

Keith Merrie MBE

County Councillor Coalville South Division
Comprising - Ellistown & Battleflat, Hugglescote St John's, Bardon,
Broom Leys (part of), Castle Rock, Greenhill

2023/2024 report

It has been a very busy period since my last report and a lot has happened. I have highlighted some of the many and varied things I have been doing representing all residents of Ellistown & Battleflat and Coalville South. This report combines my CC, District and Parish Council work.

1. Meetings – being a Cllr does involve attending a lot of meetings – either face-to-face, via Teams or even via telephone. Shown below are some of the meetings I have attended.

County Council:

- Full Council at County Hall
- LCC Highways scrutiny committee
- Highways panel – this is the review panel for the Members Highway Fund applications
- LCC Development Control and Regulatory Board (DCRB)
- Armed Forces Employee Network meeting
- Bardon Quarry Liaison committee
- Bardon Quarry community fund committee
- Whitwick Quarry Liaison Committee

District Council:

- Full Cabinet (Portfolio holder for Planning) – monthly
- Planning meetings – monthly
- Planning Technical briefings – monthly
- Local Plan committee - monthly
- Licensing committee
- Member of Nailstone woodland park Board

Parish Council:

- Hugglescote Parish Council
- Ellistown and Battleflat Parish Council

Developer meetings: more details contained within the report

- Harworth – reference the Swinfen development / Land East Of Regs Way
- Jenson – reference the Standard hill housing development

What follows next is a snapshot of what I have been doing to represent all the residents of Coalville South.

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County Council, District Council and Parish Council – Case work:

2. School places and SEN transport

Assisted over 20 families with applications for school places and families with SEN transport issues. I worked closely with the CC Cabinet members and Directors of adult and children's services and most of the cases were resolved. However not all the cases could be resolved in the parents' favour.

3. New primary school for Ellistown

It was a pleasure to be invited to the ground-breaking ceremony for the new Forrest School within the Swinfen development. I was alongside the CC Cabinet member of adult and children's services, and we were hosted by Harworth Developers. I also got to cut the ribbon for the opening of the new River Scence woodland walk.



4. Nailstone Country Park

I have volunteered to sit on the Board of Nailstone Country Park and to represent NWLDC. I was honoured to be invited to the opening of the new Nailstone Country Park centre. It is a stunning Eco-friendly building and can be used by the local community.



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5. Coalville emergency services open day

I was invited to attend the Coalville Emergency Services open day and it was a great day out. It was packed with exciting stalls, and I got to operate the police drone.



6. Dealing with Off-Road motorbikes

My work continues dealing with the menace off illegal off-road bikes. I have had meetings with the Police and Harworth developers to close off access points to land off Grange Road in Hugglescote. Hopefully work will commence in 2024 to install similar deterrents that were recently installed in Greenhill.



7. New extension to Ibstock Surgery

I was invited to the official opening of the new extension to Ibstock Doctors Surgery. The well-known actor and local Ibstock resident – Stephen Graham – cut the tape.



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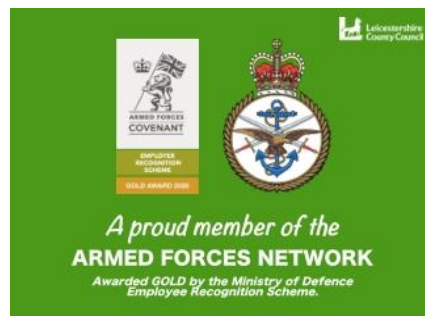
8. Bardon Quarry community fund committee

I attended the Bardon Quarry community fund committee and took part in allocating grants to lots of applicants – one of which was Bardon Cricket club who applied for part funding towards new cricket nets. I was honoured to be invited to the official opening. The captain of Leicester Cricket club was also in attendance. It was a glorious Autumn evening, and the sun was out in force. The members and their families had a great time.



9. Remembrance Day

I attended two parades – Coalville and Ellistown & Battleflat. I laid a wreath as the CC at both locations. It was nice to meet up with the Police Inspector for Coalville who was dressed in his posh outfit.



I also attended the Coalville Armed Forces Breakfast club, and it was a pleasure for Cllr Smith and I to pay for everyone's breakfasts.



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10. Penny Wakefield Community Woodland

Working with Cllr Maggie Mawby from Ellistown Parish Council we liaised with the landowners to get the grass cut, the dog poo bins emptied and the drainage ponds pumping system fixed. It took a while, but we got there in the end.



11. Litter:

I am a member of NWL Wombles and go out most weekends picking up litter – it’s a constant battle. Shown below are some of the litter picks I have attended and litter issues I have dealt with during Aug to Dec 2023

Ellistown Village Litter picks – lots of them organised by Cllr Maggie Mawby:



Solo litter picks organised by me – this one on Ibstock Road



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12. New bins for Coalville North & South

Utilising funds from my CC Members Highways fund I got NWLDC Street Cleansing Team to purchase £10K worth of street litter bins. These will be positioned at litter hot spots to hopefully prevent street litter. Picture below shows Cllr Craig Smith, me and members of the NWLDC street cleansing team with just a small portion of the bins.



13. NWLDC Local Plan

Planning and Local Plan committee meetings- as the portfolio holder for planning I am monitoring the NWLDC review of its Local Plan and the SHEELA process very closely. I briefed both Parish Councils on the progress to date and that the process will be going to consultation early in 2024.

14 Ellistown Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan

Work is now underway to review the Parish Neighbourhood Plan. This is essential work to improve the plan and make it robust to prevent excess development in the village.

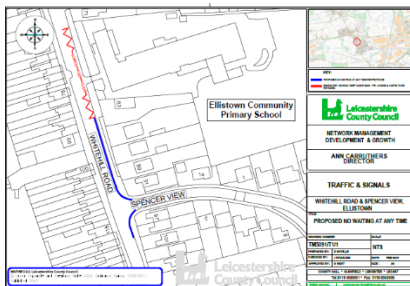
15 LCC Highways Members Fund - Update

As a county Cllr I am allocated a Members Highway Fund to be allocated at my discretion across the Coalville South ward.

A report of where monies have been allocated is shown below:

One of the projects is yellow lines outside the school up to Spencer View to prevent unsafe parking.

Now completed and the yellow lines near Saint Christophers church



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16. Ellistown and Battleflat Christmas lights

I personally contacted and visited lots of local businesses to ask for support towards the cost of the village Xmas lights and the response was amazing with close to £5K pledged towards the lights. The lights were switched on followed by a carol service and refreshments at the school community room.



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17. Donnington Arms pub – Santa makes a visit

It was great to be invited by the Landlord to the Pub Xmas Fayre. Lots of local businesses had stalls and the staff did a fantastic effort in creating a Santa's Grotto. Well done to all



18. Greenhill Community HUB

It was a pleasure to be invited to the official opening of the Greenhill Community HUB. This will be a great asset to the local community.



19. Policing in NWL

I attended a meeting in Whitwick where the Chief Constable, Police and Crime Commissioner and the Inspector from Coalville all spoke on current and future police issues. Very informative session.



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20 I am proud to be a Cllr and I Get Stuff Done

I am proud of Ellistown & Battleflat and work hard to improve the village. Instead of criticising, I get things done and I really enjoy the work.



Improving footpaths

Cleaning paths

Working with land owner to sort bins out at Penny Wakefield Woodland Park

21 I keep in Touch with residents and businesses

I strive to be available to all and I keep in touch with regular leaflet drops and I personally deliver a Christmas Card every year to every household – 6500 of them – at no cost to the taxpayer.



Merry Christmas
From your LOCAL Conservative team

Dear Resident

As you know, each year since we were elected in 2021, Keith and I send out a personal Christmas card to all the residents of Coalville North and Coalville South. Well, this year we thought we would team up and do a joint card covering both divisions and introduce you to Kirat, who helps us both with campaigning and "GETTING STUFF DONE" for Coalville.

Foremost, all three of us are local residents, just like you. We all live, work and play here. We want what you want, a prosperous, vibrant community that has something for everyone. We get involved in as many local events and initiatives as we can and you will always find us "talking our town UP, not down".

We will always do everything within our power to promote and champion Coalville, its surrounding villages and its "fantastic people". That is OUR promise to YOU!

We wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy healthy and prosperous new year

Craig Keith Kirat

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22 3000 bulbs for the village

The Parish Council arranged for 3K bulbs for the village and a “planting day” was organised by the PC. It was a great turnout, and we shall all see the results in 2024.



23. Ellistown PC Chairmans Award to a Wombling Family from the village

It gave me great pleasure to present the Ellistown PC Chairmans award to Joe Davies and his family just prior to another village litter pick. Joe and his family work extremely hard to keep the village tidy – well done.



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24. Ellistown bus stop replaced

Working with LCC Highways and Roberts Coaches I was successful in getting the bus stop replaced in Ellistown on Midland Road.



25 Safer Footpaths on Midland Road.

Following concerns raised by a wheelchair user I worked with LCC Highways to cut back the overgrown grass and weeds to get better access for users.




Traffic or pedestrian issues – report direct to LCC Highways

PLEASE KEEP REPORTING ANY ISSUES DIRECTLY TO LCC

- If you have any highway issues or concerns, please report them direct

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/report-a-road-problem>

You can report most types of problem with county roads or pavements online, this includes:

- Potholes (contact Highways England to [report motorway or major trunk road potholes](#) )
- [Grit bin damage \(please note -we do not refill bins on request\)](#)
- Overgrown trees or hedges
- Damaged drains or manhole covers
- Damage to road signs (please note - we don't clean road signs)
- Problems with traffic lights

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NEIGHBOURHOOD LINK:-

Neighbourhood Link community messaging service

Neighbourhood Link is a community messaging service from Leicestershire Police that provides news and information about policing activity or initiatives, crime prevention advice as well as major incidents affecting your area.

Through this service you can receive messages from your local Neighbourhood Policing Team, local police or, in the event of a major incident or event affecting the whole of Leicestershire, from a partnership of agencies known as the Local Resilience Forum (LRF).

In order to receive messages, you will need to register your details. This information will enable us to send you messages relevant to the areas you live and work. Anyone can register, whether you live, work or travel into Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Registration is free and simple to follow.

Once you have registered you will receive messages via email unless you have specified otherwise. On some occasions it may be appropriate for messages to be sent via text messages or voicemail.

- Sign up to Neighbourhood Link: -

<https://www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk>

- If you are already registered you can amend your details
- Request a reminder if you have forgotten your username or password
- You can unsubscribe from the service at any time

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