



County Councillor Max Hunt Annual Report 2016/7

This report summarises my activities
I welcome any questions from residents

Formal Council Committee Work

Committees I have served on at County Hall

Environment and Transport Scrutiny Committee
Local Pensions Committee

Local committees:

Charnwood Highways Forum
Loughborough Campus and Community Liaison Group

Other relevant bodies)

Ashby Road Estates Community Association (ARECA)
Thorpe Acre 2000

Electoral Division activities

Main Activities during the past Year (see also Local Activities below)

- ✓ Attendance: All Council Meetings and many committee meetings, briefings and attended others as substitute for colleagues unable to attend.
- ✓ Presented evidence final application for the Garendon Development.
- ✓ Defend community against unwelcome planning applications.
- ✓ Secure project to relieve congestion on A412/Epinal Way
- ✓ Oppose use of Incinerators (EfW) in county, including Newhurst.
- ✓ Address Blackbrook Road, Sandringham Drive and Buckingham Drive speed problems.



- ✓ Highlighting consequences of Climate Change and push for progress on Carbon Reduction Action Plan.
- ✓ Liaise with Police and Borough to improve management and oversight of Shortcliffe Park.
- ✓ Represented residents to restore Stapleford Park.
- ✓ Monitored School Places, particularly in Primary sector.
- ✓ Continued to represent residents of Crosswood Close and Clowbridge Drive over out of hours parking at Ashmount Special School.
- ✓ Represented residents on effects of LFRS smoke training on Alan Moss Road properties, engaging with Fire Chief and CBC Environmental Health.
- ✓ Liaised with LCC transport planning engineers and residents over traffic management plans for town related to current and future possible developments from CBC.
- ✓ Monitored plans toward Charnwood Forest Regional Park
- ✓ Improve and delitter area around Wordsworth Road shops.
- ✓ Progressed Highways Orders to keep pavements clear.
- ✓ Work with police over burglaries, various other crime and youth engagement matters.
- ✓ Regular newsletters to residents, surgeries and ward walks.
- ✓ See also my various public questions to Council throughout year.



Priorities for the immediate future are:

- Bring a progress report on LCC's Carbon Reduction Strategy to scrutiny.
- Monitor detailed plans for Garendon Park development as they emerge, particularly Sections 106 and 278 conditions.
- Control parking and improve safety outside schools.
- Ensure facilities for young people in Thorpe Acre and play areas for Old Ashby Road and Garendon Green
- Support the Community Public Health liaison worker.
- Better information to families about services for elderly people and people with learning difficulties.
- Obtain a fairer share of Community Transport grant for John Storer House: Report to come to my committee in the Autumn.
- Support voluntary organisations and try to ensure that grants and participative budgeting is directed towards social priorities.

- Support funding bids in Leics & Rutland NHS Sustainable and Transformational Plan (STP) services.
- Improving bus services and bus access to hospitals, particularly Glenfield.
- Support the campaign to retain children's heart procedures at Glenfield.
- Introduce road safety improvements and interventions.
- Campaign with Cycling UK and LDCUC to reduce collisions involving cycles.
- Oversee Review of Transport for SEN pupils and Social Care

Matters raised personally in Council, Scrutiny and Questions:

Some of the formal Questions and Motions raised at Council

7/4/16 Question on Public Open Spaces Protection Orders
 13/12/16 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction

My Papers to Cabinet

Topics Include:

Rail Strategy
 Fracking and the Minerals Local Plan
 Loughborough Town Centre Road scheme
 Community Transport: Fairer division of funds
 County Boundaries
 Melton Transport Plan
 Support alternatives to waste incineration



Attended:

Loughborough Fire Station
 University: Campus & Community Liaison Committee
 Retired Employees events.
 Thorpe Acre All Saints Church Committee
 Knightthorpe Lodge Residents Association
 Thorpe Acre Residents Assn (TARA)
 Ashby Road Residents Association (ARECA)
 Holocaust Memorial Day Event

Presentations and Training:

Training on pensions administration and investment.
 Various other presentations through the year.

Other matters:

Significant casework load concerning parking, highways, countryside, planning, footpaths, traffic, schools, including work with residents and students.

Responding to BBC Radio Leics, BBC East Midlands TV, and press enquiries and issuing of press releases and letters to Loughborough Echo and Leicester Mercury.

News and Information to Residents

I have circulated two Councillor News sheets (delivered largely house to house by myself personally). In addition I circulate a fuller newsletter by email at various intervals. The following was circulated shortly before this publication

Local Issues and recent activities in more detail:

The proposed Incinerator

The County Council lost its appeal against the Biffa Incinerator on the Shepshed side of Junction 23 but a brick has yet to be laid and there is no guarantee it will yet be built.

Meanwhile, the County Council has resolved not to use such a facility in their plans up to 2028. Whether this decision persuades Biffa not to go ahead is questionable, but it won't help them. I have written to the County Cabinet asking them to focus on the latest, cleanest technology in the post 2028 contract. I have kept up the pressure on the County not to contract with large scale incineration.

I am aware several residents are closely following this. The disadvantages are well laid out in the County Cabinet Paper of 13 December 2016, in <http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=4608> in the section headed *Appraisal of Options for the Treatment/Disposal of Residual Waste Post-2020*.

Garendon Development latest

The large Garendon Development was given outline planning consent in summer 2015 but the developers have not proceeded because of protracted arguments over the payments they will be required to make for infrastructure (roads, schools, health centres, and other facilities). We may not mind that building is being held up - and it's not uncommon for developers to delay if they think house prices will rise. However, it is vital that when building does go ahead that all the infrastructure is in place.

What we do know is that Wm Davis have to build a roundabout on the A6 at Pear Tree Lane before they can complete houses at the Hathern end of the development. When this first phase built, development will switch to the southern section before the A512 access is joined up with the new A6 roundabout. This new Distributor Road will cross the west side of Garendon

Park and run through the development to the Pear Tree Lane roundabout. The planners say it will remove traffic from other roads into Loughborough, but this is hard to believe.

I am monitoring this closely. There are still many other details and complications to clarify, including public access to the Park.

The Poplar Plantation

Like everyone else I was very surprised when the plantation of poplar trees suddenly disappeared between Buckingham Drive and Lilleshall Way. It is always a shock when a part of the landscape changes dramatically, but I was aware that some residents on the edge of the plantation were concerned at the danger of one or more of them falling. At least that danger has passed.

I have been told by the contractors that the Estate intends to replant with another kind of willow, possibly less tall or possibly cricket bat willows. *Salix Alba Caerulea*. Meantime I have asked for the area to be made safe and for residents to be informed of any further developments.

Contacting the Garendon Estate

Residents have occasionally asked me how to contact the Garendon Estate. It's often about trees or access. I have informed residents that the first point of contact is through the Estate's land agents, Savill's in Lincoln.

Traffic Congestion

Loughborough has the worst peak hour traffic congestion in the county, after the City suburbs. These days, the majority of major highways schemes are funded with money from required from developers to meet the demands of new building. The County Council can trigger this and also bid for funding from the Department of Transport (DfT). I am continuing to put pressure on the County Council to develop the case for improving the A512 Epinal Way roundabout and the 300 Spartans cross roads. Last year they announced a bid for such a project. I have received some very helpful suggestions following my recent newsletter. The present situation is that transport engineers are working up a case, based on traffic statistics and the economic value to the town. This will then be put to the Leics Enterprise Partnership who place formal bids to the DfT. It is, unfortunately a complex process, but I am confident we are making headway, particularly because it is a project which can be implemented in stages.

Midland Mainline Rail Electrification (MML) at February 2017

As you may know this project was 'paused' when the new Government took office last summer. However, it has been continued and we expect it to happen. Unfortunately we are currently waiting for a further timetable. There are line re-alignments which will start shortly and we can be certain the project will extend from London to Kettering. Looking ahead we will need the electrification to extend to Toton to link with the HS2 going north. I realise this is a very long term project but together with county and city MPs, the County Council is making the case very strongly for electrification of MML.

Stapleford Child's Play equipment: Repair or Replace

For over two years the Under 12's playground at Stapleford Park (of Pitsford Drive) has been roped off by Charnwood Borough Council. There has been no consultation, no promise to repair it after being vandalised, and no alternative provided. Instead parents and children have been told to go to Shortcliffe Park (off Old Ashby Road). This is a good park but it is across the busy Old Ashby Road and far too distant for parents and children to walk to from Booth Wood School. After talking to several parents I have asked the Borough Council to consider either repairing it or resiting it more centrally on the estate. There is every reason why, with some help from our Borough Councillors, that the Borough Council should be persuaded to repair it or site it where it is less likely to be damaged.

Planning Applications

These are mostly settled by agreement with the Borough Council - and the payment of a fee of course. Occasionally I am asked to support residents to making a case for or against an application. This can be complicated because objections have to be based on planning law but I am always willing to help. All details and submissions are published on line on Charnwood's '*Planning Explorer*' website.

Most applications have a clear benefit, but sometimes there are unforeseen problems. These are usually specific to nearby residents and can often be fixed before the application gets to committee. For example:

"The Garendon" Club, Thorpe Hill P/16/2249/2

This is for the part demolition of the old social club (now privately owned) with 4 flats over and a three storey building for 13 flats with associated car parking. The plan contains a beer garden for smokers alongside a private garden. Also limited on site car parking.

New University Hall: Ashby Road. P/16/2558/2

To provide 623 bed spaces and an Elite Athlete Centre to provide 42 twin rooms/ 84 bed spaces, a central 'Hub' building, warden's house. Very near the A512 road, overlooking homes and surface water drains into the brook possibly creating problems of flooding Garendon Green.

I am also working on a third application which is causing concern amongst neighbours is about to come to Committee

Land adjacent to 6 Gisborough Way P/16/1833/2

The proposal to build a house on this land may not look controversial, but it land that was previously public recreation land. The area doesn't meet the council's standards for a play area. Residents rightly want it retained for recreation.

These are just some of the planning matters I am currently dealing with at the moment. I am also dealing with some flooding and drainage problems at the bottom of Windsor Road.

Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland NHS Health Plan

The Plan, laid out in <http://www.bettercareleicester.nhs.uk/> includes two well-known bottle necks in the system which the plan hopes to tackle. (a) A&E cannot cope at peak times. We are lucky to have an Urgent Care Centre at Loughborough Hospital which should be used where appropriate. And (b) bed blocking: acute beds being occupied by patients waiting for a care plan and often residential care. This is called Social Care and is delivered by the

County Council. A substantial price tag accompanies the solution to these and other needs! The Plan makes interesting reading or those with sufficient time and interest and have followed the report closely as it evolves..

Council Tax and Social Care

The largest part of our Council Tax is for the County Council and the largest slice of that is for Social Care of elderly and disabled people. You may have read that the county councils are allowed to raise a further percentage of council tax specifically for social care – because the system is in serious trouble. You may also recall that the grant to local government from central government has fallen by some 40% since 2011. The County Council's share of our council tax is currently set to rise by 4% from April as a result. The Borough and Loughborough rates will rise by around 3.5%.

I and my colleagues are only too well aware of the pain this will cause many residents. The increase in elderly people in our community as well as increasing costs for caring for severely disabled young people has led all county councils to plead for greater support from government. You may have read that Surrey County Council say they need to put up their Council Tax by 15%.

Leicestershire's position is shared across all parties as well as the Local Government Association who represent all authorities. Social care is underfunded and the Council Tax payer should not, and cannot fill the gap.

Roads, Footways, Cycleways and Bridleways

If you notice a pot hole, a failing street light, or other things needing attention, you can report it directly to customerservices@leics.gov.uk or *fix my street* (see below). In order to schedule works efficiently repairs are sometimes done in batches. Where work is not seen to be urgent it may take rather longer to fix. Recently I reported a pothole on Blackbrook Road which was fixed within a week. I have also reported two instances of traffic light timing failure which takes longer to investigate.

Litter, Parks and Open Spaces

Two hotspots I regularly report are the old railway track alongside DeLisle School and the area behind the One Stop store.

The "Tip": Opening hours for recycling

I ensure residents are aware of all the changes to the service, so far with no complaints..

Library Hours: Current opening hours

I ensure residents are aware of all the changes to the service, so far with no complaints..

Police and Crime prevention.

I have had regular meetings with senior and local officers. I recently circulated useful information on protecting your home from burglary on their behalf. I hope you found it useful. I am pleased to say that burglary is slightly down on last winter.

I have arranged speed tests by the Police on Buckingham Drive and Sandringham Drive and also distributed 30mph 'bin stickers' to willing residents.

Signed: *Max Hunt.*

Max Hunt CC
Date: March 2017

