



## County Councillor Max Hunt Annual Report 2020/21

I always welcome any questions from residents

### Formal Council Committee work

This year I was reappointed to the **Transport and Environment Committee** which oversees and scrutinises the county's transport policies and programmes as well as wider environmental services. These include recycling and treatment of residual waste collected by the District and Borough Councils, our climate change and carbon reduction programme, tree management and mineral extraction planning policies.

Like all councillors, I attend the full **Council Meetings** where I speak on your local concerns and on policies related to the Transport and Environment.

I also served on the **Local Pensions Committee** which oversees the fund which benefits all staff who retire from service in the County and City councils, those in all District, Parish councils, as well as university and other public services in the city and county. This is quite specialist and I am one of the more experienced members in this area.

These meetings and other information are recorded and [webcast](#) for you on You Tube channel *Committee meetings at Leicestershire County Council*.

### **Local bodies and groups with which I am connected:**

Most of our local residents' organisations failed to meet due to Covid and the lack of Zoom facility and I depended on personal contact by email with the leading members. These are:

*The Loughborough Campus and Community Liaison Group*. This is a forum to address town/gown matters and we did have meetings on zoom.

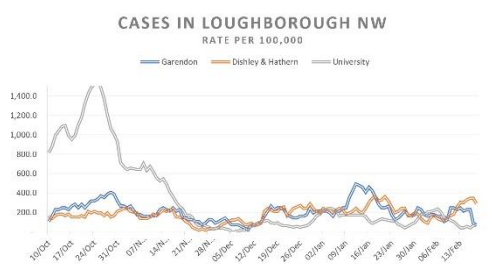
*Ashby Road Estates Community Association (ARECA)* which runs the Hut community centre and represents local residents.

*Thorpe Acre Community Association* which has kindly taken on the responsibility for the Thorpe Acre Trail which we created for the Millennium.

*Stonebow Village Parish Meeting* which is still a new organisation created to serve residents in the Garendon Estate. Eventually this will set a Parish Rate but for now they are simply relieved of paying the Loughborough Special Rate. We did not meet in the council year due to Covid.

## Main Activities including Coronavirus Diary

### Strategic issues concerning the County Council



Pix 1 The second major outbreak of Covid

**Coronavirus:** I met weekly on-line with key officers of the County Council and monitored local instances closely.

This has enabled me to keep residents informed and also ensure services continue to be accessed. My particular concern was that all children were enabled, with the right computer access, to maintain touch with teaching. I am still not

convinced this was complete. I also pressed for continuation of the library services, household waste site and promotion of exercise.

**Carbon reduction:** I have pressed for action to fulfil the declaration of Climate Change Emergency. As a result, the LCC Environment Policy has been updated to include a second tranche of action beyond direct County Council control. I have also proposed targets for more tree planting.

**Clean Air:** I have been working online with a small group of concerned people to scrutinise and question procedures for protecting the community from toxic emissions from the EfW Incinerator being built at Junction 23 of the M1.

**Public Health and Transport:** I would like to see these two departments coordinate more closely. Active travel is very important to health when it comes to developing transport. It is notable, for example, that the A512 Major Road Improvement has completely omitted any improvements to cycleways or footways and abandoned the K62 footpath (Public Right of Way). Understand the footpaths and footways (pavements) will be reviewed.

**Looked after Children and young people:** I continue to be concerned at the rising number of children in care. Post Covid I will be asking for more youth service engagement with young people who have missed so much this year.

**Public Open Space:** I continue to argue against houses sold freehold but with a covenant compelling them to pay for maintenance of local areas of public open space. In some cases Parish Councils can successfully offer to adopt open space but this isn't available in Loughborough.

**Schools, Streets and Traffic:** I have made representations to address the clash of pedestrians and motor traffic outside schools in my Division. We badly need some controls on traffic around primary schools in particular. I expect new enforcement against vehicles idling, and intend to follow this up.

**Pensions:** I have again supported the 1% increase in employer contributions and the move to pooling transactions through LGPS Central. I remain concerned that financial considerations overlay all Environmental and Ethical decisions which may not give sufficient cover for very rapid environmental changes in the investment market leaving some assets stranded.

**Council Tax:** I am very much aware and regularly discuss with residents of the rising rate of county council tax which is becoming out of proportion to

within family budgets. The rise this year (2021/22) of a further 3% plus 2% on adult social care highlights again the urgency of rebalancing the costs of adult social care across the sectors.

### Local Issues for residents and individuals.

- I have addressed landscaping and other aspects of P/20/2187/2 and P/20/0505/2 regarding West of Loughborough development (WoL SUE). I have reported regularly to residents who are on my mailing list.
- HMOs: Continue to press for complete embargo (0%) on further HMOs. This will be decided by Charnwood BC within the Draft Local Plan
- Campaigning with residents for improvements to the maintenance of Booth Woods and the Old Railway Path.
- Completing the order for the Thorpe Acre Trail. *Pix 2 My Autumn Newsletter*
- Contributed to the bid for a Town Deal Grant for Loughborough, and in particular support for the Generator Project on Frederick Street...
- Requested two new Bus Shelters for Sharpley Road area
- Arranged for a speed poster campaign on Buckingham & Sandringham Drive in 2021/2, unfortunately postponed due to Covid
- Addressed various on-going local matters: Alan Moss Road (grass verges), Blackbrook Road (parking), Litter and Fly tipping (Railway Track, Browning and Wordsworth Roads), Tree felling (Garendon Estate), Garendon Green (Parking, Bus stop lining) and Campus developments (Covid testing), Lillishall and St Olave Roads (Garendon Estate issues), Blackbrook and Shortcliffe brook (flood concerns), including regular contact with police and campus officials.



### Some specific matters raised personally in Full Council/Committee

Meetings have been truncated and held on-line but I have nevertheless raised:

- Tree planting
- Bus Shelter provision
- Cost of A512 Major Road Works
- DfT 20/1 Guidance on Cycle Infrastructure
- Emissions from EfW Newhurst Incinerator

### Priorities for the future are:

- To minimise further effects of the pandemic, and *build back better* in the aftermath.
- Ensure Social Care services are at their best and have the staff they need to care for vulnerable people under the pandemic
- Promote the Loughborough town centre
- Sufficient high quality school, pre-school and childcare places in the area I represent.
- Promote early carbon zero measures widely.
- Monitor detailed plans for West of Loughborough/Garendon Park development as they emerge, particularly via Conditions and Sections 106 agreement to P/14/1855/2 and subsequent applications.
- Explore new ways to reduce congestion between children/parents and through traffic on Rupert Brooke Road and Old Ashby Road in particular.
- Disseminate the messages of county's public health work promoting Active Travel.
- Better information to families about services for elderly people and people with learning difficulties.
- Support voluntary organisations and try to ensure that grants and participative budgeting is directed towards social priorities.
- Campaign for better funding for the NHS. Never take great performance from our acute services in UHL, mental health in LPP and GP services for granted.
- Improving bus services (Kinchbus in particular) and examine the options within the County's new [Enhanced Bus Partnership](#).
- Introduce road safety improvements where possible and further community speeding interventions to reduce casualties.
- Continue to campaign with others to reduce casualties involving cycles and pedestrians. Support safer cycle routes.
- See that the old Garendon High School building is used to the full for educational purposes.
- Ensure transport for post 16 students to special schools for SEND settings.



*Pix 3 Campaigning outside County Hall before Covid!*

## Visits and Contacts that I have made

- Charnwood College/DRET (Amy Neeves)
- Sir Robert Martin Court (Sheltered flatlets)
- Hanover Court (Sheltered flatlets)
- TACA by invitation (15 Jan 2020) and ARECA
- Remembrance Sunday wreath laying at Thorpe Acre
- VE Day in Thorpe Acre preparations (merged with VJ Day)
- Persimmon Homes (Louise Ward)
- Victorian County History group
- CBC Planning matters

I respond to many people with personal problems that have a bearing on public services.

## Communicating with Residents

### Election

I'd like to thank all those who kept in touch through that difficult year and most of all those who voted for me to serve another four years on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.



Pix 4 Part of my Election Leaflet 2021

Wish best wishes to all residents of Garendon and Ashby Wards in North West Loughborough.

Signed:

**Max Hunt CC**  
May 2021

*Max Hunt.*