

## **County Councillor's Report from Richard Shepherd for 2012-2013**

### **What I do at County Hall**

I am one of the Council's Scrutiny Commissioners and am Deputy Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission.

Scrutiny is the "critical friend" to the Cabinet, commenting on some Cabinet papers and undertaking research to help develop policy.

A particular interest of mine is the contribution which can be made by Scrutiny Review Panels, which are not permanent bodies but are created to look intensively at a subject. I have recently chaired two, one on Transitions, looking at how the Council assists young disabled people as they move into adulthood and another on Children's Centres, including the Supporting Leicestershire Families project.

I am Deputy Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee and of the Employment Committee, and also serve on the Community Homes and Service Teams Monitoring Panel and the Secure Accommodation Review Panel.

Reports from the Review Panels I have mentioned and a full list of the bodies on which I serve is available on the County Council's website.

### **What I do in my Division**

A key task is to be on hand to deal with any issues which constituents raise.

As often as I can I attend meetings of Parish Councils in my Division, to report to the Councils and receive enquiries.

I am a Governor of Burton on the Wolds Primary School, where my particular is Literacy Governor. As well as attending formal Governors' Meetings, I have a programme of regular visits to the School to work with the Literacy Co-ordinator. From the Autumn Term 2013 I shall be chairing the Pupil and Curriculum Committee.

I also work with the local police, meeting the Beacon Officer in my Division to visit particular locations where issues have arisen and seek resolutions to them.

I was pleased to be able to assist the organizers of the Wymeswold Duck Race and Waddle by lobbying County officers to reconsider and eventually reduce the cost of arranging a road closure for the events.

One of the matters I want to help with in the coming year is searching for a solution to the long-standing problem of Mountsorrel Lane in Sileby. Another is the need for some measure to assist parents and children in crossing the busy B676 in Burton on the Wolds. I shall also be monitoring progress with super-fast broadband.

So far I have referred to some of the detail of my work in the Division. However, the cloud which at present looms over everything the County Council does is the great

reduction in funding we are having to address. This will be central to thinking in the coming year and years.

### **Learning and Development activities since the beginning of September 2012**

At the County Council:

- Unlocking Local Capacity
- All Member Briefing on the Local Government Resource Review
- All Member Briefing on Transitions
- Customer Service Centre Workshop
- All Member Briefing on the Health Service Structure

As a member of Charnwood Borough Council:

- Local Plan Core Strategy (three events)
- Welfare Reform- The Wider Picture
- Introduction to Personal Reviews
- Studentification
- Probity and Decision Making

Richard Shepherd

September 2013