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| |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Blaby District Council graphic "Your Blaby District. The latest news from your District Council" | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **In this issue...** | | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | * [Flooding response](#flooding) * [Garden waste collections](#garden) * [Hygiene ratings](#ratings) * [Youth Council anti-hate campaign](#youth) * [Council Tax premiums](#tax) | | |  | | --- | | * [New digital hub](#digital) * [Bin collection dates](#bins) * [Winter wellness advice](#winter) * [Latest statement on Leicestershire devolution](#devolution) | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **❇️ Flooding response** | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Whetstone flooding 2025 | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Once again the start to the new year has been a challenging one as unprecedented flooding devastated our District. At least 100 properties were flooded either internally or externally, roads were closed and fields submerged.   Working closely with partner agencies, charities and our own communities, we responded by opening rest centres, organising transport, food and drink and dry clothing, delivering sandbags, signposting to additional services and going door to door to conduct welfare checks. Some 260 properties were visited. Extra refuse collections and street cleaning have also taken place.  As our communities try to recover we are now lobbying the Government to release funding to help our residents and businesses get back on their feet. We are also calling for extra measures to be put in place to try and prevent this level of destruction from future flooding incidents.  Any news on funding will be released as soon as we have it. We would like to express our thanks to all those within our communities who rallied to support their neighbours and congratulate our dedicated teams for their tireless relief efforts. You can read the letter using the link below: | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Government lobbying letter**](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=08ab7a0983&e=8744b8a0f2) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **✔️ Sign up to the new season of garden waste collections** | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | graphic with a couple of gardeners and garden waste bin | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Current garden waste subscriptions expire on 31 March 2025 so sign up now if you want to benefit from a full year’s garden waste collection service.  Only bins with the new valid **brown sticker** will be emptied. To guarantee you get your sticker in time and receive all collections, subscribe by **Sunday 16 March 2025**. You can sign up after this but there is no reduction in subscription cost and you won't be guaranteed to receive all collections.  Two sizes of garden bins are available:   * 140-litre garden bin at £31.50 per year (each bin) * 240-litre garden bin at £46 per year (each bin).   Payment is taken in advance by debit or credit card or Direct Debit. **Existing Direct Debit customers need not take any action - your subscription will be automatically renewed.**  If you wish to set up a **Direct Debit** you must sign up by **Saturday 15 February**. You can also subscribe by phone but a £2.50 transaction fee will apply.  Garden waste collections take place every two weeks, on the same day as your recycling. The service includes 20 collections, with a pause from early December to late February for the quieter winter season.  Once your payment has been received we will send you the new brown sticker. Please ensure this new brown sticker is clearly displayed on your garden waste bin to ensure collection. For more information and to subscribe visit our website. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Garden waste service**](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=8b67e1e4c9&e=8744b8a0f2) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **🍔 Latest hygiene ratings** | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A green card with black text  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Here are the latest food hygiene ratings in the district:  **Rated 5 - Hygiene standards are very good**   * Play Days Academy, Manor Court, The Ford, Glen Parva   **Rated 3 - Hygiene standards are generally satisfactory**   * Whetstone Fish Bar, 63 Victoria Road, Whetstone * Narborough Village Post Office, 2 Royal Court, Leicester Road, Narborough   We complete many food inspections every year and the frequency of our visits depends on the potential risk to public health.   The time between inspections can be as short as six months for the highest risk businesses, to two years for lower risk businesses.   To find out more about hygiene ratings and to report any concerns about a business that prepares or sells food, please visit the Food Standards Agency website. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Food Standards Agency**](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=7fea58b36a&e=8744b8a0f2) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **🙏 Youth Council spread anti-hate message** | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Youth Council anti-hate schools event | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Blaby District Youth Council have been spreading their anti-hate message as part of a campaign to raise awareness of hate incidents and hate crime.  The group ran a competition for local schools asking students to create a piece of artwork which had to include the tag line - Hate Has No Home Here.     In December students from the participating schools visited our Council offices to showcase their work in front of a panel of judges. These included Julia Smith, Chief Executive of Blaby District Council, Nathan Murrell, Blaby District Youth Council Chair and Hate Crime Police Officer, Alison Newcombe.     Croft Church of England won the Primary School category, with runners-up St Peter’s Church of England in Whetstone. While in the Secondary School category, Brockington College in Enderby took both top spots.   The judges were overwhelmed with the quality of work produced and the winning schools will receive prize money which can be used by their Parent Teacher Association.  The artwork will be incorporated into a Hate Awareness Campaign by the Youth Council and our Community Safety Partnership team. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **🏘️ Empty and second homes consultation** | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | empty home on a street | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Our consultation on potential increases to Council Tax charges for empty and second homes has come to an end.  The survey ran for six weeks and respondents were in favour of the four proposals. These are:   * To charge an extra 100% Council Tax premium (so the bill will be twice the actual Council Tax amount) on an empty property - ie unoccupied and unfurnished - after one year rather than the current two years - 68% in favour, 29% against, 3% don't know * To charge an extra 200% Council Tax premium (the bill will be three times the actual Council Tax) for properties empty for between five and 10 years - 79% in favour, 19% against, 2% don't know * To charge an extra 300% Council Tax premium (the bill will be four times the actual Council Tax) for properties empty for more than 10 years - 79% in favour, 19% against, 2% don't know * To charge an extra 100% Council Tax (twice the current Council Tax amount) on a second home property, where there is no resident but which is substantially furnished - 65% in favour, 29% against, 6% don't know   These results and a report will go to the next meeting of the Cabinet Executive on Monday January 13. Any changes agreed will come into force from 1 April 2026. To view the report visit our website. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Cabinet Executive reports**](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=08d0c482aa&e=8744b8a0f2) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **🖥️ Welcome to our new digital hub** | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A close-up of a keyboard  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Did you know there is a digital hub in the Blaby District Council offices? The hub includes three computers that are free for public use, allowing our residents without internet access to complete online forms, look for housing or pay their bills online.  The hub is available at our offices on Desford Road, Narborough, during our normal opening hours which are:   * Monday - 9am to 5pm * Tuesday - 9am to 5pm * Wednesday - 9.30am to 5pm * Thursday - 9am to 5pm * Friday - 9am to 4.30pm   Please share this with anyone you know who may need internet access. | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **📅 Find your bin collection days** | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A row of green trash cans  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Do you ever get confused or forget which day your bins are collected? If you haven't got your bin calendar to refer to there's no problem, you can quickly and easily use our online tool to search for your collection day.  Just visit our website, go to the bin collection dates search page, enter your postcode and away you go! | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Bin collection date search**](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=d1fc046441&e=8744b8a0f2) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **❄️ Keep well this winter** | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | woman in winter clothing making heart sign | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | We've been experiencing some freezing temperatures the last few days and there are certain to be many more to come. Here's some simple reminders about keeping well this winter.   * Check on family, friends and neighbours at higher risk of becoming unwell, and if you are at higher risk, ask them to do the same for you * Check the weather forecast and the news * Make sure you have sufficient food and medicine * Take simple measures to reduce draughts at home * Heat rooms you spend most time in, to 18˚C if you can * Keep bedroom windows closed * Wear multiple layers of thinner clothing * If you’re eligible, get vaccinated against flu and COVID-19 * Get help if needed. Call NHS 111 or in an emergency 999   Check out this Government website to find lots more information and advice. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Winter tips for staying safe and well**](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=bf290839bc&e=8744b8a0f2) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **📝 Latest statement on devolution** | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Cllr Terry Richardson outside council offices | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Leader of Blaby District Council, Cllr Terry Richardson, has added his name to a list of local leaders expressing concerns about proposals to create a single unitary council for Leicestershire.  The leaders from Rutland County Council and the seven District and Borough Councils in Leicestershire are disappointed that a statement relating to local government reorganisation was issued by Leicestershire County Council without notice and without consultation.  In a joint statement, the eight leaders said: “As Local Leaders we are closest to our communities, and have a responsibility to ensure local voices are heard and properly considered in any reorganisation of local government. A single unitary council over a wide and diverse geographic area, which is being proposed without proper consultation, has the potential to be too remote, and inaccessible, from the communities we serve.  We must keep the local in local government."  Read the full statement. | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [damaged bins graphic](https://blaby.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e14d20362ed3822be5be4ef96&id=58fd1b4459&e=8744b8a0f2) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Blaby District Council graphic "A great place to live, work and visit" | | | |
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