

## **Leicestershire County Council Annual Report 2022/23**

### **Michael Charlesworth CC**

Yet another year goes by without any progress on the 'fairer funding' campaign, the government is so pre-occupied with trivial issues that no real work is being done. So local authorities get by on limited budgets and services suffer, and it is always the most vulnerable who feel it most.

The 3 bodies I sit on are; Full Council, Planning and Health Scrutiny.

#### Full Council

Only 5 meetings a year with the budget meeting being the most important, otherwise it is mostly a talking shop and a political arena. It can be quite confrontational at times which means the majority of councillors do not speak at all.

#### Planning (DCRB)

I have been on this committee for years and at times is very interesting particularly when it deals with waste and minerals. The workload of this committee has reduced significantly since Covid for some reason, but it still meets once a month. It is the one committee that really engages with the public, which makes for interesting meetings.

#### Health Scrutiny

Probably the most intense meeting I attend at county hall, we get all the health bosses and scrutinise with a passion. We get a good insight into the challenges the NHS is facing, and we see the possible solutions to deal with the crisis – yes, it is a crisis! I feel it is important to praise where good work is being done as well as to criticize.

#### Patch Work

The usual suspects; Weeds in gutters, poor grass cutting, uneven footpaths, potholes. 2 relatively new areas have come to the fore, new residents trying to get children into local schools, the housebuilders say in their advertising that Oadby & Wigston have outstanding schools, this is true – but they are all full! Local children are being sent to Leicester/Kibworth/Countesthorpe which is far from ideal. The other issue is flooding, recent downpours have shown that the drainage system is uncared for. Until several years ago the drains used to be cleared on a regular basis, now they are done only when there is a problem. This means unnecessary flooding that is the direct fault of the council.