



Electoral Division Activities and Impact

Impact – Visible, involved, approachable, working hard for my residents

Casework

I have dealt with many issues raised by residents that have affected them personally and the wider community. I take on challenges daily and try to be fair with all parties involved. I am not always able to find the perfect answers, but I always work to achieve a satisfactory compromise for all parties.

Impact – Working together with residents, partners, and local authorities to find solutions and make improvements to my residents' lives.

Here is a snapshot of some of my activities throughout the year.

April 2022

I hold regular residents' surgery with partners, including this one in Anstey Community Library with the local police beat team. The key issues raised were obstructive parking, driving the wrong way on no-entry roads and the huge housing developments planned for Anstey.



May 2022



After an exceptionally long delay due to the pandemic, we finally relocated the bus stop from Leicester Road to Staddon Road. This has already had an impact on the traffic flows out of the village. We are hoping to see continued improvement in the air quality around The Nook, the heart of Anstey village.

June 2022

I started my Platinum Jubilee weekend with a walk-up Beacon Hill to join the Chairman of Leicestershire County Council, as he lit the Beacon to start the chain reaction of beacon lighting throughout the country. There were many families also joining us on a dusk evening and we enjoyed looking out over the county to see where the other beacons were being lit.





I was invited to the Millfield Close, Anstey, street party to judge their cake and hat competition. There was a great turn out and I was warmly welcomed with a glass of bubbly. All the residents made a big effort to decorate their homes, bake their beautiful cakes and make some very imaginative hats, including many of the younger residents. The judging was exceedingly difficult, but I picked two winners in the end! BBC Radio Leicester also came to visit, and the main organiser, Jenny and I went live on air to share the event and atmosphere.

One of my favourite events of the year is the Anstey WI annual garden party. There is nothing better than taking an afternoon off to socialise with members whilst eating sandwiches and cakes, all washed down with a glass of Pimm's, in a beautiful garden. We had a wonderful time, so a big thank you to the ladies for inviting me again this year.



July 2022



On Monday 11th July, I was in Loughborough as a volunteer to assist Charnwood Borough Council with the arrival of the Commonwealth Games Queen's Relay Baton. It was a very warm day with many people enjoying the sunshine and having the opportunity to witness this momentous event. I was stationed in the marketplace and managed to grab a great photo of Dan Greaves, a Paralympic discus thrower, who was born in Anstey, proudly carrying the relay baton through the town.

Leicestershire County Council commenced 'The School Streets' initiative to address concerns raised regarding parking, congestion, air pollution, and child safety in the vicinity of schools. Latimer Street, Anstey was picked as one of the 'School Streets' scheme trial areas.

This initiative prioritises pedestrians such as parents and children by providing a safe space for people to walk and cycle in the vicinity of the school through the closure of the street at certain times of the school day, term time only.

I was out early one morning to see for myself how the School Street Trial on Latimer Street, Anstey was working. It was great to see all the children and families walking and scooting to school.

Following feedback from the community, we are now entering a second trial with changes to the closure hours.



August 2022

When Anstey Post Office suddenly announced that they would be closing, I worked with Post Office Counters Ltd to ensure that we had a replacement venue to house a local Post Office. I needed to ensure that this much-needed service was available for my local community.

I shared the advertisement for a new Post Office through all my local media reports and shared the advert on the local businesses' WhatsApp Group (which I set up a few years ago.)

I was delighted when Balu at Londis in The Nook, had his application to host the new Post Office in Anstey approved.

Balu and his team had had previous experience of running a Post Office and they were right in the centre of the village with parking, making it easier for residents to access.



The change also meant that Anstey and the surrounding villages benefitted from significantly longer opening hours and throughout the week, giving local residents greater flexibility to use Post Office services at times that suit them.

September 2022

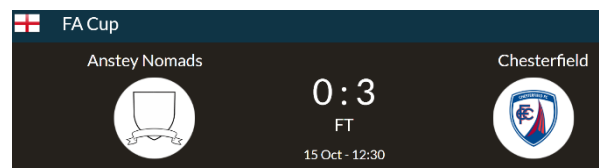


The only remaining financial service in Anstey announced its closure at the beginning of the year. I worked with the Loughborough Building Society who contacted me to advise that they were considering opening a branch in the village, to ensure they were supported and welcomed to the village. I attended the official opening of the Loughborough Building Society in The Nook. Local businesses and individuals were invited in for a tour of the branch and refreshments in the Nook Corner Café next door.

October 2022

I spent a couple of weeks, working with partners, to put in place a plan to mitigate the impact on the village whilst Anstey Nomads held their FA Cup football match with Chesterfield.

The Club provided parking at Martin High School for away supporters, which was a significant help to ensure that local roads could flow, bus services could run whilst the village and fans could enjoy the football match.



November 2022

This year I laid my Remembrance Wreath on the Memorial Stone in Newtown Linford on behalf of all the residents within my Division.



December 2022



I delivered 3,000 Christmas cards across my Division to wish residents a Merry Christmas and provide them with a small update on the year.

January 2023

I attended the 'opening' of the new allotment site on Groby Road, Anstey on Saturday 21st January. This land has finally been transferred to Anstey Parish Council from the developers, after an exceedingly long delay, due to legal issues. I was grateful to the Parish for the bacon cobs and warm coffee on a chilly morning. I am now watching all the allotment plots being worked on by their owners as I take my dogs for a walk, and it is great to see all the enthusiastic digging going on!



April 2023



I attended worship at the New Covenant Church in Anstey, where Pastor Daniel and all the congregation warmly welcomed me.

Lead Member for Children and Families Activities and Impact

Impact – raising the profile of Children and Families within Leicestershire and promoting the hard work of the department

May 2022



At the King Power Stadium for our 'Foster Carer's Awards evening.' There was sparkle everywhere! Our Foster Carers do an amazing job looking after all our children. I looked forward to the evening ahead and tears were shed, as expected.

All our Foster Carers are amazing and do so much to support our young people.

June 2022

A lovely morning over in Burbage, visiting one of our early years' providers. Little Explorers Playgroup has an Ofsted rating of Outstanding, and when you meet Alison and her team, you can understand why.



July 2022



I regularly speak at Council meetings regarding the work we are doing in the Children and Families Department. Here I was delivering my Position Statement on free school meals, Ukrainian guests, and the Lord Lieutenant's Jubilee Awards.

August 2022

The County Council is one of the first upper-tier authorities in the country to offer the degree apprenticeship programme. A pioneering programme, which is helping to recruit more social workers into the industry, has seen its first cohort of students graduate in Leicestershire.

On Monday 8th August on a lovely sunny afternoon, I was delighted to attend a celebration at Beaumanor Hall.



A total of sixteen graduates are now all registered with Social Work England as practising social workers, gaining further experience in roles with the county council's adults and children's social care services. Existing staff are supported to gain professional qualifications on a social work apprenticeship, funded by the County Council through the apprenticeship levy.

October 2022



I was honoured to be at Beaumanor Hall to hear from our regional Children in Care Councils at their very first conference. Their weekend residential two-day conference was about the language that we use as professionals and how we need to change this and listen to our young people's voices.

An example of such language is that care professionals label where a young person is living in care as their 'placement.' However, to a young person, this 'placement' (connoting no warmth at all!) is their home. Therefore, it makes sense that professionals should be calling a young person's 'placement' their 'home'. This sounds simple and obvious but local councils can sometimes, if not careful with wording, appear uncaring in their attempt to be dispassionate and fair.

The conference was attended by twenty-seven young people who are in care from across our region, and I was so proud of them for all the hard work that they had put into the conference and their excellent presentations to senior leaders on Sunday afternoon.

At the end of October, I attended the first Leicester 'Hope Hack' at the Peepul Centre. 'Hope Hacks' are a series of events being run across the UK to gather the collective views of young people on issues like safe spaces, fairness and equality, and services for young people.

Hosted and facilitated by 'The Hope Collective' which was founded to support the 20th-anniversary legacy campaign for Damilola Taylor (<https://www.hopecollectiveuk.org/>) they work in partnerships across England and Wales.



The outcomes of the events will feed back into the government's policy unit of the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities at 10 Downing Street. Some amazing young people from across the county and city were in attendance and shared their inspirational stories.

November 2022



On Tuesday 1st November, I headed north to Manchester to attend the annual three-day National Children and Adults Services Conference. This is a chance to listen to keynote speakers from across the country and network with colleagues from around the country and is an especially useful environment to share good practices. It was an inspiring conference.

I attended the annual 'Pride in Practice' Awards at the Tigers Stadium, which celebrates the amazing staff we have at the county council, who look after our vulnerable children and families and give us all a chance to keep families together.



December 2022



On Monday 12th December I went to the Attenborough Arts Centre in Leicester to listen to the Beacon Voice Christmas Concert. The choir, all children in our care, provided us with some lovely festive songs.

On Tuesday 20th December I joined our children in care Christmas party. We had a few games of bingo and then watched a Christmas film, Polar Express, which we enjoyed together.

February 2023

I visited the new Hollycroft Primary School site in Hinckley to see our new, 210-place school being built. This is our first-ever carbon-neutral school build. It is built from timber rather than steel, fully insulated with solar panels on the roof. The new school will open in September 2023.



March 2023



I attended Leicestershire Music Hub Spring concert at De Montfort Hall. It was a fantastic event, showcasing the incredible young musicians we have in the city and county. There were pieces played by the Intermediate and Big Bands, Flute and Clarinet Choirs, the Concert and Symphony Orchestras and the Schools Massed Choir (over 150 children).

April 2023

I had two lovely evenings at the National Space Centre for our 'Celebrations of Achievements' awards for Leicestershire children in care. These events allow us to celebrate our amazing children and treat them to a great evening. There was one evening for our younger children and one for our older children. Beacon Voices, our children in care choir, sang for us on both evenings and they all had an opportunity to look around the space centre and watch the moon landing show in the Planetarium. I was also fortunate to see the show in the Planetarium and it is well worth a visit. I did have to smile when I was asked if I was an astronaut!



I had a fantastic visit to Maplewell Hall School, one of our special education schools. I met with the Headteacher and enjoyed a tour of the school led by the Deputy Head. They are doing a fantastic job and the whole school truly deserves their recent Outstanding Ofsted rating.



May 2023



An announcement by the Department for Education selected Leicestershire as one of twelve local authorities to be awarded nearly £1m of Government Funding. This money is to create a network of 'family hubs' for parents, carers, and families.

The family hubs, whether in a building or accessed 'digitally,' will be places where information, advice and support can be easily found in one place. The idea is to provide seamless support and the best start right from the start, to help parents and carers navigate parenting from conception, through the early years into the start of adulthood.

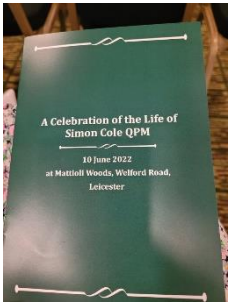


I was delighted to open our first two Family Hubs by cutting the ribbons and cakes.

Community Work and Leadership

Impact – Representing my community across the County

June 2022



I attended the 'Celebration of Life' service for the late Simon Cole, retired Chief Constable of Leicestershire Police, held at the Tigers Stadium in Leicester on Friday 10th June. It was a fitting tribute to a great man who made our lives and streets safer during his 12 years as Chief Constable. It was an honour to pay my own personal respects to Simon and his family.

July 2022

I am Chair of the Police and Crime Panel for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and I was delighted to welcome to County Hall the Police Force's Road Policing Unit to show the panel what equipment and skills they use against criminal activity.

In attendance, we had a response car, an armed response vehicle, a police motorcycle, the tactical support vehicle, and the drone team.

We were educated about how these are all used within the force and watched a demonstration of the drone flying. The drone is capable of being used in many different scenarios and was recently used to fly over the forest fires we had locally to see the extent of the fires and highlight where the high risks areas were.



August 2022



I regularly share the Leicestershire Trading Standards Service latest newsletters. One of the most recent editions was about the latest scams in Leicestershire.

Make sure you are not a victim. Be #ScamAware. Be aware of texts, emails, unexpected phone calls, scam adverts and website scams.

'If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is'

If you have been a victim of a scam or require further advice, you can get in touch with the following organisations:

Action Fraud – <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline - 0808 223 1133



With my connections and leadership, I brought the County Council to discussions around joining the 'Universities Partnership,' which then enabled all the universities and councils across Leicestershire to sign a historic agreement to work together to drive economic growth and tackle social challenges across the region.

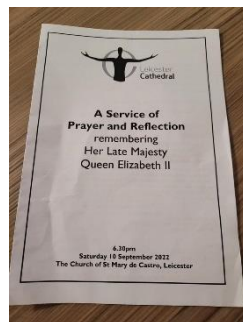
The University of Leicester (UoL), De Montfort University (DMU) and Loughborough University have agreed to combine skills, experience, and resources to deliver joint projects supporting the local economy, arts and culture, sports and more.

Between them, the three universities generate a significant impact locally, contributing a total of £1 billion to the Leicester and Leicestershire economy, supporting nearly 17,000 jobs.

The Universities Partnership work together on projects in five key areas:

- Education
- The Economy
- Sport, Health, and Wellbeing
- Environmental sustainability
- Arts, Culture and Heritage.

September 2022



Following the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I attended many civic events to share my grief with friends and colleagues and give thanks for the life of our Queen.

Along with the Lord Lieutenant, The Chairman, and the Leader of Leicestershire County Council, I opened the Book of Condolences at County Hall on Friday 9th September. On Saturday 10th September in the morning, I attended the very poignant wreath laying in Green Dragon Square, Leicester by senior community leaders. In the evening, I attended the service for Prayer and Reflection remembering the late Queen at St Mary de Castro Church in Leicester.

On the eve of Her Majesty's funeral on Sunday 18th September, I attended St James the Greater church in Leicester for my final service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving. This was also attended by many civic leaders from across the city and county and it was a very moving service.

October 2022



As we headed into the Autumn and the colder weather, I knew many of my residents were concerned about the cost-of-living rises. I outlined the government support with energy bills, but we still have high inflation and rising costs for our families. I shared the following support that Leicestershire County Council offers to support families to try and help with the cost-of-living rises.

There are funds, programmes, and services to help families get through this challenging time. These include: -

- Help with food and fuel
- Help with home energy
- Help with transport
- Help with employment, skills, and opportunities
- Supporting our communities.

There are further details on the Leicestershire County Council dedicated cost of living website: -

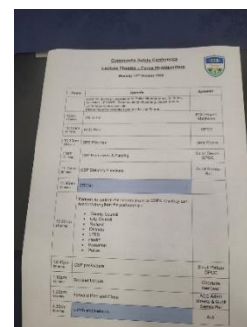
<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/find-help-with-cost-of-living>



It was great to join the Children and Families staff at County Hall to celebrate [#Blackhistorymonth2022](#) A dancing lesson followed by amazing food, what more could you want for a Wednesday lunchtime.

I participated in creating the first Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Conference. It was hosted at Leicestershire Police HQ.

We had CSP Chairs, NPA Commanders, LLR PCC and LLR Violence Reduction Unit attending along with wider partners. We looked at the priorities for the LLR area and how we deliver those priorities together.



November 2022



I headed to Warwick University for the annual Police and Crime Panel (PCP) Conference to again speak to fellow Chairs of panels giving us time to learn from each other. We had some great keynote speakers talking about the culture of all the country's police forces and how PCP panels can add value to their communities.

I am a Trustee of Bradgate Park Trust and in November, our volunteers won 'Team of the Year' at the Green Flag Awards. A week later I joined a few of the team at Athena in Leicester for the Leicestershire Tourism and Hospitality Awards. We were delighted to win the 'Large Visitor Attraction of the Year' award. This is fantastic recognition for the park, staff, and our hard-working volunteers.



January 2023



I co-hosted a charity evening to celebrate Burns Night.

All the profits from the evening were donated to 'Living Without Abuse,' a local charity that provides help and support for anyone suffering from domestic abuse or sexual violence in Leicester, Leicestershire, or Rutland.



It was a fantastic evening, raising £810.73 for the charity.

February 2023



On Thursday 2nd February I hosted our annual Suicide Prevention Conference at the King Power Stadium. This brought together many partners from across Leicester and Leicestershire. This is a difficult subject to discuss and we were honoured to listen to some very personal stories, but we all finished the day filled with hope. We all promised to take back what we had learnt on the day to our own organisations, to ensure we raise the profile of suicide prevention and work hard to reduce deaths across the city and county.

On Tuesday 21st February, I welcomed some of our guests from Ukraine and their hosts to County Hall to mark the one-year anniversary of the war in Ukraine. A new oak tree was planted on the grounds of County Hall as a mark of solidarity with Ukraine and the families that are now living within our communities.



March 2023

I welcomed the Roads and Transport Minister, Richard Holden MP to Melton Mowbray.



The Department of Transport approved the county's full business case for the Melton Mowbray distributor road and has awarded the County Council just under £50 million to fund approx. 50% of the new road, with the remainder being funded by the County Council and private investors. It was the day we were covered in snow, and it was freezing and very muddy on site!

April 2023

As a member of the senior leadership team, we headed to London for a meeting with the Chancellor and our Leicestershire MPs to present our case for Fair Funding for Leicestershire.



May 2023



I was honoured and excited to be invited to the Royal Garden Party, accompanied by my husband. We attended three days after the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. The Prince and Princess of Wales were in attendance, and we got a fantastic photo of the couple.

We had lovely weather, and it is an experience that I will cherish forever.

Following the Royal Garden Party, I then celebrated the Coronation with a church service with the local community at St Mary de Castro Church.



County Council Committees

County Council: I have attended all meetings of the County Council throughout the year, and have spoken on several issues, including being a champion for Children and Families.

Deputy Leader: I was re-elected as Deputy Leader in May 2022. I have been honoured to serve in this role for the past year and was re-elected as Deputy Leader for the year 2023/24. This role involves supporting the Leader, Chief Executive, and senior officers in all matters and guiding the direction of the council. It has been a very busy year and much of the time has been spent dealing with the financial pressures that the council faces as we are the lowest-funded county council in the country.

We have also worked closely with the government and our MPs to look at securing a 'County Deal' for Leicestershire. This has taken up a large amount of my time and energy and continues into 2023/24.

I attend the Senior Co-ordination Group (weekly) with the Leader and senior colleagues, Cabinet Briefing, Cabinet, Growth Advisory Board, Investing in Leicestershire Programme Board, Constitution Committee, and Group Leaders' Meeting.

I represent the Leader as and when required and I lead the council in the Leader's absence. I attend Star Chambers meetings— these meetings look at the forward finances for the department, in both the Children and Families Department and the Regulatory Services that are part of my Portfolio.

Cabinet: Lead Member for Children and Families, Community Safety and Regulatory Services: I attend a variety of meetings with partners and officers at LCC within my role. I attend a weekly Lead member meeting with the Children and Families Director, Assistant Directors, and my Support Cabinet Lead Member. Other Heads of Service also attend some of these meetings to provide updates. I attend a monthly catch-up with the Head of Regulatory Services, to discuss various service areas including Trading Standards, East Midlands Airport Import control, Registration services, and Coroners Service.

As part of my Lead Member role, I attend:

Children Innovation Partnership Board (CIP) meeting; attended meetings with our partners Barnardo's. We have now progressed the partnership to acquiring and running small children's homes to house some of our young people, including a parent and baby complex. The first buildings are now looking after our young people.

Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership; Also work alongside Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board. We also work together with both the above and Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Partnership and Leicester Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board.

Police and Crime Panel (PCP); I am the representative on the PCP for the council, as the lead for community safety. I was elected Chairman of the panel at the AGM in June 2022.

We have held panels for the new Chief Constable, and the interim Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer.

The panel has made vast improvements over the year and is working well with the democratic support officers and the Office of the PCC. I have also worked on getting training in place to enable the panel to fulfil their duties with much more experience and knowledge.

Prevent Executive; I am the representative on the Prevent Executive for the council. This is to ensure the council meets their prevent duty. I have also undertaken some training this year on Prevent and now meet with regional colleagues and the Home Office Regional Prevent Lead.

I am a member of the Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliance (RIIA) Executive Board Meeting, which looks at how government improvement funding is spent across the region.

Senior Management Group (SMG); A meeting of the senior leadership in the Children and Families Department. High level issues are shared and discussed.

East Midlands Council Lead Members: I attend the regional meeting of Lead Member for Children and Families. Meetings are held to discuss regional issues affecting all the Local Authorities.

LEEP; Leicestershire Education Excellence Partnership; Partnership for ongoing education excellence.

School Forum; A termly meeting with partners from the education sector to discuss budgets and improvements needed.

Head Teacher catch ups; A regular catch up with Leicestershire School Head Teachers, once a term.

Send and Inclusion Board.

Health and Wellbeing Board.

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Board.

Children in Care Council.

Supporting Young People After Care (SYPAC).

Scrutiny Commission when requested.

KIT; Attended many 'Keeping in Touch' meetings within various sections of the department. This enables me to meet the staff and find out what is working well and what areas need further work. DfE meetings at LCC; attended various meetings during the year with Department of Education representatives.

Defining Children Services for the Future; attended meetings to have oversight of the work.

TSIL – Transforming Send and Inclusion in Leicestershire; working with partners to provide SEND support for children in a timely way within the budget given us by the government.

As Lead Member I Chair:

- Social Care Panel
- Children and Families Partnership
- Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board (LSCSB)
- Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB)
- Corporate Parenting Board (Co-Chair with a young person).

Local Committee/Outside Bodies

- Bradgate Park and Swithland Woods Committee of Management
- Bradgate Quarries Liaison Committee

- Groby Quarry Liaison Committee
- Loughborough Town Deal Board.

Communications

Contact with various departments and officers at Leicestershire County Council (LCC) for assistance with my casework. This has been via email, telephone calls and virtual/face-to-face meetings. I also deal with various departments at Charnwood Borough Council and Parish Councils within my division for casework. I also work with fellow councillors to solve Issues.

- Attended various information and catch-up meetings with officers from the Children and Families Service to gain information and advice and to move projects forward
- Dealt with developers regarding maintaining their estates whilst awaiting handovers to the relevant councils. This included rubbish, ground maintenance, vandalism and dog bins not being emptied
- Part of the Interview panel for new Academies to open new Special schools
- Contact with various utility companies to deal with local issues
- Contact with schools and businesses in my division
- Contact with Charnwood Police to deal with issues and prevent crime, deal with highway issues and Anti-Social Behaviour
- BBC Radio Leicester interviews
- Local Regional TV interviews.

I write and publish a monthly report in 'Your Local' magazine that is delivered to all villages within my division: <https://issuu.com/norwoodpress> In addition I attend various coffee mornings and events within my division on a regular basis.

I have attended most of my parish council meetings and kept in touch by email and telephone calls with the Clerks.

I have held in-person meetings with my residents when requested. I have been very active with all my social media platforms and website. I have shared valuable information and guidance for residents.

I have also produced a website (link below). This also includes my fellow borough councillors who are within my Bradgate division. I am promoting the website through my social media, by regular newsletters sent to subscribers and in my monthly articles in 'Your Local' magazine. This is to ensure that I am as visible as possible for my residents, they can contact me easily, and that they can obtain relevant up-to-date information as they need it.

For updated news scan here:



Cllr Deborah Taylor
28/06/2023