



Nottinghamshire County Council

Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 15th May 2014 (10.30 am – 7.18 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

John Allin (Chairman)

Pauline Allan (Vice-Chairman)

	Reg Adair	Darren Langton
	Roy Allan	Bruce Laughton
	Chris Barnfather	Keith Longdon
	Alan Bell	Rachel Madden
	Joyce Bosnjak	Diana Meale
	Nicki Brooks	John Ogle
	Andrew Brown	Philip Owen
	Richard Butler	Michael Payne
	Steve Calvert	John Peck JP
	Ian Campbell	Sheila Place
	Steve Carr	Liz Plant
	Steve Carroll	Darrell Pulk
	John Clarke	Alan Rhodes
A	John Cottee	Ken Rigby
	Jim Creamer	Tony Roberts MBE
	Mrs Kay Cutts MBE	Mrs Sue Saddington
	Maureen Dobson	Andy Sissons
	Dr John Doddy	Pam Skelding
	Boyd Elliott	Stella Smedley MBE JP
	Sybil Fielding	Martin Suthers OBE
	Kate Foale	Parry Tsimbirdis
	Stephen Garner	Gail Turner
	Glynn Gilfoyle	Keith Walker
	Kevin Greaves	Stuart Wallace
	Alice Grice	Muriel Weisz
	John Handley	Gordon Wheeler
	Colleen Harwood	John Wilkinson
	Stan Heptinstall MBE	Jacky Williams
	Tom Hollis	John Wilmott
	Richard Jackson	Yvonne Woodhead
	Roger Jackson	Liz Yates
	David Kirkham	Jason Zadrozny
	John Knight	

HONORARY ALDERMEN

Martin Brandon-Bravo OBE

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mick Burrows	(Chief Executive)
Jayne Francis–Ward	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Chris Kenny	(Adult Social Care, Health & Public Protection)
Jon Wilson	(Adult Social Care, Health & Public Protection)
Anthony May	(Children, Families and Cultural Services)
Sara Allmond	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Carl Bilbey	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Martin Done	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Keith Ford	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Catherine Munro	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Paul Simpson	(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.

FORMER COUNTY COUNCILLOR BARRIE BOWKER

Members stood in silence in remembrance of former County Councillor Barrie Bowker.

CHANGE OF AGENDA ORDER

The Chairman agreed to change the agenda order to move the presentation of awards element of Chairman's Business to the start of the meeting, to enable him to have the honour of presenting the award before he passed the Chairmanship on, as he had been present at the award ceremony where the team won the award.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Mansfield Bus Station – Presentation of RICS Award

Councillor Kevin Greaves introduced the award. The bus station was highly commended in the Infrastructure category of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) East Midlands Awards 2014 and was the overall winner in the Community Benefit category. As winner of this category, the building would now go on to represent the Region in the National Awards Finals in London in October. The Chairman received the award from Councillor Greaves and presented it to the members of staff who were present.

OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL

John Allin, outgoing Chairman of the County Council, made a short address, during which he referred to the highlights of his year in office, in particular Armed Forces Week, the royal visits and the reception for the retired Gurkhas.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was moved by Councillor Michael Payne and seconded by Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts and:-

RESOLVED: 2014/019

That Councillor Pauline Allan be elected Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council, until the Annual Meeting 2015.

Arising from the above resolution, Councillor Allan made the prescribed Declaration of Acceptance of Office, was invested with the Chairman's Chain of Office and assumed the chair. Thereafter, Councillor Pauline Allan's portrait was unveiled by the Chief Executive.

INCOMING CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL

Councillor Pauline Allan addressed the Council, thanking members for the opportunity to perform the civic role for the County Council. She indicated that her chosen charity was The Ear Foundation.

RETIRING CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN VOTE OF THANKS

At the invitation of the newly elected Chairman, Councillor Joyce Bosnjak paid tribute to John Allin's contribution to Nottinghamshire Civic life, thanking him for his work as Chairman.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Darren Langton who articulated Member's appreciation and congratulations for his year of office.

RESOLVED:-2014/020

That the County Council's thanks for Councillor Allin's work as its Chairman during 2013-14 be recorded.

PAST CHAIRMAN'S BADGE OF OFFICE

Further to the above resolution, the Chairman of the County Council presented to Councillor Allin his Past Chairman's Badge of Office and acknowledged his work during the year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The appointment of Councillor Sybil Fielding as Vice-Chairman was moved by Councillor Darrell Pulk and seconded by Councillor Keith Walker

RESOLVED:-2014/021

That Councillor Sybil Fielding be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Nottinghamshire County Council until the Annual Meeting 2015.

Arising from the above Resolution, Councillor Fielding made the prescribed Declaration of Acceptance of Office, was invested with the Vice-Chairman's chain and took her new place alongside the Chairman.

Councillor Fielding gave a short address to Council and thanked Members for appointing her as Vice-Chairman.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED: 2014/022

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the County Council held on 27th March 2014 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from:-

Councillor John Cottee (medical/illness)

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

6. RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF GROUPS

Councillor Steve Carroll introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2014/023 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Nicki Brooks.

RESOLVED:-2014/023

- 1) That the membership of the political groups be noted.
- 2) That, in accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Officers of the Groups be recognised.

7. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

Former County Councillor Barrie Bowker

The Chairman, Councillor Stella Smedley MBE JP, Councillor Parry Tsimbiridis, Councillor David Kirkham and Councillor Jim Creamer all spoke in memory of former County Councillor Barrie Bowker.

8. PETITIONS

(a) PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

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

- (1) The Vice-Chairman regarding badger culling on County Council land
- (2) Councillor Keith Longdon regarding parking at Grosvenor Road/King Street in Eastwood
- (3) Councillor Steve Carr requesting reinstatement of the Motivator Bus
- (4) Councillor Richard Jackson regarding tram compensation
- (5) Councillor Dr John Doddy regarding tram compensation
- (6) Councillor Tom Hollis regarding traffic and highways issues in Huthwaite
- (7) Councillor John Ogle regarding parking issues on Eldon Street, Tuxford

Councillor Stella Smedley MBE JP left the meeting at 11.43am and returned at 2.11pm

RESOLVED: 2014/024

That the petition be referred to the appropriate Committee for consideration in accordance with the Procedure Rules, with a report being brought back to Council in due course

(b) PETITION RESPONSES

RESOLVED: 2014/25

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 NOTTINGHAM FIRE AUTHORITY

No questions were received

(b) QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Five questions had been received as follows:-

- (1) from Councillor Jacky Williams about a pedestrian crossing on Hickings Lane, Stapleford (Councillor Kevin Greaves replied).
- (2) from Councillor Bruce Laughton regarding the speed limit on the A614 (Councillor Kevin Greaves replied).
- (3) from Councillor Reg Adair concerning Council Tax rates (Councillor David Kirkham replied).
- (4) from Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE regarding 'School Keep Clear' markings (Councillor Kevin Greaves replied).
- (5) from Councillor Bruce Laughton concerning the 'Superfast' Broadband roll out (Councillor Diana Meale replied).

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

As far as question three was concerned, Councillor Reg Adair, having heard the response from Councillor Kirkham, indicated an intention to move the adjournment of the Council to enable the matter to be debated more fully.

10. CLARIFICATION OF MINUTES

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

The meeting was adjourned from 12.45 am to 2.00 pm after consideration of this item.

11. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Councillor Steve Carroll introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2014/026 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Nicki Brooks.

RESOLVED: 2014/026

- (a) that Rights of Way Committee be dissolved with immediate effect;

- (b) that the Council confirm the establishment of the following Committees and Sub-Committees of Council with their existing terms of reference and with the membership shown:-

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Number of County Cllrs</u>	<u>Lab</u>	<u>Cons</u>	<u>Lib Dems</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Cllr Maureen Dobson</u>	<u>Other</u>
Adult Social Care and Health Committee	11	6	3	1	1		
Appeals Sub-Committee (pool)	11	6	3	1	1		
Audit Committee	9	5	3	1			
Children and Young People's Committee	11	6	3	2			4 non-voting co-optees
Conduct Committee	5	3	1	1			
Community Safety Committee	9	5	3	1			
Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee	9	5	3	1			
Culture Committee	11	6	3	1		1	
Economic Development Committee	9	5	3	1			2 non-voting co-optees
Environment and Sustainability Committee	9	5	3	1			
Finance and Property Committee	11	6	3	1	1		
Grant Aid Sub-Committee	7	4	2	1			
Greater Nottingham Light Rapid Transit Advisory Committee	5	3	1	1			5 City Councillors
Health Scrutiny Committee	6	3	2	1			4 District Council members
Joint Committee on Strategic Planning & Transport	4	2	1	1			4 City Councillors
Joint City/Council Health Scrutiny Committee	8	4	3	1			8 City Councillors
Health and Wellbeing Board	5	3	1	1			19 (see recommendation c)
Local Joint Resolutions	6	3	2	1			

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Number of County Cllrs</u>	<u>Lab</u>	<u>Cons</u>	<u>Lib Dems</u>	<u>Indepe- ndent</u>	<u>Cllr Maureen Dobson</u>	<u>Other</u>
Committee							
Nottinghamshire Pension Fund Committee	9	5	3	1			
Pensions Investment Sub-Committee	9	5	3	1			8 (see recommendation c)
Pensions Sub- Committee	9	5	3	1			8 plus 2 pensioner reps (see recommendation c)
Personnel Committee	9	5	3	1			
Planning & Licensing Committee	11	6	3	1	1		
Policy Committee	19	10	6	2	1		
Public Health Committee	9	5	3	1			
Senior Staffing Sub- Committee	9 or 5	5 3	3 1	1 1			
Transport and Highways Committee	11	6	3	1	1		

- (c) That the Health Scrutiny Committee membership include 1 co-opted Councillor with voting rights from each of the following authorities:- Ashfield District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Mansfield District Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council.
- (d) That the other representatives on the above Committees /Sub Committees be appointed as follows:-
- (1) Children and Young People's Committee: One representative of the Church of England Diocese, one representative of the Roman Catholic Diocese, and two Parent Governors.
 - (2) Health and Wellbeing Board: Seven District/Boroughs Councillors, six NHS Clinical Commissioning Group representatives, one Healthwatch, one NHS England, the Police and Crime Commissioner, three officers – Corporate Director, Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection, Corporate Director, Children, Families and Cultural Services, Director of Public Health
 - (3) Pensions Investment Sub-Committee: Three City Councillors, two Nottinghamshire District/Borough Council representatives, two Trade Union Representatives, one Scheduled Body representative

- (4) Pensions Sub-Committee: Three City Councillors, two Nottinghamshire District/ Borough Council representatives, two Trade Union representatives, one Scheduled Body representative plus two pensioner representatives.
- (5) Economic Development Committee: Two representatives of the Business Community
- (e) That the Senior Staffing Sub-Committee when considering issues relating to the Chief Executive and Corporate Directors will have a membership of 9 Members and when the Sub-Committee considers issues relating to other officers the membership will be 5 Members and that no Member must sit on the Sub-Committee unless they have received appropriate training.
- (f) That the Leader of the Council be an ex-officio member of all committees and sub-committees except the Appeals Sub-Committee, Planning and Licensing Committee, Senior Staffing Sub-Committee and Joint Committees; with the right to speak but not to vote.
- (g) That the Council make the following appointments of Chairman and Vice-Chairman until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2015, it being noted that the appointment of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Senior Staffing Sub-Committee or Conduct Committee will be a matter for that Sub-Committee:-

Committee	Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Adult Social Care and Health	Muriel Weisz	Yvonne Woodhead
Appeals Sub-Committee	Sheila Place	Nicki Brooks
Audit	Keith Walker	Sheila Place
Children and Young People	John Peck JP	Liz Plant and Kate Foale
Community Safety	Glynn Gilfoyle	Alice Grice
Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee	Liz Plant	None
Culture	John Knight	Alan Bell
Economic Development	Diana Meale	Roy Allan
Environment and Sustainability	Jim Creamer	Pamela Skelding
Finance and Property	David Kirkham	Darren Langton
Grant Aid Sub Committee	Joyce Bosnjak	Martin Suthers OBE
Health and Wellbeing Board	Joyce Bosnjak	Appointed by the Board
Health Scrutiny Committee	Colleen Harwood	John Allin
Joint Cttee on Planning & Transport	Jim Creamer	City Councillor
Joint Health Scrutiny (with City)	Parry Tsimbiridis	City Council
Nottinghamshire Pension Fund	Stella Smedley MBE JP	Ken Rigby
Pensions Investment Sub-Committee	Stella Smedley MBE JP	Ken Rigby
Pensions Sub-Committee	Stella Smedley MBE JP	Ken Rigby
Personnel	Sheila Place	Nicki Brooks
Planning & Licensing	John Wilkinson	Sue Saddington
Policy	Alan Rhodes	Joyce Bosnjak

Public Health Committee	Joyce Bosnjak	Glynn Gilfoyle
Transport and Highways	Kevin Greaves	Steve Calvert

- (h) That a Mental Health Guardianship Panel be established with 5 members (3 Labour Group, 1 Conservative Group, 1 Liberal Democrat Group), to make decisions on renewal and discharge of guardianship under the Mental Health Act 1983.
- (i) That the 12 places on the Combined Fire Authority will be allocated between the groups as follows:-
- Labour Group 6
 - Conservative Group 4
 - Liberal Democrat Group 1
 - Independent Group 1
- (j) That the Leader of the Council continue to be the representative appointed to the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee and the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee continue to be appointed to act as substitute.
- (k) That 1 Labour Group Member, 1 Liberal Democrat Group Member and 1 Conservative Group Member be appointed to the Police and Crime Panel.
- (l) That the Chairman of the Transport and Highways Committee continue to be the representative appointed to the Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee and the Parking Adjudication Joint Committee.
- (m) That the appointment of members of the political groups to committees, sub-committees and joint committees be undertaken by the Team Manager, Democratic Services on behalf of the Chief Executive (the Proper Officer) acting in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Local Government Act 2000 the relevant Statutory Regulations and the Council's Standing Orders.
- (n) That the Team Manager, Democratic Services be authorised to act on behalf of the Chief Executive to appoint people as co-optees to membership of committees or joint committees when required.

12. AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

Councillor Alan Rhodes introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of resolution 2014/027 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Joyce Bosnjak.

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillors Jason Zadrozny and Gail Turner:-

“Delete recommendation ‘2)’ entirely with the effect that constituency speeches will remain part of the usual business of Full Council and that procedures for questions to Committee Chairmen will remain unaltered;

Recommendation ‘3)’ to be renumbered as ‘2)’

Following a debate, the amendment was put to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was lost.

The requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 31 Members voted ‘**For**’ the motion:-

Reg Adair
Chris Barnfather
Andrew Brown
Richard Butler
Steve Carr
Mrs Kay Cutts MBE
Dr John Doddy
Boyd Elliott
Stephen Garner
John Handley
Stan Heptinstall MBE
Tom Hollis
Richard Jackson
Roger Jackson
Bruce Laughton
Keith Longdon

Rachel Madden
John Ogle
Philip Owen
Ken Rigby
Tony Roberts MBE
Mrs Sue Saddington
Andy Sissons
Martin Suthers OBE
Gail Turner
Keith Walker
Stuart Wallace
Gordon Wheeler
Jacky Williams
Liz Yates
Jason Zadrozny

The following 35 Members voted ‘**Against**’ the motion:-

Pauline Allan
Roy Allan
John Allin
Alan Bell
Joyce Bosnjak
Nicki Brooks
Steve Calvert
Ian Campbell
Steve Carroll
John Clarke
Jim Creamer
Maureen Dobson
Sybil Fielding
Kate Foale
Glynn Gilfoyle

Kevin Greaves
Alice Grice
Colleen Harwood
David Kirkham
John Knight
Darren Langton
Diana Meale
Michael Payne
John Peck JP
Sheila Place
Liz Plant
Darrell Pulk
Alan Rhodes
Pamela Skelding
Stella Smedley MBE JP

Parry Tsimbirdis
Muriel Weisz
John Wilkinson

John Wilmott
Yvonne Woodhead

The Chairman declared that the amendment was lost. The original motion was carried on a show of hands.

RESOLVED: 2014/027

- 1) To amend the Council's Constitution, by removing references to Rights of Way Committee and reassigning that Committee's responsibilities, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
- 2) To amend the procedure rules for Full Council as set out in Appendices 2 and 3 of the report.
- 3) To amend the terms of reference for the Health Scrutiny Committee and Joint City/County Health Scrutiny Committee as set out in Appendix 4 of the report.

The meeting adjourned from 3.59pm to 4.20pm.

Councillors Stephen Garner, Tom Hollis, Keith Longdon, Rachel Madden, Andy Sissons, Stella Smedley MBE JP, and Jason Zadrozny did not return to the meeting after the adjournment.

13. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

MOTION ONE

A motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Steve Carr and seconded by Councillor Richard Jackson:-

"This Council believes that residents along the NET Phase 2 tram route in the Divisions of Beeston North, Beeston South and Attenborough and Chilwell and Toton, should receive compensation for the inconvenience, disruption, loss of amenity, damage to property, noise and pollution caused by the works being undertaken on behalf of NET.

This council calls upon the City Council and NET to begin talks with this council in bringing about an equitable financial compensation package for affected residents."

Following a debate, the motion was put to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was lost.

The requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 26 Members voted '**For**' the motion:-

Reg Adair
Chris Barnfather
Andrew Brown
Richard Butler
Steve Carr
Mrs Kay Cutts MBE
Maureen Dobson
Dr John Doddy
Boyd Elliott
John Handley
Stan Heptinstall MBE
Richard Jackson
Roger Jackson

Bruce Laughton
John Ogle
Philip Owen
Ken Rigby
Tony Roberts MBE
Mrs Sue Saddington
Martin Suthers OBE
Gail Turner
Keith Walker
Stuart Wallace
Gordon Wheeler
Jacky Williams
Liz Yates

The following 33 Members voted '**Against**' the motion:-

Pauline Allan
Roy Allan
John Allin
Alan Bell
Joyce Bosnjak
Nicki Brooks
Steve Calvert
Ian Campbell
Steve Carroll
John Clarke
Jim Creamer
Sybil Fielding
Kate Foale
Glynn Gilfoyle
Kevin Greaves
Alice Grice
Colleen Harwood

David Kirkham
John Knight
Darren Langton
Diana Meale
Michael Payne
John Peck JP
Sheila Place
Liz Plant
Darrell Pulk
Alan Rhodes
Pamela Skelding
Parry Tsimbirdis
Muriel Weisz
John Wilkinson
John Wilmott
Yvonne Woodhead

The Chairman declared that the motion was lost.

Councillor Ken Rigby left the meeting at 5.35pm at the end of this item and did not return.

MOTION TWO

A motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Richard Jackson and seconded by Councillor Steve Carr:-

"This Council:-

- a) Regrets turning down applications for compensation from businesses close to the tram route which were not covered by the original financial assistance package for traders, but whose owners were led to expect compensation by

the announcement recently made by the Council Leader in the Nottingham Post;

- b) Supports the principle that the original financial assistance package should be extended to all businesses that have suffered demonstrable losses due to NET Phase Two;
- c) Agrees to urgently review its decision to refuse compensation, made after the visit to Beeston and Chilwell by Councillors Rhodes, Greaves and Calvert;
- d) Will work with partners to put the appropriate compensation funding in place.”

The following amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Steve Calvert and seconded by Councillor Kevin Greaves:-

“This Council:-

- ~~a) Regrets turning down applications for compensation from businesses close to the tram route which were not covered by the original financial assistance package for traders, but whose owners were led to expect compensation by the announcement recently made by the Council Leader in the Nottingham Post;~~
- ab) Supports the principle that the original financial assistance package should be extended to all businesses that have suffered demonstrable losses **due directly attributed** to NET Phase Two;
- ~~c) Agrees to urgently review its decision to refuse compensation, made after the visit to Beeston and Chilwell by Councillors Rhodes, Greaves and Calvert;~~
- bd) Will work with partners to put the appropriate ~~compensation funding~~ **financial assistance package** in place.”

Councillor Richard Jackson as mover of the original motion accepted the changes to the motion.

The motion as amended was put to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was carried.

RESOLVED 2014/028

“This Council:-

- a) Supports the principle that the original financial assistance package should be extended to all businesses that have suffered demonstrable losses directly attributed to NET Phase Two;

- b) Will work with partners to put the appropriate financial assistance package in place.”

MOTION THREE

A motion as set out below was moved by Councillor Dr John Doddy and seconded by Councillor Stuart Wallace:-

“This Council:-

- a) Agrees that business cases for any closures or significant reductions to Nottinghamshire County Council adult and children’s social care & health services and facilities should be referred to the Health & Wellbeing Board prior to the Council making a final decision, in order that key leaders in the health and care system can consider the proposals and comment;
- b) Recognises that such a procedure would improve scrutiny of the business cases and could provide an opportunity for the Health & Wellbeing Board to suggest ways in which closures or reductions could be mitigated or avoided.”

Following a debate, the motion was put to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared it was lost.

Councillor Stan Heptinstall MBE left the meeting 6.08pm during consideration of this item and did not return.

13. ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

The Chairman agreed that the adjournment debate relating to question three would be deferred to the next meeting.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.18 pm.

CHAIRMAN

APPENDIX A

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15TH MAY 2014 QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Question to the Chairman of Transport and Highways Committee, from Councillor Jacky Williams

Would your committee please consider the installation of a puffin pedestrian crossing on Hickings Lane, Stapleford, in the vicinity of the Ryecroft Street junction. Hickings Lane is a main access road in and out of Stapleford and has particularly high levels of traffic in the early morning rush hour and late afternoons. This main road is too far from the local schools to benefit from the proposed 20mph limits, but is used by residents on the estates known as Little Australia and Ilkeston Road, for walking children to schools and nurseries in the area, as well as people of all ages gaining access to the medical centre on Hickings Lane which is run by my colleague Dr Doddy who I suspect will probably follow this up as well. We recently had a second crossing installed on Toton Lane in Stapleford. We have one near the George Spencer school and one's just being put in for the Fairfield school and this is proving very successful in assisting people to cross over the road and also in slowing down the traffic although I notice that the interactive speed sign has not been working this week.

Response from Councillor Kevin Greaves, Transport & Highways Committee

The County Council has an annual programme of transport schemes which includes pedestrian crossings. The programme is put together based on a number of factors and these factors include;

- Requests by the public and members,
- Evidence of need which includes technical analysis
- A delivery of the Council's transport objectives

With regard to your suggestion for a crossing, surveys have recently been carried out in this location. These surveys will now be analysed to see if there is any need for a crossing. If it is found that there is a need, further studies will be done to see if it is possible to install a crossing at this location. If the crossing is a possibility, it will be considered for inclusion in the Council's transport programme.

Question to the Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee, from Councillor Bruce Laughton

Would the Chairman of the Transport and Highways Committee state whether there are any plans to increase the speed limit on the A614 from 50mph to 60mph?

Response from Councillor Kevin Greaves, Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee

There are no plans to increase the current speed limit on the A614 to 60 mph. This is for safety reasons. Speed enforcement cameras were introduced alongside the 50 mph speed limits in order to make the road safer. This scheme has proved to be successful between the 1st January 2006 and 31st December 2010 the average number of road accident casualties on this road was 58 per year. During the same 4 year period there were 9 fatalities.

Following the introduction of a 50 mph speed limit and the cameras in early 2012 there has been almost half as many casualties per year. Of these casualties, those classed as seriously injured have reduced by 40%. Furthermore, touch wood, there have been no fatalities either – so that's good news. The figures speak for themselves.

An increase in the speed limit would reduce the effectiveness of the scheme and reduce safety on the A614. For this reason, the current 50 mph speed limit will stay in place for the foreseeable future.

Question to the Chairman of the Finance and Property Committee, from Councillor Reg Adair

Would the Chairman of the Finance and Property Committee inform Council how many shire county councils have set a higher Band B Council Tax for 2014/15 than Nottinghamshire's £946, and what is the current Band B average for shire counties?

Response from Councillor David Kirkham, Chairman of the Finance and Property Committee

Councillor Adair is either unable to grasp simple maths or he is deliberately trying to mislead members of the public into thinking that they are paying more Council tax in Nottinghamshire than they would be paying in other counties. I will give him the benefit of the doubt though, and assume he is not trying to mislead.

Therefore I will once again try and educate him on simple maths. Let's take a simple comparison between Nottinghamshire and Surrey. Nottinghamshire has 50% of its properties in Bands A and B. Surrey has only 5% of its properties in Bands A and B. Conversely Nottinghamshire has 18% of its properties in Bands E-G whilst Surrey has 60%.

So if both Counties were to set the same Council tax rate, bearing in mind that the higher bands pay proportionately more, it is obvious that Surrey would collect a far greater amount of tax from its citizens than Nottinghamshire. Therefore, to enable Nottinghamshire to collect a similar amount as Surrey, they would have to set a higher rate. In fact, the Council tax banding rates are meaningless when it comes to making these comparisons. The only fair way to calculate how much each County pays in Council tax from its citizens is to work out an average by dividing council tax collected by the number of Council taxpayers. When this fair method is used, Nottinghamshire is

placed 10th out of 27 Councils in terms of average Council tax paid with residents in Surrey paying the highest average. Clearly this is not a statistic that the opposition would like to put into their propaganda. So I suggest that they quickly get a grasp of the maths or stand accused of deliberately misleading the public.

Question to the Chairman of the Transport and Highways Committee, from Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE

At Transport and Highways Committee on 21st March 2013, approval was given for Traffic Regulation Orders to be applied to 'School Keep Clear' markings across the County, in order to make them legally enforceable.

I attended the recent Annual Meeting of East Bridgford Parish Council, during which a resident expressed concern that no apparent changes had yet been made outside St. Peter's Church of England Primary School in the village.

Would the Chairman of the Transport and Highways Committee tell Council how many 'School Keep Clear' markings have been made legally enforceable so far, and how long it will take to complete those still outstanding?

Does he share my concern that careless and inconsiderate parking persists outside many schools and that any delay in this project will put schoolchildren at greater risk of injury?

Response from Councillor David Kirkham, Chairman of the Finance and Property Committee

Of course careless inconsiderate parking outside schools is an issue of concern and is no doubt shared by us all.

I'm pleased to be able to report, therefore that we are making good progress in our efforts to create a safer traffic environment outside our schools. We are fully committed to making the 'School Keep Clear' markings outside all of our 336 schools legally enforceable. To do this traffic regulation orders need to be processed for each site and lining and signing needs to be legally correct.

The project is being carried out in phases on a district by district basis. I am pleased to say that all our schools will have legally enforceable markings by the end of 2014.

In Bassetlaw 44 schools now have legally enforceable road markings. In Mansfield, Ashfield, Broxtowe all road markings outside schools have been surveyed and during March the road markings were repainted where required.

We are now to consult on the proposals of the traffic regulation order process. The traffic markings will become enforceable when the children go back to school in September.

For Newark, Sherwood and Rushcliffe and Gedling, consultation on the orders will begin over the school summer holidays and the lines will be enforceable by the end of 2014.

I'm sure you all agree that it is good we are dealing with this important issue which has been around for some years. We are putting the safety of Nottinghamshire's children high on our list of priorities and of that you can be assured.

Question to the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, from Councillor Bruce Laughton

Is the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee aware that our contract partners, BT have written to residents of Norwell informing them that they will not receive fibre-based 'Superfast' broadband, prompting considerable disappointment and numerous calls to me as their local county councillor?

Could she explain why BT can circulate such information, when at a recent Economic Development Committee meeting our officers told me it was not yet possible to advise Members whether and when specific locations would receive fibre-based broadband?

Would she agree that as elected representatives of the local authority leading this project, Nottinghamshire County Councillors should be the first to receive clear information, so that we can respond accurately to enquiries from residents?

Would the Chairman ensure that Members receive precise information about the planned rollout and coverage of fibre broadband in their divisions as a priority?

Given that Nottinghamshire County Councils are contributing almost £4 million to this scheme (including capital of £2.15 million from this Council and £1 million from districts and boroughs) would she explain what she is doing to monitor progress and ensure that our taxpayers and residents receive a proper service and value for money?

Response from Councillor Diana Meale, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee

Neither I, the broadband team nor BT are aware of the BT letter to which you refer and without sight of it I can't really provide more detailed information about it.

However I can confirm that Norwell is not nor has it ever been covered by the Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire Programme. At this level, information on whether or not an area is in or out of our programme or covered by the commercial rollout is available from the broadband team or can be accessed through the County Council's link or actually BT's Openreach 'Where and When' postcode checking. I looked it up myself;

www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/where-and-when

You can actually type in a postcode and find out what the status of implementation of fibre-based or superfast broadband is. As members will know it's not possible under the current programme to achieve 100% coverage in the Nottinghamshire area. A report

however will be going to the next Policy Committee providing details of the next stage of the programme and while at this stage Norwell's exclusion is definite, I am hopeful that the second phase of the programme will include areas such as Norwell where it is technically difficult to provide fibre broadband coverage.

Now at this stage as explained at the Economic Development Committee it is only possible to give very high level information about where the programme will cover and when and that's the issue we raised at the last Economic Development Committee. It is however a requirement of Ofcom that all Internet Service Providers receive information about ability of broadband at the same time as the street cabinet is ready for retail service. In other words we know at a broad level in broad areas what the status of broadband delivery is, it's at cabinet level there is an issue that we raised at the Committee about knowing in a timely fashion.

Now the Programme Team continues to press BT for as much information as it is possible for them to provide under legal and contractual processes. As we discussed at the last Economic Development Committee I am very mindful of the need for members to be informed at the earliest opportunity of installations in their areas at that cabinet level.

Now obviously if Councillor Laughton would like additional information to reassure him that processes are in place then I do invite him to spend some time with the broadband team so that they can explain the process in more detail.