

Don't let BBQ blues ruin sizzling summer!

IT'S a tradition associated with the great British summer.

But while barbecues can be a lot of fun, if the food is not cooked correctly it could turn a sizzling summer event into an unpleasant memory.

Foodborne illnesses tend to rise during the summer months and Charnwood Borough Council's Food Safety have produced a number of top tips to prevent the barbecue blues.

- Keep raw meat away from ready-to-eat foods and use separate utensils, containers and plates for raw meats.

- Don't put raw meat next to cooked meat on the barbecue

- Wash hands frequently to avoid the risk of cross contamination

- Ensure meat is cooked all the way through. Even though it is charred it could still be pink in the middle so continue cooking and wait until the juices run clear

- Try cooking food in the oven and finishing off for flavour on the barbecue.

To find out more about the work of the Council's Food Safety Team, log on to [www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/foodsafety](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/foodsafety)

# No smoking firms praised

**B**USINESSES have been praised for ensuring smoking in work and public places has remained stubbed out.

Legislation introduced in July 2007 prevented smoking in virtually all enclosed and substantially enclosed public and work places.

But experience from other countries which introduced smokefree laws before the United Kingdom suggested that compliance can fade with time.

Charnwood Borough Council has inspected more than 1,500 premises since the smoking ban was introduced - and officers have been impressed with the levels of compliance.

Only 12 complaints have been received in the last year and a total of 22 advisory warnings issued - eight for not displaying the correct signage and 14 for businesses for failing to prevent smoking.

Cllr John Bush, Charnwood's Cabinet member for Housing and Health, said: "It's very pleasing to see that businesses continue to comply with the Smokefree legislation two years down the line.

"Officers will continue to monitor premises to ensure they are displaying the correct signage and will not hesitate to carry out enforcement action if necessary."

Failing to prevent smoking in a smokefree place could lead to a maximum fine of £2,500.

To find out more about the Smokefree legislation and details on quitting smoking, log on to [www.charnwoodbusiness.com/smokefree.html](http://www.charnwoodbusiness.com/smokefree.html).



## Burning the myths

ADVICE on how to avoid the need for domestic bonfires and the problems they could cause has been issued by Charnwood Borough Council.

Each year, the Council receives around 200 complaints and enquires about domestic bonfires, mainly during the spring and summer.

Contrary to various myths, there are no bylaws or restrictions that control the time of day when people can have a bonfire - but

this does not mean they can be lit indiscriminately.

If fires cause a serious and persistent nuisance, the Council can take action through the courts, although this is not always the case for a one-off or occasional bonfire.

Complaints can also be avoided if consideration is also given to neighbours before having a bonfire.

The majority of fires are for burning garden waste, which gives off harmful pollutants.

# Signs are Borough is Fair

**V**ISITORS to Charnwood now know they are entering a Borough that is extremely Fair!

New road signs that welcome people to the area have been installed and proudly celebrate the fact that Charnwood is a Fairtrade Borough.

Charnwood was awarded Fairtrade Borough status in 2006 by the Fairtrade Foundation, a national charity set up to promote the principle of Fairtrade and Fairtrade products.

Jenny Drury, from Charnwood Action For Fairtrade (CAFF), said: "Becoming a Fairtrade Borough was an important milestone for Charnwood and it's great that it is recognised on the new signs.

"The range of Fairtrade products available is growing rapidly and we are delighted that shoppers, retailers, cafe owners, businesses, schools and churches across the Borough continue to support them."

There are now more than 50 shops and cafes that stock Fairtrade products, including the Borough Council.

Tolu Omideyi, Charnwood Borough Council's Sustainable Development Officer, added: "By including the Fairtrade Borough award on our new road signs, we are acknowledging the importance of Fairtrade in Charnwood and our support for its continued growth."

To find out more about Fairtrade in Charnwood, including where to buy Fairtrade products from, log on to [www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/fairtrade](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/fairtrade) or [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk).



KEEPING IT FAIR: Jenny Drury, Chairperson of Charnwood Action For Fairtrade, and CAFF volunteer Steve King inspect the new signs.

## Are you missing out?



Could you be paying less Council Tax or get help with your rent? Isn't it time you found out? Call (01509) 634 848, (01509) 634 853 or log on to [www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/benefits](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/benefits)

## on home bonfires!

However, there are a number of environmentally friendly ways that garden waste can be disposed of so as not to cause a smoke nuisance. These include:

- Composting. It is the best means of disposal of soft garden waste as it returns nutrients to the soil.

- Brown Bins. Residents can sign up to Charnwood's garden waste collection scheme for just £15 a year when paying by direct debit. Further details are available

by calling (01509) 634 563;

- Recycling sites. Garden waste can also be taken to one of the refuse amenity disposal sites at Hathern Road, Shepshed, Cemetery Road, Sileby and Railway Terrace, Loughborough.

If you want further information on domestic bonfires, please call the Council's Environmental Protection Team on (01509) 634 636. Alternatively, log on to [www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/bonfires](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/bonfires) and [smokenuisance](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/bonfires)