

Report from the District Cllr for Daleacre Hill, which covers the north of Kegworth – the northern side of the A6, Lockington, Hemington and Sawley Marina.

Changes at North West Leics District Council (NWLDC) have included: a new Chief Executive, Allison Thomas, who is proving to be very supportive to Councillors and to the Parishes; the customer services centre moving to a town centre location; and Council employees working out of Whitwick Business Centre. Stenson House will remain when the rest of the present building is demolished and be refurbished for Council meetings.

This past year I have liaised with the Community Focus Officer on various matters in the Ward. Some of these are:

1. To help reinstate the Kegworth Play Group. Discussions with the Long Whatton Playgroup which had lost its own premises has seen the Group relocating to Kegworth Village Hall and is now successfully operating from there.
2. The Health & Wellbeing Team have worked with me to start up a Yoga class in the village. This is now taking place on Tuesdays at the Baptist Church and is proving very popular.
3. Environmental Protection has worked with the Police to crack down on illegal motorbikes along Netherfield, Ratcliffe and Long Lanes. And Community Safety have provided support regarding antisocial behaviour at Side Ley Park.
4. The Empty Properties Officer continues to work towards researching these and looking for a solution in Kegworth.

The District has provided grants for various groups in the village - the Guides, the Plan Group, the Parish Council for the Jubilee celebrations, the Library and the Baptist Church received warm space grants; and there is currently a £250 grant available for groups and Parish Councils for the Coronation event.

I encouraged the Parish Council to sign up for the Great Winter Get Together, through the Jo Cox Foundation, supporting Jo's legacy to help combat loneliness and encourage community interaction. Two events were organised, an afternoon tea and chat, and a village walk - thanks to everyone who got involved, came along and helped out.

Being one of the opposition Councillors at the District Council and greatly outnumbered is a challenge! Our party continues to bring forward motions at Council and then hold the Council to account at Scrutiny committees.

At full Council on the 23rd February, I responded to the Council Leader's statement referring to the housing of Asylum Seekers in Kegworth. I pointed out that the village residents were justifiably concerned about this matter and there had been no prior consultation to prepare villagers, or the Parish Council. I asked that, as the Council Leaders have the ear of the Home Office, would they put forward concerns regarding the numbers, the lack of amenities, and pressure on an already struggling Doctor's surgery (I have since heard that medical matters will be dealt with away from Kegworth so that will be a help). I brought to the attention of the Council leaders that the loss of the Yew Lodge gym for use by residents would have an impact as there is in fact very little leisure provision in the village of this type, and the concern over local job losses and I asked for clarity surrounding the planning change-of-use question - I am yet to have a response to this. I also wrote to our Independent MP, Andrew Bridgen, I received a reply - it wasn't as detailed as it could have been.

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My shadow portfolio on Employment, Regeneration and Infrastructure fits in with the FREEport and Devco. The latest on these is out in the public realm now and I have been keeping tabs on any developments. I have also been discussing with the Economic Development and Regeneration Team Manager how we might secure more funding to keep the Blue Skylink bus operating - something which the Chair of the Parish Council has put a lot of effort and work into. It is in fact more of a County Council issue when it concerns bus routes, but District have a place at the table and some influence to exert.

I have worked on many planning matters with individuals and Parish Councils. A big warehouse development proposal north of Hemington was refused planning permission but the decision was appealed by the developer and sadly it was upheld, and the development will be allowed to go ahead. There were many hours of work involved with this.

Recycling and Refuse collections take up time!!! whether they be uncollected refuse/recycling, recycling blowing around the area in strong winds, and which containers would be the most suitable for collections. I do my best to sort these out where possible, but the recycling containers is an ongoing issue as various trolleys are still being trialled, as is waste food collection.

I have been involved in various housing matters - repairs, rent, finding accommodation, amongst other things. The lack of affordable and social housing in the village is a matter for some concern, but it is reliant on many factors, not

least affordable land, and the willingness to provide such housing by the authority.

I am on the Licensing Committee which looks at any establishment which needs a license for various reasons and includes hearings for people or organisations which breach their licenses.

The District Councillors role involves liaison with the Police and other authorities and of course very many resident's enquiries. I pride myself that I always respond to all my emails - please let me know if you think I haven't! Feedback is good and part of the Councillor role.

The local elections take place in May this year and if I stand for election and if I am elected for another term, I vow to do so to the best of my ability and to use my local knowledge to achieve the best results.

Please get in touch with me if I can help you with anything.

Councillor Carol Ann Sewell

Daleacre Hill for NWLDC