

## County Councillor Annual Report

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during 2018/19.

**Name of Councillor**     **Dr Kevin FELTHAM**

**representing the GARTREE Division.**

### **1) Electoral Division activities**

#### **Main Activities and the impact during the past year:**

I was privileged to serve as the chairman of the **Health Overview Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)** during 2018/19 which also meant I was vice-chairman of the Joint HOSC covering Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland. As part of my chairmanship I received briefing sessions with the Director of Public Health and Assistant Directors prior to every scrutiny committee meeting. I also had meetings with the chief executives and chairmen of both the West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and East Leicestershire & Rutland CCG. I also met with the Medical Director of the Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust.

Leicester City had responsibility for running the Joint HOSC meetings during 2018/19 so our meetings were held at City Hall in Leicester; the responsibility transfers to Leicestershire County Council for 2019/20 so our meetings will be held at County Hall.

I attended 48 **parish council meetings** during 2018/19. Sometimes they clashed with other meetings, such as Governors or if an extraordinary meeting was held, so sadly I had to prioritise which one to attend. Occasionally I have managed to be at the start of one parish council meeting, and then after giving my monthly report, I have given my apologies and made my way to another parish council to give a similar monthly report before their meeting has finished, but I prefer to focus on one parish council meeting at a time, if possible.

The clerk of two of the parish councils is sadly leaving to move to Yorkshire, so he will be greatly missed as we move into 2019/20. One of the advantages of having been a county councillor for 18 years is that I have built up good working relationships with the parishes and their clerks.

In the majority of cases at these parish council meetings, I am asked to give an update on county council business and activities; if I am unable to attend I usually provide written reports by email.

An ongoing issue for the Kibworths is the **A6 Air Quality Management Area** and the need for a **bypass**, so I am still liaising with the MP, Neil O'Brien OBE, ward councillors, the Director of Highways at LCC and HDC staff to see how a bypass could be planned and delivered without having to finance it with thousands of new houses. The **Major Roads Network** proposals by central government may provide potential funding but a business case needs producing first. HDC funded A6 roadside nitrogen dioxide measuring equipment which provides 15 min real-time data which can be examined via a website, and is a great improvement on the previous delayed monthly averages from tubes on streetlamp posts at several locations on the A6.

Both Great Glen and the Kibworths now have 'made' or adopted **Neighbourhood Plans** which have helped with objections when responding to some planning applications, and now that HDC

has confirmed they have a five year housing supply and adopted their **Local Plan**, it should make it harder for developers to propose and obtain approval for unwanted large housing estates. Both Glen and Kibworths wards have either minimal or zero targets for more housing in the Local Plan.

Since 2001, I have contributed a monthly Gartree county news article on local matters to the **Kibworth & District Chronicle**, a free community newspaper delivered to over 3,500 homes in 25 villages across south Leicestershire, many in my division. I have also contributed similar articles to the quarterly **Glen Sence**, a free community newspaper delivered to Great Glen, Burton Overy, Wistow and Newton Harcourt. Examples of some of these published articles are included on my county councillor website – see [Social Media](#) below.

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

I attended all full county council meetings during 2018/19.

As a member of the Scrutiny Commission, I attended all the meetings except one, which I subsequently watched on the Webcast, when the Commission scrutinised outline proposals for developing an **Unitary structure** in Leicestershire. The evidence from Wiltshire, Cornwall and Durham council leaders was well received and very helpful. I look forward to the business case commissioned by the Cabinet and being able to scrutinise it in due course.

I have been a Management Committee Board member for the **Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation** (ESPO) for over 13 years. This is public sector owned professional buying organisation with six authorities as members – 5 of them County Councils: Leicestershire (host authority), Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Warwickshire, Cambridgeshire, plus Peterborough City. ESPO is committed to getting the most for our customers by pursuing best practice in procurement, sourcing, supply chain partner support and management, contract management and EU compliance. I also served on the ESPO Audit & Finance Committee during the year – which continued to experiment with using Skype for Business to help Board members from councils some distance away. During the year, ESPO Trading Limited was formed to help diversify the product and customer base, and I was appointed to represent Leicestershire on the Board of Directors. The acquisition by this limited company of an early years education supply company helped broaden the customer base and products to improve the profitability. Each of the member councils shares in the annual dividend depending on the amount of business each has had with ESPO.

As Tugby & Keythorpe parish is in my division, I continued to represent parishes straddling the A47 so attended meetings with Centrebus, LCC & Rutland Transport officers and other parishes to discuss a sustainable solution for the 747 bus route.

I provided a brief report to the Cabinet in July about a supported living scheme being considered for Great Glen. I am fully supportive of the proposed scheme, but after attending a meeting with residents, some of whom expressed deep concerns, I suggested more opportunities for the public to engage with the Adults & Communities team and for this to be an ongoing matter as the project progresses.

I led a group of district and parish councillors representing the two Kibworth parishes to have a meeting with an Assistant Director of Environment & Transport in January 2019. A report had been produced by the parishes detailing 33 separate traffic issues including parking, speed management, highways responses to planning applications, public transport, A6 speeding. A number have been included in requests to Member's Customer Service Centre and resolved, but the majority will likely require parish funding due to the parlous state of Leicestershire's county

council funding formula outcomes.

In April, I was pleased to co-host a parish walkabout with Lord Willy Bach, the Police & Crime Commissioner and operational police colleagues to show him the trouble spots and discuss solutions.

During 2018/19 I had a meeting with **Arriva** to better understand their timetable and route changes for the X3 through Great Glen and the Kibworths. The inconsistency in service timetabling and routes had led to reduced passenger usage. The proposed changes were postponed and I await the latest passenger figures.

### **Priorities for the immediate future are:**

The independent living scheme for vulnerable adults being refurbished in **Great Glen** has meant more meetings in 2018/19. I am hopeful that now that the company who will be providing the 24/7 support has been appointed and agreed to hold a public event early in 2019/20, that the concerns by neighbours and some parish councillors will be eased. The main concerns are about the high number (20) of new residents and that any with mental disabilities might lead to social problems. Despite reassurance from myself and the Adult & Communities team at county hall, it has so far proved a difficult message to get across.

Now that the real-time nitrogen dioxide monitor is in place on the A6, I am liaising with the new leader of HDC and , Cllr P King, to try to have a **Particulate Matter** (PM2.5) meter installed too, as this will provide more data from the pollution caused by lorries and buses. The A6 through the Kibworths has around 24,000 vehicles using it every day.

There is an ongoing reserved matters planning application for 170 houses off **Oaks Road** in Great Glen that still requires considerable research with residents and the parish council about potential environmental damage. An initial outline application for 400 houses **west of the Kibworths** is also causing concerns, as it is outside the limits of development policy in the Neighbourhood Plan, and against several policies in the adopted HDC Local Plan. The necessity for major improvements to the railway bridge across the Midland Mainline on Warwick Road is being discussed with Environment & Transport officers. I shall be keeping a watching brief on both planning applications this year.

The **Strategic Growth Plan**'s proposals for an A46 Expressway to the east and south of the Leicester Principal Urban Area may mean many more houses being proposed to the north west of my division; I will continue to resist any that are not compliant with local NP or HDC policies, but also engage to upgrade the A6 so a bypass for the Kibworths is delivered before the Expressway becomes a reality. The local MP, Neil O'Brien OBE, and new HDC leader, Cllr P King, and I are all opposed to the current option of an A46 Expressway south of Oadby and Wigston, and want to see alternative options considered e.g. adding a hard shoulder to the A46 north of Leicester, and extending it at the western end to link with the A5 and A69.

**Anti-social behaviour** problems (ASB) have continued to cause problems in the Kibworths and also to a lesser degree, in Great Glen. The **Kibworth Meadows** Facebook page is for residents living in the large estate off Wistow Road, mainly in Kibworth Harcourt. This social media source provides evidence of burglary, car theft and damage and ASB. I liaise with the Local Policing Unit, the three Kibworths ward members and the HC Community Safety Partnership. As a follow-up to Lord Bach's visit in April, a public meeting to discuss local ASB issues has been arranged for 26<sup>th</sup> June in Kibworth Grammar School Hall.

**Community Governance Review** – this year HDC will be holding another consultation on community governance. An anomaly of the Kibworth Meadows estate north and west of Kibworth

Harcourt centre is the splitting off of part of the estate between Kibworth Beauchamp and Kibworth Harcourt parishes. Longbreach and Bush Roads have recently been completed, and currently lie within the Kibworth Beauchamp parish boundary despite being provided with Kibworth Harcourt postcodes by Royal Mail, and both can only be accessed off Barnards Way, which is within Kibworth Harcourt like the rest of the 550 house estate. I, along with colleagues in both Kibworth parishes and district councillors, will be requesting that this anomaly is resolved such that the whole estate is within the Kibworth Harcourt parish boundary.

**Capacity in local schools** continues to be an ongoing issue, but with less houses being built in both the Kibworths and Great Glen, there have been slight reductions in the pupil numbers for both primary schools, although the secondary Kibworth School is experiencing space challenges. I will continue to work with the teams at County Hall to review pupil numbers and discuss future strategies.

## **2) Council Activities**

### **Committees you serve on at County Hall**

Chairman of Members Learning and Development Working Group

Chairman of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Vice-chairman of the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee

Member of the Scrutiny Commission.

Member of the Children & Families Scrutiny Committee.

### **Local committees/Outside Bodies**

I have been a parish councillor on Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council since 2015, and Chairman since 2016; re-elected in May 2019 as councillor and chairman for 2019/20. As I was a parish representative on the Kibworths Neighbourhood Planning Group from 2016 to 2018, I intend putting myself forward again for the review of the Kibworths Neighbourhood Plan which will be meeting in 2019/20.

I continue to serve as a parish representative on the Kibworth Joint Recreation Committee and as a committee member for the Kibworth & Smeeton Village Hall. During 2018/19 I obtained two offers of money to install a defibrillator in a lockable cabinet that has now been installed on the outside of the village hall.

I remain a committee member of the Kibworth Improvement Team formed after the highly successful BBC TV series 'Story of England' by Michael Wood and Maya Vision International.

### **Other bodies – School governors/community and charity organisations etc**

Governor at the Robert Smyth Academy, which now that it is part of the Tudor Grange Academy Trust, has a new principal, and I have governor responsibility for pulling together a new Behaviour Policy with the senior management team to help other governors with Exclusion Appeal meetings with parents, pupils and staff.

Appointed Trustee of the Nicholson Memorial Charity. During 2018/19 the Trust approved grants to young individuals and youth organisations. I was involved in ensuring the legal process was carried out so that the County Council Cabinet were able to approve the sale of a property in Market Harborough; the proceeds will add to the value of the Trust fund.

I continue to be the Kibworth Parochial Church Council Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer at St Wilfrid's Church in Kibworth Beauchamp.

### **3) Learning and development:**

As a member of Members Learning and Development Working Group we had further briefings on the use of Skype for Business and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and changing the member iPads to Microsoft Surface equipment.

I attended as many all member briefings as I could, or followed up with the slide presentations, during the year including more on the Strategic Growth Plan, Budget, GDPR, Prevent etc.

### **4) Other Matters:**

I have over 50 years of experience working in and around the NHS including short spells at major London tertiary hospitals (Guys & St Thomas, Imperial College), and I finally retired from 3 days a week managerial role at Northampton General Hospital in December 2018.

### **Social Media**

Twitter: @kevin\_feltham

Website: <http://gartree.yourcllr.com/>

**Signed by Councillor:**



**Date 12/06/2019**