

12 October 2023

Report by County Councillor Neil Bannister

1. I was delighted to hear that the new Broughton Astley Community Bus has been delivered and is now in use for the village. I was unable to attend the official launch last week, but I am grateful to Roy and Sue Quittenton who gave me a private tour of the new bus a few days earlier. Parish Councillors will be aware that I was able to utilise a significant part of my Members Highway Fund from the County Council to help towards the purchase of this Bus. I am also aware and am grateful for all the other organisations and residents that have helped contribute toward the purchase of this wonderful new asset for our community.
2. Proposed Puffin Crossing - Coventry Road. The County Council have now sent out for public consultation the detail of the proposed Toucan and Puffin Crossings at the junction of B581 with the B4114 at the "Mill on the Soar". I have copied the Parish Manager and the District Councillors into the plan for ease of reference. Please noted the Consultation is underway and ends on the 20 October if anyone wishes to make an objection or comment.
3. A resident has been in touch about the Puffin Crossing works in Cosby Road and in particular the relocation and works of the northbound bus-stop in Cosby Road. I am happy to give the assurance that all the works, including the relocation of the bus stop are in accordance with the s.106 agreement and the plans published and consulted upon earlier this year.
4. A matter which has been much in the national news are the buildings that have reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete or RAAC in their construction. Since the County Council became aware of RAAC vulnerabilities, surveyors have been actively looking for the presence of RAAC in the corporate estate during the five yearly cyclical condition surveys of all buildings. The corporate estate is now undergoing a targeted review. Any buildings that have not been surveyed in the last three years and fall within the new date range of buildings that may contain RAAC and have concrete plank construction will be subject to further inspections. Currently no LCC owned sites have been identified but the inspections are continuing.
5. All relevant maintained school buildings have been assessed and that RAAC has not been discovered within maintained schools. The Director of Children and Family Services has recently been notified that RAAC is present at an Academy in the county. Mitigating actions had already been put in place by the Academy Trust, including closing off the areas affected. Further surveys are being undertaken by the DfE to decide on the course of action needed at the affected Academy School.
6. Devolution of powers to the County - In May this year the County Council Leadership had a meeting with the Levelling Up Minister, Dehenna Davison MP, and it had been a very helpful and constructive meeting. The Minister subsequently wrote to the Leader of the County Council, the City Mayor and the Leader of Rutland asking them to pursue

a level 3 deal with the Government. A level 3 deal is only available if there is agreement locally to have an elected mayor for the combined authority area and that remains unacceptable to the City Mayor. The Minister then wrote to the three Leaders to ask them to state clearly if they intend to pursue a level 3 deal or the lesser level 2 deal. In the circumstances they have replied to say level 2 and the County wait to hear from Government officials as to next steps. A Level 2 deal will give some more delegated powers to the County and some additional funding, but the better deal and greater funding would have been if the Level 3 arrangement had been agreed.

7. As ever, happy to receive enquiries from members and residents on my contact details.
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No report was provided by District Councillor Grafton-Reed, but the following topics were covered:

- Attended a district council Constitution meeting.
- I am following up with the planning officer with reference to the self-build houses off Broughton Way.
- There will be an announcement in November about the Statement of Common Working.

District Councillors Paul Dann and Josh Worrell tendered apologies but no report provided.

District Councillor Mark Graves tendered no apologies and no report provided.

Communications Received by the Chair of the Parish Council – No communications were received.

Parish Managers Report – October 2023

Request for additional street waste bin

We have had contact at the office from a resident requesting an additional bin be placed on the route between Kiln Close and Thomas Estley Community Centre due to the amount of litter from Greggs/Spar along that stretch of road. This being the first request/complaint the office has received, and we will monitor this going forward.

Premises Officer Sick Leave

Glen is due to have an operation at the beginning of November, this will potentially mean that he is signed off work for around 6 weeks, meaning that we will be back down to one Premises Officer during this time which will impact on the staffing salary budget to the extra cover required.

Cemetery Improvement Works

APPENDIX A

The works undertaken at the cemetery to improve the facilities and create a memorial feature have now been completed. (Just some planting to be completed by the Ground Staff at the appropriate time).

Those that have been to the cemetery recently I am sure will agree that it is looking amazing.

Damage to Play Equipment at the Recreation Ground

The Windsurf item of play equipment at the Recreation Ground has been damaged, the hard sail that is attached to the surfboard has been bent down so far that it has cracked. The sail has had to be removed for safety as fingers could easily become trapped (and possibly cut off) if the sail was left in situ. Contact will be made with the manufacturer to obtain a quote for a replacement part.

Damage to Allotment Fencing

The new fencing to the Allotment that runs down the farm lane has been considerably damaged; it would appear to have been done by a farm vehicle of some kind. Unfortunately, there were no witnesses to the damage caused so we are currently identifying the best way to make repairs, either through the insurance or directly with the construction company depending on cost.

Freedom of Information Request

The Parish Office received a Freedom of Information request for information on the Neighbourhood Plan dating back from the time it was agreed to develop a plan to the date it was adopted. Any information that is held has been sent to the requester.

Remembrance Day

Plans for this year's Remembrance Day Service to be held on Sunday 12 November are well underway. As in line with last year, there will be a parade from Thomas Estley Community College to the War Memorial.