

August 2022 Report from Borough Councillor Bill Crooks

Statistics

The population of the Borough in the latest estimate is 111,370 with the councils housing flow reconciliation returns, sent to Central Government showing 49,845 homes.

The population is overwhelmingly White British (94.6%). Almost 90% of the borough is Rural and 60% of the working population are employed within the manufacturing and Hospitality Industries.

The Local Borough Council consists of 34 Councillors serving 24 Parish's. The Council operates a Cabinet style structure called the executive and this executive consists of 7 councillors each with an executive portfolio.

The Officers are headed by a Chief Executive and recently we have reduced the directors down to two.

Housing

The council runs a Housing Register, Applicants to this register are 67% Female. Over 60% of applications include children. The majority of applicants prefer accommodation in Hinckley, Burbage, Barwell & Earl Shilton. Over 23% on the applicants advised they have a disability. A housing needs survey carried out in 2019 (for the local plan) assessed the need for 271 new affordable homes per year up to 2036 to be able to meet the need. The Rent for affordable homes on new sites, are up to 80% of local market rents. These are higher than the rents for a Council property but less than rent from private landlords.

The Council currently have 3220 council homes. On average 220 properties become empty every year. The council have some agreements between registered Providers with the majority RP vacancies advertised through the 'Choice Bases Lettings Scheme' . In 2021 there was 2704 applications, but the majority of these were not completed by the applicant. 576 applications were successful. 12% were ineligible.

Planning

Applications are in the pipeline for another site in Newbold Verdon for up to 300 houses. This will put the figure to over 500 new properties. The application for the Solar Farm was given permission at the last Planning Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd August most councillors voted to support the application and 3 councillors abstained. Nailstone Parish Council were represented, but Osbaston and Barlestone did not send anyone.

