

Keith Merrie MBE

County Councillor Coalville South Division
Comprising - Ellistown & Battleflat, Hugglescote St John's, Bardon,
Broom Leys (part of), Castle Rock, Greenhill

2022 / 2023 report

It has been a very busy period since my last report and a lot has happened. I have highlighted some of the many and varied things I have been doing representing all residents of Ellistown & Battleflat and Coalville South. This report combines my CC, District and Parish Council work.

I am very honoured to have been re-elected as both a District & Parish Cllr in the May 2023 elections.

1. Meetings – being a Cllr does involve attending a lot of meetings – either face-to-face, via Teams or even via telephone. Shown below are some of the meetings I have attended.

County Council:

- Full Council at County Hall
- LCC Highways scrutiny committee
- Highways panel – this is the review panel for the Members Highway Fund applications
- LCC Development Control and Regulatory Board (DCRB)
- Armed Forces Employee Network meeting
- Bardon Quarry Liaison committee
- Bardon Quarry community fund committee
- Whitwick Quarry Liaison Committee

District Council:

- Full Cabinet (Portfolio holder for Planning)– monthly
- Planning meetings – monthly
- Planning Technical briefings – monthly
- Local Plan committee - monthly
- Licensing committee
- Member of Nailstone woodland park Board
- NWLDC representative Trustee at Ravenstone Court Alms-houses

Parish Council:

- Hugglescote Parish Council
- Ellistown and Battleflat Parish Council

Developer meetings: more details contained within the report

- Harworth – reference the Swinfen development / Land East Of Regs Way
- Jenson – reference the Standard hill housing development
- Amazon – reference extension to HGV yard

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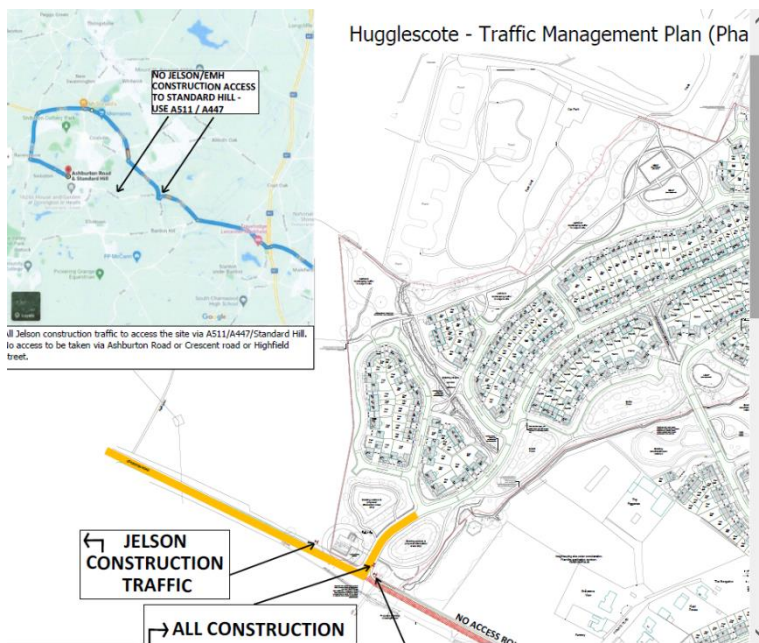
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What follows next is a snapshot of what I have been doing to represent all the residents of Coalville South.

County Council, District Council and Parish Council – Case work:

2. NWLDC – Standard Hill development.

I asked for an urgent meeting with Jenson (Developer Standard Hill project), NWLDC Planning and Planning Enforcement to review HGV Access and Egress to the site, wheel wash facilities and mud on road. The meeting was at the request of the two CC for LCC North and South. Jenson have assured me that all contractors bidding for work have been issued with the LCC Highways HGV Traffic management plan (which I requested be put into writing). Route is seen below. I also asked for suitable signage to be put which was actioned straight after the meeting – as can be seen below.



3. LCC Adult and Children services

On behalf of residents, I have been in communication with the Cabinet members and Directors of adult and children's services reference cases across the Division. Many cases are confidential but the majority are about school places for children.

4. Harworth Developers – Land East of Regs Way

Following communications from residents about traffic safety issues at the entrance / exit to the site I asked for a meeting with LCC Highways and Harworth. At the site meeting traffic safety was discussed and LCC Highways are going to do a traffic safety audit and the developer agreed to some actions to improve traffic safety.

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5. Forest Way School

Cllr Smith and I purchased 300 selection boxes and delivered them to the school for them to be issued at "Santa's Grotto". The Headteacher was very impressed.



6. Ellistown road improvements

Working with LCC Highways, Contractors and LCC Network management team ensured the roadworks to improve large section of the roads in Ellistown were conducted smoothly. I asked for night-time works and a letter to be delivered to every resident explaining the various stages of the project. It all went smoothly.



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7. Amazon

I was invited to open the new £27M internal multi-level picking tower at the Ellistown Amazon Fulfilment Centre. It was Halloween and the staff were suitably attired. It was a great honour to open the development and it looks amazing.

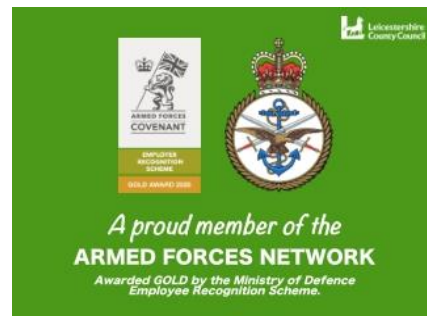


8. New positions within NWLDC:

I have volunteered to sit on the Board of Nailstone Country Park and to represent NWLDC as a Trustee at Ravenstone Court Alms-houses. I will report back as and when I attend meetings.

9. Remembrance Day

I attended two parades – Coalville and Ellistown & Battleflat. I laid a wreath as the CC at both locations.



I also attended the Coalville Armed Forces Breakfast club, and it was a pleasure for Cllr Smith and I to pay for everyone's breakfasts. Also attended the VE Remembrance Day Parade.



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10. Bardon Quarry community fund committee

I attended the Bardon Quarry community fund committee and took part in allocating grants to lots of applicants – one of which was Ellistown Football club who applied for part funding towards new pitch lights.

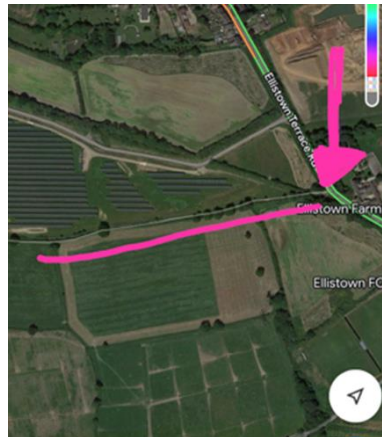


11. Litter:

I am a member of NWL Wombles and go out most weekends picking up litter – it's a constant battle.

Shown below are some of the litter picks I have attended and litter issues I have dealt with during 2022 / 2023.

Ellistown Fly Tipping



I am working with LCC Highways, NWLDC Enforcement team and local businesses to address the issue of fly tipping. Lots of work going on behind the scenes to address this issue at this location.

Comments from LCC Highways:

Public Rights of Way section is planning to have horse-friendly vehicle barriers and motorbike inhibitors (see <https://www.secure-a-field.co.uk/products/heavy-duty-horse-friendly-vehicle-barrier-gate>) installed at either ends of bridleway N101 which comprises the centre section of the Pretoria Road route. For several years there have been reports of trail bikes and quad bikes going along there. On a bridleway motor vehicle use is unlawful. In this case it also a hazard to lawful users and a nuisance to residents at the Istock end of Pretoria Road.

There are currently pairs of large granite boulders near the end of those houses and where the adopted Pretoria Road, Ellistown meets bridleway N101 and the boulders block access to 4x4s but

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the boulders do not stop off-road bikes. The new barriers at the west end will be just within the start of the bridleway at the request of a landowner who owns National Forest created woodland on the south side of the route. The advantage is being only on bridleway the Council can install barriers under HA80 s147.

With regard to closing the road off however the only way to 'gate' the route would be for the district council to progress Public Space Protection Order route as has been done for Netherfield Lane in Sawley. Our view would be that subject to the necessary evidence, a PSPO is the best solution as this enables a hard closure of the route unless permitted (for which we can put a TRO in place to cover exemptions).

Another potential route would be via Section 249 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Order which is pursued by the local planning authority.

So, as you can see lots being done but still more to do – watch this space.

Rubbish in Layby – Warren Hills Rd / Whitwick Rd

After being contacted by a fellow Womble about the constant dropping of litter in a layby along Warren Hills Road, I worked with NWLDC to get signage put in place to deter the culprits. It didn't solve the issue, so I am working with NWLDC to use alternative methods to deter and possibly gather evidence as to who is dropping the litter.



Ellistown Village Litter picks:



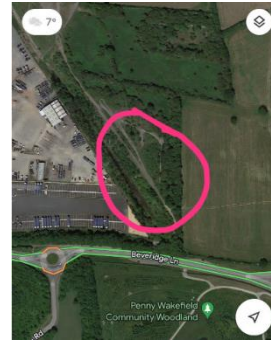
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Ellistown Pit Flats – restoring the area back to nature

I along with several other volunteers from the village and even Ashby blitzed the Pit Flat area which was bad.

BEFORE:



DURING



AFTER:



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Ellistown PC Chairmans Award to a Wombling Family from the village

It gave me great pleasure to present the Ellistown PC Chairmans award to Joe Davies and his family just prior to another village litter pick. Joe and his family work extremely hard to keep the village tidy – well done.



Womble – Stephenson's Industrial Estate – Coalville

Another great local Womble with my good friend Cllr Craig Smith (CC For Coalville North). His company provided us all with hot drinks throughout the pick and what a haul it was.



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12. Planning

Coalville – Marlborough Square

Very proud to be part of the team that is working to improve Coalville and the development of the Marlborough Square will be great for Coalville. Artist’s impressions are shown below.



SEGRO Development – Castle Donnington

I attended a meeting with the SEGRO Management Team to discuss planning for the proposed next phase. I attended with the Head of Planning NWLDC, and we were given a great tour which involved a site visit to the “Very” Distribution Centre.



Check it out via the link below:

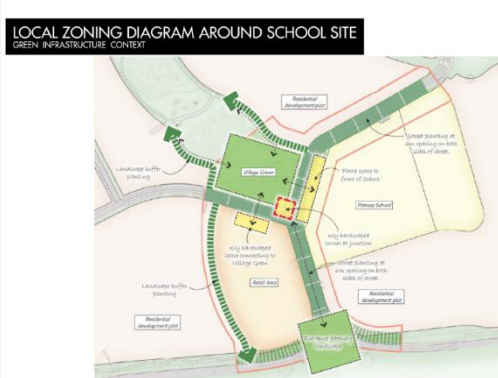
<https://slp-emg.com/>

Swinfen Development – Off Beveridge Lane – Ellistown

Now the road improvements have been completed the developers have submitted plans for the first part of the main development – The Community Hub. I will be working closely with all parties to ensure we can all get the best out of the development. Some pictures shown below:



wn & Battleflat



NWLDC Local Plan

Planning and Local Plan committee meetings- as the portfolio holder for planning I am monitoring the NWLDC review of its Local Plan and the SHEELA process very closely.

13 Police

Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

It was a pleasure for me to host the Leicestershire PCC – Rupert Matthews – on a visit to the village.

We had a great discussion about policing matters in Coalville and I took Rupert to see the great work done by the Parish Council and local businesses to prevent Anti-Social behaviour. The large boulders on Rushby Road to replace the – quite often - vandalised fencing and then to visit the Pit Flats to see the fencing installed by Harworth to prevent off road bikes gaining unlawful access to the area.



Attend the Road safety event each year at St Stephens College



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14 Ellistown bus stop replaced

Working with LCC Highways and Roberts Coaches I was successful in getting the bus stop replaced in Ellistown on Midland Road.

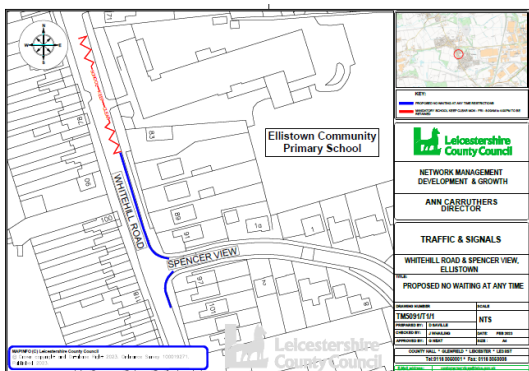


15 LCC Highways Members Fund

As a county Cllr I am allocated a Members Highway Fund to be allocated at my discretion across the Coalville South ward.

A report of where monies have been allocated is shown below:

One of the projects is yellow lines outside the school up to Spencer View to prevent unsafe parking.



21/22			
Request	Cost	Latest update	Current Status
Install "SLOW" markings on east/west approaches to Castlerock Greenhill	£2,000	Work complete	Completed
MVAS on Greenhill near Blackwood alternative - replace existing junction sign and foliage cut back.	£500	In Delivery	Work due to take place end of December/ January
"Refresh the "SLOW" markings on the approach to the bridge from Normanton Le Heath.	£2,000	In Delivery	Work due to take place in February
2 x litter bins - Greenhill Road around Broom Leys School	£693	Grant transfer completed	Completed
Total Spend	£5,193		

22/23			
Double Yellow Line requested o/s Donington Arms PH Junction of Manor Road Richmond Road, and the Green.	£7,500	In Delivery	Passed to tech team
Spencer View - Installation of double yellow lines starting at end of pedestrian crossing	£7,500	In Delivery	Passed to tech team
Waste Bin to be affixed to the inside of play park fence	£450	In Delivery	Passed to tech team
Double yellow lines at the junction of St Christopher's, Whitehill Road and Ellistown Terrace to stop vehicles parking close	£7,500	In Delivery	Passed to tech team
To install yellow checked boxes on AS11 Bardon Road	£2,000	In Delivery	Passed to tech team
Rumble strips, Leicester Road Ibstock	£2,000	In Delivery	Passed to tech team
Replace 30mph sign (faded) RH side of road as entering Ibstock village HMS No.	£0	In Delivery	Passed to BAU
Contribution towards to Mantle Lane Bridge improvement project	£10,000	Work underway	Passed to tech team
Installation of litter bins - Various locations	£10,000	Work underway	Passed to tech team
15 bollards to prevent parking on footpaths, plus removal of wood fence.	£8,000		Initial Assessment
Total spend	£52,950		

Total spend for 21/22 and 22/23 | **£58,143**

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16. Ellistown and Battleflat Christmas lights

I personally contacted and visited lots of local businesses to ask for support towards the cost of the village Xmas lights and the response was amazing with close to £7K pledged towards the lights. The lights were switched on followed by a carol service and refreshments at the school community room.



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17 Work to stop illegal off-road bikes in Greenhill

Working with Leicestershire police, Aggregate Industries, LCC Highways and NWLDC we identified an access point off Bradgate Drive for off-road bikes to gain illegal access to Aggregates land. Aggregates very kindly funded for anti-bike access equipment to be installed.



18 Safer Footpaths on Midland Road.

Following concerns raised by a wheelchair user I worked with LCC Highways to cut back the overgrown grass and weeds to get better access for users.



19 Ellistown Village Improvements

I am proud to be a member of Ellistown Parish Council and we have a great team who work hard to improve the village. Some recent improvements are Safety Bollards at Derry's Hollow and a Planter at South Street



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20 I am proud to be a Cllr and I Get Stuff Done

I am proud of Ellistown & Battleflat and work hard to improve the village. Instead of criticising, I get things done and I really enjoy the work.



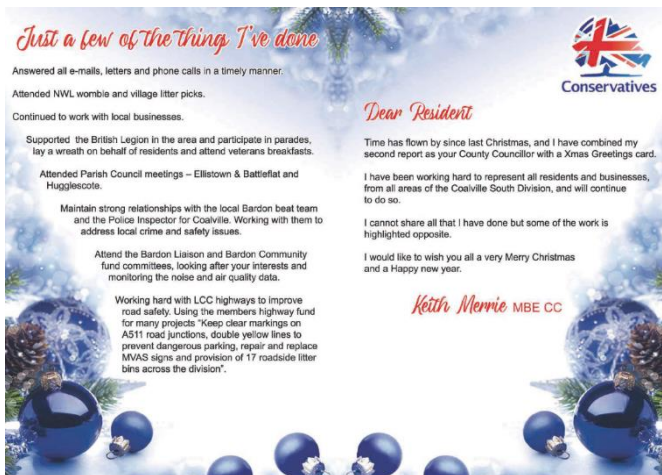
Improving footpaths

Cleaning paths

Working with land owner to sort bins out at Penny Wakefield Woodland Park

21 I keep in Touch with residents and businesses

I strive to be available to all and I keep in touch with regular leaflet drops and I personally deliver a Christmas Card every year to every household – 6500 of them – at no cost to the taxpayer.



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22 Traffic or pedestrian issues – report direct to LCC Highways

PLEASE KEEP REPORTING ANY ISSUES DIRECTLY TO LCC

- If you have any highway issues or concerns, please report them direct

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/report-a-road-problem>

You can report most types of problem with county roads or pavements online, this includes:

- Potholes (contact Highways England to [report motorway or major trunk road potholes](#) )
- [Grit bin damage \(please note -we do not refill bins on request\)](#)
- Overgrown trees or hedges
- Damaged drains or manhole covers
- Damage to road signs (please note - we don't clean road signs)
- Problems with traffic lights

Leicestershire Police

NEIGHBOURHOOD LINK:-

Neighbourhood Link community messaging service

Neighbourhood Link is a community messaging service from Leicestershire Police that provides news and information about policing activity or initiatives, crime prevention advice as well as major incidents affecting your area.

Through this service you can receive messages from your local Neighbourhood Policing Team, local police or, in the event of a major incident or event affecting the whole of Leicestershire, from a partnership of agencies known as the Local Resilience Forum (LRF).

In order to receive messages, you will need to register your details. This information will enable us to send you messages relevant to the areas you live and work. Anyone can register, whether you live, work or travel into Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Registration is free and simple to follow.

Once you have registered you will receive messages via email unless you have specified otherwise. On some occasions it may be appropriate for messages to be sent via text messages or voicemail.

- Sign up to Neighbourhood Link: -

<https://www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk>

- If you are already registered you can amend your details
- Request a reminder if you have forgotten your username or password
- You can unsubscribe from the service at any time

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