

APPENDIX A

18 July 2024

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Neil Bannister

Nick Rushton

I was saddened to hear that the Leader of County Council, Nick Rushton confirmed to the Council he has been diagnosed with a cancer and will be undergoing treatment for several weeks. Nick will be stepping back as Leader while he receives this treatment and the Deputy Leader, Deborah Taylor will become Interim Leader. Nick has promised us an update in September. Nick has demonstrated typical courage in his announcement, and we all wish him well.

Children and Family Services

I have often mentioned that the Children and Family Services at County are one of the largest calls on the Budget. The County are under a statutory duty to deliver these services for the vulnerable children and their families. How well this service is doing was a matter for an Ofsted Inspection in April and which Ofsted gave its report on the 12 July. The good news is that Ofsted has given an “Outstanding” rating. The inspectors praised the work done to build strong and long-lasting relationships with children and families which lead to many families achieving positive changes in their lives. The Inspectors also said a culture created by the Children and Family Service Team put the experiences and progress of children at the heart of their social work practice. Ofsted looked at all areas of the Service including the fostering and adoption services. All very good news for such a hardworking and dedicated Team.

Surface Dressing underway on County roads

Highways teams across Leicestershire are amid a £2.7 million summer maintenance programme of ‘surface dressing’. Over the next few weeks, motorists will notice the many roads they use every day being covered with a layer of chippings. Surface dressing is carried out throughout summer until the end of August, as the process relies on warm, dry weather to allow

materials to embed into the road surface more easily. The programme is carefully planned across various key routes. Please look out for notices of these works when undertaken locally.

Chasing local issues

Progress has been made with Platform Housing. Many of the residents of Gladstone Mews are having their concerns now addressed and offers of compensation for loss of amenities have been made. I am still chasing the new bus shelter for Croft Way and since the last meeting have learned that the person dealing with the issue has been on long term absence and not due to return until the end of August. I am now escalating this to the relevant Director for a proper update before the person returns.

As ever, happy to receive enquiries from members and residents on my contact details

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DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Dann and Grafton-Reed

1.The National Election held recently reflected well on officers of HDC. We were not the lead authority for any of the counts but played a significant part in manning Polling Stations. The Election team processed 4920 applications for voter registration, and 2848 postal vote requests.

2. The Local plan work continues apace. and it is vital for the Parish to register its Neighbourhood Plan refresh ASAP.

3.This week the Cabinet allocated a total of £1 Million for communities to bid for, towards Capital grant funding. Applications will only be accepted from Town and Parish Councils having sought the views of local District Councillors.

Grant Applications can be used to support other grants such as 106 monies.

The contentious part of the allocation is that of the £1 million only £40,000 is being allocated for 55 parish councils and meetings with a maximum of £5,000 per bid.

4.At the same Cabinet meeting it was announced that there is to be a review of the Management of open spaces.

5.There have been many issues reported by residents of Gladstone Mews at a recent Conservative Surgery. Working together with the MP Alberto Costa. local County, and District Councillors were able to make a difference, in discussions with PLATFORM HOUSING

Cllr Graves

The report provided by Cllr Graves was received too late to be communicated with Members on the night but was circulated the next day.

1. The Cabinet at Harborough District Council has agreed to review the method by which housing developers set up Management Companies to maintain the common areas of new housing estates. This is paid for by the residents by annual invoicing. There have been too many unresolved complaints and issues of poor maintenance. The District Council to re-examine whether housing developers need to once again make payments to either the Parish or District Council, for longer term, higher quality, grounds maintenance.

2. The District Council Cabinet has announced a new Parish and Town Councils grant fund for a total of £1 million. Broughton Astley Parish Council will be able to apply for its allocated share of grant, in consultation with the District Councillors within the Parish.

Chairs Report

The Chair had nothing to report to council.

Parish Managers Report

Leisure Centre

A report for June from the Leisure Centre has been placed on your desks for information. The Centre Manager is trying a new format on the delivery of the information and has requested that, through me, to let them know if you wish to see any other information you deem use or appropriate to be shown.

Recreation Ground

The main part of the Multi-Games Area (MUGA) has been completed and we are just waiting for the delivery and installation of the table tennis and football tennis tables.

Croft Way

Anyone who has recently passed by the bus shelter on Croft Way may have noticed a large amount of household and garden waste been left by the adjoining householder. We have written to them asking that it be removed with immediate effect as that small piece of land belongs to the Parish Council.

Staffing

We currently have two members of staff on long-term sick leave which, with the holiday season, is having an impact on the current staffing levels and work schedules. We do not anticipate either of them returning before the end of September so have taken on a casual employee to help during this time. The Staffing Committee are monitoring this situation carefully.

Formal Complaint

Now the conclusion for the 2022/23 Year End Audit has been signed off, a formal complaint has been submitted to the External Auditor over their lack of compliance with the Audit and

Accountability Act 2014 and their poor communication throughout the whole process. Any outcome will be reported back to full council.

Visit by Leader of Harborough District Council and the CEO

I have been asked to by Phil Knowles, the Leader of Harborough District Council and John Richardson, CEO to arrange a meeting with the Parish Council.

Having liaised with them, we have agreed to Thursday 15 August 2024 at 6.30pm and will take place directly before the scheduled Parish Council meeting.

I will send an email out after this meeting confirming the details and a further one w/c 12 August as a reminder.

Please ensure that your.Gov.uk email addresses are all up and running as we no longer send out emails to personal email addresses.

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 yet to be received.