

Buzz

Have your say for transport

MORE effective ways to tackle congestion, developing greener ways to travel to work or making public transport more affordable are some of the topics Nottinghamshire County Council is inviting people to have their say on.

The Council is currently developing its Third Local Transport Plan (LTP), which outlines a programme of transport-related measures that it will deliver over the short, medium and long-term.

People have until July 18 to have their say about what they would like to see incorporated into the LTP by completing a questionnaire, online or by post. The purpose of this is to find out what people's transport priorities are, based on the finding of the previous Local Transport Plan consultation that took place earlier this year.

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Marking out 100 years of Girlguiding

GIRLS from Girlguiding Beeston Division have taken over the formal flowerbed on the bank by the Sherwin Island, Bramcote, as part of the celebration of Girlguiding's centenary in 2010.

Assisted by additional funding from Broxtowe Borough Council and the requisite know-how of the council's Parks department staff, the Guides trefoil badge has been planted out on the island alongside the A52, where it will remain throughout the summer.

Designs were drawn up and orders placed with

specialist carpet bedding suppliers in December 2009 to ensure that sufficient quantities of the right coloured plants were available.

These included *senecio sepus* for the main blue background, a yellow and a red variety of *alternanthera leh* for the guide symbol and numbers, and *cerastium tomentosum* for the numbers background.

Brownies and Rainbows from 5th Beeston Guides joined the Mayor and Mayoress of Broxtowe, Cllrs Pat and Lynda Lally, to officially accept the

handover of the completed Guides trefoil symbol on Wednesday, June 16, 2010.

Division Commissioner Louise Lee said: "With the help of funding from Broxtowe Borough Council, the Guides trefoil badge has been planted out and will remain there throughout the summer, hopefully reminding those who are or have been members of the great times they have had as part of the Guide Association.

"Other Centenary events that have already taken

place in Beeston include the planting of 100 trees, a 100th birthday party for the Rainbow Guides, a parade and thanksgiving service, and a joint Brownie holiday. Guides will be joining the County Camp in August.

"Guiding currently has 1.2 million members in the UK. It is estimated that about half of the female population of the country has been part of Guide Association at some point in their lives and currently, about a quarter of all girls between seven and 10 years old are Brownies. However, 50,000 girls remain on

waiting lists due to the need for extra leaders."

In Nottinghamshire, the year will close with the Centenary Finale on the evening of 20 October 2010 (20:10, 20/10/2010) in the Old Market Square.

Between you and me...

BROXTOWE'S new MP, Anna Soubry, writes her first monthly column for The Beeston Express to keep us, her constituents, up-to-date and informed. Same as before, may we remind you that the views Anna expresses are her own and do not necessarily reflect those of The Beeston Express. If you would like to comment on any of the points she raises, please write to us at the address on page 2.

May we remind readers once again that The Beeston Express has no allegiance to any of the political parties, and anyone who persists in believing otherwise has been misled.



IN the first few weeks of every new Parliament, there is a ballot of backbench MPs for Private Members' Bills. So, I duly queued up and signed the book with a red pen (to denote being a new member) as opposed to the black pen (returning MPs). Within twenty fours the result was published and my name was the sixth to be chosen. This is serious stuff; with an eighteen month parliament now sitting (the next Queen's Speech will be in October 2011) there is every chance, and better than in the past, of my bill making it onto the statute books.

The abolition of capital punishment and the 1967 Abortion Act are notable examples of Private Members' Bills. One colleague was over the moon at being in the top twenty as he's a long time campaigner for smoke alarms to be installed in all rented accommodation as

part of a landlord's statutory duty. It won't result in lengthy moral and political debate but, if successful, it could save many lives.

There are a few rules: any new bill should not incur the spending of public money so, much as we might all want them, free prescriptions are not up for discussion. Private Members' Bills are not partisan though, like both hanging and abortion, they can be highly controversial. Some PMBs are 'taken up' by the Government and come into law in the normal way, others fall by the wayside, talked out through lack of time or interest.

Aside from the 'round robins', notably from Friends of the Earth and CAMRA, I have been urged to re-introduce dog licences (with exemptions for anyone receiving a state pension or registered disabled) and increase the age at which you can obtain a driving

licence to 18.

On a visit to the St Barnabas Summer Fayre at the weekend, I fell into conversation with an elderly lady and told her about my place in the ballot.

I explained that one of the things I would like to achieve as an MP was more justice in family proceedings. Too many fathers are denied contact with their children as proceedings are protracted and offspring used as weapons by warring former partners; too many mothers receive little, if any, support for their children as fathers play games with the CSA; and too many grandparents find themselves all but excluded from the whole process when couples with children split up. The lady I was speaking to grabbed my hand and proceeded to tell me a very sad tale of how one of her grandchildren had been adopted and she had found herself with

barely a voice in the long sorry process. It may be that we don't need new laws to enable better justice – it could be more simply achieved by tightening up the existing rules and appointing more judges to speed up the process. In any event, the Coalition Government has announced a full review of family law including how to ensure grandparents can be better involved when couples with children separate: in short, this is not likely to require a Private Members' Bill.

All I need is a good idea and if you have one please email it to me at anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk or write to me at The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

After weeks in a corridor, I finally have an office and a telephone but still no secretary. My number is 0207 219 7211. At the time of writing I am looking for a constituency office

and have viewed a number of premises in Beeston. As soon as I have found suitable accommodation, I will let you know.

Holding surgeries is part and parcel of being an MP. I've done two so far with more planned on a fortnightly basis around the constituency. If you would like to see me, then please email or write to me and we will arrange a convenient time and place, although I have dealt with a number of more urgent matters immediately over the phone.

It's a great honour and privilege being your MP and I look forward to working for you in the years to come. Please contact me with your views and any problem I can help with.

Anna Soubry MP