

August report to Parish Council – Borough Issues 2019

Councillor Bill Crooks

Borough Statistics

At Council we were advised that the Borough has a population of 108,900 with 61% in the working age group. 83% of these are in work which is higher than Leicestershire (79%) and the UK (78%). Wages are slightly lower than Leicestershire. Far more jobs in the borough are in the manufacturing sector than in Leicestershire and the UK as a whole. 49% of businesses are expecting to see an improvement in business prospects and 56% stated they had increased profits in the previous 12 months.

The Borough Council has 404 in total as the workforce. 48% are male, and 52% Female. 75% of staff is full time workers, of which 58% are male. 25 of the workforce are of ethnic origin.

Recycling

Of the 326 councils in the UK that collect green waste 212 of them charge with the most expensive being Harlow D.C. who charges £96 per year. Many Councils charge £60 per year. The Government has stated that from 2023 brown bin collections must be free and they are to fund it!

Environmental Improvement Fund

16 schemes are to be financed at an estimated cost of £106,767 with the Council paying £39,620. £13,639 has been requested to be carried forward for schemes not yet completed.

Parish Initiative Fund

The Council has received 48 applications for funding. 44 schemes have been approved and £150k has been awarded to these schemes. Since 2005 Barlestone has received the 4th highest amount of funding at £93,195.00, Nailstone £58k and Newbold £35k.

Finance Report

The Borough's finances have turned out better than expected, mainly because the levy on Business Rates have been less than we budgeted for, so our reserves are some £400k better off.

Five Year Land Supply

The single biggest challenge for the Council over the next 12 months is resisting unwanted developments, and trying to provide the 1000 houses we are short this year to get us back to where the Government is saying we should be.

Green Flag Awards

Two parks in Hinckley have again been awarded Green Flag Status. These awards have been given in regard for the efforts put in by our Green Space team. The Parks are Hollycroft Park and Argents Mead.

Adopting Roads

The County Highways are increasingly refusing to adopt estate development roads; this is to save them picking up the tab for repairs. They comment that 'Publicly Maintaining Roads that do not serve any purpose to the general public (through roads) are not to be funded'. The Borough Council is to feed this concern into the review of LCC's design Guide.