

From County Councillor Amanda Hack - Braunstone Division

30th June 2021

6 Darwin Close
Thorpe Astley
Leicestershire
LE3 3UE
07733366676



Annual Report 2020-21

Review of the Year

In 2021/21 I have continued as the Labour Health Spokes, a brief that I have held since May 2017. In the year we have had with Covid and the Public Health Emergency, this consistency has ensured that I have a good understanding of the regular reports and expectations of the role. Health Spokes include a place on the **Joint Health Scrutiny** with Colleagues from Rutland and Leicester City.

I have spoken in many debates in Full Council and in July 2019 I put forward a number of formal questions at full council including working with Cllr Sheahan on support to children and families to access Education and put forward a range of questions linked to the concerns residents raised with me about the positioning of 5G masts on the Kingsway. The outcome of the 5G question did highlight that infrastructure processes hadn't been reviewed by Cabinet since 2000.

In addition, I put forward an amendment to a motion on the Hospital Re-organisation presented by Cllr Pearson. The amendment expanded the focus of the motion and broadened its focus to cover elements wider than the stand-alone birthing unit at St Mary's in Melton.

Working for our Community

In a year like no other, normal ways of community engagement was put on hold. I was still reachable by phone and my casework covered much wider concerns about general wellbeing.

In addition, in my role as a Town Councillor I worked with my colleagues to ensure that there was a Community led response available to Braunstone Division. This community led response was co-ordinated by the Town Council and had volunteers right across the community, supporting others with shopping, errands, dog walking and befriending. It was clear that we had individuals who became quite lonely during this time and I spent some time speaking some key local community advocates to keep in touch with how people were managing.

Main Activities throughout the Year

There was a pause on main activities, so I needed to find new ways of making sure I was visible and picking up issues and concerns.

Members Group Room Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RA
Telephone: 0116 232 3232

I've been picking litter regularly, it gets me out and about, but it also allows me to speak to people who are out and keep in touch with our local facilities. You'll often see me picking litter with my daughter in between Kingsway Primary and Winstanley Schools. Although I have tackled other areas of the Division, with this section of Narborough Road South being tackled in March 2021 being the most cluttered with 3 bags picked in about 20 minutes!

Before

After



In addition, I run the area, my sort of patch walk and report things as I go. In one run I reported an issue to the Police, reported a flood issue and reported a fly tip to Blaby District Council. I am fortunate to be involved in the Town Council as the team keep me in touch with local issues, but it also means I can call on them for very localised concerns.

Some of the key things I have been doing:

- Worked with the local beat team on crime issues across the beat.
- Working with Social Services on specific pieces of localised casework.
- Worked with the District Councillors on Environmental and Planning enforcement casework, this has been mainly due to the issues we have been having locally with Homes in Multiple Occupation.
- School Places support for appealing families
- Many one-to-one sessions with local people on individual casework.
- Supporting the Braunstone Community Foodbank, with donations, packing and delivering.



Here I am pictured paying my respects to those who have lost their lives in conflicts around the world on Remembrance Sunday.

Committees

As a member of the **Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee** I am involved in scrutinising a wide range of Health issues. This year we have looked at:

- Covid Response and Vaccination Programme
- Mental Health Liaison and Transformation Services
- Sexual Health Strategy

Members Group Room Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RA
Telephone: 0116 232 3232

www.leics.gov.uk

- Healthwatch Leicester and Leicestershire brought forward reports on Dental Services for individuals with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
- Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Service
- Primary Care and Developer 106 Contributions
- Substance Misuse Service

I also attend **Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny** and there have been many elements of Health Services that have been presented to the joint panel. This includes the work now needed following the successful out come of the bid to central government to re-organise the hospitals that serve the area with a £450m investment plan. There have been several reports presented covering this investment, including the consultation approach needed now the money had been secured.

Alongside being a County Councillor, I am also Deputy Leader of Braunstone Town Council and attend, Corporate Governance, Policy and Resources, Community Development and Full Council.

Communication

Due to the Covid pandemic communication has been difficult. Initially due to the concern about delivering specific communication. I continue to provide an update of activities more informally to the virtual copy of the Braunstone Life which has been updated as a Facebook page our Community Newsletter and provide an update to Braunstone Town Council.

Through this year I have been in touch with Community Groups and worked with the Braunstone Town Council colleagues to provide additional grant support to local groups.

There has been significant numbers of direct mail that I have sent out during my election campaign, as this was when restrictions were released made this possible. I wanted to thank my constituents for continuing to put their trust in me to continue in my role as the County Councillor for the next 4 years.

I hope I will be able to resume special issue Councillor Face to Face Surgeries/door knocking and leaflet delivery.

I work with the local media and share press releases with all the local newspapers.

Looking Ahead

Since my re-election in May, I have taken on new responsibilities as the Deputy Leader of the Labour Group and looking forward to taking my place on a new Scrutiny panel that will cover the Environment.

I will be looking to engage with local people on the newly released £25,000 that has been allocated for Highway Investment in Braunstone Division. Once I have been briefed about the fund I will be undertaking some work with local people on work that can be done.

Amanda Hack County Councillor for Braunstone Division

Members Group Room Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RA
Telephone: 0116 232 3232

www.leics.gov.uk

