

County Councillor Annual Report 2023/24

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

Name of Councillor **Mark Peter Frisby**

Division Represented **Melton Mowbray (West Division)**

Electoral Division activities

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

Youth Council for Melton and the Borough

I continue to support AMY (Action Melton Youth) essentially the youth council for Melton and the Borough. Over twenty-five young people representing all the schools and colleges in the area. A nonpolitical group discussing safer communities, health and wellbeing, employment and skills and things for young people to do. AMY provides a youth voice for young people to ensure their views are heard, recorded, and responded to in the decision-making process. The youth council now has two officers that oversee the day to day running of the group. In the last twelve months the group has independently raised over £1000 in funding to support your related activities in 2024 / 2025. Thursday June 6th our MP Alicia Kearns was due to invest the new chairperson as leader of the AMY council, however the general election has postponed this event until mid August when a new youth council will be formed.

Support with local business closures

I have been instrumental in supporting associates from three large Melton Mowbray based companies that are closing or due to close. Our work has included providing employment training and networking. We have been making links to local employers and providing career and welfare guidance.

Consultation around closure of the college and challenges Melton Mowbray Library.

Dialogues continue with the SMB college group around the closure of the town centre college in Melton Mowbray. I have met with the Syston and Melton candidate MP to explore ways of keeping the Melton campus open. These discussions have paused momentarily due to the 2024 general election. We plan to resume discussions later in the summer and look at alternative learning uses for the mothballed campus and way to improve Melton Library and increase footfall.

Environment and Climate Change

I have elevated my position in the environment and climate change committee to chairman status. To support this role, I have attended meetings with the Melton Green Transition project – more especially promoting “The Great Big Green Week”. I have also engaged with other environmental stake holders including Melton in Bloom, Melton Lions Club (with the friendship bench project) and the Mowbray Education trust, visiting schools and discussing community climate projects with the children. I have also supported the AMY (Melton Youth Council) with wildflower planting and creating safe environments for bees.

Schools and Placements

I have offered my support and guidance in brokering discussions with schools and offering support in making school place applications – including SEN provision. Schools and child placements have been a demanding in Melton in 2023 / 24. I have tried to keep abreast of developments in activity and how families will be affected by limited classroom placements. When required, I have invited parents into my office to explore their options and address their concerns. Often I am required to meet teachers and SENCO's to review placement options and secure places for children in schools.

Roads and Transport

Roads and transport management remains a topical debate in the borough. With work continuing the MMDR. I have held briefings on traffic management in suburban housing estates; on occasion contacting haulage companies to debate delivery routes. Speeding and tarmac condition continues to be a discussion. More recently, we have been in talks with MBC planning and developers in trying to re-route construction traffic out of suburban areas.

Employment and Skills for Melton

Melton continues to witness business closure in the area. There are still huge challenges in retaining skilled young people in the locality. Retail in the town is still adversely affected after the pandemic and there are limited employment options for under skilled workers. We continue to support local traders concerned about the night-time economy. I hold surgeries and explore ways of increasing footfall through local events and targeted marketing campaigns. Melton has witnessed a dramatic decline in

competitive employment opportunities in the local area. Improving the profile of the town remains high on my councillor agenda.

Community Leadership Role

The work within my electoral division that I would like to draw attention to continues to be my schools and community consultation role. I continue to work with local schools to discuss opportunities for children and school leavers.

Antisocial behaviour is also high on my priority agenda. I have joined the safer community's partnership; a joint action group working with the district council, schools and the police.

I continue my links to local service organisations including Rotary, Melton Lions Club and our own community radio station (103FM The Eye) I have dedicated time to Melton in Bloom, The Friendship Bench Project, The Melton Country Park community Café, and the development of a mental health drop-in centre and wellbeing project, Turning Point drug and alcohol recovery support, the DFE Multiply and lifelong learning projects and NAWRA (The National Association of Welfare Rights)

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

As a director of a local and specialised career, welfare and employment service, I have an existing relationship with Melton Borough Council, the local schools, and public utility companies (Water, Gas etc). I have on occasion, been asked to contact statutory bodies and public utility companies on behalf of Melton residents. My interfacing with public utility companies has increased exponentially in respect of escalating service charges and domestic hardship. I work closely with money and hardship management schemes including Clockwise and Melton Money Advice Centre.

Priorities for the immediate future are:

My priorities for the immediate future in Melton are to continue to develop the youth voice in the borough. Create improved opportunities for young people in Melton, this includes attracting competitive business to the area to harness local talent and potential. Support and develop environment and climate change initiatives. Work closely with children, young people and families to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour. Support families that are experiencing hardship. Be there for our residents, with meaningful support, advice and guidance.

Help make Melton Mowbray a desirable tourist destination. Continue to promote Melton as a centre for cultural, recreation and heritage excellence in the East Midlands

Council Activities

County Council Committees You Served On

Climate Change and the Environment
Children and Families Scrutiny committee
Corporate Governance Committee

Local Committee/Outside Bodies

British Actors Equity
Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust
RSPB
DFE development
AMY (Action Melton Youth)
NAWRA

Other Bodies

None specified

Learning and Development

Leadership and management level 4

Other Matters

I continue to work with Cllr Pam Posnett in community projects relating to our highways fund. We have already supported 103FM the Eye (local radio) with traffic update signs, Melton in Bloom.

Communications

I communicate within my electoral division through social media, email, directly by telephone, residential visits and member surgeries. In the last twelve months. I have attended 23 residential property visits and have been invited to local (and developing) businesses. I also hold two open door surgeries a month, in the last year I have had over 45 personal appointments with residents from my electoral division.

Signed by Councillor:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'P' followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a five-pointed star shape.

Date:- 25/06/2024