

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Dear Whilton Residents,

I am fast approaching the end of my first year as a District Councillor, I can honestly say it has been a whirlwind learning experience. I will continue to strongly represent the residents of the ward in the coming 12 months.

The last year has seen a tremendous amount of District Councillors time spent on a large number of major planning applications. A good proportion of these applications have been speculative and taking advantage of the lack of 5 year land supply within the Daventry District. I am pleased to confirm that Daventry District now has a land supply in excess of the 5 year requirement, this I hope will stem the flow of speculative applications in our villages.

The 2014/15 Council year has seen me attending meetings where decisions have been made to promote matters such as a District wide energy switching scheme, new affordable housing schemes, social housing, and a credit union. I have also been involved with some village neighbourhood plans, these plans are a great way for a village to be fully involved in shaping their community in the years to come. I would encourage all villages to consider putting one together.

I can confirm that during the past year I have not claimed any expenses in discharging my duties as your District Councillor. I will continue to use my allowance over the coming year to best represent all the villages across the Weedon Ward.

In December, the Councils new Joint Core Strategy plan was finally adopted. Following adoption of the strategy a new community infrastructure levy (CIL) should follow by the end of June 2015. This should provide more funding for infrastructure projects in the district. DDC will also be formulating a new local plan which will involve each village in the district giving your local parish council and residents more influence on how the village changes in the future.

The DDC offices now have a good income from the solar panels on the roof. The new Rugby Crematorium is open for business providing a valuable service to the local communities as well as a good return on the DDC's investment.

Finally I would like to thank everybody for the excellent turnout and support at the last election and hope that you will once again support our team of District Councillors for a further term on May 7<sup>th</sup> this year.

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