Harborough News
Harborough District Council Newsletter

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Foreword by Leader of Harborough District Council
Welcome to the latest edition of Harborough District Council’s residents’ newsletter. Since our last edition, earlier this year, we have seen unprecedented political changes on a national - and indeed European - level.

Whilst we await updates on what implications this will have for local government, I can assure residents in the Harborough district that despite what is happening across the national and international political spectrum - and some of the perceived uncertainty around this - we at Harborough District Council are continuing as normal and pushing forward with an ambitious programme of work and activities.

As you will see from the articles in this newsletter, we have another busy period ahead with exciting news about tourism, local events, business support, and improving access to our services both online and within The Symington Building.

They’ll be more news to come so, if you haven’t already, make sure you sign up to receive future editions of this newsletter.

*Councillor Blake Pain*

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**New tourism website for district**

The new Explore Harborough website provides lots of information and ideas to help you plan some great days out in the local area.

The website has been developed by Harborough District Council and Leicester Shire Promotions to grow the tourism economy in the Harborough district.

You will never be stuck for things to do as the website lists hundreds of activities, events, eateries, short stay packages, and suggestions for ways to enjoy everything Harborough district has to offer.

Get exploring today at [www.exploreharborough.co.uk](http://www.exploreharborough.co.uk) and give us your feedback by emailing business@harborough.gov.uk

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**Harborough By The Sea 2016**
This month will see the return of the giant sandpits as the hugely popular Harborough By The Sea event gets underway in Market Harborough.

Final preparations are in hand by Harborough District Council, and others, to bring the fun event back to town over the weekend of Saturday 30 July and Sunday 31 July 2016 from 10am to 4pm each day.

In addition to the usual sandpits in The Square there will be tables and chairs for people to relax and enjoy the atmosphere.

There’ll be river dipping sessions, mobile laboratory, cycling trail and cycling activities, orienteering, badminton, and a mobile skate park at the tennis courts in Welland Park.

Churches Together will hold a Songs of Praise on Sunday morning, followed by craft activities for children and a tea party in the afternoon.

Read full details about Harborough By The Sea 2016

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Shaping future development in district

Work is continuing to develop a Local Plan which will help shape future development in the Harborough district.

The Local Plan will make sure development meets strategic priorities in terms of housing, employment, community facilities, and transport etc. Following public consultation last year, four options are currently being decided upon for key areas of development to help meet housing targets. These are:

- **Core Strategy Distribution** - development across the district with Market Harborough accommodating a significant number of new homes required
- **Kibworth Strategic Development Area** - a key proportion of housing allocated to the north east of Kibworth Harcourt with a relief road for Kibworth
- **Lutterworth Strategic Development Area** - a key proportion of housing allocated to the east of Lutterworth with a relief road for Lutterworth
- **Scraptoft Strategic Development Area** - a key proportion of housing allocated to the north of Scraptoft

From these, a preferred option - or hybrid option - will be established in the autumn. The public will be invited to comment on this later in 2016.
Improving the council website

We are always looking at ways to improve our website and make sure it provides our visitors with a 24 hour service where they can access clear and useful information, and conveniently complete tasks online.

To help us do this we are creating a Digital Reviewers group - a group of people that are interested in helping us identify areas for improvement on our website.

We will contact the group several times a year with opportunities to provide email feedback on certain areas of the website and new developments, or to take part in some testing sessions - there will be no obligation to take part in any of the feedback or testing sessions.

Your experiences and opinions can be really useful whatever your level of ability with computers or websites. We are looking for customers that use our website and those that may have struggled using our site, not web experts or web design companies.

If you would like to volunteer to join our Digital Reviewers group please register your interest by emailing website@harborough.gov.uk

The Symington Building

Work to install a new and improved lift at The Symington Building will be complete by September 2016.

The new lift will replace the ageing central lift in the Grade II listed Victorian building in Market Harborough.

It will be bigger, and more energy efficient than the existing lift and be able to accommodate more people. It will also improve accessibility for wheelchair users and people who use Class 2 mobility scooters.

The multi-functional building, owned by Harborough District Council, currently accommodates Harborough Museum, Harborough Library, Registry Office, Harborough District Council, Leicestershire County Council services including adult learning, Citizen’s Advice Bureau, Jobcentre Plus, Royal British
Legion, as well as private businesses.

Read more about the project

New regulations tackle irresponsible dog owners

Irresponsible dog owners face tougher action under new regulations - backed by the public.

Whilst the majority of dog owners are responsible, local people told the council, in a consultation, that they were in favour of tougher measures to help crackdown on dog owners who do not behave responsibly.

In response to this, new Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) have been introduced to help identify and address particular problems in the district.

They make it an offence to:

- Fail to pick up after your dog (ie. dog fouling)
- Fail to put your dog on a lead if directed to do so by an authorised officer - especially if that dog is posing a danger to other people or dogs
- Fail to show means to pick up after your dog (ie. bags)

Anyone ignoring the order could be issued with a £100 fixed penalty notice, or be taken to court with a fine on conviction of up to £1,000.

Useful help for anyone holding an event

Over recent months the council has been working with other organisations to improve the way local events are administrated to reduce any potential risks to event organisers, improve the likelihood of a successful event and to improve lines of communication between all involved parties.

A new application form has been created for all event organisers to complete, irrespective of whether they require a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (ie. temporary road closures), which is available on the council's website for groups to complete.

In addition to the new application form event organisers will be able to download various documents to help them deliver their
event safely and which form part of a package of information they will need to submit to both Harborough District Council and Leicestershire County Council Highways Department (where a Temporary Traffic Order has been requested).

Please find a link to the new Events toolkit on the HDC website

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**Enjoy a cuppa with a copper**

There's a chance to meet your local beat officer in Market Harborough this month.

The 'cuppa with a copper' event will take place on **20 July** at the Harborough District Council Chamber, The Symington Building, Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough, from 9.30am to 10.30am, and again from 12noon to 1.30pm.

Members of the public are welcome to drop in for a cup of tea or coffee and chat to the local police officers present about any issues or concerns they may have.

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**Residents benefit from green bin service - sign up now**

More than 18,000 residents across the Harborough district have now signed up to the council's garden waste collection scheme - with many saying it is easier and cheaper than taking it to the tip.

Residents have been taking advantage of the annual subscription service - a charge of £40 per green bin - allowing them to continue to have their garden waste collected from the kerbside.

If you haven't already, once you've signed up you'll receive a sticker for your green bin meaning your garden waste (green) bin is emptied fortnightly until November 2016, and between March and November after that.

Subscribe to the new garden waste service using our simple online form. Alternatively you can phone 01858 828282 and our staff will be happy to help.
**Lifeline - it could save your life**

"A wonderful service. I wouldn't be without it" is how emergency telephone service Lifeline is being described by those who use it.

Harborough Lifeline is available to anyone who feels vulnerable or alone, whatever their age or needs, and helps them retain their independence and enjoy the comforts of their own home.

It offers reassurance, support and peace of mind by providing a direct link to a local control centre and team of caring operators - here 24/7, 365 days per year.

The lifeline equipment is quick to install and easy to use in an emergency. Clients are provided with a pendant which serves as a remote trigger to their lifeline equipment. This allows the user to summon help from anywhere in their property at the touch of a button.

Call today on 01858 464499 for a chat and one of Lifeline's friendly team will be happy to talk to you. Or email lifeline@harborough.gov.uk

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**Pioneer 10 Harborough - grow your business**

Pioneer10 Harborough is a new, district-wide initiative designed for ambitious business owners, and run from Harborough Innovation Centre.

It consists of pragmatic workshops, a dedicated website with downloadable tools and advice – plus one to one growth coaching.

Later in the year those behind the initiative will be seeking the area's top 10 Pioneering businesses, and selecting two to join the Harborough Innovation Centre community with free office space for a year.

[Sign up and get involved here](#)

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**Eat smart - food hygiene ratings**
'Eat smart' is the message to anyone who eats out or buys food in the Harborough district.

Before you book a table at a restaurant, before you order a takeaway and before you buy food from any local eatery you can check their food hygiene rating - quickly and simply online.

We carry out regular checks on all registered food premises in the Harborough district making sure that risks have been identified, staff are adequately trained and the condition and cleanliness of the premises meets required standards.

Food premises are then given a rating ranging from 0 stars (worst) to 5 stars (best). The food hygiene rating is not a guide to food quality, only that the standards mentioned above are met.

See food hygiene ratings of eateries in your area

We offer security checks for your staff

Did you know that Harborough District Council offers businesses and organisations a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to help employers make safer recruitment decisions and prevent unsuitable people from working with vulnerable groups, including children.

Our service helps organisations carry out appropriate security checks to protect their customers and themselves.

As a trusted body the council can perform checks for a range of organisations for a competitive fee. Our fully trained staff provide support and guidance at every stage of the process.

Visit www.harborough.gov.uk/dbs or email dbs@harborough.gov.uk or call between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, on 01858 821304 or 01858 821307.