

## **ANNUAL REPORT FROM HILARY FRYER**

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR QUORN AND BARROW**

I find it hard to believe that it is three years since I was elected as the County Councillor for Quorn and Barrow, this division also covers a small part of Mountsorrel. It has been a challenge at times but enjoyable and I am very proud to represent all the residents. It is not always possible to assist them with every concern or problem but I make every effort to do so.

This year has been particularly challenging with some extreme weather and now Covid19 which has completely changed everyone's life, sadly for some completely life changing. This has meant different ways of communicating with our residents and learning new skills in order that meetings etc can still be held albeit remotely.

I sit on the following committees and outside bodies. Since last May I have been chair of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Children and Families Department is one of the key functions of the County Council.

#### **Committee Appointments**

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny  
Adults and Communities  
Scrutiny Commission  
Children's Social Care Panel  
Children in Care Panel  
Child Protection Panel  
Scrutiny Review Panel

#### **Appointments to Outside Bodies**

Quorn Townlands Charity - Trustee  
British Gypsum (Saint Gobain) Liaison Group  
Mountsorrel Quarry Liaison Group

As County Councillor I try to attend the Parish Council meetings of the three villages – Quorn, Barrow and Mountsorrel. If I cannot attend then I normally send in a written report. Currently due to Covid19 all these meetings are held remotely so I send in a report. I work closely with the Borough Councillors who represent these villages on Charnwood Borough Council. This county division only covers a small part of Mountsorrel so therefore I work with the two Borough Councillors representing Mountsorrel and also the County Councillor who is represents the majority of the village.

As these villages run into each other the concerns and problems raised by residents and the Parish Councils often overlap. Particularly when discussing traffic and Mountsorrel Quarry.

One of the long standing concerns affecting Quorn, Barrow and Mountsorrel and also Sileby is flooding. Particularly Slash Lane and Mountsorrel Lane. Some work has been done on Slash Lane but all the villages are affected when these lanes are closed due to flooding because the only way to access the A6 and therefore Loughborough and Leicester is through Barrow, this often brings the village to a virtual standstill. All these villages have had a great deal of development since 2000 and more still being undertaken, therefore the traffic is increasing all the time.

Unfortunately through the year there have been a number of properties flooded. This has entailed working with the County Council and Borough Council to alleviate the problems and hopefully find a solution.

Another item that concerns all the residents is parking. These three villages are historic and were never expected to have the amount of traffic going through them as there is now. The majority of the facilities such as shops, pubs, hairdressers, cafes etc are all on the 'high' streets which have little or no on street parking. All three villages have had considerable development since 2000 with little or no improvement to the infrastructure. During the past year I sat on the Quorn Car Parking committee which was set up with the Borough Councillors and other interested bodies such as local businesses and residents to do surveys and put forward ideas to try and alleviate some of the parking problems. A report has been presented to Quorn Parish council for their consideration.

Quorn and Barrow have both primary schools and secondary schools, which bring their own problems with them with regard to traffic and parking. Again working with Borough councillors and also officers at County we are looking at ways to mitigate some of the problems.

Together with the Borough Councillors for Quorn and the MP I contribute 6 times a year to the Quorndon Magazine. It was originally quarterly but since earlier in this year has increased.

As I am also the Borough councillor for Barrow together with the other councillor we put out information in the Echo.

Until the current Covid19 situation I held 5 surgeries a year in both Quorn and Barrow with the Borough councillors.

I attend the training sessions and briefings offered by County whenever possible and find them to be most beneficial. I have also been a substitute on a variety of committees, this has given much more knowledge on how the council works.

I like to think that I have a good working relationship with officers and fellow councillors at the County Council.

This has been a very difficult year for everyone and in the future decisions are going to have to be made which makes being an active councillor even more important. We do not know the long lasting effects of Convid19 both financially and on the welfare of our residents. Children have had their education interrupted and the uncertainty of employment could have effects that we cannot predict.

I am proud of our communities and how they have pulled together to work together. I will carry on representing them to the best of my ability.

*Hilary Fryer*