

**18 April 2024**

**Report by County Councillor Neil Bannister**

**Meeting with Lead Local Flood Authority**

Leicestershire County Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority, and I had a useful meeting with one of the senior managers since the last Parish Council. It was interesting to note the different responsibilities of the County Council, Severn Trent, and the Environment Agency to meet the flooding issues that occur. The 3 agencies meet on a regular basis to discuss places within the County that have the greatest flood alleviation needs. Storm Henk in January was a case in point with hundreds of homes across the County affected and projects being planned - with Government help to assist in those areas.

Broughton Astley was affected by Storm Henk but not as seriously as other places in the County. The County are clearly aware of the issues in the village but at this moment in time do not feel there is a need for any long-term strategic project to protect against the flooding pinch points in the village, namely the Frolesworth Road area and the Dunton Road area near to the Charlie Brown development. Regular inspections and monitoring by County officials are taking place with concerns, where appropriate, being shared with their partners in the Flood Authority.

Grant aid may be available for any residents or businesses affected by Storm Henk. See also the links on the LCC website for advice on what individuals can do to be more flood resilient and what flood equipment may be available to assist.

**Updates on pending projects**

I was pleased to see correspondence this week about the current position on the replacement bus shelter on Croft Way. I understand there are some final legal revisions being made to the contract for the tender process to take place and then the contract will go to tender. Once that is happened a timetable for the installation of the bus shelter can then be finalised.

Works are being planned for the removal of vegetation adjacent to the railings at the Brook in Broughton Astley. The work is to prevent the further deterioration of the adjacent footway and wall. I understand that there are 4 or 5 bushes at the top of the wall that will need to be removed (including roots). The work to do this will mainly be with a weed and root killer to be applied (the Environment Agency have been notified and approved the works). Once the bushes have died off, they will then be cleared. The contractor is hoping to do the works once sufficient leaf growth on the bushes has appeared (otherwise the herbicide may not work).

**Crowfoot Way/ Lagan Homes Broughton Chase**

In the avoidance of doubt, I have clarified with the County Council as to the adoption of the highway at the Broughton Chase development on Crowfoot Way. The County confirm that they remain unable to adopt the Highway as the developers have not yet made the road up to the necessary standard for the County to adopt. I have reported back to the residents on this point. Further, I am aware of maintenance issues with the Management Company First Port – but that is not a county matter. I helped arrange for a couple of the residents to meet with the MP Alberto Costa to discuss the issues and see what assistance he can lend. I gather certain advice was given about the need for further information from the title deeds and planning conditions which I understand the residents are now looking into.

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

### **Report by District Councillor Dann**

- The two planning applications for development north of Broughton Way refused by HDC were turned down on appeal.
- The proposed retirement village at the bottom of Sutton Lane (for 47-50) homes is due to go to planning committee on the 14th of May subject to all the information being ready in time.
- 39 dead trees will be replaced on Mill Fields estate.

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

No written report was submitted but the comments below were recorded:

- Regarding the appeal decision for Sutton in the Elms, the conflicting policies go against the Broughton Astley Neighbourhood Plan.

### **District Councillor Mark Graves**

No written report was submitted but the comments below were recorded:

- There are continued issues with Lagan Homes from residents.
- Harborough District Council's Local Plan with interaction with Neighbourhood Plan's.

### **District Councillor Worrell**

Councillor Worrell - sent apologies but had nothing to report.

## **Parish Managers Report – April 2024**

### **Parkwood Leisure**

Members will recall that Parkwood Leisure are in the process of changing the existing contract from its current operation structure to one of Creating Active Futures (CAF). This is now well underway following confirmation received from Harborough District Council that mandatory rate relief will be applicable on this type of contract. It is anticipated that the new contract will be ready and in place for 1 May 2024.

We have been informed that a draft contract should be sent to the Parish Council on Friday 19 April, and you will have already received an agenda for a meeting to be held on Monday 22 April to sign the new contract version should these papers be received.

### **Leisure Centre**

A copy of this month's update from the Leisure Centre is attached to this report.

## APPENDIX A

I continue to work closely with the Centre Manager on additional investigations surrounding the land drainage issues.

### **Code of Conduct Training**

May I please remind all Members that an in-house, face-to-face training session has been especially arrange for you all on the new model Code of Conduct.

This will be taking place in the Alan Talbott Room on **Monday 29 April at 7pm.**

So far only 4 members have confirmed their attendance and if numbers are insufficient, this course will have to be cancelled.

If you are unable to attend this training session, we can arrange an alternative course later in the year but will be on a virtual platform as opposed to face-to-face.

Although any training is not compulsory, it is highly recommended that you attend as there are several changes and additions to the previous Code that may now have relevance to you as a councillor.

### **Internal Audit**

Following two changes in personnel from the Internal Audit provider, we have now secured Friday 3 May for the Parish Councils Internal Audit of Accounts to take place.

### **Community Safety Vehicle**

Harborough District Council's Community Safety Vehicle will be at the Village Hall on Thursday 25 April for a drop-in session for members of the public should they have any concerns they wish to address. Posters and information will be circulated on the noticeboards and website.

### **Freedom of Information/Subject Access (SARS) Requests**

Since the last Parish Council meeting the following have been received:

1 x Freedom of Information request on 27.03.24  
3 x Freedom of Information requests on 08.04.24  
2 x SARS request on 08.04.24