

20 April 2023

Report by County Councillor Neil Bannister

Extended a warm welcome to Ella Patrick to the Parish Council staff.

1. As I reported at the last Parish Council progress has been made 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. The Parish may now wish to include this item on its next Agenda so a definitive answer can be made to County.
2. Road safety has been an issue these last few weeks with a serious injury accident taking place in the village, as well as reports of drivers ignoring the red traffic signal at the Station Road/Broughton bypass junction. This is a police matter to monitor and enforce and I have been in touch with the police about these issues.
3. Highway dressing and patching has taken place in the village with works in Coventry Road, Green Road and Main Street. The condition of the Broughton bypass has also been brought to my attention. County advise me it is in a programme for dressing - but not until 2025! However, I am advised that the programme is oversubscribed and the schedule of works may alter. If anyone is concerned about the condition of the local roads or of left over debris on the roads it may be best to go on line and report the issue at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/report-a-road-problem rather than make a phone call as there are delays in getting a response at peak times.
4. I still await confirmation of the latest date for the permanent signage for the one-way system to be provided in the village centre. I am pressing for a definitive date for the works to be completed.
5. As ever, happy to receive enquiries from members and residents on my contact details.
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District Councillors Dann and Golding.

- No written report was provided but Councillor Dann wished to express his thanks to two District Councillors that were stepping down at the next elections. Thanks goes to Councillors Golding and Liquorish.
- I would also like to say thank you to the Parish Councillors for their support over the past four years.

District Councillor Mark Graves

No report was provided but wanted to inform Members that the District Council would be looking at the re-write of its constitution shortly.

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

Resident's Concerns - E-mail from Jodie Stringer of Willowbrook Close regarding land at the rear of the properties. The essence of it was someone had been planting bushes and had erected a bench made from a pallet. I contacted District Councillor Paul Dann, and we visited the site together to understand what this lady was seeing. As this is a HDC matter, Cllr Dann contacted HDC enforcement who have since visited the site and determined there is not currently a reason to take an enforcement action.

Leisure Centre - Scott Marshall, Operations manager of the Leisure centre wrote to me regarding the foot path work.

“The work has been going on for most of this month now. Other than a couple of car park spaces (not ideal but can't be avoided), there's been no interruption for us, we've had no complaints from any members or the wider public and the site team just crack on each day which is great and don't need anything from us. It's been planned really well and we don't notice them being here other than visually.”

In the same theme, and as per the motion to contact the contractor to get a quote to extend the permissive footpath using any contingency money available. The project manger for the combined cycleway footpath has provided the contacts and I have made contact.

I received a note from the Premises officer of Thomas Estley making me aware of a report of youths throwing bricks at the school and the footpath gate on Broughton Way being damaged. These aren't Parish Council problems but are linked the whole footpath diversion at the school.

Letter of Indemnity - I received a reply through District Councillor Bateman regarding the Letter of Indemnity I had submitted to Harborough District Council for the allotment's projects. An HDC officers Vicki Jessop saying they had had a change of staff and they were struggling to catch up on the back log. I have responded directly to her asking for a commitment to a date when we would receive the documentation. I have a read receipt from the 17th but no email yet so I will follow up on that.

Parish Managers Report – March 2023

Glebe Land

I received some third-party information to say that the Diocese of Leicester were potentially putting up the land next to the cemetery up for sale. I have, therefore, written to the Diocese to both confirm if this is indeed true and if it is I have asked that the Parish Council's interest in securing either all or part of the land is registered. I received an email on 12 April confirming that they have received my letter and will be discussed at the Leicester Diocesan Glebe Committee in due course.

Freedom of Information Requests

Having taken advise, I will now report to council the receipt of, and the outcomes of any Freedom of Information Requests made to the Parish Council. I will inform Council Members through this platform of any requests received and when the request is concluded. Therefore, I am informing you that two Freedom of Information Requests have been received into the Parish Office addressed to the Parish Council.

The first is requesting information held on the Health and Safety, Risk Assessments, complaints, and capacity problems of the Leisure Centre car park.

The second is to request information held relating to the 8% budget increase for salaries the Parish Council resolved to include in its budget and precept request for 2023/24.

Hate Crime Reported

The Parish Office was made aware of an incident of hate crime by way of graffiti at the skatepark. Working in collaboration with officers at Harborough District Council, the Parish Ground staff removed the graffiti as soon as it was reported, whilst Harborough have opened a Police Crime Sentinel report and are working closely with the family affected. The skate park area will be closely monitored over the next few weeks to ensure further incidents either do not occur or if there is a repeat they will be reported and dealt with immediately.

Leisure Centre Monthly Report

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