



County Councillor Betty Newton Annual Report 2022/23

As with previous years, the past 12 months have been a very busy time. With the passing of the worst of COVID, it was possible to operate a full programme of work including attendance at meetings (via zoom) and in person when possible.

In my role as a County Councillor, I hold several important and challenging positions including the following:

- member of the Employment Committee
- member of the Member Conduct Panel
- Vice-Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee of the Combined Fire Authority
- Chair of the Strategic Equalities Group.
- I also sit on the Combined Fire Authority
- Labour spokesperson on Public Health Committee.

I also attended Joint Health Committee meetings with Leicester City and Rutland.



All Member Briefings which I attended and to which i contributed were:

- the Strategic Plan
- the pressures on Adult Social Care
- Trading Standards
- Corporate Parenting
- New Ways of Working.
- Policing issues

Training:

- I participated in an ICT workshop. (Information, Technologies and Communication)
- Engaged in social media training session
- Attended Oracle training
- Member Training on new members' Code of Conduct plus all member briefings.
- Combined Fire Authority Diversity training.

Combined Fire Authority

I have attended the regular monthly meetings of the Fire Authority working with the Equalities team there. I also attended briefings and meetings in my role as Vice-Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee. These meetings are joint meetings with members from the City of Leicester and one member from Rutland.

As a member of the Combined Fire Authority, I am the Equalities Champion. We have won an award for our work on equalities. Also, attended a meeting to encourage more women to join the Fire Service.

I attended regular meetings of Sedip, a working group of Fire officers. As the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Fire Corporate Governance, I attended all their meetings.

A memorable event last year was the Blessing of the Standards and Coffin Drapes at the Fire Authority which I found very moving.

I attended all member briefings on issues such as Shire Community Grants as well as well as training when organised, including update of MTFs, New Ways of Working, Equalities and Diversity.

I also attended the Ramadan event at Fire Service HQ and partook of the Fast on that day.

Other events attended were the 'Have Your Say Day' at the Fire Authority HQ and the 'Open Station Day'. This last event was very popular with the public and had an ambulance in attendance.

I always read the papers on behalf of the Labour Group and brief members on the issues and encourage them to ask relevant questions.

I even attended a Pension meeting when the Group Leader couldn't attend! I have held several briefings with the Chief Fire Officer to discuss important matters arising from meetings and as well as other issues.



Surgeries

I carried out a steady programme of regular street surgeries, knocking on doors. Surgeries were held at the following locations:

- Gorse Covert Community Centre
- Hathern School
- Hathern Club
- Hathern Library
- Hathern Post Office (with police)
- Three Closes Resident's Group (off Warwick Way)
- Plus other street surgeries at various places in the division.

Meetings attended:

Garendon Park meetings via zoom

SARG meetings

Gorse Covert Fun Day (29 October, 2022)

Dishley Resident Association Meetings

Hathern Community Library Anniversary event

Loughborough University Liaison Meetings

Garendon Park Liaison Meetings with Borough Councillors and Resident Groups.

Town Deal member reference Group.

Warwick Way Estate Resident Group meetings 'Hug a Mug' Think Tank meetings, 'Have your Say' and other events at the 'All Together Place' as well as Councillor Surgery's across the division including Gorse Covert. I've also held estate/ward walks in Storer will local Borough Councillors.

Street Surgeries and ward walks: I hold these regularly and areas visited include: Braddon Road, Darwin Park, Hathern (with the police outside the Library)

Attend some of the events held at the Three Closes and have also held surgeries in the Community Room.



Some Community Events:

Picnic in the Park an annual event held on Bunny Hill and well attended by the local community.

Litter Pick in various areas including the Warwick Way Estate.

I attend the Storer Ward resident Group meetings (SARG) have also attended the 'Have Your Say' community meetings.

I also campaigned to encourage residents of this area to apply for postal votes.

I took part in litter picking and the cleaning up of areas in Dishley and Storer – including one with members of the Disley Residents' Association. I intend participating in future 'picks'.

Also attended events at the 'All Together Place' including Patch Walks with the local police in the Warwick Way area.

I have worked closely with the local police in relation to 'clean-ups' in particular areas of my patch.

I paid for the restoration of the Dishley Sign out of my Council Member Grant. This sign is now in place and looks well following a little ceremony attended by the Mayor of Charnwood.

There were problems with the Zouch Bridge and I, with another Councillor and officer, inspected the damage done to the bridge and engaged in correspondence with the Highways Officer for updates on what is happening to the Bridge. Also, with an officer, inspected trees that were causing damage to the pavements in Hathern.

Ongoing Priorities for the future

I will continue to support plans for safer routes to school so that parents will choose to walk rather than drive their children to school.

Work for cleaner, greener and safer living environment'

Encourage initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of Loughborough North residents.

Continue my good attendance record at Hathern Parish Council meetings.

I look forward to working with the local Police Inspector and his team to deliver a safer living environment.

I shall endeavour to do all I can to ensure that local Community Centres such as those at Gorse Covert, Dishley, Hathern and Storer, continue to provide a meeting place for local people to come together. I will continue to support their excellent and essential work. ⁱ

Cllr. Betty Newton
Email: betty.newton@leics.gov.uk
Phone: 01509 829031.

21 June 2023
