

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

Ozzy O'shea

Division Represented

Ratby, Groby and Field Head

Electoral Division activities

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

Over the past year I have worked with Highways and Severn Trent to finally resolve the flooding at the Junction of Markfield Road and Main Street, Ratby. I have worked with developers and highways officers to reduce the impact of road closures on both Markfield Road and Groby Road, Ratby. I am continuing to work with residents, Severn Trent and Highways officers to resolve the flooding on Leicester Road and Ratby road, Groby. I have held 3 monthly update meetings at Severn Trent's Leicester Officer pushing for a resolution with residents. We now have plans drawn up for the work on Leicester Road and are pushing for work on Ratby Road where properties have been affected. I have been pushing these works with residents for the past 4 years. We will not take no for an answer. I am also working with our drainage manager, who is now liaising with the flooding team to see if we can get any levy money through the Trent RFCC to help this project move forward.

I have continued to liaise with both the police and highways officers regarding the ongoing problem with HGV'S breaking the weight limit coming through Main Street, Ratby to attend the Pound Stretcher warehouse in Desford. The road policing team are paying special attention and have reported drivers and tweeted photographers copying me in to show they are taking this seriously as HGV's have to pass the primary school to get to their destination.

Concerns were raised that for several years Ratby Primary School had not had a school crossing. I arranged for adverts to be placed by the Council and I also wrote articles in a monthly magazine advertising the vacancy asking for a volunteer to come forward. After a couple of near misses on the

Zebra Crossing, I decided we needed to make it more visible. Working with Highways engineers we had the crossing and approach zig zags repainted. I also had the approach road signs remarked out in both directions. I arranged for a survey to be carried out. Unfortunately, it was found that the foot traffic did not warrant a pelican crossing. I have also ordered a VAS sign which shows two children and a flashing school crossing picture from my members highway fund. I have also supported double yellow lines along the library side of Main Street, to give a better and safer view of the crossing this should be going in very soon.

I am pleased to report in September last year the A50 at Bradgate Hill, Groby was finally resurfaced after resident's complaints that the HGVs were keeping them awake due to the poor uneven road surface.

I am also pleased to report that after 3 years of complaints of parking on Ratby road, Groby. I finally had double yellow lines put on the outbound side of the road to ease traffic flow and for the benefit of road safety. I appreciate it was not a popular decision with some householders.

One of my priorities last year was to put in double yellow lines In Bancroft Way, Ratby. This road is narrow, and people were parking up to the junction with Groby Road. I am pleased to say I got half of the £7500 cost from the original developer Cawrey Ltd, and they should go in shortly

I have also secured funding for the vehicle activated signs and posts that have been fitted on Sacheverell Way, Leicester Road, Ratby Road and Pym Ley Lane, Groby.

I have been made aware by the chair of the Ratby Library group that they are in financial difficulties. They have given the County Council notice, if things do not improve, they said they would close on the 16th of December. I am working with officer's and the cabinet member at the County Council, the library group and interested residents to save the library. I will do everything in my power, to save this most valuable community asset for Ratby.

Community Leadership Role

I go to the village hall drop-in session on a Thursday morning where elderly pensioners go for a cup of tea and a chat. I see if anyone has any needs from social services. I also advise on scams or housing issues. I work very closely with our police beat team on issues such as ASB, speeding HGV's and drug taking. I have invited the police to give talks to residents at the drop in session and even invited Rupert Mathews the PCC to meet residents and discuss policing issues. I have continued to work on ASB at Groby Pool and met the police on site. I continue to work with the police on ASB in Groby and Ratby. Being a retired police officer, I know how important it is to nip these problems in the bud before they become a bigger problem. I have

worked with my local schools to have the mandatory no parking Zig Zag lines put outside schools that wanted them. I am currently working with officers, residents and Ratby Library to save the library which is facing financial difficulties. I attend Ratby and Groby Parish Council meeting each month and provide a written report as their County Councillor.

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

I engage regularly with all council departments including Highways, Education and Adults and Communities. I work closely with all departments; I have helped several vulnerable residents whom I have classed as vulnerable and referred them to the correct department for support. I work very closely with our Trading Standards department highlighting current scams to my community and referring elderly vulnerable people to them that have had scam calls and arranged to have telephone blockers fitted for them. I have held regular meetings with Severn Trent over issues in my ward on behalf of residents. I have held meeting with the Borough Councils ASB team and Housing team to directly sort issues out for residents. I have also worked with the Borough Councils benefits team for residents.

Priorities for the immediate future are:

Working to save Ratby Library for the community of Ratby.
I would like to see a cycle track along Sacheverell Way, Groby
I want to work with the police to bring in more initiatives to stop the speeding in our villages.

Council Activities

County Council Committees You Served On

I was appointed Cabinet member for Highways, Transportation and Flooding in May 2021. I had previously served as the cabinet support member since 2019 for Highways. I attend weekly lead member meetings with the Director and two assistant directors of Highways with my support member. I also attend senior conservative group meeting with the leader, deputy leader and chief executive. I also attend cabinet briefing and cabinet meeting. I serve also on the councils Growth Advisory Board. As Cabinet member I have spent a lot of time on the ground in my neighbouring village Kirby Muxloe, sorting out road closures and diversions and problems with HGVs due to a problematic housing

development. I worked closely with highways officers and my neighbouring Councillor giving him support. I work closely and give support to all my fellow councillors on Highway issues and carry out sight visits with them when necessary. I have also given guidance on the new members highway fund that was allocated to members this year. Each member was allocated £25k to improve highway issues in their area. I also chair the member highway fund panel. I have also attended conferences arranged by Midland Connect to see how we can improve our highways and connectivity in Leicestershire and the East Midlands.

Local Committee/Outside Bodies

I sit on the A5 partnership and A46 groups
Bradgate and Groby Quarry liaison committee
Chaired the River Soar and Grand Union Partnership
Charnwood Forest Committee
Transport for East Midlands.

Learning and Development

I have attended training on the members code of conduct.
I have attended police briefings.
HS2 briefing
Freeport briefing
Strategic Growth Plan briefing
Weekley all member briefing on Covid
All Member briefings

Other Matters

I retired as a school Governor in 2016 after 29 years at Alderman Richard Hallam Primary School in the city. As the Vice chairman I worked closely with the chairman taking Both the Junior and Infant school into an although Primary School. I have served on Ratby Parish Council since 1996. I have also served as a Borough Councillor since 2007. I was appointed a magistrate in 2018.

Communications

Briefing Note

I write a regular monthly County Councillors report in both the Local and Spotlight magazines that cover Groby, Ratby and Field Head, the whole of my ward. I use both Twitter and Facebook to get urgent messages out such as road closures and police messages. My residents have my home and mobile telephone number and my Council and personal email address and can get hold of me in an emergency at any time. I also answer them when on holiday.

Signed by Councillor:-Ozzy O'shea

Date:- 20th June 2022