

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 following my re-election 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 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.

As we return to the new normal following the great success of the vaccine program, I have been able to provide assistance to residents in a more usual way. I am delighted that the community spirit in my division has shown no signs of reducing and will continue to do all I can to support this.

Clearly the local events I have regularly attended are now retuning to the usual face to face and it is easy to see the joy that community events not held for the last two years are returning has brought. However, some of the undoubted benefits that were brought by using zoom and Microsoft teams will continue to be used which has brought a further dimension to how we can all keep in touch has enabled me to keep in touch.

The scope of residents' concerns to address remain much as always.

- The key issue facing both villages during the past 12 months continues to be focused on highway issues, which with vehicle movements increasing to pre-pandemic levels has brought some of the issues into sharper focus. Having said that cycling and walking levels, have I believe remained higher than pre-pandemic and issues relating to this now account for a larger portion of my time. In this respect the gap in the combined foot path and cycle way joining Littlethorpe to Whetstone has been of even greater concern. Whilst it is too early to comment further, I believe there is a real opportunity in the coming year to resolve this matter and I will keep residents updated on progress. Speeding and static parking offences and how they are dealt with by the police continue to be a major and, in this

respect, my on-going dialogue with the Police and Crime Commissioner will continue.

- 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.
- I regularly issue written material to residents on a regular basis and welcome my return to 'door knocking' which always gives a window on to residents' concerns.
- 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 and businesses is always very revealing and this enables me to see if there any assistance I can offer during what remain 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 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 have provide huge benefits both in quality of service and financial savings. Proposals for a new heritage collections hub or back on the table as well as 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 11 years and have been the Leader of that Council for the past 7 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 am also 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 residents and to do regular canvassing.

Signed by Councillor Terry Richardson

Date: 26th June 2022