

16 March 2023

Report by County Councillor Neil Bannister

1. I am pleased to report progress on the long-standing issue of obtaining a replacement bus shelter for Croft Way near to the Junction with Dunton Road. The County Council have now agreed to provide a new bus shelter at this location on the basis that the Parish Council agree to pay for the licence and future maintenance of the shelter. This is the best I think we will get out of the County Council. It is now over to the Parish Council to agree these terms, or not. Please let me know if these terms are to be accepted by the Parish and if so, I will let County know this is agreed.
2. I still await confirmation of the latest date for the permanent signage for the one-way system to be provided in the village centre. At a recent meeting with the Cabinet member for Highways this issue was raised and I was led to believe this may now happen in April – the delay being caused by staff departures in the team that look after the Members Highway Fund. I am pressing for written confirmation.
3. I spoke in the Full Council on the debate concerning the Hinckley Rail Freight Interchange planning application. I referred to the concerns the residents in Broughton Astley have to the Highway and Environmental aspects of the application. Several Councillors spoke in the debate, and all were expressing their opposition to the application.
4. The County Council have agreed to waive any fees for road closures where celebrations are being held to mark the King's Coronation. Applications must be in by the 31 March 2023.
5. 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.

- Confirm that the last District full council meeting confirmed the Cabinet decision to set a balanced Budget with no increase in Council Tax.

- To confirm that I attended the planning meeting to speak against a planning application for the building of 34 dwellings off Broughton Way. The application was for refusal and the planning committee voted unanimously for its refusal.
- I have to say having listened to the agent I would be very surprised if the intended developer didn't go to appeal. Also, very surprised that there was only one other objector who spoke.
- To confirm that the Elms business park are intending to overturn a condition that would allow them to start development before dealing with road safety issues. I have called this into committee and pleased to see that the Parish Council have had a point of view.
- To confirm that the District Council is doing all it can to let residents know about the voter ID rule for casting votes at the forthcoming local elections.
- To confirm the dismissal of the appeal against the Funeral Parlour on Station Rd. This is good news for the residents most affected, and for traffic on this stretch of Road.

I am sure that Colin will be able to field any questions that may arise.

Paul and Colin

District Councillor Mark Graves

No report was provided but the following topics were raised.

- Lutterworth Strategic Development Area – no appeal following expired period so development of 2750 homes can commence.
- 0% budget increase at district level.
- Voter ID flyer being distributed with Council Tax demands.

Communications Received by the Chair of the Parish Council – March 2023

Leisure Centre: NNDR recovery. I received an update from Francois Smit of Parkwood with a brief update on their application for NNDR relief from HDC.

This is non domestic rates which most leisure facilities get relief from by a District Council. To my knowledge, and I doubt it has changed, both Market Harborough and Lutterworth Leisure Centres do receive this relief. Parkwood previously told us that the majority of centres do get it. Parkwood have all the necessary business structure (charity) to normally qualify.

The last application was refused but Parkwood has put in an appeal. The person who was dealing with it at HDC has retired and new person taken on the role. There is hope that a fresh look at the appeal will be successful.

This matters to us as obtaining this tax relief is a significant part of the business case and under the terms of the contract it could impact the management fee they pay the Council.

Green Lane Road Closure: I received a notice yesterday of the road closure on Green Lane. A road closure is required on Green Road, Broughton Astley on the 29 March 2023 for 3 days.

Allotment Fencing I replied to a letter from a resident about the allotments project. They had not had the information about some aspects of the project. We spoke at length, and I followed that up with a letter to summarise what was said.

Self-Builds: I have written to HDC's Head of Planning Adrian Eastwood and David Atkinson with regard possible routes to challenge the Planning inspector's decision to allow the 9 houses in Sutton-In-The-Elms. You can only challenge a decision on a point of law or possibly where facts are demonstrably wrong. As you may be aware, the ploy of saying you are building "self-build" houses allows the planners to lift the restrictions which might prevent you building new residential units. The developer for the 34 houses in Sutton-In-The Elms is trying to use the same ploy. I have had an email "fail to deliver" today (16th March) and will now have to follow up by phone.

Letters of Indemnity for the S106 monies: Despite submitting these completed forms for both the allotments project and the cemetery some weeks ago we have heard nothing from Mr Taylor or anyone else in HDC. I am following up directly with HDC as this poses a risk to us, not of our making having completed.

The Planning permission pre-planning advice has also not received any response beyond the standard, it will take 86-8 weeks to respond. Based on earlier advice I received from Adrian Eastwood when developing the bid, we will submit the application straight away.

Parish Managers Report – March 2023

Deputy Clerk Vacancy

The vacancy for the Deputy Clerk has been successfully filled by Ella Patrick who will start with the Parish Council on Monday 3 April 2023.

Small Claims Court Application

Members will recall that an application was made to the County Courts for a small claims settlement for a payment more than £80 owed to the Parish Council. Notification has been received that a County Court Judgment has now been issued for its recovery.

In addition, a further application has been made to the County Courts to apply for the recovery of an amount around £800 from GLS Windows who have failed to provide the new doors for the front of the village hall. Phone calls, emails and letters have

been sent since early January, but no response has been received from the company. The amount paid was for a material deposit, of the complete cost of £2,978.33.

Grant Completion Forms

The outstanding Grant completion form from Broughton Alive following their receipt of a grant from the Parish Council in December 2022 has now been received.

Elections

We have been asked by Harborough District Council to be a point of contact to distribute nomination forms for the forthcoming elections. Once I have taken delivery of these forms, I will send out an email informing Members of when they are available to collect.

Leisure Centre ASB

The Leisure Centre recently reported to the Parish Office that they had been suffering sporadic anti-social behaviour over the past few weeks. Two main protagonists have been positively identified and the centre are now liaising with the police and will keep the Parish Council updated.

Pre-Start Meeting – Combined Cycleway and Footpath

Yesterday the Vice-Chair and I attended a pre-start meeting with Parkwood Leisure, the contractors, and stakeholders at the Leisure Centre to discuss the various aspects of the development of the Combined Cycleway and Footpath. Works will commence w/c 3 April and will take approximately 8 weeks to complete finishing around 26 May 2023 (considering Bank Holidays and weather conditions).

Leisure Centre Monthly Report

You all have a copy of the report for February 2023 from the centre manager at the Leisure Centre.