

COUNTY COUNCILLOR ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during 2019/2020

Councillor Betty Newton, County Councillor for Loughborough North



The past twelve months have been a busy time for me as a County Councillor. I'm also Deputy Leader of the Labour Group at County Council.

In my role as a County Councillor, I am a member of the Employment Committee as well as being a member of the Member Conduct Panel. I also sit on the Combined Fire Authority and am Vice-Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee as well as being Chair of the Strategic Equalities Group. Throughout the year I have maintained a good meeting attendance record, speaking on a number of issues at Full Council meetings.

County Council Briefings/Workshops Attended:

As one of the Three Member Champions for Corporate Parents for looked after children, I attended those briefings/meetings held by the Council and delivered a speech on Corporate Parenting at one of the Full Council meetings.

I also attended Briefings held on Brexit to learn of the possible impact on local Council work. Mental Health has been a major issue in recent years. I attended a number of important briefings on Mental Health First Aider and led a Health presentation at one such briefing. I participated in a Briefing on Medium Term Financial Strategy. I was pleased to be able to participate in a Training session on the Role of the Highway Authority in the Planning process. Another event I participated in was a Digital Strategy on CSE and the Environment and Transport.

Conferences Attended:

An important event I attended last year was the three day Conference on County Council Network at Guildford. This worthwhile event provided an opportunity to meet with other councillors and discuss matters of common interest.

I have attended the regular monthly meetings of the Fire Authority meetings working with the Equalities team there. I also attended the Fire Authority meetings in my role as Vice-Chair of Corporate Governance Committee. I have held several briefings with the Chief Fire Officer to discuss important matters arising from these meetings as well as other issues.

A highlight of the year and one which gave me great personal satisfaction, was receiving the Positive Action Award for our work on Equality in the Combined Fire Authority. As the Equalities Champion of this authority, I was tremendously proud of our achievement in receiving this award. The special ceremony in Leicester held to mark the occasion was a public acknowledgement of the hard work we had put into the issue.



Another highpoint of the year was the Annual Local Government Association Fire Conference in Blackpool which I attended and reported on to a Combined Fire Authority meeting.

Some Community Events I've taken part in:

I attended the Arts and Crafts event at Rosebery Community Centre as well as all the Hathern Parish Council meetings held throughout the year. I have also carried out a considerable number of Street Surgeries including surgeries at Gorse Covert on a regular basis meeting with residents and helping with their issues, etc. I have been a regular visitor to the various community groups dealing with their issues including the Robert Bakewell School parking dispute over parents parking outside residents houses.

I attended some WAG events in Ward including the annual Hog Roast!

I have also worked with the local police in relation to a clean-up of a particular area in my patch.
Events and Issues:

I am seldom happier in my work as a councillor than when visiting the community centres and meeting with the residents in my patch. I have been a regular visitor to the Three Closes Residents' Association for many years where I have developed an excellent working relationship with the residents.

Last year I was again invited to be one of the Judges at their annual Easter Bonnet Competition. I have also attended their annual Gardening Day.

I attended the Fourth Anniversary Celebration of Hathern Community Library. Hathern Wicked Festival and helped out on one of the stalls.



Another enjoyable event was the Annual Gorse Covert Summer Fayre.

I have attended some of Loughborough University's Campus Liason meetings which has been helpful in getting to know some of the University staff members.

I've also met with fellow Borough Councillors who attended a briefing with the sergeant at the local police station.

An issue which some residents were concerned about during the year was anti-social behaviour. This led me to meet with the Anti-Social Behaviour Team to discuss the impact on residents in council and Housing Association properties.

Briefings/Training:

I attended a Briefing on schools in Charnwood and highlighted the problem of Hathern School being oversubscribed.

More recently, I have participated in numerous Skype Briefings/meetings dealing with a wide range of issues.

Betty Newton
June 2020

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Key Priorities for the future:

- Will continue to campaign to protect Hathern and Garendon from future development
- Support initiatives to encourage people to cycle more often by making local roads safer for cyclists
- Continue with my programme of street surgeries
- Support the safer routes to school initiative so that parents will choose to walk rather than drive their children to school
- Monitor the ongoing flooding issue in Hathern
- Work for a cleaner, greener and safer environment
- Encourage initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of Loughborough North residents
- Attend Hathern Parish Council meetings
- Continue to work with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the local Police Inspector and his team to deliver a safer living environment
- Community Centres such as those at Gorse Covert, Dishley, Hathern and Storer, provide a meeting place for local people to come together. Given the acknowledged link between improved wellbeing and these centres, I will continue to support their excellent and essential work
- Will campaign for a Loughborough Town Council.

Cllr. Betty Newton

20 June 2020