Councillor Ann Mills' Report to Breaston Parish Meeting

2024/2025

Planning Committee

I am a member of the Planning Committee. The committee usually meets once a month and considers planning applications that have been referred to the committee rather than being decided by officers as is the case with most applications. The ones referred to the committee are usually those that have attracted a large number of objections or have been called in by a ward councillor.

One of the most contentious applications in the past year has been to build two takeaway food outlets on land next to the Junction 25 roundabout.

This was brought to committee because of the number of objections and was recommended for approval by the officers as none of the statutory consultees, including DCC Highways, had raised objections. However, after listening to the objections and considering the application Cllr Scott proposed refusal and I seconded his proposal. Committee voted in favour of refusal and the applicant has taken the decision to appeal. At some point Cllr Scott and I may have to defend our decision to the Planning Inspectorate when the Appeal comes before them.

Licensing Committee

I also sit on the Licensing Committee. The committee is responsible among other things for the licensing of taxis and this year we changed the cost of taxi licenses in a bid to encourage drivers to use lower emission and wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Climate Change

It will be no surprise that as a Green Party councillor I have been focussing on holding the controlling group to account on their response to Climate Change. I am very pleased to report there is now a Climate Change Officer in place and Erewash Borough Council has published their strategy.

Of course, a strategy is worthless without action so I will continue to monitor and encourage progress by asking questions and presenting motions at Full Council meetings and through my role as Vice-Chair of the cross-party Climate Change Working Group.

Local Issues

Sadly, there have been issues with **ASB** in Breaston over the past year. I have been in contact with the relevant agencies and have also escalated to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The new **Core Strategy** has identified part of Breaston that may now be available for development. Breaston is not alone in having land considered as greenbelt earmarked for development and hopefully those with objections took part in the recent consultation.

Notwithstanding the outcome of the consultation and planning process, if and when any new homes (wherever in Erewash that may be) are approved, I will be using every means and opportunity to press Erewash Borough Council to mandate the highest possible standards of sustainability and energy efficiency for every new home.

I would like to record my thanks to Nicala for being an excellent Parish Clerk and to Cllr Miller for his continued support and advice.

Cllr Ann Mills

Ann.mills@erewash.gov.uk