

citivision

INSIDE

● Making more of your city

4-page special supplement

● Student village plan offers quality homes for 500



● Venues fired up by home grown energy

Including: news, comments and updates from organisations across the city working together to improve life in Coventry

WEST
ORCHARDS
Christmas

Santa's
Grotto
is here...

...tell me what
you really want
for Christmas!



...from
17th
November

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● A personal message from Cllr Ann Lucas, Leader, Coventry City Council.

New year brings new opportunities

The new year brings new beginnings – and this issue of *Citivism* brings lots of stories about new beginnings for Coventry.

We'll begin to see our new city centre take shape next year as work begins to create the bridge deck that will kickstart the creation of the long-awaited business district by the railway station.

Meanwhile some of our most recognisable landmarks in the heart of the city will take on new life as they become the homes for our students who bring so much to Coventry.

At the same time, we'll be getting on with the job of improving some of the city centre's squares and open spaces. If we want business to invest in our city, we need to make it look as good as possible, and I know that this time next year we'll have plenty more to be proud of when we welcome visitors here.

Of course all this work will mean some disruption for us all, so please be patient with us from time to time over the coming year as we get on with the job of regenerating Coventry – I promise it will be worth it in the end!

I'm looking forward to 2014, and I hope you are, too. Merry Christmas to you all, and here's to a peaceful and prosperous new year.

*You can write to Ann at The Council House, Earl Street, Coventry CV1 5RR, or e-mail her at ann.lucas@coventry.gov.uk

If you need this information in another format or language please contact us:

Tel: 024 7683 1081
Fax: 024 7683 1132
e-mail: communications@coventry.gov.uk

Cover story: Anna Bright (main picture), from Sustainability West Midlands, checks out the waste to energy furnace, and (inset, from left) the Heatline project is opened officially by Mike Smith, Cofely District Energy, Simon Woodward, CEO Cofely District Energy, Cllr Rachel Lancaster and Cllr Abdul Khan. Pictures: hollisphotography.com

Full story – Page 7

contents

welcome to the december 2013 issue of *citivism*

A personal message from Charley Gibbons, chair of the Coventry Partnership...

With further improvements on the horizon for the city, it's good to know that organisations are continuing to work well together.

Coventry Partnership was set up to improve the quality of life for local people, and providing a good base for the local economy is vital for job

creation and growth.

At the same time, supporting people on the lowest income is absolutely vital, and on page 9 of this issue we've highlighted several projects that show people some of the steps they can take to combat the effects of welfare reform changes.



* Charley Gibbons is chief executive of the Citizens' Advice Bureau in Coventry and has agreed to be the chair of the Coventry Partnership for the coming year.



news

- 4 **Three empty and obsolete office blocks** in the city centre are set to be converted into a student village with up to 500 rooms.
- 5 **A £50-million fund** to support business growth is being launched by the Council.
- 7 **A new district energy headline** has been officially opened and is being described as the first scheme of its kind in the UK.

welfare focus

- 9 **People** could be eligible for £135 off this winter's fuel bill by registering for the Warm Homes Discount scheme.



regeneration focus

- 11 **Your four-page guide** on how new ring road engineering and landscape works are set to give visitors and motorists a more attractive and free-flowing approach to the city.

community focus



Page 10
A novel car sharing scheme has been launched at Westwood Business Park with the support of the City Council and Westwood Business Park Residents' Association.

community focus

- 10 **An award-winning volunteer scheme** and one of the most successful in Coventry is on the lookout for new recruits.

adoption focus

- 18 **With figures** showing an increase in people becoming adopters, the pressure remains to get even more to come forward.

health focus

- 17 **Thousands** of city residents could be putting their lives at risk this winter by not taking advantage of their free flu vaccination.

what's on

- 20 **A round-up** of some of the attractions on offer in and around Coventry this winter.

councillors

- 22 **Need to contact your councillor?** Check out our comprehensive directory.

contact us

Call the *Citivism* newsdesk on 024 7683 1075 or write to Newsdesk, Room 27, The Council House, Earl Street, Coventry, CV1 5RR, or e-mail communications@coventry.gov.uk

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High-quality living on offer as empty office

Three empty and obsolete office blocks in Coventry city centre are set to be converted into a student village with up to 500 rooms.

The buildings – Burges House in Ironmonger Row, a former Axa building in Corporation Street and the former Axa Tower in Well St – will all be converted by Coventry-based Study Inn Group into high-quality serviced student accommodation with 24hr management and a full range of facilities including reception,

gymnasium, lounge, and meeting and conference space for student use.

The proposals could involve the Council providing commercial loans totalling £12.1 million in order to secure the redevelopment of the three office blocks.

Cllr Lynnette Kelly, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Employment said: "Our two universities are vital to the economy and international reputation of our city. They have a key role to play in

There's nothing taxing about direct debit

People are being encouraged to join more than 65,000 local customers and switch to paying their council tax by direct debit.

The call is being made as organisations increasingly do their business online to improve turnaround times and to manage more efficient ways of working.

'Most customers prefer to pay using direct debit because it is the cheapest and most efficient method of collection...'

About six out of 10 people make their monthly council tax payments by direct debit and because it's a much more efficient process for paying and processing the payments the Council's revenues and benefits team is reminding people how easy it is to switch.

Cllr Damian Gannon,

Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, said that increasing online business is inevitable and it was important that more and more people made the switch.

He said: "Most of our customers prefer to pay using direct debit because it is the cheapest and most efficient method of collection - benefiting both the customer and the Council. We know that isn't so simple for everyone because of personal circumstances but for those of us who can it makes real sense."

Switching to direct debit is straight forward. For people who have an account with a bank or building society, it is an automated way of paying the bill. For details complete the online form via www.coventry.gov.uk/counciltax

Steady progress for college

Ofsted has judged City College Coventry to be making 'reasonable progress'. The inspectors explored a number of themes, including self-assessment, learner success rates, improving teaching and learning, workplace learning, science, mathematics, engineering and business, governance and performance management. Since the summer, interim principal John Hogg and chair Maggie Galliers have introduced a new strategic plan that focuses on Coventry and the surrounding area and on meeting immediate and future skills gaps.



CALLING

COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE EX-SERVICEMEN

Coventry-based charity Normandy Day UK is appealing for former servicemen and women to be part of a peace education film project. Thanks to Armed Forces Community Covenant grant funding, a film maker will be appointed to work with Coventry secondary schools to interview service men and women. Prominent international peace makers will also be interviewed and the film will be held by the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum. The film will be completed by June 6, 2014, the 70th anniversary of D-Day. It will then be promoted to all UK secondary schools. D-Day veteran Dennis Davison, aged 90, who founded the charity, said: "This project is a dream come true. To bring the message of peace to young people means the world to me. But it can only happen if people come forward to tell their stories." For details contact Andy at ajd100@virginmedia.com or by call 07939 105706.

blocks replaced by 500-room student village

Coventry's regeneration and they are a significant contributor to our economy.

"We will always look for ways to assist people who have the same vision and drive as us to create jobs and regenerate the city and this is a good example of a local company with ambition and drive and a great idea that has a track record of success."

The development aims to help students move out of shared homes in residential areas, freeing up homes for families and first-time buyers. At the

same time it will also bring vacant buildings back into use.

Coventry-born Study Inn Director Kieran Leahy said: "This kind of innovative thinking by the Council is an example of working together to enable regeneration. Where other councils are talking about it, Coventry is actually doing it. We have our head office in Coventry and have invested £19 million and created 38 local jobs in the city so far and these developments will bring that total to £35 million and 65 new jobs."



■ Change of use (far left, and above): The former Axa Tower in Well Street, and the Burges House in Ironmonger Row are being revamped for student accommodation.

We want your business!

Unique plan to grow jobs

A £50million fund to support business growth is being launched by Coventry City Council.

The initiative – thought to be one of the first of its kind in the country – will see the creation of The Coventry Investment Fund which will encourage businesses to locate to or grow in Coventry by providing infrastructure, premises and facilities to boost business success.

The scheme will be funded through prudential borrowing following a decision taken earlier this year by councillors to allocate £50million of capital investment to kickstart regeneration in Coventry.

Council officers estimate that more than £100million worth of private investment could be

'We're finding new, bold and innovative ways to give Coventry's economy the kickstart it needs. Coventry faces big economic challenges and needs bold solutions to compete with the most successful cities in the UK...'

brought to Coventry by using the fund to support schemes currently unable to access existing funding. A board of councillors, led by Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Employment, Cllr Lynnette Kelly and supported by independent industry experts will allocate funds to priority schemes across the city.

Cllr Kelly said: "We're finding new, bold and innovative ways to give Coventry's economy the kickstart it needs. We think we're one of the first councils in the country to launch a fund like this; Coventry faces big economic challenges and needs bold solutions to compete with the most successful cities in the UK."

One of the first schemes will be to develop new small industrial units at Lythalls Lane.

Cllr Kelly added: "We know there's a demand for these units, but the recession has meant developers have been reluctant to take developments forward."

"The government is determined to, and will keep on cutting its funding to councils across the country, so we need to find new ways to make money for the city that can be used to protect frontline services."

Trainees scheme a firm foundation for the future



■ Cllr Lynnette Kelly, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Employment with Andy Staien, site manager for Keepmoat Homes and apprentices Charlie Newman, James Stokes, Chris Gardner, Sean Farrell and Tom Moreton. Four more apprentices have completed the award-winning Construction Shared Apprenticeship Scheme and completed their frameworks.

Four more apprentices have completed the award-winning Construction Shared Apprenticeship Scheme. Coventry City Council works in partnership with a number of organisations, including Warwickshire College, City College Coventry and BAM Construct UK. The programme works on a 'carousel'

model meaning that the apprentices move around to work for different construction companies on different sites, gaining a wealth of experience in a number of different environments. The scheme was voted Apprentice Scheme of the Year at the National Federation of Builders' Awards.



A greener approach to the civic complex...

Work has begun on a plan that will transform the area outside the Council House. The plan will create a one-way system and the traffic lights at the junction of High Street will be removed. The road will be landscaped with new areas of lawn and connecting sandstone paths. It will also connect to the work recently undertaken in High Street and Gosford Street. Cllr Rachel Lancaster, Cabinet Member for Public Services, said: "Widening pavements and greening the area is a positive step for the city centre." The work is partly financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

New fund aims to boost community health care

A new fund has been set up to support community and voluntary sector health projects. The Innovation and Development Fund is a £140,000 grant scheme open to all community groups and voluntary organisations in Coventry, to help meet the health needs of the locality they serve. Bids for the grant can be from £500 to £10,000, but larger projects are being considered as well. The money is provided by the Council's public health team (£50,000) and Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group (£90,000). Voluntary Action Coventry will manage the fund and support voluntary and community groups in putting together their applications. The aim of the grant is to improve public health across Coventry.

Cllr Alison Gingell, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services and Chair of the Health and Well-being Board, said: "Reducing health inequalities in the city is one of our major priorities. We want to stimulate and support the local know-how that lies in our community organisations."

For more details, visit www.vacoventry.org.uk



■ Welcoming the new fund are (from left) Jane Moore, of the Council's public health team, Ruth Popejoy and Rob Allison, of Voluntary Action Coventry, Marie West, contracts manager from the Clinical Commissioning Group, and Cllr Kamran Caan, Deputy Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services.

...and station revamp moves a step closer



A planning application for the eagerly-awaited Friargate development in Coventry has been submitted by developers, Friargate Coventry LLP.

Made up of the new Coventry City Council building, public open space and a landscaped 'boulevard' leading from Coventry railway station to Greyfriars Green, the application will, if approved, see the project spring to life early next year.

The construction of a sustainable new office building for the Council – the first of 25 new buildings in the development – will accommodate the majority of the Council's office-based staff in a single location.

The entire development is to be phased over 15 years with the initial work seeing the removal of the Junction 6 gyratory together with an extensive,

landscaped bridge deck over the Ring Road.

Stephen Reynolds of Friargate Coventry LLP said: "Friargate is the first development on anywhere near this scale and type in Coventry for decades and represents a massive opportunity for the city to attract new employers and visitors to the city."

Councillor Lynnette Kelly, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Employment, said: "The submission of this application is both a step forward for the Friargate development and for our move to this fantastic new business district for the city. Friargate will change the face of our city, kick-start investment, create jobs and save money for council tax payers."

For more information, visit www.friargatecoventry.co.uk

■ **Regeneration focus** – See feature, pages 11-14

Heatline points the way with home-grown energy

A new district energy heatline has been officially opened and is being described as the first scheme of its kind in the UK.

Coventry District Energy 'Heatline' scheme, will transfer heat produced at the waste to energy plant in Whitley to a number of city centre buildings.

Cofely District Energy joined forces with Coventry City Council in buying heat from the waste to energy plant and shipping it through a network of buried pipes to consumers in the city centre through its subsidiary Coventry District Energy Company.

The heat is currently being sold to scheme members at a competitive rate to help them reduce their energy costs and carbon tax bills.

Phase I of Heatline, launched in September, saw buildings such as the Council House, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum and Coventry Cathedral being supplied with heat and hot water.

A second stage will extend the scheme to benefit tenants in social housing and other residential developments, as well as to local businesses that want to

connect to the scheme.

Councillor Abdul Khan, Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Local Infrastructure, said: "The first phase of Heatline has been a success, with a number of city centre buildings now benefiting from heat and hot water generated from surplus energy generated in Whitley enabling us

to keep our fuel costs low, which benefits both the taxpayer and the environment. The scheme is a UK first."

Simon Woodward, of Cofely District Energy, added "I am delighted we have been able to bring this project to fruition for Coventry City Council, its residents and businesses."

Picture: hallophotography.com



'The first phase of Heatline has been a success, with a number of city centre buildings now benefiting from heat and hot water generated from surplus energy generated in Whitley enabling us to keep our fuel costs low...'

■ Anna Bright (main picture), from Sustainability West Midlands, gets a close-up view of the waste to energy furnace, which is now supplying heat and hot water to several city centre premises, including the Herbert and Coventry Cathedral. The Heatline project is located at the waste to energy centre in London Road.

Firm rises to the university challenge

Coventry University and the Unipart Group have joined forces to develop a new Engineering and Manufacturing Institute on Unipart's manufacturing site in Coventry. The £32-million project will see the creation of an international centre of engineering and manufacturing excellence, which will be the base for a sustained programme of innovative teaching and learning, product development and research activity.

The project, which has been awarded £7.9 million from the Higher Education Funding Council for England's Catalyst Fund, is part of a national government initiative which is supporting innovative programmes designed to boost the economy. Unipart itself is contributing £17.9 million towards the creation of the new facility with a further £5.6 million towards student scholarships and product research and development. Its aim is to develop the next generation of highly skilled, specialist engineers and operational leaders needed for the UK's high-value manufacturing sector.

THE LIVE ROOMS

Sessions

Local bands playing live on air with a studio sound

Local band or artist? Radio Plus and One Nation Studios invite you to perform, live of charge, a live set of our Coventry-based studios. With a passion for music and profiling fresh talent, we'll give you the opportunity to reach a wider audience with professional studio support.

Please send a demo mp3 of your music, together with a bio and any web links to studio@radioplus.org.uk

Chosen bands will also have the option of inclusion in the Radio Plus playlist

www.radioplus.org.uk www.onenationstudios.com

Wednesdays
9-10pm
101.5 FM



radio plus

one nation studios

On the fast track to half marathon success

Organisers of next year's Coventry Half Marathon are calling on people to get set for the March 23 event.

The 13.1-mile run will start and finish in the city centre and will take runners on a tour of Coventry offering competitors and participants the chance to see the city from a different perspective.

Primary schools can also get involved by signing up for the Schools' Challenge. Accompanied by their teachers, the children will complete a half marathon distance by running a mile a week over 12 weeks and completing the challenge by running the final mile on the stage of the half marathon.

Coventry's Half Marathon is partnering with Zoë's Place and Stroke Association, alongside Make-A-Wish for the Schools' Challenge event. For more information and to take on the challenge, visit www.coventryhalf.com.

Students savour the gospel truth



Gospel choir Soulful serenade City College Coventry students (above) after an invite to the venue. The invite was part of an event to recognise the role that gospel choirs have had in nurturing Black talent. The choir is led by Angela Baxi, a former singing teacher at Tile Hill College and some of her former students now sing in the choir. As well as the

performance by Soulful, the College set up multi-faith trees in the North and South foyers and decorated with them with pictures of and information about people who have played a role in shaping Black History. Marcus Lapsa, a lecturer at the college, said it was wonderful to hear them perform and it had been an inspirational day.

Take your first step to say "I did it"

Sunday 23rd March 2014

Coventry's half marathon sets a new challenge for the spring!

Experience the energy of a city centre road race, the joy of crossing the finish line and the pride of saying "I did it"

Take the first step, book your place and make 2014 your year.

www.coventryhalf.com
0845 308 4003



Coventry's half marathon



Are you eligible for help with winter fuel?

Coventry City Council is calling on local people to find out if they are eligible for £135 off this winter's fuel bill by registering for the Warm Homes Discount scheme with their energy supplier.

With fuel prices about to rise by an average of between seven and 11 per cent this winter (depending on supplier and tariff), more Coventrians across the city are likely to feel the pinch.

The Warm Homes Discount Scheme (WHDS) is administered by the energy companies and offers a one-off £135 discount off the energy bills of households that need it the most.

Those receiving Pension Credit and many other older people will automatically qualify for WHDS and will need to do nothing more - their electricity bill will be credited with £135 over the winter.

Abdul Khan, Coventry City Council's Cabinet Member for Energy and Environment, said: "The Warm Homes Discount Scheme can really help those in need and I'd encourage anyone who thinks they may be eligible to contact their energy provider to find out".

The criteria for eligibility varies between energy companies and, as they don't give deadlines, people are advised to contact their energy suppliers as quickly as possible to check if they can benefit.

The Warm Home Discount does not impact on eligibility for Winter Fuel or Cold Weather payments. For further information, call the WHDS helpline on 0845 603 9439 between Monday and Friday 8.30am-4.30pm, or contact your energy supplier.

Bishop's blessing for pay-day loans challenge

Senior councillors along with the Bishop of Coventry have been visiting the city's New Central Credit Union as part of a co-ordinated effort to steer people away from pay-day loans to more effective ways of managing money and debt.

Cllr Damian Gannon, the Council's Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources and Cllr Colleen Fletcher, who chairs the Council's Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee joined the Bishop of Coventry, Christopher Cocksworth to meet with credit union staff.

The aim of the meeting was to iron out ways for credit

unions to become more widely known in the city and to highlight their value.

Cllr Gannon said: "Credit unions are the unsung heroes of the finance world, unlike payday loan companies they are not motivated by profit alone and are keen to make sure their members remain on a stable financial footing."

The Bishop of Coventry and Cllr Colleen Fletcher took the opportunity to set up their own account at the New Central Credit Union.

Cllr Fletcher added: "The fact is that credit unions set out to provide credit and loan products with fair and reasonable interested rates. Members put in savings as part of the constitution and all members receive training on budgeting and managing their financial affairs. I'm really pleased to get involved."

Coventry currently has two active credit unions based in the city: New Central Credit Union and Coventry and District Credit Union based at the Willenhall Advice Centre. The average loan from a Credit Union ranges from £750 to £1,000 over a two year term.

For details, contact New Central Credit Union (NCCU), 33 City Arcade, Greyfriars Walk, Coventry, CV1 3HX, telephone 024 7663 3456 (Fax: 024 7655 2243), visit www.newcentralcu.co.uk or e-mail info@newcentralcu.co.uk

Coventry and District Credit Union can be contacted on 024 7651 1117 or e-mail enquiries@willenhalladvicecentre.co.uk

■ Union of minds: Representatives of New Central Credit Union with Cllr Colleen Fletcher (second left), the Bishop of Coventry Christopher Cocksworth, and (far right) Cllr Damian Gannon.



Budgeting and bills Sorted, thanks to the CAB team...



■ Getting things Sorted are (from left) Sheila McAvo, volunteer administrator Edina Owusu, Sorted client Amy Rugg, volunteer supervisor, and Sabir Zazi, Sorted programme manager.

Coventry Citizens Advice Bureau in partnership with Groundwork West Midlands and local housing associations has set up the Sorted project to help and support social housing tenants through the Universal Credit and other welfare reforms. Sorted offers practical support to social housing tenants on benefits and welfare, setting up home, budgeting and banking and understanding tenants' rights and responsibilities. The scheme has enlisted the help of 12 volunteers, but more are needed. Supervisor Amy Rugg said: "Our volunteers provide invaluable support in helping our clients to maintain their tenancies, maximise their income and improve their quality of life." Since the scheme was launched in March, more than 395 people have benefited from the project, which is funded by The Big Lottery and supported by Coventry Citizens Advice Bureau, Groundwork West Midlands, Whitefriars Housing Association, Midland Heart, Orbit Heart of England and Coventry City Council. For volunteering opportunities, contact Idris Mohammed on 024 7625 2067 or email imohammed@coventrycab.org.uk

Car share puts the brake on congestion

A novel car sharing scheme has been launched at Westwood Business Park with the support of the City Council and Westwood Business Park Residents' Association.

The scheme has been developed after more than four out of 10 business park employees told the Council that they would be interested in a car sharing scheme but would need help finding a partner and nearly eight out of 10 said that they had never car shared. The scheme is part of plans to help reduce congestion and impact on the environment around the business park and has the backing of many companies on the site.

Nic Rowley, chair of the Residents' Association of Westwood Business Park and Business

■ In the driving seat are Matt McConnochie, Nick Rowley and Adam Crutchlow from Whistlefish pictured with Cllr Rachel Lancaster.



'The new car share scheme is a way that the residents are helping themselves to reduce the traffic load. We're just asking people to sign up and give it a try...'

Solution Manager of Whistlefish, said that Westwood Business Park has been suffering from congestion for a number of years. He said: "The new car share scheme is a way that the

residents are helping themselves to reduce the traffic load. We're just asking people to sign up and give it a try. There's no compulsion after that to give or offer a lift."

To sign up to the Westwood Business Park car sharing scheme visit www.westwoodbusinesspark.co.uk/carshare. For more information about benefitting from free cycle training if you live, work or study in the city, visit www.coventry.gov.uk/cyclecoventry.

Can you help recapture the spirit of the Olympics?

An award-winning volunteer scheme and one of the most successful in Coventry is on the lookout for new recruits.

More than 300 Coventry Ambassadors who turned the city pink during the 2012 Olympics were acclaimed by visitors to Coventry.

Following the success of the scheme, Coventry Ambassadors are keeping the London 2012 Legacy Alive volunteering at over 20 events and contributing over 20,000 volunteer hours including at the Coventry Half Marathon, the Corporate Games, The Godiva Awakes parade around the Ring Road and national events including a recent Davis Cup tie at the Ricoh Arena.

Councillor Ed Ruane, Cabinet Member for Housing and Heritage, said it was an ideal time for new volunteers to get involved.

He said: "We want to continue the Ambassadors scheme because it has proved



a great part of the city's events offer. We've put funding into the project and a new social enterprise has been set up by Coventry University which will work in partnership with Coventry City Council and other key partners for the benefit of the city."

Already, 300 people have expressed an interest in signing up as new Ambassadors following the latest recruitment drive. People can apply by visiting Coventry.gov.uk/Coventryambassadors.

Applicants must be 18 or

over on January 1, 2014, to be eligible.

The programme is funded by Coventry City Council and coordinated by Coventry University. Coventry Ambassadors will be managed by EnV, a new social enterprise.

■ Recruiting for new Coventry Ambassadors are (from left) Jane Whitehead, Paul Chinn, Caroline Hobday, Cllr Ed Ruane, Ian Dunn, and David Boughey.

Over the next two years, millions of pounds of external funding will be invested in Coventry's roads to create space for development and ensure traffic flows more smoothly. In this four-page guide, we focus on how it will affect you...

Making more of your city



Junction 6 of the ring road with new deck looking from the city centre towards Friargate.

Council leader Ann Lucas believes the pending improvement works at Junction 6 on the ring road and at Friargate will kickstart Coventry's economic revival.

Councillor Lucas said creating jobs and supporting regeneration were key to getting things moving.

"We have been clear that we want to kickstart Coventry's economy – creating jobs for local people and supporting regeneration," she said.

"I believe that Friargate by the railway station (see news story, page 6) will be really attractive to investors. It has the potential to create up to 13,000 new jobs – with 1,000 more jobs during the construction phase.

"So now we need to work on the raised area of junction 6 so it better connects the station and the city centre.

"This will involve putting a lid over the road to create a 100 metre wide connection between the station and the city centre. Once our work is done the developer will continue the pedestrian link right up to the front door of the station. I really believe once it's all finished that we will have the best and most impressive walking routes between a station and city centre anywhere in the country.



"At the hospital site we will be working to improve the way the main traffic island by Homebase works, making the traffic light junction at the entrance to the hospital

work better, changing the traffic light set up at Woodway Lane and altering the road layout at Brade Drive. We have £3.92m government funding and £2m funding from the hospital to invest and we will be doing this over a number of junctions. Residents who live nearby will feel real benefits, as well as people working at or using the hospital.

"If people thought the last two years were busy with improvements in the city centre – well they haven't seen anything yet! Over the next year to 18 months we will be working on a number of critical road junctions. We have secured a massive amount of investment for the city – but it comes with tough timing constraints. We have to use it or lose it, and we don't want

to lose millions of pounds in funding for the sake of a bit of disruption

"So, journey times will be longer for some people for the duration of the work. But once the improvements are complete we will have a stunning entrance to the city centre from the station and junctions that are safer and work better around the hospital.

"Successful cities work when people have access to well paid, skilled jobs – and that's what I want for us. It's with this end goal in sight that I was prepared to allow so much disruption.

"I hope people will bear with us. Of course one of our main strengths will also help during the work. We are a compact city – so people will be able to use alternative routes to go where they need to go. The ring road connects in a full loop, so for many of us it might mean changing a driving habit and looping left instead of right for a while.

"We'll make sure that routes are clearly signed and we will be clear on our website about what's being done and when. Once work is underway we will also be tweeting up to date travel information so people can plan or amend their route to take account of what is happening in real time."

You can read more detail about the plans in the centre pages and we will keep you updated as the works get underway.

'Successful cities work when people have access to well paid, skilled jobs – and that's what I want for us. It's with this end goal in sight that I was prepared to allow so much disruption.'

Making more of your city

Here's where the hotspots will be:

Work around Junction 6

Start date: November 2013

End Date: March 2014

Ahead of the Junction 6 work the junctions either side will be improved to make sure they keep traffic moving more smoothly. This will involve re-lining and signing at:

A Junction 4 along with removal of a set of lights

B Junction 5 (Quinton Road)

C Junction 7 (The Butts). Work here will include adding part time traffic lights on the slip road from Junction 6 and removing the bus lane on The Butts.

Work will also be undertaken at the junction of:

D Kenilworth Road and the A45. The dedicated right hand turn lanes on the A45 will be removed – with this turn added into the straight ahead signals. These measures will improve the efficiency of the junction and will mean there is less queuing on the A45 and on Kenilworth Road. Two right hand turn lanes will be created from Kenilworth Road to the A45 to remove the blockage that prevents the movement of straight on traffic at the moment.

E A camera protected bus and taxi gate will be created at the end of Park Road on to Quinton Road.

F Installation of mini roundabouts at the junctions of Quinton Road and Quinton Park with Daventry Road, together with improvements to the service road in front of the shops (currently under consultation)

These improvements will not only help to keep traffic moving more smoothly while the work to Junction 6 and elsewhere is underway, but will offer long lasting benefits once the work is complete.

Junction 6

Grant investment: £12.7 million Regional Growth funding

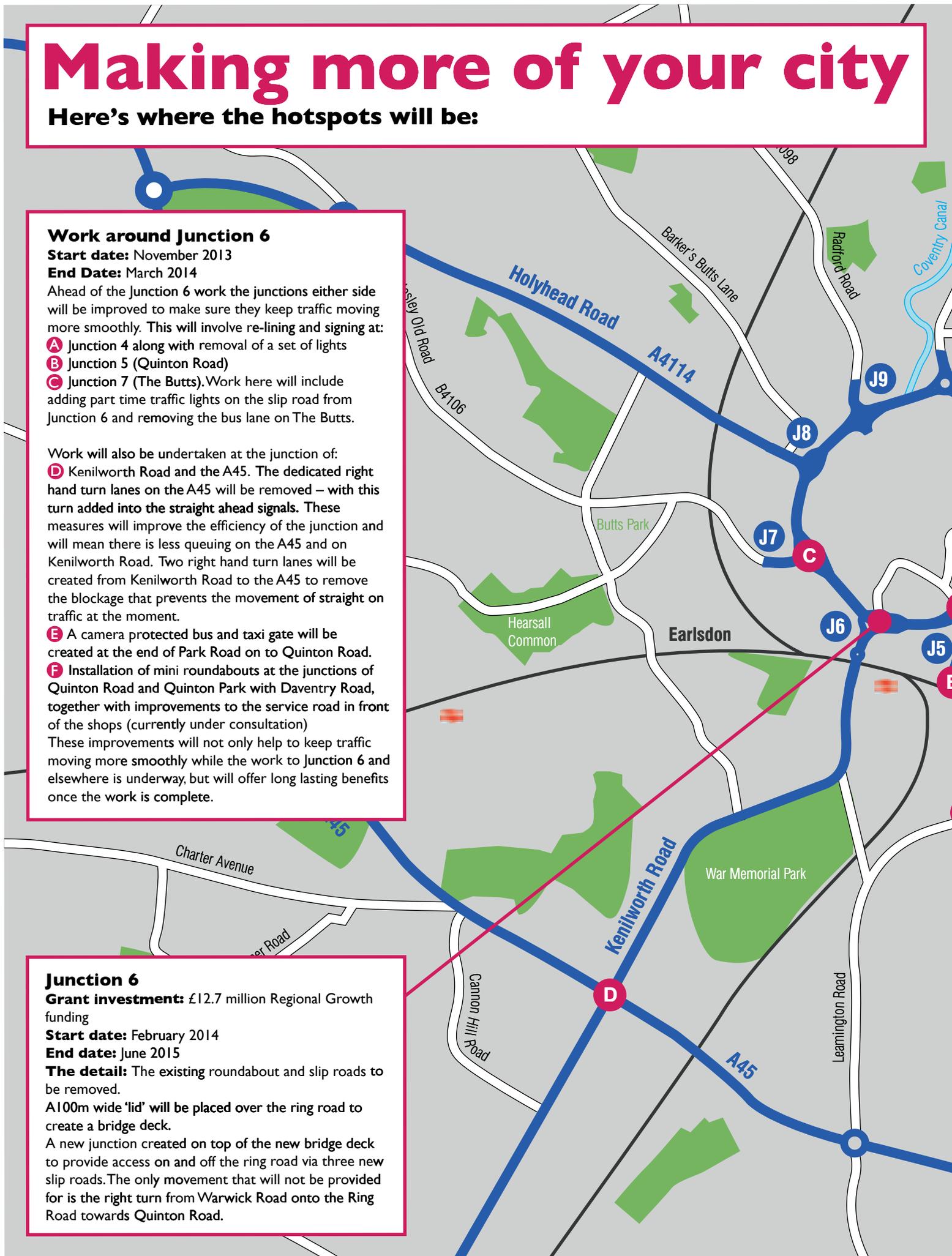
Start date: February 2014

End date: June 2015

The detail: The existing roundabout and slip roads to be removed.

A 100m wide 'lid' will be placed over the ring road to create a bridge deck.

A new junction created on top of the new bridge deck to provide access on and off the ring road via three new slip roads. The only movement that will not be provided for is the right turn from Warwick Road onto the Ring Road towards Quinton Road.



University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire:

Grant investment: £3.92m Government Pinch Point grant

Start date: April 2014.

End date: March 2015

The detail: Traffic flow will be improved at the following junctions:

Hinckley Road/Brade Drive – roundabout to be enlarged and pedestrian crossing facilities improved.

Ansty Road/Woodway Lane – additional lanes on Woodway Lane and Hinckley Road.

Ansty Road/Clifford Bridge Road – junction to be re-engineered with traffic lights to control some movement and the creation of a cycle crossing together with bus friendly measures.

Clifford Bridge Road/hospital access – additional approach lanes together with a widened access road. In addition the right turn onto Ansty Road from Norton Hill Drive will be re-introduced.

To complement the above works, the hospital will be increasing car parking and improving traffic circulation to ensure traffic does not queue back onto Clifford Bridge Road. There will also be a new bus interchange.

Toll Bar Island

£150m Highways Agency led project

Start date: August 2013

End date: Autumn 2016

The Detail: The A45/A46 Tollbar End Junction Improvement scheme will widen the existing A45 Stonebridge Highway between Stivichall Junction and Tollbar End roundabout and provide an underpass at Tollbar Island between the A45 Stonebridge Highway and the A46 Coventry Eastern Bypass.

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Eagle eyes help drivers go with flow

When work starts, the Council will have cameras trained on all of the major junctions of Coventry's roads.

The cameras will be monitored by a team based in the city centre who will be able to alter the red and green phases of surrounding traffic lights to ease congestion.

All major roads and junctions in the city are monitored and Council staff can respond to congestion by altering the red and green runs of lights. A good example of this is when there is a major event at the Ricoh, like a concert, the team can control the time the lights out of the city are on green to shift more vehicles through and speed the smooth flow away from the venue.

Councillor Rachel Lancaster, cabinet member for Public Services, said: "We have a great system in place to manage traffic and limit delays. It's in use all day, every day all year and it ensures we have very little congestion on our city's roads. But it will really come into its own with so many improvements planned. We will be responding to changes in



flow and I want everyone to know that we will be doing our best to keep traffic flowing. Of course you can't do as much as we have got

planned without some disruption. So for real time updates people can refer to our website or follow us on Twitter."

With so much work going on – this ability to manage the surrounding traffic will be really important to limit any hold ups to a minimum. You will be able to keep up to date in real time with what's

going on by following the Council on Twitter @coventrycc
Variable message signs will also be in use on the main routes into the city warning of any congestion so motorists will be able to change their routes accordingly.
More advanced information will also be available on www.coventry.gov.uk/yourcity

Trigger happy!

Work of art heads for storage

When work gets underway on Junction 6, the horse sculpture – visible to traffic driving towards the city centre from Warwick Row – will be temporarily removed until the work is complete. The horse is called 'Trigger' and is by an artist called Simon Evans – it was runner up in a competition to mark Industry Year in 1986 and

it was originally located outside the University on Priory Street. Councillor Rachel Lancaster, Cabinet Member for Public Services, said: "Trigger is much loved and a real landmark on the junction 6 traffic island. He will have to be removed for a short time but he will go back when the work is complete. While he's away we will carry out some small repairs so he goes back looking even better than he does now. I am also hopeful that we will be able to include even more art in this location – either on the pedestrian route to Friargate – or on the traffic island. If we can – we will make sure that local people are involved in helping us to select just the right thing.



■ Cllrs Lynnette Kelly and Rachel Lancaster

New site for historic seats

A number of benches currently located on the edge of Greyfriars Green will be relocated as part of the Friargate Junction 6 bridge deck work. The impressive benches, which were designed by Jim Brown and feature a white horse detail, were previously located outside the Belgrade Theatre. Councillor Lynnette Kelly, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Employment, said: "The benches are really lovely. And they are significant to the city because they were designed by Jim Brown who was Donald Gibson's (City Architect 1939-1955) artist of choice in the 1940s and 1950s. They have a real Festival of Britain feel and they will fit perfectly into the new Council House Square area."

Police send break-ins tumbling

Official statistics show a near 10 per cent fall in break-ins across the city so far this year.

Figures show that 100 fewer Coventry residents have suffered at the hands of burglars since April compared to the same period in 2012-13.

In recent weeks there have been some significant charges for burglary. Senior police officers say that these have been down to members of the public reporting suspicious activity and officers acting on intelligence to track down suspects.

Three years ago there was an average of eight burglaries a day across Coventry, but that figure has now dropped to around five. In Coventry, there are 418 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes designed to encourage members of the public to take a more active part in the community where they live. Members are encouraged to be watchful and vigilant and note anything suspicious. Details should then be reported to the co-ordinator.

The co-ordinator will pass this information to your local Neighbourhood Policing Team. Peter Sturgeon, the engagement officer for West Midlands Police, supports the scheme and can be contacted via West Midlands Police on their 101 non-emergency number.

Statistics show that residents belonging to an active scheme have less chance of becoming a victim of burglary.

Holy crimebusters! Locals pack a punch



Batman may have had Robin to help him rid Gotham's streets of criminals but West Midlands Police has a greater force ... local residents!

In a bold move away from traditional police advice, ground-breaking motion comics are being used by the force for the first time to show the 'heroic' ways people are joining in the police's fight against crime. Comic strip style posters, leaflets, mobile

billboards and messages in online newspapers also stress the importance of reporting crimes and suspicious behaviour so that officers can take action. Officer say that while crime has fallen over the past decade, each year there is a spike in crime when the clocks go back.

For security tips, safety advice and more information on the new campaign visit www.westmidsheroes.com

Project focuses on victims of rape and abuse

A joint initiative between Coventry City Council and the Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (CRASAC) is focusing on the needs of survivors of rape and sexual abuse.

'Rape is Rape in any language' is a ground-breaking project in Coventry and is the first of its kind to highlight the needs of survivors of rape and sexual



abuse as well as the education of others.

A DVD has been produced and can be followed on Twitter through the hashtag #rapeisrape.

Coventry City Council Leader Cllr Ann Lucas said it was incredibly important that we raise awareness of what rape and sexual abuse really means.

The campaign has been supported by Coventry Bears rugby league team.

Christmas 2013/14 collection dates

We will collect all of your household waste and recycling - that's your blue and green lidded bins - the week before Christmas so you go into the holiday period with empty bins. There will be no collections during the week beginning 22 December.

For week beginning the 30 December please see below. We will then collect all of your recycling on your usual day week beginning 5 January.

We will provide clear sacks for you to use for your additional recycling.



Week beginning 16 December - all green and blue lidded bins collected

Week beginning 23 December - no collections

Week beginning Monday 30 December - green lidded bin collections only this week

Collection scheduled for Tuesday 31 December will be collected as usual

Collection scheduled for Wednesday 1 January will be collected on Thursday 2 January

Collection scheduled for Thursday 2 January will be collected on Friday 3 January

Collection scheduled for Friday 3 January will be collected on Saturday 4 January

Week beginning 6 January all green and blue lidded bins collected

From week beginning 13 January please refer to your calendar

Your two-page guide to healthcare around Coventry

Feel Well this winter...

Local people in Coventry are being urged to look after their own health and that of others during the winter months. More people suffer illness or are injured in winter than at any other time of the year. No matter how old you are, or where you live, there are loads of ways you can make simple changes to keep you healthy. Here are some top tips to help you Feel Well this winter...



Catch It, Bin It, Kill It

Remember coughs and sneezes spread diseases. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, bin the tissue safely and quickly wash your hands with soap and warm water or anti-bacterial gel.

Eat well

Make sure you have regular hot meals and drinks throughout the day as eating often during the winter months helps keep energy levels up.

Keep active

Move around at least once an hour and don't sit down for long periods of time, as even light exercises can help you keep warm and improve circulation.

Norovirus

Norovirus is better known as the winter vomiting bug and is highly contagious. It causes projectile vomiting and diarrhoea and affects people of all ages. If you get norovirus, make sure you drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration, always wash your hands with soap and water, do not visit relatives in hospital or residential and nursing homes.

Falls

Take extra care if you go out, icy pavements and roads can be very slippery. Make sure you wear boots or shoes with good grip on the soles.

Keep warm

Insulate your home, keep internal doors closed, have regular hot meals and drinks, wear extra layers of clothing and close the curtains at dusk. Call 0800 988 2881 (Act on Energy) for assistance to help control your energy bills and make your home energy efficient.

Well-stocked medicine cabinet

A well-stocked medicine cabinet might

include: painkillers, first aid kit, cough and cold remedies and enough of your regular medication if you have a long term health condition.

Fill the freezer

Stock up on frozen food – especially vegetables – in case it's too cold outside to go shopping. Keep some emergency food supplies, such as; bread in the freezer, longlife milk and non-cook foods.

Be a good neighbour

Look after the vulnerable by getting in touch with people who are ill, elderly or on their own and may need a helping hand. Make sure they have a contact number for yourself. Keep drives and footpaths clear by shovelling snow for friends and neighbours if they struggle to do it themselves.

Keep the children healthy this winter

- * Get your child vaccinated.
- * Recognise the difference between a cold and flu.
- * Practice good hand hygiene.
- * Find out where to get the right treatment for winter bugs.



Your time is a precious thing, hundreds of people spend hours at Accident and Emergency departments each week for minor illness and ailments when other services would have been more appropriate. Here's how to access the right health services in Coventry:

Self care

Call NHS 111 or visit www.nhs.uk for free confidential advice and guidance from healthcare professional staff on

how to get the right treatment for all kinds of non-emergency situations.

Pharmacy

Did you know that you can treat many minor illnesses and injuries without having to see a doctor at all? They can provide 'on the spot' help and advice on minor ailments. Don't forget that pharmacists are trained health professionals and offer a convenient local service, opening in the evenings and weekends.

GP surgery

See a GP if you have a condition you or your pharmacist cannot treat, except in cases of chest pain, shortness of breath, massive bleeding or suspected stroke. In these cases you should call 999.

Walk-in Centre

Coventry NHS Healthcare and Walk-in Centre gives you fast access to health advice and treatment from experienced GPs and nurses on a range of minor illnesses and injuries. The centre is open at 8am to 10pm, 365 days per year. Call 0300 200 0060 or visit www.cityofcoventrynhs.healthcarecentre.nhs.uk



expert help with your family's everyday illnesses

...no appointment needed

Two massive reasons to choose your local Pharmacy.

For life's minor illnesses and complaints, Choose well and get the right treatment.

For more information about keeping healthy this winter visit...

www.FeelWellCovWarks.nhs.uk



■ Paula Pickthorne, Head teacher, Limbrick Wood Primary School, with Cllr Joe Clifford and pupils.

Stub it out at school gates

A new campaign to encourage adults not to smoke near school gates has been launched at primary schools across Coventry.

The initiative follows on from the success of the launch of Smokefree children's play areas in the city parks earlier this summer.

The signage has been designed with input from Coventry head teachers, with the hope to also empower parents to speak up if they do not want their children to be in a smoky environment when entering and leaving school.

The smokefree school gates signage is not a ban and there will be no fines or strict enforcement - the signs are used as a polite request to encourage adults not to smoke in areas primarily used by children.

Limbrick Wood Primary School is one of the locations supporting the scheme. Head Teacher Paula Pickthorne said it was about encouraging a culture change, not enforcing a ban. "I'm sure that many of our parents, and those across the city, will follow the smokefree gates initiative," she added.



Infections team leads the way

University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire's Infection Prevention and Control Team has been named the Infection Prevention Society's Team of the Year for UK and Ireland. The team received recognition for its innovative approach to education and the reduction of healthcare associated infection such as C diff and MRSA. The campaigns have worked so well that one has now been adopted by the Royal College of Nursing. As a result of the efforts of hospital staff, healthcare associated infections have been dramatically reduced from 2008/09, when there was on average 12 C diff cases a month. To date this year, there has been an average of just

three cases a month of C diff. In 2008/9, there was an average of 17 cases of MRSA bacteraemia, but just two cases so far this year. Pictured left (from left) are Allison Bradley (Infection Prevention and Control practitioner), Fiona Reakes-Wells (Infection Prevention and Control practitioner), Kate Prevc (Matron for Infection Prevention and Control), Az Khan (Data analyst for the Infection Prevention and Control team), Karen Richards (Infection Prevention and Control practitioner), Darren Wheldon (Healthcare Assistant for the Infection Prevention and Control team), Melanie Gallo (Infection Prevention and Control practitioner).

One in three entitled to a free flu jab

Thousands of city residents could be putting their lives at risk this winter by not taking advantage of their free flu vaccination.

In Coventry one in three people are entitled to a free flu vaccination, yet every year thousands of people run the lottery of catching the potentially deadly illness rather than having the 'flu jab'.

Everyone aged 65 or over is entitled to the free flu jab, as are people with a range of chronic conditions. GPs offer flu jabs to their patients for free. Pharmacies are also offering free flu jabs this year.

However, only about half of all adults and children in Coventry who

have a chronic condition received their jab last year. This includes people with severe asthma, diabetes, chronic heart disease and those with lowered immunity due to disease or medication. Other risk groups include people with chronic liver, kidney and neurological disease, such as Parkinson's or Motor Neurone Disease, and those who have had a stroke or mini-stroke.

Pregnant women at all stages of pregnancy are entitled to the jab because they are particularly at risk of complications from flu, and the vaccine will protect their baby in the first few months of life. Less than 50 per cent of women who were

pregnant last winter had their vaccination.

Carers who receive a carer's allowance, or look after an elderly or disabled person, are another group entitled to the jab. Getting the flu jab is an important way of protecting yourself and those you care for.

The flu vaccine changes every year to fight the latest strains of flu, so even if you had a jab last winter you need another one this year to stay flu safe.

Speak to your GP or local pharmacy about the free flu jab. It's quick, safe and free for those most at risk from the virus.

Health checks are just the tonic

People aged 40 to 74 can now get a free NHS health check once every five years.

NHS Health Checks are being delivered to people aged 40-74 across the country to help prevent the early onset of health problems such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease and some forms of dementia. The good news is that these conditions can often be prevented - even if people have a history of them in their families. That's why the free NHS Health Check is so important.

The check assesses the risk of developing heart disease, type 2 diabetes, kidney disease and stroke. For more information on what the NHS health check will involve, please go to

www.healthcheck.nhs.uk/public/ If you haven't had an NHS health check in the last five years, please contact your doctor's surgery to book an appointment, or call 02476 961590 to identify other community venues near you.

Festive period puts drink in sharp focus

Over the holiday season Coventry residents are being encouraged to understand about a range of surprising facts around alcohol usage.

Statements such as, 'over 45s are three times more likely to drink alcohol every day', are among a range of facts being highlighted as part of the national campaign. Messages are being highlighted in University Square and Millennium Place.

HIV alert for high-risk groups

Over 100,000 people in the UK are now living with HIV.

A number of people in the city that are in high risk groups for HIV, including those in African communities and men who have sex with men, are risking late diagnosis and a higher risk of death by not getting tested for the virus.

A simple finger prick test is all it takes and those who feel that they may be at risk can visit www.thinkHIV.org.uk for personalised advice and clinics in their area.

Making a difference to children of Coventry

With figures showing an increase in people becoming adopters, the pressure remains to get even more people putting themselves forward to make a difference to a young person's life. Coventry is looking for adopters who could provide a loving, permanent and secure home to single children, sibling groups and children with additional needs from all backgrounds...

Rise in adoption figures is good news

The number of children and babies being adopted in Coventry looks set to beat last year's figure which is good news not only for the Council but the city as a whole.

Coventry City Council's Adoption Service is determined to find more adoptive homes for children and babies despite this increase in numbers and with the service facing unprecedented



pressure. In 2012, 40 children were adopted and so far this year, 25 children have already been adopted with a further 45 children currently placed with their adoptive parents.

By March 2014, the Council is hoping to achieve 50 adoptions, a 10 per cent increase on the 2012 figure.

A number of factors have contributed to the encouraging increase. These include improvements in the service which combined adoption and fostering under a single Family Placement Service banner; reductions in assessment waiting times plus more targeted and widespread marketing of the service.

Sadly, the number of children in care has increased to over 600 in the last 12 months meaning the need for adopters is greater than ever.

Councillor Jayne Innes, Coventry City Council's Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young People welcomed

the improving figure but said there was still a lot of work to do.

She said: "I think the statistics show that the service is improving and that we should have every confidence that the service is going in the right direction.

"But we have a high number of children waiting to be adopted and the recent National Adoption Week was an ideal time to raise awareness of what we are doing. We have some great people working in our adoption service doing all they can to ensure that young people have an opportunity of a life that the majority of us take for granted.

"But despite our current success, I know we are not complacent and will continue to improve all of our procedures to ensure that all the children in our care can find the loving secure homes that they deserve as quickly as possible."

Keeping up the adoption profile

The recent National Adoption Week provided the perfect backdrop for Coventry to maintain the profile of its own Adoption Service.

Councillor Innes was on hand at the recent Coventry Blaze and Sheffield Steelers game at the SkyDome (pictured above left) where she played her own part in the week by 'dropping the puck' to start the match. The game was among dozens of promotions which have continued throughout the month. Black minority ethnic (BME) groups are also being encouraged to come forward as currently members of those communities are under-represented as city adopters. To find out more, visit www.coventry.gov.uk/adoptionandfostering or telephone 024 7683 2828.

ALL JOURNEYS ARE DIFFERENT

Alfie needs YOUR help with his

Adopt or **Foster** for Coventry and we will be with you throughout your journey.

You will have access to quality training, support and generous allowances, helping you to make a real difference to a child's future.

Over 600 children in Coventry need a secure, loving, stable home.

It's time to make a difference

Call the Adoption and Fostering Recruitment Team on

024 7683 2828

www.coventry.gov.uk/adoptionandfostering



Heroes take centre stage

A new advisory panel has been set up to oversee the city's Good Citizen Award.

The award – presented at every full Council meeting – is being expanded to encourage nominations from people who have a sporting and cultural background and people who have gone above and beyond the efforts of most people in commercial life and employment.

The first Good Citizen Award in Coventry was marked in September 2001 when Mrs Lesley Robertson

Civic leaders raise profile of good citizens

received the accolade after providing first aid to a man who suffered an injury and who was losing a lot of blood.

The man was taken to hospital where a surgeon was able to perform an operation to stem the bleeding. Mrs Robertson's calm and public-spirited action was highlighted by hospital staff who said her actions saved the man's life. Other past award winners

performed acts of bravery, raised money for charity, rescued people trapped in fires, coached young children to achieve their athletic potential, and included a school caretaker, a postman and a caring student.

Cllr Phil Townshend, deputy leader of the City Council and Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities, said the advisory panel had been set up to recognise and reinforce the importance of the Good Citizen Award.

He said "I want to encourage

people who work or live in the city to be honoured for the exceptional things they do behind the scenes every day.

"It is the efforts and motivation of local people whether through volunteering or caring for others that make a difference to community wellbeing. Those many individuals who give up their spare time

should be valued and recognised as both a role model and inspiration to others."

The new advisory panel will meet every three months to monitor and develop the Good Citizen Award. Its members will include:

- * **The Lord Mayor.**
- * **The Council's Honorary Recorder, His Honour Judge Richard Griffiths-Jones.**
- * **Cabinet Member Cllr Dr * Lynnette Kelly** (Business, Enterprise and Employment).
- * **Cabinet Member Cllr Abdul Khan JP** (Energy and Environment).
- * **Cabinet Member Cllr Ed Ruane** (Housing and Heritage).
- * **Chief Superintendent of Coventry** (or their nominee).
- * **Chief Superintendent Andy Nicholson/Superintendent Claire Bell.**
- * **The Coventry Member of the UK Youth Parliament.**
- * **Shadow Cabinet Member Cllr Allan Andrews** (Community Safety and Equalities).
- * **A nominee from the Conservative Group.**

If you know a worthy good citizen visit www.coventry.gov.uk/goodcitizen or call 024 7683 3100 in order to access the application form to submit a nomination.



■ Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Hazel Noonan with Bernard Keogh, the most recent winner of the Good Citizen award.

Discover Christmas in Coventry

Weeks of Christmas-themed fun and trails brought to you by Coventry City Council

Chair Idol
7 December
11.30am - 1.30pm
Venue: Prescott Fountain Stage

Free Radio Christmas Stars Live!
7 December, 2pm
Venue: Prescott Fountain Stage

Christmas Cinema Club
7, 14 & 21 December
7pm - 1.30pm
Venue: Madingley Plaza

Winter Wonderland Show
11 December
11.30am, 1pm & 2.30pm
Venue: Prescott Fountain Stage

Roller Rink Disco
11 - 29 December
(Closed Christmas Day)
Venue: Boulevard

Winter Wonderland Show
11 December, 2pm, 6pm & 7pm
Venue: Prescott Fountain Stage

Farmers Market
20 December, 9am - 4pm
Venue: Broadway

Christmas Fountain Stage
Throughout December
12pm - 2pm, 4pm - 6pm
(Closed 4pm weekend and open 4pm Wednesday evening)
Venue: Prescott Fountain Stage

Schools Christmas Carols
Week commencing 9 December
11am - 1.15pm & 2pm - 3.30pm
Venue: Prescott Fountain Stage

FREE PARKING OFFER

Now it's even easier to park in Coventry city centre this Christmas with Free Parking every Wednesday after 3pm from 27 November until 18 December. You can also enjoy free parking after 3pm every day between Thursday 19 December and Tuesday 24 December. On offer in all council car parks.

* Brought to you by...

For more information on the events above visit: www.visitcoventry.co.uk

Out and about this chilly season

Here are some of the things you can enjoy this winter in and around Coventry

DECEMBER

Until Jan 5 – Jack and the Beanstalk, Belgrade Theatre. The Belgrade Theatre's legendary Christmas pantomime returns with one of the world's favourite fairytales. 024 7655 3055, or visit www.belgrade.co.uk

Until April 21 – Exposed: The Body in Art from Dürer to Freud, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum. Exposed is an exhibition of work selected from the fine art collections at Birmingham Museums with a small number of works from the Herbert's own collection. The exhibition explores a range of artistic responses to the human body. Exposed includes works by Albrecht Dürer, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Barbara Hepworth, Helen Chadwick and Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud. Tickets can be purchased online or in the Herbert. Adult £4. Children (18 and under) free.

2,9,16 (also Jan 6, 13, 20, 27) – Indoor archery sessions, Ricoh Arena Community Space, Floor 1, South (De Vere) Stand (Monday evenings, 7-8.30pm). Costs £5 per session for adults 16 years+ and £4 per session for under 16 years. Children must be supervised and aged 7 years+. For more information or to book, contact Mary or Caroline on 07432 441559 or 07804 154471.

7 – Coombe Christmas Workshop: Christmas Cards and Wrappings, Coombe Country Park (10am-12.30pm). Have a go at card making techniques and learn how to give your gifts that extra special finish with a natural touch. Suitable for beginners and intermediates. Cost £12. Suitable for 14 years+. Light refreshments provided. Advance booking essential on 024 7645 3720 or email coombe.countrypark

Fine body of work

Lily Cole by Gillian Wearing, 2009, one of the works on show at **Exposed: The Body in Art from Dürer to Freud** at Coventry's Herbert Art Gallery and Museum. The exhibition explores a range of artistic responses to the human body, and includes works by Albrecht Dürer, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Barbara Hepworth, Helen Chadwick and Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud. (*Image © the artist, courtesy Counter Editions and Maureen Paley, London/Photo © Birmingham Museums Trust)



@coventry.gov.uk

7 – Little Elves Workshop: Sticks and Twigs, Coombe Country Park (1-2.30pm). Kids get crafty for Christmas making hanging decorations with sticks and twigs. Cost £4pp. Suitable for under 5s, free if accompanied by a paying adult. Advance booking essential on 024 7645 3720 or coombe.countrypark@coventry.gov.uk

7 (Until Dec 28) – Oh No It Isn't!, The Belgrade Theatre. A brilliant new comedy thriller written and directed by acclaimed Coventry writer Nick Walker. Four actors are performing a Christmas Panto. For the audience it's a fun yuletide treat – for the actors on stage, it is a matter of life and death. 024 7655 3055 or visit www.belgrade.co.uk

7 – Christmas Family Day, Coventry Transport Museum (10am-4pm). A fun-filled day of festive family activities including pre-bookable sessions on how to make a Coventry Godcake and marzipan Christmas decorations.

7 – Merry Making, The Herbert Art Gallery and Museum. £7 per session or £12 for both. Get creative this festive season and let your imagination flow by joining The Herbert for a wonderful artist led Christmas decoration

workshop. 024 7683 2386.

7 – A Trail of Festive Tidings, The Herbert (10am-4pm, free). Join in a festive hunt around the Herbert Art Gallery and Coventry Transport Museum.

7 – Free Radio Christmas Stars Live Final, Precinct Fountain Stage (3pm). Brought to you by Free radio in association with Coventry City Council. The shortlisted finalists representing their local primary schools will compete live on stage, singing to be crowned Free radio Christmas Star winner 2013.

9 – Schools Christmas Carols, Christmas Fountain Stage (11-11.30pm and 2-3.30pm). Local schools performing a range of Christmas Carols.

9 (Until Dec 14) – Lower Precinct Ice Rink. Ice rink open each day from 11am-7pm (Dec 11, 12-8pm).

11 – Winter Wonderland Show, Precinct Fountain Stage (5pm, 6pm and 7pm). A special Christmas performance brought to you by Coventry's Ancora Productions.

14 (Until 29, excluding Christmas Day) – Roller Rink and Disco, Broadgate. Brought to you by Coventry on the Move, the popular attraction returns complete with carousel, big wheel and helter skelter – charges apply.

14 – Coombe Christmas Workshops: Log Reindeer, Coombe Country Park (10am-12.30pm). Make your very own log reindeer to welcome Father Christmas and all your family and friends to your home. All materials and tools provided. Light refreshments provided. Cost £20pp. Suitable for 14 years+. Advance booking essential on 024 76 45 3720 or coombe.countrypark@coventry.gov.uk

17 – Herbert illuminations - Fashion in the First World War (12.30-1.30pm, free). Did fashion matter in the First World War – and what might be its legacy?

20 – Farmers' Market, Broadgate (9am-3pm).

21 – Reindeers and Santa, Lower Precinct (11am-3pm).

21-23 – Santa's Grotto, Coombe Country Park. The elves will take you to your own personal appointment with Father Christmas! Includes small gift. Cost £6 per child (under 2s free if accompanied by a paying sibling). No need to queue – just contact the Visitor Centre to arrange your appointment.

Times will be given on booking. All children will have up to an hour in the elves' workshop (including visit to Santa). Advance booking essential on 024 7645 3720 or coombe.countrypark@coventry.gov.uk

22 – Winter Wonderland Show, Precinct Fountain Stage (11.30am, 1pm and 2.30pm). A special Christmas performance brought to you by Coventry Performance Company, Ancora Productions.

JANUARY

3 – Art takeover day, The Herbert (10.30am -3.30pm, free). A creative start to the new year featuring some of the favourite make and take workshops. Drop in throughout the day.

Following the recent lights switch-on, the Council has also introduced free parking

16 – Artist’s Insight, Lisa Gunn in Conversation, The Herbert (6.30pm, free). Artist Lisa Gunn discusses the motivation behind her work and her work processes in an informal gallery setting. Booking is advised at www.theherbert.org or call 024 7629 4774.

23 & 24 (Also Jan 28 & 28, and March 27 & 28) – **New Early Years Play Days**, The Herbert (10.30-11.30am and 1-2pm, free). Play Days give children aged one to three an opportunity to explore and investigate through sensory play. Drop in, no booking required.

25 (Also Feb 8) – **Workshop: Sculpting the Body**, The Herbert (12.30-4pm, £15 per workshop). Guided by artist Tanya Kozin, produce your own small human figure sculpture. Suitable for beginners upwards aged 16+. All materials provided. Booking essential. Book both Sculpture workshops and receive a 10 per cent discount. Go to www.theherbert.org or call 024 7629 4774. **Feb 8** workshop **Life Drawing with a Difference** (8-10.30pm, £10).

FEBRUARY

15 (Also March 1) – **Workshop, Drawing the Body**, The Herbert (1.30-4pm, £10 per workshop). Guided by visual artist Frieda Van de Poll, develop your drawing technique and get the opportunity to experiment with mixed media. Suitable for beginners or those with some experience aged 16+. All materials provided. Booking essential. Book both drawing workshops and receive a 10 per cent discount. Go to www.theherbert.org or call 024 7629 4774.

17-21 – **Discovering Modern Masterpieces**, The Herbert (10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-3.30pm, free). Discover all about the styles and techniques used by the artists shown in the galleries. Daily workshop details vary – visit www.theherbert.org for details.

18 – **Herbert Illumination - The Medieval Magdalen**, The Herbert (12.30-1.30pm, free). Talk from Leah Mellors, Social History Curatorial Trainee at the

NOTICEBOARD

■ Neighbourhood forums

Residents who want to help influence improvements where they live are being encouraged to attend their local neighbourhood forum.

Forums are held every three months – covering 18 wards. People can quiz local councillors, police officers and other street services officers about current issues.

Forums starting at 7pm include:

- * December 10 – **Westwood**, Xcel Leisure Centre; **Sherbourne**, Bethel Church;
- * December 12 – **Whoberley**, Allesley Park Community Centre; **Earlsdon**, West Orchard United Reformed Church;
- * December 17 – **Cheylesmore**, Quinton Park Baptist Church;
- * January 7 – **Wainbody**, Grange Farm Primary School;
- * January 15 – (6pm start) **St Michael’s**, Hope Centre; **Henley**, St Philips Church;
- * January 16 – **Lower Stoke**, Life Centre;
- * January 21 – **Binley and Willenhall**, John White

Herbert, exploring the mediaeval ideal of Mary Magdalen and asks why she was one of the most popular female saints during the Middle Ages.

18 – Object handling: Collection Conversations, The Herbert (11am-1pm, free). Drop into What’s In Store and handle items from our natural history, archaeology and social history collections. Curators will be on hand to answer your questions.

MARCH

1 – A Short History of Drawing, The Herbert (11am-noon, free). Art historian David Packwood offers a brief history of drawing. Booking advised.

18 – Herbert Illumination: Curator Talk, The Herbert (1.30-2.30pm, free with £4 exhibition entry fee). Join Victoria Osborne, Curator (Fine Art) from Birmingham Museums as she explores selected works within the Exposed exhibition. Booking advised, but tickets can be purchased on the day. Go to www.theherbert.org or call 024 7629 4774.



Diwali lights prove a shining success

■ Council leader Ann Lucas switches on the Diwali lights, watched by (from left) PK Bahkri, chair of Coventry Indian Community Organisation, Cllr John Mutton, Cllr Harjinder Sehmi, and Sarwan Singh, chair of the Indian Community Centre, Cross Road. The event, which has been celebrated in Coventry for more than 25 years, brought a festive feel to Foleshill Road. The festival was also marked by an event at the Indian Community Centre in Cross Road.

Community Centre;
* January 29 – **Radford**, tbc.

For details visit www.coventry.gov.uk/neighbourhoodforums or call Matthew Rossi, Governance Services on 024 7683 3079.

■ **Calling all knitters** (and crocheters): A new knitting and crocheting group has started at Central Library. Groups also take place in local libraries, for details call 024 7683 2314.

■ **History books offer at Coventry Libraries**: City Council libraries are offering brand new local history books for sale. The books which offer a nostalgic look back at Coventry’s past include:
* **Spon Street and Spon End** by John Ashby (£10). Detailed account of 200 years of everyday life in two of Coventry’s oldest thoroughfares.
* **The Character of Coventry** by John Ashby (£5.95). Reflection on the local characters and the history of the city’s inns and taverns.
* **Meaning of the Street Names of Coventry** by Margaret Smedley (£6.95). Compilation of Coventry streets, detailing the meaning behind their names. For details contact Central Library on 024 7683 2314.

■ **The latest Libraries information** can be found out on

www.coventry.gov.uk/blog/libraries.

The blog, along with Twitter and Facebook pages, are among the new ways that local people can keep up-to-date with all that’s on at libraries across the city.

Through the social media sites you can find out about upcoming author visits and events in libraries. The library service recently celebrated 100 years of Earlsdon, Foleshill, and Stoke Libraries. Visit www.facebook.com/coventrylibraries to view photographs of the celebrations. You can also follow us www.twitter.com/covlibraries

■ **Make cycling your new year’s resolution**: Thinking about losing weight and getting fitter? Then why not consider cycling? You can take advantage of free cycle training courses that Cycle Coventry is offering through Bike Right. The weather needn’t be an issue either as two indoor courses have been organised for beginners, and those returning to cycling after a long time. The sessions are on Saturday, January 18, at Woodlands Academy Sports Complex, and Saturday, January 25 at the Ricoh Arena. To book or for more information, visit www.bikeright.co.uk/westmidlands/cycletraining, e-mail info2@bikeright.co.uk or call 0121 200 2266.

I BABLAKE

Cllrs Galliers and Kershaw hold regular surgeries: Coronation Club, Keresley Rd 12 noon -1.00pm on the first Saturday of the month. Allesley Parish Church Hall, 5-6pm on the second Monday of the month or contact them directly as below:
Cllr David Galliers: 07973 780871 or e-mail david.galliers@coventry.gov.uk twitter @davidgalliers www.facebook.com/Allesley CoundonAndKeresley www.bablakelabour.com
Cllr David Kershaw CBE: 024 7671 1107 or 07850 664576 or e-mail david.kershaw@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Andrew Williams: Call 024 7683 1039 or e-mail andrew.williams@coventry.gov.uk

I BINLEY & WILLENHALL

Cllr Dave Chater: For an appointment or home visit call 024 7667 2619 or 07759 062733 or e-mail dave.chater@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Ram P Lakha OBE: For a home visit or appointment call 024 7683 1039 or e-mail ram.lakha@btinternet.com or ram.lakha@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr John Mutton: Call 024 7683 1039 for an appointment or advice.

I CHEYLESMORE

Cllrs Foster and Noonan hold regular surgeries: Cheylesmore Community Centre 6.30-8pm on last Wednesday of each month (except December) or contact them directly as below:
Cllr Kevin Foster: Call 024 7683 1039 (day) or e-mail kevin.foster@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Hazel Noonan (Deputy Lord Mayor): Call 024 7683 3048 (day) or 024 7650 5109 (evenings) or e-mail hazel.noonan@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Harjinder Singh Sehmi: Last Friday of the month at Cheylesmore Social Club, Quinton Park, 6-7pm or call for an appointment on 07507 687268 or 07956 491443 or e-mail harjinder.singhsehmi@coventry.gov.uk

I EARLSDON

Cllr Allan Andrews: Happy to help where I can. Will visit at home or the Council House. Please call for an appointment on 024 7683 1276 or e-mail allan.andrews@coventry.gov.uk or follow on twitter @allanandrews
Cllr Michael Hammon: Call 024 7644 8585 for an appointment or e-mail michael.hammon@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Ken Taylor OBE: Call 024 7667 3717 for an appointment.

I FOLESHILL

Cllr Tariq Khan: For an appointment call 024 7683 1039 or 07415 534267 or e-mail tariq.khan@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Abdul Salam Khan: Call 024 7683 1039 (day) or 07903 847160 or e-mail abdul.khan@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Malkiat Auluck: Second Tuesday of the month 6.30-7.30pm at Foleshill Community Centre, Foleshill Rd or call 024 7663 7965 for an appointment.

I HENLEY

Cllr Lynnette Kelly: Call 024 7671 1682 or e-mail lynnette.kelly@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Kevin Maton: Call 07941 827229 or e-mail kevin.maton@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Ed Ruane: Call 07817 218137 or e-mail ed.ruane@coventry.gov.uk. Surgery at 4pm on the third Thursday of every month at Moat House Leisure Centre, Winston Ave, Henley Green.

I HOLBROOK

Cllr Joe Clifford: Every Wednesday, 6.30-7.30pm at Holbrook Community Care Assoc, Holbrooks Lane. Call 024 7646 5315 or e-mail joseph.clifford@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Rachel Lancaster: Call 024 7636 0021 or e-mail rachel.lancaster@coventry.gov.uk for an appointment.

Cllr Ann Lucas: Call 024 7683 1103 for an appointment., or e-mail ann.lucas@coventry.gov.uk. Surgery on first Monday of each month 9.30-10.30am at Holbrook Health Centre, Wheelwright Lane.

I LONGFORD

Cllr Linda Bigham: First Friday of every month 3.30-4.30pm at Longford Primary Care Centre, Longford Rd, and 5.30-6.30pm at Scout Headquarters, Aldermans Green Rd. Last Friday of every month 6-7pm at St Thomas' Parish Church Hall, Longford Rd. Please call 024 7636 0898 to make a surgery appointment.
Cllr George Duggins: Second Saturday of every month 12-1pm at Bell Green Community Centre, Old Church Rd and 1.15-2pm at Royal Hotel, Old Church Rd. Second Sunday of every month 11.30am-1pm at Bell Green Club, Roseberry Ave or call 024 7683 1003 (day) or e-mail george.duggins@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Lindsay Harvard: First Saturday of every month 10.45-11.45am at Scout Hut, Aldermans Green Rd and 11.45am-12.45pm at Bell Green Community Centre, Old Church Rd. First Sunday of every month 11am-12 noon at the Church Hall, St Thomas' Parish Church, Longford Rd, and noon-1pm at Bell Green Club, Roseberry Ave. Call 024 7667 5717, or e-mail lindsay.harvard@coventry.gov.uk

I LOWER STOKE

Cllr John McNicholas: If you have a problem, need help or advice. I can visit you in your home and be contacted on 024 7683 1039 (day), 024 7650 4037 (evenings) or e-mail john.mcnicholas@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Phil Townshend: Call 024 7683 1034 (day) for details of surgeries or e-mail philip.townshend@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Catherine Miks: Call 024 7683 1039 or 07415 534274 or e-mail catherine.miks@coventry.gov.uk

I RADFORD

Cllr Mal Mutton: Call 024 7630 4497 or 024 7683 1039 for an appointment or e-mail mal.mutton@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Keiran Mulhall: Every Tuesday at Radford Social Club, 226, Radford Rd, CV6 3BQ from 6.30-7.30pm. Also Radford Social Club on the first Sunday of the month 11.30am-12.30pm. Or call 024 7683 1039 for an appointment.
Cllr Tony Skipper: Available to see Radford residents at Coventry Coachmakers' Club, 72 Radford Rd, CV1 4BY. To make an appointment or to leave a message, call 024 7683 1039.

I ST MICHAEL'S

Joint surgeries every second Friday of the month 5-6pm at St Anne and All Saints Community Hall, Acacia Avenue.
Cllr David Welsh: First Saturday of each month, 12-1pm at the Redeemed Christian Church of God (former Howitzer Club), Albert St. Third Friday of each month, 3-4pm at the Regeneration Office, 121-124 Far Gosford Street. Call 07956 307 437 or e-mail david.welsh@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Naem Akhtar: Surgeries every first Tuesday of the month, 5-6pm at Hillfields Youth Centre, Yardley St. For an appointment call 07747 003141 or e-mail naem.akhtar@coventry.gov.uk.
Cllr Jim O'Boyle: Second Saturday of each month, 12-1pm at Zeenat Restaurant, Cambridge St, Hillfields, fourth Saturday of month, noon at Transport House, Short St. Call 024 7669 4873 or 024 7683 1039, or e-mail jim.o'boyle@coventry.gov.uk

I SHERBOURNE

Cllr Seamus Walsh: Call 07956 546983 or 024 7683 1039 (day), or e-mail seamus.walsh@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Alison Gingell: For an appointment call 07541 741617 or e-mail alison.gingell@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Damian Gannon: For an appointment call 07725 536259 or e-mail damian.gannon@coventry.gov.uk

I UPPER STOKE

Cllr Kamran Caan: For an appointment or home visit, call or text 07730 111101, or e-mail kamran.caan@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Sucha Bains: Barras Green Social Club, Coventry St, between 12 noon-12.45pm every Saturday or call 024 7645 9484.
Cllr Colleen Fletcher: For an appointment text 07939 111992, (will be happy to call you back) or call 024 7683 1039 or e-mail colleen.fletcher@coventry.gov.uk

I WAINBODY

Cllr John Blundell: Call 024 7683 1276 (weekdays) or 024 7641 9794 (evenings and weekends) or e-mail john.blundell@coventry.gov.uk for an appointment; will gladly visit.
Cllr Gary Crookes (Lord Mayor): For an appointment call 024 7683 3048 (day) or 024 7646 1777 (after 6pm) or e-mail gary.crookes@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Tim Sawdon: Call 024 7683 1039 (day) or 024 7641 5771 (after 6pm) or e-mail tim.sawdon@coventry.gov.uk

I WESTWOOD

Cllr Maya Ali: Surgeries every third Thursday of the month, 4.30-5.30pm at the Tanyard Community Centre, Tanyard Close, Coventry, CV4 9TS. For an appointment call 07949 653 656 or e-mail maya.ali@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr David Skinner: Call 024 7683 1039 (day) or 024 7646 8106 (out of hours) or e-mail david.skinner@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Richard Sandy: Surgeries held at The Lime Tree Club, Templar Ave second Saturday of the month from noon-1pm and every fourth Saturday of the month from 11.30am-12.30pm at Canley Library, Prior Deram Walk. For an appointment call 07949 900445 or e-mail richard.sandy@coventry.gov.uk

I WHOBERLEY

Cllr Dan Howells: If you require help or advice I can visit you in your home or at a time and place convenient to you. To arrange an appointment call 07540 083974 or e-mail dan.howells@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Jayne Innes: Surgeries every fourth Saturday of the month except December, July and August from 12 noon at Allesley Park Library. Also you can ring 02476 405 132 or email jayne.innes@coventry.gov.uk for an appointment or home visit outside these times.
Cllr Bally Singh: Regular Surgeries are held every third Saturday of the month 10am-noon at St Mary Magdeline Centre, Sir Thomas White Rd. Also morning chat every first Friday of the month 8.30-9am at Stoke Bakery, Allesley Park. Call 07779 256898 for an appointment, or e-mail bally.singh@coventry.gov.uk

I WOODLANDS

Cllrs Hetherton and Thomas hold regular surgeries on the fourth Friday of each month at Tile Hill Library, Jardine Cres from 5-7pm
Cllr Patricia Hetherton: Please call 07985 811881 for an appointment or e-mail patricia.hetherton@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Steven Thomas: For an appointment call my residents' hotline 07535 423796 or email steven.thomas@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Julia Lepoidevin: For an appointment, call 024 7683 1276 (day), 07944 458 751 or e-mail julia.lepoidevin@coventry.gov.uk

I WYKEN

Cllrs Thay, Abbott and Sweet hold surgeries every third Friday 6.30-7.30pm at Wyken Working Men's Club, Ansty Rd, Wyken.
Cllr Robert Thay: For an appointment call 07875 031851 or email robert.thay@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Faye Abbott: For an appointment call 07944 996294 or e-mail faye.abbott@coventry.gov.uk
Cllr Hazel Sweet: For an appointment or home visit call 024 7661 6273 or e-mail hazel.sweet@coventry.gov.uk

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Cllr Philip Townshend, Deputy Leader, Community Safety and Equalities
Cllr Damian Gannon, Strategic Finance and Resources
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Bob Ainsworth MP
 Coventry North East
 Call 024 7622 6707
 e-mail ainsworth@parliament.uk
Jim Cunningham MP
 Coventry South
 Call 024 7655 3159
 e-mail eleanor.connolly@parliament.uk
Geoffrey Robinson MP
 Coventry North West
 Call 024 7625 7870
 e-mail robinsong@parliament.uk

European MPs

West Midlands Region

CONSERVATIVE - Malcolm Harbour, Philip Braddon, 285 Kenilworth Road, Balsall Common, Coventry, CV7 7EL. Call 01676 530621 or 01676 530297
LABOUR - Michael Cashman, Terry Duffy House, Thomas Street, West Bromwich B70 6NT Call 0121 569 1923
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS - Phil Bennion, Haunton Manor Farm, Haunton, Tamworth M79 9HN
UKIP - Mike Natrass, 123 New John Street, Birmingham, B6 4LD Call 0121 333 7737
WE DEMAND A REFERENDUM - Nikki Sinclair, 123 New John Street, Birmingham, B6 4LD Call 0121 359 5933



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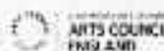
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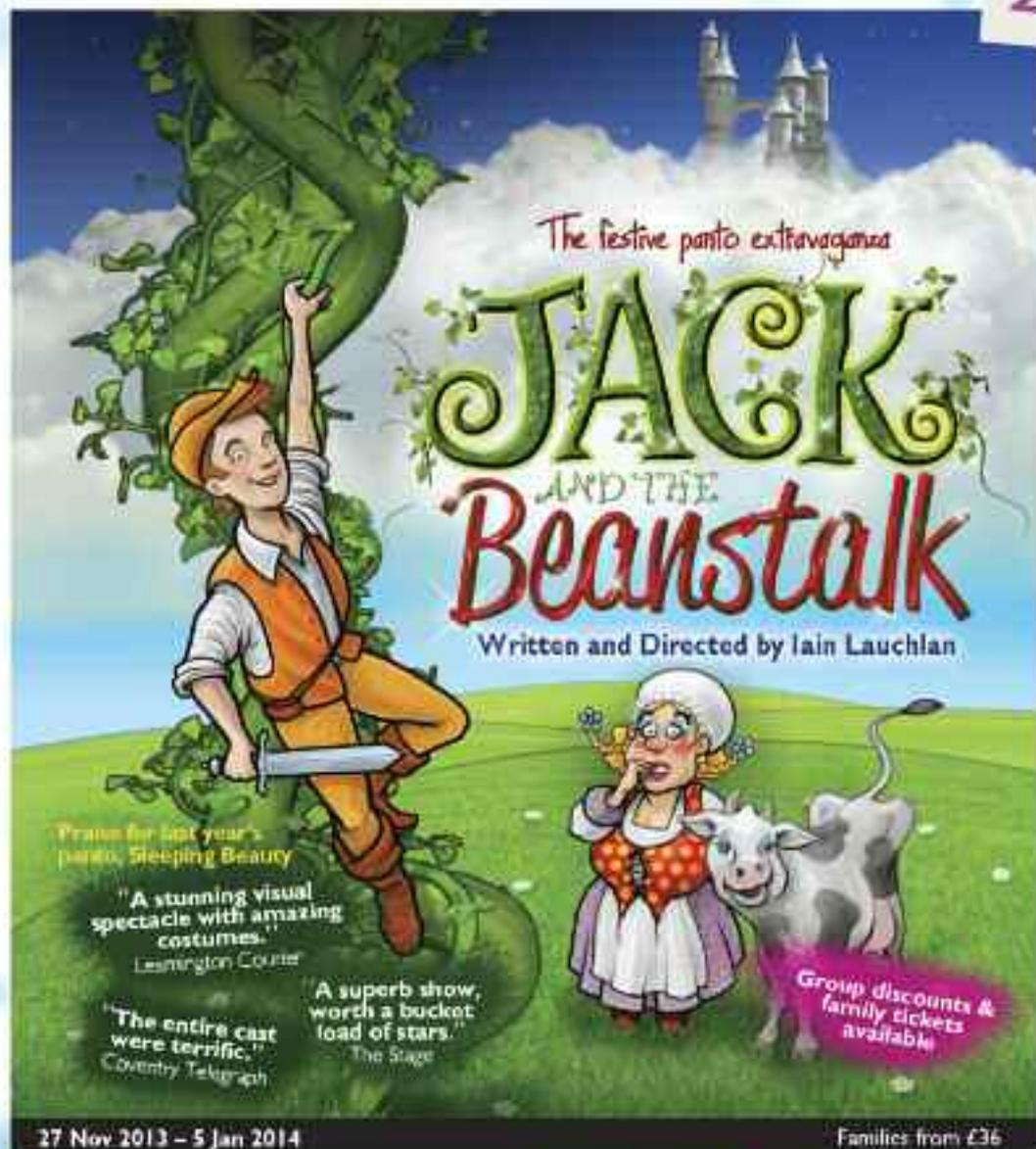
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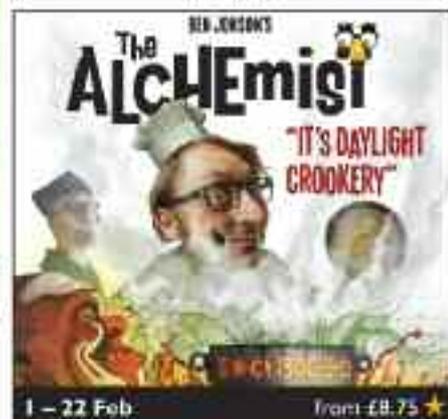


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