

Report by County Councillor Neil Bannister

1. Let me congratulate Alicia Butteriss on her election to the Parish Council. I'm sure your commitment to the local community will be a rewarding experience for you.
2. The County have been focussed on the Budget for the financial year 2023/24 and to set its precept. The County has a yearly Budget of £504m or thereabouts to work with. The proposals will go to a Full Council Meeting at the end of February and now the proposals are going through the Scrutiny process following the public consultation which end on Monday.
3. Yesterday, 18th January 2023 the County Council launched its Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan which includes a show case of net zero activities for residents to get involved with, from e-bike training to community carbon literacy training, tree giveaways to energy efficiency competitions. If you're interested have a look on the LCC website for more information about the varied activities.
4. I have had an update regarding the apparent felling of trees at Warwick Road. It appears the County were responsible but the trees in question were willow and needed coppicing to prevent stem failure and the potential collapse of the tree. They were not felled but cut right back to encourage further growth.
5. Although not strictly a Broughton Astley matter several residents do use Station Road in Dunton Bassett which has been closed since the 5 January so that emergency works by Severn Trent could be undertaken to repair a damaged and leaking drain at that location.
6. As ever, happy to receive enquiries from members and residents on my contact details.
Neil.Bannister@leics.gov.uk
Telephone 0791 488 9008

Report by District Councillors Dann and Golding

We reported at the last meeting that a debate was to be held regarding a close working relationship, and the sharing of senior officers with Melton Mowbray District Council. A subsequent vote was narrowly lost, and we now must seek a Chief executive officer.

The planning application for 34 dwellings off Broughton Way, has now taken a further twist with ten potential properties becoming self builds. This application is likely to go to the Planning meeting on February the 28th. I will be attending.

At Cabinet on Monday of this week. the Cabinet agreed the Budget, it will now go out for public consultation, to Scrutiny, and finally to full Council in February. The headline increase is £2.99 per rate payer.

The recent by-election called by members of the public for a parish councillor was held in late December. The turnout was just over 7%. Still awaiting costs, expected to be between £3000 and £4000 to the Parish.

Report by District Councillor Graves

1. I have been pleased to see the final touches put in place for the completed roadway at Crowfoot Way. Numerous residents were left stressed and anxious, as well as practically inconvenienced on numerous occasions. It is disappointing to have seen and experienced the tortuous process carried out by Lagan Homes and I never wish to see that amount of unexplained delay, again.
2. My next point relates to the UKSPF - UK Shared Prosperity Fund - where Broughton Astley has been allocated only £25,000 of the overall £1million pot of geographic funding. As I write this, Harborough District Council has been unable to reply to a simple request from 2 months ago, on the Council Governance and decision-making process of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The allocation of the £1million has not been through any committee at HDC. It is strange that Harborough District Council is unable to explain how our village receives a very low allocation.
3. I am disappointed that The Parish Council did not apply for a £70,000 Platinum Jubilee Grant from Harborough District Council. One of the ten lots of £70,000 grants was not distributed, one of the grants was not allocated to any Parish. I would like to encourage the Parish Council to see if the grant could be claimed retrospectively.
4. The proposed shared services collaboration between Harborough District and Melton Borough Councils, will not proceed. This would have been a significant project, with a new shared CEO and Deputy CEO for Harborough District, imported from Melton Borough. Five members of the ruling group voted against the cabinet to throw out the proposal by a single vote. I would like to praise the actions of these 5 Conservative members from Lutterworth and near Market Harborough, who put their reputations on the line and voted with integrity. I also voted against the collaboration as the Finance Case was incomplete and amended at the last minute into the council papers without committee scrutiny.
5. I also understand there will now be a six-month delay to the Strategic Growth Plan for Leicestershire. This is due to Harborough District Council delaying the vote on accepting a voluntary 2,000 extra houses from the City of Leicester. The acceptance of an extra 2,000 homes from Leicester might mean extra for houses for Broughton Astley, in certain circumstances, so this could impact our village.
6. Finally, applications for the new Voter ID are available from the district, ready for the elections in May this year.

Communications Received by the Chair January 2023

Graffiti- I received a short email from Will Bateman, Senior Researcher for Alberto Costa, regarding recent problems with graffiti. Will says I wanted you and the Parish Council know that we have been in close contact with Harborough District Council and Leicestershire County Council to have these removed.

HDC, I understand, have now painted over several the areas in question, for which they have responsibility, however I understand too that at least one of these areas have since been 'retagged' in the space of a couple of weeks.

Regarding LCC, they have responsibility for the white road/mileage marker on Station Road close to the Bulls Head junction, unfortunately they've not been able to remove the purple paint, so they have ordered a new sign, but this may take a couple of months.

Planning Applications in Sutton-In-The Elm- Residents from Sutton-In the Elms have contacted me again regarding the planning appeal for the application for 9 "self-build house behind the new Elms Court development. This was refused Additionally they are still worried about the application for 34house off Broughton Way. The decision for that has been delayed again.

Cosby Road Crossing-We have received a communication regarding the crossing which Jelsons are obliged to provide on Cosby Road. LCC are now saying that due to the time which has elapsed since the public consultation was originally done, it needs to be repeated and there is a cost involved. There are comments about this has been caused by the delay in BAPC getting the position of the foot path agreed. I am working with the Parish Manager to arrange a meeting with the various parties as there has been no change in the it position of the foot path, and we have not been involved in the crossing, so I do not believe we have any responsibility for the timing of constructing the crossing.

Leisure Centre Footpath- I received a request for an update on progress from the manager at TECC regarding the new footpath across the Leisure Centre land. To remind people that this footpath is a planning obligation which must be completed and originally LCC had insisted on full street type lighting along its length and had rejected our proposal to avoid additional light pollution. Parkwood have been assisting us with getting LCC to remove the obligation for lighting and getting the design pack done and quotes from potential contracts. The quotes are due at the end of this week so we can now move to down-select someone and get this on contract.

Anti-social behaviour and environmental damage- I received an email from a resident of Willowbrook Close about the behaviour of several TECC aged pupils who are climbing the fence beside the brook and then crossing the brook to go to school. The resident has seen them fall into the brook multiple time and they have damaged the bank and vegetation. They had put items into the stream to create a bridge and she thanked the Parish staff for removing them, but this has not stopped the problem. Councillor may not be aware but in the original plan for Willowbrook there was supposed to be a bridge over the stream out of the back of Willowbrook and there is a full car wide access to the stream and the land along its length. She has contacted HDC as they are responsible for the area but had not really help.

Freedom of Information Requests- I have received four separate emails headed FOI requests asking for various selections of information. I have asked the sender to compile them into a single application if they are connected and re-submit it. I wait to hear further.