

## Reports for KBPC meeting on 28 July 2020

### Leicestershire County Council

#### **Waste**

Main news is that the Kibworth Recycling and Household Waste Site (Tip) opens on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. It will still need to be by appointment for Monday to Friday, and bookings opened on 24<sup>th</sup> July. The Oadby and Harborough sites are open 7 days a week. No recyclable materials can yet be taken except for cardboard. Apparently, the recyclables wholesalers are not yet ready to take on more than the recyclable waste from the fortnightly kerbside blue topped bins.

#### **Finance**

With forecasters predicting the worst economic downturn in 300 years, the situation is more difficult than at any time during austerity. Even as the immediate pressures from the virus subside, the county council's overall budget gap is forecast to increase to over £50m by 2024. This will be difficult – and requires managers to drive efficiency in the way the council works. To start to repair the financial position from August there will be a changes to spending controls. This will mean stopping non-essential recruitment and spending, challenging all staff about how items are procured, and only taking on essential projects. Without more funding, or local government restructuring, more savings will be required, including service reductions

#### **County Council website**

Our website has just been ranked the most accessible among all county councils.

The website climbed 34 places to be placed ninth overall out of more than 400 councils whose sites were audited as part of the Silktide Index, a public list of websites graded for accessibility.

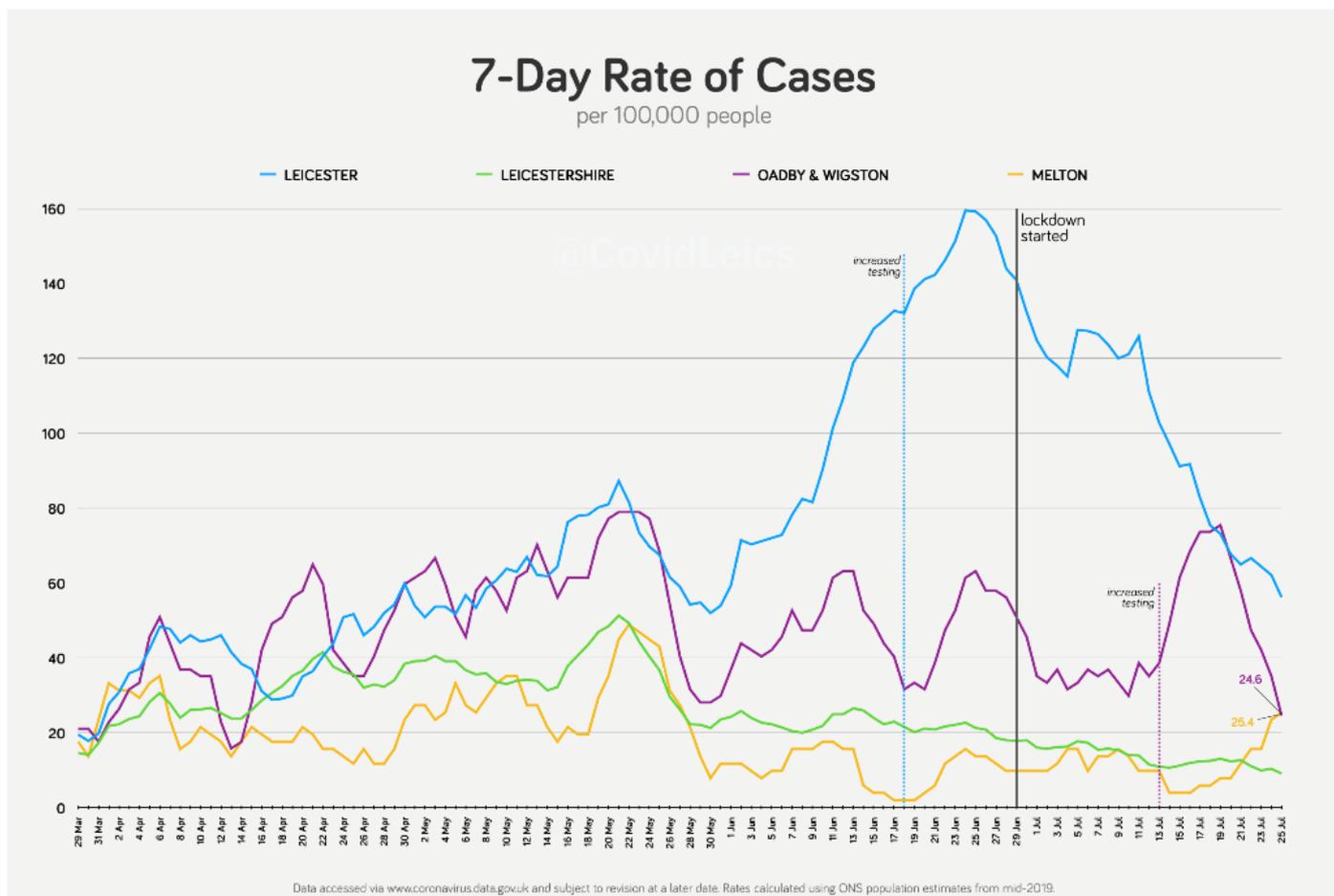
Between April and June this year, more than a million visits were made to our website. The website has been more popular than ever during the coronavirus pandemic as people need clear, transparent information.

**Local Community options to support active travel** – a list of options has been provided to every parish council, and an amount of money allocated that parishes can use to fund the types of measures that best suits our community. (Agenda item 20-091). Smeeton Westerby PC and Kibworth Harcourt PC are ordering the temporary speed limit signs on minor roads not already covered by other signs and currently 30 mph.

#### **Leicester & Oadby/Wigston lockdown**

As of Monday there has been no hint as to what Matt Hancock, Secretary of State, might decide from Thursday. For the fortnight to 25<sup>th</sup> July, Oadby & Wigston cases rose by 64, Harborough by 11 and Melton by 18, due mainly to a work related mini-outbreak. The rates have definitely decreased in Leicester and in Oadby & Wigston, despite testing anybody who turned up at the testing station. Other areas in the country e.g. Blackburn, have higher rates and are now on local authority lockdown. Leicester and surrounding areas were clearly a pilot/guinea pig, and now that the key levels of data are feeding through to every local authority and Directors of Public Health, I am hopeful that Matt Hancock will tell Sir Peter Soulsby that Leicester can come out of national lockdown, but still up to him to decide whether to impose a local authority lockdown! Whether Matt Hancock relies on the county council's Director of Public Health to advise him to do the same for Oadby & Wigston is unknown.

The graph shows rates coming down, but not as low as county average, by 25 July.



**County Cllr Kevin Feltham**

**Harborough District Council**

The Government have relaxed the £100 charge for coffee bars, restaurants etc for placing tables and chairs on the pavements outside their premises. However, the individual organisations do still need to apply for a licence.

**District Cllr. Hollick**

**Joint Recreation Board**

**Play Park Warwick Park**

Fenland have finished the refurbishment of the play park and it has now been reopened with notices giving advice on hand sanitising etc.

**MUGA**

The MUGA is now complete and the Heras panels should be taken down by the end of Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July. It has been difficult keeping children /youths out of the area while the surface is curing. Hopefully this is a reflection of how popular it will be.

**Orchards**

The group now has some costings for the proposed community orchards. Four areas in the village have been put forward and costed by the Kibworth community orchard group. The KJRC will discuss the options at the next meeting on 19th Aug and put forward a proposal to the Parish councils.

### **Smeeton Rd Recreation Ground**

The KJRC now have one estimate for landscape architect (Pick Everard) to assess and design a project for Smeeton Rd. It has also been suggested that a strategy for all four areas that the group manages would be beneficial. The group will consider this at the next meeting. In the meantime, further quotes are being obtained for comparison purposes. It was also agreed that two extra open spaces in Kibworth Harcourt should be included.

### **Skateboard Park**

The group are still committed to identifying an acceptable site for a skateboard park.

The building of a skateboard park is a sensitive issue (noise ASB etc) and an appropriate site has proved difficult to find in the past.

Several suggestions have been made which need to be explored and discussed further by the group before taking the development further.

### **Quotes for open spaces**

It was agreed that two extra open spaces in Kibworth Harcourt should be included

### **Cllr. Pat Copson**

## Joint Burial Board

A Zoom meeting was held in the evening of Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Items agreed were: -

a) to leave the fallen tree in its current state as it is now becoming a wildlife area.

b) to investigate having a new cremation area at the bottom of the cemetery for disabled relatives or mobility issues.

Subsequent to the meeting a complaint has been received regarding dogs running loose in the cemetery.

At the next meeting a discussion will take place regarding appropriate signage and any other ways of addressing the issue.

### **Cllr. Ian Harrison**

## Grammar School Hall

The GSH are broadly in agreement with the proposal plans put forward by Nortoft but do still have serious concerns with losing their existing space, such as the Studio. A letter has been passed to the KBPC Chairman outlining their concerns.

The GSH is planning on reopening in September and risk assessments are currently taking place.

### **Cllr. Mark Newcombe.**

## Kibworth Allotment Society

No report available