

# MAGGIE WRIGHT – Annual Report 2022/2023

## County Councillor for Stoney Stanton and Croft Division

The Division comprises the Parishes of Aston Flamville, Croft, Elmesthorpe, Huncote, Potters Marston, Sapcote, Stoney Stanton, Sharnford and Wigston Parva. Collectively known as the “Fosse Villages.”



## ELCETORAL DIVISION ACTIVITIES

I continue to support my Parish Councils and Parish Meetings with regular in person visits and with a written monthly report. The District Elections were held in May 2023 and as a result some boundary changes and renaming of wards within the Division took place. Huncote now comes in Fosse Normanton, Stoney Stanton, Croft, and Potters Marston in Fosse Stoney Cove, Sapcote, Sharnford, Elmesthorpe, Aston Flamville and Wigston Parva in Fosse Highcross. But collectively remain the Fosse Villages.

Divisional work has again been dominated by plans for a strategic national rail freight interchange at Elmesthorpe but labelled as Hinckley. As a national project the Secretary of State will determine this application. Blaby District Council and Leicestershire County Council will be statutory consultees only. Both authorities, Parish Councils and numerous residents submitted comments regarding the first part of the application process regarding consultation by the Developer Tritax Symmetry (Hinckley) Ltd. All agreed it was an extremely limited engagement and inadequate, but the submission was accepted by PINS (The Planning Inspectorate). The application has now moved into the second stage which has seen the submission of the application and is now requesting the registration of representations to 23rd June 2023. I proposed a motion at County

Council on 22nd February which referred to the inadequacy of consultation which was supported by all members' cross party. I am pleased all Parish Councils are engaged in the process, many employing independent consultants to professionally represent their views. The planning process which is in six parts continues as the application is considered by PINS. A recommendation by the Planning Inspectorate is not expected until August 2024 and this will then be considered by the Secretary of State for a final decision.

I have again attended the Community Liaison Group meeting at Stoney Stanton for the proposed development of Land West of Stoney Stanton. The consortium continues to engage with residents and Action Groups. Several concerns exist especially around the highway's infrastructure and the invasion of open space. The protection of the existing individual villages identities remains paramount.

The Huncote Leisure Centre was reopened in October 2022 on restricted hours after closure on safety grounds due to leaking methane gas from the old landfill site at the back. However, many of the grounds and footpaths remain closed due to mitigation works still taking place. This has caused much disruption for many community groups and walkers. I have consulted with the public rights of way team at LCC, and local representatives to look at alternative diversion routes being opened. Unfortunately, no alternative solutions were accepted. I have put aside some of my Highways Members funds for tree and hedge planting schemes on the Acresford Sand and Gravel site now production has stopped and restoration complete. Planting is hoped to reduce some noise and pollution from the M69 which passes through the walkways.

The Croft Quarry planning application for the new dig and restoration of the site, once extraction has been completed, was determined. I am pleased to see inert material will be used for the infill and will be transported in via rail. I am happy to be serving as a member of the Croft Quarry Liaison Group.

More projects have been submitted and completed this year for the Members Highway Scheme. Improvements include the bus stop and new Salt bins in Sharnford, edging back of roads and white lining in Elmesthorpe, VAS signs in Sapcote.



I am still pursuing traffic surveys for speed reductions on Station Road, Elmesthorpe and Stoney Stanton. To ensure safe walking routes. The Fosse villages Neighbourhood Plan continues to be refreshed to ensure it is

---

up to date and fit for purpose. It is currently going through a revision process. The first meeting of the Fosse Villages Development Forum, "Shaping our future," took place on 15th May 2023. Funded by the UK prosperity fund. The forum is an opportunity for the Fosse Villages to collectively work together to discuss and influence the significant development proposals taking place across all the villages.

Unfortunately, last year saw the cancellation of the Arriva X55 bus due to commercial viability. The service operated across several villages and has made rural transport difficult for some residents. I attended the launch of the FoxConnect Demand Response Service on 27 October 2022 as part of a rural mobility fund project. This is providing an alternative for some users. It is hoped the service becomes commercially viable and continues after the project term. I am pleased at last to announce that Openreach delivered super-fast broadband at The Limes and surrounding developments at Sapcote. There is an ongoing need to champion the delivery to more rural villages.



## Community Events

It has been a busy couple of years for community event. Starting with the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee last May/June 2022 and this year for the coronation of King Charles 111 on May 6th, 2023. I was pleased to be part of a team organising events in my local village especially for the "Big Help Out" where over eighty volunteers turned out to tidy up and complete outstanding tasks around the village. The church benefiting from a good spring clean. The Huncote Lunch Club is meeting again on Mondays serving delicious lunches open to all residents.

Wigston Parva had a splendid "Tea on the Green." Aston Flamville held its annual Christmas Fayre. Huncote and Stoney Stanton community libraries are now operating again. Village carnivals, garden parties and "Brass on the Grass" all taking place.

---



I attended a visit with Croft Primary School children to the Croft Highways depot to see the Living Water Project. This practically enhanced their curriculum learning on climate change. Pupils also took part in a competition to name a new gritting lorry. The winning name being "Ready Spreadly Grit." I took on the role of Chair of the Patient Participation Group at the Old School Surgery in Stoney Stanton in late 2022. The group is keen to recruit new members and is constructively working with the surgery to deliver a better patient experience.

I laid wreaths on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of the County Council and Blaby District Council at the Royal British Legion service in Croft. I was joined by the Parish Chairmen of Croft, Huncote and Thurlaston among other.



## Priorities for the immediate future

- Continue to speak out and challenge the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange Planning Application.
- Continue to engage with the Community Engagement Forum for the Land West of Stoney Stanton Development proposal.
- Develop the Shaping Villages Forum
- Continue to tackle traffic and Infrastructure issues.
- Highlight the need for connectivity for cycle and footpaths in rural areas.
- Support Fox Connect Demand Response Service to become commercially viable and continue after government pilot finishes.

## Council Activities

- Support Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation and Flooding
  - Member of Anglian Northern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
  - Member of Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
  - Chairman of the Highways and Transportation and Flooding Communication Panel and Innovation Sub Committee
  - Chairman of ESPO Management Committee
  - Local Access Forum
-

## Local Committees/Outside Bodies

- Thurlaston Parish Council Member
- Deputy Leader at Blaby District Council. Portfolio Holder for Finance and Assets.
- Croft Liaison Meeting Member

## Other bodies – School governors/community and charity organisations

- Treasurer Stoney Stanton Food Bank
- The Old School Surgery Patient Participation Group – Chair
- Thurlaston Players' and Amateur Dramatic Group

