

Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012 (10.00 am – 6.07 pm)

**Membership**

Persons absent are marked with `A`

**COUNCILLORS**

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

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

## **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mick Burrows	(Chief Executive)
Steve Bradley	(Children, Families and Cultural Services)
Anthony May	(Children, Families and Cultural Services)
Caroline Baria	(Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection)
David Pearson	(Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection)
Jon Wilson	(Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection)
Paul Simpson	(Environment and Resources)
Carl Bilbey	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Heather Dickinson	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Claire Dixon	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Martin Done	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Chris Holmes	(Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)
Sara Allmond	(Policy, Planning and Corporate 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: 2012/048**

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the County Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012 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

Other  
Councillor Gail Turner

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Reg Adair declared a private interest in item 15 – Notice of Motion as he was a member of the Cricket Club

Councillor Chris Barnfather declared a private interest in item 15 – Notice of Motion as he was a member of the Cricket Club

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts declared a private interest in item 15 – Notice of Motion as her husband was a member of the Cricket Club

Councillor David Taylor declared a private interest in item 15 – Notice of Motion as he was a member of the Cricket Club

Councillor Steve Carr subsequently declared a private interest in item 14 – Treasury Management Half-Year Report 2012-13 as he was employed by Royal Bank of Scotland.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

##### **(a) RUFFORD BY-ELECTION RESULT**

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2012/049 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Suthers OBE.

**RESOLVED: 2012/049**

That the report be noted.

##### **(b) Broadband B0 Assurance Requirements Letter**

Members were advised that a letter had been received from BDUK which informed the Council that the proposed Broadband project had conditionally passed the BDUK Checkpoint B0 assurance requirements meaning that the Council was ready to commence stage 2 of the project. A copy of the letter was provided to all Members for information.

##### **(c) Presentation of Awards**

###### **Divisional Commander's Commendation – Car Cruising**

The Chairman presented Councillor Mick Murphy with a Divisional Commander's Commendation which acknowledged his work in Netherfield and Colwick to stop vehicle nuisance in and around the local retail park.

###### **Westfield Folkhouse – SCALA Civic Building of the Year**

Councillor Reg Adair presented the SCALA Civic Building of the Year award for the Westfield Folkhouse. The Chairman presented the award to

Giri Kanagasabai, Senior Structural Engineer, Environment and Resources.

#### Great British Care Awards – East Midlands Event

Councillor Kevin Rostance introduced the Great British Care Awards – East Midlands Event in which the Council had nominees in three categories – the Dignity in Care Award, Care Team Award and Care Trainer Award. Councillor Rostance congratulated all nominees and was pleased to announce that Veronica Bell had won the Dignity in Care Award. The Chairman presented the award to Veronica Bell.

#### Olympic Torch Relay Certificate

Councillor John Cottee introduced the Olympic Torch Relay Certificate which was awarded to recognise the role played by the Council when the torch passed through Nottinghamshire on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Councillor Cottee presented the certificate to the Chairman.

### **5. CONSTITUENCY ISSUES**

Set out in Appendix A to these minutes is a full note of the issues discussed by Councillors as follows:-

Councillor Chris Winterton – parking on Montague Street, Mansfield

Councillor Rachel Madden – road safety in Ashfield

Councillor Jason Zadrozny – Ash trees in Ashfield

### **6. PETITIONS**

#### **(a). PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS**

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

1. Councillor Andy Stewart – Petition regarding creating a cycle lane on Epperstone Bypass
2. Councillor Reg Adair – Petition requesting speed limits at Costock
3. Councillor Keith Girling – Petition requesting traffic calming measures for Grange Road, Newark
4. Councillor Stuart Wallace – Petition requesting a residents parking scheme on Lime Grove, Newark

5. Councillor V H Dobson – Petition regarding a pedestrian crossing for Friary Road, Newark
6. Councillor Stephen Garner – Petition requesting double yellow lines on Robin Down Lane, Mansfield
7. Councillor John Peck JP – Petition concerning school transport in Bilsthorpe

**RESOLVED: 2012/050**

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

**7. QUESTIONS**

**(a) QUESTIONS TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AUTHORITY**

A question for the Nottinghamshire Police Authority was received as follows:-

1. from Councillor Jason Zadrozny regarding transition arrangements for the Police & Crime Commissioner (Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle replied)

A question for the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority was received as follows:-

2. from Councillor Jason Zadrozny regarding financial information from the Fire Authority (Councillor Darrell Pulk replied)

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

**(b) QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

Seven questions had been received as follows:-

1. from Councillor Jason Zadrozny about impact on residents at Care Homes which fail Care Quality Commission inspections (Councillor Kevin Rostance replied)
2. from Councillor Kevin Greaves concerning Intercity East Coast Franchise – Council's response (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
3. from Councillor Jason Zadrozny concerning visitors centre at Sherwood Forest (Councillor John Cottee replied)

4. from Councillor Chris Winterton about funding cuts (Councillor Reg Adair replied)
5. from Councillor Rachel Madden regarding Highways IT systems (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
6. from Councillor June Stendall concerning redecoration and refurbishment of the six County Care Homes (Councillor Kevin Rostance replied)
7. from Councillor Jason Zadrozny regarding the Ash Tree infection (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
8. from Councillor John Clarke regarding Asbestos in County Hall (Councillor Reg Adair replied)
9. from Councillor Jason Zadrozny about highways solutions in Sutton-in-Ashfield North (Councillor Richard Jackson replied)
10. from Councillor Chris Winterton regarding lifting of suspended care home contracts (Councillor Kevin Rostance replied)
11. from Councillor Rachel Madden about maintenance of pitches adjoining schools (Councillor Philip Owen replied)

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

The time limit of one hour allowed for questions was reached before the following two questions were asked. A written response to each question would therefore be provided to the Councillor who asked the question within 15 days of the meeting and be included within the papers for the next Full Council meeting.

12. from Councillor June Stendall about maintenance of Highways adopted footpaths (Councillor Richard Jackson to reply)
13. from Councillor Jason Zadrozny concerning department guidelines for work in kind (Councillor Richard Jackson to reply)

## **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. ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2012/051 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Suthers OBE.

### **RESOLVED: 2012/051**

1. That the Armed Forces Community Covenant Pledge for Nottinghamshire and the actions set out to honour the pledge be agreed
2. That the Covenant would be signed publically.

## **10. REPLACEMENT OF THE MOSAIC OUTSIDE COUNTY HALL**

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2012/052 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Suthers OBE.

### **RESOLVED: 2012/052**

1. That the replacement of the current mosaic be agreed in principle and the LIS Team be commissioned to undertake detailed design and costing work.
2. That a further report on the design and costing be brought to Council for approval as soon as possible.

## **11. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF RUSHCLIFFE**

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2012/053 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Suthers OBE

### **RESOLVED: 2012/053**

That the following comments be approved and sent to the Local Government Boundary Commission in response to the consultation on the Electoral Review of Rushcliffe:-

- a) Kneeton should be with East Bridgford
- b) Langar and Barnstone should not be divided
- c) Keyworth should be called Keyworth and the Wolds

d) There was concern regarding Langar being teamed up with Kinoulton

Following consideration of this item, Council adjourned from 12.37 pm until 1.45 pm for lunch.

## **12. QUALITY IN CARE SERVICES**

Councillor Kevin Rostance introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2012/054 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Stuart Wallace.

### **RESOLVED: 2012/054**

That the activities undertaken by the Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection Department in working in partnership with providers of care and support services and with other statutory agencies to help improve the quality of care services provided to service users across the county be noted.

## **13. PROVISIONAL PERFORMANCE FIGURES FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES – SUMMER 2012**

Councillor Philip Owen introduced the report and addendum which had been circulated and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2012/055 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Allen Clarke.

### **RESOLVED: 2012/055**

That the report be noted.

## **14. TREASURY MANAGEMENT HALF-YEAR REPORT 2012/13**

Councillor Reg Adair introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2012/056 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Eric Kerry.

### **RESOLVED: 2012/056**

That the treasury management activities for the first half of 2012/13 be noted.

Following consideration of this item, Council adjourned from 4.05pm until 4.10pm.

## **15. NOTICE OF MOTION**

It was moved by Councillor Alan Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Joyce Bosnjak:-

“This Council condemns the recent decision of the Policy Committee to award £900,000 to Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club towards the cost of a new scoreboard, at a time when deep cuts to Public Services are causing hardship in our communities.”

The following amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Stan Heptinstall MBE and seconded by Councillor Jason Zadrozny.

“This Council ~~condemns~~ **notes** the recent decision of the Policy Committee to award £900,000 to Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club towards the cost of a new scoreboard, at a time when deep cuts to Public Services are causing hardship in our communities. **This Council therefore calls for the award to be replaced by a loan and / or for contributions from other Local Authorities to reduce the impact on Nottinghamshire County Council.**”

Following an adjournment from 4.45pm to 4.52pm, the amendment to the motion was not accepted by the mover of the motion. The amendment to the motion was put to the meeting and after a show of hands the Chairman declared that it was lost.

Following a further debate, the original motion was put to the meeting and after a show of hands was carried.

The requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 15 Members voted ‘**For**’ the motion.

### **‘FOR’**

John Allin  
Joyce Bosnjak  
Steve Carroll  
John Clarke  
Jim Creamer  
Sybil Fielding  
Glynn Gilfoyle  
Kevin Greaves

John Knight  
John Peck JP  
Sheila Place  
Darrell Pulk  
Alan Rhodes  
S Smedley MBE JP  
Parry Tsimbiridis

The following 34 Members voted ‘**Against**’ the motion.

**'AGAINST'**

Reg Adair  
Chris Barnfather  
Victor Bobo  
Richard Butler  
Allen Clarke  
Ged Clarke  
L B Cooper  
John Cottee  
Michael J Cox  
Mrs Kay Cutts  
Dr John Doddy  
V H Dobson  
Keith Girling  
John M Hemsall  
Richard Jackson  
Eric Kerry  
Keith Longdon

Mick Murphy  
Philip Owen  
Carol Pepper  
Mike Quigley MBE  
Mrs Wendy Quigley  
Kevin Rostance  
Mrs Sue Saddington  
Mel Shepherd MBE  
Mark Spencer MP  
Andy Stewart  
Martin Suthers OBE  
Lynn Sykes  
David Taylor  
Keith Walker  
Stuart Wallace  
Gordon Wheeler  
Liz Yates

Councillors Stephen Garner and June Stendall abstained.

The Chairman declared that the motion was lost.

The meeting closed at 6.07 pm

**CHAIRMAN**

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2012**

#### **3-MINUTE SPEECHES**

##### **Councillor Chris Winterton**

“I’d like to raise an issue about parking on Montague Street. Montague Street is in Mansfield, it’s a terrace street which is one way due to the narrowness of the kerb way. From time to time people with a disability have asked the County Council to afford a disabled parking bay outside the premises.

It is with regret that I have to report this to the Council. I do believe that after giving the appropriate correspondence to the Chief Executive, he is still looking into it. But a letter purported to come from a highways officer advising that people with a disabled bay outside their house that they were not legally enforceable. They couldn’t deny anybody else from parking outside their property causing great distress.

This was a letter from county hall newspaper and it was said from a Highways Officer at the bottom, it was not signed – quite clearly this letter had been put about to every resident on the street, which caused quite a considerable amount of distress, but was not an official letter from the County Council.

Now I think that to put a letter out on Council headed newspaper which wasn’t actually a letter from the highways officer which caused great distress is something that we should guard against at this Council. I do hope that Members, even if they feel that they have a justifiable position, wouldn’t put a letter in the name of a council officer because that act reflects badly to the residents in this particular street on the County Council.

So I do hope that the perpetrator of this letter and I have actually passed on the envelope which was handwritten, and the letter was funnily enough posted here in Nottingham to all the residents on the street.

So I do hope that the person responsible, that the perpetrator of great hurt caused to many people who have got a disability on this street is taking note. I did say I would raise it as a three minute speech at the County Council to the residents of that particular area.

I want to put on record that I am grateful for the support of the highways officers who acted to put a subsequent letter refuting the...”

## **Councillor Rachel Madden**

“As with my speech at the last Full Council this one may also resonate amongst all Councillors present today. In case you didn't know, tomorrow Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November is All Souls Day when the dead, including my brother are remembered.

My brother died in 1984 of injuries sustained in a road traffic accident. A good friend of mine was recently involved in a very nasty accident and I am sure there are many here also who know of people close to them who have been injured in or have died as a result of such an event, hence Councillor Rhodes' announcement earlier.

Many of our residents frequently bring up the subject of road safety so I've several things to raise.

Firstly with regard to speeding, I welcome the different efforts made by this Authority from reducing the speed limit on the A611 down to 50 mph through to the installation of interactive road signs and down to the markings even on our roads.

But may I ask if this Council is considering introducing the 20mph speed limit in our residential areas, and if the answer is 'yes', when would this arrive in my division given the problems highlighted recently by the Headmaster at Orchard School?

My next point is the visibility of various road signs advising drivers of hazards or speed limits further along the road. A resident of mine who is a driving instructor frequently sends me photos of signage, which I do report, obscured by overhanging or tall vegetation and/or warning signs obscured by other signs such as directional boards placed immediately in front of them in such a way that drivers cannot see such a warning until they are actually parallel with that sign. He is particularly concerned about this problem on roads such as the A38 or A611 as vehicles reach quite high speeds along these types of roads so may not be aware of any hazards or restrictions until too late.

Is there maintenance or any other programme in place to cover these aspects of highway safety?

My final point is a more strategic thing; Ashfield District Council, as you may all be aware, is currently in a period of consultation regarding the Draft New Local Plan. Several residents have commented that the County's Highways section appears to have said that it is happy with the siting of the various allocation sites including those for large housing developments.

Given that some of these housing allocations may exit onto busy roads such as the A611, is the Chair of the Transport Committee happy with that submission?

Knowing the A611 as I do, I would urge a rigorous review of all the possibilities that may arise.”

### **Councillor Jason Zadrozny**

“I rise to talk about the recent outbreak of disease within ash trees. My division in Ashfield has many wooded areas including Silverhill Wood and parts of Brierley Forest.

As you will be aware the Old English name for Ashfield is 'an open land (feld) where ash-trees (aesc) grow'. It is first recorded as Esfeld as part of Kirkeby in Esfeld as far back as 1216.

Some of you might be interested to know that in ancient Norse times the sap was fermented and said to be the drink of inspiration and that is maybe why I speak so wisely in this Chamber.

In February 2012 the disease *Chalara Fraxinea* was found in a consignment of infected trees sent from a nursery in the Netherlands to Buckinghamshire. Since then it has been found in a number of locations and situations in England and Scotland, including an infamous car park in Leicester; a Forestry Commission site in Knockmountain woodland, Scotland; a college campus in South Yorkshire; and in County Durham. All these sites had received stocks of young ash plants from nurseries within the past five years. Further cases have been confirmed in the nursery trade.

The disease attacks the *fraxinea* plant which is the family of olives, lilacs and ash trees. It's a type of fungus that affects the root. In cotton it's called the black root disease that wipes out the crops. It causes terrible leaf loss, crown dieback, and will eventually lead to tree death.

In October 2012, Fera (Food and Environmental Research Agency) scientists confirmed a number of cases in East Anglia in ash trees which do not appear to be associated with any nursery stock.

That means that the *Chalara Fraxinea* is being treated as a quarantine pest under national emergency measures, and it is important that suspected cases of the disease are reported.

Last Friday, DNA tests confirmed that ash trees were among the first in ancient woodlands to succumb. There are many answers which raise terrible questions similar to the Dutch Elm disease which killed 25 million trees.

Scientists agree that the most likely cause of the current outbreak is extraordinary in international tree trades.

Most people will know that the ash tree is almost like a weed and grows very quickly so it's bizarre that we're importing many Ash trees. What's even more

bizarre is that for things like the Diamond Jubilee we were planting many new forests; there were lots of new trees planted; 460-acres in Leicestershire.”

## **APPENDIX B**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2012** **QUESTIONS TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY AND** **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AUTHORITY**

#### **Question to the Nottinghamshire Police Authority from Councillor Jason Zadrozny**

“Will the chairman of the Police Authority take this opportunity to outline for members the transitional arrangements from himself to the new Police and Crime Commissioner, will he outline the challenges he feels he leaves for the new incumbent?”

#### **Response by Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle, Vice-Chairman of the Nottinghamshire Police Authority**

“I would like to thank Councillor Zadrozny for giving me the opportunity to inform members just how effectively the Transition Programme has been fulfilled, highlight the praise that we have received for this work from bodies such as HMIC and the Audit Commission; and draw attention to the improvements in policing across the county over recent years.

The Transition programme has been overseen by the Nottinghamshire PCC Transition Programme Board. This multi-partner board has considered the Programme’s projects and milestones and will endorse the final recommendations and options for handover briefings for the PCC to enable the successful candidate to make legal decisions immediately they take up office.

At the outset, twelve project streams were set up to drive transition to the new regime, covering every area of business and these have been progressed in both a timely and effective fashion. Members may be interested to learn that County Council officers Chris Walker, Yvette Armstrong, Anne-Marie-Hawkins, Martin Done, Mick Burrows and Jayne Francis-Ward have been involved in the stewardship and leading on work streams and we thank the county council for its on-going support.

A detailed 130 day plan has been compiled to capture national and local issues and events, together with identifying timescales for statutory decisions and local decisions to facilitate the PCC to commence work from day one of office.

A Service Level Agreement is being drawn up for the PCC and the Chief Constable to cover shared common resources in support of their powers and duties under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, and ensure full cooperation for the delivery of efficient and effective policing services to the communities of Nottinghamshire.

Our work has been assessed robustly, both through our own internal audits and a series of HMIC PCC Transition Preparedness Support and Challenge meetings which have summarised that we have robust planning and that we are managing and delivering the Transition Programme.

HMIC found that the commitment of members to ensure effective governance through to transition is particularly strong, and key decisions have been identified. Stakeholder engagement has also been positive.

In the most recent report HMIC described plans for anticipating the practical needs of the PCC from the day they take office (22 November) as at “at advanced stage”.

With regard to the second part of the question, a report considered by the Authority in September recognised the remarkable achievement seen over recent years to reduce crime in the county. Continued efforts to drive up performance and make Nottinghamshire residents safer had delivered record lows in crime over the past two years and the best detection results in decades.

Despite the financial challenges, overall performance across the city and county areas is strong. There are areas that have been identified for priority attention by the Force and partners. This provides the PCC with the best possible platform to build on this legacy of success in the future.

Crime rates in the county are currently at their lowest level in 32 years. In 2011/12, a total of 77,421 crimes were recorded – the fewest number since 1979/80. The Force is in eighth place nationally out of 42 forces for crime reduction and in the four years since 2008/09 has recorded the biggest reduction in crime nationally.

I’m pleased to inform you that council tax payers in Nottinghamshire are receiving better value for money for policing services than ever before thanks to organisational change and a more efficient way of working.

Funding will always be a challenge. In 2012, the CSR required the Force to identify savings of £42.3m. In 2011/12, savings worth £10.3m were delivered and the Force remains on target to achieve a further £10.3m in 2012/13.

The challenge will always be to deliver more, with less, and I believe that there is still more to be done. But there is always more to be done, but I am confident that we have prepared the best possible foundation on which the PCC will be able to build and deliver still further improvements.

Chairman, in finishing, can I take this opportunity on behalf of the Police Authority to thank members of the Council who were also members of the Police Authority both past and present for their contribution over the years to making Nottinghamshire, both our City and County a safer place.”

**Question to the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority from Councillor Jason Zadrozny**

“At the last meeting of the County Council I asked the Chairman of the Fire Authority to ensure that figures relating to the future financial pressures of the Fire Authority were made available to all members of that Authority. He assured this chamber that we would have them ahead of the next meeting of the Fire Authority, which was also that week. That meeting and six further weeks have passed by.

Can I ask the Chairman, when are we going to get them?”

**Response by Councillor Darrell Pulk, Chairman of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire Authority**

“Clearly, you would have received an email the very same day of the Council meeting with a response which gave you the information you requested. I will use this as a way to illustrate a course of events,

The question was asked and the last paragraph of my response said that the Fire Authority meets on the 21<sup>st</sup> September, which was the following day to the question being asked which was on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, and said that budget guidelines to the Finance and Resources Committee will be directed to prepare a range of budget options based on council tax rises between 0-3.5%.

Subsequently, the following day the 21<sup>st</sup> September we had a meeting of the Fire Authority and an eight page paper headlined ‘Budget Guidelines’ was produced, of which you should have had a copy as you were actually at that meeting and my record shows you did attend that meeting so you should be aware of that.

The papers made suggestions about tasking the Finance Committee with taking this matter further and producing another report to the Fire Authority.

The Finance Committee met on the 12<sup>th</sup> October and the papers for the Finance Committee, I don’t know whether you get them yourselves directly, but they are available as are all Committee papers via accessing the City Council website. So you would have access to those papers.

At the Finance Committee meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> October, another different eight page Budget Guidelines paper was produced highlighting options and financial implications. That was actually supplemented by yet another three page paper because the day prior to this meeting the Government announced that Councils were only allowed to increase precepts by 2%. So this was discussed at length. So this is also here – I will let you have these afterwards because this is information which you have access to but through errors you might not have seen. So I can show you that.

And I also have a copy of the as yet unconfirmed copy of the draft minutes of the Finance Committee which highlights the options and financial implications on what that Committee agreed, for approval so I'm quite happy for you to have a look at that.

Having said that, Madame Chairman, I will read out a response which I've drawn up;

Councillor Zadrozny will be aware that at the meeting of the Fire Authority which took place on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012 (the day after his original question) item 7 on the agenda was the discussion of budget guidelines for the Fire Authority for 2013/2014. This was a very comprehensive paper which set out all of the implications and uncertainties of the present financial position including details of likely grant reductions, implications arising from the localisation of business rates and Council Tax Benefits.

The paper also discussed at length the implications for revenue budgets and proposed to Members that the Finance and Resources Committee be instructed to prepare a range of budget options requiring Council tax increases of between 0 and 3.5%.

I think it was a suggestion made by Councillor Kerry at the meeting that in the event the Fire Authority decided to remove the constraint of the range of increases and ask the Finance and Resources Committee to present a range of options to the Fire Authority for consideration in February.

The subsequent meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> October considered a joint report from the Treasurer and the Chief Fire Officer setting out the implications of various budget scenarios, the potential impact on balances and on front line services. This report is in the public domain and obviously we've made that report available as I've said to Councillor Zadrozny.

A further paper was distributed to Members at this meeting following the announcement on the previous day of proposals from government for Council Tax Freeze grant and a limit above which referendums would be required. This clearly changed the planning scenarios for the budget and the Finance and Resources Committee under Councillor Carroll instructed officers to develop two budget models for discussion. One of these would assume a rise in council Tax of 1.9% and the other a rise of zero percent and taking the Government's freeze grant.

Fire Authority members will be aware that there are a number of complex issues surrounding the budget for 2013/2014 and beyond and it is my view that Members have been kept as informed as possible of the development of this budget and its implications.

What I would say Madame Chairman, communication is a two way thing; you transmit communication and you receive it. Now clearly I believe that the Fire

Authority has transmitted under a number of ways the information that's required. If Councillor Zadrozny as a member of the Fire Authority has difficulty perhaps understanding or receiving that information, he does have the opportunity to talk directly to members of the management team and Chief Finance people at the Authority so I am somewhat surprised at him asking this question."

## **APPENDIX C**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2012** **QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

#### **Question to the Chairman of the Adult Social Care & Health Committee from Councillor Jason Zadrozny**

“Will the Chairman of the Adult Social Care committee please take this opportunity to outline for members exactly what the impact is for existing residents of Care Homes which have failed their Care Quality Commission inspections?”

#### **Response by Councillor Kevin Rostance, Chairman of the Adult Social Care & Health Committee:**

“Every instance where services fall short of what is expected is a matter of concern. However, the impact on residents is generally minimal. The CQC will ask the Provider to make improvements in the care homes and to complete these within appropriate timescales.

The impact will vary from issues which are relatively easy to correct and many matters can be resolved within days or a few weeks.

Together with the CQC and the Health Service we make a judgement about the impact of the concern and decide what action to take. If necessary the agencies will monitor improvements very closely until they are achieved.”

#### **Question to the Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee from Councillor Kevin Greaves**

“Within the response made by Nottinghamshire County Council to the Department for Transport’s consultation on the Intercity East Coast Franchise, it mentions Retford Railway Station. Please could the Chairman for the Transport and Highways Committee inform the Council why the response did not feature recommendations that would substantially increase accessibility and the infrastructure of the station and instead recommended superficial changes?

Would the Chairman agree with me that it would have been more beneficial to the Retford Rail Station if the County Council had recommended at the very least an improved Car Parking Facility?”

#### **Response by Councillor Richard Jackson, Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee:**

“I have to say I am a little surprised to receive the question given that Councillor Greaves supported a unanimous vote at the Transport & Highways Committee in

this Chamber two weeks ago almost to the minute to vote in favour of our response to the Department for Transport's East Coast consultation.

I can now however tell the Council that issues regarding the parking facilities at Retford Rail Station are a concern to me and I accept that they should have been mentioned in the initial response.

Following representation from Retford members I asked for an Addendum to our original response to address the issue before this question was submitted."

**Question to the Chairman of the Culture Committee from Councillor Jason Zadrozny**

"Would the Chairman of the committee please outline for members the perceived economic benefits through tourism and associated trade of the creation of the new £13 million "castle" visitors' centre at Sherwood Forest?"

**Response by Councillor John Cottee, Chairman of the Culture Committee:**

"As part of the overall evaluation of the bidding process, Council was keen to emphasise the benefits to economic regeneration and tourism and 10% of the scoring was specifically for this purpose. The preferred bidder (Discovery Attractions) made it clear they want to work very closely with local businesses and trades to ensure that there is local engagement. This is a key part of their business model.

Discovery proposals indicated that in all the design, build and operational phases there would be a strong emphasis on securing local jobs, supplies and contracts. For example, they have said that 150 construction jobs will be created to build the site and these will be active during 2013 – 2015 at which time they will be looking for local people.

Thereafter, when the centre was operating, they would be looking to source a high proportion of their workforce (65 FTE equivalents or over 100 persons) from the local area. They equate this to over £1 million in salaries and wages to the local area.

In terms of the economic benefits to local businesses, Discovery has stated that they will develop a 'local suppliers list' in which local businesses and trades are given priority or first options in terms of supplies and services and this could benefit the local community by around £950,000 per year.

Discovery Attractions envisage that the visitor numbers will increase from 360,000 at present to 525,000 in a combination of free and entry paying guests. These will be local, regional and international visitors who will contribute to the spend in the area.

The attraction will be designed to keep people in the site for at least half a day with further time spent in the National Nature Reserve. A key aspect of the proposal is not only to consider Robin Hood and Sherwood but the wider history and heritage of Nottinghamshire. There will be strong signposting to neighbouring facilities, so that they too can benefit from increased tourism.

An anticipated outcome is that there will be an increase in overnight stays in and around the new centre, which will bring a significant extra boost to the local economy and the county.”

**Question to the Chairman of the Finance & Property Committee from Councillor Chris Winterton**

“Can the Chairman of the Finance and Property Committee confirm that Ministers appear to have reneged on their promise that ‘a new funding system would not make Councils worse off by £1 Billion pounds within the transitional arrangements’.

The level of cuts now being proposed is shockingly higher than previously set out in the 2010 spending review.

Can the Chairman inform the Council of the financial impact this will have on Nottinghamshire County Council and can he confirm that he plans to take another £30 million from the Adult Social Care and Health Budget on top of the £65 million he has already taken?

**Response by Councillor Reg Adair, Chairman of the Finance & Property Committee:**

“Thank you, Chairman and can I thank Councillor Winterton for the question, which I notice actually bears an uncanny resemblance to the opening line of an article in the Local Government Chronicle.

The Local Government Finance system is in the process of being reformed. The Business Rates Retention scheme and the localisation of Council Tax Benefits are welcome changes to ensure local authorities have a greater say in how local resources are used to support their communities.

The consultation for the Business Rate Retention Scheme, which I believe is what Councillor Winterton is referring to, has recently closed and the Government are considering what their response to that consultation will be.

The Chancellor will make his Autumn Statement on 5th December and we anticipate the Local Government Financial settlement being announced on 20th December. Members will be advised of the outcome of this as soon as is practical, and as Councillor Winterton is well aware, the impact of this will be factored into our financial budget proposals that will be presented to County Council in February next year.

As regards the savings plans for the Adult Social Care and Health budget, in February 2011 the Council approved the Annual Budget 2011/12 and Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2014/15. Over the medium term, the authority identified a savings requirement of £168.7m of which £116.1m would be reinvested back into priority services (£72.9m related to budget pressures and £43.2m related to inflation increases). The Council continually reviews the deliverability of the savings proposals and refines the figures accordingly.”

**Question to the Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee from Councillor Rachel Madden**

“Following on from the speeches at the last Council by myself and my colleague, Councillor Zadrozny, criticizing the service being provided by the Highways section could you inform me of action taken to improve the IT system with regard to reporting progress and/or action taken back to the person submitting the fault? Also any movement on deciding which authority is responsible for which aspect of keeping our roads clean & safe?”

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

“As part of reporting of highway enquiries via the Customer Service Centre (CSC) and the public website, customers have an option to be kept up to date on the progress of their enquiries. This is done via automated messages which are sent out as highway enquiry passes through different stages of investigation and/or works ordered – the messages are sent to the email address provided by the customer and that is only done if requested.

To improve our automated message responses, more information has been circulated to managers to cascade to officers responsible for dealing with enquiries, showing how the messages are used and the implications of using incorrect status information. Reminders will be sent out on a regular basis together with the information on any future enhancements or modifications.

Configuration changes have been made to the system so highways and CSC staff are aware that the ‘email me about progress’ option has been ticked to increase awareness and visibility.

Highways will continue to monitor automated feedback to customers.”

**Question to the Chairman of the Adult Social Care & Health Committee from Councillor June Stendall**

“Would you please update this council as to the progress so far of the promised decoration and refurbishment of six County Care Homes? Could you offer me an approximate deadline for the finish of the work and when I am most likely to be able to arrange a visit to see the results please?”

**Response by Councillor Kevin Rostance, Chairman of the Adult Social Care & Health Committee:**

"I am delighted that we are investing in Care and Support Centres focusing on assessment beds and respite care as a way of helping people to live in the community for longer and support carers.

Anybody who was at the Adult Social Care & Health Committee on Monday would I'm sure have been hugely impressed with the video of the work that has been done at Leivers Court and the new vision for the service.

As reported to and approved by the Adult Social Care & Health Committee in July, we are investing £600,000 of new money in the refurbishment of the homes. You will also be pleased, Councillor Stendall, to know that we will also be using a further £300,000 of planned maintenance money.

I am keen to see this work completed as quickly as possible.

Work has started at three of the centres. These are:- Bishops Court in Boughton, near Ollerton; St Michael's View in Retford and Kirklands in Kirkby-in-Ashfield. Work is planned for the remaining homes with a completion date anticipated for all six of the Care and Support Centres by April 2013.

A visit has been arranged for yourself and other members as requested to St. Michael's View in Retford on the afternoon of November 15<sup>th</sup>.

I can get you a full and more detailed project plan of the works being carried out if that's any good to you Councillor Stendall."

**Question to the Chairman of the Culture Committee from Councillor Jason Zadrozny**

"Following on from my constituency speech, the Government has now imposed a ban on the importation of all Ash trees, the ban will prevent ash plants, trees and seeds being brought into the country, and the movement restrictions will stop trees from infected areas being moved elsewhere, as part of efforts to stop the spread of Chalara ash dieback, caused by the *Chalara fraxinea* fungus.

Can the chair of the committee please outline to members what precautions this Authority is putting in place for early detection and destruction of this fungus so as to protect the County's historic woodlands?"

**Response by Councillor Richard Jackson , Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee on behalf of Councillor John Cottee, Chairman of the Culture Committee:**

"Can I thank Councillor Zadrozny for his question and his three and a half minute speech earlier on.

Responsibility and expertise for all tree matters within the authority lies primarily within the Highways Management department.

All highway trees are logged on a database so I can assure Councillor Zadrozny that all ash trees can be readily identified and are being inspected.

The protection of any tree from disease relies on the outbreak being controlled as close to source as possible and as soon as possible. All members of the Forestry section will afford a higher level of vigilance in terms of inspecting Ash trees with regard to this specific disease outbreak.

Through the efforts of trained Forestry officers/inspectors through and reports from the community, we hope that any local outbreak will be contained. Advice on the identification of the disease is freely available to the public from the Forestry Commission's pest and disease web page.

Country parks and Green estate sites come under the Culture Committee remit. However with Councillor Cottee's indulgence I can tell you that a particular eye is being kept out for signs of the disease as staff carry out site inspections there. Many ash trees have already started to shed their leaves this autumn so it is getting increasingly difficult to assess whether they are infected until the spring or early summer of next year.

The Forestry Commission will be responsible for coordinating surveys of ash trees within the rest of the county and will be able to provide an up to date county breakdown of any suspected infections.

The Conservation Service can assist this process by disseminating information to our community contacts via Greenwood and the Biodiversity Action Group so that people likely to be out and about in the Countryside are able to identify and report any suspected cases through the right channels.

Madame Chairman, I'll finally warn Members that I have several pages of statistics on this for any supplementary questions."

**Question to the Chairman of the Finance & Property Committee from Councillor John Clarke**

"Please could the Chairman of the Finance and Property Committee confirm whether Asbestos has been removed from the Nottinghamshire County Hall since 2009, as part of any renovations and/or building works, if the Asbestos has not been removed, please could he confirm why it has not been removed and how he intends to protect staff as Asbestos is the single greatest cause of work-related deaths in the UK?"

**Response by Councillor Reg Adair, Chairman of the Finance & Property Committee:**

“I can confirm that asbestos has been removed or treated as appropriate in accordance with established good practices, at County Hall and other County Council buildings, in order to ensure that staff and other users of our buildings are safeguarded from the dangers of exposure to asbestos.

I can assure the Council that we are very vigilant in ensuring that the management of asbestos is robust to minimise risk to the health and safety of employees, councillors, the public and contractors.”

**Question to the Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee from Councillor Jason Zadrozny:**

“I would like to reiterate my thanks to the Chairman of the Transport Committee for taking the time during his tenure as Cabinet Member to visit my division. We visited amongst others, the junction of Skegby Road and Dalestorth Road, which he well knows is highest on my list of priorities for needing a highways solution in my division. The Chairman agreed with me that something urgently needed doing.

Since then I have had surveys done and plans drawn up for a modest scheme, and I have raised the matter again in this chamber many *many* times. Over the past weekend there was another accident on site, resulting in minor injuries to a local resident and the destruction of a swathe of the County Council “protective” bollards.

I have to ask, when will something be done?”

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

“As Councillor Zadrozny is aware, this is a complex location. It has issues which we’ve been trying to resolve for some time.

Proposals have been brought forward for a Zebra crossing to be installed on the site of the School crossing patrol but this was objected to by local businesses and adjacent residents, as were proposed double yellow lines in the area.

In the last three and a half years accidents haven’t been unusually high for this type of junction with one slight collision at the junction and one involving a pedestrian 20 metres south of the junction. I can’t comment on that pedestrian injury/accident as it’s still under investigation. “

**Question to the Chairman of the Adult Social Care & Health Committee from Councillor Chris Winterton:**

“Please could the Chairman inform the Council, the reasons for lifting the suspended contracts at both the Spring Lane Care Home and the Red Rose Nursing Home and could he inform the Council as to whether he is confident that monitoring procedures currently used by Nottinghamshire County Council are robust enough to protect elderly people living in Care Homes across Nottinghamshire.”

**Response by Councillor Kevin Rostance, Chairman of the Adult Social Care & Health Committee:**

“The decisions to lift the suspensions at both Spring Lane and Red Rose were taken after long deliberation and only when the Council felt assured that the areas of concern had been responded to.

With regards to Spring Lane, officers from the Council and the Primary Care Trust worked closely with the home to support the required improvements. The Council also liaised closely with the Care Quality Commission who reported that, following the appointment of a new care home manager in June 2012, they were satisfied that areas of concern were being addressed. It was at this point that the Council also felt assured that the new Care Home Manager would be able to sustain and make further improvements. As is standard practice following the lifting of a contract suspension, and where a new Care Home Manager has been appointed, both the Council and the Care Quality Commission continue to monitor services within this care home.

With regards to Red Rose Nursing Home the decisions to both suspend and lift the suspensions were taken jointly with the staff from Nottinghamshire Primary Care Trust (who has a separate contract in place for the provision of nursing care). The main areas of concern at Red Rose have related to the management and oversight of clinical practices and the decisions to lift the suspensions were only taken when both the Council and the Primary Care Trust were assured that the required improvements had been made and could be sustained. There have been two changes in Care Home Manager at Red Rose during 2012 and both the Council and the PCT have supported, and will continue to support, this provider to achieve the required improvements.

Both the monitoring procedures and the information sharing processes that the Council have in place mean that we are able to quickly identify when required standards of care are not being met and then take appropriate action.”

**Question to the Chairman of the Children & Young People’s Committee from Councillor Rachel Madden:**

“In one of the parks within my Division pitches are used by the adjoining school but there appears to have been no maintenance of these pitches over the last

few years. I understand that this maintenance is the responsibility of Nottinghamshire County Council through the education budget so may I ask when any maintenance programme is to be started?"

**Response by Councillor Philip Owen, Chairman of the Children & Young People's Committee:**

"I understand the pitches to which Councillor Madden refers are located within Kingsway Park. I say that because she doesn't mention it in her question and it would have helped if she had. Kingsway Park as a whole is owned by Ashfield District Council and shares a boundary with Kirkby College, now an academy. The academy site is very small and does not include grass playing fields; therefore, there is an agreement between the County Council and Ashfield District Council for the academy to use a section of the Kingsway Park to meet their curriculum requirements.

In return for the use of these areas the County Council provides grounds maintenance operations to this section of the park in accordance with the requirements of the County Council's generic grounds maintenance specification.

The grounds maintenance programme to this section of park has been on-going for at least twenty years and includes the following operations in the summer period: -

- Weekly grass mowing;
- Pitch marking;
- Erecting and dismantling goal posts;
- Fertiliser application;
- Repairing goalmouths and other worn areas.

The winter programme involves continued general pitch maintenance and goalmouth repairs undertaken when the ground surface conditions allow. A County Council officer has visited the site this week and is satisfied that all of the pitches within our responsibility were being maintained as agreed and fit for use."

**The time limit of one hour allowed for questions was reached before the following two questions were asked. A written response to each question would therefore be provided to the Councillor who asked the question within 15 days of the meeting and be included within the papers for the next Full Council meeting.**

**Question to the Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee from Councillor June Stendall:**

"We would have expected the changing of the M O Ps agreement to have seen the teething problems resolved, but it seems that there are still areas that need to be addressed. I have been told that footpath's, through my housing estates, adopted under Highways Department, have no operational cleaning or

maintenance in place, they are being left to become overgrown, with health and safety issues increasing.

Verge grass cutting has been very ad hoc with minimum attention, and in several places, poor workmanship. I have been told the current arrangement with the District Council has come to an end, with nothing yet in its place to replace it. I believe I have given ample information and opportunity to the correct people for my issues to be resolved; they still remain outstanding because officers have nowhere to go.

In respect of the above can you tell me if replacement arrangements are being made? If so, will maintenance of highway adopted footpaths be on the agenda? When do you expect the arrangements to be in place?

How long will I have to wait for an extremely poor maintained adopted highways grass verge in my Division, on Ladybrook Lane to be given attention?

Can you direct me to who can clean a well-used footpath on the estate that is dangerous in bad weather?"

**Question to the Chairman of the Transport & Highways Committee from Councillor Jason Zadrozny:**

"Would the chairman of the Transport and Highways Committee please outline for members what the department guidelines are for work in kind, for example if a developer is offering to remedy highways problems with their own workforce while they are doing their own adjacent development?"