



Tom Barkley- Annual Report 2019/20

County Councillor for Syston Ridgeway

The Division comprises of the Town of Syston and the Parish of Wanlip

Electoral Division Activities

I had the privilege of being elected as the County Councillor for Syston Ridgeway in June 2018, to serve the residents of the division . I am also a local Borough and Town Councillor

I have been involved in many projects during the year and during the Covid Pandemic have been involved in assisting the sheltering, vulnerable and isolated residents. During the year, working with the doctors at the local health centre, health facilities have been significantly improved in the area with more services being delivered locally. I will continue to work with medical practitioners to improve facilities further for residents

Crime and anti-social behaviour have been tackled by working with the police and significant improvements have been achieved, with Neighbourhood watch groups set up and residents feeling more secure.

Flooding issues have been tackled and resolved permanently, by input of new infrastructure to stop flooding and clearance of waterways and culverts

Highways and traffic issues throughout the division, including the mini roundabout in the centre of Syston, traffic flow through Syston town and air pollution are issues that I continue to raise and am trying to obtain developer contributions to enable improvements. Highway maintenance has been carried out to maintain the road system throughout the division

During the pandemic, many businesses have suffered, and I have been working with businesses. I have been able to signpost them into successfully applying for grants which have enabled them to survive in these unprecedented times

The growth of housing in Syston has been a focus, with meetings with developers to ensure that infrastructure and provision of School and health facilities within the town is given priority and consideration at the time planning permission is granted. Our local Member of Parliament Edward Argar has been particularly supportive in the issues I have raised. I have run a monthly surgery to address residents' concerns, which has continued on Zoom during the pandemic and lockdown. A Socio- economic review of the town has been carried out and a business plan developed in consultation with residents and local businesses which will be implemented over the next 4 years.

I am working with local community groups to support and enhance their contribution within the division and in the town.

Climate Change

Climate change is a particular area of interest to me, I am on a Climate Change Project Board where significant strides have been made to help us achieve Carbon neutrality by 2030. The measures implemented have been timely, cost effective and enabled significant reduction in the carbon footprint saving the planet for future generations to enjoy.

Community Events

I support the many activities within the town, which is fortunate to have a strong community spirit. The local carnival, Christmas fair, University of the third age, Methodist youth café , Syston and District Volunteer Centre and Syston Band and also litter picks organised by the Town Council to improve the environment . We are also fortunate to have a local history group – Syston History Group which I attend .

Priorities for the immediate future

- Health provision within the division
- Working in Partnership with the police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the division and making residents feel safe in their community
- Highways and traffic calming solutions in the division
- Climate Change
- Engagement with the local health centre
- Engagement with Schools within my division
- Working with Local community groups to assist in obtaining grant funding
- Maintaining regular Councillor surgeries to address residents' concerns within the division
- Strategic Growth Plan
- Working to assist businesses in the recovery from the pandemic to preserve jobs and the local economy.

Council Activities – (Bodies served on at County Hall)

- Corporate Governance Committee (Chair)
- County Council
- Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Local Pension Committee
- Scrutiny Commission

Local Committees/outside bodies

- Charnwood Health and wellbeing partnership
- Great Central Railway Liaison Group
- Deputy Leader Charnwood Borough Council and lead member for Finance and Property services
- Chairman – Syston Town Council

- Attendance at Parish Council meetings in the division, with monthly reports and updates provided.

Learning and Development

- Training at County Hall- Weekly briefings and updates
- Corporate Governance training
- Local Pension Committee training

Social Media

- Twitter and Facebook occasional user