

## " **County Councillor Annual Report**

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during

**Name of Councillor Simon Galton**

### **1) Electoral Division activities**

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

An important issue over the past year has been scrutinising the administration's planned cuts to local bus services and in particular the Leicester to Uppingham 747 service. Under the new policy on supported local bus services it is not clear if the subsidy which has been paid to the bus company for the past two years will continue.

I have also received and responded to a number of representations on the impact of changes to the Council's policy on school transport and special education needs school transport. Many families have been faced with a bill for £500 to get their children to the school of their choice.

I have also worked with my Liberal Democrat colleagues to hold the Conservative Cabinet to account for example on planned cuts to the early help service and the closure of a number of Children's Centres across Leicestershire.

The Strategic Growth Plan, if implemented will have a huge impact on the area I represent in particular plans for an A46 Expressway Way to the south and east of Leicester linking the M1 to the A46 north of Syston. I responded to the recent public consultation setting out my concerns about planned housing numbers for Harborough District and have chaired a Scrutiny session to examine the evidence and assumptions which have been made in preparing the Plan. Scrutiny of the revised plan is currently taking place and in my view the changes do not go far enough.

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

I have been in correspondence and held meetings with Severn Trent Water and the Council as Lead Local Flood Authority to tackle various flooding problems in the Division.

I have been in correspondence and held meetings with the office of the Regional Schools Commissioner to discuss recent changes by secondary school to their admission policies and catchment areas. The changes had an adverse impact on villages such as Thurnby, Bushby, Stoughton, Scraftoft and Houghton and led to a number of children not getting a school place. Although a temporary solution has been found for this year serious concerns remain about children transferring from primary school next year.

Recently I have been in correspondence with the Chief Executive of a Registered Housing provider concerning their policy on allowing the installation of a stair lift to enable an elderly resident with mobility problems to access her 1<sup>st</sup> floor flat.

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**Priorities for the immediate future are:**

The impact of a proposed Strategic Development Area to the North of Scraptoft is a key issue of concern to the local community and myself as the local representative for the area affected. I have been involved in preparing for the Public Examination of the Harborough Local Plan chaired by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary State to consider the legal compliance and soundness of the plan. This involved preparing submissions and evidence on key issues of concern including traffic, ecology, the protection of the green wedge and the provision of adequate infrastructure (new primary school, community facilities, local centre, public open space and recreation facilities etc.) I have also supported the local parish councils to make representations and took part in hearing session which considered the Scraptoft SDA.

**2) Council Activities**

**Committees you serve on at County Hall**

Scrutiny Commission  
Constitution Committee  
Scrutiny Commissioners meetings

**Local committees/Outside Bodies**

I chair a Neighbourhood Plan Group producing an NP for Thurnby and Bushby. I also advise and support several parishes with preparing their NPs

With 28 parish councils/ meeting in the Division it is impossible to attend every parish meeting. I try to attend annual parish meetings and regular meeting of the larger parishes in the Division. Sometimes a parish asks me to attend a meeting when they have a particular issue or concern and I am happy to do so.

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

Tugby CE Primary School

**3) Learning and development:**

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Equality training and workshop

#### **4) Other Matters:**

I produce regular Focus newsletters which are delivered to every house in the Division. These are supplemented by street letters on more local issues and I can also assist residents in producing a petition to present to the Council.

#### **Social Media**

My Councillor website / blog on local campaigns and community issues:

[www.simongalton.mycouncillor.org.uk](http://www.simongalton.mycouncillor.org.uk)

This provides a comprehensive report and update on current local issues in the Division and how people can get involved.

I also have a twitter account and facebook page

**Signed by Councillor Simon Galton**

**Date 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018**