



THE 2020 - 2021 COUNCILLOR ANNUAL REPORT



**Leicestershire
County Council**

Dear Reader,

The council year of **May 2020**-2021 was dominated by one word – Covid-19

The County Council was part of the multi-agency response to serve the public during a time of widespread emergency.

During the year councillors had all their meetings moved to online and each Tuesday at 16.00 a coronavirus briefing was held.

My duties were to assist residents via telephone, e-mail and text.



During exercise and shopping trips, Loughborough South was a quiet area, especially as the town centre sits in the division.

Loughborough South Division also played host to the newly established 'Charnwood Community Action', which was generously funded in part by the council.

As the first lockdown eased, it was the opportunity to both catch up with casework that residents were presenting. Time to serve the division increased, as there was no travel time to attend meetings (they were all held on Microsoft Teams).

Here are the main points that took place from the point the lockdown eased and the country struggled under a host of various restrictions (in the face of continued increases of covid-19 cases and stricter public controls):



The growth of weeds on kerbsides was a frequently raised issue. Fortunately, after LCC received an extra £5million to their highways budget, the council were able to fulfill its duties to spray the weeds and residents can now expect a much cleaner roadside.



During the three lockdown periods, the issue of delivery drivers parking in both the pedestrianized area and the double yellow sections of Baxter and High Streets was a problem that the Police, Highways and myself worked hard on.

We were able to better police the pedestrianized area and ensure vehicles used makeshift parking areas.

Long term the issue has been thwarted





It was a privilege to be part of the task and finish group that worked with the consultants who brought forward the Bedford Square Gateway Project.

During spring 2021 the re-development began, starting with Devonshire Square and stage two, the Bedford Square North car park.



Development Strategy

Local Housing Need: 17,776 homes (1,111 dpa) +10% flexibility

Settlement Hierarchy	Permissions (31 March 21)	New Homes Distribution	Total	Percentage Split
Leicester Urban Area	5,254	2,104	7,358	38%
Loughborough	3,831	2,242	6,073	31%
Shepshed	453	1,878	2,331	12%
Service Centres	928	1,819	2,747	14%
Other Settlements	119	815	934	5%
Small Village / Hamlet	118	0	118	0%
Total	10,603	8,858	19,461	100%

The Charnwood local plan has recommended multiple sites that are suitable for development, including three main areas in Loughborough South. Two of the sites -Woodthorpe hamlet and Beacon Road, have highways visibility constraints and I have been working throughout the year with highways technicians and residents, in order to argue one's case that these sites create multiple road safety hazards.



Trees are a critical component of the division and residents, officers and I are always both assessing the current tree stock, whilst looking to add more urban trees.

Where trees cover street lamps, we take action to ensure that the light cast is not disturbed.



Almost every day, because I reside in the division, I am auditing the area for general issues. Problems such as the faults left and below.

By speaking both to highways customer services, in order to provide a real time and historic log of fault frequency (and type), but also directly to officers, issues are resolved quickly.



This was the last year of being a member of the Combined Fire Authority.

The committee worked on serious, long-term decisions such as re-siting the force training headquarters and the move away from day crew-plus staff rota.

Despite severe budgetary constraints in all departments of the council, the highways department kindly responded to re-surfacing requests, on Victoria Street, Southfield Road, Frederick Street and Park Road (for the second time).



The campaign to ensure that the entrance /exit to the Aldi store in Shelthorpe continues.

Aldi and William Davis are proving difficult to negotiate with, however there are encouraging signs of a solution later in 2021.



In community work, the efforts continue to find a new home for the Loughborough Boxing Club, along with a Yoga and dancing school.



The argument regarding parking access outside shops has been discussed much this year. A change is being sought whereby evening parking in areas such as Derby Square (right) can be permitted.



Road safety has always been and will remain, the number one priority in the division.

Sadly, a life was lost when a speeding vehicle lost control on Ashby Road.

We have also seen two RTAs on Frederick Street.

I have signed five roads up to the list for the community speed management programme, which is a new venture by the ruling administration.

Now the pandemic is over, I will re-commence the speedwatch campaigns.





School Parking Issues:

Almost all schools in the county suffer from the same issues twice a day.

In response to dangerous double yellow parking, the schools foundation, Police and LCC are working to alleviate the cluttered roads.

Elsewhere, the LCC camera cars continue to do random checks outside schools five days a week.



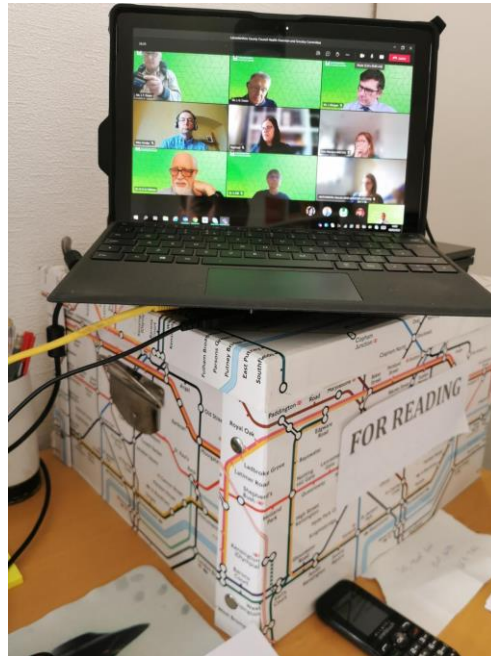
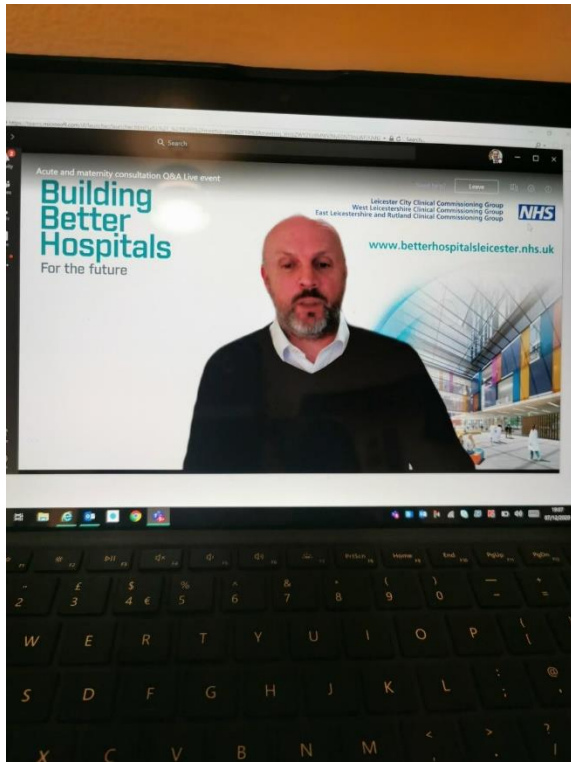
Ashby Road has benefited from double yellow lines, meaning much safer access for cyclists on this busy arterial route.



Climate Change; In a contribution to reduce carbon emissions, as much of the divisional work is now conducted via bicycle.



In another aspect of work connected to climate change, I took part in a special 'Flooding Scrutiny Panel' at County Hall. Several recommendations were established and thus brought forward, as a result of our investigations.

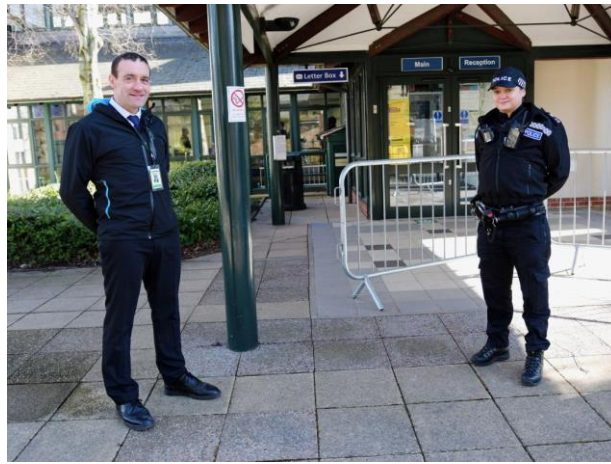


Health Scrutiny Committee:

It was an honour to be asked to become the vice-chair of the health scrutiny committee.

The year was hugely important, as we were both assisting with and scrutinising the 3450 million reconfiguration of hospital services in the County (and City)

The close working with Leicestershire Police continues to strengthen, as it was with great pleasure to be elected as the vice-chair of the Safer Leicestershire Communities Partnership.



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