

Agenda item 37

District Cllrs Karen Roberts and Peter Harris Report for June 2024

Details are on the Council's website - see **The Council - Calendar of Meetings** for links to each of the papers and reports. However, please note that June 3 was not a Bank holiday as indicated on the N&SDC Calendar.

Cabinet meetings since our last report

The Cabinet have reviewed its Grants to major volunteer groups in the District. They have moved to a three year finding regime for the five groups, but will not be continuing support for the Nots and Lincs Credit Union and the Community Hub providing play support in Hawtonville.

There is a proposal to site the 'Kidney Stones' at Castle House. The stones were previously at the old Staythorpe Power Station - sculpted by local sculptor Robert Kiddey in the 1920's. It is proposed to erect them outside the N&SDC offices in Newark for a cost of around £80k.

Every local authority was obliged by the 2006 Act to 'have regard' to 'conserving biodiversity', strengthened in 2021 requiring an initial 'first consideration' by Jan 2024. This deadline was missed, so the report starts the process to develop its Biodiversity Report and implantation in the next few years. We will report on what actions will arise from this process.

The next tranche of government funding Sherwood Levelling Up 3 - Update 2 - Ollerton and Clipstone of around £20,000,000 is now being considered with plans being developed for the two town centres, but just under £1,000,000 will be added by the N&SDC to this fund.

The Government's plans for the A46 Newark Bypass have been released. This plan will be looked at as a national project - so there will be no decisions taken by the Planning Committee on its implementation - although the N&SDC is being consulted as a land owner on its location.

The Planning Committee now allows a limited involvement of members of the public, with one invited speaker from the public - and this has been welcomed by the Southwell's Civic Society Community Involvement. When a developer has private 'pre-application' discussions with the planning authority, planners now must consider involving local members in these discussions. Previously this was only 'should' and local councillors were very rarely involved.

The District Council has received a Swimming Pool Support Fund Capital Grant of £187,539 towards utility costs over the three years 2021/22 to 2023/24 for its three swimming pool locations, and subsequently has been awarded a capital grant of £61,356 under Phase 2 towards the costs of replacement pool covers and LED lighting at but only for the new pool built in Newark.

Council meeting

Peter Harris asked a question about the local support for Speedwatch. The previous Police & Crime Commissioner appears to have directed that this should not happen. So, this support appears to have ended. The Council replied to say that it was reinstating support and this welcome news will be passed to Speedwatch volunteers.

The Council passed an amended motion on flooding issues in the District to strengthen flood alleviation works in new developments.

The Council re-appointed its Committee members, with few changes. Peter Harris was reappointed as Chair of the Finance and Governance Committee. It did not appoint its six Trustees to the Southwell leisure Centre Trust, so Karen Roberts and Peter Harris are no longer Trustees - as are the other N&SDC recently appointed Trustees.

A plan for a new 'gateway' approach to the Newark Castle next to the Trent Bridge - with significant initial development support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund of £1.3m to plan the project - will cost over £5.5m.

Karen Roberts and Peter Harris

District Council Report June 2024 -Cllr Penny Rainbow

May 21st was the first meeting of the new Council year.

Cllr Jean Hall was elected as the new chairman for the year. Cllr Hall sits as an Independent for Newark councillor and represents the Balderton South ward.

Cllr Linda Tift was elected as vice chairman. Cllr Tift is a Labour member and represents the Rainworth North and Rufford ward of the District.

I congratulated Cllr Hall on her appointment and asked whether it was her intention to reintroduce prayers prior to the start of Full Council meetings.

Last year's Chairman, Cllr Celia Brooks was the first person to abandon the tradition of starting the meeting with prayers.

Cllr Hall informed me that she had no intention of reintroducing prayers.

It would appear that some residents still have not had a glass recycling bin delivered to their property. I have reported this on a few occasions.

The advice I am now receiving is for residents still wanting a glass bin, is for you to either ring or email NSDC to make a request, give your name and address, so you can hopefully have a bin delivered in the near future.

Some addresses have had 2 bins delivered, this can be reported to NSDC so the extra bin can be collected.

The Cabinet meeting held on 4th June considered a report to site the Kiddey Stones at Castle House.

I'm sure like me you are wondering what the Kiddey Stones are and why NSDC should entertain the idea of siting such stones outside Castle House at a cost of £81,240.00.

The report explains that Robert Kiddey was a sculptor. The stones, in the ownership of Newark Town Council, have lain under tarpaulin in Newark cemetery for around 40 years.

If this scheme is to go ahead, it will see 12 pieces of stone forming 4 panels of 3 pieces each.

The individual tables measure just over 2m in height and 1m in width. The tablets are carved from sandstone. They each need to be carefully moved, cleaned and erected within a frame brickwork, matching that of Castle House, and safely erected in position.

All cabinet members, with one exception (Cllr Rhonda Holloway con) voted to approve the design and location of the stones to be installed at Castle House at a cost of £81,240.00.

A period of public consultation is to follow to enable residents and stakeholders to have their views heard.

A report will be brought back to cabinet in September.

The public consultation document will be available on the NSDC website.