As Borough Councillor I have done all I can to support our village through these difficult times – advising residents and businesses and helping to form the volunteer network at the start of the first lockdown. The network remains active but has not had as much demand for help since the beginning of the pandemic. It is a valuable network, in that it has connected so many residents and continues to be a source of support and advice for people. It remains a credit to the spirit of East Goscote and we can be proud of our community and neighbours, who have truly looked out for one another during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Charnwood Borough Council has provided numerous avenues of support to residents, via John Storer House, business support, grants and the housing of rough sleepers. It rose to these enormous challenges and issued grants and aid very efficiently. Charnwood Borough Council was also responsible for the coordination of vaccine roll out locally and part of the Southfields offices are being used as a vaccination centre.

I’d like to thank the councillors, officers and employees who worked so hard this year to protect and support residents and businesses.

The business of the Council itself has continued largely uninterrupted with normal Council meetings expected to resume from May.

The budget and other financial strategies were set at February’s meeting, with a 3.6% increase in council tax. Further details of this can be found here [Agenda for Council on Monday, 22nd February, 2021, 6.30 pm - Charnwood Borough Council (moderngov.co.uk)](https://charnwood.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=138&MId=616).

The final version of the Local Plan has been further delayed and is now due to come to Council in June. The new application for the land off Melton Road has again caused deep concern among residents. I have been supporting KEGG and local people to have their views heard and I have called the application in, so that it will now be heard by Planning Committee.

My Chair report goes into many of the projects and work I am supporting, so I have not duplicated that here, but as ever, I am happy to answer any questions and queries people may have about Charnwood or my work as a councillor.

Finally, I would just like to once again thank East Goscote for giving me the opportunity to represent you at Charnwood Borough Council. It is a pleasure and a privilege – I am delighted to serve this wonderful community.

This year has been both sad and challenging for all of us. I am optimistic that we can move into the rest of 2021 with hope.