

## APPENDIX A

15 August 2024

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Neil Bannister**

#### Lutterworth East

As landowners, the County Council have decided to get on with the Lutterworth East development after securing the planning permission over three years ago. You may have seen the press release on this or the advert in the Swift Flash. With the intervention of the Pandemic and the subsequent inflation in the construction industry and stagnant housing market the Council are seeking a change of approach in the way the development unfolds. The Council now wish to unlock the prime 30-acre development site adjacent to the M1 first, by removing the unit size limit. The Council will hope this will bring in investment into the business economy which will then help with the phasing of the housing options next year. The Council have submitted a planning application to HDC seeking this variation together with a request to reduce the number of affordable homes.

#### Leicestershire Matters

The latest edition of Leicestershire Matters has now been published and being delivered around the County. This is well worth a read to see the latest on additional funding to make bus travel more affordable, reliable and greener. There is news about 5 new schools being built around the County and more money for the Highways to maintain the roads and fill potholes. You will of course be aware of the surface dressing locally these past few weeks. The Council is asking for resident's views on its new Local Transport Plan – the consultation began on 12 August and extends to 23 September 2024.

#### Chasing Local Issues

Some further information about the new bus shelter on Croft Way. I have now been informed that after a tender process about to start a contractor should be chosen by November.

I have reported the overhanging vegetation on the speed activation sign on Dunton Road as well as having raised residents concerns about the large uncut area on Broughton Way with its junction with Station Road.

Cllr Dave Glenis mentioned to me the trees on Devitt Way open space that look like they are dying or dead. I have liaised with HDC and they have told me the trees are to be replaced in the autumn on a like for like basis.

Finally, I have been monitoring the Highway implications on planning application 24/00636/OUT at 110-112 Station Road to ensure the residents concerns on this proposed development are noted. It now looks like the concerns are being addressed with a revised application to be submitted.

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 REPORT**

### **Cllr Dann and Grafton-Reed**

From my last report when I gave information about the £1 Million being awarded for community grants, and the limited amount of funds set aside for many of our smaller Parish Councils, and Parish meetings, a scrutiny call-in upheld the Cabinets criteria.

It is very disappointing to see a further planning application appear for 17 houses (self builds) off the by-pass. The previous applications were refused and subsequently turned down at appeal. The application will be called in to Committee by myself and Clive.

I have now obtained details of a communication list to use when contacting Platform Housing. If the Council need it, I will supply.

Local plan update. Like other Councils we are now having to study the Governments new planning guidance. I do not know the current state of BAPC Neighbourhood plan refresh, or what it will mean for housing numbers. It probably means we will not like them.

I am increasingly concerned about the Post office stores (Akshar Express) at the top of Main Street. Several Months have now elapsed since it was trading.

I have passed another message to HDC from the owner. It is a struggle for many people to access the Post office services at the opposite end of the village.

### **Cllr Graves**

1. I am still receiving complaints about the new Lagan Homes, Crowfoot Way Estate near Hallbrook School. I understand that whilst several improvements have been made, the District Council are investigating several formal Enforcement Cases. I also understand the external Management Company contract may have been terminated, and an alternative company may have already been appointed by Lagan.

2. The Parish Council has reviewed the planning application for three separate agricultural access points, off the same, Crowfoot Way new estate. Upon request I "called in" this application to committee some time ago, however I have now withdrawn my call-in following a successful revision of the application to remove two of the three access points that were closest to residents' homes. The one remaining access point is the pre-existing, prominent gateway, that has been used for many years, opposite the school building.

3. District Council Lawyers are investigating a second, serious breach of confidential commercial housing plans information at Harborough District Council, this time to the

Harborough Conservative MP Neil O'Brien. Every District Councillor has received warning emails about the importance of adhering to rules on confidentiality. Council Officers are considering whether to restrict the currently transparent information that is provided to ALL District Councillors, by reducing opposition briefings, for example. It is shocking that one or two Councillors have decided to sabotage some of the most serious rules that exist to protect the interests of District residents, and the interests of the Council as a whole.

4. Harborough District Council has bucked the trend, and achieved a quicker audit sign off for its 22-23 annual financial accounts than expected. There is a national crisis in delays over external audit provision to larger councils, so it is pleasing to see Harborough District achieve this result quicker than other authorities.

## **No report was submitted from Cllr Worrell**

## **Chairs Report**

The Chair had nothing to report to council.

## **Parish Managers Report**

### **Leisure Centre**

A report for July from the Leisure Centre has been placed on your desks for information. I have been informed that the area between the Leisure Centre and the 3G pitch will finally be cut w/c 19.08.24.

### **Recreation Ground**

The main part of the Multi-Games Area (MUGA) has been completed and we are still waiting for the delivery and installation of the table tennis and football tennis tables. These have had to be specially ordered from Europe which is causing the delay.

We have suffered minor but frustrating vandalism to four benches in the recreation ground over the past couple of weeks. They have been repaired by the ground staff.

### **Cemetery**

Work to the completion of the existing Children's section of the cemetery commences next week which will see the additional grave spaces marked out with paving slabs. Once this side has been completed, a mirrored area will be created on the opposite side of the driveway. Work continues to complete the final stages of the new area for scattering ashes.

### **Formal Complaint**

A response to the formal complaint submitted to the Councils External Auditor has been received this week. The key point raised with them was over their poor communication throughout the whole process in relation to the objections they received from Cllr Graves regarding the Year End Audit for 2022/23. They have admitted to failings particularly on this point.

A full report will be provided to Members at your next meeting in September.

### **Allotment Liaison Group**

A considerable amount of my time has been spent recently with meetings and emails back and forth with the Allotment Liaison Group. Misunderstandings have come to light on who is responsible for and who makes the decisions in the council and on how council process

works. Out of this will now allow for a report to be presented to council at their meeting in October.

### **New Mower**

The Parish Council's new mower has been received and well tested since it got delivered. It has proven to be a very easy machine to operate and has already reduced the numbers hours taken to cut area of grass. One of the biggest advantages is the simplicity of adjusting the cutting height which can be done in a matter of seconds as opposed to existing trial-and-error approaches.

### **Village Hall**

The village hall narrowly missed being flooded two weeks ago during a sudden storm. Most of the problem stemmed from leaves and grass cuttings blocking the drains preventing the water from draining away. We have made a request to have the gutters swept to help prevent flooding in the future.

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

Since the Parish Council meeting in April, no further Freedom of Information / Subject Access (SARS) requests have been received.

Out of those received April or before:

2 have been returned requesting further information. No information has yet been received back.