



## County Councillor Max Hunt Annual Report 2017/18

I welcome any questions from residents

### Formal Council Committee Work

#### **Council Committees I have served on at County Hall**

Full Council \*

Environment and Transport Scrutiny Committee \*

(\* meetings recorded on [webcast](#))

Local Pensions Committee (Leicestershire councils, city council & probation staff)

Learning & Development Working Group (promoting IT for members)

#### **Local committees:**

Charnwood Highways Forum (closed)

Loughborough Campus and Community Liaison Group

#### **Other relevant bodies**

Ashby Road Estates Community Association (ARECA)

Thorpe Acre Residents

### Main Activities during the past Year

- Monitored the carbon reduction measures through scrutiny committee.
- Campaigned against 'fleecehold' and pressed for detailed plans for Garendon Park access.
- Pressed for publication of West of Loughborough development (WoL SUE) section 106 agreement
- Presented options to residents and Booth Wood School on control of parking and improved safety outside schools.
- Helped deliver more for young people in Thorpe Acre and the Ashby Road Estate.

- Campaigning for a Loughborough Town Council.
- Ensured a greater share of Community Transport grant for John Storer Charnwood.
- Won the campaign to retain children's heart procedures(ECMO) at Glenfield Hospital.
- Addressed various very local matters: Schofield Road (grass verges), Ravensthorpe Drive (maintenance), Windleden Road (parking), Thorpe Hill (planning), Gisborough Way (planning) Shortcliffe brook (obstruction), including meetings with police over crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour.



### **Priorities for the future are:**

- Stop the Conservatives picking on disabled and vulnerable children's transport and other soft targets.
- Sufficient high quality school, pre-school and childcare places in the area I represent.
- Continue to promote carbon reduction measures in scrutiny committee.
- Monitor detailed plans for West of Loughborough/Garendon Park development as they emerge, particularly via Conditions and Sections 106 agreement to P/14/1855/2.
- Liaise to Booth Wood CPS and DeLisle College about controlled parking and improved safety outside schools.
- Disseminate the messages of county's public health work. Work with Vicky Utting Local Co-ordinator.
- Better information to families about services for elderly people and people with learning difficulties.
- Support voluntary organisations and try to ensure that grants and participative budgeting is directed towards social priorities.
- Campaign for better funding for the NHS and great performance from our acute services in UHL, mental health in LPP and GP services under our CCG.
- Improving bus services and Demand Responsive transport for rural routes at a reasonable cost.
- Introduce road safety improvements and community speeding interventions.
- Continue to campaign with others to reduce casualties involving cycles and pedestrians. Support safer cycle routes.
- Monitor new arrangements and appeals system for Personal Transport Budgets for pupils with severe educational needs and disabilities.



- Oversee changes and appeals to Personal transport budgets for SEN pupils.
- Sufficient high quality school, pre-school and childcare places in the area I represent.

### **Some matters raised personally in Council, Scrutiny and Questions:**

#### **Some of the formal Questions and matters raised personally at Council**

- 17/5/17 Calling for a bid for a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (CWIP) under the Government's Walking & Cycling Infrastructure Strategy.
- 6/12/17 Pressed for progress on Loughborough Science & Enterprise Park
- 17/5/17 Question seeking the role of the former Leicestershire India Trade Centre and former East Midlands China Bureau in future trading relations.
- 27/9/17 Support for Midland Mainline Electrification.
- 21/2/18 Setting on record the history and putting down a marker to prevent Nuclear dumping in the north of the county (known as the Widmerpool Gulf).
- 21/3/18 Loughborough Town Centre Pedestrian Zone policy
- 21/3/18 Longer train journeys on Midland Main Line

#### **Members' Briefings**

- HS2 & Leicester & Leicestershire Rail Strategy
- Equality Assessment Training
- Medium term financial strategy
- Strategic Growth Plan
- Public Transport Strategy
- Data Protection (GDPR)

#### **Some of my Visits and Events**

- Ashmount Special School
- Maplewell Special School
- Charnwood College academy
- Glenfield Heart Unit
- Care Homes (Oak/Prime Life, Thorpe House)
- Loughborough Library and Learning Centre
- Charnwood Museum & Suffrage Exhibition
- John Storer Charnwood/ CVS
- SARG (Storer & Ashby Road Group)
- Helped in City Food Bank
- Remembrance Sunday ceremony



Including work on School Transport Appeals and Footway Compensation claims

I also served on Interview Panel for new Director of Environment and Transport.

## Communicating with Residents

### **Newsletters**

Three newsletters delivered house to house largely single handed during the year..  
Two sample articles taken from one are reproduced below:

#### *Parking around Schools*

*The Ashby Road Residents and I are in discussions with the school and county council about how we can stop parents parking on grass verges and drop off children more safely. They have enlarged the school and many now come from outside the area by car. Unfortunately, the law is not strong enough to prevent drivers dropping off passengers and we all have to encourage common sense and courtesy to keep children safe, I know the school is in our side, but stronger action is needed.*

#### *Trips and falls and safety first!*

*Not everyone knows that the County Council is responsible for keeping pavements safe. If you see dangerous paving where it's uneven with, say, an inch or more to trip over, let me know please. In worst cases people on the estate have been injured in the past and the county are unlikely to pay compensation without receiving strong evidence.*

*And another thing! If you have a dog that gets excited when letters or notes are put through the door, that's great but please fix a guard inside so they can't grab the postie's finger too! It could be a neighbour or even your councillor!*

### **Letters and articles in the press**

I have published in the press several times on key or strategic issues. These appear in the Loughborough Echo, Leicester Mercury and Loughborough Community Eye.



An example of a letter published by the Loughborough Echo in March 2018

*Dear Editor, With Council Tax rising by nearly £100 this year, depending on your property, and a further rise on top of that scheduled for next year, residents are entitled to be angry. Furthermore, there seems no end in sight.*

*The reason for this is broadly twofold. First the Government has a deliberate policy of reducing their grant to local services from about a third of the cost to zero – and have almost reached it. Second, there are increasing numbers people who require complex care in the community. These are mostly elderly people as we live longer, but younger people as well. The Borough Council, who are also charging the maximum increase, will have other costs.*

*Serious efforts have been made over the last ten years to find efficiencies, but many services, such as those of care homes, are outside the council's control. Many*

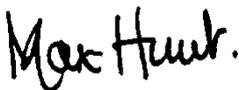
*services are statutory, which means the council must provide them at all costs. So, we have a plummeting contribution from national government, increased demand and services that must be provided and the Government sets a limit to council tax increases – if you can call 6% a limit!*

*Desperate times call for desperate measures. I can't change the Government, much as I'd like to and costs will keep rising. It is time to think again about local government, with a really determined attempt to make it more efficient and simplify our councils. We have two bureaucracies and two sets of paid councillors in each area of the county. Most County Councillors are also Borough Councillors. Residents and councillors frequently find themselves passed from one council to another even to solve minor problems like car parking, or hedge cutting.*

*Four years ago a top management company was commissioned by the County Council to estimate the cash we would save by merging councils. Merging services and departments is something management companies are asked to look every day. The savings, even then, amounted to £30million each year!*

*I understand the need for democracy and accountability more than most. It can present a problem for larger councils. That's why Loughborough also needs a low cost Town Council, as Shepshed and parishes already have, which can represent their areas without the overheads of a second bureaucracy.*

With my best wishes to all residents of Garendon and Ashby Wards in North West Loughborough.

Signed: 

**Max Hunt CC**  
Date: April 2018