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# Drop-in to Discuss Day Case Hospital Plans

A drop-in event is set to take place this week for people to discuss the second phase of the New Day Case Unit at Hinckley & District Hospital.

Residents are being invited to attend to discuss the plans on Wednesday 12 February, between 2pm and 7pm at The Green Rooms in Hinckley Masonic Hall, St. Mary's Road, Hinckley.

Those attending will have the opportunity to find out more about the proposals for the Day Case Unit, as well as be able to view plans first-hand.

The NHS project team, clinicians, representatives of the local Patient Participation Group (PPG), architects and designers of the site will all be on hand to speak and answer questions.

The total cost of the new DCU on the existing Hinckley and District Hospital site is £10.5million and will see all services delivered from a new building on the Mount Road site linked to the new Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC).

Development of the DCU is the second phase of the local NHS's development for Hinckley.

This Unit would cater for a wider range of



clinical specialities in more modern facilities.

Speciality services that would be delivered include plastic surgery, general surgery, vascular surgery, ophthalmology, urology, podiatric surgery and gynaecology.

Sarah Prema, Chief Strategy Officer at the LLR ICB, said: *"It is really important that Hinckley residents attend the drop-in event, as they will have the opportunity to hear about and see the latest plans and proposals for this major investment in new health facilities."*

*"Our plans will see the delivery of a modern, fit-for-purpose Day Case Unit for the local population allowing care to be delivered closer to home, and people can come and talk to us directly about these plans, as well as provide their views."*

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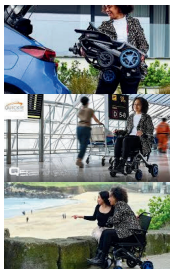
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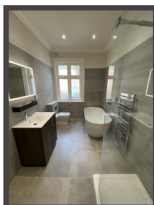
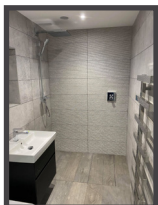
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# Hinckley and Bosworth MP urges Labour Government to not override local concerns on Hinckley rail hub

Following the Chancellor's recent speech on growth Dr Luke Evans, Member of Parliament for Hinckley and Bosworth, has urged the Labour Government not to deviate from protocols and policy on looming decision for the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (NRFI).

Dr Evans, MP since December 2019, said the *"Labour Government shouldn't push through their growth agenda on the backs of people in Hinckley and Bosworth."*

Dr Evans reiterated concerns raised with him by people in Hinckley and Bosworth that the Chancellor's recent comments could lead to the Hinckley NRFI being pushed through despite serious concerns over the impact on roads, safety, and the local environment, particularly Burbage Common.

The GP-turned-MP called on the new Transport Secretary to stick to protocols for decision-making on large infrastructure projects and follow the Planning Inspectorate's previous recommendation to reject the application.

The Transport Secretary's final decision is expected to be made by 10th March 2025.

Dr Luke Evans, Member of Parliament for Hinckley and Bosworth, added *"After the Chancellor's comments, I am concerned that the Transport Secretary's decision on the proposed Hinckley NRFI will overlook the many deficiencies with this application and not give due weight to the considerable concerns of people across our area or those raised by the independent Planning Inspectorate."*

*"If this decision is given the green light, it will be hard not to think the new Government's change of policy is behind the rail hub being accepted, not the merits of the project itself - which we know to be flawed."*

*"I'd like to thank all those in the community*



*who have helped fight this application and exposed the flaws in the proposal, let's hope the new Transport Secretary has the same thoughts as the last, and actually refuses it once and for all."*

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# From Breakdown to Brass Band

For Hinckley musician Chris Small the setting up of a brass band was what helped his recovery from a mental health breakdown.

Chris says he had reached “*absolute crisis*” point and was unsure what his future held. But joining up with a group of fellow brass instrument players helped him become his old self again.

You may have seen the quartet carolling in the Hinckley area in the run-up to Christmas to raise money for the Mind mental health charity. And they have also recorded a CD of Christmas music to raise money for the charity.

Chris, who studied music at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and plays a range of instruments including the euphonium and trombone, said: “*Just over 12 months ago I had a mental breakdown and I was in absolute crisis.*”

*“I reached out to Mind and asked them for some help and they pointed me in lots of different directions.*

*“If it wasn’t for Mind I probably wouldn’t be here now working on this project.”*

Chris, who has been playing music since he was eight, added: “*What for me was a small lightbulb moment, to get some friends together to do some carolling, has become something absolutely amazing.*

*“I can’t describe how much music has meant to me and helped me get back on the road to being 100 per cent Chris again.*

*“This whole project means a lot to me personally and it is an opportunity to put a bit of a stamp down and to say, ‘it’s been really hard, but now I’m back’.”*

He said his recovery was ongoing and that it had been a privilege to play with a group of great musicians and friends.

Chris added: “*I hope we are putting a smile on people’s faces.*”



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# Last Call to Celebrate County's Young People

Here's a final reminder that people in Leicestershire have until 14 February to help the Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire celebrate the achievements of young people aged 13 to 19 across the county.

Family, friends, teachers, and other professionals and community leaders are being urged to nominate inspiring young people in their communities for this year's Lord-Lieutenant's Young Person of the Year Award.

The four categories people can nominate their chosen young person for are, Young Person of Courage, Young Volunteer, Young Leader, and Young Artist.

Mike Kapur OBE CStJ, Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, said: "As Lord-Lieutenant I am privileged to meet so many fantastic young people across the city and county.

"This annual award event is designed to celebrate the achievements of our exceptional young people. But without your continued support and insightful nominations these awards simply cannot take place.

"As ever, the award categories highlight bravery, creativity, strength of spirit and selflessness and I hope these will give you the opportunity to show



your appreciation for the young people you know who continue to amaze, support, and inspire those around them.

"My award panel is looking forward to hearing about the remarkable efforts of our young people. I want to thank you in advance for your support in helping me to recognise their individual talents and the outstanding contributions they make to their local communities."

The award scheme is open to all 13 to 19-year-olds living or attending full-time education in Leicestershire. Nominations can be made by other young people, their school, parent or carer, as well as any other agency or individual.

More information about the awards, as well as useful tips to help you complete your nomination, is available on the Lord-Lieutenant's website.

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# Roll up for Rainbows!



People in Leicestershire looking for a challenge for 2025 can take inspiration from Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People.

The charity has launched some of its events for the year, which will all raise funds for babies, children and young people with serious and terminal illnesses.

From half-marathons to skydives, and abseils to It's a Knockout, all taking place in the local area, Rainbows has something for everyone.

Some of the scheduled events include the Leicestershire Half Marathon, where Rainbows has been announced as the 2025 charity partner; two skydives in Nottingham; It's a Knockout in Leicestershire; the Derby Abseil and the Loughborough Santa Run.

People can also take on a range of organised half marathons, such as the Great North Run, and raise money for Rainbows.

Claire Hoggan, Rainbows senior events officer said: *"January is a great time to sign up to an event and kick-start the new year."*

*"We have lots of fun events and challenges for the year and we think there is something for everyone."*

*"All money raised at our events goes to helping hundreds of families through their most difficult times whether that is at the hospice, in hospital or at home."*

To find out more, visit [www.rainbows.co.uk/events](http://www.rainbows.co.uk/events)

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# Thieves Rob Community Hospital

Thousands of pounds worth of equipment has been stolen from a Hinckley community hospital.

It's believed a group of people broke into a premises that is currently under construction at the hospital site.

They stole thousands of pounds worth of copper wiring and caused a significant amount of damage.

Four men were arrested after the burglary within the grounds of Hinckley and District General Hospital.

Police received a report of a suspicious vehicle within the grounds of the Mount Road site around 12.55 am on Tuesday 28th January.

When officers arrived at the scene one of the two suspect vehicles was seen leaving the site and failed to stop for them. That vehicle was last seen heading along Rugby Road in Burbage.

The four men have all since been released on police bail pending further enquiries.

Sergeant Fiona Day from Hinckley Neighbourhood Policing Area, said: *"Our investigation remains ongoing and are currently looking through CCTV and carrying out house to house enquiries in the area."*

*"It is sad that a community resource has been targeted in this way and no doubt this incident will have an impact on the ongoing work on the site."*



*"We would urge anyone who may have witnessed what happened or saw people or vehicles acting suspiciously around the area at this time. Also, if you were driving in the Rugby Road area of Burbage and captured any footage on your dashcam equipment of a vehicle driving at speed through the area we would like to speak to you."*

Anyone with any information is asked to contact police on 101 or report via , quoting crime number 25\*52959.

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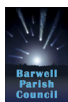
**OPEN Monday - Friday 10am - 5pm Saturday 10am - 1pm**



# Energy, Money and Wellbeing Event in Barwell

Local residents are invited to an **ENERGY, MONEY & WELLBEING EVENT** organised by Barwell Parish Council. The event on **THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2025** is being held at Jubilee Hall off Byron Close in Barwell from 10.30 till 1.00pm.

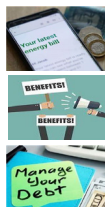
The event will be offering support across multiple areas that many people find challenging in the current economic climate. Residents can get assistance with both financial matters (like budgeting, debt management, and energy bills) and personal wellbeing (including health support and



**ENERGY, MONEY & WELLBEING EVENT**  
**FOR BARWELL RESIDENTS**  
**THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025**  
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- Housing costs and options
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- Health, wellbeing & support
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befriending services).

The informal, friendly approach should make it easier for people to seek help with sensitive topics like debt or housing concerns. Having multiple agencies present in one location is particularly convenient for residents who might need help in several areas.

Free Hot Soup, Rolls and refreshments will be served during this event.

For more information please contact The Clerk, Barwell Parish Council, 10 High Street, Barwell, LE9 8DQ

Tel: 01455 844229 [info@barwell-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@barwell-pc.gov.uk)



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# Appeal after tiny puppies abandoned

Blaby District Council is appealing for information after a litter of eight tiny puppies were dumped at an industrial estate in Enderby.

The puppies, barely two weeks old, were found on Monday 20 January on Quarry Lane by a driver from Castle

Freight. He spotted a box as he was driving into the firm's gates around lunchtime.

The cross-breed pups were first taken to a vet before being handed to the Council's partners Animal Care Services.

Luckily the pups were found to be healthy, despite their trauma, and were taken to a rescue centre. New homes have already been found for them.

The callous incident has prompted an investigation by the Council with officers keen to hear from anyone who may be able to help.

Councillor Les Phillimore, Blaby District Council Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services, said: *"These poor animals have not had the best start in life, to be discarded like trash in near freezing temperatures just weeks after birth is nothing other than cruel and heartless. Thankfully they were found before any real harm could come to them and swift rescue action ensured their ordeal was limited. I'm delighted they are healthy and have been found new homes.*

*"The heartless abandonment, however, is not*



*something that can be overlooked. We are appealing to anyone to get in touch who may have information as to the culprits or knows anything about the circumstances of the dumping. We take animal cruelty extremely seriously and will not hesitate to bring criminal charges should we uncover enough evidence."*

Anyone who was in the area between 11.30am and 2.30pm on 20 January and saw anything unusual or perhaps has dashcam footage, CCTV or door camera footage of the location is asked to contact the Council. Depending on evidence gathered the Council could bring charges under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Please email the Licensing Department at [licensing@blaby.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@blaby.gov.uk)



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# Britannia's Got Talent, hosted by Hinckley BID on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025

Sponsored by Keysound - the piano and keyboard specialist at Regent Street, and supported by Britannia Shopping Centre, Hinckley BID are pleased to present a day of live music with a piano in the mall of the Britannia Shopping Centre.

Local musician Pianocole will headline the event with a show stopping performance at 10.30am and throughout the day shoppers and visitors will be entertained by a variety of performances.

Hinckley BID is welcoming talented pianists to contact them if they would the opportunity to perform. For more info, please contact [info@hinckleybid.co.uk](mailto:info@hinckleybid.co.uk).



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# Hard Hitting Letter Presses Government for Flood Help

Councils across Leicestershire joined forces to press the Government to release cash to help flood-hit residents.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Leader, Stuart Bray, was one of the signatories of the letter.

The hard-hitting letter called for immediate cash to support those forced to leave their homes and urges a national flooding shake up.

The move came as the number of homes flooded on Monday 6 January hit 630 and continued to rise – surpassing numbers seen during Storm Henk 12 months ago.

The letter – sent to Minister for Water and Flooding, Emma Hardy MP - stressed the devastating impact on residents and businesses.

It said: *“This is the second year in a row where hundreds of residents are left homeless and local pubs, sports clubs and others do not know if they will be able to survive. Many are cleaning up after just getting on their feet after Storm Henk battered the area just 12 months ago. Residents sought shelter and support in emergency rest centres, many with just the clothes they were wearing. It is a torrid situation.*

*“The right thing is for Government to release funding now and activate the Flood Recovery Framework to help them survive and get back to some kind of normality.”*

Emergency services, councils, NHS, voluntary agencies and worked round the clock to keep people safe and declared a major incident.

During the response Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Services received 380 calls, rescued more than 60 people from properties and 27 from cars by boat.

Leicestershire Police handled over 2,100 calls - a 40 to 50 per cent rise on average daily demand and East Midlands Ambulance Service declared



a critical incident.

The letter also calls on Government to drive national changes, including help for homeowners to make properties more flood resilient, support for businesses to get insurance and a new national communications campaign.

It states: *“Our climate is changing and we need a new approach. We are seeing far more frequent events, causing greater impact and affecting areas never historically known to flood. National changes to funding and powers are required to help us better prevent and then react to flooding when it does occur.*

*“Flooding is one of the biggest threats to our communities and needs propelling to the top of the agenda. Government needs to step up and lead the conversation on how we collectively up our game in tackling flooding.”*

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