



# Winstanley Ward Community News (Incorporating Leicester Forest East)

News From Your Independent Town & Parish Councillor David J. Di Palma



Expressing Personal Views (Unless Stated Otherwise)

**"To triumph over adversity is our greatest strength"**

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## Hello.

Many thanks for voting for me in the 2019 Local Elections. The turnout in the Local Elections across the district of Blaby was only 28%. The turnout somewhat disappointing but not particularly surprising considering the Brexit situation. I was honoured and delighted to have been nominated by residents across the district to stand as the Independent Candidate for Winstanley Ward, Blaby District. I very much enjoyed the election experience, made many new contacts and forged new friendships and whilst I am slightly disappointed with not being elected for Blaby District Council I am delighted to announce that I am the new Parish Councillor for Leicester Forest East in addition to being the Town Councillor for Winstanley Ward, Braunstone Town. During the election campaign I met many people from all walks of life who had lost confidence with our democratic process and were understandably disappointed with the way in which the great Brexit Debate has been handled. During the referendum I neither campaigned to remain nor to leave the EU but none the less I'm disappointed with the mainstream politicians across the political spectrum for being somewhat out of touch with the feelings of the electorate on the doorsteps in respect of the Brexit Situation and with other important issues such as knife crime and opportunities for local businesses. Myself and my campaign team met with many business leaders to discuss their concerns and their hopes for the future. Now the elections are over, due to popular demand, we have decided to expand the community newsletter which was established in 2014 for the residents of a Sheltered Housing Complex in Radford Drive, Braunstone Town, to now include residents across the Winstanley Ward of Braunstone Town and Leicester Forest East. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep you informed of the work myself and my support team are doing on your behalf in addition to promoting; diversity, equality and freedoms, and to raise awareness of difficult subjects including hidden disabilities and all forms of hidden abuse. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to get involved by volunteering to help to improve the neighbourhoods that I have been elected to serve. We would also be delighted to receive your improvement suggestions for this newsletter.

**Committee Appointments** I'm delighted to have been appointed to the Community Development Committee at Braunstone Town Council for the fifth consecutive time and to have been appointed to Finance/Policies/Life Committee, Parks, Halls and Events Committee, Planning, Trees and Highways Committee and the Neighbourhood Development Plan Committee at Leicester Forest East Parish Council. I look forward to serving parishioners in the years ahead. Please make contact with me if you'd like to meet with me or discuss any issues you may have.

**Special Thanks to my Councillor Colleagues** . I was born in 1968, and I am a survivor of all forms of abuse including domestic, physical, mental and sexual abuse I have an acquired brain injury disability, consequently many tasks that people find relatively easy I find extremely difficult. Producing this newsletter takes me many hours. As a consequence of my disability I am supported by a team of care and support professionals. My Support Team assist me with tasks and council meetings. **At the recent annual general meeting of Braunstone Town Council, I suffered a suspected stroke, during which I sustained a fall and bang to the head. My councillor colleagues and the staff at Braunstone Town Council were very supportive and I am very grateful.** The suspected stroke was caused by over tiredness with the electioneering and stress associated with being on the receiving end of abuse. My election leaflet raised awareness of some difficult issues and I was very pleased to have been approached by a number of people during and after the campaign to praise me for raising awareness of abuse and hidden disabilities. If you were effected by any of the issues I raised during the election campaign please make contact with me, I may be able to personally help you or signpost you to relevant service providers .

**PLEASE HELP THE ENVIRONMENT: PLEASE PUT THIS NEWSLETTER INTO THE RECYCLING BIN WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED WITH IT.**

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