September is always a very full month in local government and this month has certainly been no exception! Meetings are now largely back to being in person and in addition to my most important role of representing you on Charnwood Borough and Leicestershire County Councils, my other roles looking after Charnwood’s Public Housing Department and examining the work of the Cabinet at Leicestershire is keeping me very busy too. If you need my help with anything please do get in touch (my contact details are at the bottom of this article).

Plan for 270 houses in East Goscote passed by Plans Committee

On the 26th August the application for 270 off Melton Road, East Goscote was determined by Charnwood Borough Council’s Planning Committee and I’m sorry to say despite our very best efforts it was passed by 6 votes to 4.

Even though the Planning Officer agreed in his presentation the application was counter to the adopted Core Strategy, outside the limits to development and would encroach onto the area of separation between East Goscote and Rearsby, the decisive factor was Charnwood not being able to demonstrate it had a 5 year housing land supply (meaning the adopted Local Plan is considered out of date with significantly reduced weight in decision making). Until Charnwood can get a new Local Plan adopted we are very unlikely to regain our 5 year land supply, and this decision only goes to reinforce the importance of regaining control over development.

As this application was for outline planning permission, any developer of the site will have to put in another planning application for the details of the development (for example the road layout on the development, what the houses will look like, what kinds of houses will be built on the site etc). Until this is done its not possible to say when work will commence.

Applications for September 2022 school places now open

Parents with children due to start at primary schools or go up to secondary schools in September 2022 can now apply for places at their preferred schools. There is no automatic entry system for any school in the county, so parents should also ensure they exercise their right to apply for three school preferences and are aware of the closing date as late applications have the lowest priority and are processed after those made on time.

**Parents of children starting primary school have until Saturday, 15 January 2022 to submit their applications.**

**Parents of children starting secondary school next year** need to apply for their preferred schools by Sunday, 31 October 2021.

More information about schools in Leicestershire and the application process can be found here:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/school-admissions>.

Charnwood ward boundary review

Charnwood is currently undergoing a ward boundary review, a process whereby the Boundary Commission looks at Charnwood Borough Council to determine how many Councillors its needs to carry out its duties, and where the boundaries of each ward should be so that each Councillor represents the same number of residents (give or take a variance of approximately 10%). The Boundary Commission has recently published its first proposals for what the new wards should be, and their proposal is to put Rearsby into a new ward provisionally called ‘Wreake Valley’ (along with East Goscote, Thrussington, Queniborough, Ratcliffe on the Wreake and part of Syston). This new ward would be represented by three Borough Councillors as it is much bigger than the current ward (Wreake Villages) which has only has a single Borough Councillor. The last review was carried out approximately 20 years ago and the new boundaries are designed to take account of the changes in population that have occurred since then.

The Boundary Commission are consulting on these proposals (the consultation period is open until 8th November) and more details, and how to take part in the consultation, can be found here: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/25847#Boundary%20Commission%20website>.

As I said above, if I can be of any assistance to you please get in touch.

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