Cllr Ann Mills Erewash Borough Council Report May 2026

This has been a busy but positive year at Erewash and a somewhat quieter but still positive time for Breaston.

The work done by the Parish Council this year to move forward projects that have been in progress for a number of years is fantastic. Perks Park just gets better and better. Once it is completely finished it will be hard to find a safer, more accessible and better equipped park in any parish in Erewash. Or possibly even Derbyshire! The chapel is also back to its quiet elegance and ready to play its part in the life of the village. The Gala was another resounding success this year and I know people who came from far afield to see how much enjoyment can be had for just £1!

Alongside these big, visible projects the Parish Council deals with countless other smaller, less glamorous issues all designed to keep Breaston the much-loved village it is today. It's not only the Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk and our maintenance officer though. There are other residents in Breaston running clubs, the Repair Cafe, Breaston in Bloom, the litter pickers (apologies to everyone not on this list) who give up their time to make Breaston a great place to live. So I'd like to say a big thank you to every one of those people - THANK YOU!

Hopefully, more people will be inspired to join you and volunteer in our community this year as I know it is becoming harder to organise events through lack of those willing and able to contribute.

Hope is at hand though: the highlight of my year isn't any Erewash Council meeting or Mayor making event. It's the 'Meet a Councillor' interview at Firfield School. Cllr Patrick and I went this year and were again impressed by the interest and enthusiasm of the students in finding out about the Parish and Borough Councils and how they can get involved in protecting the environment in Breaston and beyond. Hopefully, they will be displaying one of Erewash's Anti-Idling banners outside their school very soon!

Over the past year at Erewash Borough Council I put forward the motion to support The Anti-Idling campaign which was passed unanimously. I also put forward a motion for the Council to cease its use of the social media platform X because of its poor record of

moderation regarding hate speech and misogyny, which was carried with only 2 votes against. I have pressured the Council to follow through on the motion to make recordings of all meetings available on YouTube as voted through on a motion carried 2 years ago! I also voted in favour of a motion to increase the size of the grants available to parish councils from the Erewash Investment Fund.

I am on the Planning Committee alongside Cllr Miller and I'm sure he won't mind my saying that I think we are sometimes considered 'the awkward squad' as neither of us are afraid to ask difficult questions and vote against the officers' recommendations. Cllr Scott (Draycott and Risley) and I were very relieved earlier this year when the appeal into the Refusal of planning permission, proposed and seconded by us, for the fast food outlets on Junction 25 roundabout was dismissed. The officers had recommended Approval and had the appeal been won the Council would have been liable for costs.

In addition to the Planning Committee, I am on the Licensing Committee and am vice-Chair of the Climate Change Working Group. The CCWG is a cross-party group driving forward the Council's Climate Change Strategy. My current focus in the group is to ensure that all new houses are built to be affordable and sustainable to run, with appropriate renewable energy sources on-site, high levels of insulation and more than one EV charging point per dwelling. We also need to pressure developers into including the biodiversity net gain in the local area, not remotely, so the benefit is felt by those living in and around any development.

The proposed development of the Westernmere School site will be an important issue in the coming year and I look forward to hearing residents' views at the meeting on 2 June.

If you have any issues you would like to discuss or need support with please contact me: ann.mills@erewash.gov.uk

Cllr Ann Mills
Green Party Councillor
Erewash Borough Council Breaston Ward