



Annual Report by John Coxon

County councillor for Ashby de la Zouch and Blackfordby 2020-2021

After being elected in the May elections for a 5th term, for which I thank residents in the division for putting their trust in me to represent them on the county council. I have maintained a very good attendance record at county hall since my first being elected in 2005. It has always been my aim, is to prioritise Ashby and Blackfordby, ensuring they are put first.

COMMITTEES SERVED ON DURING THE YEAR

County council development control regulatory board, Leicestershire combined fire authority.

It gives me great pleasure to present my annual report this year again. Has again been blighted by Covid, and we have all been in lock down in one shape or another. Council business until recently had been conducted via either Teams or Zoom, and social distancing and most people working from home. I have continued with my role as chairman of the development control and regulatory board or simply the planning committee, using the Microsoft teams and now recently face to face, socially distanced meetings of Councillors and council officers working remotely.

I continue to work very closely with Ashby de la Zouch town council, where I am leader of the council, giving me the opportunity to bring together partnership workings between the county and town council wherever possible. I try very hard to assist the community I represent, the views of the people that elected me.

I still strongly support the reintroduction of the Burton to Leicester rail line and have spoken at council about this supporting this move which would benefit communities along the line with access to travel by train. It is sentimental to me also as a young boy, traveling to both Burton and Leicester by train. I also continue to monitor the proposed development of HS2, and attend presentations and note the implications for our town.

COMMUNITY

Being leader of the town council, which includes the village of Blackfordby. I was the main instigator of Blackfordby having its own neighbourhood plan. Many meetings have taken place prior to covid and we are now at the stage where we are at the pre examination stage of the process, this I think is a very important document for the future of the village's development, having also supported the village against over development and helping provide grants for improvements in the village, supporting speed cameras on Heath Lane, works to the old school rooms and the war memorial. The Ashby neighbourhood plan continues to be relevant and will now be looking for further updates to move along with future needs of the community. Events in the town play a big part in my support of the Town council, many of which had to be



cancelled due to Covid, whilst writing this report future events will take place and will be welcoming Jims Tractor run and family fun day, now in its 10th year, providing restriction lifting goes ahead, and next years big event will be the Queens Platinum Jubilee, which is being started at the planning stage where we will have a giant street party in the town and hoping to surpass the 2012 event, which was reported worldwide.

PRIORITIES

My priorities are and will be first and foremost the wellbeing of residents and how are town develops. The Bat grounds in particular have been my priorities and getting the grounds in to the ownership of the Town council. This is now nearing a conclusion and will be a great asset to the people of Ashby.

COMMITTEES I SERVE ON

- **COUNTY COUCIL**

This is where councillors meet a full council. I have attended these meetings during the last 16 years.

- **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL REGULATORY BOARD**

I am very proud to be chairman of this board, which deals with items such as quarry applications, industrial buildings , mineral waste roads, for example.

- **COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY**

This is the governing body of the fire and rescue service, covering both Leicestershire and Rutland.

BODIES SERVED ON

Ashby de la zouch town council, Lount liaison committee. Substitute on other committees for other members could not attend.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

I have again completed training for the development control and regulatory board and seek further training to assist my development as a county councillor.

COMMUNICATIONS (Covid permitted)

I hold surgeries for residents, these are usually at 5.30, before council at the town council building in South Street. Details are posted on the town council website. I am also easily contactable via email, telephone or in person as requested. I do not use social media at this time but of course this may have to change.