

County Councillor Annual Report 2021/22

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during 2021/22

Name of Councillor: James Poland

Division Represented: Syston Fosse

Electoral Division activities

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

The Syston Fosse Division includes the villages of Cossington, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, Thrussington, Rearsby, East Goscote, Queniborough and part of the town of Syston. In the past 12 months I've been involved with a wide range of issues, these include:

Flooding in Cossington and Queniborough

I've continued working with Leicestershire County Council, Severn Trent, the office of Edward Argar MP and others to get the culverts under the village repaired to help alleviate the flooding situation.

Flooding is also an issue on Main street, Queniborough and I have also worked with officers at LCC and Severn Trent to investigate the culverts there to improve the flow of water in the drains coming from the road.

Campaigning to defend our countryside

Since Charnwood lost its five year land supply Syston Fosse has been inundated with planning applications. I'm not opposed to controlled development but sites such as 130 houses in Cossington and 150 houses off Barkby Road, Queniborough (on top of the large number of houses Queniborough has already took, and other sites passed nearby such as the 270 houses in East Goscote) is not only damaging our countryside but putting huge pressure on our services. I have campaigned against uncontrolled development throughout my time as a Councillor and as a Borough Councillor have spoken many times at Plans Committee.

Support for residents and businesses

The most important part of my role as a Councillor is working for any residents who need my help. In the past year I've worked for residents and local businesses on a range of matters including planning, highway safety financial support.

Community Leadership Role

In the past year I have continued to be available to every resident who needs my help. In addition to that I have:

- Regularly attended Town and Parish Council meetings to report on my work and pick up anything they need my help with
- Written articles for a number of community magazines keeping residents up to date with what's going on locally
- Maintained a Facebook page for residents to be able to quickly disseminate important information to residents (<https://www.facebook.com/Cllr-James-Poland-111083980585480/>)
- Held monthly online and in-person surgeries

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

I work have a close working relationship with the 7 Town/Parish councils with Syston Fosse, attending their meetings regularly.

I work closely with Ed Argar MP and the four Borough Councillors who also represent parts of the Division. I represent four villages in Syston Fosse on Charnwood Borough Council myself (Cossington, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, Thrussington and Rearsby).

I work with the Police on a range of matters (including anti-social behaviour and speeding).

In the past year I have also worked with Severn Trent, local schools, GP practices, National Highways (formerly Highways England) amongst many other organisations and groups.

Priorities for the immediate future are:

My priorities for the immediate future include:

- Work with relevant authorities to ensure flood mitigation measures are progressed
- Prioritise Highways improvements and work with partners to further improve Air Quality
- Continue to do what I can to ensure Leicestershire remains a productive council and supporting economic recovery
- Supporting the County Council in arguing for a fairer funding formula from central government
- Supporting local residents with any individual issues I can help with.

Council Activities

County Council Committees You Served On

In the past year I have served as a Scrutiny Commissioner. This role is responsible for managing the Scrutiny function at Leicestershire County Council, examining the work the authority does and holding the Executive (Cabinet) to account.

As part of my Scrutiny Commissioner role, I attend Cabinet meetings and briefings as well attending a number of SCG meetings (which is a small group who examine in detail items which will be coming to Cabinet).

I have also served on the Constitution Committee which reviews proposed changes to the way the democratic side of Leicestershire County Council works.

During the course of the last year I have substituted three times onto the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Health and Overview Scrutiny Group which examines the work of the NHS in our area.

Local Committee/Outside Bodies

- Charnwood Borough Council – I have served as the Charnwood Borough Councillor for the Wreake Villages since 2013. I currently serve on the Cabinet as Charnwood's Lead Member for Public Housing and Equalities.
- Brooksby Quarry Liaison Committee

Other Bodies

- Equality Action Charnwood

Communications

Briefing Note

Facebook: Cllr James Poland

<https://www.facebook.com/Cllr-James-Poland-111083980585480/>

Surgery: First Saturday of every month from 10-11am (online at the moment, but usually held at Syston Community Centre). I also do quarterly surgeries in Queniborough (these are advertised in the Queniborough Gazette and on my Facebook page)

Community magazines: I write articles for the Rearsby Scene and the Queniborough Gazette

Signed by Councillor:- J Poland

Date:- 14/06/2022