

Good evening,

This is your Chair's report for 2026. It has been a very productive year for the East Goscote Parish Council.

Council and Staff

We welcomed a new Councillor, Mrs Julia Bolton, to the Council this year and unfortunately Mrs Shayna Harper left.

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 completing various training courses, achieving a grant from the National Lottery for new village hall windows and securing funding for an EV charger at the village hall.

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. Liz secured a grant for new play equipment safety surfacing from the National Lottery this year and worked with Charnwood Borough Council to install the flood store and required contents. Our office staff play a vital role in enabling the Council to deliver for our village.

Our Caretakers Matthew Stinchcombe and Paul Harper work especially hard 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 12 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 £11 for residents—excellent value. The Court raised an income of £620 this year.

The Sports Pavilion hosts our football teams which consists of one senior team, Under 18's, under 13's and under 7/8's.

The Council manage three play areas which are located at the Mound, The Village Green and Lilac Way. An insurance claim at the village green play area was made this year due to vandalism of the safety surfacing. Annual professional inspections are

scheduled for May, and both staff and Councillors are undergoing playground inspection training. Both play areas at the mound saw new safety surfacing installed during March 2026.

Dog Fouling



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 continues to monitor our village trees and hedges. A professional inspection of our village trees was undertaken in February 2026.

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

I represented the Council at the Remembrance service. The event was also marked by placing poppies on lampposts throughout the village and this year “Tommy” silhouettes were installed at the front of the village hall.

Christmas Event

A successful event was held in December 2025 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 was successful in applying to Charnwood Borough Council to list The Plough and its car park as a Community Asset.

Flooding in East Goscote

On January 6, 2025, East Goscote experienced the worst flooding in its history. Parish staff, supported by residents, distributed our stock of hydro-snakes and gel bags. This year the Parish council have worked very hard to ensure that the County Council/Severn Trent have cleared blocked drains and gullies and our flood wardens have closely monitored the brook levels including reporting any fallen trees to the environment agencies etc

The Resilience Group also re-issued information leaflets and contact details to over 300 properties in October 2025 and the office set up a resilience Facebook page which is now incorporated into the Parish Council Facebook page.

Charnwood Borough Council has since provided a grant for a storage container for emergency use and flooding stock. This is now in place, so we are better prepared for any future flooding incident. The Council has also applied for funds from Leics County Council to provide Air brick covers to properties who have completed the application form. We await the outcome.

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! We hope to migrate to a new website provider this year.

The Mound

Dice Environmental were commissioned by Charnwood Borough Council to carry out proposed fieldwork involving the excavation of trial pits (see below for proposed areas) through the mounds to identify the underlying bunker structures at depth. Following the exposure of said concrete structures, several concrete cores were advanced to determine their condition and integrity. Soil samples were also collected for chemical analysis. **The works took place on 9th and 10th September 2025**

The Clerk met the Surveyor on site and his assessment of the roof structure, based on initial findings from two core drills, **indicates a robust and well-preserved construction**. The roof, measuring a **substantial 480mm in thickness**, is **reinforced with steel** and shows **no signs of deterioration such as orange tinting or crumbling**, which are often indicators of damage or weakness in concrete. **A camera inspection revealed minor water presence with no infill of rubble**, suggesting the building

remains sound and potentially free from major structural issues. The Surveyor humorously described the structure as “pretty bombproof,” highlighting its durability. He **expressed confidence in its safety**, having used a 3-tonne digger without any concerns about the structure's integrity. A full report is available at the Parish Council Office. **Overall, this is excellent news for the Parish Council.**



Action Plan 2025/2026

The Parish Council produced an action plan for 2025/26 and achieved most of the actions. A new plan 2026/27 which is now 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/East Goscote Eco Hub
This group of dedicated volunteers supported environmental projects such as litter picks, tree, and wildflower planting. Their efforts enhance the beauty and sustainability of our village. In April 2026 they relinquished their licences with the parish council and reformed. They are now known as East Goscote Eco Hub where people can exchange ideas and experiences, seek and offer help, equipment and advice.
- ❖ 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. The current committee includes John Malpus, David Cannon, Carren Tate. 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 (2026–2027)* highlights a year of continued community engagement and successful volunteer-led operation with Richard Kyle as Chair of Trustees. The dedicated team of 23 volunteers ensured uninterrupted service throughout the year. There are currently 6 trustees. Weekly footfall is at an average of 80 visitors per week

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 2025/6 they installed new triple glazed windows funded by a National Lottery grant.

They have set up three well supported groups. These are the weekly table tennis group, monthly bingo sessions and new this year is the New Age Kurling group.

The committee have secured some funding towards lowering the ceiling with a suspended tile type ceiling and hope to have this work carried out in the Spring of 2026.

They also secured funding to install an EV charger which is available to everyone in the village hall car park.

Next Year's Projects

Looking ahead, our goals include:

- Exploring the purchase of a new Council vehicle
- Hosting another Christmas event for elderly residents
- Managing the mowing contract of all the LCC owned land and verges

Thank You

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

Laurie Needham
Chair