East Goscote Annual Report

2021

The last year has been dominated by the coronavirus pandemic. Its hard to think at the beginning of last year covid-19 was only starting to make the news in Britain and wasn’t something most people thought about on a day to day basis. It of course went on to be one of the most devastating things to hit this country since the Second World War and pushed local government like nothing else in living memory. Leicestershire County Council (along with Charnwood Borough Council) did step up to the plate though with a series of measures to help residents and businesses. These included:

* Grants to 3,000 local businesses
* Financial support for 138 pubs
* £2.6 million for 390 community groups
* £250,000 to Charnwood’s Citizens Advice Bureau
* £500,000 for free meals during school holidays for 12,000 children
* Launching the Charnwood Community Action to deliver over 20,000 welfare parcels, helping 3,962 families
* Spending an additional £60 million on Children’s Services and Adult Social Care

In addition to this, Leicestershire County Council has worked closely with the NHS to support the rollout of covid testing across the county, this included making use of Birstall park and ride site and more recently supporting the rollout of lateral flow tests for all county residents without symptoms.

Another effect of covid was the moving of democracy online. Until March last year it was a legal requirement that all Council meetings had to be held in person. When covid prevented that, the government changed the law and meetings moved online without affecting the democratic decision making process. This change, born out of necessity, has led to people being able to view meetings online and join meetings from their own homes – thus making decision making more transparent in my view. Another consequence of online meetings is that they can be recorded and watched back by the public, again opening up the democratic process to a wider audience than ever before. The law is due to change back in May but it is my sincere hope that some form of online meetings can remain legally permissible to maintain the benefits I mention.

In East Goscote people have contacted me about a wide range of matters. These have included speeding on Melton Road (which I have put forward for LCC’s Community Speed Management Initiative to record the speed of traffic), anti-social behaviour (working with Police) and support for business in the village. I find getting a positive result for residents one of the most satisfying parts of my role and if anyone does have a problem I can help with please do get in touch.

I’d like to finish this years report by thanking the Parish Council and Village Clerk Liz Pizer for all the work they do for the village. 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 Borough Councillor Laurie Needham for the work she does for the village, as well as Ed Argar MP with whom I work closely for residents.

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