

County Councillor Annual Report 2021/22

Councillor Dan Harrison

Division represented: Ibstock Appleby

For the year 2021/22 I have carried out the responsibilities of the Chairman of the Council and as a result I have not been given any committees to serve on.

My main role has been to go out and meet members of the Public and attend events and special gatherings. The breakdown of events are as follows “chairing the County Council meetings”, attending all civic events across the Shire and the City and Rutland and the third group is charities and the last group is made up by business from small to very large.

During my chairmanship I visited the following organisations:

- Senior Officer - R.A.F Wittering
- Chief Constable - Leicestershire Constabulary
- Leicester City Council – The Bishop of Leicester
- The Fire Chief Officer Combined Fire Authority
- Visited Leicester H.M.P Prison met with Prison Warden
- Met the Duke of Rutland at Belvoir Castle
- Loughborough University Vice Chancellor
- High Sheriff of Leicestershire
- Meeting with C.E.O and Chair of UHL Hospital Group
- Meeting with Leicester University Vice Chancellor
- Meeting with Police and Crime Commissioner
- Meeting with DeMontfort University Vice Chancellor

I was honoured and privileged to meet the following members of the royal household on behalf of the County Council and all the residents of Leicestershire.

- The Prince and Princess of Wessex.
- His Grace the Duke of Gloucester.
- Princess Royal Princess Anne.

During my time as Chairman of the County Council I carried out 170 official engagements on behalf of the County Council. Sadly I lost a considerable amount of appointments because of Covid.

I was very pleased to officially open Ashby Hastings Primary School in Ashby De La Zouch.

I was delighted to host a reception for volunteers held at Beaumanor Hall. The volunteers represent all our communities which benefit from such a wide range of voluntary activity and during the course of my term in office I have endeavoured to show my support to a number of organisations by attending special events and visiting groups and charities across the County of Leicestershire.

H.M.P Gartree art exhibition at Harborough Museum - this exhibition for which I was asked to host and open with the Deputy Governor Rachael Martindale. This exhibition was co-curated by the prisoners through a partnership between the H.M.P Gartree staff and Leicestershire County Council's Communities and Wellbeing Service.

The Council are proud to manage the library within H.M.P Gartree. The Council successfully to host this Arts Council funded B.B.C 100 novels that shaped the world.

The celebration of Loughborough's 800 years Market - as part of a year long celebration of Loughborough's Market led by Charnwood Borough Council with support from Leicestershire County Council exhibition which charts the 800 years of the weekly market. I was able to thank the many volunteers who worked alongside the County Council staff. This was a great display of collaboration. My thanks went out to all who had contributed to this amazing event.

The Chairman's Charity Dinner in support of Dementia. The event was held at Beaumanor Hall. Although the confirmed numbers at this time ten days before was less than forty this was causing some concern. However on the night the actual head count was over 100 all three dining halls were used. I am most grateful for the amazing support, it was truly an amazing evening. The total money raised was over £4000 pounds.

The Chairman's County Civic Service for Leicestershire was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Ashby De La Zouch which is my regular church that I attend. The service was a change from the traditional. We had a catholic priest conduct the service. The sermon was given by the Church of England Bishop of Leicester and a further change was the Act of Dedication which I was called to make the following statement:

*Renouncing which is wrong holding fast to which is good during this year, I have given honourable and faithful service to all the people of the County of Leicestershire.*

And the final change was where representatives of other faiths were asked to come forward and read out the Golden Rule which is the principle of treating others as one wants to be treated. It is a maxim that is found in most religions and cultures. The following religious representatives made their statements of the Golden Rule:

- Bahai Faith
- Buddhism
- Hinduism
- Humanism
- Islam
- Jainism
- Judaism
- Quakers
- Sikhism

This was truly a service for all the people of Leicestershire who I was truly honoured and proud to be elected to serve.

And finally I would like to extend my thanks to all staff who worked so hard in the Chairman's Office to make this a very good year.

Thank you all.