

## **General:**

I have attended 13 meetings this month. This figure does not include attending Parish Meetings or meeting constituents. I have again been acting deputy leader of the County Council throughout August.

The major meetings that I attended included:

Lead member meetings – 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> August.

Further meeting regarding Regional Migration Board on 28.08.18

Meeting with a family at the request of Alberto Costa, M.P.

Two 'Keeping in Touch' locality visits. The first was on 21<sup>st</sup>, and focussed on Fostering, Adoption, and , Placements. The second was on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and involved visiting the Strengthening Families Team at Loughborough.

Also on the same day, a joint meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the treatment of domestic violence victims and perpetrators.

Budget meeting to discuss a school deficit, and another to discuss the impact of empty places at Studio Schools.

I represented the Division at the Rose Laying Service at the Battlefield Centre on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The service was led by the Bishop of Leicester.

On 14<sup>th</sup>, a special meeting involving Severn Trent, the Environment Agency, the Chair and Clerk to Witherley Parish Council, and me, was held at County Hall to discuss flooding issues in Witherley.

On the same day, I was involved with a meeting regarding the forthcoming launch of the 'Children's Partnership'

## **Local Issues:**

Individual constituent Casework in Parishes currently stands at 4 issues each in Stoke Golding, Market Bosworth and Twycross, 3 issues each in Witherley and Sheepy and 2 each in Nailstone and Higham on the Hill. Four have been successfully resolved.

However what has taken a huge amount of my time during August has been two planning applications, one at MIRA and other adjacent to the junction of the A444

and the A42. In the first I found myself backing up our Highway Officers regarding a temporary permission for access

to the construction of a test track at MIRA. This was to be for 5 months and from the Fenn Lanes where there is already a speeding and accident issue. When I spoke with the planning officer, she was unable to give me the criteria used to form her judgement. I find that very worrying. There is also a major issue in that the building of the track would compromise the Battle Of Bosworth battlefield site. The justification for this was that it is in 'the national interest'. When I asked what criteria had been used to make this judgement, no answer was forthcoming. It also transpired that a number of specialist societies involved with the life of Richard 111 had not been consulted. The outcome was that Planning Committee councillors deferred their decision.

Casting my mind back to the recent document involving the Hinckley & Bosworth Development Plan, and my puzzlement at areas for industrial use adjoining the A5, and adding to that the possibility of an A5 Expressway, I just wonder which quangos drive these agendas that appear without any thought or concern for existing residents.

The other, located under the control of North West Leicestershire District Council, would mean a minimum of 1,200 additional car and HGV movements on the A444. I was not consulted with regarding this planning application, although public meetings were held at Appleby and No Man's Heath. It is interesting that there is a strong reaction against this application from Warwickshire, including concerns expressed by their M.P. I have arranged a meeting at County Hall for a representative from Twycross, Sheepy, and Witherley Parish Councils, with me and officers from the Highways Department to discuss concerns about mitigation measures for residents along the A444. This takes place on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

One of the most worrying aspects relates to future housing, where the applicant states that 75,000 are required but only identifies where 36,000 are going to be located. Those who attended the Parish Forum annual day in 2016 will recall HBBC Planners using Norton Juxta Twycross as a potential location for 1,000 new homes, and the creation of a greenfield, so called 'garden village' of at least 1,500 new houses. I wouldn't be quite so concerned if those who draw these plans up ever for one moment considered those who already live in an area but my time on the A5 Strategy Partnership makes me realise this just does not happen.

The reading, response preparation, and lobbying required for each of these planning applications has been very time consuming but I have kept the relevant Parish Councils fully informed, including Higham on the Hill regarding the MIRA application.

This month I have to make choices over which Parish Meetings I can attend. Therefore I have given priority to Sutton Cheney on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September,

Market Bosworth and Sheepy on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, Stoke Golding on 5<sup>th</sup>, and although I shall be

late, Twycross on 6<sup>th</sup> September. I also expect to be able to attend Witherley on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

Please note that in addition to 0116-305-6369, my home telephone number is 01827-881087, and my mobile is 07721-426638. Please use my county hall e-mail address, [ivan.ould@leics.gov.uk](mailto:ivan.ould@leics.gov.uk) for e-mail correspondence.

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