

# PRESS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

## **Villages Unite to Demand Action on Traffic and Infrastructure Crisis**

A coalition of 16 Parish Councils, known as **Villages Together**, has issued an urgent open letter to Leicestershire County Council, local planning authorities, and police commanders, calling for a fundamental rethink of how traffic and infrastructure impacts are assessed in relation to the wave of major housing and commercial developments across the area.

The group warns that current traffic assessments are “fundamentally flawed,” examining and approving developments in isolation and failing to account for the **true cumulative impact** on local roads, safety, health, and wellbeing.

“Our villages are already frequently gridlocked at peak times and have become rat runs at all hours of the day and night. Roads built for horse and cart now carry HGVs, tankers, and tractors, while narrow pavements force pedestrians, wheelchair users, and mobility scooters into the road. To continue approving developments without proper cumulative impact assessments is to put residents at unacceptable risk,” said Philip Tenwick, Chair of Ratby Parish Council, speaking on behalf of the coalition.

### **Villages Together is calling for:**

- A comprehensive traffic assessment process to ensure cumulative and long-term impacts are fully considered.
- Resident safety and wellbeing to be prioritised above development targets.
- Independent, transparent, and collaborative traffic studies reflecting the lived reality of congestion and road use.
- Proper monitoring of pollution levels, including particulate matter (PM1 and above).

The group also highlights the lack of supporting infrastructure — with too few doctors, schools, shops, and essential services — forcing residents to travel further and worsening congestion and pollution.

The open letter has been sent to senior figures at Leicestershire County Council, planning heads in Blaby, Charnwood, and Hinckley & Bosworth, and local police commanders. It is also copied to Peter Bedford, MP for Mid Leicestershire and Dr. Luke Evans MP for Hinckley & Bosworth

**Villages Together** says it stands ready to meet with County Hall leaders to agree on sustainable and fair solutions.

### **Signatories**


- Signed on behalf of Villages Together by **Philip Tenwick (Chair, Ratby Parish Council)**.
  - Also supported by multiple Parish Council Chairs and County/Borough Councillors from villages including Leicester Forest East, Groby, Kirby Muxloe, Glenfield, Markfield, Desford, Enderby, Newbold Verdon, Narborough, Newtown Linford, and Kirby Mallory Peckleton Stapleton, Woodhouse, Cossington, Barlstone, Glen Parva
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## **ENDS**

### **For further information, please contact:**

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