

JAMES NAISH BDC

November report

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

£65,000 has been awarded in grants to local organisations to support their work in helping residents deal with the rising cost of living. The specific details of the grants can be found here:

<https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/media-centre/news/latest-news/council-grants-support-cost-of-living-measures/>

The growing list of warm spaces can be found here:

<https://www.bcvs.org.uk/warmspaces>

If residents are struggling with increased costs, please encourage them to get in touch with me. Help is available.

If local community groups in Sturton Ward are planning to offer support and/or extend current provision to help over the winter months, please get in touch so that I can ensure appropriate support and coordination is in place. Thanks.

COST OF LIVING BOOKLET

As a reminder, a booklet has been produced in partnership with Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service which contains links to helpful content on a number of topics.

Hard copies are available at various community spaces and healthcare locations throughout Bassetlaw, including designated warm spaces and food banks:

<https://www.bcvs.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-09/Cost%20of%20Living%20Bassetlaw.pdf>

CULHAM SITE VISIT

The West Burton Residents' Planning Group is planning to go down to Culham in Oxfordshire to see the UK Atomic Energy Authority's main site. This visit will take place on Thursday 1st December.

<https://www.culham-ic.co.uk/>

If one or two Councillors would like to join from each Parish Council, please get in touch. We will drive there and back in a day.

COUNCIL FUNDING – POTENTIAL IMPACTS

While I don't often raise national issues in these updates, it's worth noting that we are expecting the services provided by councils across the country to be in the firing line when the Government's Medium-Term Fiscal Plan is published later in the month.

I've written to the Chancellor to ask him to protect local government funding but in the context of the wider funding gap which the Government is seeking to close, this may mean both Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council have to find another round of savings. One to watch...

ENERGY BILLS REBATE SCHEME

Residents who have not yet received the £150 Council Tax Energy Rebate payment can apply to the Council's Local Discretionary Scheme, should they meet the relevant criteria. Applications will be accepted up until Wednesday 30th November 2022.

You may be eligible to claim the £150 payment under the Council's Local Discretionary Scheme if one of the following criteria applies:

Properties in Council Tax Bands E-H

> You have lived in a property in Band E to H between 1st April 2022 and 30th April 2022 and were in receipt of a Council Tax Reduction (benefit) due to low income.

Properties in All Council Tax Bands

> You have moved into your property and were liable for the Council Tax between 2nd April 2022 and 30th April 2022 (this is to extend help to those who were in the process of moving house on or shortly after the qualifying date for the main scheme).

> You are the tenant of a privately rented home between 1st April 2022 and 30th April 2022 and are not liable directly for the Council Tax, but are liable to pay your own energy bills.

> Are a landlord of a property between 1st April 2022 and 30th April 2022 where the energy costs are included in the rent and you have not increased this due to the rise in energy costs.

> Have no choice but to live in a second home as a condition of your employment and were resident and liable for the Council Tax there between 1st April 2022 and 30th April 2022.

> Following an assessment by an approved Bassetlaw District Council officer, you have been deemed to be suffering exceptional circumstances or hardship due to rising energy costs; you were a Bassetlaw resident between 1st April 2022 and 30th April 2022 and have not been eligible for a payment in the main scheme or any of the qualifying criteria above.

To apply for the Council's Local Discretionary Scheme, please visit <https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/ct-energyrebate>.

FLOODING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Two significant stakeholder events have been held in Bassetlaw over the past month looking at how to manage flooding more effectively. Although these events were focused on

Retford and Worksop, I was able to speak to Severn Trent, the Environment Agency, Nottinghamshire County Council and others about work taking place elsewhere in the District, including in Sturton Ward. I will pass relevant information onto the Parish Clerks over the next few weeks.

Bassetlaw is finalising a “flood event preparation booklet” which I will distribute to properties known to be at high risk of flooding in our area.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

The District Council is currently considering an application to replace the existing Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Area with three new neighbourhood areas, as follows:

- > North and South Wheatley - as per the Parish boundary, with the Parish Council as the qualifying body.
- > North Leverton with Hablesthorpe - as per the Parish boundary, with the Parish Council as the qualifying body.
- > Sturton le Steeple, Bole, and West Burton - as per the area of the three parishes collectively, with Sturton le Steeple Parish Council as the qualifying body.

The proposed new designations, if approved, will not change the validity of the existing Sturton Ward Neighbourhood Plan but will allow it to be replaced by three separate neighbourhood plans in due course, one for each new neighbourhood area.

The District Council is consulting interested parties on the proposals for a period of six weeks, from Friday 14 October 2022 until 5pm on Thursday 24 November 2022. Comments are welcomed and should be made in writing via one of the following formats:

- > Email: neighbourhoodplanning@bassetlaw.gov.uk
- > Post: Neighbourhood Planning, Bassetlaw District Council, Queen’s Buildings, Potter Street, Worksop, Notts. S80 2AH.

All comments made in relation to these applications will be made available for public inspection and copying.

PILGRIM ROOTS BOARDS

As part of the Pilgrim Roots project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England, “Interpretation Boards” telling the Pilgrims’ story are now in place across the region including in Sturton-le-Steeple.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/media-centre/news/latest-news/exploring-pilgrim-roots/>.

RETFORD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

There will be a range of events taking place in Retford town centre on Sunday 27th November when the Christmas lights are switched on, starting at 10am. Santa will arrive at 12pm and the lights will be switched on at 5pm. For more information, please visit <https://www.life-publications.com/events/retford-christmas-market-lights-switch-on-2022/>.

RETFORD SANTA FAMILY RUN / WALK

There will be a Santa family run / walk in December to support Bassetlaw Food Bank, Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw and the Local Rotary Charity Fund. It will take place on Sunday 11th December at 10am. For more information and to sign-up, please visit <https://rotaryclubofretford.co.uk/pages/santa-run>.

WINTER VACCINES

Finally, eligible people are encouraged to come forward for their flu vaccine and COVID-19 booster as soon as they can to help protect themselves and loved ones over winter when viruses readily circulate.

If you are over 50, pregnant or have a long-term health condition then you are eligible for both vaccines.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>.

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If I can help with anything, please get in touch
Kind regards,

James

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