



## **Tom Barkley- Annual Report 2022/23-County Councillor for Syston Ridgeway**

The Division comprises of the Town of Syston and the Parish of Wanlip

It is a privilege to serve the community of Syston and Wanlip which has been my focus for many years. I run a monthly surgery to address residents' concerns and over the year have successfully dealt with many enquiries regarding, highways, school Placements, flooding , Anti-social behaviour and special

educational needs climate change concerns and mental health support in the town .

I am a member of three committee and Chair of two of the committees at County Council and during the year I was Deputy Leader of Charnwood Borough Council and Chairman of Syston Town Council. This enabled me to be aware of and address residents concerns effectively

## **Electoral Division Activities**

### **Tackling Crime and Anti- Social Behaviour**

A meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner to advise of local issues and problems with speeding and anti-social behaviour has brought positive results.

Crime and anti-social behaviour have been tackled by working with the police and improvements have been achieved, with Neighbourhood watch groups set up and residents feeling more secure. The problems of e Scooters in the town have been brought to the police's attention and is to be a focus for them

Flooding issues have been tackled and resolved, by input of new infrastructure to stop flooding and clearance of waterways and culverts

### **Highways Issues**

Highways and traffic issues throughout the division, traffic flow through Syston town and air pollution are issues which remain priorities. Air Pollution modelling has shown that pollution has decreased and is within acceptable levels. I have utilised my Member Highways Grant to request Mobile Vehicle activated signs in locations throughout the Town as well as improvements to the pedestrian crossing outside Central

Park, Syston Opposite the War Memorial and a bicycle rack and replacement bins in the town parks.

### **Housing Growth**

The growth of housing in Syston continues to be a focus and concern, with work undertaken to ensure that necessary infrastructure needed because of development, such as provision of School and health facilities within the town, is given priority and sufficient developer contributions raised to enable work to be carried out.

Our local Member of Parliament Edward Argar council particularly supportive regarding this issue.

### **Climate Change**

Climate change is a particular area of interest to me, significant strides have been made to help us achieve Carbon neutrality by 2030. The measures implemented have been timely, cost effective and enabled significant reduction in the carbon footprint saving the planet for future generations to enjoy. We are aiming for Carbon Neutrality throughout the County by 2045, by encouraging businesses to adopt climate friendly policies and actions. In Conjunction with the Forestry Commission, we have planted 90 trees in Syston and arranged for the funding and maintenance and replacement of any that have not grown after the initial planting. This has been sponsored by a local company – Walkers Woodyard as well as the forestry commission.

### **Community Events**

I have supported community groups in the town, which is fortunate to have a strong community spirit. The Local U3A group have operated and keep members together. Age (Concern) Syston and Syston and District Volunteer centre and

Syston History Group have continued to serve the community and have received my support. An event organised by the Town Council to celebrate the King's Coronation was held on Central Park Syston together with various Fun and Food Festival days throughout the year and event at Christmas

### **Mental Health Support**

A mental Health support group has been established in the Town in Conjunction with the National Health Service which is now operating at the Community Centre on a Thursday from 12 midday until 3pm. Regular meetings with the National Health Service to review health provision will be held bimonthly

### **Speeding Issues in the Division**

With the assistance of Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire Police monitoring of speeding was carried out in areas throughout Syston Town which highlighted areas of Concern enabling the police to act.

### **Community Garden**

Working with residents we have been able to establish plans for a community garden in the town and provide funding support. A detailed plan has been drawn up and some land owned by the district council has been allotted. It is hoped that by September the project will be fully operational, involving members from the community, Schools and Scout groups

### **Priorities for the immediate future**

- Working in Partnership with the police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the division and making residents feel safe in their community
- Highways and traffic calming solutions in the division

- Tackling Climate change and working towards Carbon Neutrality throughout the County
- Engagement with the local health centre
- Engagement with Schools within my division
- Working with Local community groups to assist them

### **Council Activities – (Bodies served on at County Hall )**

- Corporate Governance Committee (Chair)
- County Council
- Local Pension Committee (Chair)
- Scrutiny Commission

### **Local Committees/outside bodies**

- Great Central Railway Liaison Group
- East Midlands Airport Independent Consultative group
- East Midlands Councils Leaders Board (Reserve)
- Deputy Leader Charnwood Borough Council and Lead member for Finance and Property services, Building Control and Audit & Risk
- Chairman – Syston Town Council
- Attendance at Parish Council meetings in the division, with monthly reports and updates provided.

### **Learning and Development**

- Training at County Hall- briefings and updates
- Corporate Governance training
- Local Pension Committee training

### **Social Media**

- Twitter and Facebook occasional user