

Borough Councillors Annual Parish Report – April 2020

Charnwood Borough Council

In February the Councils budget and Corporate Plan were approved.

There was an increase in council tax which will see the annual charge for an average Band D property rise £4.43 (3.63 per cent) to £126.52, with effect from April 1st 2020.

Local councils are still experiencing huge reductions in the funding they receive from central government. Charnwood is no exception and will still need to use its reserves to make up the shortfall.

The Corporate Plan sets out the Councils strategy for the next three years in terms of delivering services and the local economy.

As most residents will now be aware, the new draft Local Plan also went out for consultation in November 2019. This sets out the Councils plan for new development in Charnwood. The draft plan allocated an area in East Goscote for over 200 houses and many residents and the campaign group KEGG were very concerned by this, after having fought development plans in the same area, only six months earlier.

Comments on the draft plan have been collated and will be considered as the final plan is drawn up. A final statutory consultation is due in the Autumn and I would urge residents to look at the new plan once it is published and respond to this final consultation.

Obviously, the events surrounding the Covid-19 outbreak have significantly affected the operations of Charnwood Borough Council and the situation is still very fluid. Charnwood Borough Council have made an emergency fund available to community groups and are working with John Storer House to ensure vulnerable residents are cared for during this unprecedented time. Staff and councillors have been working from home and have in some cases, been redeployed to the emergency response.

East Goscote

East Goscotes own response to the outbreak has been wonderful. I set up a support network with Rev Tim Day and volunteers from the village. We ensured that all households received a letter with information on how they could access help if they were ill or isolated. We are now successfully coordinating food deliveries, collection of medicines and other functions for those who need it and we shall continue to do so for the duration.

Before the virus outbreak, we also established a Community Resilience Group in Partnership with LLR Prepared. Parishes across Leicestershire have been encouraged to do this, so that we have a proactive response to emergencies which may affect the village such as flooding, power cuts, heavy snowfall etc. This plan is now completed. I'd like to thank the following volunteers for their hard work in setting this up – David Cannon, John Malpus, Martin Webbon, Kitty Nyul, Barbara Liversege and Nick Shivers.

I'd also like to thank the Parish Council, the Clerk and admin assistant for their hard work this year.

Cllr Webbon and Cllr Nelson have made great efforts to tackle speeding in the village. Unfortunately it was not possible to run the Speed Watch this year, so they have come up with creative responses to the continued speeding. You may have seen the '20s Plenty' wheelie bin stickers and the signage on the bus shelters, intended to make drivers think about their speed when in our village.

Leicestershire Police also ran their own speed monitoring project in East Goscote last months and five tickets were issued to speeding drivers.

I'd also like to thank Cllr Duffy and Helen Measures for their continued efforts in running the Neighbourhood Watch, which has proved to be an invaluable community asset for East Goscote.

Finally, I would like to thank East Goscote for electing me as your Borough Councillor last May. This village has such a wonderful sense of community and a rich history and I am so proud to be able to represent it. I look forward to continuing to serve East Goscote throughout these strange and uncertain times.

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