



County Councillor Betty Newton Annual Report 2023/24

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

- Labour spokesperson on Public Health Committee
- member of the Employment Committee
- member of the Member Conduct Panel
- member of Leicester and Leicestershire Combined Fire Authority
I hold the position of vice Chair of the Combined Fire Authority
- Vice-Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee of the Combined Fire Authority
- Chair of the Strategic Equalities Group (Fire)
- Local Pensions Board (Fire)

I also attend Joint Health Committee meetings with Leicester City and Rutland. These meetings rotate between the City Council and County Council and this year we attend meetings held at City Hall.



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'm a member of the Combined Fire Authority appointed to the Vice-Chair role by Sir Peter Soulsby. I'm also the Fire Equalities Champion and recently we won an award for our work on Equalities. I'm also Chair of the Labour Group on Fire. I attended an Awards meeting at the King Power Stadium and was delighted to present an equalities award to an officer I work closely with.

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

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.

I attended all member briefings as well as training that is organised by the County. I also attended the Ramadan event at Fire Service HQ and fasted on that day with those firefighters who were observing Ramadan.

Was invited to attend the Fire Awards Meeting at King Power Stadium in April of this year and had the privilege of presenting the Equalities Award to an officer I work closely with on Equalities issues.

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

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, as well as surgeries in Community Centres Surgeries were held at the following locations:

- Gorse Covert Community Centre
- Hathern School
- Hathern Library (they very kindly let me have the use of the back of the library for my surgeries)
- Hathern Post Office
- Three Closes Resident's Group (off Warwick Way)
- Plus other street surgeries at various places in the division.

I also organise joint surgeries with the Police and these have taken place right across the patch. This year we have had six surgeries scheduled and the police managed to turn out to four of these which given their heavy workload was very promising.



Meetings attended:

Garendon Park meetings via zoom
Hathern Parish Council Meetings
Hathern Community Library Anniversary event
SARG meetings (Storer Resident Group Meetings)
Dishley Resident Association Meetings (these had become less frequent but have now started up again.)
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' I also do street surgeries right across the division. as well as Councillor Surgery's across the division including Gorse Covert. I've also held estate/ward walks in Storer with 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) and Storer.



Some Community Events:

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

I took part in litter picking and the cleaning up of areas in Dishley and Storer – I intend participating in and organising 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.

Flooding in Hathern:

Late last year and earlier this year, parts of Hathern Village experienced severe flooding from the Severn Trent River. I visited the residents concerned and contacted both County Council and Severn Trent. They came out and resolved the issues.

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, Dishley Resident Groups Meetings as well as meeting held by residents in the Warwick Way estate.

I look forward to working with the local officers 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

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