

Fill in new forms for plan advice

SELF-ASSESSMENT forms have been created by Charnwood Borough Council for people planning to carry out home improvements.

New laws introduced at the beginning of October changed the circumstances under which planning permission may not be required for certain types of development.

Homeowners considering extensions, building a conservatory, outbuilding or laying or repairing a driveway will need to complete the form and if the answer to every question is no, then planning permission is not required.

Cllr Hilary Fryer, Charnwood Borough Council's Cabinet member for Development and Planning, said: "This innovative 'self assessment' form will advise you on the need for planning permission."

The forms can be downloaded from www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/doineedplanningpermission1.

Alternatively, call (01509) 634 726 and copies can be sent out in the post.

Grand designs praised

SPECTACULAR new building projects have been praised in the 2008 Charnwood Borough Council Design Awards.

The Park View housing development, in Bradgate Road, Anstey, was a double winner, taking the honours in the new build and landscape categories.

Loughborough Endowed School's Music School was also a new build winner.



A total of 18 schemes were shortlisted for the awards in the four categories - new build, conservation, landscape and townscape.

The awards, which are held bi-annually, aim to

recognise good design in the Borough's built environment.

One of the judges, Cllr Peter Lewis, Charnwood's Cabinet member for Leisure and Culture, said: "The

judges were totally united in their recognition of the awards.

"Park View, Bradgate Road, Anstey offered a real sense of being a distinctive place.

"It looks so firmly rooted in that environment that it might have been there for many years.

"The LES Music School is a building in which the needs of the many, many musicians are not only met, but they take place in an environment which is bright, light, and lifts the spirit."

To find out more about the Design Awards, log on to www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/designawards.



WINNERS: Loughborough Endowed Schools Music School and Park View, Anstey (inset).

The schemes awards were presented to . . .

NEW BUILD: Winners: Park View, Bradgate Road, Anstey; Loughborough Endowed Schools Music School; **Highly Commended:** Magistrates Court, Loughborough; **Commended:** 26 Station Road, Cropston; Epworth Court, Quorn; Mountsorrel Library; Shepshed High School.

CONSERVATION: Commended: Carillon Dental Care, Baxter Gate, Loughborough, Goscote Hall, Birstall.

LANDSCAPE: Winner: Park View, Bradgate Road, Anstey; **Commended:** Our Lady's Convent, Garton Road, Loughborough.

TOWNSCAPE: Highly Commended: Magistrates Court, Loughborough; **Commended:** Loughborough Wharf.

SPECIAL AWARD: Statue at Rothley Lodge.

Have your say on ideas

RESIDENTS can have their say on exciting new plans to revitalise Loughborough Town Centre.

The Public Realm Improvements aim to make Bedford Square, Wards End, Devonshire Square, Granby Street and the A6 between Baxter Gate and Swan Street more attractive for shoppers and visitors and safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

Charnwood Borough Council is working

in partnership with Leicestershire County Council on the project and the ideas will be on display at 13-14 Market Street, Loughborough, from Wednesday, December 10th to Saturday, December 13th between 10am and 4pm for residents and businesses to put forward their opinions.

The proposals include new paving, street furniture, planting as well as public art.



Figures are recognised

THREE famous names from Charnwood's past have been honoured with plaques to commemorate their historic links with the area.

Charnwood Borough Council unveiled Blue Heritage Plaques on sites that are linked to livestock breeder Robert Bakewell, the former Bishop of St Asaph in Wales William Beveridge and world-renowned animal painter John Ferneley.

The scheme aims to recognise well-known figures from history and major events of significant local interest – and complements the English Heritage Blue Plaques which was designed to make a contribution to the legacy of buildings associated with famous occupants.

A plaque to honour artist John Ferneley has gone up on the home he is known to have lived in The Green, Thrussington, and it will also state he is buried in the village's church yard.

Bishop William Beveridge's plaque was put up at the home where he was born in Beveridge Street, Barrow-on-Soar, while livestock breeder Robert Bakewell's commemorative inscription has been placed on the Sue Ryder Care charity shop, situated on the corner of Warners Lane and Biggin Street in Loughborough.

The shop now stands on the site where there was once a unitarian chapel, of which Bakewell was a trustee.

Cllr Peter Lewis, Charnwood Borough Council's Cabinet member for Leisure and Culture, said: "It's important we recognise that John Ferneley, William Beveridge and Robert Bakewell had such close links here among us. "They left their mark far beyond this place. Let's hope we can inspire our own young people to do the same."

To find out more, visit www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/historicandlistedbuildings.



REMEMBERING THE PAST: Cllr Peter Lewis (left), Charnwood Borough Council's Cabinet member for Leisure and Culture, and Cllr Alan Heath, the chairman of Thrussington Parish Council, and the Blue Plaque which has been put up at the former home of animal painter John Ferneley.

to improve town centre

They will also look at how the existing pedestrianised area of the Market Place and Market Street can be revitalised.

Cllr Stephen Hampson, Charnwood's Cabinet member for Regeneration, said: "The aim is to create the conditions within which businesses can thrive and prosper and a town centre in which residents and visitors can shop and gather in comfort and safety.

"This will be an opportunity for the people of Loughborough to comment on the proposals and to suggest their own ideas for revitalising the town centre."

For further information, call Martin Tincknell, Charnwood Borough Council's Head of Conservation and Landscape, on (01509) 634 767, email martin.tincknell@charnwood.gov.uk or log on to www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/designinthebuiltenvironment.



Grant is a reward for hard work

A PERFORMANCE-related grant worth more than £400,000 has been awarded to Charnwood Borough Council's planning directorate by the Government.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has announced that Charnwood will receive a Housing and Planning Delivery Grant worth almost £414,000.

Cllr Hilary Fryer, Charnwood's Cabinet member for Planning and Development, welcomed the announcement which puts the Council in the top 25% of performers in the country.

The grant rewards local authorities for their performance in plan making, ensuring an adequate supply of land for new housing, and facilitating the delivery of new homes.

Cllr Fryer said: "This is terrific news.

"This award ranks us 79th among the 400 authorities in the country placing us well within the top 25% of performers.

"It is testament to a great deal of hard work in identifying suitable sites for new homes."