

County Councillor Annual Report

This report summarises the activities of Lee Breckon and Nick Chapman, Joint Divisional Members for Glenfield, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester Forests and Thurlaston for the County Council during 2022/23

Lee Breckon JP



&

Nick Chapman



1) Electoral Division activities

The work has continued as Divisional Members in dealing with residents' concerns, complaints, and issues which we have dealt with. If we were not directly involved, it was signposting and guiding people to the right people to get the answers they needed.

Our inbox and mailbag issues that were reported and progressed included litter, road signage, vegetation, speeding, traffic calming, block gullies and drains. We continue as with previous years, where possible, to try and get residents to log the issues themselves as it makes it more personal, and the responses and actions taken are reported back directly to them.

Over the year, we continued to attend as many Parish Council meetings as often as possible. In 2023, Nick has this year become Chairman of Glenfield Parish Council and I have rejoined the Parish Council after a few years away. We both now attend all meetings.

We were both re-elected onto Blaby District Council. Nick, as the photo above shows, is very proud to have been elected as Vice – Chairman and will spend an interesting year supporting the current Chairman.

As with the previous year, Nick has continued to attend Kirby Muxloe, Leicester Forest East, and Thurlaston Parish Councils on our behalf. We will now share these duties, so we understand the issues they have, and any that involve the services that County Council provide. We regularly meet up and discuss the issues being raised and share ideas and best practice.

We still feel it is a great advantage in having two divisional Members who can visit, report, and listen to residents and Parishes issues.

We still deal with most of any residents directly as well as these are often personal matters affecting family members who use Childrens and Adult services that County Council provide. We also signpost many individual resident's issues across the four Parishes to the right authority to get the problems sorted. We also take enquiries from our District Councillors to ensure progress is made.

We also keep up to date with the local village publications to try and ensure we can give a local update on our workloads, if, when and where possible.

Nick and Lee still have a clear mandate to support the Division, its parishes, and its residents. We are enjoying the challenges of doing this and we are working well together.

The schemes from the first year were added to a further £25,000 we were allocated each as part of the Members Highways Community fund to allocate across the division on highways improvement schemes. We have, in total, submitted £97,000 worth of schemes which are still in progress. Some have been completed.

2) Council Activities

In the year this report covers, Lee has now completed his second year as Lead Member for Resources, with responsibilities for the County Councils Financial position. Leicestershire is still the lowest funded County Council in the country, and the pressure on services is acute, and is being made worse currently by higher. We continue to deliver on behalf of residents but have had to make some hard choices as to where the money we do have is spent and on what it is being spent on.

Lee's role is to ensure that we are spending responsibly and prudently. There is a lot of pressure on the finance's due higher costs of living, due still of the effects from coming out of the pandemic, and more recently with the effects of the Ukraine conflicts.

Lee continues as Chairman of the Investing in Leicestershire Program, the Employment Committee, as well as a Member of the Cabinet and Cabinet group, the Constitution Committee and represents LCC on the East Midlands Shared Services Joint Committee. This year, he was elected to the Board of the East Midlands Freeport.

Lee roles includes reinforcing key messages across the division and county with endorsements on press releases, content for Leicestershire Matters, radio and TV interviews and Member briefings.

Nick retained the Vice Chairman of the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and is a key Member of the newly formed Environment and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Leicestershire has a commitment to be a net zero county by 2045. We are working hard to deliver this, for all our futures and Nick is playing a key role by taking part in this Committee.

Nick has quickly come to terms with the role of being a County Councillor and after completing his first two years, now has a full and in depth understanding of how the Council operates and more importantly what it delivers. He also sees the benefits of the Parish, District and County working together and not in silos when an issue comes to light and has worked hard to ensure that any barriers that exist that can be influenced by the Members of each level of local authority can be broken down or simplified to achieve what is needed – the solution to the problem.

Finally, it would be remiss not to mention that Nick was awarded the Rural Community Councils Community Champion award for the work he does in running the Glenfield Food Bank. Now into its third year, it is still delivering that vital and needed service, and is a lifeline to those that use it.

3) Learning And Development

Training has continued with regular mandatory training as well as informed briefings and all aspects of the work of the County Council.

4) Other Matters

Both Lee and Nick have shown their commitment to the role of being a County Councillor. Two years into this four-year term, we are still delivering on behalf of our residents and parishes that we cover. We have a rounded knowledge of all levels of local Government and we will continue to support all residents of Glenfield, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester Forest East and Thurlaston.

Thank you for reading this report.

Please do not hesitate to contact us by email or by phone with any thoughts, experiences, or issues that you wish to share as we both enjoy listening and learning.

Signed by Councillors

Lee Breckon & Nick Chapman

Date: 22nd June 2023