

## East Goscote Annual Report

2022

The last 12 months have again been dominated by covid-19 and its wider effects on society. The roll out of the vaccine has meant that the link between people getting covid and people subsequently being hospitalised with it has been broken, and that in turn led to the reducing and finally removal of restrictions we've seen since. Leicestershire County Council has been supporting communities throughout this time, including through supporting vaccination clinics, get vaccinated campaigns and through community grants such as the Shires Grant Scheme which has been hugely popular. The last two years have hugely tested Leicestershire County Council (particularly the Public Health Team led by Director of Public Health Mike Sandys), but I believe we've weathered the storm well.

The pandemic has undoubtedly had a major impact on the County's finances however and as Leicestershire was already the lowest funded County in the country the impact on us is especially acute. In order to help the fairer funding campaign, Leicestershire County Council has got together with the other 19 lowest funded authorities in the country to put pressure on government to reform local government funding. This group of authorities, known as the F20 Group, ultimately want fairer funding reform but as a first step is asking for a base level of funding for the lowest funded authorities to ensure the lowest funded authorities can at least improve their situation at a relatively smaller cost to central government. There is no question funding is the number one challenge Leicestershire County Council faces and its therefore something we are doing our best to challenge for reform.

In May 2021 I was honoured to be re-elected to serve as the County Councillor for Syston Fosse, I'd like to thank everyone who supported me and since then I've very much continued the job of working hard for everyone in the Division and being Syston Fosse's voice at County Hall. As part of that role since last June I've served as a Scrutiny Commissioner, examining the work of the County's Cabinet as well as what Leicestershire County Council is doing more broadly. This is effectively being a critical friend to help improve policy and performance at Leicestershire County Council.

In East Goscote I've worked on matters ranging from helping local businesses with various issues, speed reduction schemes on Melton Road and Broome Lane, speaking against the Gladman development at Plans Committee last August, improving green spaces in the village and a huge range of other matters for residents who have needed my help.

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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