

## **Mike Quigley Column Know Your District Council**

At the start of this week it looked like Bassetlaw would once again be covered by water – not the best start to 2008.

We were warned that another bout of floods were on the way, as the rain continued to pour and pour.

But, thanks to the weather holding off (touch wood!) and some excellent work by Council staff, the impact of the climatic conditions was nowhere near as bad as expected.

Some properties and gardens did flood (my garden included), but we have had teams of officers scouring the District for trouble spots armed with sand bags to help stem the tide.

We also had an emergency number set up almost immediately for people to request sand bags and to report instances of flooding.

Council officers have been busy preparing for a situation like this and all this planning has clearly paid off.

Work at Bassetlaw Museum is rapidly gathering pace. It is currently closed to the public as it gets an £852,000 21<sup>st</sup> century makeover.

Although there is a lot of building work going on, there is already the ‘wow factor’ in some of the rooms and I am sure that when it is re opened in May it will be one of the jewels in the crown of Bassetlaw.

Another excellent Council service which needs a mention is the Preventative Adaptation Service currently being piloted.

This helps elderly people to stay safe in their homes and increase independence by reducing the risk of falls and giving extra confidence when moving about.

As part of the scheme, grab handles, stair rails, handrails and half steps can be installed in the house, and these minor adaptations are available to anyone over the age of 60 living within Bassetlaw, irrespective of whether they are a private homeowner, private tenant or council tenant.

There is a flat fee of £15.00 payable to the contractor – who will provide a receipt. The service is not means tested and no evidence of need has to be provided by the applicant.

For more information please contact 01909 535128.