

Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 25th April 2013 (10.00 am – 11.15 am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

COUNCILLORS

A Carol Pepper (Chairman)
L B Cooper (Vice Chairman)

	Reg Adair		Keith Longdon
	John Allin		Rachel Madden
	Fiona Asbury		Geoff Merry
	Chris Barnfather		Mick Murphy
	Victor Bobo		Philip Owen
	Joyce Bosnjak		John Peck
	Richard Butler		Sheila Place
	Steve Carr		Darrell Pulk
	Steve Carroll		Mike Quigley MBE
	Allen Clarke		Mrs Wendy Quigley
	Ged Clarke		Alan Rhodes
A	John Clarke	A	Ken Rigby
	John Cottee		Kevin Rostance
	Michael J Cox		Mrs Sue Saddington
	Jim Creamer		Mel Shepherd MBE
A	Bob Cross	A	S Smedley MBE JP
	Mrs Kay Cutts	A	Mark Spencer MP
A	V H Dobson		June Stendall
A	Dr John Doddy		Andy Stewart
	Sybil Fielding		Martin Suthers OBE
	Stephen Garner		Lynn Sykes
	Michelle Gent	A	David Taylor
	Glynn Gilfoyle		Parry Tsimbirdis
	Keith Girling		Gail Turner
	Kevin Greaves		Keith Walker
	John M Hemsall		Stuart Wallace
	Stan Heptinstall MBE		Gordon Wheeler
A	Rev. Tom Irvine	A	Chris Winterton
	Richard Jackson	A	Brian Wombwell
A	Rod Kempster		Martin Wright
	Eric Kerry		Liz Yates
	John Knight		Jason Zadrozny
	Bruce Laughton		

HONORARY ALDERMEN

Mr Martin Brandon-Bravo OBE
Mr Terry Butler
Mr Stewart Pattinson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mick Burrows	(Chief Executive)
Jayne Francis-Ward	(Policy, Planning & Corporate Services)
Carl Bilbey	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Tim Gregory	(Environment & Resources)
Gail Holliday	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Martin Done	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Chris Holmes	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
John Slater	(Children, Families & Cultural Services)
Karen Townrow	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Anna Vincent	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Michelle Welsh	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)

OPENING PRAYER

Upon the Council convening, prayers were led by the Chairman's Chaplain.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED: 2013/18

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the County Council held on 28th February 2013 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following apologies for absence were received:-

Medical/Illness

Councillor Bob Cross
Councillor Dr John Doddy
Councillor Rev. Tom Irvine
Councillor Rod Kempster
Councillor S Smedley MBE JP
Councillor David Taylor
Councillor Chris Winterton

Other

Councillor Brian Wombwell
Councillor Mark Spencer MP

Other County Council Business

Councillor Carol Pepper
Councillor Ken Rigby

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Philip Owen declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in Item 9 on the agenda, Bus Lane Enforcement as he was a resident of the area affected.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

AGENDA ORDER

The Chairman announced that the agenda order would be altered as some Members would be attending the Royal Visit.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION

A motion was moved by Councillor Richard Butler and seconded by Councillor John Cottee in terms of resolution 2013/19 below.

After debate the motion was put to the meeting and it was:-

RESOLVED 2013/19

“That Nottinghamshire County Council values its beautiful country park estates and will oppose any application to build on this land. We recognise our duty to preserve these green spaces for the benefit of future generations.”

5. CONSTITUENCY ISSUES

Set out in Appendix A to these minutes is a full note of the issues raised by Councillor Eric Kerry on the blight in Beeston Town Centre caused by the tram works.

6. PETITIONS

(a) PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

The following petitions were presented to the Chairman as indicated below:-

- (1) Councillor Richard Butler – Petition regarding number 53 bus service from Cotgrave to Bingham

- (2) Councillor Michelle Gent – Petition regarding implementation of parking controls around Bargain Booze (69 Church Street, Sutton in Ashfield)
- (3) Councillor Glyn Gilfoyle – Petition requesting footpath from South Parade to Blyth Road, Worksop, adjacent to Tesco Stores
- (4) Councillor Sheila Place – Petition requesting speed limit and road works on the A60 Carlton, Langold
- (5) Councillor Gail Turner – Petition regarding a road safety request, Westwood Infant School
- (6) Councillor Gordon Wheeler – Petition from residents of Rivermead Flats, Wilford Lane requesting a Pelican Crossing to be installed
- (7) Councillor John Peck- Petition concerning parking on Edwinstowe High Street

RESOLVED: 2013/20

That the petitions be referred to the appropriate Committees for consideration in accordance with the Procedure Rules.

(b) PETITION RESPONSES

RESOLVED: 2013/21

That the contents and actions be noted in respect of petition responses agreed by the Transport and Highways Committee at its meeting be noted.

7. QUESTIONS

(a) QUESTIONS TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

No questions were received

(b) QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Four questions had been received as follows:-

- (1) from Councillor Martin Wright regarding congratulating Mansfield Town Football Club on winning the National Conference Premier Division Championship, and in doing so taking the Club back in to the Football League (Councillor John Cottee replied)

- (2) from Councillor Victor Bobo regarding congratulating Mansfield Town Football Club on winning the Football Conference title and returning to the Football League (Councillor John Cottee replied)
- (3) from Councillor Sue Saddington regarding to what extent a blanket policy of 20mph zones would be effective in improving safety outside schools, and whether there are other measures that are more effective (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
- (4) from Councillor Gordon Wheeler regarding a statement being made on the impact of the NET Phase Two tram construction works in the county area (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)

Questions one and two were taken together.

The full responses to these questions are set out in Appendix B to these Minutes.

8. CLARIFICATION OF MINUTES

The report provided Members with the opportunity to raise any matters of clarification on the minutes of Committee meetings published since the last meeting.

9. BUS LANE ENFORCEMENT

Councillor Richard Jackson introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2013/22 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Chris Barnfather

RESOLVED: 2013/22

- (1) That the County Council becomes a member of the Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee,
- (2) That the adjudication service costs be met from the Penalty Charge Notice income,
- (3) That the Chairman of the Transport and Highways Committee continues to be the nominated representative member of the PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee,
- (4) That the Chairman of the Transport and Highways Committee be the nominated representative member of the Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee.

- (5) That the Group Manager Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to enter into a s101 agreement for the provision of adjudication services.
- (6) That the existing Traffic Regulation Order be referred to the Transport & Highways Committee with a recommendation for residents of the Horsendale Estate to be an exempted class under the Order and to action this accordingly, subject to the necessary external approvals.

10. ROLLS-ROYCE SITE , HUCKNALL

Councillor Richard Jackson introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2013/23 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Reg Adair.

RESOLVED: 2013/23

That subject to the other conditions referenced in paragraph 15 of the report

- (a) the Council's Capital Programme be increased by £3.154M;
- (2) the submission of the bid under the Government's Pinch Point Programme be approved;
- (3) all further highway engineering design work be carried out and delivered by the County Council's Highway Programme Design and Delivery Group in partnership with the Midlands Highways Alliance;
- (4) a further report be brought to Finance and Property Committee in 2 months reporting progress on this proposal.

The meeting closed at 11.15 pm

CHAIRMAN

M25APRIL13

APPENDIX A

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25TH APRIL 2013

3-MINUTE SPEECH

Councillor Eric Kerry

“Let’s start at one end and travel through a catalogue of despair.

As my residents return home from the city and elsewhere they return via a University Boulevard stripped of beautiful trees. Will they rename the road? As Boulevard in my dictionary does not describe what remains.

After lengthy queuing and via a long detour we get to Lower Road. To many residents, the most annoying and frustrating part of this journey has been the stress that they have had to endure to get NET to communicate effectively with them. Officers and I have helped. It is a little easier to accept problems and plans when they have been shared and the chance to discuss concerns properly given.

Residents experience daily the disruption, noise, dust, gardens being snatched away etc. One resident told me this week, and I quote “there are holes where there shouldn’t be, and even in holes that are in the right place, they have found stuff that shouldn’t be there”, as one worker said to several others watching one man down a hole.

Looking ahead you can now see that the Neville Sadler Court retirement living flats have gone, destroying a community, and replaced by a convenient storage yard for materials and equipment. Now that wasn’t planned was it?

We proceed through the same scene on Fletcher Road, with one family told that the drive they parked their car on cannot be used anymore because it wasn’t in the plans. We got that changed! They even took away the bin outside the award winning Humber Road Chippy, and didn’t replace it. But the chips were not down as we got a new one!

On to Middle Street, now an extra half mile diversion by car to get to the town centre a few hundred yards away. On this section pedestrian access to the High Road becomes a lottery as pedestrian lights are not positioned properly and some don’t exist. As Middle Street turns the corner towards the Police Station it leaves my division. But that isn’t where the impact on my residents finishes.

Even away from the route we have to endure problems daily. Wilkinsons was a major competitor of Tesco, the other recent controversial Labour approved development in Beeston. Wilkinsons store was wiped out to make way for the tracks, but the building not touched for over a year after staff lost their jobs and closed the doors - Crazy.

A new Meadow Lane/Queens Road junction pedestrian crossing light pole is still missing weeks after it was knocked over for the second time.

A nice grass verge narrowed and left as a load of rubble, the occasional clump of grass and now very seasonal dandelions. Near the bus stop, this attracts litter and cigarette debris as miscreants think "why should I bother, they don't care". The new footpath has undulations forming an assault course of puddles in heavy rain. I have told them about it, they have not done anything yet.

Closing Chilwell Road, Beeston and implementing new diversionary routes a month before the junction improvements at Queens Road/Station Road were completed resulted in bedlam for motorists and bus passengers. We even had to ask for better signage because travellers had insufficient prior warning that roads ahead were closed.

Our officers do what they can to mitigate the problems, but they do not have a weapon like the ever-powerful Transport Act Order that drives this folly. What a mess.

Have you guessed yet what I have been talking about? It is Labours tram set, that plaything, supported by you over there and your colleagues at Broxtowe, kowtowing to the great city fathers, who are intent on expanding their empire. God help Beeston."

APPENDIX B

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25th APRIL 2013 QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Question to the Chairman of the Culture Committee from Councillor Martin Wright

“Would the Chairman of the Culture Committee join me, a Mansfield Town fan of some 53 years, in congratulating the football club, its players, officials and supporters on their achievement in winning the National Conference Premier Division Championship and in doing so taking the club back into the Football League, after five rather difficult years both on and off the pitch? Would he also write to the club Chairman John Radford offering the county councils congratulations and wishing them luck in the future

Question to Chairman of Culture Committee from Councillor Victor Bobo

Would the Chairman of the Culture Committee join me in congratulating Mansfield Town Football Club on winning the Football Conference title and returning to the Football League?

Response by Councillor John Cottee, Chairman of the Culture Committee

“Yes, I am absolutely delighted that Mansfield Town have won the Football Conference Premier Division Title and will be returning to the Football League for the first time in five years. You will note of course that they did it under a Conservative administration!

The team has been unstoppable since narrowly losing their glamour FA Cup tie to Liverpool in January, so maybe their ambitions are to replay that match at some time in the future in the Premier League.

I am a little bit of an anorak being a football referee as you know Chairman and I do keep the league tables from each Sunday's paper. I just had a glance through and on 17th February Mansfield were not even in the top section of the league so they stormed through to the top and I am pleased to see that they have achieved promotion.

A letter has already been sent to Mansfield Town from the Chairman of the County Council and there is also a letter in the post from myself. I am sure Members will join me in congratulating the Stags' supporters, the players, the manager Paul Cox, the Club Chairman, John Radford and his wife Carolyn, the Chief Executive, who have all worked hard and tirelessly to turn the club around and achieve its fortunes and success of today.

I also congratulate John and his wife Carolyn on a double celebration because Carolyn is expecting a baby!

The fact that Nottinghamshire will once again boast three football league clubs is fantastic news for sport in this county, and while we are on the subject of sporting success, let me offer more congratulations to our local Olympians, Sam Oldham and Richard Whitehead. Last weekend, Sam won the silver medal in the high bar event at the European Championships in Moscow (the first British medal ever at this event); and Richard won the men's T42 category in the London marathon.

Well done to all of them!

Question to the Chairman of the Transport and Highways Committee from Councillor Sue Saddington

"Would the Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee explain to what extent a blanket policy of 20mph zones would be effective in improving safety outside schools, and whether there are other measures that are more effective?"

Response by Councillor Richard Jackson Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee

"Councillor Saddington's question is timely, because I was interested to see the priority given to 20mph zones outside our schools in Labour's election pledges. If they had given the matter proper thought though, they would have recalled the conclusions of the report into 'Road Safety Outside Schools' by the cross-party study group, chaired by Councillor Geoff Merry under the remit of the Communities and the Environment Scrutiny Select Committee. In May 2011 their report found that, and I shall quote from it: -

"A 'global' application of 20 mph speed limits outside all schools would be disproportionate and ineffective. The pilot scheme demonstrated that imposing a 20 mph limit can actually serve to increase the speed of drivers."

The report also states: -

"Although child pedestrian casualties occur on school journeys, the number of accidents occurring outside schools is minimal... The focus for preventative measures should therefore be around the whole journey to school rather than the immediate vicinity around the school."

Chairman, this is not to say that we don't consider 20 mph zones where traffic speeds are a problem. We have piloted a number of interactive signs outside some schools, and achieved average reductions in speed of around 1 mph. There are more effective safety measures that can be more appropriate.

In many cases the chief concern is not speed, so much as the accumulation of vehicles outside the school gates and the extent of careless and inappropriate parking by parents. It is unfortunate that during their 28 years in control of this authority, Labour councillors failed to ensure that 'no parking' zigzag markings

painted outside schools were legally enforceable. I am pleased to be able to report to Council that under this Conservative administration the Transport and Highways Committee recently approved making 'School Keep Clear' zigzag markings enforceable. They will ensure that children crossing in these areas immediately outside schools can do so in safety.

For Members' information, where there is an actual accident problem rather than a perceived one, the circumstances of each collision are of course investigated and appropriate schemes are implemented to address these problems.

As part of the Junior Road Safety Officer initiative, schools work with pupils and parents to establish the specific problems encountered outside their school and officers help them to consider measures to overcome these."

Question to the Chairman of the Transport and Highways Committee from Councillor Gordon Wheeler

Would the Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee make a Statement on the impact of the NET Phase Two tram construction works in the county area?

Response by Councillor Richard Jackson Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee

"As Members are aware, this Conservative administration kept its manifesto pledge and voted to withdraw from the NET Phase Two scheme in September 2009, a decision which saved the Nottinghamshire taxpayer at least £20 million.

As we showed with the A453, this administration will actively seek and support any inward investment which genuinely provides value for money and which improves our transport infrastructure, but we have always said the NET Phase Two tram route proposals do not serve the best interests of county taxpayers or commuters, and are not wanted by many of the residents in the affected areas.

As we predicted, the impact on the County area of the tram construction is considerable and this is likely to be the case for the next 18 months.

Construction started much later than expected which has led to most sections of the two routes being constructed simultaneously, with consequent disruption to the County highway network. Residents in Lower Road and Fletcher Road in Beeston have the works on their doorsteps; access to shops and other businesses in Chilwell has been severely disrupted by closed roads; and neighbourhoods are suffering from the effects of diverted traffic and drivers trying to beat the congestion by finding their own alternative routes are causing problems. We are conducting daily monitoring of traffic conditions through Chilwell, Beeston and Wilford and we are doing all we can to fine tune traffic lights and provide appropriate signage but, regrettably, some delays are inevitable.

In Beeston and Chilwell we insisted that car parks were opened ahead of the major road closures of the High Road and of Chilwell Road and that a financial assistance package was in place for traders, which is greater than that currently paid to traders within the city boundary by the City Council.

Nevertheless, it is extremely disappointing that shops such as Wilkinsons have stood empty for a year when the delays to works are such that they could have remained open, providing continued employment and serving the local community.

I know and I share Councillor Wheeler's frustration at the effect of excavation on the Wilford embankment, which I pass every morning. It was a Site of Special Scientific Interest and it appears to me that any benefits for the tram route are far outweighed by the environmental damage caused and I know many local residents have made their feelings clear.

I could say a lot more, Chairman, but Councillor Kerry has already spoken very well this morning on this subject and there is no desire to prolong this meeting. Suffice to say that in Nottinghamshire this project was driven by the Labour Group under the leadership of former councillors Mick Warner and David Kirkham. County Conservatives have always maintained that this was a mistake, but we will continue to deal with the situation, serve the best interests of our residents and in particular, do all we can to ensure that local businesses blighted by the works are able to survive and prosper.

Having spoken earlier about the A453 I should state that the tram works are also being co-ordinated with the A453 improvement work and the Nottingham Station closure which comes into force this summer. We are doing everything we can to make sure that disruption is minimised during major events such as the Ashes series and the National Armed Forces day taking place within this county. The overall message must be that Nottingham and Nottinghamshire is still open for business."