

Borough Councillors Annual report – East Goscote Parish Council

April 2022

Local Plan/Development

Land off Melton Road

Planning permission for up to 270 houses was granted in August 2021 by Planning Committee. Many residents and local campaign group KEGG once again organised objections to the application and I 'called in' the application to ensure it was heard before the Committee. Myself, other councillors and one person speaking on behalf of KEGG made representations to the Committee, but it was voted to grant the application by a majority of the Councillors.

It has recently been reported that Redrow homes has purchased the site, though building is still not expected to begin until next year at least. There will be a final consultation named a 'Reserved Matters' consultation, which is to inform how the site will look when completed.

Charnwood Local Plan 2021-37

The Local Plan sets out how much and what kind of development happens across the Borough from now until 2037.

The final Local Plan was approved at Full Council in September 2021 by a majority of councillors. Following this, CBC submitted the final Local Plan for examination in December 2021. This is now due to be heard by a government Inspector to ensure it is legally sound. The public will be able make representations to the independent Inspector during the examination. These hearings are due to commence on the 28 June.

Budget

The Budget was approved at Full Council in February with the main points being:

- A rise in Council Tax of 9p per week for a band D property (average)
- Saving of £800,000 being made, namely by reducing the opening times at the Southfields Offices and call centre and the ending of the Shopmobility scheme
- Increasing charges to generate £400,000 of income. These include: raising bulky waste charges from £20 to £25 and garden waste charges rising to £50.

Council tax rebate – energy price increases

Households in bands A- D will receive a £150 rebate in their Council Tax in light of the increased energy prices. If you pay by Direct Debit this will be automatically funded to your bank account from May. Information about how the amount will be paid if you do not pay via Direct Debit will be sent shortly, as advice from central Government has not yet been issued.

Vaccination Centre

The vaccination centre has now permanently moved out of St Hilda's Church – it closed on 31st March 2022 after 13 months and over 75,000 vaccinations. Sincere thanks to Rev Tim, St Hildas and all the volunteers and clinicians who helped our village be part of the fight against Covid.

Waste Strategy

There is a public consultation running until April 25th about the future of waste and recycling collections in Leicestershire. The government are proposing lots of changes about how Local Councils will be expected to improve recycling rates including mandatory kerb side food waste collections. There are several possible ways it will affect bin collections with the black bins potentially being collected less frequently or reduced in size and an increase in what materials the council will collect for recycling. Please visit the Leicestershire County Council website to respond to the consultation.

Boundary Changes

The Local Government Boundary Commission England has produced its final report on the boundary changes for Charnwood Borough Council. As on the local elections 2023, East Goscote will now be part of a three-member ward renamed 'Wreake Valley' which will include part of Syston, Queniborough, Rearsby, Thrusington, Cossington, Ratcliffe on the Wreake and South Croxton.

For the voting public this means that residents of East Goscote will have three votes on their ballot paper and will be represented by three councillors, rather than one, as part of a much larger ward.

Council meetings

At the start of the pandemic, Government passed legislation to allow Council meetings to be held remotely. This legislation was not renewed last year, meaning that Council meetings where decisions are made are held in person again. Most Full Council meetings have been held at Loughborough Town Hall, rather than the Preston Rooms to allow for some social distancing. Some panel meetings are still being held remotely.

I sit on the current panels/committees:

Waste Management Strategy Panel

Digital Transformation Panel

Appeals & Reviews Committee

Licensing Committee