

County Councillor David Bill Annual Report

Annual report to County Council October 2018

Problems, issues and challenges present themselves to us in a variety of ways and this year has seen a particularly intensive range of matters to be tackled. Sometimes we tackle them by membership of the County Council or by membership of other bodies or simply by use of the accumulated knowledge built up over the years. Amongst many other activities, I have been involved in the following – in alphabetical order

A5

Congestion and safety issues continue to worsen. I have continued to press for long needed improvements including the issue of the inability of so many HGV drivers who regularly smash into the railway bridge.

Air quality

Parts of the area are very close to the recommended safety limits, a fact I have brought out on several occasions when the proposed new roads and new developments are being discussed.

A 46 – proposed expressway

I have continued to express concern about the impact on local roads in Hinckley & Burbage if this road emerges at Junction 2 of the M69

Argents Mead

This central green area of town continues to improve and I am pleased that the area is now being put to such good use.

Armada Court

This is the prime housing accommodation for older people in Hinckley and it is looking good. Some concern has been expressed about the necessary support when it is used for sheltered accommodation

Ashby Road

We are still working on the problem of too many properties sharing the same post code and ambulances being mis-directed as a result

Baptist Walk

I have asked for a restoration of the brick wall and railings to complement the Baptist Church

Big Pit

Together with so many other people I remain opposed to the proposal to destroy this environmental asset, a move which I foresee will result in local flooding.



Bloors Development

An 850 homes development is planned for this site off the Northern Perimeter Road. It is essential that infrastructure is provided in the form of a new school, GP surgery provision and improvements to the road network

Bosworth Battlefield

It is profoundly disappointing that more was not done to protect a vital part of the surrounding area to enable future generations to picture the whole scene.

Brexit

An awful word which has been imposed on us. In addition to all my other concerns I have been seeking answers to what arrangements are in place to cater for the needs of HGVs and their drivers who may not be able to reach their destinations in the Midlands because of tachograph restrictions.

Brodick Road open space

It is good to see how the trees are flourishing in this area, a site which we had to fight to save from development

Centre of England project

Encouraged by the BBC I led a move to have the true centre, which is close to Fenny Drayton, marked by an obelisk. I hope that more will be made to celebrate the fact that the centre is here - and not at Meriden.

Clarendon Park and Coventry Road playing fields

Clarendon Park is in the ownership of the Borough Council but the playing fields are not. It is essential that these fields remain in public use

Coventry Road

This is one of the main entrances into town and suffers at different times to speeding and congestion problems. I continue to work with others to try to make the road as safe and pleasant for both road users and the many people who live alongside

Crematorium

It is good to see real progress being made with this project

Crescent

Having been partly responsible for this project it is good to see so many restaurants and shops up and running. We now need to see the vacant premises taken up

Cinema

Having campaigned for so long to see cinema re-introduced into the town it is good to see this most welcome asset doing well.

Cross Country Trains

As a life long supporter of rail travel I have pressed for the introduction of more trains to stop at Hinckley , the introduction of a through Leicester- Coventry service and better conditions for passengers.

DB Symmetry

Despite my support for rail travel I remain deeply concerned about the impact of this massive proposal on Burbage Common and the impact of all the associated HGV traffic on Junction 2 of the M69 and local roads through Hinckley & Burbage.

Dodwells bridge and Harrowbrook Industrial Estates

All industrial estates in the area are thriving and provide a good mix of employment but they are all plagued by the over-night parking of HGVs, a problem which has now extended into residential areas within reach of the A5

East Midlands Councils

Through membership of this body I can witness at first hand the problems of the cities and counties trying to act as a counter weight to the West Midlands which receives so much in Government support than our area. Leicestershire is pretty well at the bottom of the league for all Government funding.

Education

I have continued to take a close interest in league tables, parking issues, school funding, allocation of developer fundings and accommodation issues and the impact all this has on children and their families.

Faray Drive

This is a developing part of town and together with colleagues I have pressed for the early completion of roads and open spaces etc.

Ferness Road

This is a unique development and we are currently grappling with the potential for ASB with the risk of fires. This is a situation which needs resolving as soon as possible

George Eliot

This is our closest acute hospital and I have continued to monitor its progress at first hand. So many residents in this area depend on its services. I cannot speak too well of the staff involved.

Ghia Building

This prominent building continues to deteriorate despite all previous assurances that it will be properly maintained.



GP Surgeries

I have been closely involved in trying to ensure that developer monies intended for surgeries is actually spent on surgeries. I have grave doubts that the massive growth planned in housing will result in an adequate supply. The shortage of GPs and nursing staff has to be of concern.

Hays Lane

Despite all efforts this unadopted road remains in a totally unsatisfactory state. I look forward to a time when the County Council will resume its programme of taking these roads over, a scheme abandoned in the 80's.

Highways England

Staff at this body which is responsible for all our trunk roads are always courteous and helpful but are never able to give any indication of the likely impact of all the proposed developments on the road network , the congestion of which grows worse by the day.

Holliers Walk

This former school transferred to the former Mount Grace building but it is not clear whether it will ever be used as a school again, an obvious question to pose as there is now hardly sufficient primary accommodation in the town.

Holywell Inn

It is good to see this popular pub under new management and hopefully thriving. A few years ago it was threatened with demolition.



Hospitals

Some of us have long been concerned about what the future holds and I have long been involved with consultations with a view to ensuring that the area has the facilities it needs. The process towards obtaining NHS approval continues.

Langdale Road

There is still no resolution as to the future of the former garage sites which deteriorate from time to time.

Leicester Road residents

Although I no longer represent this part of town I continue to attend meetings as this group provides useful challenges and insight into issues. I would welcome and support any other similar groups in the area as issues come to the fore which would otherwise be overlooked.

Midlands Connect and Midlands Engine

I attend presentations from these bodies when invited. They have far reaching ambitions and I wish them well but let's wait to see what if anything is actually achieved on the ground.

Millfield Centre

I was very sorry to see this much loved establishment closed down but at least it looks as if the building is to be retained and now put to use by a private initiative – once again giving help to disadvantaged youngsters

Northern Perimeter Road

We are waiting for Bloors to construct their new roundabout but when completed I look forward to the imposition of a 40mph speed limit which will make the road safer and quieter for the adjoining residents. What has to happen is an improvement to the road itself, Dodwells Bridge roundabout and the A5 to reduce the daily congestion which occurs even when the system is operating normally.

Nutts Lane

This road with its 200 year old canal bridge was never intended to carry the 44 tonne HGVs which pound along it every day. We have spent much time and effort in trying to improve pedestrian safety not just for Nutts Lane residents but for the benefit of the people of the new estates who have to cross the bridge to get into town. The long overdue new footpath is indeed welcome.



Parking in town centre

I continue to oppose the proposal to start charging for on-street parking. The centre of Hinckley was built before the invention of the motor car and most people have no where else to park except in their street. It will not work and should be dropped.

Roston Drive

The abiding problem here is excessive speeding, an issue I have been raising with the authorities ever since the road was opened on to what is now the NPR. Motorists are constantly stopped but nothing seems to stop what are known as boy racers.

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 supplies useful and cheap premises and has given many people the start they need to set up on their own.

Stoke Road issues

4 schools use this and the nearby Wykin Road as their only means of access. As these schools expand so does the issue of road safety. As new proposals come forward it is essential to bear the interests of all these children and young people in mind.

Strategic Growth Plan

The main element is the proposed A 46 expressway and the 40,000 more homes along its stretch. I continue to express concern about the impact on the road network and the growth of warehousing which is taking up so much of our countryside. I am not convinced that so much new housing is going to be required although provision has to be made for young people starting out on their own and for the ageing population which will need specialist help.

Sweet Pea Bowling Club

I very much hope that the grant now being made available will allow this club and its long standing green to continue to flourish

The Paddock

To everyone's shock the Planning Inspector overturned all recommendations and decisions and has permitted the building of 55 flats on this site where previously only 10 houses were to be built. All design considerations now appear to have been dismissed by an arbitrary decision of one man.

The Trees, Deveron Way

Existing residents and their families were very disturbed by plans to relocate them. Everyone was very relieved by the decision to allow them to stay

Unitary Status

I have taken the view that the sheer upheaval of yet another re-organisation is simply not worth the costs. We need to make the existing system work better and all public services need to be properly funded.

Waterside Park

This development has grown to about 700 properties and yet ,in common with so many other recent developments, roads and open spaces remain unadopted. We can all see when the road surface deteriorates but who is investigating what happens to sewers and drains which we cannot see.



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

David Bill MBE County Councillor