

Well ! next week the County Council Elections will take place, looking over the last 4 years, they have certainly been very busy and fulfilling. I would like to refer to the beginning of the last four years.

I was fortunate to have been given the honour of the Civic position of Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council and Chairman of Newark and Sherwood District Council.

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, we received the sad news of the death of our late Queen

I am sure we all remember where we were, I was in Mansfield on the finish line for the Tour of Britain.

A few days later from Castle House I read the Proclamation proclaiming our New King , Charles 111, this was a real honour.

Later that day a service followed at Southwell Minster.

Prior to this in Summer 2022 , we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, street parties and events were held in the villages.

With the help of the Councillors Divisional fund I was able to help fund many events and projects in Bleasby, Goverton and Gibsmere including the VE celebration and Coronation, not to mention several projects over the last 4 years.

I am pleased that you have recently received £3625 from the Local Communities fund

Regarding concerns which have been raised at Parish Council meetings.

Potholes are now being repaired differently, larger sections are being repaired, called hot boxing, , we have invested in new machinery .

Larger repairs prevent the tarmac washing out with all the heavy rain we experience.

Next year we intend to spend a further £200m repairing not only the roads, but pavements and drainage clearing at the same time.

I have reported the large holes on the side of the road as you leave Gibsmere towards Fiskerton.

I have also reported the road in Gibsmere, it will be inspected and repaired up to the gravel road, which is not adopted.

The bridge referred to at last weeks PC meeting will be replaced and balustrades attached on each side of the bridge.

Horse signs are on order to place at High Cross to warn motorists horses are around.

The active Flood Action team you have here continue to work alongside NCC.

We must continue to look at flood prevention, as just over a year , I well remember the flooding at the Gibsmere end of the village.

The fire service arrived but told me they could not drive through the flood.

However, along came a farmer with a tractor and a scoop attached at the front.

He took supplies trough the flood to Gibsmere and collected a stranded person from the caravan park.

This brought the Community together and showed how our villages pull together in times of need.

The Network Rail barriers continue to cause frustration to everyone.

I have a meeting late May with Network Rail to question them as to why these problems continue to occur.

I have asked Highways signage department to look at how shoppers can turn out of Marks and Spencer in Newark to avoid long delays.

The entrance is unsuitable for the amount of cars which use that area.

I have certainly enjoyed representing Bleasby, Goverton and Gibsmere at County Hall.

Depending on next week's Election result I may be fortunate to return and continue our good work for the residents.