

From County Councillor Amanda Hack - Braunstone Division

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Annual Report 2021/22

Review of the Year

The elections in May 2021, saw Covid restrictions ease as the return to community campaigning was given the go ahead and it was great to be able to speak to as many people as I did in the few weeks before the election. After a much shorter campaign, I was thrilled to have been re-elected, although the frustratingly for me, my group at County is now down to 4. We are a hard-working and a focused group of Councillors and will continue to work for communities across Leicestershire.

In 2021/22 I expanded my brief as I became the Deputy Leader of the Labour Group, I have also continued as the Labour Health Spokes, a role that I have held since May 2017. Health Spokes includes a place on the **Joint Health Scrutiny** with Colleagues from Rutland and Leicester City. In September 2021, I also attended my first meeting in my new role as Labour Spokes for the Environment.

I have spoken in many debates in Full Council and in July 2021 in my role as Deputy I took the lead role for the Labour Group.

Full Council provides an opportunity for Councillors to put forward questions and motions. Our group ask many questions and this year I have raised questions on Active Travel and the issues around school parking. Further questions were asked about the delays arising from the organising of transport for students accessing Special Educational Need services.

I raised a motion in July 2021 about safety and cleansing around the Highway. I put forward specific asks around the management of the highway including protection of the verges, good housekeeping after roadworks and improvement in the safety of cycleways and footways through a lighting review. I was also happy to support motions on COP 25, Prevention Services inc Public Health and Cancer Patients

The year has seen many changes and our Full Council meetings demonstrated how the impacts of the legislation and precautions needed to consider the impacts of Covid. The Annual meeting in May 2021 saw us in a huge hall at Loughborough University seated individually, we then travelled to the Racecourse for July and then back to County Hall in September. Seeing visitors and guests has only just resumed more recently.

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Working for our Community

The new ways of getting out and about that I picked up during Covid have continued in 2021/22.

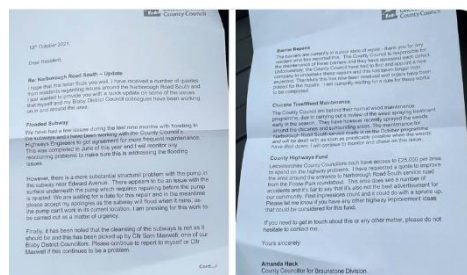


I've been picking litter as often as I can, it gets me out and about, but it also allows me to speak to people who are around and keep in touch with our local facilities. I joined 2 local wombles in April 2022 and got myself stuck in pulling out old tyres and rubbish, but also reported the couple of fly tips on Watergate Lane and spoke to some local people who gave me some casework. It's not all work though as I also picked up some stray Pinecones along Narborough Road South, that I'm hoping we can do a project with local children at Christmas time.

I also run the area regularly, it's my sort of patch walk as I report things as I go, it's also handy to be able to see things up and close. Using the 'Love Clean Streets' app makes reporting fly tipping or stray trolleys really easy, but I have also called the police and report things into Highways. It was useful to check up on the Narborough Road Subways, when we were having issues with Flooding, I was out on a run, in late August and was caught in a downpour so I checked the subway near to the Kingsway...I went to the wrong one as this was the weekend all the trouble with the Cyril Street/Edward Avenue subway started.

(You can report any issue via the app or here <https://lovecleanstreets.info/how-it-works>)

Speaking of the **Narborough South** subways, we had some real issues with the middle subway and the fixes were intensive. I sent this letter updating 500 residents on all things Subway in October, but the fix took until February half term to get sorted. Then I got a call just 6 weeks later from Ian, who is an employee of Braunstone Town Council to let me know it had flooded again...so I went to visit. The problem was different to the original one, but it was a real concern for residents to have a local access point closed for significant periods of time.



I am fortunate to be involved in the Town Council as the team keep me in touch with local issues,

Main Activities Throughout the Year

An important part of being a Councillor is supporting people with matters that need a Councillor to help then navigate the system, make some enquiries or give them some support to progress something themselves. Some of the general work has included:

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- Working with the local beat team on crime issues across the beat.
- Working with Social Services with specific pieces of casework around care packages
- Supporting residents with access to services including liaising with GP practices about home visits for Covid Boosters
- Picking up Health queries directly for residents on Hospital transport, post-natal care and 0-5 health visiting.
- School Places support for appealing families, we have had a difficult secondary school intake year for September 2022, so I have spoken to many families worried about what to do.
- Supporting the Braunstone Community Foodbank up until they decided to close operation as the support for Covid was winding down.
- Worked with the District Councillors to support the improvement at the end of Woodland Drive

Members Highways Fund

In July County Councillors were allocated £25k per area to do some focused work on the highway. I communicated this via Braunstone Life and a leaflet drop. In addition, working with the Town Council, we'd already reviewed the accident data to understand where we could focus the mobile speed cameras, so I reviewed this to see where we had higher numbers of accidents.

The focus for 2021/22 was the opening up of Braunstone Town from the Fosse Park roundabout, the previous Highway that is around and near the Osiers have high numbers of accidents and when you look at the work and commentary that the public have raised on Safer Streets, this area is something that concerned residents. The works have been signed off to complete, to open up this space, put in a village gateway and put some planters at the entrance, but it needs to be scheduled in for completion. There are other works outstanding too including some speed activation work on Braunstone Lane and the Narborough South Slip Road.

Committees

As a member of the **Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee** I also attend **Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny** and there have been many elements of Health Services that have been presented to the panels.

There are many areas that have been scrutinized by both the **County and Joint Health**, although the significant piece of work for both has been the change in the organisation of Health Commissioning from CCG's to Integrated Care System (ICS). Whilst the transition to the ICS was delayed by Government to July 2022, the work in scrutiny began early in the process.

Health Scrutiny covered:

- Public Health and Covid response
- Restoration of Elective Care and planned operations
- Review and preparation for the 0-19 commissioned service
- Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

As a spokes, I was also able to request that Leicestershire Health Scrutiny reviewed Anorexia services since the opening of the new facility.

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Joint Health Covered:

- UHL reconfiguration
- Maternity reconfiguration
- Dentistry update
- Covid updates and vaccinations
- UHL update including the financial picture

As spokes I was able to request, in response to the parliamentary enquiry on maternity services to cover maternity mortality.

In my new role as Labour spokes for the **Environment** it was clear that the work to establish this new committee matched the commitment to the Net Zero target of the Authority. We have covered several areas including:

- Waste trends and strategy
- Authorities focus on its own impact and measurement of clear targets
- Roadmap to Net Zero 2045
- Tree Strategy, Country parks and Open Spaces

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 was difficult, but we are returning to the Braunstone Life publishing hard copies of the paper and I have kept residents up to date with my activities through this media, as well as continuing to pass over information for the Facebook version of the paper.

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.

A return to almost business as usual has meant that the local Labour team has been out an about speaking to residents again. This is an important part of keeping in touch with local issues. We were back out on the doors in the Winstanley area in September 2021 and again in November when we decided as a Labour team to create a petition to try and prevent the 'relocation' closure of Park Drive.



Save Park Drive GP Practice

We decided in October that we would create a petition to gather support to our cause to save the GP practice on the edge of Braunstone Division from closure. A team started gathering signatures at the Craft Fair in November at St Marys Community Centre. After many cold door knocking sessions, supported by residents from across Braunstone Town, Leicester Forest East and Kirby Muxloe alongside local businesses and community facilities, over 1,300 signatures were collected.

The petition was presented to Health Scrutiny in January, a clip of this is here:
<https://youtu.be/Bprj2L3guXM>

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I have continued to push this by attending meetings with the practice and discussing the issues with the Chief Executive of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CEO elect of the ICS). At the time of publication of this report, work is continuing on this activity.

I have resumed special issue Councillor Face to Face meetings with residents, door knocking and leaflet delivery.

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

Looking Ahead

In 2022/23 I have taken over the leadership of the Labour Group at County and will start to attend Cabinet meetings as an observer regularly and meet as part of Group Leaders meetings.

Group Leaders also attend the Scrutiny Commission. The work of the Commission is to review the over all strategic direction and corporate policies and priorities of the Cabinet and Council. This includes the budget.

Amanda Hack County Councillor for Braunstone Division