

ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCILLOR ROSITA PAGE 2019- 2020

LUTTERWORTH DIVISION

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

From writing the last report until now, life has taken a dramatic change and so has my workload, our remits and the way of working.

Prior to the lock down I spend a lot of time visiting individuals and attending anything from coffee mornings to charity events and jumble sales now I am inhibited

I really struggled with being isolated in my own four walls staring at my computer for 10 to 12 hours most days.

Whilst over the year I attended many briefings on a variety of subjects and I took active part in members training, I now had to learn how to get to grips with Zoom, Skype and Teams.

A totally new way of working and conducting meetings.

There were many things to be addressed and sorted out to ensure services were running, people were safe, risks avoided, and community hubs set up to ensure the vulnerable and shielded in our communities were taken care off.

Thanks to all our volunteers this process went smoothly and not only am I grateful but very proud to be a member of these communities.

I made a lot of phone calls, send out endless emails and handed out cakes.

Again – a big thank you to all the volunteers everywhere.

Our local Age Concern is phoning residents on a regular basis, the Lutterworth church volunteers are providing a full wrap around service and in the villages the church and individuals have organised themselves well to adapt to provide for the needs of the vulnerable.

I managed to secure over £ 23000 in grant funding from LCC for all my volunteers' groups to deal with the needs of my residents and to ensure there is money to make them sustainable to cope with the aftermath



In the beginning of lock down there were endless calls and emails from worried residents who were furloughed but didn't quite understand the concept, workers who didn't have hygiene products, residents who needed advice or just reassurance.

Or indeed there were just questions why there wasn't any grass cutting taking place and -

as lock down continued there were many complaints why refuse tips had closed or threatening to withhold council tax because services were limited. Most days I deal with up to 80 emails and our customer service to ensure replies.

In the Harborough district we continued to collect our bins and between the 2 tier councils we made a pretty good job continuing to provide services. The commitment from councillors and staff was in my opinion very good and is continuing to be pro-active and outward facing, delivering services with limited resources.

Businesses in the Harborough district are supported, and grants given at a speedy rate, food parcels were delivered, PPE distributed, families supported, and schools provided places for key workers among many other things like continuing transport and insuring school meal are available.

I dealt with many such requests.

It didn't always run smooth, but we got there, and we are continuing to thrive to deliver an effective service but in future we may need to manage expectation and must start saying 'no 'as we will be hit even more severely by the financial negative impact and costs.

Prior to lock down my main activities included dealing with flooding issues, helping with road safety issues, working on public health issues, getting involved with the East of Lutterworth development and working on A5 improvement issues and attending the A5 partnership meetings.

Road safety issues included speed checks, Community Safety issues included meetings with the police to address problems and to find solutions, I raised Anti-Social Behaviour issues and ensured they were addressed if possible and there have been many meetings to ensure details of the EoL development were discussed and I made sure infrastructure was in place.

I attended official briefings, meetings and many private meetings with officers to ensure my voice was heard not only in regards of this development but foot path issues, Leaders Farm and tenancies issues.

I spend many years campaigning for safety measures on the A5 and last year in June these were agreed to. Success at last! These works started in March this year and are now completed but I will continue to campaign for further improvements.

I got a good support machine in many a keen resident to whom I am very grateful.

I attended a lot of meetings at the county council, the district council and with parishes. I have a very positive working relationship with the PC's in my division

I am a member of the Children and Family Scrutiny committee at county, I am the vice chair of the LCC scrutiny commission, the scrutiny commissioner at HDC and I chair the LCC pension board.

I sit on outside bodies like the Armed Reserve Forces and I support Help the Heroes, ABF, Loris on an ad hoc basis besides my local charities.

I have engaged with statutory bodies whenever necessary via the scrutiny process and I have been active on many cross-party working groups

We have engaged with the Leicester, Leicestershire Economic Partnership to ensure an effective Industrial Strategy. Which is even more important now going forward with a large part of our workforce presently inactive to ensure a return to economic growth and well-being.

Leisure industries and tourism is a very important part of our rural areas and we must look how we can further promote this sector in the new 'normal' world.

I shall add this to my list of priorities

We welcomed the opportunity to comment on the Equality Strategy and I am looking forward to being instrumental in further shaping the outcomes.

All our councillors have had extensive Equality training and LCC features high in the Stonewall index.

Personally, I have taken part in several equality and safeguarding training session both at district and county

Due to my lobbying the Lutterworth library was retained. It has been modified to include self-service features and it is thriving, embodying a positive community spirit

As a scrutiny body we have been closely monitoring the development of the Primary Care Network and raised concerns. On the personal basis I have quietly campaigned for better health infrastructure for my residents and our growing community.

I have communicated with the 'Health Family ', placed questions and suggestions to the relevant bodies and secured positive commitments to the future of the local hospital and the investment of S 106 funding.

This is but to only name a few things I was actively involved in. For example, as the vice chairman of the LCC scrutiny commission alone I have attended 27 official meetings besides all pre-meetings and I have read and fed into 152 reports for this committee alone.

My priorities have always been to represent my residents the best I can in the past and will do in the future. I enjoyed the personal touch, and, in the past, I have visited residents at home, attended charity and church events, coffee mornings and other social activities specially the ones where cakes were involved were my favourites. I don't know what the future will bring but at this moment in time, I try to place phone calls, write cards, letters and emails all hours of the days.

I text, too but I am not on Facebook or Twitter. I don't like the negative impact of the social media and I rather help where I am needed than getting involved in unhelpful, general discussions.

I am always available for anybody at the end of the phone, text or email for any genuine issues of concern or discussion.

In the very immediate future there are important issues like ensuring a sustainable, environmentally friendly development to the East of Lutterworth which includes a police presence and health facilities with a spine road that will take traffic out of the Lutterworth town centre of a busy national lorry route.

To keep campaigning for A5 improvements, to ensure health provisions, to support volunteers and the community and to ease us all back into that 'new normal' whatever this maybe

My major issue and a priority I have been leading on is effective communication between stakeholders but also effective community to my residents. Not all people are on the internet all day long or possess IT skills.

We have lost local newspapers, community papers and the other means of getting factual, positive news to every household.

We have County Matters, I send out newsletters and County News as well as news shots and endless emails. I feature on individual parish websites and most of the information is on the HDC and LCC websites but to me that isn't good enough and it is resource intensive. I like the idea of turning on a radio, back ground stimulation, company and a friendly way to get communication into every home.

To that means I have been a great supporter to Cross County / Sunflower radio. Cross County is already broadcasting digital but Sunflower the same station but community orientated will launch on 92 FM as soon as possible.

They have secured their FM license and I worked hard to get them the funding for an areal

I am looking forward to that

Rosita Page

District and County Councillor