

## County Councillor's Report for the Sileby Annual Parish Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2022

I'd like to begin by referring to the **Members Highway Fund**.

The financial year 21-22 was the first year of the Fund. Each County Councillor was awarded a budget of £25,000 to spend on highway projects within their Division, projects which addressed local concerns.

I am grateful to Sileby Parish Council for the time and thought they have given to discussing potential projects. I have applied for three projects in the village. They are:

A Fixed Solar Powered Speed Indicator Device (SID) at the Cossington end of Cossington Road, at a cost of £5,000;

Four Bollards in King Street, outside Sileby and District Liberal Working Men's Club, at a cost of £2,000;

And a Dropped Kerb on Heathcote Drive, outside Highgate Community Primary School, at a cost of £4,000.

The most recent update I received was on 14<sup>th</sup> April and the status of each project was given as "In process". I am now enquiring about the likely timescale is for the completion of each project.

County Council Officers have received just over 500 requests since the start of this initiative. It's fair to say that it has presented a steep learning curve for Councillors and Officers alike, and there was difficulty

in recruiting to all the posts required in the team liaising with Councillors. I understand that unfortunately there are vacancies in in the delivery team.

There have been useful learning points arising which have helped shape arrangements for the second year of the Fund.

Each Councillor has been allocated a further £25,000 for 22-23, to which is added any allocation not spent in the first year. I have allocated £24,500 across my Division, so I have just £500 to carry forward.

There was a Briefing for Councillors about the new arrangements on 19<sup>th</sup> April. It was explained that an online application form will go live tomorrow, 22<sup>nd</sup> April. When that has happened I will circulate details

of how applications will be handled and invite expressions of interest.

I've devoted so much time to this part of my Report because of what I see as the value of the initiative. I've certainly welcomed it.

## **The Covid -19 pandemic**

Council work has of course been heavily influenced since early in 2020 by the Covid-19 pandemic – working with partners to respond to need, implementing assistance schemes, and changing our ways of

working. We are now meeting physically for decision-making meetings, as required by law, but have learnt the value of virtual meetings for discussions, for the efficient use of time.

## **Support for Ukrainian refugees**

Refugees from Ukraine have started to arrive in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Councils, the NHS, Police, East Midlands Airport and other organizations have teamed up to provide support.

An item about this matter is in my latest Blog, which is posted on the Parish Council's website.

## **Other matters of general interest**

I continue to forward to Parish Councils in my Division information in emails I receive which I think might be of interest.

## **Matters of interest to Sileby in particular**

Details of these are included in my Reports at Parish Council Meetings and are recorded in the Minutes. I also continue to respond to enquiries from members of the public and assist as best I can.

## **Thank you**

I should like to thank the Parish Council, the Council's Clerk and Deputy Clerk, and the local Borough Councillors for their continued help to me and co-operation.

## **Questions**

I would be happy to answer any questions there might be.

Richard Shepherd  
April, 2022