

County Councillor Annual Report

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

Name of Councillor

Mr Blake Pain CC

1) Electoral Division activities

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

In addition to my primary role as the elected County Councillor for the Bruntingthorpe Division, my main activities throughout the year have been as a Member of the LCC cabinet, officially serving as Deputy Leader from last July 2020 to May 2021, with responsibility for the Environment and recycling agenda, superfast broadband delivery, Trading Standards and Regulatory Services and Minerals and Waste planning.

During May 2021 I was appointed to a new portfolio focussing on the Council's commitment to take action on climate change and deliver our aim to be carbon neutral by 2035,

The COVID 19 crisis has had a profound impact upon the annual programme of work at LCC. As a portfolio holder of a basket of services, much of my time during the past year has been working with lead officers in responding to the pandemic, especially within Regulatory services. The human, environmental and financial implications of the pandemic will also have a changing and lasting impact upon the business of LCC moving forward, particularly our finances.

As Deputy Leader of the Authority over the past year, I have played an integral role in co-ordinating and responding to the Authority's response to the Covid 19 pandemic. I have chaired and participated in various internal and external weekly meetings dedicated to co-ordinating the Council's public health services and other statutory services whilst liaising with other regional and national organisations, often deputising for the Leader of Council. I have also been the curator and communicator of various new policies and initiatives including: The Council's primary Economic response - calling for and shaping a new economic and skills policy; supporting various grant schemes intended to support local community, third sector and small private enterprises throughout the pandemic. I suggested and promoted a £130k support package for our rural pubs – in their role as important local community centres and as part of a wider £4.7m Communities Support Package. I have been the architect behind a new Green Environmental agenda which seeks to reduce LCC's and Leicestershire's wider Carbon emissions by 2035 and 2045 respectively. I have also called for and played an integral role in shaping a new strategy to realise a greener Leicestershire by planting 700,000 trees, one for each resident of Leicestershire over the course of an emerging strategy.

I have proactively engaged and helped support and/or resolve concerns that have been raised with me by my divisional constituents relating to the following issues throughout the year:

- Better Bus services and better Bus stop provision
- Highway Closures and Traffic Regulation Orders across the division
- Road Condition and Improvements
- Speeding Traffic Concerns

- Street Lighting
- School Admissions
- Passenger Transport
- School Transport and Parking
- Road Traffic Accidents
- Highways Maintenance
- Flooding
- Land Contamination Problems
- Tree Maintenance and planting
- Environmental Concerns
- Grass cutting
- Condition of road verges particularly during the winter
- Gulley Cleansing
- Wildflower verge planting
- Awards of Leicestershire County Council 'Shire' Grants
- Blue Badge Misuse

Community Leadership Role

In addition to the above, I am aware of and continue to be actively engaged with the following areas of concern that have been raised with me by residents and businesses:

- The destruction of verges and public highway, typically within small rural villages, by Agricultural Transport
- Inappropriate Industrial related development within areas of open countryside
- Large inappropriate residential development that will materially impact existing local communities
- Flooding risk and actual flooding episodes resulting from unsatisfactory utility company consultation and/or local engagement
- Poor or non-existent Broadband service provision within specific rural communities and outlying properties
- Poor 'adopted-status' road condition within certain areas
- Poor enforcement of Regulatory services within villages
- Land use and Contamination concerns and the Enforcement of these concerns
- Dilapidation of local footpaths along the public highway from years of non-investment

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

I have engaged with Severn Trent water about Flooding Concerns in North Kilworth
I have engaged with Western Power distribution about power cuts in Shearsby

Priorities for the immediate future are:

My main priority is to ensure that residents of the Bruntingthorpe Division are properly represented at County Hall. I'm very proud to lead LCC's ambition to reduce our carbon footprint, take action on climate change and become a carbon neutral organisation by 2035. I will endeavour to ensure

that the Authority build and put in place satisfactory infrastructure and systems so as to enable the residents and businesses of Leicestershire to know why the Environmental agenda is so critical; what we are doing about it; and, how people can play their part in helping our County to become 'Net Zero Carbon'.

Council Activities

County Council Committees you served on

Cabinet- Lead Member for the Environment and Green agenda, Waste and Recycling, Minerals & Waste Planning.

Cabinet Briefing- member.

Cabinet Strategy & Co-ordination Group- member.

Local committees/Outside Bodies

Charnwood Forest Regional Park Steering Group

Cotesbach/Shawell Liaison Committee

Local Authorities National Forest Advisory Group

National Forest Charitable Trust Board

Learning and Development

I always look at ways to better my understanding and appreciation of issues and the people affected by the decisions we take at the County Council. I continue to learn from experience and undertake training and seek advice as and when needed. In January 2021 I undertook an LGA led university leadership course on the Climate Emergency.

Other Matters:

Leicestershire's funding position remains the worst of any county council in the country. Whilst we work hard to maintain great services and have achieved the award from *Impower* as the most efficient and productive upper tier local authority in England for the past few years, we cannot become complacent. The COVID 19 pandemic has changed our lives forever, and how we all respond to its impact on all our communities is an "unknown unknown". But rest assured, we will work hard on your behalf and protect people and our communities as best we can.

Communications

Virtual meetings using Microsoft Teams/Zoom/Google Meets with constituents and other stakeholders.

I have set up a 'Bruntingthorpe' data base where I forward a weekly LCC Members' 'News in Brief' news letter to all representatives' of Bruntingthorpe Parish organisations.

www.facebook.com/LeicsConservatives

Twitter- @LeicsCC_Cons or @blakepain

Instagram- @blakelewispain

www.leicestershireconservatives.org.uk

Signed by Councillor

Date June 2021