

James Poland CC

East Goscote Annual Report
April 2018

I'm pleased to be making my first annual village report as your County Councillor. I can't believe nearly a year has passed since I was elected but its certainly been a busy 12 months!

Without question the biggest challenge we're having to face is the incredibly difficult financial situation the County is having to operate in. Leicestershire is the worst funded County Council in the country (with even less central funding than Northamptonshire which has had much publicised problems, forcing its Leader to resign and threatening the very existence of the Authority). In Leicestershire, the scale of the problem is such that the County has to find £54 million worth of savings by 2022 (in the context of an overall revenue budget of £350 million p/a). This has led to some very hard decisions having to be made, re-organising services whilst at the same time doing everything we can to increase revenue.

Ultimately though, a fairer funding formula is needed to ensure Leicestershire gets its fair share of government money. At the moment, the formula is heavily skewed towards London and the South East. If Leicestershire received the same level of funding as Surrey, we'd be better off to the tune of £100 million a year. The London boroughs receive even more again, to the point where a multi-million pound flat in parts of west London will pay less Council Tax than a Council house in Coalville. This isn't fair, and the County Council, Borough Councils and the County's MPs are all working together to ensure that the Government makes the changes necessary to ensure fairer funding is introduced. In this we have made positive steps forward, the government have announced there will be a review of local authority funding in 2020 and they are looking closely at the model proposed by Leicestershire. Whilst this is positive, the County's representatives will continue the campaign to ensure Leicestershire gets the funding it deserves.

Within the village, I've been pleased to work with residents, the Parish Council and Borough Councillor Sue Gerrard on a wide range of matters. These have included issues around street lighting, Sims public house, removing the large storage container from the traffic island on Ploughmans Lea, road safety issues and an assortment of other matters. I look forward to continuing this work over the coming year.

James Poland CC
James.poland@leics.gov.uk

Members Group Room

Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RA

Telephone: 0116 232 3232

www.leicestershire.gov.uk