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Hinckley Cottage Hospital Could be Demolished for New Facility

A document published by Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board has revealed that Hinckley Cottage Hospital, on Mount Road, could be demolished and replaced by a new building.

The document goes on to propose that there will be a commemorative area to show the importance of the building, which was opened in 1900.

It says: *“The proposals include the replacement of the existing hospital that we know will be cherished by many local people. We have explored options to integrate the existing building into the scheme, but we have concluded that it is not viable.*

“The layout of the existing hospital was not suitable for the services that previously existed within it (including x-ray and endoscopy services that will be re-provided within the new CDC), and it would not be suitable for Day Case Surgery services.

“We’ve therefore concluded that the best option is to replace it with a new building that can be developed to modern standards to treat double the number of Day Case Surgery patients (around 2,000 rather than 1,000 people a year) than were treated in the existing hospital in an efficient, accessible, patient friendly and energy efficient environment that will meet modern healthcare requirements, including current standards for air flow,



ventilation and infection control.”

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

This would cater for a wider range of clinical specialities, including plastic surgery, general surgery, vascular surgery, ophthalmology, urology, podiatric surgery and gynaecology.

A planning application has not yet been submitted for these proposals.

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Solar Panels for Leisure Centre

Energy really is the name of the game at Hinckley Leisure Centre, where more than 700 solar panels are being installed on the roof this month.

Work has already started on Monday 10 February and was targeted for completion this week. The leisure centre has been remaining open as usual throughout the works.

The project will cost £250,000 and is being partially funded by a £120,000 grant awarded to Hinckley Leisure Centre from Sport England's Swimming Pool Support Fund.

The Borough Council will fund the difference.

The Borough Council, which has led the project with Leisure Centre operators Places Leisure, was granted planning consent last September.

The new solar panels are expected to reduce over 52,000 kilograms of carbon dioxide in the first year.

Simon Churchman, Area Manager for Places Leisure, said: *"We are delighted to be supporting Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council with the installation of Solar Photovoltaic panels at Hinckley Leisure Centre."*



"This project will have a significant impact on reducing utility consumption as well as carbon reduction."

"Places Leisure is committed to supporting and collaborating with our partners to decarbonise the centres we manage."

Cllr Mark Bools, Deputy Leader of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, said: *"This project is a great example of how the Borough Council is being proactive in its quest to look after the environment."*

"It feeds into the council's desire to decarbonise the facility and supports the Climate and Biodiversity Strategy."

"Hinckley Leisure Centre was the first in the country to be fully LED lit so this new package will further enhance its environmental credentials."

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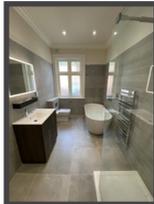
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A local cat and dog rehoming charity is holding a special event where potential adopters can find out more about the process and see residents looking for forever homes.

Leicester Animal Aid will be holding the Dog Adoption information morning at its Centre, in Huncote, on Saturday 29th March from 10am to 11.30am.

This event will take place in the Charity's newly refurbished training barn where visitors will be able to see the dogs in a fun, informal setting where they can exhibit their natural behaviours and put their best paw forward. Information and advice from qualified, well-informed staff will be available.

At the event, those who wish to take the next step can register their interest in their preferred dog. However, anyone who thinks they may like to adopt a dog now or in the future is welcome.

If you would like to attend this free event, you can contact the Centre or complete an online



booking form through L.A.A.'s website www.leicesteranimalaid.org.uk/events

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Keep Kids Away from Big Pit

Parents have been urged to warn their children of the dangers of playing around a dangerous building site in Hinckley.

The warning has been issued by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council after several young people were spotted playing around the Big Pit site in Hinckley.

The site has now been made secure by the developer after the sightings were reported.

They council said: *"For everyone's safety, please continue to warn young people to avoid accessing the site."*

The building site has long been controversial,



with many residents objecting to the plans to build 60 home on the land.

Planning permission was originally denied to Orbit Homes but this decision by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council was overturned by the Government following an appeal in 2019.



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Hinckley Sporting Heroes Honoured

A whole host of clubs and individuals from Hinckley were honoured in the Hinckley & Bosworth Active Awards at a ceremony at Hinckley Rugby Club.

The awards, which recognise the impact that sport and keeping active can make to the lives of residents across the borough, were presented by Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Mark Bools.

Special guest Vikki Macqueen BEM was also on stage throughout the night to celebrate the winners. Macqueen is a former Saracens, Lichfield and England rugby player and founder of Didi Rugby.

This year's award winners included:

Junior Unsung Hero: Chris Ayres

Chris volunteers at Green Towers Club for Young People and gives up his summer and Easter holidays to volunteer for out-of-school clubs. He helps children with their mental and physical wellbeing through sports.

School Team of the Year: St Peter's Primary School – Under 11s girls' table tennis team

Speaking about the team, who are champions of Leicestershire, their nominee said: *"Beyond their achievements on the court, these girls are excellent role models for our school community. They encourage younger students to play sports and get active, and the younger children aspire to be the next generation of table tennis champions."*

The Matt Hamson 'Let's Get Moving' Inclusivity Award: Sarah Shelby's Stars

Shelby's Stars does an incredible job teaching special education needs students of all ages to dance. Students are proud and confident to perform and are supported as much or little as needed on stage. They are a big part of the community, putting on events throughout the



year in Hinckley.

Sports Club of the Year: Hinckley Town Tennis Club (HTTC)

In recent times, the club provided a safe and welcoming space for Ukrainian families to come together and play sport, providing coaching and free memberships to numerous families. These efforts have had a lasting impact on the local Ukrainian population, helping to ease their transition into life in the UK.

The club, who have strong community bonds, are dedicated to offering inclusive tennis programmes for people with disabilities and reducing barriers to participation.

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Fines or Fun in The Sun?

At this time of year plenty of families will be thinking about their summer holidays – and considering whether or not its worth facing the consequences of taking their child out of school.

A record 443,322 school holiday fines were issued in England last year, according to new figures from the Department for Education (DfE).

And one local family is defending their decision to face the fine.

“My son doesn’t do well in large crowds,” says Sarah, who paid a £320 fine for taking her two children on holiday with her partner during school term time.

Sarah’s 10-year-old son, Tyler, is autistic and has ADHD, and struggles to cope with large groups of tourists during the school holidays.

It means Sarah has to choose between avoiding popular destinations, or visiting them in the quieter periods during the school term.

In July 2024 the family went on holiday to Turkey during the summer term, which meant the children missed six days of school.

Sarah told the BBC she has even considered home-educating her children, adding: *“I feel like I don’t have full responsibility for them, the fact I can’t pull them out of school for a holiday.”*

The DfE says it is aware of discrepancies between local authorities issuing fines, which is why from August 2024 new statutory guidance set national requirements for issuing school fines.

How much do you get fined for taking a child out of school for a holiday?

In August 2024, the DfE introduced a new national framework to bring councils more in line with each other. However, it says it is the local authority’s responsibility to decide when to issue fines to parents.

The government says, in most cases, schools and local authorities will try to provide support to help improve a child’s attendance – but if this is



ineffective or the absence is for an unauthorised term-time holiday, parents may face a fine.

According to DfE guidelines issued in August 2024:

Schools must consider fines if a child misses five or more days unauthorised

Fines rise from £60 to £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days

If a parent gets a second fine for the same child in three years, it costs £160 immediately

For a third unauthorised absence, other action like prosecution is considered. A court appearance could result in a fine of up to £2,500.

The DfE says money from fines goes to the local authority.

For many families, cost benefits also play a huge part in the decision to take holidays during term time, with trips often costing thousands more during the school holidays.

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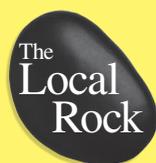
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