

ANNUAL REPORT FROM CHRISTINE RADFORD - 2020

COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR SHEPSHED

Being the County Councillor for the past 11 years has been a privilege and I take my responsibilities and duties to help all Shepshed residents seriously. I cannot solve every problem I have been tasked with but will always try.

Since supporting the Cabinet leader for Adult and Social Care I have had various responsibility and visits. The visits encompassed museums, libraries, and care homes. I visited the Battle of Bosworth site and the 1620's house, both run by County, and much more.

Committee appointments

Cabinet Briefings
County Council
Lead Member meetings
Safeguarding Board for Adults
Adults Scrutiny
Health and Wellbeing Board
Member's Conduct Panel.

Appointments to outside bodies

Newhurst Integrated Waste Transfer Station Liaison Committee
Thomas Harley Charities – which supports widows/widowers of Clergy, schools and students
Ingleberry Road Liaison Committee (Burgess)

Shepshed Groups/Committees – as County Councillor I sit on the below

Trustee on the Glenmore Centre,
Trustee on the Shepshed Volunteer Bureau,
Shepshed Town Team.
Bernard Thorpe Charity – a charity which gives grants to schools in Shepshed
Shepshed Special Community Bus – Chairman
Vine House Trust

My Job as County Councillor

In my capacity as Cabinet support for Adults and Communities, I have visited various care homes in which we support Leicestershire residents.

I visited a property in Sharpley Road Loughborough which County purchased and who are altering it to turn it into a home for Adults with learning difficulties who wish to live independently but with

some supported. This follows on from a consultation County undertook, when County asked for views from carers and users of our services and providers.

I have visited a number of care homes and one of my local ones in Loughborough was Waterside Court.

I attend regular briefings from the Director and officers in the Adult and Communities department as well as Cabinet and Cabinet briefings.

I also attend if my diary allows it, regular training and information sessions given by officers at County. One which I found very informative was given by officers from the Highways planning department which gave us an insight into what County can comment on regarding planning applications. I also learnt that planning departments do not have to take into account the comments/recommendations from County Highways.

Since becoming County Councillor for Shepshed I have whenever possible kept the Town and Borough Councillors and residents informed on matters which affect Shepshed, especially on highways and planning. I have had many meetings with officers at County to discuss concerns both myself and those which residents have raised with me. These can be about planning and highways issues.

I have walked many footpaths and jitties with County officers checking the condition of these paths, in particular with reference to over-hanging branches. In the majority of cases this is down to the owners of the properties next to these footpaths/jitties. Letters will have been sent out from County asking residents to cut back the offending growth.

Over the years I have spent many hours discussing the cross roads at Iveshead Road with Charley Road. Improvements have now been carried out, and the accident rate has dropped.

Another junction which I had concerns about was the X roads at Tickow Lane/Oakley Road/Belton Street/Hallamford Road, a new round-about has just been finished and made this dangerous junction much improved.

Parking outside of schools was an ongoing issue around Shepshed. County took on board concerns raised by the majority of County Cllrs and have now got a Camera Car which monitors parents who flout parking restrictions.

I have regular meetings with residents to discuss their concerns as well as holding meeting with resident groups. Worked with a number of local groups to help them with their grant applications, or have forwarded information regarding grants which I have become aware of.

I have an excellent attendance record at County and have spoken up in support of Shepshed at every opportunity. I feel strongly that as the elected representative for Shepshed it is important for me that I attend and represent the people of Shepshed to whom I am accountable.

When not doing council work, I sit on various charities. I am also Chairman of the Shepshed Special Community Bus; sit on the Volunteer Centre and Glenmore Centre Committees. I have for a number of years, together with other volunteers, ran the lunch held at the Glenmore Centre on Christmas Day, for Shepshed residents who would otherwise be spending Christmas Day alone.

Health and Wellbeing Board

As part of my portfolio I sit on the above board and at a meeting we discussed the Suicide Prevention Campaign. Suicides are often the end point of a complex history of risk factors and distressing events but they are not inevitable.

In September 2019, the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Suicide Audit and Prevention Group (LLRSAPG) launched its website @start a Conversation, Suicide is Preventable.
<https://www.startaconversation.co.uk/about-us>.

The website brings together into one place local resources, support and advice that help keep our residents safe and supports them to reach out for help in times of crisis and distress. Since its launch there have been over 27,000 hits on the website, with the most popular page after the home page being the 'Advice and Support' page.

The website has also attracted over 126 pledges of support from individuals and organisations. It is clear that the campaign has made a real difference. In the coming year, the campaign and website will continue to evolve and develop.

A suicide prevention conference was held in September 2019 and a further major focus supporting people who have been bereaved by suicide through the launch of a local suicide bereavement support service. We also looked at the Annual Reports from Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Board and Leicestershire and Rutland Local.

Scrutiny – Adults and Communities

Various reports are looked at, discussed and dissected. One of the ones was Transitions – Preparing for adulthood for children with special educational needs, disabilities. or leaving fostering. The preparing for adulthood protocol has been developed jointly between the Children and Families Services (CFS) and Adults and Communities (A & C) departments and outlined how children and young people should be involved in decisions making, career advice etc.,

The work of the Transitions Team is predominantly from the Year 12 cohort, the school year when young people turn 17 years old.

The key priorities include:-

- Ensuring the availability of appropriate accommodation and support services;
- Ensuring that staff have the right level of skills to support young people;
- Projecting future need accurately as young people have increasing levels of need;

Police Patch Walk

I had a patch walk with the local police for area on a Saturday morning. We focussed on areas of Shepshed in which residents had contacted me about parking issues. We also discussed areas regarding drug dealing within the Town.

Following the patch walk, the police are now putting letters on windscreens of cars parked on double yellow lines, pavements etc.



Carer of the Year Awards

I was asked to speak and introduce the Carer of the year awards and gave the Inspired to Care opening address at the Grand Hotel in Leicester. It was lovely to meet such dedicated people. I learnt about the excellent work carried out by social care staff, contributions from individuals who go above and beyond to make a genuine positive impact on the quality of life experienced by individuals across Leicester and Leicestershire.

Leicestershire County Council through its Inspired to Care project supported the awards because it is vitally important that we strive to create a social care workforce that is valued and recognised for the excellent work they do on a daily basis.



Improving Lives through Adult Learning

On two Saturdays in January and February I attended the Adult Learning staff, managers and business support staff briefings at County Hall. I was asked to open the meetings since Adult Learning was added to my portfolio last year.

I had been getting to know more about the service and the work they do. I had already met with staff and managers from the Family Learning programme and been impressed by the broad range of courses offered and the way in which the programmes inspire and support people from many different backgrounds to get back into learning. It is clear our community learning programmes have a particularly important role to play in supporting those likely to benefit most from enrolling on a course.

Adult Learning really does have the potential to impact positively on the lives of so many individuals and their families and of course the wider community by building confidence, enabling individuals to learn valuable life skills and supporting positive wellbeing.

Celebration of Learning

I had great pleasure in presenting certificates to adults with disabilities in recognition of what they had achieved via County's Go Learn programme. A typical course runs weekly for 30 weeks between September and June. Qualifications were awarded in a range of subjects; exploring volunteering, food preparation, money management, literacy, drama and art and leisure skills.

It highlights the varied learning activities that have taken place which include cafe projects, charity sales, visits, drama productions, classroom-based learning and gardening projects.

Every individual receiving a certificate had also achieved learning outcomes personalised to them. In fact, following the presentations there were refreshments, mince pies baked by those who had done the food preparation course, music and dancing, which was enjoyed by all recipients of the certificates along with their parents and carers.

Green Plaque Awards

The Green Plaque Awards bring communities together to recognise and celebrate the county's rich cultural and historic heritage. The scheme invites residents and those associated with the county to nominate and vote for people and places they think are worthy of commemoration. To date, 23 Green Plaques have been unveiled to a balanced mix of people and places across the county. I am invited to attend these events as part of my community's portfolio.



Libraries

I was part of a group of officers from County who met up with officers and Councillors from Worcestershire who came to look at Shepshed Library to see how a Smart Library works. 16 of the top libraries in the county, one of which is Shepshed, deliver 80% of the business.

Feedback from residents regarding the change to Shepshed is positive. At the time of this report, we are in the middle of lock down due to COVID-19 libraries are closed.

As well as Smart Libraries there are community Managed Libraries which are now an established and successful part of the service. There are currently 33 community managed libraries embedded in local areas and offering a wide range of hub services including adult learning, work clubs, keep safe places, cafe facilities, meeting areas for community groups and bases for Local Area Co-ordination, in addition to traditional library services. These Libraries are run by volunteers and in some cases by the Parish Council. I also visited Newbold Library to see how a community library was run.

County have provided extra funding for technology to the Smart libraries.

Records Office

I visited the records office in Wigston and was privileged to see some of the large amount of the historical artefacts which used to belong to Thomas Cook, the holiday company which closed down.

County were up against a number of others across the country who also put in a claim. County won, and it has come to Leicestershire. It will be a number of years before it has all been itemised and logged; part of the items is a large stain glass window. It is hoped to have a public display showing some of these artefacts at County Hall sometime next year.

Shepshed Campus Proposals for redevelopment (Iveshead School)

I attended a briefing with officers from County regarding the Shepshed Campus. County will be spending in the region of £16 million on these proposals. The large housing developments create the need for extra places, especially in the primary age group. Work has already started on the Youth Block and should have been finished by the end of March. (Not sure with COVID-19 whether this is still on track).

County will be holding a session to inform residents of what is being proposed on this Campus.

Thomas Harley's Charity

I sit on the above Charity as a representative of the County. Besides giving money to widows and widowers of Clergy, this charity also gives out grants to Iveshead School and to students of low income families.

If residents who have children who will be leaving school at the end of the summer term and who will be going onto University, College or doing an apprenticeship the Thomas Harley's Charity give out grants.

Grants are available for books, accommodation etc., They also offer grants for equipment, tools, hairdressing, car mechanic and building trade if they are doing apprenticeships or for further education training. (such as hairdressing scissors, woodworking tools etc.)

Income of the family must be below £36,000. Applicants need a letter from a tutor confirming they support them going onto further education and grants are looked at in March and September our twice yearly meetings.

Petitions

During the previous 12 months I arranged 2 petitions one to stop the no left turn from Iveshead Road into the A512, the second was, the alterations of the white lines at the approach where Charnwood Road joins with the A512.

I presented the petitions to Blake Pain cabinet lead member for Highways at the time.

We won the no left hand turn, but County said they had no intentions of altering the white lines but this did enable me to organise a



meeting with officers and owners of businesses in Gelders Hall and there is a plan to turn this into a one way system and double yellow lines at its junction with Charnwood Road. This is currently out for consultation with the businesses.

Monthly Surgery

I hold a monthly Surgery on the first Saturday of the month in the Shepshed Town Council offices in Charnwood Road between 10-11 am. I must thank the Town Council for letting me have this room free of charge. Residents do not need to make an appointment but can just come along with their concerns or they can contact me by phone or email.

Christine