

## **Borough Councillors Annual report – East Goscote Parish Council**

**April 2024**

### **Local Plan/Development**

#### Land off Melton Road

The development is still at the Reserved Matters stage and no building works are due to begin soon.

#### Other major applications nearby

The controversial application on the border with Rearsby was withdrawn.

There are several other major developments at application stage in the surrounding area, which include 3 along Melton Road (Queniborough Lodge, Three Ways Farm and the land adjacent the roundabout). There are also 2 in Cossington and Thrussington and 1 off Barkby Road, Syston.

Developments that have had approval in the past 12 months include 50 houses off Boonton Meadows Way in Queniborough and up to 65 off Gaddesby Lane, Rearsby.

Two have also been approved following Appeals by developers for 150 off Melton Road, Queniborough and 195 off Barkby Road, Syston.

We continue to support residents to make representations on these applications and have attended the Inquiries when they have gone to Appeal. The main concerns of local people centre around loss of village identity and green space, traffic concerns as well as school places and GP services.

#### Charnwood Local Plan 2021-37

Unfortunately, there were more delays to the Local Plan inspection, which was not within Charnwood's control. Further hearing sessions were held in February and we are now waiting for the Inspector's response, which would usually include some 'main modifications'.

The expectation is that the final plan will be presented to Council in the Autumn.

It is important that the Borough has an adopted Local Plan, as this enables the authority to have more control over where housing is built. Not having one makes the likelihood of speculative development more likely.

New updates to the NPPF late last year now say that if a planning authority is in the process of making a local plan, they need to demonstrate a 4 year land supply rather than 5. This is positive news for CBC as the land supply is currently 4.49.

### **Budget**

The budget for the coming financial year was approved at the end of February. The Charnwood element of Council Tax has increased by 3% or £4.21 per year for a band D property.

CBC receive 7% of the total Council tax bill, the majority going to the County Council and services like Police and Fire Services.

This year Charnwood has not had to make use of reserves or cut services.

There has been no increase in the Brown Bin charges for this year.

Charnwood have also created a 100k Community Grants pot to support our communities with the cost of Living and other projects.

### **Local elections**

There are elections for a Police and Crime Commissioner taking place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

The deadline to register to vote or for a new postal vote is 17<sup>th</sup> 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](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 5pm on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

**Laurie Needham**