

This last year has been a particular challenge for all of us live in the south-west of the County, namely the proposals to build a massive freight depot off Burbage Common, the A46 Expressway which will emerge at Junction 2 of the M69 and the move to build housing and industrial developments around the same junction stretching into Stoney Stanton and Sapcote. Measures designed to mitigate congestion consisting of three new roads could arguably make the situation worse. All of these developments are mainly in Blaby but their impact will be felt by all of us. Countryside we currently enjoy will be gone forever.

Much of my personal time has been taken up questioning what is happening in our name. On a positive note I was particularly honoured to be made responsible for strategic planning at Hinckley & Bosworth and to be elected to the Burbage Parish Council at the elections in May. I am now into my 46<sup>th</sup> year as a Member of Hinckley & Bosworth and my 38<sup>th</sup> year on the County Council.

### **5 year land supply**

It is worth mentioning that we were disappointed to discover on taking over the reins at Hinckley & Bosworth that we no longer have a 5 year land supply thus opening the way to further unplanned developments. We must seek to close the gap as soon as possible to regain control of the situation.

### **Some of the issues which have arisen this year include , in alphabetical order**

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#### **A5**

Congestion and safety issues predominate. We were successful in persuading both Network Rail and Highways England to attend a Scrutiny meeting at County Hall to discuss the number of times HGVs smash into the railway bridge and I hope that a remedy will emerge. Bridge strikes are now running at once every two weeks with the resulting chaos this creates throughout the area. The long awaited improvement to the road between Dodwells roundabout and the Long Shoot junction has still not materialised. An HGV recently overturned in this vicinity, something to be borne in mind when giving consideration to the proposed new Aldi store along this busy stretch.

## **Air Quality**

As previously stated, this is not good across our area and is an issue which must be borne in mind when considering further commercial developments.

## **A 46 Expressway**

This remains a major concern as I have still received no assurances that it will not draw even more traffic along Sapcote Road, Leicester Road and Coventry Road. I am continuing to ask for estimated figures. I have been disturbed to hear that Midlands Connect suggest that the road could be extended over the top of Junction 2 and join the A47 north of Hinckley.

## **Armada Court**

Ward Councillors have been contacted as there is concern about the need for support for elderly residents .

## **Big Pit**

In common with so many others I remain convinced that it was wrong to give consent for this environmental asset to be lost. We continue to hope for a solution which will see it retained.

## **Bloors development**

This 850 home development off the Northern Perimeter Road has still not commenced. We continue to seek to ensure that the promised new school, GP surgery provision and road improvements will materialise. Nearby residents are particularly keen to see the reduced speed limit introduced.

## **Bosworth Battlefield**

Granting of planning consent on part of the area was a traumatic experience but it is hoped that the potential in terms of a tourist and historical attraction will be realised now that the actual site of the conflict has been identified beyond any reasonable doubt. If links can be strengthened with Stratford and Shakespeare there has to be tremendous potential.

## **Brexit**

An awful word with even worse consequences

## Bus Services

We need to encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport and so it is regrettable that we are faced with further withdrawals of bus services and erratic running which makes passengers lose confidence when they are unable to keep appointments.

## Brodick Park

It is good to see the trees growing taller every year and to know that we managed to achieve what is there. We now need much more tree planting – everywhere.



***A real success story. This land was so nearly sold off for housing – until we stepped in.***

## Burbage Common

This is an important area of open space which we take for granted but whose history dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. We must now be awake to the threat of

a major new road which could cut it off from the rest of the countryside to the east.

### **Climate Change**

An issue which threatens to overwhelm us all. Action plans are in place at both County and Borough Councils as well as across the country. We all need to be prepared to change our way of life if we are to survive.

### **Coventry Road**

Along with the other major roads in and out of the town centre we must try to limit the amount of traffic which pounds through the area day and night. These are all residential roads and people have the right to sleep at night – and breathe clean air.



***The new Lidl on Coventry Road nears completion – but will Coventry Road cope with the additional traffic ?***

## **Coventry & Warwickshire**

I was really pleased to be invited to join the Local Enterprise Partnership having been involved up to four years ago. We can look forward to being involved with both the forthcoming City of Culture events and the Commonwealth Games which should be of benefit to the whole area.

## **Crematorium**

Plans continue to develop this new facility on Leicester Road

## **Crescent**

It was really disappointing to see the demise of Rossini's and I hope that these premises and other vacant premises come into use again as soon as possible.

## **Cinema**

Having put so much effort into bringing this facility back into the town it was only natural that it should be retained in public ownership. We need as much public entertainment as possible and it is good to see so many events being staged.

## **Education**

Councillors no longer have a say in the running of schools but are responsible for the provision of school premises. We are acutely aware of funding problems and indeed the lack of provision and would welcome much more collaborative action in tackling issues to give youngsters the best possible start in life.

## **Fibre Optic provision**

A team of us is working with County Council officers to try to ensure that gaps in the network are addressed as soon as possible.

## **George Eliot Hospital**

As our nearest acute hospital we need to work in close cooperation. We are maintaining links to ensure that everyone on our side of the A5 receives the best possible care.



## **GP Surgeries**

Many of us have concerns about the need to ensure that the provision of primary care keeps pace with the growth of development. We have to ensure that GPs and nurses are in place to cope with demand and that we do everything possible to take action to keep everyone as healthy as possible.



***Are our GP surgeries going to be able to cope with our ever growing population ?***

### **Hays Lane**

With no sign that the County Council is going to resume its programme of taking over unadopted roads we are going to have seek alternative arrangements for keeping this last private road in a fit state.

### **Highways England**

I look forward to a time when Highways England , the Department for Transport and Midlands Connect will bring forward a plan for an alternative

route to take the A5 past Hinckley and Burbage. The present arrangement no longer works and has not worked for 20 years or more.

## **Hinckley Railway Station**

Midlands Connect's ambitions for improved and new services are to be welcomed and supported. I very much hope that they advance from being just a glossy report as I have been calling for a direct Coventry to Leicester service for a good many years.

In another intriguing development, Warwickshire County Council has announced that it would like to see a number of new stations opened including Nuneaton Parkway which it envisages being constructed close to the infamous bridge over the A5.



***Our railway station has lost its canopy. Let's hope that Network Rail soon has it replaced.***



## **Hinckley Hospital reconfiguration**

The long running saga continues with plans to move operations out of Mount Road and into the Health Centre and the Sunnyside Hospital on hold whilst the promoters seek the approval of the NHS. With the ever growing population it is essential that this is resolved as soon as possible. The same delays are replicated with the Leicester and the George Eliot hospitals.

## **Ivanhoe line**

As one of the initiators of the original County Council scheme to restore passenger services on the Leicester to Burton line I have seen many attempts come to nothing for a variety of reasons. If this route forms a rail-head for the Leeds section of HS2 then perhaps this could lead to re-opening of this route for passengers. We did, of course, have some success and the line from Leicester to Syston was indeed reopened as planned.

## **Langdale Road**





***Too many drivers use this route to avoid Dodwells roundabout with the result that this roundabout is worn out.***

There is still no resolution as to the future of the former garage site as underground features make it difficult to develop. The road surface at the roundabout is totally worn out as is the surface at the roundabout on the Wykin Road. I am continuing to press for action.

### **Midlands Connect and Midlands Engine**

I continue to attend events when invited and I support their far reaching proposals for various rail improvements. I do not support their proposals for the A46 expressway if this results in a road emerging at junction 2 of the M69 or even worse at the A47 on the Leicester Road north of Hinckley.

### **Northern Perimeter Road**

There has been no recent progress. We still await the start of the new roundabout to serve the Bloors development and ,with it , a speed limit reduction to 40mph and improvements to Dodwells roundabout.

I have again pursued the provision of a quieter road surface where the road passes residential properties.

### **Nutts Lane**

The excessive use of this road with its narrow canal bridge remains a vital issue for all residents who live alongside and in the new estates which adjoin the road. This has to be a key issue for us to put to the A5 Partnership as any improvements to the A5 must also take account of the need to reduce traffic on adjoining roads such as Nutts Lane and Coventry Road. The bridge is about 200 years old. It was only 150 years old when I started.

### **Old Leisure Centre site**

Proposals for a seven storey tower block and the removal of the present car park were not popular. I am hopeful that by rejecting these plans a more moderate proposal will come forward.

### **Proms in the Park**

I am delighted that this much loved event is to be brought back to Hollycroft Park next year.

### **Sparkenhoe Business Centre**

This start-up centre was initiated by the County Council but a few of us have kept it going after the Council withdrew. It remains at a near full capacity.

### **Stoke Road area issues**

As previously reported, 4 schools use this and the nearby Wykin Road as their only means of access. All these schools are now full to capacity and so there is an increasing need to ensure pedestrian safety in this area.

### **Strategic Growth Plan**

The impact of this plan is outlined elsewhere in this report but I have basic concerns that it is being assumed that the rapid growth of the population in this area is bound to continue at the same rate. There is only so much countryside to go round and we are going to need to eat.

### **Sweet Pea Bowling Club**

It is good to know that the support we gave this delightful ground has bought it time. Now we need a long term plan to ensure its survival.

### **The Paddock and Waterside Park**

The Planning Inspector got it wrong and gave permission for 55 flats to be built on what is still undeveloped land. Astonishingly the developers are now asking for this to be superseded by 72 flats. We await the Inspector's decision .

### **Traffic congestion**

One of our main concerns about the proposed A46 Expressway is the impact of additional traffic through Hinckley and Burbage. Traffic comes to a standstill at the best of times and for considerable lengths of time whenever there is an accident. One aspect which would help is the better co-ordination of traffic lights which currently seem to be part of the problem rather than the solution.

### **The Bramblings**

This is the final phase of the Hollycroft Estate with whose development I have been engaged since the early 1970's. I have been trying to ensure that all facilities are in place before the final sign-off. In keeping with the rest of the estate it is well laid out with plenty of open space.

### **Unadopted roads**

It used to be taken for granted that the County Council maintains the roads but this is no longer necessarily the case on new developments where there is a growing practice of leaving roads unadopted. Residents are usually unaware of the problems that lie ahead when the road surface breaks up and they are left with the bill.

### **Unitary Status**

This is not going to happen and I cannot understand why so much money and effort is being wasted. What is really needed is the proper funding of all public services.

### **Waterside Park**

It really would be appreciated if Crest Nicholson could complete their commitments and ensure that the remaining open spaces are handed over in good order. The former railway embankment should be an attractive feature when it becomes a little less overgrown.





***The former railway embankment at the back of Waterside Park. An attractive scene but the undergrowth does need managing***

### **Westfield Road and Strathmore Road**

Despite all assurances given and the attention of the authorities HGVs are still driven along this route which is clearly marked with a weight restriction. We are going to have to bring everyone together to bring this unsociable practice to an end.





***Westfield Road and Strathmore Road. Far too much HGV traffic uses this route, ignoring the weight restriction***

### **Whitworth Avenue**

A long standing campaign to protect the open land from further unwelcome visitors was successfully concluded by the provision of posts. Most of us would still like this land and other similar stretches to be transferred to the Borough Council to ensure proper protection .

This can only be a brief description of some of the issues we face and steps taken to try to address them. I will be more than pleased to supply more information on any of the items outlined.



***Posts to protect the green on Whitworth Avenue and Canal Way. A welcome move but it would be preferable if stretches of land such as this were to be transferred to the Borough Council.***

This can only be a brief description of some of the issues we face and steps taken to try to address them. I will be more than please to discuss any of the issues raised and to supply what information I have available as we all need to be involved and engaged.

David Bill MBE

County Councillor