

" County Councillor Annual Report

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during

Name of Councillor : Terry Richardson

1) Electoral Division activities

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

It has been a privilege to continue to serve the residents of my Division over the last 12 months and to have been re-elected in May 2021. I am fortunate that the Division falls within two Parish Council in Narborough and Whetstone. Having been a Parish Councillor in Narborough for the last 33 years I am very well known in that area and am frequently contacted by residents either at home or when out and about in the Parish. In respect of Whetstone where my Division covers half of the Parish area, I regularly attend parish meetings and liaise with the Clerk and Deputy Clerk about all County matters relating to the area working with my fellow County Councillor who covers the rest of Whetstone.

Over the past year I have dealt with numerous queries from residents 90% of which I have been able to respond to without reference to County officers using knowledge gained since I became a County Councillor and also drawing on my long experience as both a Parish councillor and a District Councillor where my ward covers over half of the Division and where I am currently the Leader of the Council. Most of the issues raised by residents relate to traffic and highways issues, the public waste disposal site at Whetstone, school places and on rare occasions highly confidential issues relating children's services. I continue to work closely with Portfolio holders, where appropriate, and thank them for the support and assistance they have provided.

Clearly the last year has been a challenge for us all and I have looked to provide assistance to local residents in any way I can. Whilst the pandemic has been truly awful it is a testament to the community spirit in my Division that residents, far too numerous to mention, have risen to the challenge of helping their fellow citizens and rekindling a Community spirit which has always existed below the surface and for which I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

Clearly the local events I have regularly attended in my Division have been greatly curtailed by zoom and Microsoft teams has enabled me to keep in touch with many of the groups and well as the Parish Councils electronically as we all adapted to a new way of working. As I write this, I think we are all hoping that things are starting to return to the way they were, but I will do all within my power to support those voluntary groups either existing or in many cases new who have been at the forefront of supporting residents during this crisis.

Even during the pandemic there were still residents' concerns to address as follows.

- The key issue facing both villages during the past 12 months continues to be focused on highway issues but due to reduced vehicle movements, cycling and walking has been of greater importance. The gap in the combined foot path and cycle way joining Littlethorpe to Whetstone has been of even greater concern and Officers are keen to complete the route if and when funding becomes available for the Warwick Road section. Speeding is still an issue along with air quality and I have had numerous conversations about what might be

possible.

- E-mails have tended to be the way most residents have communicated, and I have dealt with these in a timely manner hopefully managing residents' expectations about what it is possible to achieve especially with the financial constraints that the County Council has had to work under and fully recognising that officers have been fully focused, in the main, on Covid related issues.
- I regularly issue written material to residents on a regular basis but have not been able to canvass as I normally would. When restrictions did permit, I did take the opportunity to have some socially distanced discussions where this would provide a better outcome.
- I believe I maintain an appropriate profile within the Division, residents have my home telephone number, e-mail address and my home address. I respond to all enquiries as soon as possible providing a holding note if I need to seek additional information.
- In the end nothing works better than walking around the Division and talking to those you meet on route. Visiting local shops when they have been open has allowed me to see how they were doing and if I could offer any assistance during these very difficult times.

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

I will engage with all bodies as required and always seek greater understanding a recent example being a virtual meeting with residents of Whetstone to discuss air quality and speeding issues where I was fully supported by Senior officers and the Portfolio holder.

Priorities for the immediate future are:

My first priority is to continue to support my residents. The second priority is to work within the County Council to assist the wider Group in shaping policy going forward to provide an ever-better service where possible.

I know that the how and where houses will be built is a key issue to my residents and whilst I accept that planning is a District Council matter the provision of the necessary infrastructure sits squarely with the County Council who need the necessary resources to provide this. I always use any opportunity to promote this case especially the need for fair funding for our County. I continually act as an advocate to residents to explain what a quality service they receive from the County Council despite our financial constraints.

2) Council Activities

Committees you serve on at County Hall

I am Chairman of the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Panel where we are doing valuable work on issues such as the physical provision of Care accommodation, New working models to increase front line staff time in adult social care, proposals for a new heritage collections hub and many other important issues. I am Deputy Chairman of Corporate Governance which plays a crucial role in ensuring the well running of the council and reducing the risks that we face. I also sit on the Scrutiny Commission whose role is to hold the executive to account but in a constructive

way to assist in the best decisions being made.

Local committees/Outside Bodies

As mentioned above I am a member of Narborough Parish Council where I have served for over 33 years. I have been a Blaby District Councillor for the last 10 years and have been the Leader of that Council for the past 6 years. I also serve as a Director of the LLEP which is heavily involved in seeking to obtaining investment into Leicester and Leicestershire and determining how this should be spent. I have recently been elected as Chairman of the Members Advisory group which is made up of the nine councils in Leicestershire and which seeks to provide a strategic direction for the development of the City and County promoting joint working across all members.

3) Learning and development:

It is crucial to keep up to date with what is happening in local government and I therefore attend the regular briefings held at County Hall, read widely, attend conferences and seminars and meet with my local MP on a regular basis.

Social Media

I use on a limited basis where appropriate preferring to leaflet local residents and to do regular canvassing.

Signed by Councillor Terry Richardson

Date: 27th June 2021