

County Councillor Annual Report

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during 2019/20

Peter Bedford CC

1) Electoral Division activities

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

During the past year I have served as a Scrutiny Commissioner, and a member of the Local Pensions Committee. In doing so I have scrutinised the activities of the Authority, contributed to good governance over policy decisions and brought my finance experience (from the private sector) to the benefit of the Authority.

I continue to attend and work closely with all four parishes in the Division (Markfield, Desford, Bagworth & Thornton, and Stanton under Bardon) particularly on prospective planning applications – of which we have seen a significant increase in the year.

I continue to chair the Bardon Hill Quarry Community Fund where we promote applications from in and around Markfield for schemes that would better the environment for local people.

I have assisted over 50 residents through casework on a range of issues including: flooding, speeding, parking enforcement, to queries over education and health/social care.



I continue to attend Parish Council Meetings via Zoom

Community Leadership Role

- Markfield: Campaigned against extension of the dispatch and delivery times of Crown Crest (Desford) that would have a detrimental impact on the amenities of local residents resulting from increased HGV traffic.
- Desford: Highlighting the need for speed reduction measures and working with the Parish Council on solutions to local highways issues.
- Bagworth & Thornton: Chaired a public meeting of County, Borough, Parish, Severn Trent, and Police representatives on finding a workable solution to the parking issues around the Reservoir.
- Stanton under Bardon: Supporting local residents in their opposition to the Bardon Three Development which is in close proximity to the village. In doing so I have attended resident meetings, met with Borough Councillors, corresponded with the applicants and involved the Member of Parliament in championing the case of residents.



Working closely with Borough Councillors on issues that straddle both Borough and County Authority matters.

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

- I have monthly meetings with Severn Trent Water on developing solutions to the Parking Issues experienced at and around Thornton Reservoir.
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Priorities for the immediate future are:

- Support local voluntary and community groups such as the Markfield Good Neighbours (MGN), and the Desford Good Neighbours/In Bloom schemes as they support those impacted by the Corona virus pandemic;
- Campaigning for 'sustainable development' by opposing housing schemes that would have a detrimental impact on the quality of life of local residents;
- Improvements in the enforcement of parking issues for rural communities such as those in Thornton (which is heavily impacted by the Reservoir);
- Campaigning for safer 'routes to schools' – such as the walk from Markfield village to The South Charnwood High School;
- Support 'cleaner, greener' initiatives for rural communities by promoting greater use of green space for recreation and sporting activities.



Meeting with local residents to oppose unsustainable development

2) Council Activities

Committees you serve on at County Hall

- Scrutiny Commission
- Local Pensions Committee

Local committees/Outside Bodies

- Bardon Hill Quarry Community Fund (Chair)
- Markfield Parish Council (attendee)
- Desford Parish Council (attendee)
- Bagworth & Thornton Parish Council (attendee)
- Stanton under Bardon Parish Council (attendee)

Other bodies – School governors/community and charity organisations etc

- I have been asked to serve as a Trustee of 'Ability Access' a disability awareness charity and will assume this role shortly.

3) Learning and Development

- Local Pensions Committee Training (ongoing)

4) Other Matters:

Outside of my Council activities I continue to work a "full time job" as a 'Business Leader' within Severn Trent. In doing this role I continue to bring experience and expertise from the private sector to the fore during council meetings and activities.

Communications

- I have produced and delivered a County Councillors Newsletter in the Autumn of 2019.
- I maintain an active presence on both Twitter and Facebook on my public duties:
Facebook: @peterbedfordmdt
Twitter: @peterbedfordmdt
- I write a monthly column in The Herald: <http://www.markfieldherald.co.uk/>
- I can be easily reached by resident via telephone and email.

County Councillor's Report from Peter Bedford

Email: peter.bedford@leics.gov.uk or phone: 01455 824733 or www.facebook.com/peterbedfordmdt

HELLO EVERYONE, I hope that you are keeping well as we all adjust to new 'norm'.

It has been great to see so many community spirited volunteers continuing to help support each other locally. Most notably in recent weeks with the Markfield Good Neighbours (MGN) Scheme volunteers assisting with 'social distancing' at the Post Office. Thank You for all that you are doing!

Covid Update

As at 27 May there were 2,177 lab confirmed cases in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) 349 people who tested positive with coronavirus have sadly died in Leicestershire's hospitals.

Antibody testing to show if people have had coronavirus is going to be rolled out from the end of May.



There will be a phased approach with NHS staff and social care staff taking priority. The initial number of tests available will be small, but this will be increased by the end of June. It's important to note that antibody testing does not mean that people have immunity even if they have a positive result and social distancing rules still need to be observed.

For more information about the government's coronavirus antibody testing programme can be found: www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-antibody-tests

Local authorities in LLR are part of eleven areas in England selected to share good practice for the new test and trace service, a key element in the Government's fight against coronavirus. Each local authority will be given funding to develop tailored outbreak control plans, working with local NHS and

other stakeholders. Work on the plans will start immediately and focus on identifying and containing potential outbreaks in workplaces, housing complexes, care homes and schools. As part of this work, local authorities will also need to ensure testing capacity is deployed effectively to high-risk locations. Local authorities will work closely with the test and trace service, local NHS and other partners to achieve this.

Recycling and Household Waste Sites

The County Council re-opened seven of its Waste & Recycling sites from the 18th May at: Barwell, Lough, Market Harborough, Melton Mowbray, Mountsorrel, Oadby and Whetstone.

Whilst this is great news it is important that residents should only go to the tip if stored waste is becoming unsafe at home and a risk of causing injury, illness or harm as there continues to be additional pressures disposing of this waste owing to the National situation.

Initial feedback from residents that have used the most local sites at Barwell & Mountsorrel has been positive.

The pre-booked time slots can be made: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/waste-and-recycling/book-a-waste-site-appointment>

Planning matters

Whilst planning matters are decided by the Borough Council (HBBC), and which I do not as County Councillor get a vote, I continue to work closely with

Parish Councils to ensure that the views of local residents are taken into account before decisions are made.

Aggravated by the lack of a sustainable five-year housing supply

we have seen the number of speculative planning applications, our side of the Borough, sky-rocket during the past year. Residents have made it quite clear that they do not wish to see excessive housing developments foisted upon them. As such I continue to work with the County Council, typically a consultee in the process, to ensure that Highways, Education, and Infrastructure impacts are fully considered and taken into account by the Local Planning Authority at Hinckley.

South Charwood School Walk

I continue to work with LCC Officers on solutions to the concerns expressed by many parents of students at South Charwood High School over the safety of the school walk.

Recent progress has been made on:

- **Hedge and vegetation encroachment on to the footway** - LCC will inspect the route for vegetation to ensure cutting and 'edging back' increases the width of the pavement.
- **Bus Service** - LCC to support the School in the exploring and developing options regarding bus service and its cost.



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• **Social distancing** - LCC to assess impact of 'social distancing' on the walking routes to the school and exploring central government funding where available to address concerns.

At County Hall our meetings continue to take place via Skype and seem to be working well.

We continue to have weekly 'all member' briefings on Covid with really good engagement and collaborative working across all political groups.

I have now attended ZOOM meetings with Desford, Markfield and Stanton under Bardon Parish Councils all of which went without too many 'technological hiccups'!

I continue to wish you and your families well, and please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything you need.

Best wishes,

Peter

(County Councillor for Markfield, Desford, Bagworth, Thornton, Botcheston, and Stanton under Bardon)

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An example of my Monthly Column for The Herald

Signed by Councillor

Peter A Bedford

Date

21st June 2020