



# LEICESTERSHIRE

Accessibility  
Partnership

## The LAP Newsletter - Autumn, Issue 1

### **Welcome to the Leicestershire Accessibility Partnership Newsletter!**

This is a brand new newsletter to update people on the work of the Leicestershire Accessibility Partnership. At the first annual Forum in January 2008 delegates suggested improved communication to promote the work that partners were developing and delivering. This newsletter contains articles on recent and ongoing projects together with details of the second Forum on January 20th 2009. Led by Leicestershire County Council, The Leicestershire Accessibility Partnership promotes and develops access to work, education and training, health and local centres. Access to services and rural transport have recently been accepted as local indicators within the Local Area Agreements. Our work this year includes cycling and walking projects and a brand new information website for community transport. An important area of our current work

is travel planning which will be a focus for the Forum. To find out more about the Leicestershire Accessibility Partnership please contact us.



### **Get 'on yer bike' at Countesthorpe**

Countesthorpe students can choose a healthier way of getting to school thanks to brand new cycling facilities. A £25,000 stand catering for 60 bikes has been put in at Countesthorpe College and is part of the County Council's new cycle parking grant scheme.

Pupils were able to get involved with the design and will be helping to monitor the success of the new facilities in the future. A total of £30,000 has also been spent on a new zebra crossing and speed ramps which have been introduced outside the school to help students and residents cross Winchester Road.

All the new facilities were opened by Nicholas Rushton, County Council Deputy Leader with responsibility for Highways and Transportation, on Friday (19th September), as part of European MobilityWeek celebrations. Mobility Week is an annual initiative which aims to encourage the use of more environmentally-friendly methods of travel.

Mr Rushton said: "Mobility Week is a perfect opportunity to launch the new facilities at Countesthorpe. The whole ethos of the week is to encourage the use of more sustainable transport such as cycling. "We are sure that residents and students will benefit from the new

road safety scheme on Winchester Road and hope that the new cycle parking facilities will encourage pupils at Countesthorpe College to cycle to school."

Countesthorpe College is one of 16 schools benefiting from a £100,000 grant from the County Council's school cycle parking grants scheme.



# School's new cycle parking unveiled



Langmoor Primary School, Oadby

New all-weather cycle parking facilities were recently opened by Dr Kevin Feltham, Leicestershire County Council Cabinet Support Member for Highways and Transportation.

The cycle parking, for up to 18 bikes and 20 scooters, cost £8,300 and was installed at the school as part of the County Council's school cycle parking grants scheme.

Pupils at the school were able to get involved with the design of the cycle parking, and will be helping to monitor its success.

Dr Feltham said: "We believe in encouraging cycling and the health benefits that it brings. After our cycling success in the Olympic Games and now the Paralympic Games - 12 golds out of 13 possible events - we would like to think that the cycling bug will catch on and all the schools that have benefited from the County Council's school cycle parking grant will get maximum use of their new facilities.

## Community transport website proves a hit

A new website to help people find out about community transport has had more than 100 hits on its first day. The web link, on the Leicestershire Villages website, was launched at Glenfield Library in September.

Community transport is available for people who find it difficult or are unable to use public transport because they are elderly, disabled or rurally isolated. It can be used for getting to doctors appointments, visiting friends and relatives, shopping and social activities.

The site, funded by the Leicestershire Rural Partnership and Leicestershire County Council provides details about community transport services across Leicestershire with further web links to providers. It will help people to find information for themselves, family members or friends, no matter where they live.

Nicholas Rushton, Cabinet member for Highways and Transportation, said: "Community transport services help people who because of disability, frailty or ill health cannot use conventional bus services or have serious problems doing so.

"This new web site means that people can access the information on services from their village quickly and easily."

The site can be found at:

[www.leicestershirevillages.com/communitytransport](http://www.leicestershirevillages.com/communitytransport)

Fiona Winton aged 22 from Kimcote attended the website launch and uses Community Transport to access her volunteering which has been arranged by Volunteer Centre Lutterworth.

Fiona helps at The Volunteer Centre Community Transport Office, The Community Computer Centre at the One Stop Shop and the local Leukaemia Research Charity Shop and uses her volunteering to prepare for her ambition of moving into Employment.



# Loughborough Station Travel Plan



to and from the station by bike, bus, or on foot. Leicestershire County Council will work with partners such as East Midlands Trains, Network Rail and Charnwood Borough Council to produce the plan over the next 12 months. It is hoped that plans developed during the pilot stage will be used as blueprints by other stations producing a Travel Plan in the future.

Nicholas Rushton, Deputy County Council Leader with responsibility for Highways and Transportation said, "We are delighted to be selected for the pilot and are looking forward to making Loughborough Station a ground-breaking transport interchange and improving arrangements for buses, taxis, cyclists and pedestrians.

"This will help to create a facility which the people of the town can be proud of. It is an exciting opportunity to build on the partnerships already developed."

David Horne, Commercial Director for East Midlands Trains said, "We're really pleased that our station at Loughborough has been chosen for the pilot of this exciting scheme. East Midlands Trains is part of the Stagecoach Group and we are already very aware of the need to work with wider community and other businesses to provide seamless integrated transport.

For further information on the pilot scheme go to [www.stationtravelplans.com](http://www.stationtravelplans.com) or contact Charlie Sampson (LCC Travel Plan Advisor) at [csampson@leics.gov.uk](mailto:csampson@leics.gov.uk)

Loughborough Train Station has been chosen as one of only 24 stations nationwide to take part in a pilot scheme to promote sustainable travel.

The station was selected by the Association of Train Operating Companies for the pilot project to develop a Station Travel Plan.

The aim of a Station Travel Plan is to help improve accessibility and to encourage people to leave their cars at home, and travel

## The Star Walkers Scheme

The Star Walker scheme has been developed to encourage children to walk to school. Pupils are given a passport, which is stamped every time they walk to school and when they have reached the required target they receive an award. The scheme encourages children to walk to school, which helps to promote a healthier life style and reduces the amount of traffic travelling to schools, which increases safety both on and off the roads and reduces carbon emissions. The Star Walker scheme was shortlisted for a National Transport Times award 2008.



## Leicester Lifestyle

Leicester City Council is developing an internal Travel Plan (which has been branded 'Lifestyle') whose aims will be to make a commitment to providing staff with more transport options and choices, allowing employees an opportunity to; improve their health, save them money, provide greater time flexibility, improve access and help individuals make a difference to the environment. The Travel Plan will aim to:

- **reduce the reliance on single occupancy car travel**
- **cut carbon emissions**
- **help ease local congestion by helping staff to use a greener mode of transport**

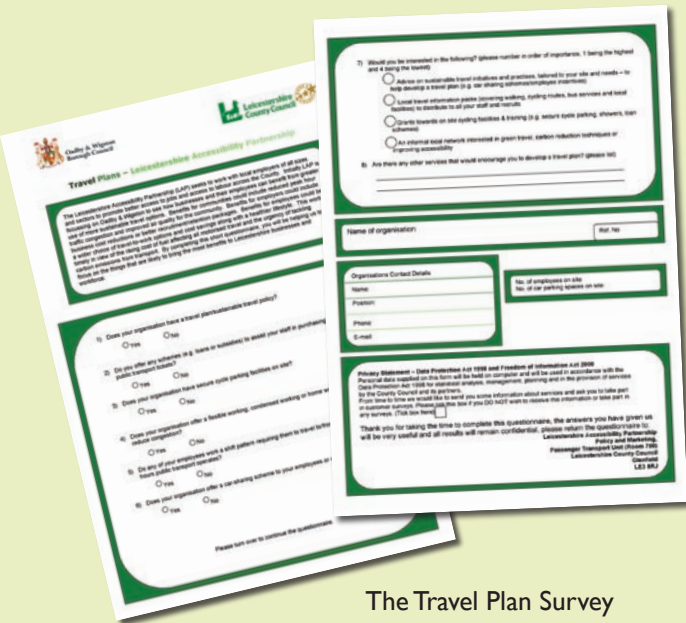
'Lifestyle' offers Leicester City Council transport related information that will help staff make choices that compliment the current lifestyles."

Leicester City Council along with the PCT has got through to the second round of the 'Healthy City' bid. We are now in the final 22 out of 150 applicants. A range of proposals has been put forward under the general headings 'People not cars', 'Investing in Children' and 'Improving Health and Wellbeing'.



# Travel Plan Questionnaire

As part of the Leicestershire Accessibility Partnership project we need to find out about the travel plans that companies already have in place. To do this we have created a survey that should help us to find out if companies already have travel plans, how far these travel plans have been developed and ultimately how we can help companies develop and improve their travel plans. We are hoping to find out all this information for the whole of the county but to start off we are focusing of the Oadby & Wigston and Hinckley areas to pilot the survey.



The Travel Plan Survey



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## ANNUAL FORUM

Tuesday 20th January 2009,  
Highpoint, Leicester

Free event, including lunch, evaluating the previous year's activity and discussing plans for 2009. The programme will include travel planning, access to work and training.

To register your interest please contact  
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