



COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN

March 2020

I am always on hand to try and deal with any concerns you may have about services provided by Leicestershire County Council. Such as street lighting, highways, footpaths, overhanging trees and hedges onto the highways/footpaths, social services etc.

Gelders Hall

Due to years of concerns in Gelders Hall regarding parking and Lorries having trouble navigating around the estate and recently parking at the entrance into Gelders Hall. I had meetings with businesses and County to try to come up with a solution. I understand that County have contacted business on the estate outlining their proposals. The proposals are for double yellow lines, both sides of the road as you enter, double yellow lines on one side of the road around the estate, allowing vehicles to park on one side only and making Gelders Hall one-way around the estate.

I understand that there has been a lot of comments about this on Facebook (I do not do Facebook). If you have any comments to make, can you make it via the contact details on the letter. I also understand that a lot of the comments refer to the problem leaving Gelders Hall following the alterations/white lines at the traffic lights at the top of Charnwood Road. Some of you might remember I got up a petition regarding these white lines, and unfortunately County officers could not see a problem and they remain as they are.

Police

Patch walk

I had a patch walk with Sgt Lee Taylor and PC Mistretta on Saturday morning 8th February, together with Cllr Jane Lennie (Shepshed Town Cllr). In Shepshed all political parties work together for the benefit of the Town. We focussed on areas of Shepshed in which residents have contacted me about parking issues. Residents need to be mindful that parking on double yellows is not allowed, parking considerately so that other residents can pass to gain access to their homes, parking very near to junctions causing problems when trying to leave a road. Parking on pavements, if you do, you need to make sure there is enough room for a double



buggy or electric motorised wheel chair to pass without having to go onto the road. We also discussed areas of concerns regarding drug dealing within the Town.

The Beat Team has undergone a number of staff changes, below is a list of current and new officers:-

PC1969 – Matthew Orton
PC4122 – Lisa Mansfield
PCSO 6552 – Mohammed Musa
PCSO 6046 – Kelly Davis
PCSO 6014 – Rhiannon Gee
PCSO 6542 – Viren Patel

I was introduced to Mohammed Musa together with other Cllrs at a recent Town Council meeting at which Sgt Taylor discussed areas of concerns with us.

Vehicle Crime

There has recently been a peak in vehicle crime over the past few months. Below are a few tips to keep your vehicle secure.

Car security at home

Where possible ensure that your vehicle is parked on your driveway or in your garage if you have one. Alternatively, ensure your vehicle is parked in a well lit area. Have an alarm and immobiliser fitted if your vehicle doesn't have one already. Locking wheel nuts are cheap and easy to fit to prevent your alloy wheels being stolen. Catalytic converters can be marked using a specialist metal security marking chemical and secure labels to warn potential thieves that the catalytic converter carries an identification mark.

Key security

Keep your car keys safe and out of sight at home. Ensure they are not left near unlocked doors or open windows in your home to ensure they are not easily available to opportunist thieves. Never leave your keys in your vehicle, even for a second. This includes at fuel stations and when de-icing your vehicle.



Car key security

Keyless Entry Vehicles security – Thieves are targeting vehicles which have keyless entry system using digital scanners allowing the car to be unlocked without a trace of forced entry or damage. Signal blocking pouches will block the signal from a keyless entry fob. Understand the digital functions of your car, do you have a keyless entry system, if so, can the fob be switched off overnight? Speak to your dealer about software updates and whether new key fobs with added security are available. Regular remote locking fobs which require the car owner to press a button are not vulnerable to these crimes, it is only those cars which allow the owner to approach and unlock the car with the keys still in their pocket.

Road Works

Residents are aware that Shepshed is regularly grid locked due to all the road works around Shepshed. I receive a number of complaints regarding mud on the road especially outside the developments on Hathern Road and Tickow Lane. I believe there have been a large number of Shepshed residents sending their comments to County re the proposals on Tickow Lane outside of the Jelson development, as I have. What I am amazed at is that there is a proposal for a zebra crossing on Tickow Lane, which I do think will be needed when all the houses are finished and occupied. BUT County do not think that the already agreed zebra crossing on Anson, which I got as part of the S106 agreement, (this means the developer pays for it) meets the criteria, due to they say, currently residents do not cross Anson Road in the same place, and it will only be used in the mornings and at school times, but I am of the opinion, that if a crossing is provided then pedestrians will use it.

Trees

Trees in highways falls under the remit of the County and following concerns raised by residents living in Lambert Avenue I have been assured by County that the trees in this area will be pollarded later this year. This should improve the situation but it will obviously be an ongoing concern. I have also asked that the trees on Glenmore can be pollarded at the same time.

In some cases the problem is low hanging branches causing an inconvenience to pedestrians.



Visits

Carer of the year awards

I was asked to speak and introduce the Carer of the year awards and gave the Inspired to Care opening address, at The Grand hotel in Leicester, it was lovely to meet such dedicated people. I learnt about the excellent work carried out by social care staff, contributions from individuals who go above and beyond to make a genuine positive impact on the quality of life experienced by individuals across Leicester and Leicestershire. Leicestershire County Council through its Inspired to Care project supported the awards because it is vitally important that we strive to create a social care workforce that is valued and recognised for the excellent work they do on a daily basis.

Social care needs more staff – in Leicestershire alone the workforce is around 16,5000 individuals, with an estimated further 11,000 staff required by 2030. The Inspired to Care project supports the external social care workforce.

There were various sponsors for each category such as Palliative Carer, Supporting Independence, Residential Care Professional, Community Care Professional, Dementia Care Professional, Autism Support Professional, Best Newcomer to Care, Care Leader, Special Recognition, Lifetime Achievement Award and Inspired to Care Member, and finally an overall Carer of the Year Award.

The special recognition award went to a 13 year old girl who has two disabled brothers who have a terminal condition and her dad also had an emergency triple heart bypass operation recently. Her mum said she has always helped look after her siblings and has juggled this while keeping up with her school work and sorting out her GCSEs for the coming year.

The Carer of the Year was picked from the winners of the all the categories, this award was given to an individual who stood out to the judges. The winner had shown true dedication and commitment to caring. They are an inspiration to their colleagues. I was privileged to present this award to Susan Legg she really stood out whilst judging the awards as a person that had gone above and beyond for the people she supported. She was the winner of the Dementia Care Professional.



Improving Lives Through Adult Learning

On two Saturdays in January and February I attended the Adult Learning staff, managers and business support staff briefings at County Hall. I was asked to open the meetings since Adult Learning was added to my portfolio last year. I have been getting to know more about the service and the work they do. I had already met with staff and managers from the Family Learning programme and been impressed by the broad range of courses offered and the way in which the programmes inspire and support people from many different backgrounds to get back into learning. It is clear our community learning programmes have a particularly important role to play in supporting those likely to benefit most from enrolling on a course.

Adult Learning really does have the potential to impact positively on the lives of so many individuals and their families, and of course the wider community, by building confidence, enabling individuals to learn valuable life skills and supporting positive wellbeing.

Throughout the year I hear of stories which describe how; Arts and Leisure courses have a positive impact on health and well being, targeted Mental Health courses help vulnerable learners become more resilient. Learner feedback also describes how developing competence in English, Maths, Languages and Digital Skills opens doors to opportunities that many of our learners did not believe possible. I am proud of being part of a highly regarded service and enjoyed speaking to Tutors and hope to visit some of them in their localities and am keen to learn more about Adult Learning from a governance perspective.

Records Office

On Monday 10th February I visited the records office in Wigston to see the extent of the Thomas Cook collection and was amazed at the amount of documents kept there. I visited the strong rooms and restoration area. The County are looking to move the records office to a larger site in the near future. Will keep you informed.

Thomas Cook - It is anticipated that the full catalogue will be completed by the end of 2021. Given the expected interest, a promotional display will be exhibited in January



2021 for the public. There is currently a small exhibition in the Record Office foyer which is already available to the public.

Full Council – Budget Meeting – 19th February

I spoke at the Full Council and thank the Director and officers of the Adults and Communities work they had done regarding the work carried out into increasing the capacity for Extra Care Housing. And spoke about what financial contributions County have made to the development of two extra care facilities by East Midlands Housing; of £1.5 million, these contributions secure nomination rights at Blaby delivering 44 one bed units, 6 two bed units and 13 bungalows, In Loughborough £1.5 million delivering 52 one bed units and 20 two bed units.

The social care investment plan will seek to develop further extra care facilities with North West Leicestershire and Hinckley and Bosworth being the priorities. To date the County have invested £4 million to secure 35 units of accommodation at three locations for working age adults. A further £2.3 million has been offered to secure a further 17 units at three locations, again for working age adults. Additional to this, £3 million is allocated for the re-development of a county site in NWL which will deliver 17 units of supported living, a six unit short break service and community life choices (day service unit).

In the Capital Programme funding has also been allocated for the refurbishment of The Trees in Hinckley and Ashby Court in Loughborough, both of which I managed to have a look around before the refurbishment was started.

Iveshead School (old Hind Leys)

Most of you will be aware that there are going to be alterations at the school. County are looking at the last week in April (after Easter) to hold a public consultation event at the school. County will be producing a press release in the last week of March.

Charnwood Hall

I would like to confirm that the closure of Charnwood Hall had nothing to do with County as it is a privately owned business.



Biffa, Newhurst Quarry, Ashby Road

I understand that the latest alterations have been approved and that work will commence this year. SWISS cleantech company Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI) has won the public tender to build the Biffa incinerator. The Newhurst facility will treat up to 350,000 tonnes of non-recyclable municipal solid waste each year and will also generate up to 42 MW of low-carbon electricity, enough to power around 80,000 homes. With electrical net efficiency of 31.3 per cent, the installation will also be one of the most energy-efficient in the world, says HZI.

When the application for an incinerator first came up at a planning committee, as your County Cllr I voted against it, as did the planning committee, but unfortunately the inspector approved it. I shall ask that the liaison committee to reconvened as soon as possible.

Flooding

Following the recent problems with flooding, I have been asked to remind residents/land owners that it is your responsibility if you have a ditch/dyke/ or water course running through or next to your property to make sure it is clear and not blocked up with grass cutting, branches or rubbish. (Riparian Act).

Blockages further downstream could cause major problems to house holders and businesses. We have a number of these running through Shepshed, such as to the rear of properties in Brookside Close, Forman Road and Cotton Croft, on the new estate off Iveshead Road. The recent blockage here caused the main Ashby Road to be flooded; this had only recently been cleaned out by County.

I am regularly contacted by residents who live in Hathern regarding the problems on the A6. This is being looked into by County.

Your help and support

Again I would like to thank the residents who keep me informed regarding issues around Shepshed, such as overgrown hedges, litter, dog mess, inconsiderate parking (on pavements, yellow lines, outside of schools) etc., without your eyes and ears I could not get them reported and sorted.

If for some reason you do not receive your copy of the Eye. I now have my information posted on my web page at County. This will also help you to keep track on road closures etc.



For help and advice on County matters, I can be contacted on 01509 502974 or e mail christine_radford@hotmail.com or christine.radford@leics.gov.uk or come along to my monthly Surgery on the FIRST Saturday of the month in the Town Council Offices, 47a Charnwood Road 10-11am. No appointment is necessary.