

ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCILLOR BRENDA SEATON 2019- 2020

THURMASTON RIDGEMERE DIVISION

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

I did not expect to end my third year as a County Councillor in a lockdown of normal family life and the disruption of local and national business that will impact on this council, this country and this world for many years to come.

Over the last three months I have learnt how to Skype, Zoom and manage Teams and I am now confident in using them although I prefer and miss physical meetings where I feel a deeper understanding and appreciation of the subject is achieved.

I have been amazed and overwhelmed at the generosity and kindness from individuals in our communities. In response to Covid19 and the obvious need to help individuals who were shielding I help set up a support group 'Help in our Community' and through that I have gained other skills like WhatsApp and FaceBook. However without a strong community a network of support could not happen.

My Ward, Thurmaston Ridgemere, covers Barkby, Barkby Thorpe, Beeby, South Croxton, Hamilton Lees and Thurmaston. It is a very diverse Ward with distinct areas both rural and urban. The Ward consists of newly built communities, long established villages, retail shopping centres and industrial estates. However which ever area you call home they all share a commonality as in education, transport and roads, employment, social care and health.

South Croxton

I am a regular visitor to this village and often enjoy the circular walk off Kings Lane. I am still involved with the 'play a Part' project that I encouraged the parish council to start when I was first elected. There has been a questionnaire to gauge public opinion and an open day in the village hall to establish what play equipment they would like. We are now in the process of getting quotes for the equipment and landscaping to make the park more accessible and inclusive for all members of the community. Localised flooding has been an issue resulting in gullies being cleaned that will hopefully resolve the problem.

Hamilton Lees

Hamilton Lees is a relatively new community that can only be accessed by passing through Hamilton in the city. The amenities around the Taylor Wimpey homes are still developing and yet to be adopted by the County Council. There are issues such as bus routes and litter bins but these hopefully will be sorted when the estate is adopted.



Barkby, Barkby Thorpe and Beeby

Since the boundary change the planned 4500 houses will be within Thurmaston boundary but Barkby and Barkby Thorpe will still be affected by increased traffic especially whilst being built. That is why I attend regular meetings with CEG along with BABTAG's Owen Bentley and Chair of the Parish Councillor Hugh Asher. Being present at every meeting ensures that the village and its residents are represented at all times. The village of Beeby has undergone some changes recently to existing developments and another application going through the planning process at the moment will change the centre of Beeby. Traffic is getting heavier on all the roads through the villages and will need to be monitored closely.

Thurmaston

Thurmaston being the largest of my wards and my home village occupies a great deal of my time. The village has a busy retail presence as well as warehousing and industrial units. The issues from this large community are varied ranging from traffic problems to neighbour disputes or helping residents apply for a Blue Badge.

Priorities for the immediate future are

Despite reassurance from environmental health that the fumes coming from Earls Way are harmless to people's health they remain unpleasant and stop residents using their gardens at certain times. A Charnwood officer does go out immediately after receiving a complaint to check but as yet he has not been able to confirm a problem. Parking at Church Hill Schools remains a serious issue that will only be eased by parents/carers walking their children to school. The camera car has eased irresponsible parking but the road is not the width to cope with parking for school as well as being a through route for vehicles.

Phase 1 of the proposed Thorpebury development off Barkby Thorpe road was due to start last year but has been delayed

Brenda Seaton

.