

District Cllrs Karen Roberts and Peter Harris Report for October 2024

Details are on the Council's website - see The Council - Calendar of Meetings for links to each of the papers and reports.

Policy and Policy Improvement Committee Sept 2

The University of Nottingham/NCC's Green Awards' programme is revived but only accessible via a mobile phone app with 2 x £20 'winners' per month. There are 611 members in N&SDC. Data is self administered without any significant audit

The 'footfall' monitor for dwell time in Southwell is installed and will be reported on. There are a number of performance reports that are below target - and these are being monitored and addressed.

The Residents' Panel is being reconstituted and the P&PIC will report back.

The Committee heard a briefing from the Portfolio Holder - Public Protection and Community Relations, and considered the placement of the Kidney Stones at Castle House and the Council's digital strategy

The next meeting of the Committee will hear from Councillor Rowan Cozens - Portfolio Holder – Heritage, Culture and the Arts, and discuss the Tenant Engagement Strategy and Food Waste

Planning Committee Sept 5 and Oct 3

The Vineries [the 6th iteration of the plans - after the Outline application for this Allocated Site was agreed - was considered at the Sept 8 meeting. It is very disappointing that the developers, Cameron Homes, and the land owners, including Sir John Starkey and others [all of whom are listed on the publicly available application papers], did not engage with the residents to consider how to take this application forward. They put forward each changed plan - with slight adjustments - but no comprehensive review in response to the Southwell Neighbourhood Plan and local residents' views.

Local matters referred to the Committee may be taken on Oct 3, the Agenda has not been published at the time of reporting back

Active for Today [Leisure provision] Sept 10

A report from A4T was not very specific on the implications of the closure of swimming at Southwell. However, over 13,000 under 16's sessions have been lost, with 500 fewer child members. Adult membership are just 200 down. However, as a result of the closure of swimming in Southwell and the significant reduction of cost of pool utilities, plus other cost reductions it seems that A4T will make a loss of just £139,000 compared with over £4k last year. Previously, pre-Covid the SLC made a surplus of £100k a year - whilst A4T lost over £6k in 2020-1. The cost of gas is just half of the previous year's cost.

A4T also employ Community Development Officers who support sports clubs in the area. Clubs are encouraged to work with these staff to support their activities including grant applications. There is a limited grant scheme for Clubs to develop their membership. There has been limited reported engagement with Clubs from our Ward

Cabinet meeting Sept 10 and 24

There will be a review of the Community Plan. Much, if not all of the N&SDC's capital spend has been in Newark and will be in Ollerton and Clipstone, due to the previous Government's decisions. The former is controlled by a Town Board, and the latter will be soon too. Support for future initiatives in the Ward will depend, highly, on engagement with the Plan, which we will encourage.

The Council's discretionary Disabled Facilities Grant for privately owned housing is increased from £20,000 to £30,000 and the Minor Works Grant funding increased from £5,000 to £10,000.

As a result of reductions in government funding, the Council forecasted a financial deficit, back in 2021, to impact budgets from 2023/24 onwards. To tackle this deficit the Council identified areas where additional income could be made and/or savings could be achieved without impacting the quality of service delivery. Details of these changes - that could, without Government support - mean £3m per year by 2028 that will have to be taken from the Council's reserves, will be reported as they are being considered.

Cabinet reports on Land at Hall Farm, Edingley and the Southwell Leisure Centre remain secret, as do a significant number of other reports.

Audit and Governance Committee Sept 25

Reviewed the complaints process of the District Council; one that is also used for investigation into reports of complaints at the parish and town councils.

Full Council Oct 15

the Agenda has not been published at the time of reporting back

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