

County Councillor Annual Report

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during 2019/20

Name of Councillor Ozzy O'Shea

1) Electoral Division activities

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

Residents will be aware that I unexpectedly lost my wife Jenny suddenly on the 29th June last year after 42 years of wonderful of marriage. Many residents would have known Jenny as she was vice chair of Ratby Parish Council and consort to me as Chairman of Leicestershire County Council. However, after a short break I returned fully to my Council duties as Jenny would have wanted.

I have worked closely with Forestry and Highways to have trees and hedges cut back on numerous occasions and specifically along the Ivanhoe trail. I have also arranged with forestry for new trees be planted where we have had to remove a tree in my ward. I have worked with residents, the Parish Council and the police on parking issues including pavement parking in Groby.

I have supported the Councils position and reassured residents over part-night lighting, when we had a spike of thefts from motor vehicles in my ward again working closely with the police. I have an excellent working relationship with the Police and the PCC as a retired respected police officer. I continually work closely with the Police on local issues on behalf of my residents. I have worked closely with the Borough Council and the Police on issues of sexual Anti-Social Behaviour at Groby Pool over the past year and arranged for the bushes and scrub to be removed in the centre so that the area is clearly visible with a view to deterring perpetrators form carrying out sexual acts.

I have worked with Highways regarding issues caused by the new housing site on Leicester Road, Groby. I was contacted early one Sunday morning and informed that contractors had blocked the city bound carriageway whilst doing works on the adjacent footpath. They failed to use any traffic management, forcing traffic to travel on the wrong side of the road on a dangerous bend. I attended and called out both the police and a highways supervisor to make safe. I ensured enforcement action was followed up.

I have worked extremely closely with Trading Standards on scams. This enables me to inform residents of ongoing scams. I write a full article every month in two separate magazines that cover my ward. The articles cover current scams. I also direct people to Action Fraud. I have visited residents who have been victims of scams giving them help and reassurance and arranged follow up visits by trading standards. We are often able to source phone blockers for victims to use to stop phone scams.

I have helped residents with social service requirements and care packages

I have regularly deal with Highways issues on behalf of my residents.

Community Leadership Role

Flooding Issues Groby

I have worked with residents and officers from Highways and Severn Trent on flooding issues in Groby over the past year. We have had high level meeting with Severn Trent and Highways. They have come forward with proposals, which I totally support depending on finances. I regularly work with Highways to get the drains and gully's cleaned and emptied. I will continue to work with residents and the authorities until this issue is resolved in favour of residents to alleviate flooding on Leicester Road and Markfield Road. I have recently dealt with flooding on the main A50 at Bradgate Hill and arranged for the County flood team to investigate and follow up by both the County Highways team and Severn Trent. I have also visited several victims to reassure them.

Flooding Ratby

I have been dealing with severe flooding in Ratby, at the junction of Markfield Road and Groby Rd over the past 8 months. This caused the pavements to be underwater in places for up to 2 feet after bouts of heavy rain not to mention the flooding on the roads. This clearly was a serious issue, after several visits by Severn Trent no progress had been made. So, I held meeting with the Assistant Director of Highways from there, I have held joint meeting with our Highways drainage manager and management at Severn Trent. Highways have uncovered two drains on the footpath on Groby Rd which have now sorted the flooding issue on Groby Rd. However, it was discovered that pipe work under the road had 30metres of tree roots blocking them. After a dispute over who owned the asset Severn Trent admitted it was their asset and have partly cleared the blockage with the final work taking place on the 29th June. Residents can be assured that I will not leave this until all this work is completed and that I am satisfied the road and paths will not flood in the future.

Sacheverell Way Street Lighting.

Over the past 16 months I have campaigned on behalf of residents for the reintroduction of street lighting along Sacheverell Way, Groby. The lighting columns had been chopped down leaving 4-foot stumps due to corrosion and faulty wiring. When they were originally installed the electrical wires that were buried along the verge were not protected by a conduit. Officers were not intending to replace them and were in fact looking to removing them. I know the value residents placed on them. This stretch of road is heavily used by walkers joggers and cyclists and is a direct route to 3 schools which children and parents use. In 2013 when I was first elected I campaigned to save these street lights after the Council wanted to remove them. The campaign was successful, and we were able to retain them on part night lighting Scheme. I again started a campaign to save them with my late wife Jenny. We put petitions in all the shops in Ratby and as many shops that would take them in Groby. I wrote articles al both magazines with cut outs that residents could sign and return to dedicated shops. I handed a petition with 984 signatures into the lead member and held meeting with the leader of the Council and the Director of Highways. I was later told our campaign had been successful and informed money would be made available in the new financial year. I am pleased to say the work started on the 26th May and is due to be completed towards the end of June. I would like to thank everyone for their support.

Engagement with the Council, other statutory bodies and public utility companies (Water, Gas etc) about services in the area

I engage regularly with all Council departments including Highways, Education and Adults and Communities. I worked closely with all departments last year whilst I was Chairman. I have helped residents whom I have classed as vulnerable and referred them to the correct department for support. I have held regular meeting with Severn Trent over issues in my ward on behalf of residents. I have also liaised with British gas who installed new mains services in Ratby.

Priorities for the immediate future are:

During this Pandemic I have worked with local volunteers to supply food and essentials for vulnerable residents. I also want to ensure they are looked after in the future. I want to resolve the flooding issues in both Groby and Ratby to ensure work is carried out before the winter.

A further planning Application has been received for Markfield Road Ratby for 90 houses on top of the 168 houses that was granted in March. This will have a massive effect on the amount of daily traffic travelling through the centre of the village. I will be liaising with both Highways and the Planning Department on behalf of residents.

2) Council Activities

Committees you serve on at County Hall

I was appointed as cabinet support to the Executive member of Highways last May. I attend weekly Lead member meeting with the Director of Highways and staff. I attend scrutiny Environment and Transport meeting and Cabinet meetings and briefings. I represent the County Council on the Trent Regional Flood and Costal Committee. I represent the County Council on the Anglian Northern Regional Flood and Costal Committee. I also represent the County Council on their Waste partnership.

Local committees/Outside Bodies

Bradgate and Groby Quarry Liaison Committees.

4) Other Matters:

I retired as a School Governor in 2016 after serving 29 years at Alderman Richard Hallam Primary School as Vice Chairman I worked closely with the Chairman taking the school from a Junior and

Infant School to an all though Primary school in the City.
I have served on Ratby Parish Council since 1996.

I have also served as a Borough Councillor since 2007. Writing monthly Borough Councillors Reports in my local magazine

I write a regular monthly County Councillor's Report in both The Local and Spotlight Magazines that cover Groby, Ratby and Field Head, the whole of my ward.

Communications

I use Facebook and twitter. I write an article in two magazines every month covering my whole electoral ward updating residents on going issues, what's happening at the council and a list of current scams. My articles contain my email address and both mobile and home telephone numbers with a message always available which I am even on holiday and I pride myself on that reputation.

Signed by Councillor Ozzy O'Shea
Date 24/6/2020