

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCILLOR TED PARTON 2019- 2020

LOUGHBOROUGH SOUTH DIVISION

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

YOU MATTER!

This report covers the third year of duties, since first being elected to represent the men, women and children of the Loughborough South Division, in May 2017.

The first year of office contained much time spent learning the roles and responsibilities of elected office to the County Council, in addition to understanding the policies, procedures and practicalities of conducting duties for the benefit of both Loughborough South residents and the wider Leicestershire population.

The second year now passed was one of audit, research, triaging and auctioning job requests. To that end, please see below an outline of the year's activities:

Leicestershire County Council has three hugely serious main duties to perform: Highways, children's services and adult social care. The scale of these operations cannot be overstated and they require much attention to detail, huge amounts of time and energy, in addition to listening / observing, then conducting work to ensure that these major parts of the community and its infrastructure are kept in full running order.

HIGHWAYS:

The largest number of enquiries received from residents related to Highway problems. One of the requirements that was clearly needed was to audit the division, checking condition of: pavements, roads, overgrown trees and hedges, street lights and drains.

Roads were resurfaced on: Wallace, Colgrove and Park Roads. Park Road in particular was satisfying, as one had had embarked on an intensive lobbying campaign to have the Southfields section of the carriageway resurfaced (it was in a poor state of repair).

Grateful thanks are due to the staff at Highways, who were most responsive to patch repair requests, just days before the scheduled resurfacing, filling in dangerous, prominent potholes.

Drains were cleared in many locations. Visits to the engineering departments at Croft and Mountsorrel in the County, in order to meet and



thus network with the relevant staff, proved invaluable.

The speed at which repairs were conducted over the past year were consistently quick and thoroughly conducted through to finish.

Burton Street area is resurfaced over two days June 2020

Park Road (Shelthorpe Ward).

This road has had major roadworks for several months (ongoing at time of print), involving Severn Trent Water.

Grateful thanks go to the residents of this stretch of carriageway, who have had to endure huge disruption.



Grass verge damage in Shelthorpe: This is a difficult issue to deal with, as the County Council does not possess the funds to remove grass verges and replace with hardstanding. We are working on a campaign to encourage users of vehicles to park on the carriageway of Shelthorpe Road, as it is wide enough to comfortably and safely accommodate cars. This has the added advantage of slowing through traffic down and discouraging such vehicles from using this now unclassified road as a shortcut to their destinations.

HIGHWAYS - DRAINAGE:

The largest number of Highways enquiries received from residents related to both flooding and drainage problems. One of the requirements that was clearly needed was to audit the division, checking condition and liaising with specific officers regarding drain clearance and repair.



Street Lights: The County Council has a policy, (which pre-dates the 2017 elections) whereby many street lights are switched off between midnight and 05.30 hours. Where this has proved a problem, due to an increase in crime, much work has been done, contacting Highways and the Police, requesting that a review of the current street lighting be taken place, in order that crime /ASB is thwarted. At the time of print, the following areas had reviews in place: Polling district V, Edelin Road, Mayfield Drive, areas on the Shelthorpe Estate.

Where foliage was overhanging street lights, a systemic piece of work has been undertaken in 2019 - 2020 to have these pieces of foliage removed, in order that the light can effectively illuminate the given area.



ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES PANEL:

This body scrutinises the executive functions of the County Council in respect of the Adults and Communities Department. This department manages social care for all ages across Leicestershire.

It also monitors the activities of the Health and Wellbeing Board aimed at improving the integration of health and social care services.



One of the biggest financial pressures on the County Council, who continues to be poorly funded by central Government, is the care of the elderly and disabled. Care of those less fortunate than ourselves is completely the correct priority and the Council rightly seeks to fund this as much as is required.

I cared for an elderly gentleman, Mr Hamilton. He had no surviving relatives and I became his nominated next of kin.

The County Council provided his care package and from the moment he was moved from a care home to independent living, to his passing three years later, his care by LCC was exemplary.

The late James Hamilton.

It was also an honour to be invited to lunch made by four ladies who live in supported accommodation in Markfield. The independence these women have received, despite the severity of their condition, was a joy to behold.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES:

The second major priority for the County Council is looking after children at risk, along with Council maintained schools.

It was with great honour that I was appointed vice-chair of the child protection panel at County Hall. This has involved advising on the work of children's services, specifically in relation to those youngsters at imminent risk of sexual abuse, neglect and being used as drug couriers.

The training for this panel is intense and to that end I have attended: The Warning Zone in Leicester, The Child Sexual Exploitation Hub at Wigston Police Station and the witness interview building at a private location in Leicestershire.

CHILDREN LEAVING CARE CHAMPION:

Following a recommendation from the scrutiny commission and an OFSTED recommendation, a 'children leaving care champion' was appointed. It was an honour to volunteer for the role and this has officially begun in June 2020.

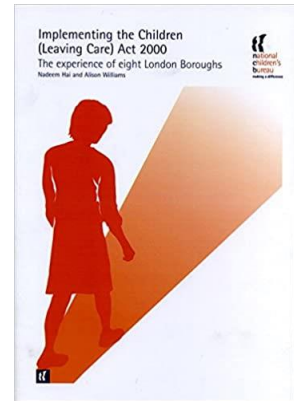
LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN TEAM:



As a member of the County Council, I was appointed to the board of the Loughborough Town Team. This group must deliver the Loughborough Town Centre masterplan 2018-2028.

The board meets at least quarterly and we have already secured capital funding for the Bedford Square / Wards End

improvements.



LEICESTERSHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY:

The role is to provide an efficient fire and rescue service in accordance with various legislative requirements. The **Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004** sets out the principal expectations for the service. Ministerial responsibility for fire and rescue policy now sits under the Home Office. The **Fire and Rescue National Framework for England** sets out the government's expectations and requirements for fire and rescue authorities.



In this council year it was an honour to become a member of the Leicestershire Fire Authority. In addition to attending the six times a year full meeting, one sits on the personnel committee too.

In June 2019 I attended the LGA fire leadership training course, which provided immense value into how to lead a fire authority.



COMMITTEES AT COUNTY HALL:

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL: The Committee scrutinises the executive functions of the County Council in relation to Public Health and monitors the performance of the Health and Wellbeing Board in respect of those executive functions and any other partnerships as appropriate that are associated with the executive functions outlined above.

This Committee also has responsibility for monitoring the performance and activities of the following Health Service functions:

- (a) The exercise by health bodies of functions which affect the area of the County Council;
- (b) Arrangements for responding to consultation by local health bodies for substantial development of the health service or substantial variation in the provision of such services save where these are dealt with through a joint committee with other Social Services authorities.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL BOARD:

The committee must consider larger scale planning applications such as quarries, excavations, roads and schools.

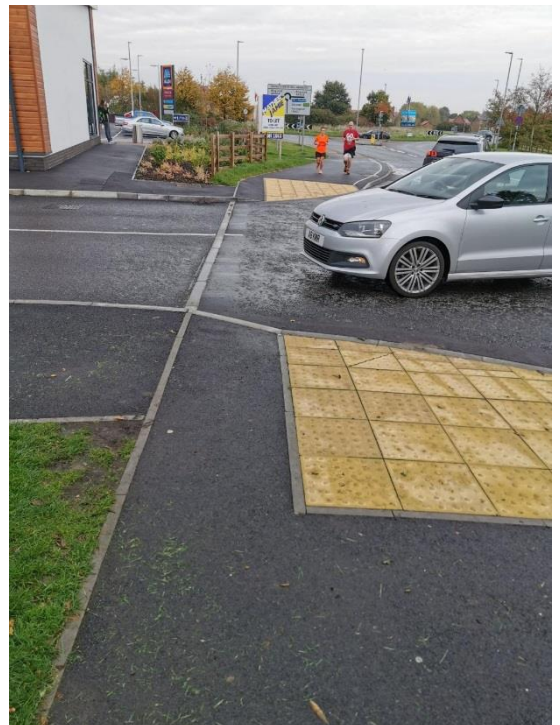
PROGRESS WITH OTHER DIVISION ISSUE PRIORITIES:

Aldi development and traffic issues: This has and is a controversial subject for many residents, who are still worried about the impact that this development will have on the already busy neighbouring road network. To that end, I have had several meetings with Highways at County Hall and this will be CONTINUED TO BE MONITORED now that completion has taken place.

Frederick Street: A public consultation has taken place, led by myself. The results received have been fed back to the Highways assistant director and a short list of solutions are to be worked out, assessed, costed and scrutinised.

Speeding issues: In August 2019, we conducted the FOURTH Southfields and Shelthorpe speed watch scheme. We monitored road speeds on: Frederick Street and Shelthorpe, Ashby, Forest, Wallace, Ling and Allendale Roads.

In August and September we will be conducting an enhanced speed watch scheme (our third such scheme), with two weeks each in Southfields and Shelthorpe Wards.



PARKING PRESSURES IN URBAN AREAS OF THE DIVISION:

An emerging problem is that of new developments being planned (and passed by the District Council -Charnwood) that have 'no requirement for tenants to own a vehicle'. The reality is that this ruling is not legally



enforceable and streets that are subject to resident's preferential parking are squeezed further by these developments. The campaign to thwart such applications is ongoing. An example is the former GTG factory, which a developer is seeking to modify to nine flats. The surrounding streets have no capacity for any further parking spaces. STOP PRESS! Ashby Road parking problems are solved!

With grateful thanks to the residents of Ashby Road and the Highways officers, it has been agreed that my request for double yellow lines from the Epinal Way (A6004) roundabout to 190 Ashby Road have been accepted.

From the academic year 2019-2020 there will no longer be inconsiderate and dangerous parking on the cycle path.



THE LADYBIRD COLLECTIVE:

As part of the ambition of the Town Centre Masterplan, I am co-managing an art project to paint murals on walls in the Town, leading to a Loughborough Art Trail. Three murals have been completed, with the legendary Loughborough University student and Olympic runner, Paula Radcliffe, being the centrepiece of the work so far.

Membership of other organisations:

As a member of Charnwood Borough Council in addition to Leicestershire County Council, I was privileged to become the Community and Charity Champion for the Charnwood area. This has led to some crucial networking meetings already; I have had the honour of discussions with Ken James, awarded the OBE for a lifetime of charity work, in addition to the Lions and Inner Wheel charity support groups. The main work now is to assess how the voluntary sector can both be better equipped and secondly, implement its work better in our Division.



Loughborough Town Team: As the County Council representative one will have the opportunity to deliver, on behalf of the taxpayers, much needed improvements to Loughborough Town Centre, much of which sits in the division.

Shelthorpe community association, Castledine Street Extension and Humphrey Close residents' group, Park Road association, SARG, KARG, Haddon Way / Grange Park association.

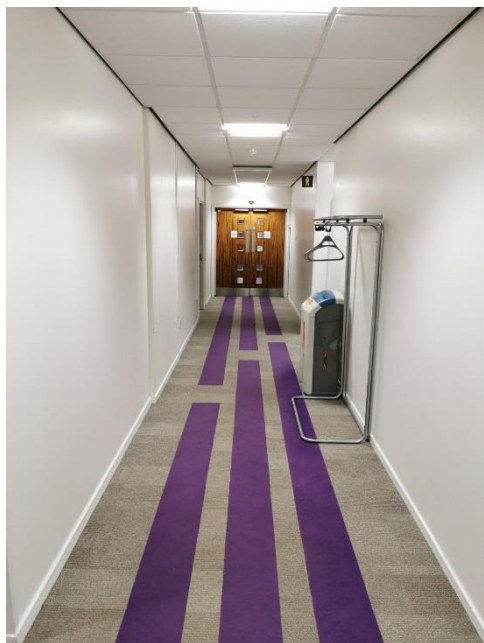
I attend these groups whenever they meet and provide regular bulletins on both current issues and ones which they would like action commenced on.

POSSIBLE BUS ROUTE EXTENSION AND GRANGE PARK:

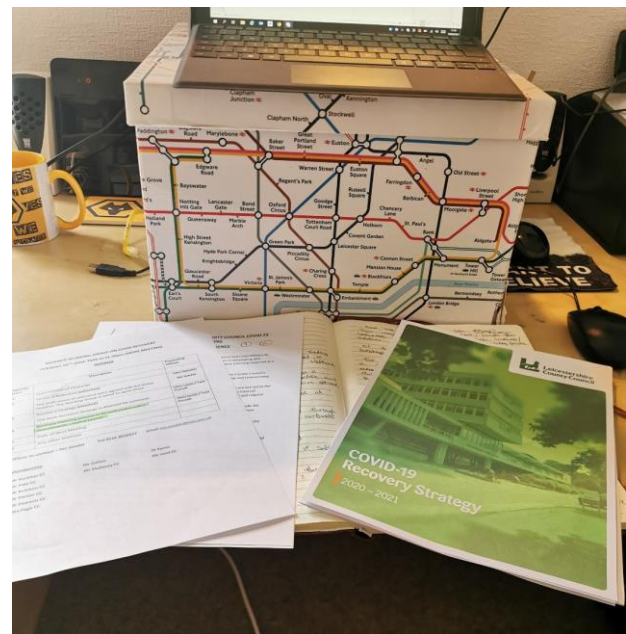
The Grange Park Estate is owned by William Davis Ltd and as such not maintained by LCC. In March the barriers separating Manor Road and the estate were removed, leading to hopes that a bus route was to be commenced. In the meantime, the route was being utilised as a cut-through by traffic, causing many problems for the near residents. Work was undertaken with William Davis and am pleased to report that the company have reinstated the bollards (whilst having resurfaced the road, too) However, whilst discussions regarding a new bus route continue, this particular entrance will not be used as an entrance /exit for bus routes, as an entirely new service will be crated to service the estate from Allendale Road. The present route on Manor Road is popular and as such cannot be re-routed.



COVID-19 PANDEMIC:



Almost the entire world has and continues to manage the Coronavirus outbreak, which became known as a 'Pandemic'. The County Council has suffered major financial losses as a result of much-lower council tax receipts. Central Government has provided financial relief, however whilst going to print, there exists a significant shortfall in funding. Lobbying for further financial assistance remains, whilst a 'Post Covid-19 Recovery Plan' for the County Council has been implemented. I was asked to be a



member of this working party and this met for the first time (virtually) in June.

County Hall during the severest part of the UK lockdown.

Yours Faithfully,

County Councillor Ted Parton

June 2020