

County Councillor Annual Report 2023/24

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during 2023/24

Louise Richardson

Enderby and Lubbethorpe Division (incl Thorpe Astley)

Electoral Division activities

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

As well as being the County Councillor for Enderby, Thorpe Astley and Lubbethorpe, I am also the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing, responsible for Public Health, and sit on the cabinet at the council. The portfolio deals with weight management, smoking cessation, vaping, Local Area Coordinators, Recovery Workers, First Contact Plus, Healthy Workplaces programme, Gambling/Drug/Alcohol dependency, infection control, sexual health, oral health to name a few services. Several of our services have been recognised regionally and nationally which is a great achievement for the department especially on a very small budget compared to other authorities.

With my portfolio I am involved with working with the health service, GPs, the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the hospitals, as well as voluntary groups and charities. I also co-chair the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) which is a partnership body across all health organisations. The Integrated Care System (ICS) allows organisations to work across the whole system to try to improve prevention and access to health providers and to try to ensure that pathways are smoother and clearer for residents/patients, and more local. It is challenging bringing large organisations together however Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland have always worked in partnership prior to the formation of the ICB. I also Chair the Health and Wellbeing Board that is run by the council but is a partnership of organisations working on services being carried out in the county and neighbourhoods. This is a public meeting so we would encourage public to attend either virtually or in person. I also attend the Health Overview and Scrutiny meetings (HOSC) for any questions and, when available, the joint HOSC with Leicester City and Rutland Councils.

I have sat on the panels for the Mental Health grants for the MH cafes and the grants we offered through Public Health, and have also sat on the interview panels for ICB appointments.

I have visited several charities working in our county and schools to present certificates for Food for Life awards. It is very interesting to see the work being done at a local level to help people keep well for longer and to encourage good lifestyle skills.

I also sit on the board for Sacre as a trustee, on foster panels and on our Investing in Leicestershire programme. I am also a member of the Regional Migration Board.

We have just secured a £5million research grant to look at the wider determinants of Health, for which we are very pleased, and this will allow us to do research at the local level to influence services to ensure they are targeted in the right places, not just according to deprivation, as we have many more inequalities in services that need to be addressed eg rurality, ethnicity, multiple chronic illnesses.

We have had to transform some services in Public Health which brought about some 'push back' however the new in-house services are showing that we are getting to more people earlier to be able to prevent them needing more complex services.

I also visited officers in Kirby Muxloe when the Ratby/Kirby Muxloe gas/water situation caused flooding to see how things were progressing. The Local Area Coordinators were some of the first to attend and help residents.

Within my division I attend parish council meetings when I can and sit on Enderby Parish Council and I also attend Police Surgeries in the area to be able to hear problems residents have and to try to sort them out.

I have had several issues highlighted by residents with travellers in the division and some of these have taken a long time to improve however major changes have been achieved with illegal barriers and CCTV cameras being removed from a lane in Enderby and several issues with a particular site have been addressed, even though there are still more to solve. We also had problems with dogs on the loose from the site, attacking other dogs, which has been resolved.

I have had queries about school places, access to schools, SEND and EHCPs for which I have done my utmost to assist.

I have had issues regarding landlords and antisocial behaviour in some households which were reported, and I had to liaise with many different services including speaking with the landlords themselves.

I also had two people threatening to take their own life and I had to take time to try to find out the reason, calm them and engage the relevant blue light services to assist and then I followed up on the person and situation.

I have some difficult planning issues within the area, such as the Enderby Hub which has gone to appeal and another application has been submitted, as well as the consultation from Blaby District Council for Hayes Gardens land to be included in the local plan. We also had problems within the division regarding landfill sites in Huncote and Enderby and residents were extremely upset and thought the land was being prepared for housing. The land is not suitable for housing and the land in Enderby, which is a park, is in the process of being transferred to Enderby Parish Council. The same group of residents have formed the Snub the Hub group, Wimpey Action Group and the PENGs (Protect Enderby and Narborough Green Spaces).

We have had many traffic issues within Enderby and Thorpe Astley and as issues have arisen regarding broken signs, signs covered by vegetation, footpaths which have all been reported speedily and put on maintenance programmes. One-way systems to improve traffic have been looked at by me and officers but these are always declined by residents. I have been successful in getting a one-way system along Trinity Road to stop the 'rat run' after our petition (district councillor and myself) and we are awaiting implementation. This was paid for from my Members Highways Fund as well as grit bins, benches and some bins and also the yellow lines on Mill Lane and paid for the gate into the school from the leisure centre to ease drop offs.

I have been actively involved in work to join up cycle track from Leicester through Braunstone and Thorpe Astley and on into the district and work is happening at this time along the cycle track. I have also been working with officers about the high risk around the motorway bridges regarding suicide and suicide prevention.

I have spoken to Environment and transport for flooding in Beggars Lane between Enderby and Lubbesthorpe and also in Watergate Lane and inspections are awaited. I gave assurance to residents that this was not being caused by the new housing as all mitigations had been checked and were working correctly.

I use social media to share information to the communities from the County Council, as a Health Champion, and from the other health providers and also from the parish and district councils. I ensure I respond to emails as soon as possible as it is important for me that residents feel I am listening and acting on their behalf and that their issue is not held up in an inbox for a long time.

Community Leadership Role

Member of Enderby Parish Council and attends the other parish councils in my division when I am available. I was previously one of the members of Lubbethorpe Parish Council on its inception.

Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing, working with your district council on local provision.

Attend Police and Councillor Surgeries

Work with businesses, charities, schools and health providers in our area. One of my strengths is to have good working relationships that helps to work in partnership, but I am not worried about standing firm for what I consider the best for residents and patients within my division.

Engagement with the Council, other statutory bodies and public utility companies (Water, Gas etc) about services in the area

Was involved in discussions around the Ratby/Kirby Muxloe flooding and ensuring the water company in particular is held to account. This is still on-going.

Attend the Regional Migration Board.

Investing in Leicestershire programme.

Sacre

East Midlands Homes

Police

Ambulance

Talking Therapies

District Council

LPT

NHS

Blaby District Council

Enderby Parish Council

Lubbethorpe Parish Council

Braunstone Borough Council

Healthwatch

VCS

Priorities for the immediate future are:

Enderby Hub, Hayes Gardens, problems with travellers' site, traffic, one-way system in Trinity Road.

Council Activities

County Council Committees You Served On

Cabinet as Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing
Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board
Investing in Leicestershire
Chair Mental Health sub-group of Health and Wellbeing Board
Foster Panel

Local Committee/Outside Bodies

Co-Chair Integrated Care Partnership
Integrated Care Board
Sacre
Regional Migration Board
ICB Mental Health collaborative

Other Bodies

Tumaini Jipya – New Hope

Learning and Development

I've attended all the members briefings/trainings that are mandatory and have attended others when I have been able to eg Geopark at Charnwood, SEND, Biodiversity, Prevent Awareness, Northern HS2 funding for transport, social media, cyber security, was part of the pilot for Caseworker, data protection, Indemnity arrangements.

Communications

I attend the police and councillor surgeries to give residents the opportunity to meet with me about issues. I also am at parish council meetings when I can be for residents to talk to me. My email and mobile phone number is available to all and I can access email on my phone when out and about. I use social media to both pick up issues but also to disseminate information to residents and attend events when available.

Signed by Councillor:- 

Date:- 11th June 2024