

# vision

March 2011

 **Climate**  
21-27 March  
2011 **Week**

Find out more about  
Climate Week in North  
West Leicestershire -  
from page seven

**Tesco is coming  
to Coalville -  
page 17**



# In this issue

- 3 Council tax frozen
- 4-5 Your vote, your voice
- 7 Climate Week
- 16 Housing news
- 17 Tesco coming to Coalville
- 18 Coalville Celebrates
- 20 Badminton star

# Welcome



Climate Week takes place this month and we have planned a whole host of events across the district to help us lead a greener lifestyle and help reduce climate change through your actions.

The green agenda has always been important to the Council and we have strived to lead by example through our Green Footprints Challenge. So much importance is placed on this initiative, that we have made it one of our Council priorities for 2011/12.

We are pleased to announce that last month we won the Urban Design Group's Public Sector Award 2011 for the Council's ourplace scheme. This is a fantastic achievement representing our commitment to encouraging all developers in our district to produce new buildings and housing to a high design standard.

Earlier this year we also found out that the Hermitage Leisure Centre is now one of the top 30 on the country. Following an assessment last year, we were told that we were now rated 'excellent' – another great achievement.

And the regeneration of Coalville received a boost last month when we were able to approve the detailed planning application for the new Tesco store in the town centre, along with new retail units, accommodation, a tourist information centre, a new shop mobility centre and additional car parking. We are looking forward to work beginning on the site very soon.

Finally, as the District Council elections take place in May, I would like to take this opportunity to say what an honour it has been to lead this Council over the last four years.

*Richard Blunt*

Councillor Richard Blunt - Leader  
North West Leicestershire District Council

01530 454510 richard.blunt@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

## District Council freezes Council Tax for the second year running

At February's Council meeting, members agreed the budget for 2011/12, including a Council Tax freeze.

Council Leader, Councillor Richard Blunt explains: "As a council we are faced with a tough few years with dramatic cuts in our income and a need to tighten our belts even further.

"What we do not want to do is pass this on to the residents of our District. Where possible we aim to protect the services that are important to our residents and will look to other ways to find those savings.

"Because of this we will not be increasing Council Tax for the second year running. We believe by doing this it will help residents faced with increased costs from other sources, such as fuel and food."

The is the fourth year residents of North West Leicestershire have enjoyed the lowest Council Tax increase in the County and Councillor Blunt intends this trend to continue.

He adds: "We are planning to freeze Council tax for a further four years."



### Contact us:

North West Leicestershire  
District Council, Council  
Offices, Coalville,  
Leicestershire, LE67 3FJ

01530 454 545

customer.services@  
nwleicestershire.gov.uk

www.nwleics.gov.uk

### Contact the Communications

Team on: 01530 454 545 or

e-mail: communications@

nwleicestershire.gov.uk

if you would like Vision in

large print, braille or another

language.

Vision magazine produced by

# Vote 2011 – Your Voice, Your Choice

Voters will be going to the polls in North West Leicestershire on Thursday 5th May. A total of 38 seats for the District Council and 195 seats for 25 Parish Councils are to be decided on that day.

The results of these elections will influence how services are run and decisions made within your local area.

This page give details on how to stand for election, registering to vote and ways to vote.

## How to stand for election

If you are interested in standing for election as either a District Councillor or Parish Councillor you will need to submit a Nomination Paper. Nomination packs and further guidance are available from the Democratic and Support Services Team on 01530 454503. Completed Nomination Papers must be given to the Returning Officer by no later than noon on 4th April 2011.

## How to vote

There are three ways you can vote on Thursday 5th May – at a polling station, by post or by proxy.

How you vote is up to you – it may depend on the method you find easiest or most convenient.

### Voting at a polling station

On Election Day, polling stations will be open from 7am – 10pm, and you can vote at any time during this period. Voting at a polling station is very straightforward and there is always a member of staff available to help if you're not sure what to do.

If you are on the Register of Electors, you

should receive a poll card towards the end of March / early April telling you where and when to vote. You may only vote at the polling station printed on your poll card.

The poll card is for your information only and you do not need to take it to the polling station in order to vote, although it is helpful if you do.

### Voting by post

If you are not able to go to the polling station in person on the day, you can apply to vote by post. You can obtain a postal vote application form from the Electoral Registration Officer and you can apply for just one election, for a specific time period, or for a permanent postal vote. You should receive your ballot paper about two weeks before the election. If it doesn't arrive, you can get a replacement ballot paper in person from the Electoral Registration Office until 5pm on Election Day.

Send your completed postal vote to the Electoral Registration Office. A return envelope with their address will be included in your postal ballot pack.

It is an offence to complete a postal vote that is not your own, and to influence how others complete their postal vote. If you have any allegations of fraud, they should be referred to the police.

If you have applied to vote by post, you cannot vote in person at the polling station. However, on Election Day you can return your postal vote to the polling station before 10pm or to the Electoral Registration Office (before the poll closes) if you do not want to post it or it is too late to post it.

### Voting by proxy

When voting by proxy, you nominate someone to vote on your behalf. You can apply for a proxy vote as long as you are on the Register of Electors.

Anyone can be your proxy but they must be eligible to vote in UK elections and they must be willing to vote on your behalf.

When you apply for a proxy vote you have to provide a reason, this could include:

- You are unable to go to the polling station for one particular election, for example, if you are away on holiday
- You have a physical condition that means you cannot go to the polling station on Election Day
- Your employment means that you cannot go to the polling station on Election Day
- You are a crown servant or a member of Her Majesty's Armed Forces

## Are you registered to vote?

If you returned your electoral registration form sent to you last autumn, you should appear on the Register of Electors.

To check you are on the register, contact the Electoral Registration Office.

If you are not on the register, or if you have moved house since last autumn and have not informed us of your change of details, contact the Electoral Registration Office as soon as possible. Don't miss your change to vote – make sure you are registered **NOW**.

## The Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission is an independent body that was set up by the UK Parliament.

Its mission is to foster public confidence and participation in the democratic process, by promoting integrity, involvement and effectiveness.

The Electoral Commission's responsibilities include registering and regulating political parties, reviewing electoral law and procedures, promoting public awareness of our electoral systems and advising those involved on the conduct of elections and referendums.

For more information go to:  
[www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)

## KEY DATES

Monday 4th April - Noon  
Close of nominations to stand as a candidate at the elections.

Thursday 14th April  
Deadline for registering to vote.

Thursday 14th April – 5pm  
Deadline for applying for a new postal vote for this election, or deadline for changing or cancelling an existing postal vote or proxy vote.

Thursday 21st April – 5pm  
Deadline for applying for a new proxy vote for this election

Thursday 5th May  
Election Day. Polling stations will be open from 7am -10 pm. In case of medical emergency, you can also apply for a new proxy vote up to 5pm on polling day.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the District Council and Parish Council elections on Thursday 5th May, contact the Electoral Registration Officer at North West Leicestershire District Council.

☎ 01530 454512 or  
01530 454503

✉ [electreg@nw.leicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:electreg@nw.leicestershire.gov.uk)

✉ Electoral Registration Officer, North West Leicestershire District Council, Council Offices, Whitwick Road, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 3FJ

🌐 [www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/electoral\\_registration](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/electoral_registration)

# BALLOT BOX

# Four Priorities



# Climate Week

21-27 March 2011

*North West Leicestershire will be a place where people and businesses feel they belong and are proud to call home*  
Council's Vision Statement

Join North West Leicestershire in celebrating Climate Week this month! Turn the page to find out how you can get involved...

## Priority – Pride in the Community

The wellbeing of people in North West Leicestershire is improved

We want to ensure:

- Residents feel safe in their community
- Residents live healthy active lifestyles
- Residents have pride in communities where they feel they belong

## Priority - Green Footprints Challenge

People feel proud to be part of a greener district

We want to ensure:

- Businesses are motivated to be greener
- Residents are inspired to live a greener lifestyle
- People feel that the Council demonstrates community leadership in being

## Priority - Value for Money

People feel Council services provide good value for money

We want to ensure:

- Customers are happier with services provided
- People feel the Council is spending money well

## Priority – Improving our Town Centres

Our Town Centres are better places to live, work and visit

We want to ensure:

- Businesses choose to locate in our Town Centres
- People want to spend time in our Town Centres

The District Council's Cabinet agreed these new, updated priorities at their meeting in February.

Further information on these priorities and how the District Council aims to achieve these can be found in the Council Delivery Plan 2011/12. Copies can be downloaded from: [www.nwleics.gov.uk](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk).





## Get involved in Climate Week!

Climate Week is a supercharged national occasion celebrating all the great work being done to combat climate change and encouraging more people to get involved.

Here in North West Leicestershire our aim is to host the largest number of events and activities during Climate Week compared to any other area in the United Kingdom. In fact, so many things are planned that we decided to designate March as Climate Month!

You can help us by making Climate Week happen where you are and letting us know what you're planning. It could be a talk,

workshop, open day, exhibition or a party. It could showcase what an organisation has done, highlight what others have achieved, or simply start a discussion about what might be possible. Just let us know what you're doing.

A five-minute conversation you have today could result in hundreds of people becoming involved in helping combat climate change during Climate Week.

To find out more and to take part in our web poll, log on to <http://footprints.nwleics.gov.uk/> and follow the links to the Climate Week website.



## Take the Climate Week Challenge

**Could a team from your school or workplace come up with a brilliant idea and a great plan of action in just one day? Do you have what it takes to win the Climate Week Challenge?**

Any organisation can enter any number of teams of between four to six people, for FREE! No preparation is required – a table to work at is all each team needs.

### What are the categories?

There are six age categories, but everyone – from primary pupils to senior managers – will be given the same core challenge.

### What happens once the challenge has been completed?

After the teams have finished, each school, college or workplace selects their own winning team. They then send that team's proposal to the Climate Week national judging panel, who will select regional and national winners.

### Where do I sign up?

To participate, you must register your school, workplace, community group or youth group in advance. Log on to:

[www.climateweek.com/challenge/](http://www.climateweek.com/challenge/)

### CASE STUDY: MEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Measham Parish Council is committed to reducing its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and, by demonstrating leadership in this area, hopes to inspire others to reduce their own carbon footprints.

Working with the Green Footprints Challenge, councillors agreed to develop a carbon baseline for the energy and fuel used by the operations of the Parish Council enabling them to start measuring their impact on the environment every year.

Having worked out how much electric, gas and fuel the council use in a year, they hope to develop Leicestershire's first Town and Parish Council Carbon Budget and develop targets in CO<sub>2</sub> reduction which are stretching but realistic. The development of the carbon baseline for the Council will start this process and assist with providing real-time statistical analysis for future carbon budget setting.

Cllr Tom Neilson, who was the Parish Council lead on the project, hopes that the Council

will adopt a reduction target of 50% by 2015/16 and become a fully carbon neutral council by 2020.

If other Town and Parish Councils are interested in doing something similar for their organisation, the Measham Parish Council Case Study is available at <http://footprints.nwleics.gov.uk/partnerships.html>.



# Climate Month

## what's on

There's so much happening across the district that we've had to extend Climate Week to Climate Month to fit it all in! Don't be left out - get involved with one of the following events or organise something with your friends, family, school or workplace.

For further information and an up-to-date list of events visit: [www.footprints.nwleics.gov.uk/climateweek](http://www.footprints.nwleics.gov.uk/climateweek)

DATE	WHAT?	WHERE?	DETAILS
Sat 19th March	Launch of Green Footprints (GF) Loyalty Card	Ashby Farmers' Market	Join us on the day to try delicious local foods and find out more about the new Green Footprints Loyalty Card. Ashby 20:20 will also be running a food miles activity for all the family.
Sun 20th March 2-4pm	Allotments in Spring	Ellistown and Battleflat Allotments, Midland Road, Ellistown	Find out more about growing your own food and the positive impact it can have on your environment.
Mon 21st March	Climate Week Challenge	The District Council and Barratt Homes, Coalville How about your company too?	A small staff group in each organisation will work on a special challenge issued at 9am. Is your business up for the challenge? Sign up and get involved!
		Primary and secondary schools	This is a great chance to take part in the same challenge that businesses and groups will be working on. Sign up and show them how it should be done!
Mon 21 – Fri 25 March	The Big Energy Challenge	The District Council and Barratt Homes, Coalville	A Big Switch Off-style competition will see the two organisations battling it out to see who can reduce their electricity consumption the most during Climate Week.
		Would your business like to take part?	Sign up on the Green Footprints website and we'll aim to pair you up with a neighbouring organisation.
Mon 21st March	Paper Detox Challenge	This is a month-long challenge open to all local businesses	Information and materials will be made available to all businesses who register to take part. There will be a prize-giving ceremony for the biggest detox after the challenge is completed.
Wed 23rd March	Youth Conference	East Midlands Airport AeroZone	One day youth conference for secondary students, being run by the District Council and East Midlands Airport.
Sat 26th March 10am	Thringstone Spring Clean	The Green, Thringstone	The Friends of Thringstone would like your help with a village spring clean, starting at The Green and concluding with a lunch at the Community Centre from 1pm for all those that have helped out. For further information tel: 01530 223434
Sun 27th March	Composting Workshop	Best Western Premier Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth	Rod Weston, Master Composter, will be running a workshop for allotment societies and residents interested in composting. For further information and to book your place visit: <a href="http://www.footprints.nwleics.gov.uk/climateweek">www.footprints.nwleics.gov.uk/climateweek</a>  This event has been sponsored by Best Western Premier Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth

# Get rewarded for your commitment

The Green Footprints Loyalty Card 'LEAF' (Local Enterprise and Friends) will be launched at Ashby Farmers' Market on Saturday 19th March 2011.

The loyalty card will be offered to volunteers that support the work of the many green groups across the district, such as Friends of Thringstone, Ashby 20:20 and Friends of Holly Hayes Woods. The scheme is designed to reward volunteers for the work they do in their communities to help promote a cleaner and greener district.

One of the first businesses to join the scheme was Ashby Farmers' Market, where holders of the card will get up to 5% off produce and goods on sale at the market.

Market Manager Matthew Springthorpe said: "We are delighted to be a part of this scheme;



initiatives such as this further promote the importance of supporting local producers and local businesses."

Initially LEAF cards will be available to volunteers who support green groups in the district or residents who would like to volunteer and help out with local green groups and initiatives. To find out more about the LEAF loyalty card visit: [www.footprints.nwleics.gov.uk](http://www.footprints.nwleics.gov.uk).

# Third green awards take place in April

The third Green Footprints Challenge Awards will be held on Friday 15th April at the East Midlands Hilton Hotel.

The annual awards, organised by North West Leicestershire District Council, recognise people or groups that have made an outstanding contribution to the environment in North West Leicestershire.

This year the categories are:

- Businesses
- Children and Young People
- Families and Individuals
- Partnerships and Community Groups
- Schools
- Sustainable Urban Design

The awards have been judged by a panel of experts from agencies across the district and the three best applications shortlisted. For more information about the shortlisted entries visit: [www.nwleics.gov.uk/footprints](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/footprints).



# Want to find out more?

If Climate Week has inspired you, more information on living a greener lifestyle can be found at:

[www.nwleics.gov.uk/footprints](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/footprints)

All the latest news on the District's Green Footprints Challenge, the annual awards, case studies, events and useful information and tools.

[www.freeuseit.org](http://www.freeuseit.org)

Freeuse Leicestershire is an easy way to give old items a new life, either by giving them away, or giving them new homes. The website offers a simple way for residents in Leicestershire to advertise items they no longer want, or pick up items they need. All items are free and the site is really easy to use.

[www.lesswaste.org.uk](http://www.lesswaste.org.uk)

Website of the Leicestershire Waste Partnership for all you need to know about recycling, composting, waste prevention and reuse in the county.

[www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/recycling\\_rubbish\\_and\\_waste](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/recycling_rubbish_and_waste)

District Council's web pages on recycling, rubbish and waste. Use the myNWL function to check your bin and recycling collection dates, find out what you can put in each bin and order new recycling containers.

## More green events happening this year...

**22nd April: Earth Day**

[www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net)

**17th – 21st May: National Walk to School Week**

[www.walktoschool.org.uk](http://www.walktoschool.org.uk)

**12th – 20th June: National Bike Week**

[www.bikeweek.org](http://www.bikeweek.org)

**9th – 15th August: National Allotments Week**  
[www.nsalg.org.uk](http://www.nsalg.org.uk)

**3rd – 17th August: National Organic Foods Week**  
[www.soilassociation.org](http://www.soilassociation.org)

**8th – 14th November: Recycling Week**  
<http://recyclingweek.planetark.org>

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Insulation measures - The Mark Group	0800 616302
Heatsavers	0870 4781550
Warm Front - Full grant	0800 3162814
Renewables - The Mark Group	0800 616302
District Council's energy advice line	0800 0132434
Benefit entitlement check	0800 07290026
Severn Trent Water	0845 5274953

# WEEE recycle more

Over 60% of the contents of the household bin can be collected and recycled from your home and other items that are harder to recycle can be taken to recycling sites across the district. These include things like clothes, books and drinks cartons.

Now the District Council has added electrical items to the list.

Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) banks have been placed at Hermitage Leisure Centre and High Street car park in Ibstock and items can also be recycled at the two Recycling and Household Waste sites at Coalville and Lount.

A total 36% of WEEE was recycled last year in the UK, and the aim is to recycle 65% by 2016.

The District Council uses Envirocom to take the WEEE away. They check all the goods and repair where possible, ensuring items are reused where possible.

Items beyond repair are broken down into component parts and sorted, with each part used again. There are lots of precious metals in WEEE which are hard to extract and so recycling them saves resources and CO<sub>2</sub>.



## Residents give Green Cones the green light

Leicestershire residents have cut down on bin congestion and reduced their carbon footprint by making use of leftover food. More than 1400 Green Cones are in use around the County.

Green cones dispose of all leftover cooked food, including meat and fish bones and dairy products, as well as the usual compostable kitchen waste like peelings and teabags.

For further information on buying a green cone or composter please phone 0116 305 7005 or log on to: [www.leics.gov.uk/waste](http://www.leics.gov.uk/waste).



## 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](http://www.leicestershire-homes.org.uk) or contact the Housing Advice Team on freephone 0800 183 0357 or email [housing.advice@nwleicestershire.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:chris.elston@nwleicestershire.gov.uk)  
01530 454668

Further images of the plans can be seen at:  
[www.coalvilleschanging.com](http://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](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/urban_design_projects).

# Coalville celebrates!

Coalville town centre will be decorated with St George's Cross flags to celebrate St George's Day on 23rd April.

In previous years the town has been crowned the best dressed town in the county for its St George's Day decorations, which include flags on businesses and bunting in the Belvoir Shopping Centre. Local businesses will be running special St George's Day promotions.

And to help you get into the swing of Royal Wedding fever that will no doubt be gripping the nation in April, Coalville will also be decorated from top to toe in Union Jack flags for the wedding weekend.

Drop into Coalville this April and join the celebrations!



**ACTIVE together**



Find us on  
**Facebook**

If you want to find out the latest information on fitness classes and sporting activities for over 16s in North West Leicestershire then visit North West Leicestershire District Council's Active Together page.

Regularly updated, the page includes updates on new classes and activities starting in the area, contact information to book places, and a chance to ask the team questions about fitness activities in your area. Recent enquiries through the page include information about mother and baby classes and when classes are restarting or launching.

To become a friend of the site, log on to Facebook and search for 'ActiveTogether NWL'.



## In the market for fresh, local food?

There's something a little bit special about Ashby Farmers' Market.

Maybe it's the location - set in the grounds of Manor House School, under the shadow of the town's famous castle.

Or maybe it's simply the delicious food on offer.

Each month, the market offers the chance for shoppers to buy everything from homemade cakes and bread, through to organic pork and local lamb. With over 20 stalls, many from Leicestershire or South Derbyshire, there's something to tempt everyone.

And when it all gets too much, pop into the school and enjoy a cup of tea and a sit down, relax with friends and make a morning of it. There's even a hog roast for dinner. It's all, well, so much more civilised than pushing a trolley round the supermarket on a Saturday morning.

Ashby Farmers' Market. Shopping as it should be.

## Your health matters!

A Well Families Clinic will be held on Tuesday 29th March 2011 at Moira Village Hall, Ashby Road, Moira from 3.00pm until 6.00pm.

The drop-in clinic will be offering free cholesterol, blood pressure, and body mass index screenings.

People can also pick up a free pedometer and there are exercise challenges and free healthy snacks and fruit juices to try during the afternoon.

Further details are available from Julie Summerton on:

☎ 01530 454541  
✉ Julie.summerton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

## LEISURE LINK MEMBERSHIPS DUE FOR RENEWAL IN APRIL

Leisure Link members need to renew their membership at their local leisure centre from 1st April. Joining fees for the coming year will be £5 for residents and £20 for non-residents.

When renewing, members are asked to bring all supporting documents, such as proof of the benefits you are claiming.

The Leisure Link scheme is open to:

- People in receipt of a means tested benefit

- People with disabilities
- Corporate parenting families
- Carers
- Full time/part time students aged 16 and 17 years old and full time students aged 18 years old
- People aged over 60 years old

For up to date information on the benefits accepted as proof of eligibility then please go to: [www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/leisurelink](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/leisurelink), pick up a leaflet from your local leisure centre or call Hermitage Leisure Centre on 01530 811215.

## Club Activ8 – fun activities for kids!

The Club Activ8 after school activity programmes offer activities for all ages. More information is available from your local leisure centre or visit: [www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/afterschool](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/afterschool).

Information on Easter activities can be found at: [www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/holidays](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/holidays). Don't miss out - book early.



# Badminton star praises council facilities

One of the world's top badminton players has praised local leisure facilities for helping his fitness as he toured the world collecting a haul of medals.

Anthony Clark is one of England's most capped badminton players of all time having represented his nation 103 times.

He competed at the 2004 and 2008 Olympics and has won seven Commonwealth, nine European championship and two world championship medals in a career spanning more than 15 years.

Anthony, 33, of Ellistown, was honoured at a recent full council meeting for his silver medal-winning display at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi and said facilities at Hermitage and Hood Park Leisure Centres helped him on his way.

Anthony told Vision: "I have been very fortunate to be able to use those facilities. They've been a massive help to me over the years because you have to work hard on your

fitness and they certainly suit my needs.

"It's great that the council recognised my achievements. It lets you know that all your efforts have been worth it. You don't get massive press coverage in my sport so when someone comes along and praises your achievements it really is an amazing feeling."

Anthony said he wants to bow out of the badminton world after the Olympics in London next summer.

He said: "I'm planning to retire after 2012 so it would be a nice way to go out with an Olympic medal. It is the pinnacle of any British athlete to compete in the Olympics in your own country.

"It won't be easy to qualify - but it would be the highlight of my career I think."

And to other aspiring athletes in North West Leicestershire, Anthony had this advice: "You have to follow your dream - but to do that you must work harder than anyone else."

## Leisure Centre ranked among country's best

Hermitage Leisure Centre is one of the nation's top 30 facilities, according to new rankings released by Sport England.

The Whitwick facility was ranked as "Excellent" by Quest, Sport England's UK quality scheme for sport and leisure centres. It is officially now one of the best in Leicestershire.

The leisure centre was praised by Sport England inspectors for a revamp of disabled changing facilities, engaging with the community to improve services, cleanliness, systems and standards, reception service, people management and programme development.