

Brenda Seaton – Annual Report 2021/2022

County Councillor for Thurmaston Ridgemere Division

As our lives slowly return to a semblance of pre covid routines, we realise some things have changed forever, such as our ways of working. Home working and interacting with colleagues or clients can now be carried out virtually, through Teams or Zoom. How we choose to shop has changed, some people still preferring to shop online or directly from your local store, that now offers delivery. We are routinely offered phone consultations with our doctors instead of appointments as well as some hospital visits that now can be dealt with by phone or virtually. Although Covid has not gone away we are less apprehensive about mixing with others and are embracing some of the activities we enjoyed before covid. However, we are now facing new challenges through the cost-of-living rise, impacting not only on our heating bills but transportation either domestic or commercial. The County Council are not exempt from feeling the pressure of rising fuel costs or increased prices but will do their utmost to continue services throughout Leicestershire.

This Leicestershire County Division is made up from Thurmaston, Barkby, Barkby Thorpe, Beeby, South Croxton and Hamilton Lea within Charnwood



The division covers a wide area and holds within it an eclectic mix of employment. Commercial farming features heavily, mainly arable but pastoral farming does feature throughout the division.

Retail has a large presence in Thurmaston. The two sites bring together high street names with trade and wholesale membership shopping. Over the next 15 years the district will nearly double in size and population making a new ward in Charnwood, South Charnwood villages.

Each Councillor had been allotted a highway funding pot of £25,000 for the financial year, to spend in their local area on projects that would not be funded under 'business as usual' highway department work. I contacted all my parish councils and parish meeting across my division to ask them to suggestions for projects. During the summer of 2021, the parish councils sent in their projects. These were then reviewed by Highways as to their cost and feasibility. Each Councillor had been allotted a highway funding pot of £25,000 for the financial year, to spend in their local area on projects that would not be funded under 'business as usual' highway department work. I contacted all my parish councils and parish meeting across my division to ask them to put forward some suggestions for projects. During the summer of 2021, the parish councils sent in their 'wish list' of projects and improvements. I then reviewed all the suggestions and submitted my requests into the highway department at the county council. Two of the projects put forward have been completed the others are going through the planning stage.

Thurmaston

This year has seen the completion of two projects I started last year. The



pedestrian crossing on Barkby Thorpe Lane between Asda and the shopping centre and the lowering of speed restrictions as well as dragon teeth on the approach to Duckpond Lane junction.

Highways draw up a design to improve the junction however, along with residents' views, I did not see how it would improve safety so that design was scrapped. The photo shows how the junction got its name.

Tuesday evening car meets at McDonalds had moved to the relief of nearby residents but unfortunately, they have started up again. This will be monitored by the police and action will be taken if ASB reaches previous levels.

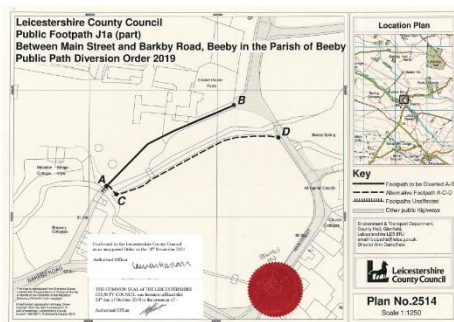
Thorpebury

The development off Barkby Thorpe Road that will eventually realise 4500 homes, is well underway, and although the houses are being marketed as Thorpebury recent boundary changes place the development in Thurmaston. Show homes will open from August 2022.

South Croxton

This year I have continued to support and guide both the parish council and the Play-a-Part committee towards improving access and developing the play area to meet the needs of residents. However, even though I have applied to three different funders and the parish council can provide match funding the applications have been turned down. The main reason seems to be the small population of South Croxton as well as funders favouring Covid recovery schemes. However, I love a challenge and will not give up on completing this project. Thanks to a proactive parish council the village will benefit from highways funding by way as an interactive speed sign to be sited in the village to deter speeding vehicle, along with dragon teeth markings on the two village entrances.

Beeby



Late November 2021 the public right of way J1a over land situated was permanently diverted from Brook House Farm and benefit from a new footbridge over the brook. Planning permission has also been granted for the development on Main Street. This development will bring employment to

Beeby and will preserve a listed building in this prominent position within the village.

Barkby and Barkby Thorpe

I continue to work with BABTAG and CEG over the development of Thorpebury. Although the homes planned will be within Thurmaston's boundary, Barkby and Barkby Thorpe roads will be affected, and our involvement is needed to ensure the character and separation of the villages are respected and wherever possible the impact mitigated.

The main footbridge over Barkby Brook connecting Vicarage and School Lane has been used for generations and is now in need of safety improvements. The highway funding available to me this year would be ideal for this kind of project but when we investigated the status of the bridge, we found that it was not an official Right of Way. I have advised the parish council to gather historical

photographs and take statements from long standing residents to build evidence that the bridge has been used as a right of way for a long time. When this work has been completed the bridge will be formally adopted and the repairs can be made.

Hamilton Lea

A Taylor Wimpey and Linden homes development that is a little closer to being offered to the Leicestershire County Council for adoption of the roads and pavements.



The beautiful green spaces that weave throughout the development is managed by the newly appointed Encore Estates and many issues that have come to light in recent months about the management will be addressed.



Although Hamilton Lea is in Leicestershire, I work closely with Hamilton Residents Association that does include members from Hamilton Lea and share many characteristics and problems. One problem is dirt bikes being driven on the shared interlinking pathways between Barkbythorpe Road to Hamilton Lane. I am working with the city and county police to identify the riders.

Happy to womble



This past year I have completed many litter picks, either with others or alone. I get enormous pleasure in removing, not just litter, but items that lay hidden in ditches or obscured for 6 months of the year in the undergrowth.



My actions to support residents include

- Success in getting the controlled crossing installed.
- Speed reduction and dragon teeth on Barkby Thorpe Lane.
- Writing funding applications to support community groups
- (MVAS) Vehicle Activated Sign South Croxton
- Village entrance dragon teeth South Croxton
- Liaised with housing associations on tenant's behalf
- Attended parish council meetings
- Organised events for the Platinum Jubilee
- Attended as a school governor for Church Hill Junior School
- In talks with Highways regarding traffic congestion at the shopping centre
- Continuing to ask for improved drainage Church Hill Bridge.
- Housing and benefit needs addresses with robust representation