

## **County Councillor Annual Report**

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during the last year.

Name of Councillor     Dr Kevin Feltham

### **Council Activities**

#### **Committees you serve on at County Hall**

Constitution Committee

ESPO Finance and Audit Subcommittee

ESPO Management Committee

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
(currently serviced by the City Council)

Scrutiny Commission (Scrutiny Commissioner)

Scrutiny Review Panel on the County Council's 95% Bus Coverage Policy

Scrutiny Review Panel on Traded Services (Chairman)

In my role as a Conservative Scrutiny Commissioner I also attend Cabinet briefings and Cabinet meetings as an observer.

#### **Local committees – Highway Forums and Community Forums etc**

Leicestershire County Council Highway Forum for Harborough

Community Forums for Central Harborough and East Harborough

#### **Other bodies – School governors/community and charity organisations etc**

County Councils Network of the Local Government Association

Harborough Improvement Team (closed down in June 2014)

Nicholson Memorial Fund as Trustee  
Vice-chairman of Robert Smyth Academy Governing Body  
Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council  
Kibworth Harcourt Conservation Society (Chairman)  
Kibworth Improvement Team Committee  
St Wilfrid's Parochial Church Council

## **Electoral Division activities**

### **Main Activities during the past year:**

There have been a number of planning applications which I have supported, but there have also been some that I have felt compelled to object to. I believe that single wind turbines over 60m high anywhere in the Gartree Division are anathema as they have a negative effect on the glorious High Leicestershire landscape and views. I would like to see Harborough District Council agree a policy for locating tall wind turbines to avoid applications in High Leicestershire leading to extensive campaigning by communities opposed to them.

The destruction and reconstruction of the railway bridge in Kibworth Beauchamp by Network Rail. This involved liaison with County Highways, Network Rail, Parish Councils and residents to ensure communication of activities, road closures etc. The Great Glen crematorium application, and subsequent appeal by the Co-operative Group, has been a major campaign, starting in 2013, involving public meetings, extensive email updates to a large distribution list, and meetings with the parish and district councils. In addition, because two more applications for crematoria in neighbouring Blaby District Council (Countesthorpe and Kilby) there has been considerable collaboration with elected members in those areas. I liaised with Sir Edward Garnier QC MP to write to the Planning Minister (at the time), Nick Boles, as there could be a ludicrous situation of three new crematoria within 6 miles.

I regularly attend the parish council meetings in Billesdon, Great Glen, Kibworth Beauchamp and Kibworth Harcourt. In addition, when a specific matter requires my attendance I have also attended meetings with East Langton Parish Council, and several parish meetings.

The Welland Valley Broadband Group consists of representatives from some 20 parishes in Gartree and Launde Divisions. I have been working with the Group to look at options for obtaining super-fast broadband by 2017/18.

Throughout the year, I have responded to individual constituent issues relating to Highways: parking, grass cutting, gully cleaning, traffic accidents, Kibworth bypass, winter gritting; Social Care Services; plus various other matters, including: neighbour disputes, planning, allotments, school transport and catchment areas, and grant applications amongst others.

I am fortunate that Great Glen (Glen Sence) and the Kibworth area (Kibworth & District Chronicle) are served by community newspapers, and I usually publish a column in every issue. I haven't yet published anything in the Billesdon Parish Magazine.

I also maintain my councillor website: <http://gartree.yourcllr.com> with activities

**Priorities for the immediate future are:**

I want to continue encouraging parishes in my division to produce Neighbourhood Plans. Billesdon have completed their plan and are holding their referendum in September 2014. Great Glen have started and been awarded a grant to meet some of the expense. East Langton have also started and also been awarded a grant. The Kibworths are discussing whether to have a single Plan between them, and Smeeton Westerby are also about to begin the process. This still leaves many parishes who have yet to decide. Parishes which are identified in the HDC Core Strategy as Rural Centres and Rural Villages can expect housing and employment sites to be identified by the district, and so a Neighbourhood Plan gives the community the opportunity to have a say in the locations and to also decide on suitability in terms of location, access, density, style and number of houses.

**Learning and development:**

I have attended briefings and workshops, or watched the webcasts and downloaded the slides, provided by the County Council – these have covered a broad range of issues that help me as a County Councillor, including Better Care Fund, Corporate Parenting, Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Partnership and Leicester Shire Promotions, Child Sexual Exploitation, Ofsted's new inspection framework, New Policy for Home to School Transport, Communities Strategy, The Care Act 2014. I have also attended Local Government Association meetings including the annual conference (Manchester in 2013, Bournemouth in 2014), and the County Councils Network annual conference (Cheshire, 2013). Attendance at national events provides an opportunity to network with members from other councils and with local government ministers. It also provides an update on how other councils are handling their own challenges.

## **Other Matters:**

During early 2014 Leicestershire County Council launched a green plaque award scheme to celebrate important people and places linked to the county. Along with two other people I nominated Brigadier General James Lochhead Jack who lived in Kibworth Harcourt and wrote a diary about his experiences in the First World War. I was delighted when our nomination was awarded one of the six green plaques and look forward to it being installed later this year on the Old House.

**Signed by Councillor: Dr Kevin Feltham**

**Date: 30 July 2014**