

East Goscote Annual Report
2020

The storms we saw in February shows the kind of challenges the County Council can face at short notice, with 120 call outs the weekend of Storm Ciara and a further 130 call outs the following week for Storm Dennis. At the same time, the budget shows the hugely difficult financial environment in which local government operates. Provision of vital services vs a requirement to be financially viable is at the heart of the balance the county has faced for much of the last decade, and in truth this is driving discussions locally and nationally around what local government delivers and how it delivers it.

I've worked with residents on a huge range of matters in the last year, these include roads and transport, environmental issues, education, community safety and social care matters. A good example of this was the yellow zig-zag no parking lines at Broomfield School, residents and parents told me that they were concerned about people parking on the yellow zig-zag lines but as they were only advisory, they couldn't be legally enforced. Therefore, in September last year the County Council passed an order making the no parking lines mandatory with a camera car coming to enforce these on a periodic basis.

Helping residents is at the core of my role as a Councillor, and I'd encourage anyone who has a problem they think I can help with to get in touch, working closely with the Parish Council, your Borough Councillor and Edward Argar MP I can either help you directly or put you in touch with the right colleague who can. My contact details are below.

Leicestershire County Council has agreed its budget for 2020/21 at the Full Council meeting held on 19th February. Local Authority Budgets are known as Medium Term Financial Strategies (MTFS), the County Council's shows that rising demand for services and infrastructure is putting growing pressure on both the revenue and capital budgets. A 20 per cent upsurge in demand for children's social care and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), combined with inflation, is forecast to drive up the council's costs by £117m.

As a result, the strategy sets out the need for £80m of savings. By planning ahead, Leicestershire is in a much stronger position than many other councils. Half of the savings relate to projects we already know about, allowing the books to be balanced for the next two years. The proposals also include £16m of investment in tackling climate change, an extra £34m to support vulnerable people, £7m next year to top up road maintenance budgets and a 3.99 per cent Council Tax rise next year.

The budget foundations remain strong. Driving down costs and delivering good services is generating value for money, underlined by being independently rated the most productive council in the country for three years running. The financial position doesn't make it easy but we remain focused on delivering the services residents need. Following the public consultation last summer, the MTFS puts millions of pounds into children's and adults' services, boost roads by fixing pot holes, improving drains and tidying verges and combating climate change.

I'd like to finish this years report by thanking the Parish Council, Village Clerk Liz Pizer and Assistant Clerk Caroline Taylor for all the work they do for the village. As I said above I work very closely with them and see the commitment they show to making East Goscote a great place to live. I'd also like to thank the Borough Councillor for the work she does for the village, as well as Ed Argar MP with whom I work closely for residents.

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