

ANNUAL REPORT FROM CHRISTINE RADFORD

COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR SHEPSHED

Being the County Councillor for the past 10 years has been a privilege and I take my responsibilities and duties to help all Shepshed residents seriously. I cannot solve every problem I have been tasked with but will always try.

I have represented Shepshed on the following Committees and outside bodies during the previous 12 months, but on May 15th I was given another job at County. My new job at County is cabinet support to the Adult Social Care and Heritage Leisure and Arts Cabinet Leader. In fact I was thrown in to the deep end as on the following Friday, 2 days after being in the job I gave a presentation to over 40 users of our services.

Committee appointments

Cabinet Briefings
County Council
Children in Care Panel, (Chairman)
Members Conduct Panel.

Appointments to outside bodies

Environmental Agency – Anglian (North) Regional Flood Defence Committee
Environmental Agency – Severn Trent Regional Flood Defence Committee,
Newhurst Integrated Waste Transfer Station Liaison Committee
Thomas Harley Charities – a charity which support widows/widowers of Clergy,
Bernard Thorpe Charity – a charity which gives grants to schools within Shepshed.
River Soar/Grand Union Canal Partnership (Chairman)
Leicestershire Local Access Forum
Bradgate Park & Swithland Woods Committee of Management
Charnwood Forest Regional Park Steering Group
Ingleberry Road Liaison Committee (Burgess)
HS2 Committee
A46 Express Way Committee

Shepshed Groups/Committees – as County Councillor I sit on the below

Trustee on the Glenmore Centre,
Trustee on the Shepshed Volunteer Bureau,
Shepshed Town Team.
Bernard Thorpe Charity – a charity which gives grants to schools in Shepshed
Shepshed Special Community Bus - Chairman

Since becoming County Councillor for Shepshed I have whenever possible kept the Town and Borough Councillors for Shepshed and Residents informed on matters which affect Shepshed, especially on highways and planning. I have many meetings with officers at County to discuss concerns I have and concerns residents have brought to my attention. Concerns I have discussed with officers can be of a planning nature and in some cases County have taken on board our concerns and have written to Charnwood Planning department with suggestions, but in the majority of cases they go on to say they do not object to these applications as long as these improvements are carried out, but they have listened and I have had an opportunity to discuss it with the officer I have walked many footpaths and jitties with County Officers checking the condition of these paths, in particular with reference to over-hanging branches. In the majority of cases this is down to the owners of the properties next to these footpaths/jitties. Letters will have been sent out from County asking residents to cut back the offending growth/branches.

One of the main problems I have spent discussing with officers is the junction of Iveshead Road with Charley Road. This junction is a major accident area and County have undertaken improvements which so far have not seen an improvement; further work is to be carried out at this junction.

Another project I have kept residents and Councillors informed about is the Recycling Centre/Refuse Tip which is undergoing a full renovation. This is now due to take place in September 2019 which is proposed to install new drainage so that the whole site drains to the foul sewerage system, due to restriction on the rate of flow, this will require the installation of an attenuation tank on site to store liquid prior to its controlled release into the sewerage network. This work will also include resurfacing and the opportunity is being taken to profile the upper level to remove kerbs that creates trip hazard for site users.

The major road works due to start in July 2019 on the A512 which will affect Shepshed's residents has been a concern to residents. These proposals mean a new round about between Snells Nook Road Nanpantan and the M1 junction 23 and alterations to the junction of the A512 with Leicester Road and Charnwood Road in Shepshed. There is going to be a public meeting sometime in July held in the Town Council offices to enable residents to see what is proposed. I do have some concerns about these alterations especially the proposal to remove the left hand turn when leaving Iveshead Road onto Ashby Road and have informed the officers at County of my apprehension. I still have concerns and am contacted on a regular basis about the road layout alterations already carried out at the junction of Charnwood Road with Ashby Road Central.

I am currently working with members from the Town Team who are looking at the regeneration of the Centre of Shepshed and the feasibility of making a one-way system around part of Shepshed. I had a meeting with an officer from County who came along to talk and listen to one of the working groups of the Town Team. At the moment this has not really moved forward and I am waiting for a public meeting to take place to collect resident's comments on these proposals.

Parking outside of schools has been one of major problems at the moment, with parents parking on yellow lines, on the pavements and on the bends/junctions near to the entrances of the schools.

Schools have been trying their best to educate not only the pupils but car drivers of the dangers of parking inconsiderately. County have taken on board these concerns and have now got a Camera Car which monitors parents who flout parking restrictions outside of schools. But it is down to schools to approach County to have one visit their schools.

Other issues I am keeping an eye on are the Rights of Way around Shepshed and the reporting of broken Street Lights.

I have worked with a number of local groups to help them with their grant applications, or have forwarded information regarding grants which I have become aware of.

Thomas Harley Charity

Besides giving money to widows and widowers of the Clergy, this Charity also gives out grants to Hind Leys and Shepshed High School (Now known as Iveshead) and to students of low income families to help towards college/university fees or for equipment, such as woodworking tools, hairdressing scissors etc., if they are going on to be an apprentice I am pleased to report that I have been able to assist residents in obtaining grants from this Charity.

Transport – Buses

Sky Link - I am pleased to say that the Sky Link usage has increased and is being used by both people working at the airport and people going on holiday.

Arriva – I have been trying now for a number of years to get Arriva to divert one of its buses, which runs every 10 minutes around one half of Shepshed to cover the other half of Shepshed which currently does not have an adequate bus service. To date both myself and the Officers at County have got nowhere.

Passenger Transport Policy – County have engaged with the public on this policy. 94% of the Public transport is run by Commercial Passenger Transport which leaves 6% in which the commercial market cannot meet some transport needs and County has to consider whether it should intervene organisationally, operationally or through financial support. A decision following this engagement will be forthcoming later in the year.

Utility Companies

I am in regular contact with Severn Trent regarding the problems with the sewers in Iveshead Road following the completion of the Bloor development at the top, there is also a problem with sewers in this new development.

Flooding in various areas of Shepshed following the increase in housing has also taken up some of my time.

The maintenance of utility covers either in the footpaths or roads has been more of a problem this year, but finding out who they belong to has also taken up quite a bit of my time as nobody wants to take responsibility/ownership of them.

Child protection

I have been contacted by residents who are perturbed about children and have passed these on to the relevant department at County, but due to the confidentiality of these concerns have had to leave it to County to address them under their responsibilities.

Cabinet Support

I have regular meetings with officers in the flooding department at County and represent Leicestershire on Anglian and Severn Trent Regional Flood Committee and attend meetings and have attended meetings in North Lincolnshire and South Gloucestershire.

I have also represented County on the A46 Express Way and HS2 meetings; it has been a learning curve which I have enjoyed.

Training and Briefings

I make a point of attending whenever possible all the training being offered by County and attend briefings given to all County Councillors by officers on various aspects of work being carried out by County. It can be as diverse as IT, Finance, Child Care, Equality and Human Rights and Environmental Impacts.

Public meetings

I hold regular public meetings to enable residents to come along to raise any concerns they may have regarding Anti-social behaviour, planning and highways issues.

Monthly Surgery

I hold a monthly Surgery on the first Saturday of the month in the Shepshed Town Council offices in Charnwood Road between 10-11 am. I must thank the Town Council for letting me have this room free of charge. Residents do not need to make an appointment but can just come along with their concerns or they can contact me by phone or email.

I have an excellent attendance record at County and have spoken up in support of Shepshed at every opportunity. I feel strongly that as the elected representative for Shepshed at the County Council, it is important for me that I attend and represent the people of Shepshed to whom I am accountable.

Christine