

Report from County Councillor Martin Foley – July 2022

Although understandably Highways has been a major part of our conversations around Broxted over the last twelve months, As you might expect I have been involved in most aspects of ECC matters, for instance....

Youth

I was made Chair of The Youth Strategy Group (Uttlesford Area) and have ECC/UDC outreach workers liaison, Youth Clubs, Drugs Issues and Youth Funding etc. It may surprise you that funding on youth in ECC has since 2010 been cut by 78% and I have been speaking out against this , tabling motions and getting cross party agreement for a review which has already some success with extra funding going to youth projects. This is at a time when there are concerns about children's mental health post covid cost of living crisis looming and online bullying.

My motion was the subject of a BBC Radio Essex programme recently which if you are interested can hear on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0c2hw92> . From about 17.45 to 35.00 is the main part.

Health

I am involved with Health Committees at ECC and have been highlighting the terrible delays at A&E particularly in Harlow this year which as well as keeping my parishes updated with Covid details up until recently.

Part of my County Ward looks towards Chelmsford and Harlow as the local go-to hospitals whilst other parts look to Cambridge. Together with Dr Mike Tayler and County Cllr Gadd of Saffron Walden we pressed and got agreement that residents will have the choice to go to either still, as it looked at one point everybody in UDC would all go to the same.

Crime

My County Ward is one of the most rural and has been particularly targeted by road drain cover thieves and the stealing of catalectic converters this year. If you became aware of either please contact the police, in the case of drain covers, ECC Highways as well. I have met most of the police now in my 18 parish councils and found them helpful.

Education

In the Autumn I will be visiting local schools with ECC officers and in some cases UDC officers with some environmental projects that we are putting together right now.

Adult social care

Here is a huge part of ECC work...personally I feel we need to respond much better to increasing social care demands within this new challenging financial environment – by being innovative and resourceful in finding more sustainable solutions to social care, working together across parties and with other agencies to meet the real needs of our residents.

Cllr Martin Foley.