

MAGGIE WRIGHT - Annual Report 2021/2022

County Councillor for Stoney Stanton and Croft Division.

The Division comprises the Parishes of Aston Flamville, Croft, Elmesthorpe, Huncote, Potters Marston, Sapcote, Stoney Stanton, Sharnford and Wigston Parva. Collectively known as the “Fosse Villages.”



Electoral Division Activities

I was delighted to be re-elected in May 2021 as County Councillor for the Division. It is a privilege to serve the community where I was born and continue to live. During the year some things have started to return to life as we knew it before the covid pandemic. Many meetings are now being held in person but with hybrid and virtual meetings still taking place. Through out the year I have continued to support my Parish Councils and Parish meetings with regular in person visits, via virtual media and with written monthly reports.

Divisional work this year has been dominated by the plans for the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange by the developers Tritax Symmetry (Hinckley) Limited. The Statutory Consultation took place between the 12th January and 8th April 2022. I with many residents attended public exhibition events and/or webinars and submitted comments and concerns. I spoke on local radio and at County Cabinet on 26th April expressing these significant concerns over a wide range of issues. The development will have a massive impact if given the go ahead by the Secretary of State who will be determining the application. This is the first stage of a 6-part planning process. The next stage is expected to be the submission of the application unless a second consultation is called by the developer given so much detail was absent from the first phase.

I attended a visioning workshop at Stoney Stanton village hall on 12th October 2021 organised by the Pegasus Consortium, along with other stakeholders and community representatives for the proposed Stoney Stanton Strategic Development Area. A Community Liaison Group has recently been formed and I encourage participation. There is no planning application at the present time.

The Huncote Leisure Centre and surrounding grounds were closed in November 2021 due to higher than anticipated methane gas readings taken on a routine monitoring visit on the old landfill site. The Centre has remained closed and will do so for the near future until mitigation work has been completed by Blaby District Council on the site. This has meant that valuable amenities have been lost for the community. I have been collaborating with the numerous parties involved to look at setting up a diversion of the footpaths which have been affected. Extra tree and hedge planting on the adjacent Acresford Sand and Gravel Site is still an ambition as the quarry comes to the end of its working life. Unfortunately, this is halted at present by the issues at the Leisure Centre.

I attended a public meeting held on the 7th of December 2021 at Stoney Stanton Village Hall where the findings of the Section 19 report and the Integrated Flood Modelling Study into the flooding at Stoney Stanton on 1st October 2019 was presented. Work continues to be ongoing to get the appropriate funding into place and activate mitigation plans for the long term.

I am pleased to report that nine highway enhancement projects will be delivered across the division under the Members Highways Fund. These include new signage at Wigston Parva, Low level bollard lighting in Huncote, a new bench on Sapcote road, Stoney Stanton, Dragon's teeth road markings on Aston Lane, Sharnford, the installation of Billy and Belinda bollards near Croft primary school, and a dropped kerb outside the newly refurbished village hall at Stoney Stanton. The scheme is running again this year, so I look forward to putting more projects forward.

During the year, a planning application was determined for the long-term restoration of the Croft Quarry void once extraction ceases. I was pleased to submit my written comments to the planning committee and now look forward to continuing working with the Croft Quarry Liaison group and the allocation of associated S106 monies to local communities at the appropriate time.

Following on from the traffic survey completed by Alberto Costa (MP) in 2021 it is planned to monitor and assess speeding on the B581 Station Road between Stoney Stanton and Elmesthorpe during the summer months.



Community Events

Social events and gatherings continued to be disrupted last year due to the Covid pandemic. However, I did manage to get out to attend and support some events.

I was pleased to attend and lay a wreath on behalf of the County Council at the Remembrance Sunday service organised by the Croft and District British Legion branch and to join them afterwards to celebrate the British Legion's Centenary Anniversary.

Stoney Stanton festive lights switch on was very memorable and even the pouring rain did not dampen spirits. The Thurlaston Community teas Christmas lunch (all covid compliant) was enjoyable, and people were very appreciative of the opportunity to celebrate. The Church and Chapel again put on a lovely Christmas Ladies Evening where I demonstrated a flower workshop activity. I took part in the Thurlaston Amateur dramatic production of "Changing Times" playing amongst others the part of Mrs Potato Head from Toy Story for the week commencing the 21st of March 2022. I also thoroughly enjoyed watching the Croft Players perform "Look at the State of Croft" on Thursday 21st April 2022 after the production had been postponed for 2 years. I am delighted that many community groups have taken those initial steps to get going again. I visited the Huncote Lunch Club for the first time since the pandemic on Monday 9th May and I am pleased that the Huncote Community Library has also opened its doors. Croft Good Neighbours are meeting in person and Sharnford Volunteers held an open day on 19th April 2022. I am now busy helping to organise my village Platinum Jubilee celebrations which promise to give several days of fun filled activities. I am pleased lots of other villages in the division are also celebrating and holding similar events. I am hopeful more community events will take place this year and thank both the County Council and Blaby District Council for their support with funding to keep groups going and start back.

Priorities for the immediate future

- Complete Members Highway Fund projects
- Proposed Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange Planning Application
- SDA M69 Junction 2 Proposals
- Review of Rural bus services and pilot proposals
- Traffic and Infrastructure issues
- Continue to highlight the need for cycle and footpaths in rural areas
- Continue to lobby Openreach to deliver super-fast broadband at The Limes and surrounding Developments at Sapcote

Council Activities

- Support Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation and Flooding
- Member of Anglian Northern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
- Member of Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
- Chairman of the Highways and Transportation and Flooding Communication Panel

Local committees/Outside Bodies

- Thurlaston Parish Council Member
- Deputy Leader at Blaby District Council. Portfolio Holder for Finance and Assets
- Croft Liaison Meeting Member

Other bodies - School governors/community and charity organisations

- Thurlaston Church and Chapel.
- Thurlaston Players' and Amateur Dramatics Group.
- Stoney Stanton Food Bank and Community Hub Treasurer

