

Les Phillimore

County Councillor for Cosby and Countesthorpe Division

Annual Report 2020/21.

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

Thank you to everyone who placed their trust and belief in me to return me as your Elected County Councillor for the Cosby & Countesthorpe Division.

It is always a humbling experience, an honour and a privilege to serve and represent those who elect me and everyone in our communities. We are blessed to live in a democracy and whether you voted for me or for another candidate, it is my honour to represent each and every resident with equal favour throughout my division.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, lock-down and the immense impacts on everybody's lives, in most respects my work within our communities has continued but, as with most people, without the benefit of face-to-face meetings.

Covid-19 did and continues to highlight the very best in community spirit in people, their passions; their support for their communities and their support for one another - I thank everyone for this and most especially through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Covid-19 continues to curtail most of our activity in public life but emails, Social Media; telephones, virtual meetings and letters have ensured that we have been able to continue our work and support our residents.

I live in the division with my specialist Early Years SEND Nursery Nurse wife of many years Jackie who; as a Key Worker has worked throughout the pandemic looking after some of our most vulnerable children and I can only stand back and admire the risk-taking, commitment and dedication of Key Workers.

Current divisional matters: -

There are a number of resident and community issues that I have been working on, some of which are noted below: -

- **South Whetstone** – Delighted to have been able to support a successful outcome with a number of families and their campaign for re-admissions to Badgerbrook Primary School
- **Countesthorpe** – I continue to work with a local business person to try and secure a new Post Office for the village. This is proving to be far more bureaucratic and difficult than ever expected and we have secured the support of and work with our local MP, Alberto Costa.
- **Wistow** - as County Highway work schedules come back on-stream, I will continue to press for action at the Wistow crossroads as a well known accident black spot.
- **Cosby** – Formal application for an extended School Safety Zone outside Cosby Primary School

- **Kilby** – working alongside residents, Members and Officers of Kilby Parish Council, work continues on traffic issues and road surface failures in the village. Covid-19 has introduced considerable delays and backlogs of work for the County Highway Authority, but we continue to press for solutions and resolutions and I am also delighted to have won the support of the Regional Managing Director of a major housing developer who has contacted all their contractors who are travelling through Kilby to remind them to comply with speed limits and show respect for the Kilby residents.
- **Cosby** – Supporting Cosby Parish Council with numerous traffic and weight restriction issues within the village
- **Cosby** - I am delighted to have been able to help resolve a family's ongoing issues relating to Adult Social Care costs.
- **Countesthorpe** – Supporting a local business person with a new dedicated business network group. The **Countesthorpe Enterprise Network** was due to launch on 30th June 2021 but following the extension of Covid-19 restrictions, we are now planning to launch in September 2021.
- **Cosby** - Perhaps my most single rewarding success was and should be being able to champion a family's desperate need for help and ensure that the right care and support was put in place for a family with a young child with Special Educational Needs. Nothing could give me greater personal reward than to hear how a family's life and the child's life has been transformed since my intervention – but that is absolutely why we are here, to help you when you need us.

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

Initially joining Leicestershire County Council in the latter quarter of the 2017-2021 electoral term meant that the opportunity to be appointed to Council Committees was limited. On the positive, that meant that I was able to act as a substitute on a number of committees allowing me to find my feet, get to know my fellow Councillors and Council Officers and get up to speed with the business of the day across the County Council.

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)

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

Looking forward: -

Housing and Employment

One of the most significant challenges facing the South Leicestershire Divisions is the potential of delivering 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 future housing and employment growth needs need to be re-assessed and the requirements may change significantly. I 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.

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: 150,000 SME's and the self-employed
- Higher Education - Part-time Tutor at De Montfort University coaching Postgraduate students through Business Research Projects.
- Innovation and international collaboration – supporting new business ideas over the long-term
- 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



Local committees & Outside Bodies

- Cabinet Member at Blaby District Council holding the Housing, Community and Environmental Services Portfolio
- 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

Priorities for the immediate future

- Continuing to press for and champion a new Post Office in Countesthorpe
- 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.

Learning & Development

- New electoral term briefings @ County Hall.
- Development Control Training @ County Hall

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

- Countesthorpe Business Network event launch

- Countesthorpe Walking Market
- Whetstone Remembrance Day Parade
- Cosby Remembrance Day Parade
- A Very Merry Whetstone Christmas
- Cosby Yarn Bomb
- Cosby Christmas Lights
- Cosby Toc-H Charity Sleigh collection

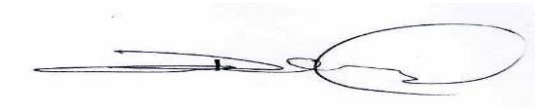
Communications and Social Media

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



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