

" County Councillor Annual Report

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during

Name of Councillor

Brenda Seaton Thurmaston and Ridgemere Division

1) Electoral Division activities

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

Since being elected in 2017 as County Councillor for the then new electoral division of Thurmaston and Ridgemere, my activities and achievements have been extremely varied and have kept me on my toes. The wide spread of issues emanating from this new ward reflect its demographics that embraces both rural and suburban living.

From my first visit to South Croxton as a candidate I recognised that the village needed an updated play facility. A recreational ground that would be easily accessible to all ages and abilities as well as offering a greater diversity of play opportunity. I have linked the Parish Council with the Rural Communities Council (RCC) and instigated an exciting process that will see the recreational ground, and hopefully the village hall, developed into a welcoming and all-encompassing village facility. There has been a heavily contested planning issue that is a Charnwood matter but I have been involved in keeping Charnwood aware of what is happening within the site and prompting them into taking the appropriate action.

Barkby and Barkby Thorpe are a parish already well known to me through my involvement with Barkby and Barkby Thorpe Action Group (BABTAG). This group was initially started as a campaign group to save the villages from a housing development that threatened to change the very rural aspect of the two villages. To a large extent their valiant opposition has been successful and although the housing will still be taking place over the next 30 years their involvement has mitigated and preserved the character of the villages. I am proud to have been, and still am, part of that ongoing mitigation effort by working with the developers along with BABTAG to ensure that they continue to mitigate any harm. I have been involved with planning applications, benefit queries and regularly attend parish meetings.

The governance of Beeby Village is by a Parish Meeting and not a parish council and has just over 100 residents. My main and too be honest my only involvement with Beeby is reporting the fly tipping and potholes on Beeby Road, the occasional reporting of cars that have misjudged the bends on Croxton Road and supporting the Chair in resolving in a broadband delivery issues. I am pleased to say that the fibre broadband cabinet is now live on Scraftoft Lane, Beeby which means that over 20 homes and businesses in the village can now access fibre broadband.

Thurmaston is my biggest and busiest ward with a wide variety of issues. The village supports residential areas as well as light and heavy industrial units, warehousing, offices, two retail centres and the beautiful Watermead Country Park.

My work within the village has been as varied as the landscape from housing issues, ASB, social services concerns, smells and mysterious noises, regular and disruptive car meets as well as the usual potholes, grass cutting and footpath maintenance. Road safety in Thurmaston is a huge concern not only because of the dual carriageway cutting through the village but Barkby Thorpe

Lane, Humberstone Lane and it's junction with Melton Road. These hot spots will undoubtedly get busier following the planned housing developments and because of that I have secured some funding from the City to try and mitigate the harm of a planned new development on the city end Humberstone Lane. I was also concerned about the informal crossing point across Barkby Thorpe Lane between Asda and the retail park. Following a request by me to look into formalising the crossing, Highways have agreed that the site does meet the criteria and will be installing a suitable crossing at that point.

The entrances and exit lanes on Thurmaston roundabout have been an issue but I am pleased to have been instrumental in bringing forward the resurfacing there.

Engagement with the Council, other statutory bodies and public utility companies (Water, Gas etc) about services in the area

My division covers three parish councils, one parish meeting and one borough council and I have built an excellent two way relationship with all of them and will continue to be fully active within these bodies. Although I do hold a monthly surgery at the Old School on Melton Road I have not yet been purposely visited at that time but have engaged with the residents that do attend the coffee morning held there. I am very contactable, living on the main road running through Thurmaston, and extremely responsive to contact. I must say my most productive surgery is when I am out and about walking the dog in all the villages. I have liaised with superfasteleicestershire regarding their feeding fibre broadband in the surrounding areas.

I am in regular contact with the police and support their initiatives in all areas. I also post articles in the local paper Thurmaston Times.

On a number of occasions I have engaged the help of our MP and visa versa when he needs some local knowledge.

Thurmaston is served by three Charnwood Borough councillors, of which I am one, and enjoy a close working relationship with them.

Priorities for the immediate future are:

Briefing Note This is an opportunity to recognise any issues which may be particularly relevant to the future well being of people within your electoral division.

School parking at peak times is an enormous problem within Thurmaston and to a lesser but just as disrupting to village life in Barkby.

Church Hill Infants and Juniors are next to each other and soon to be joined by a commercial nursery as a neighbour. As with older schools Church Hill schools were not built on a road that can natural accommodate expansion in numbers and in the rise of the school run by car. The road is rendered impassable at certain times in the afternoon and is of great annoyance to residents who find their driveways blocked or cannot exit their drive because of careless parking. A number of initiatives have been trialled like a voluntary one way system at set times or having police presence/traffic wardens in attendance. The latter two work whilst the enforcers were there but soon slipped back when they weren't. It would be unworkable to have that level of attendance every day as other areas suffer from the same issue.

Eastfield Primary School also has issues but of a slightly different nature. The school is on a Cul-de-sac which requires vehicles to turn within the road but it also has a bend at the entrance from Highway Road where cars park half on half off the path resulting at best by slowing the flow of traffic at worst by blocking it all together. As with Church Hill schools the residents are bearing the

brunt of the inconsiderate parking.

Barkby School has also grown in numbers and serves a wide area meaning that most children are brought in by car. Staff find it difficult to park and speeding along the Lane continues to be a problem despite signage of a 20 mph limit.

Initiatives have been put forward by County and I have supported Eastfield in their request to be included in the School Keep Clear project.

All three schools will continue to be on my high priority list but as yet I have not hit on a workable solution but I will keep trying.

2) Council Activities

Briefing Note

Please specify any particular issues of note that you have been actively involved in connected with the following bodies.

Committees you serve on at County Hall

Environment and Transport

Children and Families (Chair)

Scrutiny Commission

Children in Care Panel

Local committees/Outside Bodies

Thurmaston Parish Council

Charnwood Parish Council

Combined Fire Authority

Other bodies – School governors/community and charity organisations etc

Thurmaston Action Group

Thurmaston Events Team

British Legion remembrance day committee

3) Learning and development:

All Member Briefing – Safeguarding
Children and Families OSC Briefing
Community Strategy Briefing
All Member Briefing Health
All Member Briefing E & T
All Member Briefing Equalities
All Member Briefing Health and Care Integration
All Member Briefing Strategic Growth Plan
All Member Briefing Resilience and Regulatory Services
All Member Briefing Corporate Parenting
All Member Briefing SGP
All Member Briefing MTFS
All Member Briefing GDPR

Signed by Councillor Brenda Seaton

Date 01/07/2018