

Barry Champion CC

County Councillor for Market Harborough East

(incl. the parishes of East Langton; Great Bowden; Thorpe Langton and West Langton)



Firstly, I would like to thank everyone that voted for me in May 21, your trust in me is much appreciated. Secondly, whichever way you voted, I shall endeavour to serve each and every one of you equally and to the best of my abilities.

I would often find, whilst carrying out my District level duties that I would reach a point at which I could not pursue an issue easily, especially relating to Highways matters. By standing successfully for County I have overcome these difficulties, to create a one stop shop for my residents. Exposure to the many areas covered by County have helped me become a far more effective Councillor and made the role as your local representative, thoroughly rewarding.

This first year has been spent getting to know my fellow Councillors and officers (not an easy task during Covid), reaching out to new parishes and community groups and getting to grips with my new committees, plus a whole bunch of training.

Electoral Division Activities and Committees

Although I am not on the Highways committee, most emails from residents are usually concerned with Highways matters. So it was vitally important to develop a good working relationship with the Highways team, Cabinet member for Highways and the Director of Highways. As such, I have been able to deal with a number of pressing matters across my division.

In addition, members have been given a £25K Members Highway Fund, to help deal with local issues. I am in the process of funding two Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) in two of the Langton's parishes. These will help to keep speeds down and pedestrians safe. Any underspend is carried over into the following year, with an additional £25k added to the pot for year 22/23. I will be looking to fund more projects this coming year, working closely with Harborough District Council.

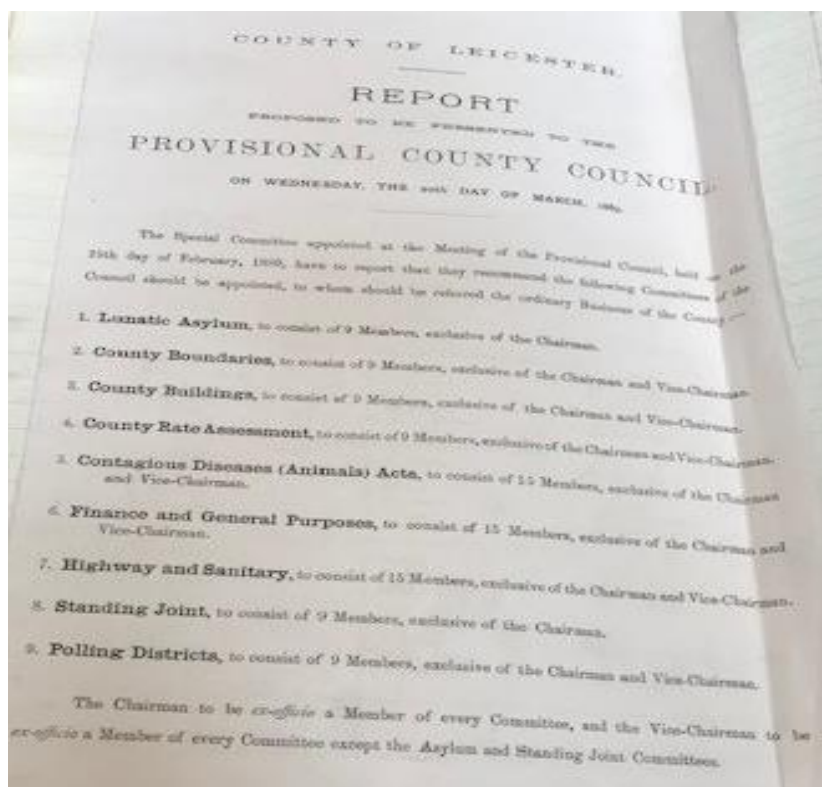
Due to budget constraints, there has been some necessary but unwelcome restructuring relating to LCC's Community Life Choices (or day care as it is better known) provision within the division.

I visited our facilities to get a better understanding of the services provided and was able to use this information to help my decision making on the Adults and Communities committee on which I serve.

I ensured my details were available to any CLC users in case they needed my assistance during any transition stage.

Also, under the Adults and Communities committee, is the preparation of relocating LCC's historic collections, from six different sites to one location at County Hall. I was able to visit the

Records Office in Wigston, the Collection Resource Centre at Barrow upon Soar and the Eastern Annex at County Hall.



The staff were extremely helpful, and the guided tours were enlightening. Their in-depth knowledge is invaluable.

This agenda on the left, from the first County Council meeting in March 1889, was quite an eye opener.

With committees dedicated to Lunatic Asylums and Contagious Diseases, we can see we have come a long way since the late nineteenth century.

The records office storage capacity has reached the point of overflowing and a move to a bespoke, enlarged building is imperative to preserve our local history.

The collections contain a wide range of objects, from period dresses, vehicles, archaeological finds, old signs, aircraft, mining equipment and even a working clown car.

Storage for some of these items is not ideal and a new facility would go a long way towards securing these items for generations to come.



I look forward to seeing this project making progress over the coming year.

Another committee on which I serve is the CFA. This is the governing body of the Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland Combined Fire Authority. Made up of Councillors from across the three authorities. Senior officers are able to keep the CFA members informed of the fire and rescue services performance, equipment, staff, training, finances and so on.



The service also provides special projects such as the Fireskills training, where children from 12-17 attend a team work based programme on practical fire-fighting drills and other sessions on fire safety.

This culminated in a presentation to CFA members at Uppingham station in April, where the children were able to display all that they had learnt over the previous week.

I also had the opportunity to visit my local station in Market Harborough, where I was able to observe the team during one of their frequent training exercises, followed by a cup of tea with the crew to meet them personally and give them a chance to tell me about their work, facilities and the service in general.

Serving on the CFA committee was unexpected, but it has been a privilege to be part of this fantastic service, and I am pleased to be able to help them in any way that I can.

I am currently working with senior officers on a new training facility project. Hopefully more to tell you next year.



Council Committees and outside bodies I serve on

- Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- County Council
- Employment Committee
- Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland Combined Fire Authority
- Welham Lane Liaison Committee

Signed by Councillor Barry Champion
Date: 28th June 2022