning policies and ensures development meets the council's strategic priorities to meet future needs relating to areas such as housing, employment, community facilities, transport and infrastructure.

It sets out strategic allocations of land to meet future housing
and other developments needs, policies to protect the local environment, and boundaries of public open space and local green space.

Public representations on the Local Plan will be invited in September 2017 for a six-week period.

Read more about the Local Plan on the council's website

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**First time buyers snap up new homes**

Keys are set to be handed over as house-buyers prepare to move into new council-built homes in the district.

Four attractive, two-bed semi-detached houses have been built in St Cuthbert's Avenue, Great Glen, on land owned by Harborough District Council.

The new properties have been made available as part of the Government's 'Help To Buy' scheme to assist people finding it difficult to get on to the property ladder.

All the homes are under offer, with the new occupiers set to move in over the coming weeks.

The council is also developing another site in Paget Road, Lubenham, with a view to creating one new four-bed home, one new three-bed home and a bungalow suitable for people with mobility issues.

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**Villagers to vote in referendum triple**

Three separate neighbourhood plan referendums are to be held on the same day in the district - a possible first for the UK.

Villagers in Lubenham, North Kilworth and Hungarton will go to the polls on 20 July 2017 to vote on whether their respective neighbourhood plans should be adopted. If all three are successfully adopted it will bring the total of 'made' neighbourhood plans in the Harborough district to seven.

Broughton Astley, Billesdon, Scraptoft and Foxton neighbourhood plans have already been adopted and the council is working with around 25 communities to bring more neighbourhood plans to fruition.
Neighbourhood plans help communities choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, what new buildings should look like, and are used to determine planning permission for the new buildings they want to go ahead.

Start your own neighbourhood plan? Read more here

GoLearn with Leicestershire Adult Learning Service

Whether you want to learn new skills and gain qualifications or improve your confidence and meet new people, Leicestershire County Council's GoLearn Adult Learning Service has something for you.

Courses are run for people of all abilities and range from skills-based training and formal qualifications to leisure courses including languages and computing, plus arts and crafts.

There is also a programme of courses for adults with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Courses are run at The Symington Building or Roman Way Day Centre in Market Harborough.

If you receive certain benefits or are on a low income, you can get a 70 per cent discount on courses, or may be entitled to attend for free.

See what's on offer at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/GoLearn or call the Leicestershire Adult Learning Service on Freephone 0800 988 0308.

Great days out just a click away

Fun family days out are just a click away thanks to an informative website encouraging people to explore the district.

The Explore Harborough and Explore Lutterworth websites, introduced last year, are filled with tourist information and are proving hugely popular.

There is a wide variety of tourist attractions, events, festivals and opportunities in the Harborough district. You can also find the perfect place to stay, and the best places to
eat, during your visit.

Want to get involved? **Tourism-related businesses can promote themselves on the site** and many are doing so every day.

What's happening in the district? Visit [www.exploreharborough.co.uk](http://www.exploreharborough.co.uk) or [www.exporelutterworth.co.uk](http://www.exporelutterworth.co.uk)