

MAGGIE WRIGHT - Annual Report 2019/2020

County Councillor for Stoney Stanton and Croft Division.

The Division comprises the Parishes of Aston Flamville, Croft, Elmesthorpe, Huncote, Potters Marston, Sapcote, Stoney Stanton, Sharnford and Wigston Parva. Collectively known as the “Fosse Villages”.



Electoral Division Activities

This year has seen many unprecedented events. Virus and Flooding. I was devastated for the Villagers of Stoney Stanton on 1st October when 34 properties were flooded. Many of the residents affected have been out of their homes for several months and issues continue. I am working with multi-agencies to find the cause. County were successfully in getting funding for an Integrated Flood Modelling Study which has been delayed due to the virus. The Stoney Stanton Flooding Action Group has been formed. My thanks to Chris Stubbs, Stoney Stanton Parish Council, for independently leading the group.

I continue to support my Parish Councils and Parish meetings with regular visits, monthly reports and resident surgeries when there is a demand. It has been interesting during the current Corona Virus crisis and the advent of virtual Zoom meetings.

Traffic and Highways issues continue to dominate many resident concerns within the Division. I have continued to support John Taylor's Speed Reduction Campaign on the B581 road between Stoney Stanton and Elmesthorpe. Working in collaboration with the Office of Alberto Costa MP a residents traffic survey is scheduled to be carried out. Unfortunately delayed since lockdown but to be resumed as soon as appropriate. I have worked with Stoney Stanton Parish Council, Manor Field School, residents and the Community Beat Team to install “Billy and Belinda” traffic calming measures in around the pedestrian Crossing adjacent to the Manor field school. Well done Stoney Stanton PC. STAG (Sharnford Traffic Action Group) provide regular updates and the Average Speed Cameras are having a successful impact on reducing speeding through the village of Sharnford.

I am actively pursuing funding possibilities regarding the viability of making the existing Bridleway between the villages of Sharnford and Sapcote a cycleway. As across the country this footpath has been massively used during the current COVID crisis. The ambition is to get more connectivity via cycle/footpaths between all the Fosse Villages.

Plans for the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange continues to be of great concern. Last August I attended numerous Engagement Events organised by the Developer and I travelled to Westminster Hall on 11 February 2020 to attend a Parliamentary debate secured by Alberto Costa MP to highlight residents' concerns to ministers. This coupled with proposals for a Strategic Develop Area off the M69 Junction 2 will have an enormous impact on the environment and an existing infrastructure which is totally inadequate. I attended the LCC Cabinet meeting on 13th September and spoke of resident's concern requesting the immediate setting up an Engagement Group to keep Parish Councils, District Councillors and residents informed of the proposals. One introductory meeting has been held but subsequent ones have had to be cancelled due to virus. I will ensure they begin as soon as practical.

The tipping of waste and the pumping of water at Sapcote and Granitethorpe Quarries continues to be of significant concern to residents in both Sapcote and Stoney Stanton. I have worked with several multi agencies including the Environment Agency to get an agreed Action Plan to monitor and hopefully resolve this issue. Talks and liaison meetings involving our MP are ongoing.

On the 11th of March I organised a Parish Clerk workshop with Environment and Transport staff from LCC to discuss how the Customer Service System works and how queries are handled. The evening gave a good insight and a wide variety of issues and related topics were discussed.

I am still pushing to get super-fast broadband into my communities, particularly in developments in Sapcote. The procurement for phase 4 has now started again and hopefully contracts will be awarded in November 2020. Fingers are crossed that a supplier and a contract will be agreed to deliver this long-awaited service.

I was able to support the Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Fire Authority in getting joint funding from LCC and Blaby District Council to install physical barriers to prevent vehicles entering and getting stuck in flooded water at Watery Gate Thurlaston. The escalating situation had become a threat to life. Barriers are now scheduled to be erected and the issue made the national news.

After several meetings with the developer Countryside involving our MP it is disappointing to report they have refused to contribute to vehicle activated signs requested by Huncote Parish Council. This is after the discharge of a planning condition to improve a footpath between Huncote and Narborough could not be met.

I was privileged on 22nd August 2019 to lead the opening of a memorial quiet seating area at Fosse Meadows Sharnford in memory of the late Cllr. Ernie White who served the Division as County Councillor for many, many years.



Community Events

I was delighted to support the successful nomination of Maureen Collins of the Croft Happy Circle for the British Citizen Award. This was presented in January at the People's Honours at the Palace of Westminster. Maureen has dedicated her leadership skills to the club and its members for several decades.

I was also pleased to have nominated the Croft Good Neighbours Scheme for the best Community Group at the Blaby District Council achievement Awards in October. They were runners up.

On February 29th I helped to plant over 500 tree saplings to create a new wood in Thurlaston. It was like planting in a paddy field it was so wet. However, the water has really helped the saplings to take root.

I was honoured to be guest speaker at the Croft and District British Legion branch dinner which took place after the Remembrance Sunday Service. This local branch is very active, keeps the Memorial Garden area beautifully clean and tidy with magnificent red roses and do a large amount of fund raising.

I attended the splendid Wigston Parva "Tea on the Green", Stoney Stanton musical "Brass on the Grass" and gathered Christmas bargains at the Aston Flamville Christmas Fair. I have enjoyed visiting the primary schools at Stoney Stanton and Sapcote. I was treated to a fantastic Christmas production of "I'm gonna Shine" at All Saints Church of England Primary school Sapcote in December. I Attended a lovely Garden Party tea on 22nd August hosted jointly by the Croft Happy Circle and Good Neighbours.

There is a great sense of community spirit in the Fosse Villages which has been demonstrated magnificently throughout the COVID 19 crisis. Numerous volunteers have helped to support our most vulnerable residents. A massive thank you to all our Key Workers!!!

Priorities for the immediate future

- Proposed Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange.
- SDA M69 Junction 2 proposals
- Follow the Fosse Villages Neighbourhood Plan through to referendum.
- Continue engagement with schools within the Division
- Continue engagement with local GP Surgery
- Review of Rural bus services and pilot proposals
- Traffic and infrastructure issues
- Pursue funding opportunities for cycle and footpaths

Council Activities - (Bodies served on at County Hall)

- Health and Overview and Scrutiny Committee Vice Chair.
- Development Control and Regulatory Board.
- Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority.
- Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Local committees/Outside Bodies

- Thurlaston Parish Council (Community Chair)
- Deputy Leader at Blaby District Council portfolio Holder for Finance, Efficiency and Assets.

Other bodies - School governors/community and charity organisations

- Thurlaston Primary School Foundation Governor
- Thurlaston Church and Chapel activities
- Thurlaston Players' and Amateur Dramatics Group

Learning and Development

- I attended the LGA conference in Bournemouth in June 2019.
- Media Training at County Hall on 17th September 2019.
- Combined Fire Authority Training at Warwick University on 26th June 2019 – Leadership Essential Course

Social Media

- Occasional tweeter
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