

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 **Mark Peter Frisby**
Division Represented **Melton Mowbray (West Division)**

Electoral Division activities

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

My election manifesto comprised of three areas of targeted development, **climate change and the environment, employment and skills** for Melton residents and **opportunities for young people in the borough.**

Climate Change and the Environment

Immediately after the election, I sought out the Environment and Climate Change Committee and accepted the role of deputy chairman of the group. Principle activities have included forming links to the LA tree officers, environmental groups - the Melton and Rutland Wildlife (and environmental) Trusts, the MOWS, Melton and Oakham Waterways Society and major environmental sustainability projects in Melton Mowbray. This extended into consultancy with an organisation called the Paint Research Association based at the PERA business park in Melton. PRA are a specialist research and development operation who are exploring ways of recycling liquid paint, whilst extracting precious minerals. Paint disposal can be extremely destructive to the environment and impacts heavily on local authority budgets. As County Councillor, I have formed a consultancy relationship with Mr Andrew Jones the PRA Operations Director and specialist in hazardous waste management and recycling.

As part of my commitment to climate change and environmental issues, I have also been working closely with the Melton Space project, Sunny Skies and Wellies; all of whom are based at the Melton Country Park Café and are invested in community, environmental and recycling initiatives. I have also engaged with other environmental stake holders including Melton in Bloom, Melton Lions Club (with the friendship bench project) and the Mowbray Education trust, visiting schools and discussing community climate projects

with the children.

Employment and Skills for Melton

As a Melton resident, I have concerns relating to employment, skills and development opportunities for people in the borough. During and after the pandemic, the economic impact on the local economy has been catastrophic. Monthly, we are witnessing major business closure in the area. Melton also has huge challenges in retaining skilled young people in the locality; inadvertently, Melton is in danger of becoming a “Dorma town”. Retail in the town has been adversely affected and there are limited employment options for under skilled workers. I have been actively supporting our local MP in trying to attract new manufacturing business to the area. I have also supported local traders concerned about the night-time economy as the pub and restaurant trade was adversely affected by the pandemic. I have held several surgeries and suggested ways of increasing footfall through local events and targeted marketing campaigns. Melton has witnessed a dramatic decline in competitive employment opportunities in the local area. Improving the profile of the town is high on my county councillor agenda, I feel if the town is an attractive place to visit, in turn it will be an attractive place for new business to invest in.

Opportunities for young people in the borough.

A major (and my most substantive) piece of work that I orchestrated since being in post is the AMY project. AMY will provide an open access forum that represents the views of young people from Melton and the surrounding area. The independent group will be run by young people, for young people, in the borough, with guidance provided by relevant stake holders, local business leads and local authority officers. It will provide a youth voice for young people to ensure their views are heard, recorded, and responded to in the decision-making process. AMY will provide an open door for young people to discuss community issues, engage with decision makers and contribute to improving the lives of young people in the borough. The forum can also suggest events, activities and identify service needs for young people in Melton.

Community Leadership Role

The work within my electoral division that I would like to draw attention to includes, my schools and community consultation role. I have visited and worked with local schools to discuss opportunities for children and school leavers and explore ways of addressing antisocial behaviour in the town centre. I have joined the Mowbray Education Trust as a committee advisor for their board of governance; the aim is to position the cluster of schools in the “MET” to be more central in community activity. Part of this duty has included forming close working partnerships with the borough council and Melton Police. I have also incorporated local service organisations like

Rotary, Melton Lions Club and our own community radio station (103FM The Eye) in community cohesion projects. Through our collective volunteering programs, we have contributed to Melton in Bloom, our local covid vaccination centre, The Friendship Bench Project, The Melton Country Park community Café, and the development of a mental health drop-in centre and wellbeing project.

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

As a director of a local and specialised career, welfare and employment service, I have an existing relationship with Melton Borough Council, the local schools, and public utility companies (Water, Gas etc). I have on occasion, been asked to contact statutory bodies and public utility companies on behalf of Melton residents. My interfacing with public utility companies has increased exponentially in respect of escalating service charges and domestic hardship.

Priorities for the immediate future are:

My priorities for the immediate future in Melton are developing and enhancing opportunities for **youth voice** in the borough. Exploring ways to create improved opportunities for young people in Melton, this includes attracting competitive business to the area to harness local talent and potential.

The **environment and climate** change are also high on my agenda, I have initiated summer workshops and greenspace projects to promote greater environmental awareness.

Advocating for **Melton Mowbray as a desirable tourist destination**, is a key priority. Melton is a “sleeping giant” in terms of potential tourism-based growth and opportunity. I would like to promote Melton as a centre for cultural, recreation and heritage excellence in the East Midlands.

Council Activities

County Council Committees You Served On

Climate Change and the Environment
Children and Families Scrutiny committee

Local Committee/Outside Bodies

School governance JFC Community Advisory Committee
Melton Lions Club – Friendship Bench Committee
British Actors Equity
Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust

Learning and Development

Advanced Safeguarding Level 3
Counselling Skills Level 2

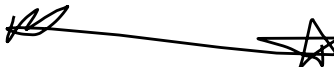
Other Matters

I have, on occasion, been asked to deputise for Alicia Kerns MP at official engagements. Most notably and proudly representing her (and LCC) at the Melton Mowbray 2021 Remembrance Day Parade.

I am also working closely with Cllr Pam Posnett in community projects relating to our highways fund. We have already supported 103FM the Eye (local radio) with traffic update signs, Melton in Bloom (for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations), Melton Lions Club (The Friendship Bench Project)

Communications

I communicate within my electoral division through social media, email, directly by telephone, residential visits and member surgeries. In the last twelve months (since being elected). I have attended sixteen residential property visits, visited five schools, been invited to seven local (and developing) businesses. I also hold two open door surgeries a month, in the last year I have had over twenty-five personal appointments with residents from my electoral division.

Signed by Councillor:- 

Date:- 25/06/2022