Borough Report November 26

My first words have to be congratulations to Market Bosworth and all of those involved with Bosworth in Bloom. I am aware that the Parish Council has always played its part in supporting and encouraging the group which makes the village such a lovely place to live and work year in and year out. On that note I was pleased to be with the Rotarian volunteers last week to plant a further 1000 daffodils along the front of the Country Park.

Bosworth 1485 Trail

I am pleased to say that the sculpture "The Calm Before the Storm" a tSutton Cheney won a National Title this week against the rest of Great Britain. This work is a credit to our Cultural services team and HBBC who nurtured and supported the project from the start including the Borough Councillor at that time who was responsible for Cultural Services. (there are times when I feel privileged to rake that credit)

Beckitt Avenue

I have been advised that the land will go to auction in February.

Planning

Unfortunately, new Government planning reforms commenced on November 1st which mean many applications previously considered by Planning Committee will now ONLY be decided by officers. There is a "gateway" for officers to follow which will decide if an application should go to committee. This mainly refers to housing developments over 500, own interest, listed building consent and major non-residential such as the Markfield one listed below.

Having been involved, on several occasions, along with yourselves, in overturning an Officers decision at Committee and then successfully convincing an Inspector at Appeal, you will hopefully understand my utter dismay and in fact disgust that this level of input is being taken away us – ie. those who have LOCAL knowledge

Currently an application is discussed by planning committee members if it receives 5 or more objections from the community and/or I, as your Borough councillor, "call it in". I have had many instances where an application ticks all the policy boxes for an officer to make a decision according to planning policy but locally there are serious concerns. However, committee members are prepared to listen to neighbours, parish councillors, agents etc and in my opinion, make a far more informed decision, not always agreeing with officers. The biggest difference in my opinion, being interpretation of "harm". This is a retrograde step taking away the democratic voice of the community and/or giving us the opportunity to request conditions.

A recent Member Briefing at HBBC gave us an insight into a planning application for an industrial and logistics development adjacent to J22 of the M1 at Markfield. The full Planning Application is currently being considered by HBBC. The site is reported to provide 64,800sqm of employment space. Due to the scale and potential impact this will come before Committee.

Banking

Banking Hub – I am pleased to be able to tell you that we finally have premises in the centre of Hinckley. 50 Castle Street (close to Holland & Barrett) is currently being fitted out and the Hub should be fully operational before Christmas.

Unitary

You have probably seen in the media that the most recent information states Leicestershire is still paused. Ultimately, we are told there will definitely be elections in May 2027 for Parish Councillors and Borough Councillors. In the case of the latter potentially for a 2 year term rather than the normal 4. However, this could change!!!

Station Road verge:

Sad to see still no action from LCC. However, when the sheep escaped from the adjacent field last week, I was tempted to leave them to graze away the overgrown grass. But duty and common sense kicked in and with the help of a lady who was driving through we herded them back into the field and borrowed a wheelie bin from a neighbour to fill the large gap in the fence which, I see, has now been repaired.

Station Road Crossing:

We have been given notice of the works starting outside the school and 17 days have been scheduled. I have already received complaints about potential disruption.

Remembrance Parade:

I attended both Market Bosworth and Cadeby and it truly is a very humble honour to represent my ward. Not sure if the fog put people off but numbers did seem rather less this year.

I am currently dealing with 8 local issues.

Maureen

Any issues maureen.cook@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

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