

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

Neil Bannister CC

Division Represented

Broughton Astley

Electoral Division activities

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

A lot of my time was spent on the aftermath of Storm Henk in January 2024 and the flooding issues that were caused in the Division particularly in the village of Broughton Astley. I liaised with the Flood team at County Hall to gain information as to grants available and to ask for jetting and gulley cleaning in the areas prone to flash flooding.

A number of residents also contacted me throughout the year about fly-tipping issues and litter. I have worked in partnership with Harborough District Council to clear fly-tipping and for the "hot spot" areas to be given priority in respect of deterrence and mitigation measures.

Road safety issues remain a concern. I have campaigned for safer and better accessed bus stops in Dunton Bassett, a reduction of speed along the busier roads in the Division and for better and more responsive road maintenance across the Division.

I was also able to help secure a rebate of a long overdue Adult social care payment where the resident had spent over two years to no avail until my involvement to ensure the payment was made.

Community Leadership Role

I maintain a high profile throughout my Division regularly reporting on the work I do on behalf of Parish's and the residents. This means very regular attendance at the Parish Councils in my Division. These are at Broughton Astley, Dunton Bassett, Ashby Magna, Ashby Parva, Leire and Frolesworth. I engage with the Parish Councillors and the residents of these villages to learn of issues of concern and to take these up where applicable with the County.

In addition, I have surgeries (three in the past year) to meet residents other than at the Parish Council meetings.

The work I do on behalf of the Parish's and the residents is varied and not necessarily confined to matters that are the responsibility of the County Council. This means regular contact with the relevant District Council, outside bodies and the local MP to ensure the right authority or person is considering the issues raised.

I regularly attend events held in my Division to maintain my profile across all the villages such as "Dunton Goes Green", concerts at the Ashby Magna Village Hall as well as summer fetes and fairs in the villages.

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

I have raised a number of residents issues with County officers including meeting with the Flood Team Manager on two occasions. I have also met with Highway officers to discuss the maintenance programme for the Division.

I have also met with the Police to discuss speeding in the villages and successfully lobbied for the deployment of the speed camera van.

I have also raised a number of concerns from vulnerable residents with Platform Housing.

I am also in regular contact with the team at Harborough District Council to resolve matters that are the responsibility of the District Council which residents draw to my attention.

Priorities for the immediate future are:

I look forward to satisfactorily resolving highway and speeding issues in the Division. Road safety remains a top priority for me. I will also press the County on its Green Agenda doing what I can to encourage the County reaching its target for tree planting and also to raise awareness of bio diversity within the County. I continue to engage with the communities in my Division to resolve issues that arise.

I will continue to lobby for fair funding for the County.

I will continue to be a visible and accessible County Councillor

Council Activities

County Council Committees You Served On

I serve on the:-

Development Control and Regulatory Services Board
The Corporate Governance Committee
The Leicestershire and Rutland Domestic Abuse Panel
The Leicestershire and Rutland Safer Communities Strategy Board.

Local Committee/Outside Bodies

I serve on the LLR Combined Fire Authority including its Employment Committee and its Corporate Governance Committee.

I chair the LLR Fire Authority Pensions Committee.

Other Bodies

I am a trustee to the Carlton Hayes Mental Health Charity and a trustee on the Baron Smith Almshouses (Frolesworth) Charity.

Learning and Development

I have attended a number of the various member briefings which have been critical in improving my understanding on the delivery of Council services and the challenges faced.

I have received training on the new legislation relating to bio diversity net gain across the County and in the relevant planning applications.

When I can I volunteer to be a substitute member to other committees to also improve my knowledge of the County Council service delivery.

Other Matters

I am grateful for this opportunity to report back on some of the work I have been doing over the past year. It is a privilege to serve and to help where I can across the great communities of the Broughton Astley Division.

Communications

I attend on a regular basis the Parish Councils in my Division. These are at Broughton Astley, Dunton Bassett, Ashby Magna, Ashby Parva, Leire and Frolesworth. I engage with the Parish Councillors and the residents of these villages to learn of issues of concern and to take these up where applicable with the County.

In addition, I have surgeries (three in the past year) to meet residents other than at the Parish Council meetings.

I advertise my contact details throughout the Division and have a regular magazine article in the Broughton Astley In Touch magazine to inform residents of my activities. Residents respond to ask for personal meetings or to contact me via email or telephone.

I have also issued a Division wide “Councillor’s News” leaflet detailing my work as a County Councillor.

I regularly attend events held in my Division to maintain my profile across all the villages such as “Dunton Goes Green”, concerts at the Ashby Magna Village Hall as well as summer fetes and fairs in the villages.

I meet regularly with the local Member of Parliament (Alberto Costa) to discuss issues affecting both the Division and the County – notably on fair funding for Leicestershire, residents’ concerns and road infrastructure investment.

Signed by Councillor:- *Neil D Bannister CC*

Date:- 3rd July 2024