



Annual Report 2020/21

David Bill CC

As I issued my last report as recently as December last year this is by means of a 6 monthly report as all the points I raised back in December are still valid. Please refer back to this December document which is still on the County Council web-site

I will split this report into two sections – General and Local matters

General issues

A46 Partnership

I am pleased to report that Midlands Connect and Highways England have maintained the view that the motorway standard road which would have emerged at Junction 2 of the M69 has now been dropped. It is worth repeating that had this road gone through it would inevitably drawn more traffic through Burbage and Hinckley.

A5

The news which has broken this week that the long promised Long Shoot to Dodwells improvement has now been dropped has serious implications for everyone in the Hinckley area. It looks as though we are going to have to suffer ever worsening tail backs, congestion and rat-running.

Blaby Local Plan

It is to be hoped that the massive housing and industrial developments shown as potential proposals in the Elmesthorpe area will not materialise. If all the proposals shown actually happen it would result in a continuous development from Earl Shilton and Burbage across to Stoney Stanton and Sapcote. I have objected in the strongest possible terms to this eventuality.

Growth Unit – Leics County Council

I have expressed concern that the ambitions of this County Council department to effectively sell off its land holdings in this part of the county will lead to the scenario set out above. I think we have a responsibility to maintain the countryside around us as well as plan for economic growth.

Hinckley Rail Freight Interchange

The controversy surrounding. This most contentious proposal rumbles on. We are told that a public consultation is imminent and yet as far as I am aware no traffic impact figures have so far been released. We all want to see freight taken off the roads and on to the railways but the concern is that inward traffic could be by rail and



onward traffic by road. We need assurances that we are not about to see yet another massive warehouse development with little or no use of the railways.

National Forest

As reported in December I have been supporting moves to see the forest extended into the Hinckley & Bosworth area for some time. It was therefore disappointing to hear at the last County Council meeting that the council does not share the same ambition. In most people's view we need a massive tree planting and greening everywhere.

Planning for the Future White Paper

A dry sounding title but if the present proposals go through parliament in their present form the ability of communities and their representatives to influence planning decisions will be severely reduced. Please refer back to my comments about the 5 year housing land supply back in December. The situation has not improved.

Schools funding becoming under further pressure

With the funding of all public services in the county being amongst the worst in the country it will be a further blow to schools to learn that they are expected to take a further cut to help pay for the shortfall in the funding of schools with children of special needs. It is still regretted by those of us with long memories that the links were broken between elected members and the schools.

Strategic Economic & Strategic Growth Plans

I still have the same concerns as expressed in my December report

Warehouse & Logistics Study

Commissioned by Harborough this study outlines the market demands for further warehousing across the county. We have to respond by asking for adequate infrastructure improvements and of course the need to protect our farmlands and countryside. Are we catering for the employment needs of people seeking work or paving the way for more people to come in to meet the ever-expanding job vacancies.

Hollycroft Division issues

ASB in parks

A most unwelcome trend has been the number of incidences of vandalism in our parks and open spaces. These areas are a particularly attractive feature which we should be enjoying with all the lockdowns.

A5



The infamous bridge is still the most struck in the country, a record which will be maintained when the latest DPD warehouse complex comes on stream. Despite so many assurances neither Highways England nor Network Rail seem capable of solving the problem.

Battling Brook

I have hopes that the emerging Green Infrastructure policy of the Borough Council will result in an enhancement the trees and hedgerows along this stretch and all the other stretches of hedgerows in the area

Bloors development off the Northern Perimeter Road

With the first houses nearing completion and the roundabout in place on the main road it can only now be a matter of time before we see the long-promised implementation of the 40mph limit

Faray Drive area -The Bramblings

I have now been informed that the roads on this estate have still not yet been adopted. Delays in adoption are a common feature of far too many new estates and indeed not-so-new estates. This is an issue which needs tackling as it leaves householders in a continual state of uncertainty and prevents the local authority from proceeding with maintenance activities

Hays Lane

I am hopeful that surplus material from work on the A47 will be used to alleviate issues on this last remaining unmade road in this area

Hinckley Hospital modernisation programme

This programme has again been delayed following a further review as a result of lessons learned during the pandemic. It is thought that more beds need to be retained at the Community Hospital in Ashby Road. This is frustrating to all of us who have been involved for so long, in my case starting in 2005 with the first consultative exercise

Hollycroft Medical Centre

Despite strenuous efforts on the part of ward councillors there is still uncertainty about whether the financial contributions from the Bloors development and other developments in the area will benefit the surgery. In the view of the councillors it is essential that the surgery remains and extended as it now caters for between 7000 and 10,000 people.

Heritage Project

With the use of a very welcome Government Grant shopkeepers in the Castle Street area are being encouraged to apply for assistance to improve frontages. The



programme should also see improvements carried to open spaces, Most notably Argents Mead

Langdale Road and Wykin Road roundabouts

At long last the roundabout on Wykin Road has been resurfaced. We now look forward to the same treatment at Langdale Road.

Padge Hall Farm

This proposed industrial development has had a variety of names. The proposal is for a massive warehouse complex on the triangle of land bordered by the A5, the Long Shoot and the railway. There is an offer to lower the road under the bridge and to allow for the alternative route for the A5. But it will involve a considerable loss of farmland and of course more HGVs. The promoters have undertaken a consultation but have not yet submitted a planning application. It will be Rugby BC which makes the decision but the impact will be felt mostly on this side of the A5.

The Paddock development

My comments from back in December are still valid

Speeding

By bringing together all agencies, Borough and County Councils, NHW and the Police we think that we now have a comprehensive plan to install a network of posts which will carry MVAS speed detection devices. More complaints about speeding are received than almost any other issue so this is a real breakthrough if we can implement the scheme.

The Limes

The closure of this old people's home is still a matter of concern to many people in Hinckley. This was the flagship of the County Council's homes in this area and despite so many objections it was sold into the private sector. We would still like to see an investigation into how such a first class establishment could then deteriorate to the extent that it eventually had to be shut down.

Waterside Park

The major issue of this development of approximately 700 properties has long suffered because of the 10 year delay in the adoption of the roads and open spaces. We should have now resolved the roads issue but the open spaces issue is still outstanding and this has resulted in lack of maintenance in certain areas. This is still work in progress.

David Bill

28th July 2021

