

County Councillor Annual Report

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

Name of Councillor

Trevor Pendleton
Castle Donington and Kegworth Division.

The demographics in this division are constantly changing. The area proves to be most attractive to Businesses and Individuals alike. Situated on the N.W. fringe of the County between Leicester, Derby and Nottingham, it has Junction 24 of the M1 at its core which itself is the junction for the A50, A6 and A453. Uniquely the division has A Race Track, Airport and now a Rail Freight Interchange. This all brings its communication pressures and challenges which have lead to the main priorities as below:

1) Electoral Division activities

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

At County Level, after securing the completion of the Bypass for Kegworth from Developer contributions from the Rail Freight Interchange, and at no cost to the taxpayer, the next task was to secure a similar outcome for Castle Donington. Castle Donington village had particularly long suffered from A42/A50 'rat runners'. Before leaving NWLDC (where I was Regeneration and Planning Cabinet Lead Member) as part of the newly adopted District Cll. plan and as a result of pressure to build houses close to the Airport in both Villages it proved possible to levy the cost from Developers to build the Castle Donington Bypass which was completed and opened earlier this year. I have, since 'Lock-Down', been working with LCC to appropriately sign the route so that we can maximise the benefits to our community. The alternative will be calls to make the straight through route less attractive by putting in raised areas and speed bumps which will of course slow the traffic down thus making the old route less attractive but inevitably again raise the level of noise and pollution and ruin the cleaner air brought about by less car and HGV through traffic. We need also to bear in mind that Sat Nav alterations and updates will also take a little while to work through - so we are still watching the results unfold.

After the Kegworth bypass opening there were calls to remove the speed cameras on the A6 through Kegworth at the end of last year but after my representation to wait and see what the lighter traffic speeds were, following a fear that they would increase, I persuaded the police to wait and analyse the data first.

I have overseen at County Level the roll out of Broad-Band to even the smallest of pockets previously not catered for, particularly in long suffering Lockington and Hemington. Also in that parish overspill parking from businesses at Lockington Hall had proved to be a nagging problem which we solved by negotiating with the owner to secure planning permission for more parking provision at the Hall.

Having been consulted on County subsidised bus routes, particularly the 155, knowing what a lifeline it was to residents here, I have persuaded all concerned to keep a similar service going in to the future. However I am under no illusion that if in the future usage continues to decline, the

inevitable will happen and we shall lose it as it will be judged a poor use of rate-payers money.

Community Leadership Role

Locally:

HS2 will probably impact Kegworth by removing some proposed housing development to the West of the Village. Working with the Parish Council on its Playing Field Strategy and as a consequence of the need highlighted in the strategy we were expecting these Housing Developments would also have provided some much needed Playing Fields. I am hopeful that by using knowledge gained as HS2 Lead member that we can lobby for HS2 to pay for an alternative provision somewhere else in the village.

I continue to represent constituents and businesses to engage with the Parish Council which is setting about trying to re-develop a more pedestrian-friendly Kegworth Village centre, now the bypass has relieved it of much traffic.

I have just been invited on to a steering group which has been granted Government monies to develop Cycle track routes from Nottingham to EMA and Castle Don and Kegworth.....Good in the new post Covid/Green environment.

Leicestershire:

As Chairman of the County Wide Members Advisory Group for the award winning Strategic Growth Plan, which co-ordinates Housing and Commercial provision for the whole County and City, I can report that we continue to make progress on agreeing future developments. These figures are co-ordinated up to 2031 with 2036 soon to be mapped (and next will be 2050). There is just some small residual warehouse provision in the NWLDC Local Plan which can be allocated North of the A50 and which will not be detrimental to our villages.

I am keen for our area, with an increase of thousands of jobs from the new but only half completed Rail Freight interchange and an expanding Airport, with Free Port Status aspirations, not to have to absorb any more housing numbers from other Districts and Boroughs!

As newly appointed Highways & Transport Cabinet Member and a member of the HS2 Toton Delivery Board I am keen to see Tram/Light Rail transport links between the HS2 Toton station and EMA.

I am pleased to have organised a re-opening of the Residual Household Waste Tips which we were instructed to close down under the C19 lockdown. We took the political initiative to re-design the system to a 'new normal' on-line booking system which also gave appointment times that managed the amount of people on site to keep social distancing for users and protect our work force at these facilities.

Of particular note is that they are open 7 days a week, unlike 5 as previously!

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

In my previous role at County Hall I oversaw the County Superfast Leicestershire Broadband contracts initiative for the West of the County.

Priorities for the immediate future are:

I see our villages as continuing to be under pressure from the Airport, Rail Freight Interchange and re-purposed Power Station site which when de-commissioned the owners wish to develop as a centre for Green Excellence and provide future jobs with our new green transport system.

As a consequence of these pressures the A453 Dualling past the Airport will also aid the work force to access/exit the Airport and benefit/protect Castle Donington Village Centre by providing a faster route for the A42/A50 traffic to access the A50 at J24 and NOT go through their Village.

This development WILL be needed to safeguard our villages!

Continue the work on Village Centres and work through Long Lane/HS2 issues.

See that the new Article 4 Special Planning Document with regard to Houses of Multiple Occupation which applies to Kegworth Village and surrounding area is successfully implemented and monitor its effectiveness.

Make sure that the review of road markings on the Hilton Road west of J24 is implemented.

2) Council Activities

Committees you serve on at County Hall

As newly promoted Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, the greening of our Transport Infrastructure 'post Covid19' with resultant Cycle ways will be one of the many challenging and exciting priorities.

Local committees/Outside Bodies

East Midlands Airport Consultative Committee.
Member of Loughborough Town Development Board.
SEGRO (Rail Freight) Liason Group
Toton Station Delivery Board.

Signed by Councillor Trevor Pendleton
Date 28th June 2020.