

## County Councillor Annual Report

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during 2020/21

### Name of Councillor

**Lee Breckon**

### Electoral Division activities

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

This Council year was like no other, for us all. The Pandemic affected all of our lives and affected how we operated and how we communicated.

Once technology became widely used, a new normal of Microsoft Teams, Zoom and other video conferencing media allowed business to tentatively begin again. It seems along time ago, but the whole of this year has been under some sort of lockdown and restriction.

Face to face meetings were not allowed, but the work continued in terms of dealing with residents' concerns. Issues were perhaps more personally dealt with by way of home working, phone calls and emails. Planning applications continued and kept myself busy, if not getting directly involved, signposting and guiding people to get the answers they needed.

As people were at home and spending a lot more time in their own areas walking, exercising and spending time with family, calls regarding litter, road signage, vegetation, speeding, traffic calming, block gullies and drains increased. The online LCC highways guides and tools available for reporting make it a lot easier, and as I write this, more work is going onto make it a smoother experience for users.

I have "virtually" attended as many Parish Council meetings as possible and have dealt with many more residents directly as they have been at home working. I signposted many individual resident's issues across the four Parishes to the right authority to get the problems sorted and also maintained a close relationship with Richard Blunt as the other Divisional Member, who stood down in May of this year after 8 years of service.

We also keep up to date with the local village publications to try and ensure we are able to give a local update on our workloads, if, when and where possible.

Nick Chapman was elected in May 2021 and with our resounding majority across the division we have a clear mandate to support the Division, its parishes and its

residents.

In my last annual report, we had just completed the initial 12-week lockdown period and we could not have imagined that a year on, we would still be here. I am fully committed to help everyone gets back to the new normal, as it evolves.

### **Council Activities**

In the year this report covers, in my second year as Lead Member for Health, as Cabinet Member, has been a full one to say the least. Public Health took ownership of the Covid-19 pandemic and have delivered so much. I spent a lot of my time reinforcing key messages across the division and county with endorsements on press releases, radio interviews and member briefings almost on a weekly basis.

After the elections in May, I am honoured to take over the Finance and Resources portfolio and with fellow CC Richard Shepherd, as my support Member, will ensure that the Council delivers its manifesto pledges responsibly and prudently. There is a lot of pressure on the finances and I will be keen to ensure the good work of my predecessor is continued and built upon. I also sit on other committees that fall within this portfolio which I look forward to supporting.

### **3) Learning And Development**

As in previous years, I have continued with training to ensure I understand how all of the County Council works and the services it has to offer. I am having regular weekly briefings at present to allow me to perform my role as Cabinet Member to the very best of my ability for your benefit.

### **Other Matters:**

I look forward to working alongside my fellow County Councillor Nick Chapman, who has a great local knowledge and brings much needed youth and enthusiasm for the job we do as your elected County Councillors. We will continue to support all residents of Glenfield, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester Forest East and Thurlaston.

The last year has shown the spirit of the community I serve and I hope that a large part of that spirit will continue when a “new normality” returns to us all.

As Theodore Roosevelt wrote “Do what you can with all you have, wherever you are”. That is what your County Councillors strive to do, every day of the year.

Thank you for reading this report.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by email or by phone with any thoughts, experiences or issues that you wish to share as I enjoy listening.

**Signed by Councillor**

*Lee Breckon*

**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021**