

Mail says...

Have traffic measures got us in a Pickle?

ERIC PICKLES might just have a point.

The heavyweight politician reckons councils have turned the nation's town centres into "obstacle courses".

According to the Communities Secretary, "aggressive" traffic calming measures and a lack of parking spaces are forcing more and more shoppers to go online or into the arms of retail parks.

With families already watching their spending because of the financial squeeze, this is the last thing hard-pressed town centres need.

Of course, traders have to do their bit by making the shopping experience worthwhile.

Prices need to be competitive and the variety and quality of goods appealing.

But the trip to the shops relies so much on how easy it is for people to get in and out of town.

And while they're there, parking needs to be ample and charges reasonable.

In Burton, the row over pedestrianisation of the town centre rumbles on.

At the heart of that debate is the controversial rising bollards system, which has caught out many unsuspecting drivers.

In their cases, the Burton shopping 'experience' will long be remembered with anguish rather than enjoyment.

The prospects of them returning to spend money with our traders? Zero.

There will be those who will rightly point to the safety values of keeping our town centre a traffic free zone (other than buses, of course).

We await with interest the results of an ongoing study into the merits of the Burton bollards.

But those charged with making a final decision must bear Mr Pickles' battle cry in mind.

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TOP 10 MOST POPULAR STORIES ONLINE YESTERDAY

1

BREAKING – Appeal after prisoners abscond

2

Shop gets alcohol ban after illegal fag stinging

3

Exciting times for part of town's heritage

4

Two more sentenced as part of Operation Nemesis

5

List of animals looking for a home gets longer

6

New road rules to take on raft of bad drivers

7

POLL – MP blasts hospital over disabled parking fees

8

Equality 'ambassador' criticised over town jibe

9

Nursery blasts Ofsted with national campaign

10

Pound-Grand – country's flagship store will move home

Rise in donors thanks to Katherine's battle



PROGRESS... Katherine and Stephen Sinfield are still urging more people to come forward to be bone marrow donors.

by **Rob Smyth**
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A MAIL campaign to help boost the number of potential bone marrow donors in Burton and South Derbyshire has seen a rise in the number of people signing up.

The National Blood Service Donor scheme and the Anthony Nolan Trust has seen a spike in people coming forward after reading the tale of Katherine Sinfield.

The 33-year-old primary school teacher, who is married to Mail journalist and Ashbourne News Telegraph editor Stephen, is in need of a bone marrow transplant to save her life after she was diagnosed with leukaemia.

Her story has been publicised by the Mail and her calls for more people to

come forward have started to be answered.

Both services have seen a 15 per cent increase in the number of people who have decided to signal an interest in potentially signing up to be a donor.

However, they are still searching for more people to step forward and are, in particular, searching for male donors.

Henny Braund, Anthony Nolan's chief executive, said: "It's a simple case of supply and demand.

"We know that transplant doctors are increasingly choosing male donors to treat blood cancer patients, so we need to ensure that we're providing clinicians with the donors they need.

"Failure to meet this demand could have very serious implications for blood cancer patients across the country."

Anthony Nolan uses its register to

match potential bone marrow donors to blood cancer patients in desperate need of a bone marrow transplant.

The charity revealed that every 20 minutes someone in the UK is diagnosed with blood cancer.

There are around 1,800 people in the UK currently in need of a transplant.

People can find out whether they are a potential bone marrow donor by either providing a saliva sample to the Anthony Nolan Trust, or a blood sample to the NHS British Bone Marrow Registry.

More information is available by calling the National Blood Service Donor helpline on 0300 123 2323.

Anyone aged between 16 and 30 can sign up online by visiting www.anthonolan.org, where they can fill in a short application form and then provide a saliva sample.

Want to learn more about Katherine or bone marrow donation? Head online to burtonmail.co.uk

Katherine's Diary

THE reception class teacher from Burton, who is battling against leukaemia, has described in her own words her fight against the disease.

Katherine Sinfield, 33, of Balfour Street, needs daily doses of antibiotics, fungal drips and blood transfusions after being diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia in April.

Her only hope of survival was to receive a bone marrow transplant.

The Mail launched its Take Five Minutes campaign in a bid to locate a suitable donor, not just for Katherine, but for anyone who is in her position.

Here, Katherine describes her daily battle.

For more information on how to become a bone marrow donor, call the National Blood Service Donor helpline on 0300 123 2323.

Wednesday, August 21:

I return to Birmingham tomorrow for my weekly check-up.

What we are really hoping for is news on when I will be returning to ward 625 for my transplant.

I love my time away from the hospital, but what we all know is that I have at least another month or two of treatment to come and therefore I want to

get these necessities over and finished sooner rather than later.

It is nearly September now and clearly, with a month or two of treatment to come, I certainly don't want to be residing in ward 625 close to, or worse still, over Christmas.

Friday, August 23:

Today was a worrying day as my dad went for a 'cabbage'.

The correct medical term is Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery (CABG) – better known to me and you as a heart bypass.

We packed up my Mary Poppins' bag of medicines to last me for a few hours and anxiously waited in the intensive care department for my dad to exit following four-and-a-half hours of surgery.

Thankfully, everything went to plan and although unconscious, his progress is good.

You know you have spent far too many hours in hospital when you can chat to nurses in technical language about various bits of apparatus and drugs.



Saturday, August 24:

I'm celebrating as I have white half-moon shapes on the base of each of my nails.

Most of you probably think I am mad, as everyone has these shapes – known medically as lunula.

I did have them, but earlier this year before I was diagnosed, mine vanished completely.

We thought the obvious, that it was maybe a calcium or protein deficiency, but never investigated further as you can't really go to your doctor just to ask why your half-moons have vanished.

I believe mine was another sign of the serious illness taking hold within my body.

Leukaemia messes up your blood as it kicks into overdrive, producing endless white cells. With so many white cells to support, I probably was calcium and protein deficient as well.

