

Kegworth Annual Parish Meeting 2024 – Cllr Carol Ann Sewell

I was re-elected as a Labour Party Councillor in the 2023 District Council elections for the Daleacre Hill ward after completing 4 years in post. Daleacre Hill includes the northern half of Kegworth - therefore is confusingly named, as the hill named locally as Daleace is in Lockington, and where local kids used to go sledging in the winters when we used to get snow!

This last year I have been the Labour Group Whip for a team of 17 Councillors, the largest group on the district council, but we failed to take control due to the casting vote of the outgoing Conservative Chairman and a mixed alliance of Lib Dems, Conservatives and 2 Castle Donington Independents.

This last year I have been a member of the Planning Committee, the Local Plan Committee, the Electoral Review Working Party, the cross party Planning working Group and also a sub on Scrutiny Committees.

The set up of the cross party Planning Working Group I take some credit for as it came into being after my question to Full Council about reviewing how call-ins are decided to be heard at Planning Committee. With the unusual situation we have in Kegworth surrounding the HMO conversions, I felt this process needed more clarity and feedback. I have also been banging the drum- very loudly - along with other Kegworth Councillors, and in my role as a committee member on the Local Plan Committee, to tighten up the policies in the Local Plan to give more 'teeth' for refusal of HMOs in the village. The new Local Plan at present out for consultation addresses the issue in a much more acceptable way and proves Local Councillors have had a positive influence.

Something we will not be able to influence as much as we would like is the looming Freeport, which is written into Government Law, and is undoubtedly too far down the line to reverse. We only hope to have a say in some of the applications when they come in and try to get as much protection for Kegworth as we can.

I try to keep Kegworth firmly on the radar at Full Council, as does Cllr Sutton, and I brought up the issue of the debacle surrounding the Download chaos last year and cutting the blue Skylink bus. Ray has more on this.

Traffic and parking continue to be concerning issues, particularly in my half of Kegworth on Station Road and Sideley. I will be speaking up for us in a meeting, arranged by fellow- Councillor Sutton and the Parish Council to get some much-needed changes in place.

The scarcity of waste bins in some areas of the village and some bins being too small is a problem under discussion now with fellow-Councillors. Cllr Hilary Williams has done an audit of the bins in the village and there will be a district meeting soon to improve bin locations in the village and have reasonably sized ones where needed.

As Ray and I overlap somewhat in village-wide issues, I will leave other matters which we have jointly been involved in to come in his report. We do, however, both agree that having two Councillors on the District Council who live in the village is very beneficial and puts Kegworth firmly on the NWLDC map.

Casework has been ongoing and varied and I am pleased to say I have achieved good results in Daleacre Hill with regards to repairs, rehoming, speaking up for residents and pointing people in the right direction to get additional help.

Nuisance motorcyclists are a problem in DAH, especially Station Road and Long Lane being used as a route to access a field in Sawley being illegally used for activities. Station Road residents, of which I am one, regularly see a group of around 15 motorcyclists roaring past doing wheelies, not wearing crash helmets and causing a dangerous hazard to other motorists and pedestrians. This is currently being investigated with Police, the District, and local Councillors.

Something I have been speaking up for on a regular basis since 2015 is to have Long Lane and the lanes to Sawley dedicated as a Quiet Lane and I am pleased to report this is becoming likely now, with a bit of tweaking needed on finer details. Watch this space!

Finally, can I encourage everyone to get registered to vote as we have local elections in May for the PCC, which is a political role and influences policing in our area; and the General Election later this year which will influence how the country is run for the next 5 years! And, a reminder, you need ID to vote! Details are available online setting out which IDs are acceptable and how to get a postal vote if you prefer to vote in that way. In 2027 the boundaries will change in the area, not hugely, and Ray will elaborate on the proposals - and hopefully the DAH ward will be renamed to better reflect the area it covers as it will likely include more of Kegworth than at present!

Please feel free to contact me on any village issues, as I am still a Parish Councillor as well as being on the District, and thanks to all Councillors locally, and to Donna the Clerk, for your continued help and support. I'll endeavour to help in any way I can, or to direct you to someone with expertise to help.

Cllr Carol Ann Sewell
Daleacre Hill