

Express Letters

Where to collect your Beeston Express:

Please note that this list is regularly updated as the new distribution network evolves.

ATTENBOROUGH

Attenborough Nature Centre
Barton Lane

Attenborough Service Station
5 Nottingham Road

BEESTON

Beeston News
86 High Road, Beeston

Chilwell Road News
86A Chilwell Road, Beeston

Co-op Food Store
291 Queens Road, Beeston

G & A Middleton

99 Central Avenue, Beeston

Hiral Newsagent

148 Wollaton Road, Beeston

Sangha Newsagent

182 Queens Road, Beeston

W H Smith

High Road, Beeston

BEESTON RYLANDS

Arun Food & News
154 Meadow Road, Rylands

County Stores

57-59 Trafalgar Road, Rylands

Discount Food & Wine

46 Lilac Crescent, Rylands

Day-Today (Plumb) News

1 – 3 Lilac Grove, Rylands

BRAMCOTE

M&N News
40a Sevenoaks Crescent,
Bramcote Hills

CHILWELL

Bains News
Bramcote Avenue, Chilwell

Bramcote Lane Stores

181 Bramcote Lane, Chilwell

Chetwynd Stores

8-10 Chetwynd Road, Chilwell

Sunnyside Post Office

Sunnyside Road, Inham Nook

STAPLEFORD

Wilsons News
7 Pasture Road, Stapleford

TOTON

Post News
79 High Road, Toton

A bee in your bonnet? Have your say here...

IF you want to express your opinion on anything that affects us as a community, then this is the place to do it. And bouquets are as worthwhile as brickbats are valuable. But please keep your letters short. We do reserve the right to cut letters to fit if necessary. If you contact *The Beeston Express* by email (see panel on page 2), remember to include your home address.

Library queue – or Barbados?

DEAR EDITOR: It was with great interest I read in Notts County News that each councillor is given £10,000 to spend on 'good causes', totalling £67,000 (for 67 councillors).

I also read that to save money, some libraries are reducing staff and going partially self-service to avoid queues – who minds queueing in a library?

I suggest that this 'good cause' money is returned to County coffers to pay wages to library staff or to help fund the increases for homecare and support to older people, rather than given to individuals to attend drama school, jaunts to Brazil, Uganda and Barbados. One local councillor gave £5,085 to Chilwell School for new staging for drama students – surely money that should be raised by the school and PTA? He gave the same school £470 for a trip to the Houses of Parliament: seems a bit like overkill.

Maybe if councillors want to continue to distributing largesse in their patch, the money should be slashed and tighter controls made in these straightened times, with money only given to real, worthy causes. Now let's hear the howls of protest from them. I quite fancy Barbados in January – any offers?

*Council Taxpayer,
Beeston*

Cheers for Christmas from Australia

DEAR EDITOR: I have just read the *Beeston Express* that my parents, Rita and Ken Long, brought with them to my home on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia.

What a lovely newspaper – but what a sorry place Beeston now appears to have become. I can't believe that the Council can advertise the Christmas lights without saying the word Christmas.

When we left the UK in January 2006, it was considered a Christian country: in fact, we put as a family that we were Church of England on our immigration papers and I remember that each year we celebrated with much joy a time called Christmas. We had Christmas services, Christmas carols and lots of lovely Christmas cheer, including Lights.

Broxtowe Borough Council should be ashamed of itself. As Brits, we have always celebrated

Christmas as a Christian festival but also as a time of all people getting together and sharing and hopefully spreading a little peace and, boy, doesn't the world need more of that!

When you move to the UK, you need to realise that you are moving to a country which is predominantly a Christian one, although all religions are welcome – but not to the cost of our own. Be like our Australian Prime Minister and stand up for your country; if people don't want to accept the British culture, go somewhere else.

Put a little common sense back into the Council please.

Wishing all your readers and staff a very happy Christmas from all of us in OZ.

*Claire Hill
Queensland, Australia*

A sign of changes to come?

DEAR EDITOR: It was with great dismay and sadness that I attended a meeting with my elderly mum at the Bramwell Centre in Bramcote last night.

The meeting was part of the 'consultation' process by the County Council who, after a change of administration this year, have proposed that the 13 council-run care homes for older people should be sold off to private companies to save money.

I didn't know about Bramwell until my mum was diagnosed with dementia a couple of years ago. I have found the care and the 'joined-up' approach to be second to none. All the facilities are there for residents and day centre attendees.

As a centre, they have the Sheila Gibson unit attached, currently take residential dementia patients, have all the different staff you would need, including specialist dementia nurses, physiotherapists, nurse practitioners and so on. The atmosphere is welcoming and happy and it was clear when I went to the first meeting this week that the residents love where they live. And what's more – this is a 4-star rated home and the Council's 'beacon' for standards in care homes.

What I find really shocking is that, if this goes ahead, once the homes have been sold to private companies, the contract with the County Council will only guarantee that the home will be kept as a home for 3 years.

What kind of future is this for the residents and staff at these centres?

I would encourage anyone who is against this proposal to make their feelings known to the Council during this consultation. It simply doesn't seem right to target the elderly and vulnerable when making financial cuts.

Anyone who remembers a certain Mrs Thatcher will recall the terrible cuts made to public services in the 1980s – is what the current County Council is doing a sign of things to come if we see a change of Government at the next election?

Name and address supplied

Alternative to car park charges proposal

DEAR EDITOR: On reading that Broxtowe Borough Council is proposing to charge Car Parking Fees, I felt I must write and complain about this matter.

The reason they are going to charge is that, firstly, they are short of money, and secondly, by charging car parking fees on the multi-story car park, they will receive money from NET when it is demolished. The third reason is to discourage people from parking in the car parks all day and going into Nottingham for work and shopping. This charge will discourage shoppers from shopping in Beeston and therefore more shops will close down, with a loss of revenue for the borough.

The answer is to have free parking for three hours and to pay after that time. If the person

has not paid, the car should be clamped and a charge of £50 made to get the car. It is useless charging fines as they don't get paid in a large number of cases. This way revenue will still be received, but without damage to the local shops.

As to the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition not paying these fees, have they heard about leading from the front, and paying the fees that they propose. As to the Council employees getting let off the car parking fees, if they need to use their cars for work why shouldn't help be given to private business people using their cars for work who have to pay?

I don't expect the Council will take a blind bit of notice of my proposals, but I feel better.

An anonymous reader

Festive thanks

DEAR EDITOR: A lady came in to my shop, asking me to put a poster in my window for the Oasis Christian Centre. A group of people then arrived on Sunday, December 13, between 5.45pm and 6.30pm, and sang carols and gave out mulled wine, mince pies and goodie bags from Santa. They came in a double decker bus, all trimmed up.

I would like to thank all who took part. It was lovely to get the neighbours together, for Central Avenue is in the news for not-very-good comments, so it was very pleasant to have some festive cheer.

*Edwina Slater
Edwina's Hair Design
Central Avenue, Beeston*

Next Issue

Your next *Beeston Express* will be published on January 15, 2010

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To the Newsagent:

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