

Good evening,

This is your Chair's report for 2025. It has been a very productive year for the East Goscote Parish Council.

Council and Staff

We welcomed a new Councillor, Miss Shayna Harper, to the Council this year.

Cllr David Cannon and Cllr Sue Gerrard both stepped down, and we thank them sincerely for their contributions. David continues to support Greener Goscote.

At present, the Council has seven Councillors and three vacancies.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the excellent work of the Council's staff.

Our Deputy Clerk, Charlotte Turlington, has worked incredibly hard this year and achieved both the CILCA qualification and a carbon literacy certification.

Liz Pizer, our Clerk, continues to work reduced hours but ensures the legal duties of the Council are met. She also is our responsible financial officer and staff line manager.

Our office staff play a vital role in enabling the Council to deliver for our village.

Charlie Cadle retired this year after nine years of dedicated service. He has been succeeded by Matthew Stinchcombe, who now works alongside Paul Harper to maintain the village to a high standard.

A heartfelt thank you to all staff and Councillors for their contributions this year.

Planning Applications

The Council considered nine planning applications this year.

Redrow Homes have not yet begun building on the Melton Road site, which remains at the Reserved Matters stage. Work will commence once Charnwood Borough Council approves the proposed housing mix.

Village Facilities

The tennis court remains popular following its refurbishment. Annual membership runs from May 1st and costs just £10 for residents—excellent value.

The Sports Pavilion hosts our football teams which consists of one senior team, Under 16's, under 13's and under 12's. We also have a small pitch for the under 7's.

The Council manage three play areas which are located at the Mound, The Village Green and Lilac Way. A new surf rider has been installed at the village green play area. Annual professional inspections are scheduled for April, and both staff and Councillors are undergoing playground inspection training.

Dog Fouling

Dog fouling continues to be a common complaint, despite the wide availability of bins and the sale of thousands of poo bags.



Dog bags are sold at the library for £1 per pack of fifty, with all profits supporting the library.

Allowing dogs to foul without cleaning up is unacceptable. We urge residents to report incidents to Charnwood via the QR code that links to the "Dog Problems" page.

Neighbourhood Watch



Cllr Harris is now the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator. More volunteers are needed.

Interested residents can join via the QR code provided to receive updates and safety tips.

Snow Warden Scheme

East Goscote Parish Council participates in the County Council's Snow Warden Scheme. This provides salt and funding to clear snow and ice in hazardous areas of the village.

Tree Work

Our Tree Warden, Mr Richard Peberdy, has gained valuable knowledge about tree care and attended a hedge-laying course. He collected new hedge whips and has thickened out the playing field hedge.

Police Beat Surgeries

These are held at the Community Library and Village Hall. Dates are available on our website for anyone wishing to speak with the police.

Remembrance Sunday

Cllr Needham represented the Council at the Remembrance service. The event was also marked by placing poppies on lampposts throughout the village and this year we purchased a "Tommy" silhouette which was installed at the front of the Church.

Christmas Event

A successful event was held in December 2024 for residents aged sixty-five and over. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to all who helped organise and support the event.

Community Assets

The Parish Council has applied to Charnwood Borough Council to list The Plough and its car park as a Community Asset. We await the outcome.

Flooding in East Goscote

On January 6, 2025, East Goscote experienced the worst flooding in its history. Parish staff, supported by residents, distributed our entire stock of hydro-snakes and gel bags.

The Resilience Group provided affected households with information leaflets and contact details. Charnwood Borough Council has since replenished our flood supplies and will provide a grant for a storage container for emergency use and flooding stock.

Flood-related updates and resources are now available on our new Facebook Resilience page.

Website

Our website continues to offer user-friendly access to a wealth of local information. New pages have been added which include Wildlife and Nature in East Goscote, Village events and activities, and tackling Climate Change. It is well worth having a browse!

Action Plan 2025/2026

The Parish Council have produced an action plan for 2025/26 which is available in full on our website. It includes sections on Policy and Finance, Community engagement, village maintenance, biodiversity, and community resilience.

Other organisations working in partnership with the Parish Council

❖ Greener Goscote

This group of dedicated volunteers supports environmental projects such as litter picks, tree, and wildflower planting, and maintaining the recycling centre. Their efforts enhance the beauty and sustainability of our village.

❖ Long Furrow Magazine

This long-standing magazine continues to be published quarterly. Charlotte Turlington has taken over as Editor and is doing a fantastic job.

Ian Clarke, the long-serving Treasurer, has retired—we thank him and wish him well.

The current committee includes John Malpus, David Cannon, Carren Tate, and Shayna Harper. Thanks also to Gareth Roberts for his design work and support to the Editor. Volunteer distributors are always welcome—contact details are available in the Long Furrow magazine.

The Council continues to support the publication with an annual donation.

❖ East Goscote Library

The *East Goscote Community Library Annual Report (2024–2025)* highlights a year of continued community engagement and successful volunteer-led operation. With Richard Kyle taking over as Chair of Trustees in April 2024 and a new trustee, Jackie Woodward, joining in July, the library's governance saw positive changes. The dedicated team of twenty volunteers, including five Duke of Edinburgh students, ensured uninterrupted service throughout the year. Although weekly footfall dipped slightly to an average of seventy-one visitors, the library maintained strong community ties through visits from local schools and the success of programs like the Summer Reading Scheme and Romp and Rhyme sessions.

On the financial side, the library remained stable, with a closing balance of £23,186.60 as of March 2025. Fundraising efforts—including item sales (notably jigsaw puzzles), coffee mornings, and seasonal events like Santa's visit and the Christmas raffle—proved vital, bringing in several hundred pounds. The local history exhibition also contributed to funds and community interest. Though energy bills continue to be a significant cost, the library is closely monitoring expenses. Overall, the report reflects a resilient, well-supported library playing a meaningful role in its community.

❖ East Goscote Village Hall

The Parish Council are trustees of the village hall and support them with an annual donation. The committee work extremely hard to keep the hall in pristine condition always trying to improve its facilities – in 2024/5 they painted and re-tiled the kitchen.

They have set up two well supported groups. These are the weekly table tennis group and the monthly bingo sessions. The committee are arranging a VE Day event on 8th May with an afternoon tea and singalong.

Next Year's Projects

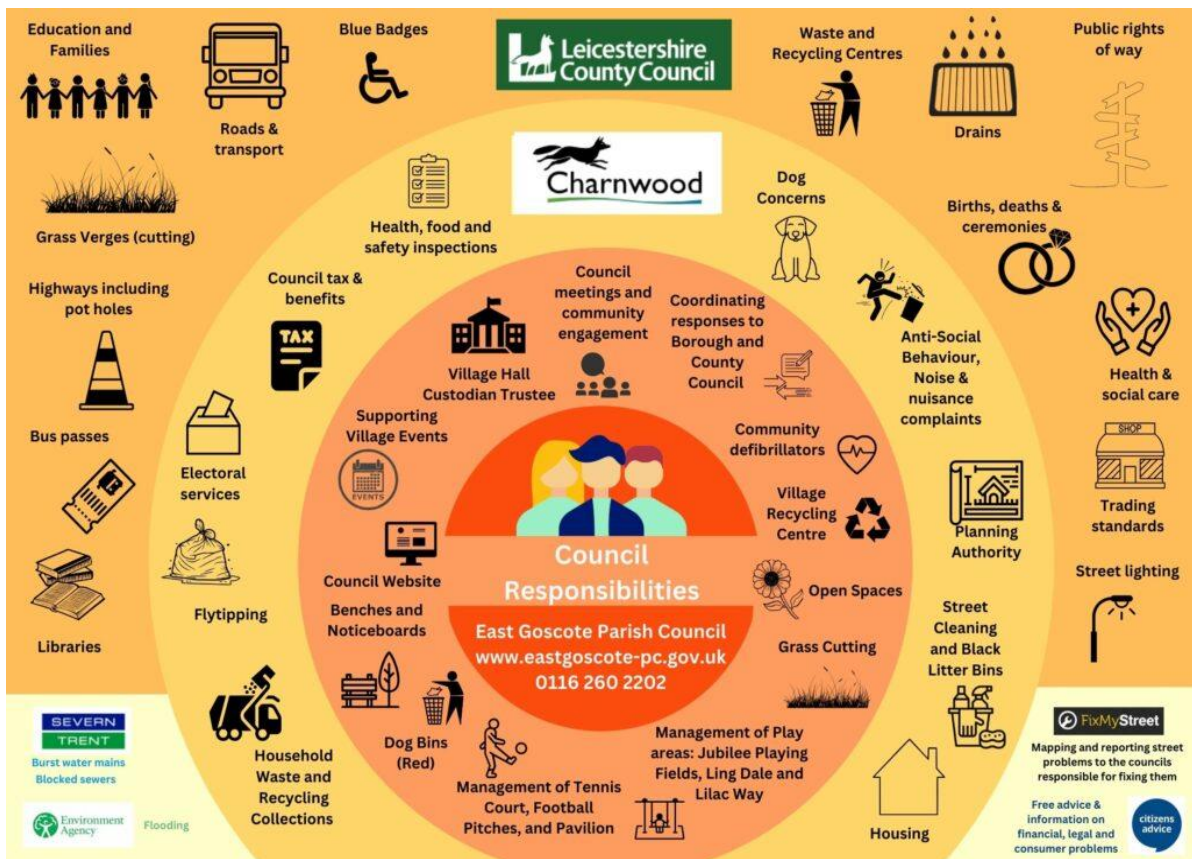
Looking ahead, our goals include:

- Replacing the sports pavilion doors
- Exploring the purchase of a new Council vehicle
- Replacing the noticeboard opposite the playing field
- Planting additional bulbs on the Melton Road frontage
- Refurbishing the village sign
- Updating play equipment surfacing
- Hosting another Christmas event for elderly residents

Thank You

My sincere thanks to all Parish Councillors, our County Councillor Mr. Poland, and our MP Mr. Argar for their continued support. Special thanks to our staff for their dedication and expertise.

Below is a diagram indicating the services conducted by each authority.



Laurie Needham
Chair