

## **APPENDIX A**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016 QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

#### **Question to the Chairman of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, from Councillor Andy Sissons**

I have received several calls with questions and comments about the registration process to be able to use re-cycling centres, particularly with regard to the personal information needed to register.

Could Councillor Creamer explain the necessity to include a check on the credit rating of residents who simply desire to recycle their waste in a responsible manner?

#### **Response from Councillor Jim Creamer, Chairman of the Environment and Sustainability Committee**

The Council required a mechanism to check the identity and residence of individuals registering to use the Household Waste Recycling Centre network in Nottinghamshire.

The most efficient cost effective system was found to be an identity check provided by a credit reference agency and the personal information collected is the minimum required to enable those checks to be undertaken.

The address validation check is not a credit check and will in no way affect an individual's credit rating. This check merely verifies that the person registering for the scheme lives at that address and would only be visible on an individual's file by them and not by any other company or organisation.

This check is done simply to validate that they are a Nottinghamshire resident and this data will not be used for any other purpose.

#### **Question to the Chairman of the Transport and Highways Committee, from Councillor Andy Sissons**

Councillor Greaves, we are all aware of the problems around parking, too many cars, too few spaces, however, my question is about permit holder parking and is prompted by complaints received from some residents in my division but probably mirrored across the county. On several occasions residents who have a permit have had to park on other streets, some incurring penalties, as there were insufficient spaces for the number of permit holders.

Can Councillor Greaves explain if the number of permits issued is directly related to the available spaces on any particular street or if we simply use this as a source of revenue?

### **Response from Councillor Kevin Greaves, Chairman of the Transport and Highways Committee**

Resident's permits are allocated according to Nottinghamshire County Council policy on the basis of one permit for every resident who owns a vehicle and one visitors permit.

This policy has been in place for many years and has proved successful at providing residents within a restricted zone a service that significantly improves their ability to park near their house.

There are a small number of residents-only streets with an occasional excess of parking demand over supply, but this demand is generated by the residents. Removing the scheme would only exacerbate any problem by allowing parking for all vehicles.

The charge has been £25 since 2010 and this covers the administrative cost of the service with no surplus.

### **Question to the Chairman of Policy Committee, from Councillor John Wilmott**

Can the Chairman of the Policy Committee explain to me why a democratically reached decision made by the Children and Young Peoples Committee, can be changed by another committee after the event, when it had been passed by an officer in charge who had the authority to do so, at the Children and Young People's meeting?

### **Response from Councillor Alan Rhodes, Chairman of Policy Committee**

For clarity's sake my answer will relate to the recent decision by the Policy Committee which approved a Policy regarding attendance at Conferences by elected members. As the report which was considered by Policy Committee clearly stated it has, for as long as I or anyone else can remember, been custom and practice within this Council to send lead members to national conferences. The reasons are obvious and the hint is in the words "Lead Members".

Who else would you send to a national conference but the member who has been tasked with leading on the issue the conference is about. It is not rocket science and I am certain that the public would expect that in these hard times we not only limit our attendances at Conferences , which we do , but that we ensure the most appropriate member attends and by anyone's definition that must surely be the Lead member . In this particular instance the lead member role is enshrined in statute and our constitution makes clear that the Chairman of the Children's and Young People's Committee is the lead member for children's services as required by the Children Act 2004.

Colleagues, a standard report was taken to a Children and Young People's Committee entirely in accordance with the custom and practice of this Authority that I have already referred to. Political mischief making resulted in an amendment being moved which

should, and the Monitoring Officer has confirmed this, have been ruled as invalid. It wasn't. A mistake was made on the part of the Legal Officer.

The report that was approved at Policy Committee sets out a clear and unequivocal policy in relation to attendances at conferences. It is no longer just custom and practice which dictates attendance but agreed policy and rightly it was agreed that this Policy will apply to the forthcoming conference which was the subject of the report to the Children and Young People's Committee.

I hope that this is the end of this matter. As the Leader of this Council it is a cause of concern to me that I am answering questions of this nature instead of questions of real importance about matters which genuinely affect the lives and the wellbeing of residents of Hucknall and others within this County.

Colleagues let's move on.

#### **Question to the Chairman of Policy Committee, from Councillor John Wilmott**

Would the Chairman of Policy Committee agree with me that much of the estimated 7 million pound capital receipt that will be obtained from the sale of the land at Top Wighay Farm should be allocated to the people of Hucknall and Linby and Papplewick, to build a new NHS Walk in Centre, to include Social Services, to combat the tremendous strain that will be put on the residents of the area for health service provision?

And does the Chairman of the Policy Committee agree with me that some of the capital receipt should be put aside for a toilet facility in the Hucknall Library? For the long suffering residents of Hucknall, Linby, and Papplewick, for when they shop in Hucknall Town Centre, especially as we are spending 12million pounds on the Inner Relief Road and the pedestrianisation of the High Street which will hopefully mean many more people will come and shop in the town centre.

And may I remind The Chairman that Ashfield District Council say they are not responsible for toilet provision in the Town which was said by your Chairman of Culture at their meeting.

#### **Response from Councillor Alan Rhodes, Chairman of Policy Committee**

First of all, I need to remind the County Council meeting that the County Council policy is to use the capital receipts to pay off the outstanding debt and as such is not available for new investment. In other words capital receipts from the sale of land and property is not hypothecated for services specifically.

Secondly as Members are no doubt already aware in the case of new developments there is extra demand on services and infrastructure. This is taken into account as a part of the planning process, during which every effort is made by public sector bodies including NHS England to secure developer contributions in order to deal with these demands and provide infrastructure required.

Can I assure Councillor Willmott that no effort will be spared in ensuring that developer contributions are in place as a part of the planning process.

May I also remind Members that in recent years very significant investment has already been made available by this Council in Hucknall and the surrounding areas and this has included multi-million pound schemes such as the by-pass, town centre, inner relief road and library. We will continue to press for more funding to make the area a great place to live.

I would like to add that the responsibility for public conveniences in Hucknall lies with Ashfield District Council.

And perhaps Councillor John Willmott should have considered this before putting his hand as Deputy Leader for Ashfield District Council to close every public convenience in Ashfield including Hucknall.

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

Would the Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee explain why a speed reduction from 50mph to 30mph has been imposed on the A614 between Rose Cottage and the Lockwell Hill roundabout for the past three weeks when, with better planning, it should only have been required for a week?

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

The works on the A614 are part of the surface dressing programme being carried out at sites throughout the County to extend the life of the carriageways by sealing their surfaces and restoring skid resistance.

In order to ensure that the operation is efficient and the risks to delaying the works are minimised, it is essential to make sure that preparatory works are complete ahead of the main operation.

The removal of cats eyes therefore precedes the surface dressing operation by a few days and in the case of the A614 was carried out overnight on a date when lowest traffic impact was expected. The surface dress was programmed to take place on a single working day, this being a Wednesday.

Saturday is the preferred night to remove studs on such a route using a road closure as any works over run extends into a Sunday morning which is more acceptable than any other time of the week.

As the Saturday prior to the programmed dressing works fell on a bank holiday weekend the works were carried out 7 days earlier so as to not close the road that weekend. Accelerating the stud removal by one week did extend the period that the lower speed limit was required but allowed Nottinghamshire to make best use of the contractor's availability during May which is traditionally the ideal time to surface dress.

The surface dressing itself was undertaken in a single day of closure - which for a site of nearly six and half kilometres of wide road - is an excellent achievement.

Following the dressing, there has to be a period of bedding in before the road markings and cats eyes can be replaced to ensure that the markings are not being laid on loose materials.

The post-dressing period is typically about a week, and due to the extent of markings, this is taking place over five consecutive nights following which the speed limits will be restored to their normal levels.

I am sure that we all appreciate the need to consider the safety of both the road workers and road users and that whilst the road was in a temporary condition the speed limit should be reduced.