

**17 August 2023**

**Report by County Councillor Neil Bannister**

1. Meeting with the Highway Team – I had a meeting with David Cox of the County Highway team at the Croft depot on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July. I gained a good perspective on the way in which the Teamwork, when they do their Inspections and the Budget they have to work too. They have a £9million budget for general maintenance, £4 million for preventative work (mainly surface dressing) and £2.6 million earmarked for specific projects – of which there are 135 for the whole of the County. The 2.6 million appears only to be sufficient to fund 4 of those 135 projects. I was told that works along the Broughton by-pass and at the Mill on the Soar junction are planned but unlikely to be done in this current financial year.
2. Order relating to the diversion of Footpath W44 – I was advised on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August that no objection had been raised for the Diversion Order to be formally made and notified that the Order was in fact made on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August. It has been a long process for the Parish to achieve this but will be of great benefit to the village.
3. Overgrown vegetation – No surprise that in the summer months complaints increase about the amount of overgrowing vegetation onto highway land being the roads or pavements. I have raised concerns about overgrowing vegetation in Byre Crescent, Station Road, and Peregrine Road. If residents have hedging that does encroach onto highway land, I would ask them to be vigilant about ensuring the adjacent roads and pavements are made clear.
4. Notice of Road closure has been given for Cosby Road, between Willowbrook Close and Main Street to allow contractors for Jelson Homes to undertake resurfacing works in connection to crossing installation works. The works can take place at any time from the 21<sup>st</sup> August in a 12 week period. The works may well take up to 4 weeks to complete.
5. As ever, happy to receive enquiries from members and residents on my contact details  
[Neil.Bannister@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Neil.Bannister@leics.gov.uk)  
Telephone 0791 488 9008

**District Councillors Dann and Golding.**

No written report was submitted; however, the following information was provided:

1. Planning application on Sutton Lane has been 'called in' at the District Council.
2. Planning application for 9 dwellings on Station Road (access only) has been received.
3. Complaints about overgrown hedges on Primethorpe Walk
4. Invited to respond to discussions with Leicestershire County Council reference traffic.
5. Congratulations are extended to David Clarke on his co-option to the Parish Council.

### **District Councillor Mark Graves**

1. The new coalition has instigated a full Council Asset Review including the future of the main Council building in Market Harborough. This review may take some time.
2. The Local Plan Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) continues to create interesting disagreement between professional planning officers at Harborough District Council and the Harborough constituency MP Neil O'Brien. The MP's advice appears to directly contradict that of several professional planning officers. The principal area of disagreement is currently over whether Harborough District – including possibly Broughton Astley – is legally required to accept 'spill-over' housing from the city of Leicester where the city does not have the available space to build the housing numbers mandated by National Government. Watch this space.
3. At the 24 July council meeting, HDC passed a member's motion calling for an end to the rail strikes affecting the district residents. The same meeting passed another motion to ban pets as prizes within the district as far as possible.

### **District Councillor Clive Grafton-Reed**

No report was provided but addressed Members to inform them that he had raised a question at district regarding self-build properties that has yet to be answered.

### **Communications Received by the Chair of the Parish Council – May 2023**

No communications to the Chair.

### **Parish Managers Report – May 2023**

#### **Footpath Diversion and Puffin Crossing – Leisure Centre**

The Order has been confirmed to divert the public right of way along the cycle path and off the school field. The order comes into force on 2 September 2023. The College have been advised that they can start to secure their grounds.

The works to install the Puffin Crossing is currently underway, it will hopefully be completed before the school reopens on the 29 August.

#### **Antisocial behaviour 3G Pitch at Leisure Centre**

There continues to be incidents of antisocial behaviour at the leisure centre, with groups gaining unauthorised access to the 3G pitch.

#### **Aldi Parking Restrictions**

Since the 90-minute restrictions have been in place we have received only 1 complaint into the office about the Leisure Centre parking.

#### **AirWick Botanical Work at Leisure Centre**

We were included in an article in the Leicester Mercury (11<sup>th</sup> August) about the works due to be undertaken at the Leisure Centre.

### **Levelling-Up Project**

The planters, bench and notice board are all ready to be delivered, HDC are coming out next week to confirm locations and confirm when delivery and installation will be.

### **Allotment Fencing**

Phase 1 of the allotment fencing has been completed.

### **Cemetery Works**

The trees have all now been removed and infilled, the paths have been dug and are the tarmac is due to be laid this weekend. The works on the memorial area phase of the project will start next week.

### **Skate Park Vandalism**

There have been several incidents of vandalism on the skate park since the start of the school holidays, graffiti has been sprayed onto the ramps which required careful removal to ensure no damage to the surface and also to the sides and back which have all been repainted.

There have also been repeated incidents of broken glass in and around the skate park.

### **Hinckley Rail Hub**

Development Consent Order for Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange has been accepted for Examination by the Planning Inspectorate and the Examining Authority was appointed on 11 July 2023.

Press Notices and Site Notices regarding the Examination are being displayed accordingly.

### **Groundsman Vacancy**

Nick has resigned from the Parish Council today, he will be leaving in 4 weeks' time to move on to pastures new. We will need to advertise for and appoint a replacement as soon as possible.

### **Community Police Officers**

PCSO Lucy Brown

PC1035 Tom Glover – new to our area, his contact details have been added to our website.

They have two committee beat surgeries planned for Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August at Main Street Duntun Basset, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at Broughton Astley Co-op and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Sept at Main Street Leire.