

## **County Councillor Annual Report**

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during the year 2021-2022.

**Name of Councillor : Louise Richardson**

**Electoral Division activities for Enderby and Lubbesthorpe Division (including Enderby, St Johns, Thorpe Astley and Lubbesthorpe)**

### **Main Activities and the impact during the past year:**

Being a member of the Cabinet at Leicestershire County Council, now with the health portfolio, I, and other councillors, take responsibility for the strategic direction of the council and to try to ensure that services are delivered efficiently and effectively within the law and guidance issued by government and other regulatory bodies. We also ensure good budget scrutiny at the beginning and during the year and that policies and procedures are reviewed, updated and are current to new legislation and regulation. Budgets are getting very tight and we are having to look at the services we provide and how to deliver them differently to save costs. This year we have seen recovery from the Covid pandemic, the cost of living rising, fuel costs increasing and the Ukrainian war which impacts us by receiving refugees and ensuring they are safe and have the facilities they require to settle in UK and to process their payments and those of their hosts which has meant that we have still had work to do in getting help to those in need across the county. We must also remember that most of our staff have been working through the pandemic and have done over and above their usual roles for quite some time. We continue to work with our partners across the county and monitor the situation and remain flexible to adapt to the changing situation. We are still lobbying MPs and the government for fairer funding for Leicestershire and for the levelling up agenda as you would expect us to do.

In my role as Lead Member of Health and Wellbeing I have attended many meetings and been involved in the strategic direction of the Integrated Care System for Leicestershire working with all tiers of health and care. This is a real opportunity to make a difference and requires all organisations to work together, share resources and work differently to bring about positive, beneficial pathways and access when required but also to do all we can to prevent loss of health, mobility and mental health. We are looking at health inequalities and want to ensure that mental health and physical health have equity and to take away the stigma associated with mental health. This is a big transition and needs all partners to be open to working differently. As I have Public Health within my portfolio, I wish to thank all the officers who worked to keep people safe and protected throughout the pandemic as well as keeping other services running wherever possible. I chair the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) for Leicestershire County and as such the board will lead the Place part of the Integrated Care System (ICS). I will also, going forward, attend the Integrated Care Board (ICB). The HWB and the ICS have members from all tiers of the health system as well as Police, Healthwatch, Police Commissioner and officers across the departments in County. We are reviewing the membership of the HWB in line with the work that will be required to ensure all voices are heard. We have many services we provide such as weight management, suicide prevention, sexual health, domestic and sexual abuse, substance misuse to name a few and have the Local Area Coordinators in post to assist in communities with loneliness, engagement, housing etc.

We have approved the new 10-year Health and Wellbeing Strategy and this has been produced in an easy read version too. The strategy will have an action plan that runs alongside this so that

we can measure against various outcomes. The Dementia chapter of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment has now been completed too and the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment for Leicestershire is out for consultation. The new 0-19 Healthy Child Programme has been agreed and the sexual and domestic abuse provision has been commissioned. There is a lot of work being done across partnerships to look at mental health and how to improve access and service, and I have a particular focus on children's mental health and wellbeing.

I am available to all residents and have supported a large number with various issues, liaising with appropriate officers and organisations, businesses, police and enforcement and we have had successes. I also use Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to share information that may be of interest to residents and to spot any issues arising from residents' posts.

I am a County and District councillor and a councillor for both Lubbethorpe and Enderby Parish Council too. I attend parish meetings in my division whenever I am available and attend any events I am invited to. I also attend the Business Breakfasts when I can, which are run for the whole area.

I have been working with the County, District and Parish councils as well as Enderby Leisure Centre and Danemill Primary School to find a solution to the traffic difficulties in Mill Lane especially at the school drop off and pick up times of the day. This has been complex however we do have some improvements that will be made shortly.

I am pleased to see the extension to Fosse Park complete and the Everards brewery and Jenno's doing very well after the pandemic. It was pleasing to see that the Fosse Park extension was not delayed too much by Covid and a couple of Job fares have been run here too to offer employment around the area. It is good to see that our other small businesses trading in our villages have survived the pandemic and that residents are shopping more locally too.

We still have issues with HGVs coming through Enderby village, we are not the only ones unfortunately. Our villages were not built in the days of HGVs and roads are narrow. I have done a lot of work at County with Highways and held a residents' meeting with my district colleague about this however the suggestions made by Highways could not be agreed by residents. The work is on-going and I thank all the residents who have been sending me photographs and emails that can be used as evidence for the police, county council etc. This is a really difficult issue because any changes require residents to make small changes too or we cannot implement any improvements. We also must bear in mind that houses require deliveries too and vehicles for house moves etc. We are still looking at whether we can offer any different proposals for residents.

I have also been working alongside County, District, Borough and City councillors with officers regarding cycle travel into and out from the city. It is important to work together to ensure a safe and clear route for those wishing to commute or for getting out into the open air and leaving the car behind.

I still have some sensitive issues that I am working on so these will remain confidential for now.

In Thorpe Astley I have been working with colleagues regarding flooding and speed and speaking with the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding obstruction of footpaths and car thefts and burglaries. The PCC has been informed and police asked to patrol more to give assurance and to try to prevent these things happening as well as enforcing where necessary. Enderby and Thorpe Astley will see some improvements using my Members Highways Fund shortly regarding benches, bins and lineage on roads. I did also highlight the Foxhunter roundabout roadway lines and they were redone with a harder wearing substance. The traffic signal times at Leicester Lane, Enderby are also being reviewed near the church.

I was also involved in a boundary review for Thorpe Astley as I had been contacted by some residents about why they did not have a parish council. Unfortunately, when required, the

residents did not send in their votes so this will not happen in the short term, even though the response on the doorstep was positive. This would have been a very real benefit for Thorpe Astley residents and it was my duty to test this for residents.

I attend trustee meetings for SACRE whose work oversees Religious Education across Leicestershire when I am able.

I continued to attend Rural Services Network meetings regarding the Health and Social Care in rural areas and work very closely with the Lead Members for health in Leicester city and Rutland.

One of my last tasks when I had the Communities portfolio was to manage the Wombles fund and to offer a one-off grant to groups of volunteer litter pickers to ensure safety with safety jackets, long litter pickers and signage for the roads for protection. I still assist the Wombles when issues arise and follow their very positive work across the county. I also congratulate them for their work done in schools around litter and the environment. We have some fantastic teams of volunteers!

**Priorities for the immediate future are:**

To ensure a good outcome of multi-agency working on a sensitive issue in Enderby - on-going.

To ensure that land not being used for DfE purposes is released to ensure some sort of community facility/area can use it. This was delayed and had to be resubmitted to the DfE and I still have not received an update stating if this has been finalised. It is an incredibly slow process and one of many that is being handled at any one time at county.

To continue work within my portfolio of Health to ensure improvements are made and that partnerships work as efficiently as possible. This includes Covid recovery, Integrated Care Partnership, chairing the Health and Wellbeing Board, Member of Health and Care Partnership, liaising with CCGS, LPTs and NHS as well as Leicester and Rutland council HWBs, members and officers, and setting out an action plan to go alongside the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

To work collegiately and respectfully with our partner organisations acknowledging that communication and commitment is required to bring about the changes we wish to see.

To monitor the impact of Fosse Park extension and Everards Meadow on traffic flow and air. More car parking has been provided and the area is very popular.

To encourage more people to help us with our Net Zero strategy at Leicestershire County Council as councils can do so much but it requires all of us to make small changes too.

To sort out residents' issues as swiftly as I can and if I can't do anything to be open with them and try to refer them to someone who may be able to help.

To see some improvements made using my Members Highways fund working with the parish and borough councils in my division.

To listen and assist residents wherever possible.

I have also been working on some very sensitive issues in the area which has given rise to successful outcomes but other things are on-going.

I have assisted residents with issues around housing, mental health, traffic, education, planning etc and have had some very successful outcomes for residents. I have also worked with parish Councils and residents regarding the Members Highways Fund and have asked for improvements in all areas of my division. Some will be used for Mill Lane in Enderby, benches,

road/speed awareness signage for Thorpe Astley, grit bins and additional litter bins near the benches. I am still looking at what may be available to Lubbesthorpe as roads have not been adopted yet and the green space is managed by the Land Trust, so we are unable to do much at present.

I attend all member training and information sessions unless I have other meetings already committed to and I attend cabinet briefings, cabinet meetings and full council meetings. I also attend group meetings. Meetings now are being conducted virtually unless they are public meetings when we are required to be present at county hall, naturally. Having virtual meetings does have a beneficial impact on our carbon emissions and so councillors are supportive of this way of working. Meetings do still take place at County Hall when required.

To monitor the growth of Lubbesthorpe and any impacts within surrounding villages to ensure traffic flows smoothly and that facilities e.g., doctors' surgery, schools, shops, leisure centre keep pace with new build.

To monitor fly tipping and ensure enforcement is carried out when possible.

### **Local committees/Outside Bodies**

SACRE – Trustee

RCN

Chair – District Planning Committee

Scrutiny Commission member at District Council

Lubbesthorpe Parish Council

Enderby Parish Council

Blaby District Council

LLEP – Member

**Other bodies – School governors/community and charity organisations etc**

Tumaini Jipya-New Hope – Trustee  
Member of Rotary Club of Blaby

**Learning and development:**

As many members' workshops, training, etc that I could attend. I have attended webinars on Planning Reform and ICS most recently.

**Social Media**

Personal and charity accounts on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn and my email address as councillor. Used to pick up on problem areas and to share any messages or information from LCC.

**Signed by Councillor H L Richardson**

**Date 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022**