

Les Phillimore

County Councillor for Cosby and Countesthorpe Division

Annual Report 2021/22

Email: Les.phillimore@leics.gov.uk

The Division comprises of the Parishes of Cosby, Countesthorpe, Kilby, Foston and South Whetstone with a population of circa: 12,000



Electoral Division activities

Since the May 2021 election and as we all emerge from the challenges of Covid-19 and a new normal evolves before us, my work as the Elected Representative for the Cosby & Countesthorpe County Division has continued unabated and at-pace.

I believe that a key role of being a County Councillor is to not just be available and responsive to my residents when they contact me directly, but to be visible and as close to the grass roots of society as I can be. Some of that is achieved by simply walking the streets or visiting local cafés and events; and some is by attending, supporting and working with our Parish Councils, schools and businesses where I hope that I have developed a trusted and positive relationship within my Division.

Since my re-election in May 2021, school placements, SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) school safety, school “drop-off” parking, speeding traffic and HGV’s traversing our rural villages have been regular contributors to my email inbox and quite rightly so. I am also delighted to report that I have been able to make positive progress with all of these issues across the Cosby and Countesthorpe Division with excellent support from County Council Officers, Parish Councils and the Police. Although some matters are in-progress and with a number of very successful outcomes, I hope that my residents have found me to have a responsive and sensitive ear for these issues; never more so than for SEND, Social Care, education matters and protecting our local villages and way of life.

As I live, work and relax within our County Division and my children grew up and were educated within it, the issues that affect my residents are the very same issues that do and have affected my family and friends and why I chose to become a Councillor – to champion our communities, to champion our desires, our aspirations, our hopes for the future and to help build a better place for us, for our children and for their children to live, work and relax within.

Aside of my Council work, I was re-elected as the East Midlands Regional Chairman for the UK’s largest business group in December 2021. As a voluntary member of this business group and alongside my colleagues and staff, we continue to support and champion the needs, opportunities and aspirations of the small and medium size enterprises (SME’s) across the UK.

My work in education expands with my appointment to the Faculty of Business and Law Advisory Board at the De Montfort University; a voluntary role and alongside my part-time Tutor role within the faculty, I am committed to helping build the skills, the businesses and the employees of the future.

Current divisional matters: -

In addition to a number of confidential family, SEND and education issues that I have been providing support for, there are a number of resident and community issues that I have been working on, some of which are noted below: -

- **Cosby: -**

- Work continues to develop safer pedestrian access for Cosby Primary School with funds approved from the Members Highways Fund for Billie and Belinda bollards to be installed to prevent on-pavement parking. This sits alongside a formal request for an extended school safety zone which I await to hear the outcome of.
- Working with the Highway Authority, I was able to source village wide speed surveys and will work with the Parish Council to develop a strategic proposal for the village.
- The Members Highway Fund is being invested in a Mobile Speed Camera for Cambridge Road.
- Formal request for a pedestrian crossing on Narborough Road adjacent to the entrance to Victory Park has been submitted and I await to hear the results of.
- With a personal empathy with SEND, I am always moved when I am able to support families where their children; irrespective of age need specialist support and I am able to help secure the right support and transform the lives of those families.

- **Countesthorpe: –**

- Complicated and delayed by Covid-19 and working with a well-known local business person, I still hope to see the Countesthorpe Enterprise Network (CEN) launch for our local Countesthorpe businesses; now targeted for September 2022.
- Dragon Teeth (Road markings) for Peatling Road and an MVAS for Willoughby Road are being funded through the Members Highways Fund to help reduce traffic speed
- Post Office. Despite our collective best efforts, we were unable to convince the Post Office to open a new branch in Countesthorpe which is a notable loss for Countesthorpe.

- **Kilby**

- Work continues to try and mitigate construction traffic using Kilby as a through-route to developments in neighbouring Planning Authority areas with meetings held with the Police, Harborough Planning Authority and the County Highway Authority where the new Network Management Plan should help with future planning applications.
- The Members Highway fund is being invested in a Mobile Speed Camera along with the working with the Police and Highway Authority for speed surveys to reduce traffic speed in Kilby.
- I am delighted to see the much-anticipated progress being made with the reduction in speed limit, new road markings and signage at the notorious Wistow crossroads.

- **South Whetstone:–**

- The campaign for Henson Close continues with non-residential highway parking causing endless issues for the residents of Henson Close.
- Although I was unable to secure access through the Whittle Estate for the Henson Park, Whetstone Construction Traffic, the developers did agree to a number of positive “conditions” to the planning permission which will mitigate some of the concerns and dangers faced by residents.
- Through the Members Highway Fund, I have been able to invest in two Mobile Vehicle Activate Cameras (MVAS) to be installed on Cambridge Road, Whetstone.
- I have submitted a formal application for a Traffic Regulation Order to regularise 30mph along the entire length of Cambridge Road. I await the result.

County Council activities - (Bodies served on at County Hall)

Having been returned as your Elected County Councillor for the 2021 – 2025 electoral term, I look forward to being able to play a full role within the County Council and to serving the people and businesses within the division to the very best of my ability.

- **Development Control and Regulatory Board (Planning)**

I am delighted to have been appointed to the position of Vice Chair for the Development Control and Regulatory Board (DCRB) (Planning)

- **Environment and Transport Scrutiny and Overview Committee**

- **Wyggestons House Hospital Trust** where I have been appointed a voluntary Director of this long-standing charity

- **Ways of Working** – I was delighted to Chair the Ways of Working Task & Finish Group for the County Council and look forward to seeing the benefits of a considerable amount of hard work by the lead Officers in developing the new programme as we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Looking forward: -

Ukraine

Surely none of us cannot be moved by the travesty of the unwarranted aggression being thrust upon an innocent Ukrainian population. Many of us will do “our bit” and offer support in a myriad of different ways and I am humbled by societies response. The County Council is at the forefront of supporting refugees as they arrive and I will play whatever part that I can in supporting our County and District Councils and agencies as we step-up to the challenges and opportunities that support for Ukraine will present for some time to come.

Housing and Employment

One of the most significant challenges facing the South Leicestershire Divisions is the potential of having to deliver significant housing and employment growth in South Leicestershire. The Strategic Growth Plan sets-out a very high-level concept document as to how this may be achieved but; as a personal view, as Covid-19 and the councils environmental agenda have the potential to fundamentally change the way we live, work and play, the County Councils Ways of Working programme is a perfect demonstration of how society and the economy have changed.

The Unmet Need for Leicester City Council poses a significant challenge to South Leicestershire Divisions and shines a spotlight on how essential good infrastructure will be required to support housing and employment growth. I continue to look forward to contributing to these debates fully in due course but always seeking to gain the greatest advantage for our Division and ensure the strongest representation.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The demands and associated costs of this critically essential service continue to increase and outstrip the councils funding mechanisms. As an essential service our ongoing campaign for Fairer Funding has to also find a long-term solution to this provision.

As anybody who knows me or has ever sought my support in this most personal of areas, SEND will always find a sensitive and empathetic ear at my house; as will Adults with Social Care or additional needs.

Whatever our future holds, as your elected representative at Leicestershire County Council and with my collective Local Government, business and Higher Education activities and interests, I will listen to all sides of the debates and campaign for the very best outcomes for our Division, our district wards, our parishes, our skills, jobs and economy, our education, our elderly, our vulnerable, our communities and our future.

Passions and Other Interests

People who know me, know that I am passionate about everything that I do and at the forefront of my life are People, Business, Education, Skills and social justice, including: -

- The Director-e Ltd. A project dedicated to the Senior, Executive and Professional 3rd Age (Over 50's) who may find recruitment and employment challenging
- The Federation of Small Businesses – the UK's largest business group representing c: 160,000 SME's and the self-employed
- Higher Education - Part-time Tutor at De Montfort University coaching Postgraduate students through Business Research Projects and Member of the Faculty Advisory Board.
- Innovation and international collaboration – supporting new business ideas over the long-term



Local committees & Outside Bodies

- Cabinet Member at Blaby District Council holding the Housing, Community and Environmental Services Portfolio which includes the Councils Carbon Net Zero agenda
- Elected Volunteer Regional Chairman for the UK's largest business group, The Federation of Small Businesses
- I have served on Whetstone Parish Council for c: 25 years
- Voluntary Panel Member – De Montfort University Faculty of Business and Law Advisory Panel
- I also have the pleasure of being the Clerk to Cosby Parish Council ensuring that I am always working at the heart of the community

Priorities for the immediate future

- Supporting my division and the county as we recover from Covid-19
- Maintaining a watching brief over the Strategic Growth Plan.
- Engagement with Schools within my Division
- Supporting all tiers of local government, communities, community groups and businesses.
- Supporting the County Council as it rebuilds its finances and designs the services of the future.
- **Buddy System** - With 15 new Members at the County Council, I am delighted to be able to Buddy with a newly elected Member of the County Council to help them settle in.
- **Members Highways Fund** – ensuring that the 2022/23 fund is targeted to the most important local highway issues.
- Supporting the Parish Councils and local business community

Learning & Development

- Attendance at numerous Members Weekly Briefings

Community Events

As Covid-19 restrictions are lifted and our daily lives return to a new normal, I look forward to being able to support and attend

- Jubilee events across the division
- Countesthorpe Business Network event launch
- Countesthorpe Walking Market
- Whetstone Remembrance Day Parade

- Cosby Remembrance Day Parade
- Cosby Yarn Bomb
- Cosby Christmas Lights
- Cosby Toc-H Charity Sleigh collection

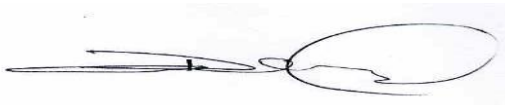
Communications and Social Media

I am easy to find on Linked-In in particular, but also have a small number of business and personal accounts on Twitter and Facebook.

Primary contact as County Councillor – Email: Les.phillimore@leics.gov.uk Tel: 0116 275 3763

My Commitment to You: -

- Protect the vulnerable
- Support our communities
- Energise and rebuild our economy
- Build back greener
- Create the jobs and skills for tomorrow
- Campaign for Fairer Funding

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L M Phillimore', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

L M Phillimore CC