



MAGGIE WRIGHT - Annual Report 2018/2019

County Councillor for Stoney Stanton and Croft Division.

The Division comprises the Parishes of Aston Flamville, Croft, Elmesthorpe, Huncote, Potters Marston, Sapcote, Sharnford, Stoney Stanton and Wigston Parva. Collectively known as the “Fosse Villages”.

Electoral Division Activities

I was privileged to be elected as a County Councillor in May 2018, after winning a Bi-Election called following a vacancy left by the late Cllr. Ernie White. Ernie had served the Division for more than 40 years, so I have big shoes to fill. The Bi-Election was not without drama as I fell and fractured my shoulder whilst delivering campaign leaflets. I am extremely grateful to colleagues who offered help, provided lifts to venues and substituted for me on committees during those early days of injury. I have enjoyed the challenges of my first year. Most of my time has been taken getting to know my Division, the Parish Councils, Councillors, residents and issues. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the Parish Clerks who have taken the time to meet with me and take me on “guided tours” of their Parish. Also, for explaining and pointing out relevant issues and matters of interest.

I have been involved with numerous projects during the year, many particularly relating to traffic and highways issues. Much focus has been on the B581 road between Stoney Stanton and Elmesthorpe following a fatal accident. Speed reductions and traffic calming measures are currently being investigated. Traffic calming solutions have also been investigated in Croft with the support of our Community Beat Bobbies. I have dealt with flooding issues in Wigston Parva and worked with Officers to mitigate against future occurrences. Average speed cameras went into Sharnford as part of a County wide trial and has proven successful in reducing the speed of traffic. I am getting to know the excellent work of the STAG (Sharnford Traffic Action Group) via regular updates. After a request from a Sharnford resident I initiated a scoping study with Sustrans (national cycling charity), Sapcote and Sharnford Parish Councils to look at the viability of a making the existing Bridleway between the villages into a cycle path. A feasibility report has been produced and indicated a positive result but due to funding requirements this will be an ongoing project.

One of the most significant challenges facing my Division and the Fosse villages is the proposed plans for a Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI). It is a massive project and will take approx. 440 acres with plans for 14 warehouses and is said to create more than 8,000 jobs. Residents have many concerns regarding this 7 day a week, 24 hours a day operation. Local and major road resilience, infrastructure, pollution/air quality, loss of the beautiful rural countryside, associated environmental impacts and loss of village identities, are just a few.

I attended several of the Developer (DB Symmetry) Engagement Events in October 2018 detailing the proposed plans. I am active in listening to opposition group concerns, liaising with our MP Alberto Costa and engaging at all levels to ensure our voices are heard. Statutory consultation is due later in 2019. The Strategic Growth Plan and proposed A46 corridor also poses significant challenges to our Rural Villages and is a “hot” topic of conversation at Parish meetings. I have and continue to engage with our Beat Bobbies Mike Walker and Chris Gutteridge on possible traffic calming solutions and speeding traffic issues across the Division.

Community Events

I regularly attend and support the Huncote Lunch Club where a small group of dedicated volunteers cook a lovely lunch every fortnight at the Methodist Hall. There is a good attendance and social atmosphere. Afterwards there is an opportunity to visit the Community Library which operates in the same building. I am often available here if residents wish to see me with any concerns. The Fosse Villages are blessed with strong community spirits and I have been privileged to attend many community events during the year. Here are a few. The Croft "Happy Circle" afternoon tea party in celebration for Maureen Collins who has decided to step down as its leader after 25 years. Spent a sunny afternoon at Stoney Stanton listening to "Brass on the Grass", attended a magnificent musical fund-raising evening at St Michael's Church Stoney Stanton, stocked up with plants at the Evergreen Club annual sale in Sharnford. Had a traditional afternoon tea on the green at Wigston Parva, and attended the 120th Anniversary of St James's Church in Huncote.

Priorities for the immediate future

- Proposed Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange statutory consultation(s).
- Strategic Growth Plan and A46 Corridor proposals.
- Encouraging the completion of the "Fosse Villages" Neighbourhood Plan.
- Traffic calming solutions and infrastructure issues across the Division.
- Engagement with Local GP Surgery.
- Engagement with Schools within my Division.
- Establishment of Quarterly Surgeries in conjunction with Parish Councils, District Councillors and MP.
- Review of Rural bus services.

Council Activities – (Bodies served on at County Hall)

- Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Health Overview Committee
- Development Control and Regulatory Board.
- Corporate Parenting Working Group.
- Unitary Working Group.
- Combined Fire Authority.

Local committees/Outside Bodies

- Croft Quarry Liaison Committee.
- Thurlaston Parish Council (Community Chair).
- Deputy Leader at Blaby District Council. Finance, Efficiency and Asset Portfolio.

Other bodies – School governors/community and charity organisations

- Thurlaston Primary School foundation Governor.
- Thurlaston Church and Chapel activities.
- Thurlaston Players' Amateur dramatics Group

Learning and Development

- Induction Training at County Hall.
- Development Control Training
- Induction Training for Combined Fire Authority

Social Media

- Occasional tweeter

