

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 Phil King

Division Represented: Market Harborough West and Foxton

Electoral Division activities

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

In the last 12 months, I have continued to reply promptly to residents and parish councils concerns, or direct them to the appropriate team or external stakeholders.

The planned parking restrictions at Walcote Road, was implemented in the Autumn which has led to reductions in parking difficulties for local residents.

Whilst the proposed scheme for Coventry Road and Fairfield Road was progressed, it wasn't implemented in the 23/24 municipal year, as there was a substantial number of responses which officials had to assess. Now expected to be implemented early in 24/25 year.

A major issue I have dealt with during this year was the proposed changes to the Market Harborough Household Waste site. It was being threatened with closure. Whilst not in my division, I asked questions at Council of the Leader and Cabinet member, and along with our local MP and district Council colleagues I campaigned to keep it open. Over 5,000 responses to the consultation were received, many of which were from my division. The outcome was that the MH waste site was kept open along with the Kibworth one, albeit both on reduced hours of opening.

The Secretary of State allowed consent for the new Gartree prison. Following discussions with MoJ officials, they agreed to a stakeholder group being formed so that relevant issues can be discussed and publicity agreed, so that messaging is consistent in the community and with stakeholders. I have now managed to secure attendance from the LCC officer group to ensure that technical queries relevant to LCC can be dealt with quickly.

The two neighbourhood forums in my division are now enacted and meeting on a regular basis, and these meetings I attend when I can.

I have worked with residents groups on both the Farndon Fields and the Airfield Farm estates to seek clarifications and guidance from LCC regarding road adoptions.

I attended briefings about the new primary school that is to open on Airfield Farm in September 2024.

I have worked closely with the local MP, the PCC, Harborough District Council and Harborough LPU on ASB issues related to the Airfield Farm/ Wellington Place development in my division. This has seen increased patrols from the local police and a reduction in ASB activities and reporting from residents.

In summer 2023, I was involved in raising residents and business concerns about the secrecy adopted by the local district council & organisers in relation to a religious event held at the Harborough Show ground. There were several meetings with local businesses, and discussions with other stakeholders about this, although LCC role in this was very limited. As a result of this the district council held post event meetings with the businesses and also carried out a review that was subjected to councillor scrutiny at a meeting in the autumn of 2023, with a number of changes planned for summer 2024.

I have continued to work with and champion the work that is being undertaken on the review of surface water flooding, along with the review of the Market Harborough Transport Strategy and the development of the Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan for Market Harborough.

During various storms which resulted in surface water problems, I directed residents to the relevant services, and helped encourage post event more people to volunteer to be flood wardens.

My committee allocation was amended in the last year, and I have served during the year on the Development and Regulatory Control Board, which has met on a monthly basis for majority of the year. Alongside this I have continued to serve on the Leicestershire Pensions Committee. In addition to this I was a member of the Scrutiny Task Panel for Shire Grants, and also subbed for colleagues on other committees as and when I'm able to.

During this last year I volunteered to be on of 3 Care Champions' for cared for children. I attended several meetings with officers and a briefing, but the roles were abolished before the end of the year.

Other issues that I have dealt with involved a reduced number of SEND transport issues, which due to extra resources being invested by LCC have been resolved to the users satisfaction. I have continued to ask questions at committees and Council that are relevant and topical for my division.

Community Leadership Role

As above

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

As above. I am an active participant of the Welland and Logan Neighbourhood Plan forums. I am a member of the Gartree Prison MOJ/PS stakeholder group. I have attended various briefings from LCC and other providers about services in my division.

I respond to and publicise issues through my social media channels, encouraging residents to respond to LCC consultations.

I raise questions and queries through Member Services for and on behalf of residents and parish councils.

Priorities for the immediate future are:

My priorities are to understand what the effect of the new national government policies will be on services provided by LCC and other stakeholders in my division and how this may impact on residents. I will continue to be an advocate for my division residents and businesses. I will continue to explain about council decisions and policies and how they may affect people within my division.

Council Activities

County Council Committees You Served On

For the year 23/24 I have served on:-

Development Control and Regulatory Board
Leicestershire Pensions committee
Scrutiny task panel- Shire Grants

Local Committee/Outside Bodies

Foxton Locks Partnership- dormant

Other Bodies

Welland Neighbourhood Forum
Logan and Arden Neighbourhood Forum

Learning and Development

*Jan 2024- attended the 2 day LGA LGPS annual conference in York.
Regular pensions training sessions attended at County Hall and online.*

Other Matters

During 23/24 I was appointed to the LGA People and Places Board as a substitute member, via district council, and also a member of the Councillor Assembly.

In July 2023, I was elected Leader of the East Midlands Councils' Conservative Group, and am therefore a member of it's management and executive boards, again as a district appointee.

I attended the LGA national conference in July 2023, at my own expense.

I have attended a number of other meetings/seminars/lobbying events in these capacities, which are helpful in understanding the wider policy agenda.

Communications

When I am able I attend the 2 neighbourhood forums and the 2 parish councils in my division. I liaise with my CC colleagues and also district councillors when appropriate. I use my social media channels on twitter, facebook and linkedin to post information from LCC. I also speak to local media about relevant division issues. I also communicate via leaflets delivered by my political party.

Signed by Councillor:- Phil King

Date:- 8 August 2024