

Cotesbach Parish Council

Chairman's report

May 2021

I'm very grateful as Chairman for the support that the Parish Council has received from the Councillors, Clerk and many Cotesbach residents over the past year. It has been demanding for most of us in various ways, and their ongoing help, enthusiasm and commitment is greatly appreciated.

This year was really about keeping the village ticking over and providing the necessary delegated services required of us. We set up the Street Wardens (which not every Parish Council has done) and ensured our neighbours and elderly residents had what we could offer them.

There were a number of major planning applications outside of Cotesbach that we responded to, most importantly the application to increase operations at the recycling plant adjacent to the landfill. We worked closely with Shawell Parish who put most of the work behind an excellent objection to the application. It was refused on the basis that it would be importing waste for far and wide, not county-based waste. Leicestershire County Council also made it clear that the applicant will be closely watched going forward.

A new solar park was approved towards the A5. We worked hard to try and ensure the application maintained the bridleway access and actually improved the walking route where possible. The developer did go a bit further than their initial application, but we'll keep an eye as construction progresses. The development has resulted in a £20,000 cash payment to the Parish Council (upon first operation of the site) which we'll need to manage and assign to projects of our choice.

We have had a lot more people enjoying the footpaths around Cotesbach over the past year. Regrettably, the "lane" running from the Garden Barn to West Cottages has suffered from quarrying vehicles. Mud and damage to the crossing often made it impassable. Pressure from Claire Mellon and a formal complaint from the Parish Council to Leics County Council resulted in Tarmac quite abruptly improving the crossing.

Lutterworth East was finally approved at committee, with the full design yet to be worked up. Impact on the A426 will need to be closely watched as this progresses.

Magna Park South continues to be quickly built, with some warehousing still expected but the bulk of the sheds constructed. We continue to sit on the Liaison committee.

There has been no significant crime to report in the village or surrounding area. A highlight may have been the high speed police car chase of a stolen car, leaving the village gate at the Rugby end damaged. Many thanks to Cambell Lean for fixing this without us needing to claim on insurance. CCTV in the village is still being considered but further work required to figure out how best to do it.

We have used some of the time during lockdown to make improvements to the village, mainly for its biodiversity. With the help from Gavin Bennett in the village, we were successfully awarded a grant for some pond improvements. With help from villagers we spend a good day making these improvements. We also now part of the wildflower verge scheme which means a section of our verge will be left uncut for wildflowers.

I wouldn't want to commit to what the Parish Council needs to be achieving over the next year but certainly hope we can come out of the pandemic as an engaged village that looks after each other.

Thanks again to everyone for their help over the past few months and trust you can continue your efforts over the next few too.