

County Councillors Annual Report 2021 - 2022

Cllr Trevor Pendleton.

Castle Donington and Kegworth Division – Leicestershire County Council.

After the County Elections and having requested to stand down from the Cabinet as Lead for the Environment and Transport Department, I have set about serving my County Division in applying the Conservatives election pledge of planting a tree for every resident in Leicestershire. I proposed initially planting native species on Long Lane and the Kegworth Bypass and any other areas that the Parish Council might identify. Although deemed unsafe to plant on the verges down Long Lane, I am happy to report that the Bypass has now been planted and await any local deliberations on other areas particularly from Castle Donington and Lockington and Hemington Parish Councils.

Prior to the elections and as Highways Lead Member, I had been instrumental in providing a County-Wide Members Highway fund of £25,000 for small traffic works in each members division. Aware that since we completed the Castle Donington Relief Road and with the influence of the SEGRO East-Midlands Rail Freight Gateway there had been repeated HGV incursions in all the local villages and from the A50 in particular. I have asked the County Highways Department to engage with Highways England to address this issue.

Since initial responses from HE had suggested that the solution might be held up because of lack of finance I had initially indicated that I would wish to add my Divisions Highways Fund to help get the problem over the line and since there was an extension of this fund for next year, use that allocation as well. Whilst we await H.E's revised scheme, I have however indicated that I would consider other schemes such as the 'bollarding' of the airport perimeter kerb edges in Castle Donington between the Airport end of the Relief Road and the Aero Park, which still attracts dangerous parking from Plane Spotters, or in Kegworth, speed bumps for Whatton Road to try and slow down rat-running traffic.

I am happy to note that the yellow lining of New Street to facilitate a clear route for the weekly re-cycling vehicles to carry out their tasks has now been completed.

Having facilitated discussions with Castle Donington P C and LCC with regards to some improved signage for their Relief Road and the use of 106 monies we designated to facilitate Traffic Calming measures through the village, I await with interest the public consultation of the proposed scheme which is scheduled to take place in July of this year.

Just before last year's elections I was contacted by some residents concerning what turned out to be poor maintenance by the Management Company of the Kegworth Brook between Refresco and Long Lane.

In a similar vein as a member of the SEGRO Liaison Group I continued to monitor the Hemington Brook which had for a time become quite polluted with red clay residue from the old brick works, now the site of SEGRO balancing ponds, at its source. I am relieved to report that following weekly observations extending over some nine months, I have only noticed two short term occasions after heavy rain, when the brook turned red, never for long and now that I have observed fish surviving there after reports that none could possibly survive in such water, feel that things could have, finally settled down, for once, as designed.

As a member of the Airport Independent Consultative Cttee we were made aware last year of another brook issue, namely Diseworth Brook and remedial work which had to be undertaken as a result of high levels of Airport de-icer pollution discharge.

Further complaints from Derby Angling Club with regards to a long standing oxygen deficiency algae plume below a surface water discharge pipe from the Airport into the river Trent has led to the ICC calling for reports on Airport De-Icing treatment before discharge and a subsequent review of the suitability of the treatment plants. The latter is especially important in view of the prospective Free Port expansion.

As Chairman of the Counties new Environment and Climate Change Committee we have undertaken to examine the function of the role of the Environment Agencies in the Licencing and Regulation of these discharges and separately the role of the Water Authorities including Severn Trent in their role of water treatment.

I am happy to report that the flooding underneath the bridge on Main Street which again closed one of the roads into Lockington was, after a third year, and extended attention by County officers, subsequently cleared. The resultant investigation suggested that the optical sensors found to have caused the problem needed to be placed on a much tighter maintenance schedule than that of other older types of mechanical methods. We eagerly await next winter's heavy rainfalls to see if it fixes the problem.

Contact from constituents for help have been many and varied and I am happy to report that following the excellent County Council Members Briefing Programmes. The one on Ukrainian settlement and support schemes has come in particularly useful as we welcome those refugees into this area.

TJP CC
5/5/2022