

COUNCIL

Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield,

on Thursday, 13th February, 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Tony Brewer in the Chair;

Councillors John Baird, Chris Baron, Ciaran Brown, Christian Chapman, Samantha Deakin, Andy Gascoyne, Dale Grounds, Arnie Hankin, Andrew Harding, David Hennigan, Tom Hollis, Trevor Locke, Rachel Madden, David Martin, Andy Meakin, Lauren Mitchell, Keir Morrison, Warren Nuttall, Matthew Relf, Kevin Rostance, Phil Rostance, Dave Shaw, John Smallridge, Helen-Ann Smith, David Walters, Lee Waters, Caroline Wilkinson, Daniel Williamson, John Wilmott and Jason Zadrozny.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Kier Barsby, Jim Blagden, Melanie Darrington and Sarah Madigan.

Officers Present: Lynn Cain, Carol Cooper-Smith, Ruth Dennis, Peter Hudson, Mike Joy, Paul Parkinson, Abbie Smith and Shane Wright.

C.56 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

C.57 Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 26 September and 24 October 2019, as now submitted, be received and approved.

C.58 Announcements from the Chairman, Leader, Members of the Cabinet and the Head of Paid Service

No announcements were made.

C.59 Questions from the Public

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, the following question had been submitted by Mr. Peter Housley, Commodore Sutton in Ashfield Sailing Club.

To the Portfolio Holder for Place, Planning and Regeneration:

“What are the long term plans for the site currently occupied by Sutton-in-Ashfield Sailing Club at Kings Mill reservoir?”

The Portfolio Holder for Place, Planning and Regeneration, Councillor Matthew Relf, responded to the question as follows:-

“Thank you, Chair. We are working on changing the layout of the current area occupied by the Sailing Club, and adjoining areas to increase access for existing and new visitors to the reservoir. There are no long term plans for the site currently occupied by Sutton-in-Ashfield Sailing Club. Ashfield District Council continues to explore opportunities to improve the reservoir and consider new provision across the whole site, which encourages active lifestyles for the residents of Ashfield. This includes a commitment to working with our stakeholders to achieve further improvements. Thank you.”

The Chairman then gave Mr. Housley the opportunity to ask a supplementary question and he responded as follows:-

“Thank you. Can you clarify that the Sailing Club is a not for profit organisation and run by volunteers for the benefit of its members, visitors and the wider community?”

The Portfolio Holder for Place, Planning and Regeneration, Councillor Matthew Relf, responded to the supplementary question as follows:-

“I can confirm that that is what you’ve described it to us as. As I’m not a member of it and am not involved in the operation of it, I can’t personally confirm that, but that is what you have described to us as the mode of operation.”

C.60 Petitions

No petitions were submitted for consideration.

C.61 Changes to Committee Memberships

Council were requested to note the changes to Cabinet, as advised by the Leader, and approve the changes to committee memberships as circulated.

RESOLVED that

- a) the advised changes to the Cabinet’s composition, as presented, be received and noted;
- b) the proposed changes to committee memberships and appointments to Chairman and Vice Chairman seats, as circulated, be approved as follows:-

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (7)
(6 Ashfield Independents, 1 Conservative)

Jim Blagden
Ciaran Brown (Vice Chairman)
Andrew Harding (Chairman)
David Hennigan
Phil Rostance
David Walters
Caroline Wilkinson

Scrutiny Panel A (7)
(6 Ashfield Independents, 1 Labour)

Ciaran Brown
Melanie Darrington (Chairman)
Trevor Locke
Lauren Mitchell
Warren Nuttall
John Smallridge (Vice Chairman)
David Walters

Scrutiny Panel B (7)
(6 Ashfield Independents, 1 Conservative)

Jim Blagden
Anthony Brewer
Christian Chapman (Chairman)
Dale Grounds
David Hennigan (Vice Chairman)
Phil Rostance
David Walters

Planning Committee (11)
(9 Ashfield Independents, 1 Conservative, 1 Labour)

Chris Baron
Ciaran Brown
Samantha Deakin
Dale Grounds (Vice Chairman)
Tom Hollis
Rachel Madden
Sarah Madigan (Chairman)
Lauren Mitchell
Helen Ann-Smith
Daniel Williamson
Jason Zadrozny

Licensing Committee (11)
(10 Ashfield Independents, 1 Labour)

Keir Barsby
Jim Blagden
Anthony Brewer
Ciaran Brown
Arnie Hankin
Trevor Locke
Rachel Madden
Lauren Mitchell
Warren Nuttall (Chairman)
Caroline Wilkinson
John Wilmott

Audit Committee (7)
(6 Ashfield Independents, 1 Conservative)

John Baird
Jim Blagden
Christian Chapman
Arnie Hankin
Kevin Rostance
Dave Shaw (Chairman)
David Walters

Charities Committee (7)
(6 Ashfield Independents, 1 Labour)

Jim Blagden
Anthony Brewer
Sarah Jayne Madigan
Lauren Mitchell
John Smallridge
David Walters
Caroline Wilkinson (Chairman)

Chief Officers' Employment Committee (7)
(6 Ashfield Independents, 1 Conservative)

Chris Baron
Tom Hollis
Dave Shaw
John Smallridge
Helen-Ann Smith
Daniel Williamson
Jason Zadrozny (Chairman)

Standards and Personnel Appeals Committee (7)
(6 Ashfield Independents, 1 Conservative)

Jim Blagden
Christian Chapman
Warren Nuttall
Phil Rostance
Helen Ann-Smith
David Walters
Lee Waters (Chairman)

Local Plan Working Group (11)
(9 Ashfield Independents, 1 Conservative, 1 Labour)

Keir Barsby
Samantha Deakin
Tom Hollis
Rachel Madden (Chairman)
David Martin
Lauren Mitchell
Matthew Relf
Kevin Rostance
Helen-Ann Smith
Daniel Williamson
Jason Zadrozny

Local Joint Consultative Committee (7)
(Not subject to political balance rules)

Samantha Deakin
Tom Hollis
David Martin
Matthew Relf
Helen-Ann Smith
Daniel Williamson
Jason Zadrozny

C.62 Report on Urgent Key Decision

The Leader of the Council advised as follows:-

"In accordance with Rule 17.2 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules it is necessary for me to inform the Council when an executive decision has been taken pursuant to Rule 16 (Special Urgency Provisions.)"

I can confirm to the Council that one such decision has been taken by me as a matter of urgency recently.

The decision related to the acquisition of a commercial investment property. The decision was key and contained exempt information but the full 28 days' notice could not be given due to the need to proceed with the transaction without delay.

The Rule 16 Notice and the non-exempt elements of the decision have now been published.”

C.63 Pay Policy Statement 2020/21

Council was requested to approve and adopt the Pay Policy Statement for 2020/21.

RESOLVED

that the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2020/21, as presented, be received and approved.

C.64 Petition Scheme Review

Members were requested to consider and approve the revised Petition Scheme as presented.

RESOLVED

that the revised Petition Scheme, as appended to the report, be received and approved.

C.65 Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Definition of Antisemitism

Council was requested to consider the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of Antisemitism.

RESOLVED that

- a) the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of Antisemitism be adopted:-

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of Antisemitism are directed towards Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish community institutions and religious facilities”

- b) as a result of a) above, the Council's Corporate Equality and Inclusion Policy 2017 – 2021 be amended to include the definition.

C.66 Appointment to Outside Bodies

RESOLVED

that the following representatives be appointed to the under-mentioned bodies:-

<u>Body</u>	<u>Representatives</u>	<u>Term Ending</u>
Ashfield Community Safety Partnership Joint Strategic Group	Cllr. Helen-Ann Smith	31st May, 2020
Discover Ashfield Board (NEW)	Cllr. Matthew Relf Cllr. Helen-Ann Smith <u>Scrutiny Member</u> Cllr. Christian Chapman	31st May, 2020
Greenwood Community Forest Steering Group	Cllr. Matthew Relf	31st May, 2020
Health and Wellbeing Board (County Council)	<u>Substitute</u> Cllr. Kier Barsby	31st May, 2020
Mansfield & Ashfield Economic Development Partnership (MAEDP)	Cllr. Matthew Relf	31st May, 2020
Mansfield & District Crematorium Joint Committee	Cllr. David Martin	31st May, 2020
Nottinghamshire Joint Waste Management Committee	Cllr. David Martin	31st May, 2020
PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee	Cllr. John Wilmott	31st May, 2020
Police and Crime Commissioner Panel	<u>Substitute</u> Cllr. Helen-Ann Smith	31st May, 2023
Teversal Grange Advisory Committee	Cllr. Tom Hollis	31st May, 2020

C.67 Recommendations from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees

In accordance with the Council Procedure Rule 2(ix), Council considered the following recommendation:-

Minute No. CA.36

Cabinet – 25 November 2019

2019/20 Quarter 2 Forecast Outturn for General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Programme and Revised Proposed Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2023/24

RESOLVED

that the amendments and addition of new schemes to the Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2023/24 and the funding of the Capital Programme, as set out in Section 6 of the Cabinet report, be approved.

C.68 Updates from Members of the Cabinet on their Portfolio Activity

The following Cabinet Members gave updates in respect of their Portfolio activity:-

Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing

"I think I'm in the very lucky position as a Deputy Leader of the Authority to have a finger in many pies, seeing all things that the Council does.

However, over the last two years I've spent as a Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health and while I intend to give a brief synopsis of what's happened over the last few months, I just wanted to put on record how proud I was to do that role. If Members will allow, I picked it up after many years of neglect and misdirection and feel I have taken Leisure and Health into a clearer path now.

Particularly highlighting things that we did, like the outdoor cinemas; that many Councillors will recall during the last summer were a particular proud moment for me, but the main one being the Kirkby Leisure Centre and changes to Hucknall Leisure Centre.

We have put some serious investment into Leisure, something that this Council and all Members, particularly from the Ashfield Independent Benches, should be very proud of.

Leisure is a fantastic thing in Ashfield. We are going to be renegotiating the contract very shortly with a new or existing company to take them over, and those initial conversations prove just how good our leisure offering is compared to other districts and that was not the case when this Administration took over.

I think other things to highlight is that we renegotiated recently the Christmas lights. I certainly feel that they are the best Christmas lights we have ever had; I mean I particularly draw attention to the large polar bear we had in Kirkby. I thought it was fantastic and the lights we had in Sutton and Hucknall as well and you can really see the different direction that this Council has taken. I

certainly feel very proud to be a part of that and I only hope Councillor Kier Barsby will continue the good work that has begun under the Portfolio. Thank you.”

Leader of the Council

“Thank you Mr. Chairman, I note the clock says 28 minutes, I’m not sure that’s enough! Mr. Chairman I’ll be brief. There has been very few things happen under my remit over the last couple of months that I’ve not already updated Council on, but a couple of key things I think are important.

Firstly, that this Authority went through a Peer Review recently from the Local Government Association, they were here for three full days, and we’ll be receiving the full review in due course and presenting it to full Council. So, I won’t talk too much about it but I do want to say an enormous thank you to all the Members and officers and outside partners who took part in that, Mr. Chairman.

In total, the Peers interviewed over three hundred hours’ worth of face to face interviews with staff, with partners, with Councillors and I think what they came back with were some really constructive points.

I was particularly delighted, as Pete will be, with the very, very healthy clean bill of health of our finances and how they have moved in a positive way significantly over the last year and over the two years, particularly. I think, Mr. Chairman, that’s not just what the LGA have said, the Government websites show as well that our finances have moved into a much more robust and stable and healthy position that will allow our ambition for Ashfield to be delivered, despite what are tough times financially. So I’m very pleased with that.

I was also very pleased with the headlines about how the LGA felt that the Leadership Team corporately and politically had drive and ambition and understanding of the District, in a way that they’ve seldom seen in Local Authorities, and we were commended highly for that. So I, I think, everything I thought I knew about us has been verified.

So I’m very pleased with that and it allows for the detail to come through on the things that we aren’t doing quite so well. We have not got everything quite perfect just yet, although I do say we are like Mary Poppins, “practically perfect in every way”. The humble amongst us will know it, we have got things to learn, and there are many things that we can improve on, and this Council aims to do that, Mr. Chairman, so I am going to take those very strongly forward.

The second thing, Mr. Chairman, just to note, is that last week we were at the District Council Network Conference. Members will know I am the Vice Chairman of the District Council’s Network and the Leader for the Independent Groups nationally, and what that allowed last week, Mr. Chairman, for me to do, was chair the session for the entire conference on future of our town centres and high streets.

I was sat with the Director of Companies that lead this work as commissioners for local government, and most crucially Mr. Chairman, the Head of the Policy Unit from Government, who quite literally has her hands on the cheque book.

So having seats at the top table in Government and through those Authorities, like the District Council's Network, Mr. Chairman, has allowed us to forge relationships on what I think will be the most transformational pieces of work for this District in a generation, namely the Future Town's Fund and the Future High Street Fund. Hopefully, we will get near the money we have been told about; most Authorities are being told it is probably around ten million, rather than the 'up to twenty five' (that is for cities).

Ten Million pounds spent in Kirkby and ten to twenty million pounds spent in Sutton is an opportunity not to be missed, Mr. Chairman. I think for us to have the reins on strong master plans and ideas about how we change our towns economically and socially, to make them vibrant places for the future, is a very exciting place to be.

I was very proud to be part of that and I think Ashfield District Council is very much punching above its weight, Mr. Chairman, and it was standing room only there so I think we've got all to play for as we go forward, so I was very delighted to represent the Council there. So thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety

"Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just want to start off by saying a big thank you to all the teams that we've got within the Environment Department, but an even bigger one to the teams that worked over the weekend. We had some horrendous weather conditions that made work very difficult for them, and they did some fantastic work in very difficult conditions.

They went above and beyond the call of duty including helping flooded properties, taking sandbags out to properties and working in the cemeteries. We had some major issues in one of our cemeteries that they dealt with extremely well, but not only that, they were helping the County Council with trees that had blown over and fallen and were in the middle of the road and blocking roads and things like that. I'd like to put on record a big thank you to all the teams that worked over the weekend.

So back to my report. The Big Ashfield Spring Clean started on Monday. It started in Sutton, Huthwaite and Stanton Hill, and this year's campaign will roll out week commencing 17th February in Hucknall, and the 24th of February into Kirkby, Jacksdale, Selston and Underwood.

Kerbside Collections - residents are invited to have a clear out of their houses and dispose of their extra waste put out with their regular bin collection during the relevant weeks on your usual bin day. Within the first hour we'd collected an additional four tonnes of waste, and that is a fantastic amount because a big chunk of that would have been fly-tipped, I can almost guarantee it. So that's saving the Authority money later on.

Free Bulky Waste Collections - residents can take advantage of Free Bulky Waste Collections when they book during the Big Ashfield Spring Clean from the 10th February to the 28th February. Each household can take advantage

of one free collection of up to three items. So far this year, two and a half thousand more houses have booked onto that scheme than they did this time last year. So that is a fantastic amount.

The number of resident generated reports of dog fouling have reduced by 35% in the last year. Nearly half of the level two years ago. Over the last two years we have engaged in dog fouling campaigns including installation of a new score-board, new signage and provision of twenty five free dog bag dispensers, and on top of that we have our Community Protection Officers stopping people, asking them if they've got a suitable receptacle for their dog waste in our parks and open spaces.

The last thing, Mr. Chairman, is that resident generated service requests for litter and fly-tipping have shown overall decreases since the same time period with a 3% reduction in litter demands, and 19% reduction in fly-tipping. The Council has led on a development of the collaboration of agencies and partners branded as the Cleaner Nottinghamshire Group.

The first countywide "Not in Notts Campaign" was launched in this quarter, and demonstrated an instant reduction in fly-tipping by 10% in the two weeks that followed. And I'd just like to say on that as well, I think it should be noted that Charles Edwards and Sam Dennis have both done an absolute fantastic job as the "Not for Notts" Group. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Portfolio Holder for Streets, Parks and Town Centres

"Well, in a little under a year, my predecessor, Councillor Robert Sears-Piccavey, a long-standing friend of mine, delivered a budget speech in here which was a balanced budget and it was a great thing to see.

He waited a long time in the wings to come forward and do that, and of course he handed it over to me and I took it on full pace. All I have to say about the job is that there is lots that I could say about the actual budget and there are many marvellous things going on. Nothing that this Council does would be in the same vein if it weren't for the hard work of the Finance Team and the same for the Housing Finance Team, and Craig Scott who's not here who does Revenues and Benefits.

They are all a brilliant, dedicated, bunch of people and the tenacity in which the Cabinet has turned the finances round, 2.4 million deficit we had to find and we found that, and we haven't cut any services, we haven't got rid of anything, we are still spending money on parks and it's a win-win story.

The procurement process and the due diligence of the purchasing of the financial properties that we're buying, the Investment Property Portfolio is that good that other councils are coming to us for it. So I think when Councillor Zadrozny sits there and says 'we are punching above our weight' we certainly are.

Lack of support from the Government, the Revenues Support Grant and no business rate re-set; they have been major issues to this Council in the past, but we are steaming ahead, and the Cabinet, expanded as it is, works very, very well. There is now a feel-good factor across the Council because of all of the good work that's coming from it.

Without the doom and gloom approach of the prior years, the cuts, the austerity, and all the misery that goes with it, when you meet Council workers now out and about in the parks, as we all do, they're all happy. They are happy people because they know their jobs are secure, and people like what the Council does because the finances are sound, and it is able to carry on without that threat of cut, cut, cut. That is the major thing that makes this Council different.

People want to work here. We've just had a recent staff survey and they like their jobs, they're happy at it, and it's a real bonus and, and the way the Council continues....we were berated by the County Council for suggesting that they invested more money. They laughed at us and said we were being too flamboyant, but in actual fact we've made more money than they've saved this year. That is no mean feat. Our turnover is 16 million, the County Council's is 600 million.

We have actually invested and made more than they've saved. Double. That is the strength of the finances of this Council. We are the tail that wags the dog here and long may it continue and I hand over, wholeheartedly to my colleague, Councillor Madden, ex tax-inspector...so don't think you're going to get anything easy!

I would just like to pay tribute to the hard work of the Finance Officer, especially Pete whom I've been calling Paul all year because Paul's sat next to him, and they confuse me. I am not good with names, but they are good with figures and that's the main thing. The feel-good factor of those meetings and the scrutiny and the way in which they delve into every single area, and I've asked questions, and they've come back with answers, and they've always been right, and they've always been strong and they've always been good.

We have an excellent Finance Team and that is key to running an excellent Council. Therefore, I would just like to end this year in Finance saying, "thank you very much" to the Finance staff and good luck Rachel. You don't need any luck because it's already there."

Portfolio Holder for Place, Planning and Regeneration

"Thank you, Chair. The Discover Ashfield brand continues to be promoted with good support from partners. The Ambassador scheme has been developed further and over 60 ambassadors for Ashfield have been signed up.

The Kirkby Master Plan has been reviewed and the new Plan is due for completion in our February Cabinet and I'm very excited with how that's looking. I think, as we were touching on earlier with the Christmas lights the buzz around Kirkby is great to see and I'm looking forward to continuing that and continuing the regeneration of this area.

Kirkby and Sutton were included in the Government's Town's Deal Funding and will receive up to 25 million each for investment in Urban Regeneration Skills and Enterprise and Digital and Transport Connectivity. The Discover Ashfield Board has agreed to act as the Town's Deals Board, as Jason stole my thunder earlier, to oversee the funding. The bid for the Future High

Street's Funding was approved for a full business case, and we have received £474,000 of revenue funding to help us with the feasibility work for all of these bids.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points were installed in public car parks in all three town centres which is part of our ongoing work to help Ashfield play its part in tackling climate change.

The occupancy of Idlewells indoor market has now reached 100% and footfall has increased significantly. I am sure that anyone who has visited the indoor market will agree that it is a wonderful place now and for those who've yet to go I highly commend you to go.

The Heritage Lottery Funding project for the Kings Mill Reservoir is progressing well with work started on the new Visitor's Centre, viaduct restoration and dredging works. A ranger has also been appointed to facilitate community engagement.

Our Planning Team are doing great with planning applications which continue to be processed well above the nationally prescribed standard targets, with all major planning applications being processed within 13 weeks. I also just want to second Helen's point about the flooding teams at the weekend, they came out to Sutton Junction and did incredible work helping my residents out, so I would like to pass on my thanks also for that. Thank you, Chair."

Portfolio Holder for Regulatory Services

"Thank you, Chairman; it's a bit of news on the Regulatory Services Portfolio. As far as Licensing is concerned, we are delighted to note the investment in this area by OLA UK as a new private hire operator, located on the Sherwood Business Park, utilising Ashfield as their East Midland's Hub for their based taxi hailing service.

The company is valued as of October 2019 at \$10 billion (dollars). OLA has licences in London and several UK cities, so for them to choose Ashfield as their East Midland's Hub demonstrates that the criteria for drivers, vehicles, and operators, set locally, and services provided by the Licensing Authority, assist the District to be attractive to new investments.

A review of the income received by the Licensing Team continues to show a healthy balance, allowing the Authority to put plans in place to invest in the development of the tax testing facilities at the Motor Transport depot. Also to further increase the number of staff within the Licensing Team, in order to maintain the excellent levels of customer service and prompt turnaround of applications and enforcement actions.

On Environmental Health, a new food business called "Through the Looking Glass" approached the Environmental Health Department for advice on how to comply with food law. An advisory visit was carried out and advice on legal requirements and good practice was provided. The food business operator fully implemented the advice and received a five star hygiene rating during the subsequent unannounced routine visit that is for inspection of the business. Concern raised by local residents regarding an open stretch of riverbank in Sutton where persons passing by were throwing drink bottles, food wrappers

and many other things onto the embankment and leaving a mess. Following investigation the riverbank was found to belong to a local neighbouring company, who arranged for the clear up, and now have a maintenance contract in place.

The Environment Health Department organised for a street waste bin to be installed and four companies with staff, who walked along the side of the riverbank to access their work place, were written to, asking them to remind their staff not to contribute to littering and use the bins provided at the workplace.

Just to give you a little bit of an activity report from the Licensing Committee report that's going to be sent to the Licensing Committee very, very shortly. On the Licences, total applications granted in 2019 were 649. So we now have 3,529 licences, so it's a fantastic achievement for an authority of our size.

One or two of the little things that have been very good, we've had 131 applications for Temporary Event Notices, which means things are happening in Ashfield, good events, and people think that it's good to come to Ashfield to put these events on, which is fantastic.

We have also done a lot of things on Hackney Carriages. 175 new applications there which have been accepted and there are 782 taxis now available in Ashfield, which is fantastic.

In the Enforcement Action area, we have been very, very fortunate that we haven't had to take anyone to court at all because when they've actually done something wrong we've gone to see them and they've put that wrong to rights, and it's been a fabulous situation for that to happen.

We also have a very good productive working relationship with the Environmental Health Service and the Environmental Protection Service, Community Safety and the Community Response Services, Planning Service and of course, Nottinghamshire Police. This is wonderful because it means that we are all working together for the same things. Thank you, Chairman."

C.69 Notice of Motion 1

The Council received a notice of motion moved by Councillor Jason Zadrozny and seconded by Councillor David Martin as follows:-

"This Council notes that businesses are struggling across our District because of the high level of business rates. This is why Ashfield District Council welcomed the Government's Business Rates Relief Fund.

The fund was introduced when the Government changed the way business rates are calculated. It set aside £286,806 to help firms in the Ashfield District whose business rates had been adversely affected.

This Council notes that Ashfield District Council was the best performing Council in the whole of Nottinghamshire in terms of distributing the fund. Ashfield District Council distributed 93.67% of the £286,806 they received from Government.

This Council regrets that other Councils in our County did not perform as well and further regrets that in total, businesses in Nottinghamshire were deprived of £893,939.00 of funding that would have made a huge difference to so many small businesses. Of this amount returned only 2% came from Ashfield District Council, which made us the best performing Authority in the whole of Nottinghamshire.

We would therefore like to congratulate this Council on being the best performing Council in the County. This Council believes that our success sends a clear message that we value small business and will do everything within our power to support them.

This Council should also be commended as one of the best performing in the UK when it comes to the distribution of Discretionary Housing Payments. In 2018/19 the Council received DHP funding of £280,396. We allocated all of that funding and an additional £25,662 from the Council's own purse to support these vulnerable residents.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling for a continuation of these schemes that have benefitted so many businesses and residents across our District."

(At this point in the proceedings and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 23 (Conclusion of Proceedings), a motion was moved and seconded to extend the conclusion of the meeting to 9.30 p.m. The motion was put to the vote and duly carried.)

Having been fully considered, the motion was then put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED

that this Council agrees to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling for a continuation of the Business Rates Relief Schemes that have benefitted so many businesses and residents across the Ashfield District.

(During consideration of the motion, Councillor Christian Chapman left the room at 8.22pm and returned to the meeting at 8.25pm.)

C.70 Notice of Motion 2

The Council received a notice of motion moved by Councillor Tom Hollis and seconded by Councillor John Wilmott as follows:-

"This Council notes the decision of Nottinghamshire County Council to approve the submission of the application for outline planning permission at Top Wighay Farm in Hucknall, for mixed-use development comprising of 805 homes and land for employment purposes.

This Council notes that although the development is in the Borough of Gedling; the impact of this development will fall on Hucknall which is in the Ashfield District.

This Council notes that the infrastructure in Hucknall is already struggling from a lack of medical provision, school places and the roads are gridlocked.

This Council notes that Nottinghamshire County Council is set to gain up to £7 million from the sale of the land. This Council calls for Nottinghamshire County Council to ringfence a portion of the £7 million they have made from the sale of the site towards improving the infrastructure in Hucknall, within Ashfield District to alleviate the impact of any development.

This Council further notes that Gedling Borough Council is set to benefit from significant Section 106 contributions to alleviate the impact of such a significant development on the infrastructure.

This Council resolves write to the Chief Executives of Nottinghamshire County Council and Gedling Borough Council to ask for an urgent meeting to discuss the impact of this development on Ashfield District. Asking them to work together with officers and members at Ashfield District Council, to ensure the local infrastructure in Hucknall is improved in the area affected by the development of Top Wighay Farm.”

Councillor Chris Baron suggested that the Council should also write to the Secretary of State to request his opinion in relation to the proposed Top Wighay Farm development and having considered the suggested amendment, Councillors Tom Hollis and John Wilmott, as the mover and seconder of the motion, duly agreed to its inclusion in the motion.

Having been fully considered, the amended motion was then put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED that

- a) the Council agrees to write to the Chief Executives of Nottinghamshire County Council and Gedling Borough Council, to ask for an urgent meeting to discuss the impact of the development on the Ashfield District and to work together with officers and Members at the Council, to ensure the local infrastructure in Hucknall is improved in the area affected by the development of Top Wighay Farm;
- b) the Council agrees to also write to the Secretary of State to outline the matter and request an opinion in relation to the Council’s request for improvements to local infrastructure in the Hucknall area affected by the proposed development of Top Wighay Farm.

(During consideration of the motion, Councillors Dave Shaw, Daniel Williamson, Jason Zadrozny, Andy Gascoyne, Rachel Madden and Samantha Deakin left the room at 8.54pm, 8.54pm, 8.55pm, 9.01pm, 9.08pm and 9.12pm and returned to the meeting at 8.56pm, 8.55pm, 9.10pm, 9.03pm, 9.10pm and 9.16pm respectively.)

C.71 Questions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.

There were no questions submitted by Members.

C.72 Questions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.2 - In relation to Cabinet and Committee Meeting Minutes published since the last ordinary meeting of the Council

There were no questions submitted by Members.

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm

Chairman.