

would be "a cost" for this implosion in our energy supply industry in the form of a levy on everyone's energy bill in October 2022. The sheer size of this levy was never mentioned as the collapse of suppliers accelerated. This scale of energy market failure is unique in Europe.

So when your increased energy bill drops on to your doormat in October ask yourself who is really responsible for your latest increase in cost; it is not the man in the Kremlin.

Ramsay Ross
Uppingham

PLANNING

Reality does not reflect vision

Residents of Oakham and Barleythorpe have been asked to take part in a referendum concerning the Oakham and Barleythorpe Neighbourhood Plan, 2018-2036.

The dictionary definition of a plan is a detailed proposal for doing or achieving something. It should have actions, expected outcomes, timeframes and responsibilities. This neighbourhood "plan", 87 pages long, acknowledges on page 8 that actually it is a vision only. Interestingly it does not include highways but on page 34, objective 11, talks about reducing the impact of traffic in the town centre. Objective 10 talks about making the town centre a welcoming place for pedestrians and a greener street scene. On page 53, proposal 6b suggests opportunities are taken for planting to improve the public realm and streetscape.

Walking through town at the moment seems a far cry from this vision. Vehicles block the pavements and there is currently an abundance of litter and broken glass in the gutters. The traffic wardens (civil enforcement officers) have told me they allow anyone to park on the pavements over double yellow lines for five minutes to do their shopping or run errands.

If we are to vote for this "plan" who exactly will take

responsibility for making the improvements and bringing about this vision? Clearly the authors and the current authorities are not supporting this document which is already four years old.

Charles Robertshaw
Oakham

VILLAGENEWS

Great Casterton

GREAT, GREAT CASTERTON JUBILEE JAMBOREE - Preparations for the celebration of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in the village are advancing. Week commencing May 30, the village will be decorated with flags and bunting for the occasion.

Thursday, June 2, at 8pm reception in the Church followed by torchlight procession to grass triangle at the crossroads, 9.15pm lighting of the Jubilee beacon.

Friday, June 3, 1pm. Fete in the field behind the Crown opened by Colin Furze, Stamford Brass Band, games, stalls, dog show, children's trail, vintage cars and steam engines, ice creams, bar, food.

Sunday, June 5, 11am Songs of Praise in Marquee in the field. Midday: bring your own picnic in the field. Bar open in the Marquee, 3pm "Casterton's Got Talent".

TABLE TOP SALE - There was a lively atmosphere at our recent table top sale in the church hall. A good number of tables - 14 in total - sold a range of goods from toys to children's clothes, to good quality antiques, to bric-a-brac to books, DVDs and household unwanteds. Teas and coffees with cakes sold well on the day, and a total of just over £100 was made for church funds.

CHURCH SERVICES

A return to safe church in the church hall from 10am this week (Sunday 8) so that tea/coffee/doughnuts can be served before the lively service. Thorne Fish and BHS. Come along with family, young children welcome.

And on Wednesday our usual Celtic prayers at 10am