

# Les Phillimore

## County Councillor for Cosby and Countesthorpe Division

### Annual Report 2022/23

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The Division comprises of the Parishes of Cosby, Countesthorpe, Kilby, Foston and South Whetstone with a population of circa: 12,000

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### Electoral Division activities



As a new normal continues to evolve before and around us, my work as your elected County Councillor for the Cosby & Countesthorpe County Division has been able to continue with visible benefits for the residents in the county division now coming to life.

I believe that a key role of being a County Councillor is to not just be available and responsive to my residents when they contact me directly, but to be fully engaged, visible, informative and supportive over the long-term on complicated resident concerns.

As I live, work and relax within our County Division and my children grew up and were educated within it, the issues that affect my residents are the very same issues that do and have affected my family and friends and why I chose to become a Councillor – to champion our communities, to champion our desires, our aspirations, our hopes for the future and to help build a better place for us, for our children and for their children to live, work and relax within; put simply, to do what I can to make people's lives better.

A number of examples which I hope are seen as positive contributions to our communities are set-out by parish overleaf.

Over the electoral term, I attend as many parish council meetings as time permits and can often be found walking the streets, visiting local cafés and supporting our community events.

### **Fox Connect - attending the official launch of Fox Connect Demand Responsive Transport on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022**



As your elected representative at County Hall, I will always be honest, transparent and responsive but sometimes, there are things that we would like but we simply cannot provide for any amount of reasons.

As may be of no surprise, regular contributors to my email inbox are traffic issues, be that volume, speed; weight limits or congestion and on occasion school placements or SEND support issues. Although there will always be matters that are work-in-progress, I hope that my residents have found me to have a responsive and sensitive ear for every issue; never more so than for SEND, Social Care,

education matters and protecting our local villages and way of life.

Three examples are pedestrian crossings that I have sought, one on Main Street, Cosby, one on Narborough Road, Cosby and one on Central Street, Countesthorpe. As much as we may all see the need, the results of the traffic surveys simply did not support the perceived need – that does not mean that I will not continue to champion them or look for alternative solutions.

Aside of my Council work, I was re-elected as the East Midlands Regional Chairman for the UK's largest business group in December 2021. As a voluntary member of this business group and alongside my colleagues and staff, we continue to support and champion the needs, opportunities and aspirations of the small and medium size enterprises (SME's) across the UK.

My work in education and skills continues, particularly with my role on the Faculty of Business and Law Advisory Board at the De Montfort University; a voluntary role and alongside my part-time Tutor role within the faculty, we are helping build the skills, the businesses and the employees of the future.

### Current divisional matters: -

In addition to a number of confidential family, SEND and education issues that I have been providing support for, there are a number of resident and community issues that I have been working on, some of which are noted below: -

- **Cosby: -**

- I was delighted to see my Members Highway Fund delivering safer pedestrian access for Cosby Primary School with the installation of "Billie and Belinda" bollards to prevent dangerous on-pavement parking.
- I will continue to pursue an extended school safety zone for the primary school.
- The Members Highway Fund is being invested in two Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) for deployment on the 5 arterial roads in and out of Cosby and I am working with Highways engineers looking at all the gateway entrances into and out of Cosby.
- With a personal empathy with SEND, I am always moved when I am able to support families where their children; irrespective of age need specialist support and I am able to help secure the right support and transform the lives of those families.

- **Countesthorpe: –**

- Working with the parish Council, "Dragons Teeth" have been commissioned for Peatling Road and should be installed soon.
- Funding for two MVAS units has been provided to Countesthorpe Parish Council for use on Willoughby Road, Station Road and potentially, Leicester Road.
- Following an issue raised by a mobility scooter user, a dropped kerb has been commissioned to be installed on the Church Street / Peatling Road junction. For various reasons, the cost of this dropped kerb was 7 times the routine amount and I am delighted that the Highways Officers understood the value in providing it set against tight budgets.
- Supporting residents with light pollution from neighbouring properties.



- **Kilby**

- Funding for two MVAS units for Kilby has been provided
- I hope to see the Main Street highway re-surfaced in this financial year.

- **South Whetstone:–**

- The parking restrictions campaign for Henson Close continues with non-residential highway parking causing endless issues for the residents of Henson Close. Thank you to the two residents who stepped forward to help them champion a wider parking restriction. The results have now been submitted to the Highway Authority for consideration although we cannot introduce any measures until Henson Close is adopted by the Highway Authority.
- Funding for Whetstone Parish Council for two MVAS units for Cambridge Road, Whetstone is now secured.

- I will continue to press for a Traffic Regulation Order to regularise 30mph along the entire length of Cambridge Road. I await the result.
- Following a resident's enquiry, regarding HGV's travelling along Dog & Gun Lane adjacent to Badgerbrook School and road safety. I am delighted to confirm that there have been no incidents involving HGV's travelling along Dog & Gun Lane.

## **County Council activities - (Bodies served on at County Hall)**

I continue to look forward to being able to play a full role within the County Council and to serving the people and businesses within the division to the very best of my ability.

- **Development Control and Regulatory Board (Planning)**

I am delighted to have been appointed to the position of Chairman for the Development Control and Regulatory Board (DCRB) (Planning)

- **Environment and Transport Scrutiny and Overview Committee**

- **Wyggestons House Hospital Trust** where I have been appointed a voluntary Director of this long-standing charity

### **Looking forward: -**

#### **Ukraine**

The County Council remains at the forefront of supporting refugees as they arrive and I will play whatever part that I can in supporting our County and District Councils and agencies as we step-up to the challenges and opportunities that support for Ukraine will present for some time to come.

#### **Housing and Employment**

One of the most significant challenges facing the South Leicestershire Divisions is the potential of having to deliver significant housing and employment growth in South Leicestershire. The Strategic Growth Plan sets-out a very high-level concept document as to how this may be achieved but; as a personal view, as Covid-19 and the councils environmental agenda have the potential to fundamentally change the way we live, work and play, the County Councils Ways of Working programme is a perfect demonstration of how society, businesses and the economy have changed.

The Unmet Need for Leicester City Council poses a significant challenge to South Leicestershire Divisions and shines a spotlight on how essential good infrastructure will be required to support housing and employment growth. I continue to look forward to contributing to these debates fully in due course but always seeking to gain the greatest advantage for our Division and ensure the strongest representation.

#### **Children & Families, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) & Adult Social Care**

The demands and associated costs of these critically important services continue to escalate and command around 80% of the County Councils total budget. As an essential service for which our ongoing campaign for Fairer Funding with Government, has to find a long-term solution to this provision.

As anybody who knows me or has ever sought my support in this most personal of areas, SEND will always find a sensitive and empathetic ear at my house; as will Adults with Social Care or additional needs.

Whatever our future holds, as your elected representative at Leicestershire County Council and with my collective Local Government, business and Higher Education activities and interests, I will listen to all sides of the debates and campaign for the very best outcomes for our Division, our district wards, our parishes, our skills, jobs and economy, our education, our elderly, our vulnerable, our communities and our future.

## **Passions and Other Interests**

People who know me, know that I am passionate about everything that I do and at the forefront of my life are People, Business, Education, Skills and social justice, including: -

- The Director-e Ltd. A project dedicated to the Senior, Executive and Professional 3<sup>rd</sup> Age (Over 50's) who may find recruitment and employment challenging
- The Federation of Small Businesses – the UK's largest member-led business group representing c: 160,000 SME's and the self-employed
- Higher Education - Part-time Tutor at De Montfort University coaching Postgraduate students through Business Research Projects and Member of the Faculty Advisory Board.
- Innovation and international collaboration – supporting new business ideas over the long-term

## **Local committees & Outside Bodies**

- Cabinet Member at Blaby District Council holding the Housing, Community and Environmental Services Portfolio which includes the Councils Carbon Net Zero agenda
- Elected Volunteer Regional Chairman for the UK's largest business group, The Federation of Small Businesses
- I have served on Whetstone Parish Council for c: 30 years
- Voluntary Panel Member – De Montfort University Faculty of Business and Law Advisory Panel
- I also have the pleasure of being the Clerk to Cosby Parish Council ensuring that I am always working at the heart of the community.

## **Priorities for the immediate future**

- Supporting my division and the county as the new normal continues to evolve
- Maintaining a watching brief over the Strategic Growth Plan.
- Engagement with Schools within my Division
- Supporting all tiers of local government, communities, community groups and businesses.
- Supporting the County Council as we design the services of the future.
- Supporting the Parish Councils and local business community

## **Learning & Development**

- Attendance at numerous Members Weekly Briefings

## **Community Events**

Attendance at: -

- Coronation events across the division
- Countesthorpe Walking Market
- Remembrance Day Parades
- Jubilee events
- Cosby Yarn Bomb
- Cosby Christmas Lights
- Cosby Toc-H Charity Sleigh collection

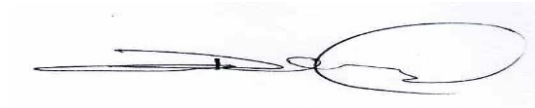
## Communications and Social Media

I am easy to find on Linked-In in particular, but also have a small number of business and personal accounts on Twitter and Facebook.

Primary contact as County Councillor – Email: [Les.phillimore@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Les.phillimore@leics.gov.uk)

### **My Commitment to You: -**

- Protect the vulnerable
- Support our communities
- Energise and rebuild our economy
- Build back greener
- Create the jobs and skills for tomorrow
- Campaign for Fairer Funding

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L M Phillimore', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

L M Phillimore CC