

More Choice Available For Homeseekers

February saw the launch of the District's new Choice Based Lettings Scheme, giving home seekers more choice about where they live.

Every two weeks the District Council publishes a list of homes available to rent from the Council and local housing associations as well as information on other housing options. Homes are advertised on the Internet, in libraries, the Council offices, advice centres and some local post offices and shops.

Registered home seekers can place up to three bids at a time for homes that interest them. This doesn't involve any money, it just means letting the Council know which homes

they like. When bidding closes the person at the top of the list is contacted and, subject to checks, offered the property. If they can't take it then the next person on the list is considered and so on until the property has been let.

For the most part, priority for homes in North West Leicestershire is still given to people who live in or have a connection to the district.

For further information about Choice Based Lettings visit: www.leicestershire-homes.org.uk or contact the Housing Advice Team on freephone 0800 183 0357 or email housing.advice@nwleicestershire.gov.uk.

Council Bids For Cash To Improve Homes

The District Council could receive millions of pounds to improve the district's council homes in a one-off settlement from the Government.

A total of 48 councils across the country are eligible to bid for part of a £1.6 billion which will be available for refurbishment work to council homes.

The Council's Housing Service submitted the bid for extra money by the deadline of 11th January 2011.

The Council is now waiting to hear from the Homes and Communities Agency if they have been successful in securing the cash.

If you would like any more information about the bid, please contact Emma Sparkes on 01530 454785.

IMPROVEMENTS TO HOMES CONTINUES

The District Council is improving more homes this year across the district. This includes electrical rewiring and replacement of external doors, windows and new roofs.

In Oakthorpe, remedial work is being done to 14 homes that will soon be ready for new occupants.

The Council's larger sheltered accommodation schemes will receive gas-fired communal boilers, new lifts and upgrades to fire detection and evacuation systems.

Tenants of properties to receive work will receive notification by letter. Queries should be directed to the Housing Response Team on 01530 454635 or email repairs@nwleicestershire.gov.uk.

Tesco coming soon to Coalville

Detailed plans for the new Tesco store on the site of the existing Ford Garage on Whitwick Road, Coalville have been approved by the District Council. The exciting design of the store marks a new chapter in the regeneration of the town.

The plans include demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of the site for a mix of uses including the foodstore, other shops, 20 residential apartments and associated car parking, infrastructure works, servicing and improvements to the area surrounding the development.

Tesco was granted outline planning permission for the store in October 2009. Planning officers have now agreed the detailed design application.

For further information please contact:
Chris Elston, Development Control Manager

chris.elston@nwleicestershire.gov.uk
01530 454668

Further images of the plans can be seen at:
www.coalvilleschanging.com.

District Council scoops national Urban Design Award



North West Leicestershire District Council has been awarded a prestigious design award for its ourplace™ urban design initiative. The awards, which took place in London in February, were the Urban Design Group's first large-scale awards event.



North West Leicestershire District Council was one of six local authorities short-listed for the 'Public Sector' award, with the Council competing against Buckinghamshire Borough Council, the City of London, Gloucester City Council, London Borough of Barking & Dagenham and South Derbyshire District Council.

The Council was announced as the overall winner for its ourplace™ urban design initiative which seeks to encourage and inspire people to create and expect well designed buildings and spaces. The scheme includes a new and innovative quality rating scheme for new homes.

More information about the ourplace™ initiative can be found at: www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/urban_design_projects.