

County Councillor Annual Report 2009/10

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during 2009/10.

Name of Councillor Mr Shepherd

Council Activities

Committees you serve on at County Hall

Committees on which I have served at County Hall

- Scrutiny Commission
- Children and Young People's Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Employment Committee
- Children's Community Homes and Service Teams Monitoring Panel
- Secure Accommodation Review Panel
- Admissions Forum
- SACRE (Leicestershire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education)
- Scrutiny Review Panel on Road Safety Measures (Chairman, as a Deputy Scrutiny Commissioner)
- On occasions, substitute member of Development Control and Regulatory Board

Local committees – Highway Forums and Community Forums etc

I sit on the following local committees and forums

- Leicestershire County Council Highways Forum for Charnwood Borough Council
- Quorn, Barrow, Sileby and The Wolds Area Forum
- Bradgate, Rothley, Mountsorrel and Birstall Area Forum (as Borough Councillor)
- British Gypsum (Barrow Project) Liaison Committee
- Cossington Sand and Gravel Liaison Committee

Other bodies – School governors/community and charity organisations etc

I am a Governor of Burton on the Wolds Primary School
Member of the Governors' Pupil, Personnel and Curriculum Committee

Electoral Division activities

Main Activities during the past year:

Highway matters have featured prominently in my work in my Division, as I expect they do in the work of many County Councillors. I will give some examples of my involvement locally.

One issue concerned weight restrictions applying to heavy goods vehicles. The movement of and nature of roads used by such vehicles was causing concern. I therefore arranged for a County Council officer to give a presentation about the purpose and enforcement of the lorry route network, with particular reference to its effect on my Division. He also outlined some early thinking he had done about possible changes which might address local concerns, as well as the danger of the adverse consequences of some changes. The presentation was given in Burton on the Wolds and I invited representatives of all the Parish Councils in my Division to attend, as well as local Borough Councillors, Police Beat Managers, and representatives of a residents' group concerned about heavy vehicle movements. I believe the event helped give clarity to the nature and purpose of weight restrictions and, importantly, how members of the public may assist in enforcement by the reporting of possible breaches of the rules.

There was concern in Seagrave about the merits of a proposed 20 mph School Advisory Zone. To supplement the Council's formal consultation procedures I arranged and chaired a consultation meeting in Seagrave at which Council officers were able to present and explain the scheme. Invitees and contributors to discussion included members of the Parish Council, an officer from Charnwood Borough Council's Conservation and Design team, the Police Beat Manager, and members of the public. The event gave an opportunity for a range of views about the proposed scheme to be expressed and informed my decision-making as Local Member about the scheme.

Two other examples of involvement in significant highway issues concern Burton on the Wolds and Sileby. The Burton case was a locally unwelcome proposal by the County Council to widen part of the B676 through the village. I was able to assist the efforts of the local Parish Council and others to prevent the work being done – with good reason. The Sileby example concerned examining the reasons for and effectiveness of work undertaken on the Essex Bridge, including obtaining data from a Council officer and arranging a site meeting for those interested. The outcome was I believe a better appreciation of the reasoning behind the work undertaken.

I keep in close touch with all Parish Councils in my Division, by attending as often as possible their meetings and also by use of email, to maintain an exchange of information. I work in partnership with Borough Councillors and Police Beat Managers. I have been following the evolution of Charnwood Borough Council's LDF (Local Development Framework) and noting the interaction between that work and the contribution of County Council officers. I have attended meetings of the Sileby Retailers' Association, to offer support and assistance where I can. I have been assisting in the presentation of ideas for the use of land occupied by the Recycling and Household Waste Site in Sileby, when that is relocated.

Responding to enquiries and concerns from whomever they come, be they from

Parish Councils, local organizations or individual members of the public, is of course a key element of all councillors' work. That means being readily accessible, in person or by telephone or email. The County Council's website has proved useful in making my availability known. I have used local magazines to let people know my contact details and contributed an article about the work of the Scrutiny Review Panel which I chaired. My appointment in 2009 as a governor of Burton on the Wolds Primary School has given me a further opportunity to learn more about and contribute to local issues.

Much of the above is in one sense reactive but has led to the proactive. For instance, I volunteered for membership of the Scrutiny Review Panel on Road Safety to contribute to a strategic, County-wide investigation of an issue which is both local and County-wide. I convened the meeting about weight restrictions partly because the local aspect obviously exists in a wider context of County long-term policy. Although much work has been highway related environmental matters and anti-social behaviour are examples of other issues, and involved working with Borough Council colleagues.

Priorities for the immediate future are:

Helping local people to deal with the new circumstances which may arise from the Council's reaction to new financial arrangements by the Government, such as reductions in grants; taking action as appropriate both locally and at County Council level.

Contributing to the work of the Scrutiny Review Panel on Winter Maintenance, and thus making a contribution at a strategic level to an issue of local concern, with an outcome, I hope, of benefit locally and to the whole County.

Monitoring the impact locally of the Government's abolition of the RSS (Regional Spatial Strategy).

Continuing to advise/assist with the enforcement of weight restrictions.

Being watchful for the as yet unknown.

Learning and development:

I attended the following courses at County Hall during 2009/10:

- Planning and the Code of Conduct
- ICT Workshop
- Locality Working Briefing
- Effective Administration
- Issues facing the Children and Young People's Service
- A Sense of Place
- Skills for Successful Overview and Scrutiny
- Safeguarding

- Working in Community Forums
- Performance Management
- Building Schools for the Future
- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Working in Strategic Partnerships

I also attended:

- A National Road Safety Conference, entitled “A Safer Way – Road Safety Beyond 2010”
- Three training sessions for school governors
- Training sessions as a Borough Councillor

Signed by Councillor:

Date: