

County Councillor Annual Report

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during 2017/18.

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 **Cabinet Support Member** for Adults and Communities during 2017/18 supporting CClr Richard Blunt and attending Cabinet and Cabinet briefings. As part of our involvement in the directorate we had member briefing sessions with the Director or Assistant Directors every fortnight on directorate finance, performance, Social Care specific issues such as safeguarding or challenges, and updates on Communities activities e.g. libraries, heritage, collections etc.

The induction period in August and September meant we visited short break and respite homes, as well as care and residential homes and met senior managers for Help to Live at Home, Delays to Discharge, Bosworth Battlefield, Collections Resources in Barrow, Wigston Records Office etc.

I also attended a day long workshop for Hidden Disabilities and met with people on the autism spectrum. I was very pleased to be asked to hand out Quality Assessment Framework awards to residential care home staff in October.

I have attended over 40 **parish council meetings** during 2017/18. Occasionally they clash with other meetings, such as Governors, so sadly I have to prioritise which one to attend. The councillors and clerk of one parish resigned which meant Harborough District Council (HDC) had to advertise for potential new councillors, hold an election as more than 5 applied, and then ensure adequate training was available. That parish are up and running again, and after using a locum clerk for a short while, are now going through the process to appoint a permanent clerk.

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.

Ongoing issues for the Kibworths include the **A6 Air Quality Management Area** and the need for a **bypass**, so I am 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.

I have objected to large housing development planning applications for Great Glen and the Kibworths. The majority have been approved, but in some cases only at appeal. The lack of a 5 year housing supply is hampering objections as many of the Core Strategy policies that protect these villages are deemed 'out of date'.

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

I have been a Management Committee Board member for the **Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation** (ESPO) for over 12 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. During 2017/18 I have been privileged to be the chairman, and during the year John Doherty, the Director, resigned to take up a very senior role in Education, so I chaired the appointments committee, and we were pleased to appoint Kristian Smith, the former Assistant Director. I also served as chairman of ESPO Audit & finance Committee during the year – a highlight being to chair a meeting held over Skype for Business because other members were unable to travel because of the snowy conditions.

As a LCC representative, I attended the Local Government Conference in July (Birmingham) to be updated on all aspects of local government. I also attended the County Council Network Annual Conference in Guildford in November.

I represent parishes straddling the A47 so attended meetings with Centrebus, LCC Transport and other parishes to discuss a sustainable solution for the 747 bus route.

Priorities for the immediate future are:

The County Council has purchased a former privately run (Waterloo Housing) independent living scheme in **Great Glen** and is intending to refurbish and convert for 20 independent living adults with disabilities, with support staff based in the building. Considerable concerns are being expressed by residents and the parish council, so a meeting is being arranged to explain the facts.

There is an ongoing struggle to obtain real-time **air pollutant levels** on the A6 through the Kibworths and although HDC's bid to DEFRA was unsuccessful, I am told HDC have now found the money and are in the process of tendering so hopefully the equipment and readings will be available during the summer of 2018.

Although the Great Glen and Kibworths **Neighbourhood Plans** (NPs) are now adopted, landowners and developers are still seeking to identify and propose more sites for large housing estates. I will be resisting those that are in contravention of the Neighbourhood Plans and draft HDC Local Plan.

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 in my division; I shall 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 is completed.

Anti-social behaviour problems (ASB) arise from time to time again in various parishes across the Gartree Division, but are a particular problem in the Kibworths. I have helped pull together various partners to establish a multi-agency group to meet a few times each year and discuss best ways to limit and eliminate the ASB involving local youth workers, local churches, sports clubs, scouts/guides, parish councils, district and county councillors, LCC Impact team, HDC Community Safety Partnership and the police. Possible solutions might involve CCTV cameras at hot spots, advising the use of 101 to report problems and improved communication amongst the partners about trends.

Capacity in local schools – the Kibworth CE Primary School is full at 630 pupils, yet hundreds more houses are being built meaning children of primary school age will need to be bussed to nearby primary schools with capacity to take them. The Kibworth CE Primary School has no more land to expand any further. The Kibworth School (11-16) is also nearing capacity although there is some land available to expand when funding is available. Current and future capacity in schools in the Gartree Division is a major issue.

2) Council Activities

Committees you serve on at County Hall

Chairman of Members Learning and Development Working Group

Member of the Constitution Committee (2017/18)

From 30 May 2018, I am due to be chairman of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and a member of the Scrutiny Commission.

Local committees/Outside Bodies

I have been a parish councillor on Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council since 2015, and Chairman since 2016. I was a parish representative on the Neighbourhood Planning group and this was 'made' in January 2018 after 2 years work, scrutiny, consultation, examination and referendum.

I serve as a parish representative on the Kibworth Joint Recreation Committee and as a committee member for the Kibworth & Smeeton Village Hall.

I am 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 was acquired by Tudor Grange Academy Trust during the year so there were many extra evening meetings to resolve ongoing financial implications and prepare for that and for the Ofsted inspection which upgraded the academy to 'Good' from 'Requires Improvement'. I'm also frequently available for Exclusion Appeal meetings with parents and staff.

Trustee of the Nicholson Memorial Charity.

I have been the Kibworth Parochial Church Council Secretary at ST Wilfrid's Church for over 20 years, and attended a 5 hour workshop in May 2018 run by the Diocese of Leicester on GDPR. Much of the information was also applicable to being a county councillor.

3) Learning and development:

All day Hidden Disabilities workshop at County Hall.

As a member of Members Learning and Development Working Group we had briefings on the use

of Skype for Business and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

I attended as many all member briefings as I could during the year including the Strategic Growth Plan, Budget, GDPR, Chief Constable (Police) etc.

4) Other Matters:

I have nearly 50 years of experience working in and around the NHS including short spells at major London tertiary hospitals (Guys & St Thomas, Imperial College), and still work as a part-time pathology information manager for 3 days a week at Northampton General Hospital.

Social Media

Twitter: @kevin_feltham

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

Signed by Councillor:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Feltham', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Date 23/05/2018