

# NEWS - JUNE 2020 – Scheme Edition

Dear all, I hope this letter finds you well considering the ongoing pandemic. I am sure you will join me in spending a few moments to think about the people who have lost their lives, the lives of their families and friends that have been changed forever through the coronavirus that has swept the world with an unrelenting speed and force. With the UK death toll having now surpassed forty-three thousand I'm sure we all know someone who has had the virus and recovered or had the virus and sadly passed away, the pandemic really does make me realise that I'm so extremely fortunate to have a roof over my head, be relatively well and happy and to be living in a close-knit community. We won't always agree on the same things and we may not always get along with one another, but especially when a crisis occurs, we look out for one another regardless of differences and I think that's something to cherish. I guess, like many people, I will probably never know if I've had the virus or not unless I get tested and I've so far remained feeling well and had no symptoms and continue to follow the government guidelines on staying safe. Considering the situation forced upon us it is heart-warming to see our frontline key workers putting themselves at risk by working extremely hard throughout this pandemic, it continues to be an honour and privilege to continue to serve alongside them, through the pandemic, supporting vulnerable people in my councillor roles and my business enterprises. Holistically I think we will emerge from this pandemic stronger as a community and with closer links. 2020 will be remembered as the year we put aside differences and united as one to look out for one another, supporting each other through the most difficult time in generations. As an elected councillor for Braunstone Town and Leicester Forest East, I, continued to put my personal health circumstances at risk to support residents and businesses across the districts, as many other people have done, aided by my personal care and support team. They support me to support you, the community. What are you most looking forward to when the restrictions are fully lifted? A visit to the pub? A coffee with friends? Or maybe just a walk in the park with a large group of people, maybe a return to worship? I'm sure many of you may be feeling anxious about a return to 'normality' (whatever the definition of normality is) after being in isolation for many months, I want to take this opportunity to reassure you that you are not alone and if I can help in any way please don't hesitate to contact me at any time. A member of my support team or I will assist you if we can. My telephone number is 07594 419 570 and my email address is [always@askddp.uk](mailto:always@askddp.uk)

**APPOINTMENTS** The way in which council meetings have taken place has had to change in light of the coronavirus outbreak. This has meant new legislation in respect of meetings had to be passed. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England & Wales) Regulations 2020, considered the needs of councils and the way in which they carried out their business and consequently it was passed that meetings could take place remotely via video and web conferencing software. I found the experience daunting at first but having now attended a few meetings with both councils I actually prefer the format and find that more members of the public take part which is brilliant. I am pleased to announce that for the Parish Year of 2020 to 2021 the committees I will serve remain unchanged and therefore I am, as always, on hand to support you in the following areas of interest including and not restricted to; Community Development, Covid 19 Community Support & Associated Tasks, Parks, Halls and Events, Planning Applications, Trees and Highways, Affordable and Social/Sheltered Housing.

**SCHEME NEWS** Having listened to all sides of the debate in respect of parking concerns and proposed restrictions I am pleased to confirm that I have made contact with councillor colleagues, local authorities concerned and the housing provider's appropriate person for an update & for constructive, open dialogue. These issues will be progressed by the persons responsible for the proposals and an update will be provided to residents in due course. I'm sure you will have noticed the improvements that the external contractors have been making in respect of external painting works to the bungalows and associated out buildings on Radford Drive. The painters have done a brilliant job and the improvements have lifted morale at a difficult time. If you have any contributions, you'd like to make to future editions of this newsletter please let me know. As always, I actively encourage and welcome your suggestions for improvement and inclusion.

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## **NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR – DAVID DI PALMA –**

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