

Borough Councillors Annual report – East Goscote Parish Council

April 2023

Local Plan/Development

Land off Melton Road

The awaited Reserved Matters consultation for the site was published early in the year and I supported residents to make comments. I made comments to reflect that I felt the density of the housing was too high and that the remediation measures needed to put housing adjacent existing homes along the Rearsby Roses and Lilac Way areas would cause excessive noise, disruption and loss of privacy for those residents. I have also made comments about the need to leave a much wider buffer along the woodland area to preserve the natural habitat there.

I am also working with the parish council to try and secure some better pedestrian access to the proposed site, a controlled crossing, low speed limits and as little disruption as possible when the roundabout is put in.

There was some disruptive and unsympathetic hedge cutting in Dec/Jan and I was able to raise this directly with Redrow who were unaware of the way in which a subcontractor was working. The access entrance has now been cleared and a perimeter fence installed, but building work cannot begin until Autumn at the earliest and the roundabout also not planned for construction before this date either.

I have secured regular quarterly meetings with Redrow as the development progresses, which allows me to have the most up to date information for residents and an opportunity for me to raise issues or concerns they have directly with the developers.

Charnwood Local Plan 2021-37

I attended some of the hearings last year to support residents and the parish councils view that East Goscote & the surrounding areas were taking an unfair amount of the 'Other Settlement' allocation and that there were issues with service provision, particularly public transport and access to healthcare.

There was a delay to the hearings being concluded due to the late addition of the unmet need in Leicester, so the final sessions were held in February. Now the Inspectors will report on whether the plan can be adopted by the Council and whether it must make any modifications before adoption.

Budget

The Budget was approved at Full Council in February with the average Band D property seeing an increase of 3.52% which equates to £140.47 per year. £1.3 million of reserves will also be used in the 2023/2024 budget.

Low income households can apply for Local Council Tax Support which can reduce the bill by up to 85%.

Local elections

The local elections for Charnwood Borough Council will take place on May 4th 2023.

The deadline to register to vote or for a new postal vote is 17th April. People voting at a polling station will need to have photo ID and should take care to check that they have a form of photo I.D from the approved list which can be found at https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/voter_id_faqs or by calling 01509 634546. If people do not have a form of photo I.D they can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate [Apply for photo ID to vote \(called a 'Voter Authority Certificate'\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) – the deadline for this is 25th April 2023.

As mentioned previously the ward boundaries have changed which affects East Goscote. East Goscote will now be part of a large ward named Wreake Valley and people will have three votes this year to elect three councillors to represent the new area.

Members Grant

This year there was just one application for the Members Grant from the Village Hall to help pay for the Hearing Loop.

Casework

I continue to circulate a regular newsletter to keep residents informed about my work and relevant local issues, in addition to regular door knocks and involvement with community groups.

There have been some reported issues of ASB and noise nuisances, which I am supporting residents to report and have asked the Council to investigate.

Over-development and the pressures on services remains a top concern of residents, as does road safety and speeding issues.

Individual case work of course remains confidential, and I receive many requests for assistance which I endeavour to resolve either via myself or the relevant agency.

Laurie Needham