

Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 24 June 2010 (10.30 am – 4.35 pm)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

COUNCILLORS

Thomas A J Pettengell (Chairman)

Keith Walker (Vice Chairman)

	Reg Adair		Keith Longdon
	John Allin	A	Rachel Madden
A	Fiona Asbury	A	Geoff Merry
	Chris Barnfather		Mick Murphy
A	Michael Bennett		Philip Owen
	Victor Bobo		Carol Pepper
	Joyce Bosnjak		Sheila Place
	Richard Butler		Darrell Pulk
A	Steve Carr		Mike Quigley MBE
	Steve Carroll		Mrs Wendy Quigley
	Allen Clarke		Alan Rhodes
	Ged Clarke		Ken Rigby
	John Clarke		Kevin Rostance
	L B Cooper		Mrs Sue Saddington
	John Cottee		Mel Shepherd MBE
	Michael J Cox		S Smedley MBE JP
A	Jim Creamer		Mark Spencer
	Bob Cross		June Stendall
	Mrs Kay Cutts		Andy Stewart
	V H Dobson		Martin Suthers OBE
	Sybil Fielding		Lynn Sykes
	Stephen Garner		David Taylor
	Michelle Gent		Parry Tsimbiridis
	Glynn Gilfoyle		Gail Turner
	Keith Girling		Stuart Wallace
	John M Hemsall		Les Ward
	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
	Bruce Laughton		

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mick Burrows	(Chief Executive)
Jayne Francis-Ward	(Monitoring Officer)
Chris Holmes	(Chief Executive's Department)
Sara Allmond	(Chief Executive's Department)
Linda Smith	(Chief Executive's Department)
Daniel Roberts	(Chief Executive's Department)
Alex Sallis	(Chief Executive's Department)
Claire Dixon	(Chief Executive's Department)
Wayne Sharpe	(Chief Executive's Department)
Peter Saunders	(Chief Executive's Department)
David Pearson	(Adult Services and Health)
Anthony May	(Children & Young People's Department)
Derek Higton	(Children & Young People's Department)
Tim Malynn	(Communities)
Tim Gregory	(Corporate Services)
Alan Sumbly	(Corporate Services)
Nigel Stevenson	(Corporate Services)

OPENING PRAYER

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

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED: 2010/037

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the County Council held on 20 May 2010 be agreed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman with the following addition on page 10, after (a) Questions under standing order 7.1:-

The Chairman informed the Council that he would accept a maximum of four supplementary questions for each question asked at every meeting whilst he was Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fiona Asbury, Michael Bennett, Steve Carr, Jim Creamer, Rachel Madden and Geoff Merry.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mark Spencer declared a personal interest in agenda item number 6a – Question 10 as the question named him.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

(a) MBE

The Chairman congratulated Councillor S Smedley on being awarded an MBE and thanked her for all her hard work for the Council and her constituents.

Other Members also spoke to congratulate Councillor Smedley on her MBE.

(b) Constituency Issues

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

Councillor Gail Turner – Crossing on Mansfield Road, Selston

Councillor John Cottee – Volunteers for Police Contact Points

Councillor Stan Heptinstall – Bramwell Care Home

5. PETITIONS

(a) PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

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

1. Councillor David Taylor – Petition in support of the proposed new SureStart Centre at Brinsley Primary School
2. Councillor Carol Pepper – Petition against proposed charges for on-street parking permits on Smithy Crescent, Leivers Avenue and Rookery Gardens, Arnold
3. Councillor Gail Turner - Petition for a zebra/pelican crossing near the rear of Selston Arts & Community College on Mansfield Road, Selston
4. Councillor John Cottee – Petition regarding a rights of way issue on applying for the re-opening of a bridle route between Lings Lane, Keyworth and Occupation Lane, Wysall
5. Councillor Sybil Fielding - Petition against proposed Permit Parking on Anston Avenue, Worksop

RESOLVED: 2010/038

That the petitions be referred to the appropriate Cabinet Members for consideration in accordance with Standing Orders.

(b) REPORT BACK ON PETITIONS

RESOLVED: 2010/039

That the contents and proposed action of the report back on petitions received on 20 May 2010 be noted and the petitioners be informed accordingly.

6. QUESTIONS

(a) QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7.1

Ten questions had been received as follows:-

1. from Councillor S Smedley about regional spatial and minerals & waste strategies (Councillor Richard Butler replied)
2. from Councillor John Allin concerning the £3.78m reduction within the Area Based Grant from the Department for Education (Councillor Philip Owen replied)
3. from Councillor Martin Wright regarding Veolia Environmentals and Rufford ERF Pre Inquiry Meeting (Councillor Richard Butler replied)
4. from Councillor Alan Rhodes about comments made by Anna Soubry, MP regarding Bramwell Care Home (Councillor Kevin Rostance replied)
5. from Councillor S Smedley concerning the chafer beetles problem on school playing fields (Councillor Philip Owen replied)
6. from Councillor Darrell Pulk regarding alternative arrangements for waste disposal (Councillor Richard Butler replied)
7. from Councillor Parry Tsimbirdis about Spyder lasers (Councillor Mick Murphy replied)
8. from Councillor W John Clarke concerning the former canteen at County Hall (Councillor Andy Stewart replied)
9. from Councillor S Smedley regarding dumping of colliery waste at Welbeck Colliery site (Councillor Richard Butler replied)
10. from Councillor Joyce Bosnjak concerning County Councillor role being a full-time calling. (Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts replied)

The full responses to these questions under Standing Order 7.1 are set out in Appendix B to these Minutes.

(b) QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7.2

There were no questions to the Chairs of the Police Authority and the Fire Authority.

Following consideration of this item, Council adjourned from 12.35 pm until 1.35 pm for lunch.

7. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

(a) CABINET MEMBERS

The Leader presented the reports including the addenda to the reports from the Cabinet Member for Personnel & Performance and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Property. The reports were seconded by the Deputy Leader.

Comments and questions are included at Appendix C to these minutes.

RESOLVED 2010/40

That the portfolio reports be noted.

(b) CHAIR OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Councillor Joyce Bosnjak presented the report. The report was seconded by Councillor Liz Yates.

RESOLVED 2010/041

That the report be noted.

8. MEMBERS' INDEMNITIES AND INSURANCE

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2010/042 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Reg Adair.

RESOLVED: 2010/042

That the existing Terms of Indemnity be amended on the terms specified in the Appendix to the report.

9. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS 2009/10

Councillor Reg Adair introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2010/043 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts.

RESOLVED: 2010/043

1. That the year end carry forwards set out in paragraphs 3.4, 3.6 and Appendix B of the report be approved.
2. That the level of County Fund Balances set out in paragraph 6.1 and Appendix A of the report be approved.
3. That the movements in reserves as detailed in paragraph 6 and Appendix D of the report be noted.

10. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2009/10

Councillor Reg Adair introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2010/044 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts.

RESOLVED: 2010/044

That the Statement of Accounts for 2009/10 be approved, subject to the approval by the District Auditor.

11. PURCHASE OF A MICROSOFT ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT

Councillor Reg Adair introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2010/045 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts.

RESOLVED: 2010/045

1. That delegated authority be given to the Service Director (ICT) to procure a Microsoft Enterprise Agreement for the County Council before 30th June 2010; and
2. That the cost of the MS licensing be funded directly from capital budgets, as outlined in paragraph 11 of the report.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION

It was moved by Councillor S Smedley and seconded by Councillor Stan Heptinstall:-

“That this Council calls on the Government to fund the widening of the A453 as soon as is possible. We believe improved access to Nottingham, the South of Nottinghamshire and North West Leicestershire is essential to ensuring economic growth in the East Midlands region.”

Following a debate, the following amendment to the motion was moved by Richard Jackson and seconded by Eric Kerry.

After “this Council” insert, “recognises the immense financial challenges inherited by the Coalition Government and the urgent need to improve the financial base of the nation after 13 years of New Labour profligacy, but still”

After “We believe”, delete “improved access to Nottingham, the South of Nottinghamshire and North West Leicestershire” and replace with “that improving the A453 from a single lane to a dual carriageway will enhance access to the East Midlands Parkway Station and East Midlands Airport and”

After “economic growth in”, delete “the East Midlands region.” and replace with “Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and the wider East Midlands.”

Council adjourned from 3.25 pm until 3.42 pm to allow Members time to consider the amendment to the motion.

The amendment to the motion was not accepted by the mover of the motion and so following a debate the amendment to the motion was put to the meeting and carried on a show of hands.

The requisite number of Members requested a recorded vote and it was ascertained that the following 33 Members voted “**For**” the amendment.

“FOR”

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

Mick Murphy
Philip Owen
Carol Pepper
Thomas A J Pettengell
Kevin Rostance
Mrs Sue Saddington
Mel Shepherd
Mark Spencer
Andy Stewart
Martin Suthers
Lynn Sykes
David Taylor
Keith Walker
Stuart Wallace
Gordon Wheeler
Liz Yates

The following 21 Members voted **“Against”** the amendment.

“AGAINST”

John Allin
Joyce Bosnjak
Steve Carroll
W John Clarke
Bob Cross
Sybil Fielding
Michelle Gent
Glynn Gilfoyle
Stan Heptinstall
John Knight
Keith Longdon

Sheila Place
Darrell Pulk
Alan Rhodes
Ken Rigby
S Smedley
Parry Tsimbiridis
Chris Winterton
Brian Wombwell
Martin Wright
Jason Zadrozny

The following 4 Members **“Abstained”** from the vote.

“ABSTAINED”

Stephen Garner
June Stendall

Gail Turner
Les Ward

The following amendment to the motion was moved by June Stendall and seconded by Gail Turner

After “financial challenges”, delete “inherited by the Coalition Government and the urgent need to improve the financial base of the nation after 13 years of New Labour” and replace with “this nation faces”

Council adjourned from 4.25 pm until 4.30 pm to allow Members time to consider the amendment to the motion.

The amendment was accepted by the mover of the motion so the motion as amended was put to the meeting and unanimously carried on a show of hands and it was:-

RESOLVED: 2010/046

That this Council recognises the immense financial challenges this nation faces, but still calls on the Government to fund the widening of the A453 as soon as possible.

We believe that improving the A453 from a single lane to dual carriageway will enhance access to the East Midlands Parkway Station and East Midlands Airport and is essential to ensuring economic growth in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and the wider East Midlands.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 4.35 pm

CHAIRMAN

M_20MAY10

APPENDIX A

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 JUNE 2010

3-MINUTE SPEECHES

Councillor Gail Turner

"I am speaking in support of the petition I will be presenting later in the meeting.

There needs to be a crossing installed on Mansfield Road Selston at the entrance to Selston Arts and Community College.

At School opening and closing times Mansfield Road is extremely dangerous for the children crossing the road.

The school buses park on the road because there is simply no where else for them to park. This parking impedes visibility and so adds to the danger.

Many times at the safer neighbourhoods committee meetings this issue has been discussed, and the deputy head has tried her best to seek a safe solution. But quite simply there is no other solution other than a crossing for the children.

To make matters worse there is a sharp bend in the road just along from where the buses park and resident parking on the road also causes obstructions and again impedes visibility.

Mansfield Road is a 'B' road but this does not reflect the amount of traffic using the road. This is the main route to and from Kirkby and Sutton so you can imagine at peak times the road is very busy not only with cars but also with large lorries too.

There have been near misses on this road involving children but I am surprised that there has not been a serious accident or even a fatality. It is this type of incident that I want to avoid and it is now a known danger that this authority can very easily mitigate by putting in a crossing for these children some of whom are hear today at my invitation and they are in the gallery.

Last year I put forward that a crossing should be installed on Mansfield Road. I now ask that my request is accelerated in an effort to safeguard the children of my division."

Councillor John Cottee

"Back in 2002 I was inspired after a member of my family was unable to find a police station open in Rushcliffe on a Saturday morning for the checking of documents, to set up volunteers to open and run the Keyworth Contact Point.

I, along with members of the community volunteered to open each Saturday from 10:00 am to midday on a rota system. We have opened every Saturday except Christmas and New Years Day since then.

We all attended a training session at Headquarters, photos and ID cards issued and have happily been running our sessions each week.

We have a front counter book and all items reported by the public are entered into this after their visit. An example would be reporting anti social behaviour, or I've found these keys or I've lost these keys, or could an officer visit me at some point but it's not urgent, we have even had a firearm handed in and all the enquires are dealt with in a polite and friendly manner and the residents of Keyworth appreciate this.

The counter book is left at the closure of the station/contact point and is picked up by the local beat manager or one of the PCSOs when they next one comes on duty and when action has been taken this is entered in the book by the officer so we are aware it has been dealt with.

There is a manual at the front counter and we have numbers to contacts, also numbers of officers, control centre and other stations if we need to contact anyone, the manual also informs how to carry out various functions from our training.

All went well until a couple of months ago when we were asked to attend a meeting at the contact point where we were handed this folder which is a new training manual and new security forms. On the new security forms I have had to confirm my parents details, sadly both no longer with us, and I am not sure why the police now need details such as this when I have been known to them since 2002 and filled in forms then, I am told I am now level 3 cleared.....thrilling for a counter volunteer but I don't know what that means.

All volunteers have been told the police's new policy is that everyone who is a counter volunteer MUST complete this training course within 3 months or they cannot continue.

If you look inside this wonderful manual you will find that at section 2 is Crime and Intelligence and goes into far more detail than a volunteer would require.

Chapter 3, Domestic Abuse Awareness: whilst this is a very serious issue and is a police matter I would suggest it is reported immediately to an officer for him to deal with not a counter volunteer.

And Chapter 4 is Hate Crime, well the same applies there.

On page 70 it states "IT IS YOUR DUTY TO RECORD ALL INCIDENTS. Providing a professional service is the duty of all Nottinghamshire Police

Employees”, we are not employees but volunteers and we have been doing that since 2002.

One volunteer who stated at the same time to me said “Having looked through the training manual, I personally would not be prepared to complete it. I am not looking to join the police force and I don’t see why it is necessary for me to know what a police officer knows, would deal with various potential situations”

Councillor Stan Heptinstall

My constituency matter relates to the care home Bramwell. Bramwell, of course is a care home that is situated in the Chilwell Constituency but nevertheless there are issues relating to the closure of Bramwell that affects my constituency and the adjacent Bramcote and Stapleford area.

I want to inform you of the formation of a group of people called The Friends of Bramwell whose express purpose is to ask this County Council to reverse its decision to close the home. The Friends of Bramwell is composed of cross party people who include Anna Soubry, the Conservative MP for the area, Nick Palmer, the outgoing Labour MP for the area and Councillors for all parties. It comprises of residents themselves, families and friends and a host of others and after a recent advertising campaign there are literally hundreds of people in that group all of whom are calling on you to change your decision.

So this appeal is addressed to the Leader of the Council and also to the two County Councillors for the Chilwell area who have responsibility for the area. I invite them to look at the home and to look at what it provides and what it provides shows it is much, much more than a care home. A letter by the Chairman of the Group to the Evening Post was published on 14th June. Just very quickly it has a respite unit with 15 beds. This is not funded from County Council but by the PCT. It has a specialist unit for helping people with Alzheimer’s disease and dementia. Again this is managed by specialised people who are fully trained NHS personnel. There is a special dementia unit for people with memory problems again funded by NHS. There is the day centre which is extremely well thought of and very well resourced. Any finally there the Cinnamon Unit which is the day centre.

Basically this care home is much more than a care home. It is a complex of NHS people, GPs, County Council employees, friends and relatives all of whom contribute to its wellbeing.

So the people call upon you to look very carefully and to reverse your decision.

APPENDIX B

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 JUNE 2010

QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7.1

Question to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability from Councillor S Smedley

As the Cabinet member for Environment & Sustainability will know, responsibility for the regional spatial strategy and minerals & waste core strategy are likely to be devolved to District Councils.

Can he tell me if the County Council is going to seek an active role in performing an overview of these functions to ensure that a Countywide strategy is adhered to, as opposed to a disparate District based strategy?

Response by Councillor Richard Butler, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability:

In a letter to the Leader dated the 27th May, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government highlighted the commitment in the coalition agreement to rapidly abolish Regional Strategies and return decision making powers on housing and planning to local councils. The Secretary of State is expected to make a formal announcement on this towards the end of June, beginning of July. As yet there is no detail behind this.

Nottinghamshire County Council, previously through the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Joint Structure Plan and latterly with its role in the preparation of the Regional Spatial Strategy has provided a strategic planning overview for the County and would be well placed to do so again. I would share the concerns of Councillor Smedley in that a county wide strategic overview, within which district strategies lie, is needed, rather than planning only occurring at a district level with no strategic context.

Nottinghamshire County Council is the local planning authority responsible for the Waste Core Strategy and the Minerals Core Strategy. I am not aware of any intention for this responsibility to change.

Question to the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People's Services from Councillor John Allin

In light of the £3.78m reduction within the Area Based Grant from the Department of Education, can the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People's Services tell us where service reductions will be made because of this, and why?

Response by Councillor Philip Owen, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People's Services

The reduction in Area Based Grant from the Department of Education is part of a wider package of reductions in the current year which was announced by the Chancellor. The portfolio holder, Councillor Adair, has prepared a report on those reductions which has been issued as an addendum to the report under Item 7 on the Agenda. I appreciate this was not available at the time when Councillor Allin asked his question and would therefore refer Councillor Allin to that report."

Question to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability from Councillor Martin Wright

In the light of Veolia Environmentals failure to, yet again, deliver outstanding environmental assessments to this months Rufford ERF Pre Inquiry Meeting and forcing the Inspector to set Veolia's team another deadline of the end of July.

Can I ask the cabinet member, does he now agree with me that this authority should stop turning a blind eye to Veolia's shortcomings and start work on a non ERF Plan B?

Response by Councillor Richard Butler, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability:

This gives me an opportunity to address some misunderstandings and misinformation that has been circulated and is reflected in the question. The pre inquiry meeting on the 7th June was not to hear evidence but for the Planning Inspector to consider the management of the rest of the inquiry and to set suitable dates for evidence to be produced. In his invitation the Inspector was clear that, and I'll quote, "The purpose of the meeting on the 7th June will be to consider the steps that need to be taken so the inquiry can close before the end October 2010 with sufficient evidence to enable a Secretary of State to determine the appeal properly and lawfully." The planning inspector asked Veolia to produce an assessment of the impact of the various plans and projects including the proposed ERF a major conservation interest in the area. The deadline for Veolia to produce the evidence is the 30th July. Therefore, there can be no suggestion that the deadline has been missed. We understand that Veolia is currently working the necessary assessments are confident that they will be able to submit the relevant experience to the Planning inspector in accordance with this time table. This will allow it to be circulated to parties to the inquiry and to be considered when the party reconvenes on the 28th September. Although the development of the ERF involves complex planning and contractual issues I remain convinced that the proposal continues to offer the most sustainable and cost effective solution to the County Council's long term waste disposal needs

In response to a request from the planning inspector at the further adjournment of the Rufford ERF public inquiry on 20 April 2010, Veolia was asked to assess the combined effects of plans and projects, including the proposed ERF, on nature conservation interests relating to woodlark and nightjar on the part of Sherwood Forest which may be suitable for identification as a Special Protection Area (SPA). There was no requirement to have this work complete by the pre inquiry meeting on 7 June, and Veolia is currently working on the necessary assessment with an intention to submit the relevant report to the planning inspector in accordance with his requirements, and ready for consideration when the public inquiry reconvenes on 28 September 2010.

I am convinced that the proposal continues to offer the most sustainable and cost effective solution for the County Councils long term waste disposal needs. I am also therefore satisfied that allowing sufficient time for the public inquiry process to be completed, and the Secretary of State to make a final decision on the planning application for the ERF, remains the most appropriate way forward.

Officers in the waste management group continue to work closely with Veolia to ensure delivery of the facilities required to manage the County waste in a sustainable and cost effective way, and I and the Council will continue to monitor the situation.

Question to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health from Councillor Alan Rhodes

What opinion does the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health have of the comments recently made re. Bramwell Care Home by Anna Soubry, MP for Broxtowe, who stated that the Conservative group at Nottinghamshire County Council, "Do not understand the unique meshing together of health and social care."?

Response by Councillor Kevin Rostance, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health:

I have met with Anna Soubry and had a fruitful discussion on the Council's proposals. I can say that she understands the overall picture and in broad terms supports our strategy on residential care and extra care. Naturally in representing the views of her constituents she may take a different view on particular local issues – which is fine.

More importantly I have met with NHS and Primary Care Trust in these This administration fully recognises the duty of care which we owe to people in the County who have care needs. We are keen to continue working with the health service to provide appropriate services in an integrated way. Working together can demonstrate positive outcomes for people who use those services as well as some joint efficiencies by pooling our resources. It is our intention to continue to maintain our approach to joined up working between health and Adult Social

Care and Health in order to maximise our use of resources and to further improve our services to people who use them and their carers.

The range of services, including intermediate care services and some specialist day services, particular for those with dementia related illnesses, that we expect to be provided through care homes will naturally be included in the service specification as part of the procurement

Question to the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People's Services from Councillor S Smedley

"Is the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People's Services aware that there is a huge problem with chafer beetles eating the grass on many of our school playing fields on the centre of the County?"

Is he prepared to take action to financially support those schools in getting rid of the beetles?"

Response by Councillor Philip Owen, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People's Services

As I am sure Councillor Smedley aware, it is not the role of the local authority to micro-manage schools. All schools receive a delegated budget and a portion of that should be used to maintain their grounds. There are four other schools across the County with a similar problem. Naturally, I am sympathetic to the plight of those schools and the Dukeries, and officers have been working with the schools to ensure that the necessary remedial works are carried out. It is clear from our scheme of delegation that the costs for this type of work fall to the portion of the school's budget which is delegated direct to schools. I have asked officers to do all they can to provide appropriate professional advice and support to schools in this situation.

Question to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability from Councillor Darrell Pulk

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability please inform the chamber what alternative arrangements have been put in place for those wanting to safely dispose of waste, after the closure of Gedling Household Waste Recycling Centre on August 1st?

Response from Councillor Richard Butler, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability:

The Gedling HWRC was approved for closure by Full Council on 25 February 2010 as part of the 2010/11 budget following an extensive public consultation

process between November 2009 and January 2010, and in response to ongoing budget pressures.

Once Gedling HWRC is closed the alternative site will be the nearby HWRC at Calverton which is a modern state-of-the-art facility which has the capacity to cope with the extra waste volumes and vehicle throughput. The Calverton site also has the facilities to separate and recycle a range of materials, including Paint and Plasterboard, which are not available at Gedling.

Although this will entail a longer journey, of approximately ten minutes, for residents in Gedling and Arnold, this length of travel-time is not excessive.

Alternatively, residents can use the electrical and bulky waste, and green waste collection services offered by Gedling Borough Council at minimal cost.

Question to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety from Councillor Parry Tsimbirdis

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety will have seen news reports about the so-called 'Spyder' lasers, which are around 4000 times more powerful than normal handheld lasers.

They can cause instant blindness and burns to flesh. They have no practical non-industrial use whatsoever.

Will the Cabinet Member please write to the Home Secretary and express the Council's grave concerns at the availability of these lasers, perhaps with a view to granting the relevant agencies, including Trading Standards, powers to seize them?

Response from Councillor Mick Murphy, Cabinet Member for Community Safety:

Can I thank Councillor Tsimbirdis for his question which covers the important issue of product safety and the potential for such products to be misused.

The lasers to which he refers do indeed give rise to serious concerns. The 'spyder 111' model can be regarded as the most dangerous portable laser product ever manufactured, and can indeed inflict those types of serious injuries. Councillors may be aware that there have been recently a number of press articles that have brought these devices to the attention of the general public.

These lasers currently appear to only be available by buying over the internet directly from the manufacturer. Our Trading Standards Officers inform me that at the moment, the lasers do not appear to be available from shops, markets or other retailers within the County – this of course can quickly change. If any

colleagues do become aware of such products, please bring them to the attention of Trading Standards.

At the moment, these products cost well over £100 so they are unlikely to be widely sold.

Our Trading Standards Officers already have the power to suspend and seize products offered to consumers that are unsafe. I have therefore asked them to immediately send Officers out to confirm that these articles are not available to the general public from Nottinghamshire businesses, and to take firm action if they are found.

With regards to any individual having possession of such an item for potentially unlawful purposes, I have asked our Trading Standards Officers to talk to Nottinghamshire Police to develop a joint approach, aimed at keeping these products off our streets.

As Councillors will recognise, the internet poses significant problems to enforcement agencies, where transactions occur across national boundaries as in this case – it makes it in practice extremely difficult outside of the European Union to take action across borders.

The Government is already aware of the dangers these goods pose and I am happy to write to the Home Secretary to add this Council's concerns. I would also propose that the Government liaises with its counterpart in the country of origin of the website, to try and cease sales being available in the UK.

Question to the Cabinet Member for Personnel & Performance from Councillor W John Clarke

Can the Cabinet Member for Personnel & Performance please update me on the situation with the former canteen and projections for its usage? I was annoyed that we left it standing empty last year, and even more so that it's still the same a year later!

It just seems like a shame, considering that many of our valued staff are currently having to squeeze into tighter accommodation where hot-desking and working at home are not available to them.

Response by Councillor Andy Stewart, Cabinet Member for Personnel & Performance:

The premises in question were closed by the previous administration, with no plans for its future use. The ways of working improvement programme as part of its rationalising the use of office accommodation commissioned work to bring this space into use, which will ultimately reduce the total office requirement of the County Council in the many satellite sites. Any workers take into account of

asbestos within the building. However the accommodation is expected to be occupied by the early autumn.

With regards to your final paragraph I have no knowledge of staff being squeezed into accommodation. If you have any evidence please let me know and I'll look into it.

Question to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability from Councillor S Smedley

Does the Portfolio Holder approve of a Planning Consent that may give permission for colliery waste to be brought from outside of the County and dumped at Welbeck Colliery site?

Is he also aware of the transport implications as well as the environmental problems that this will cause?

Response from Councillor Richard Butler, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability:

Planning permission currently exists for colliery waste brought to the surface at Welbeck Colliery to be disposed of on site. Members will be aware of course that Welbeck Colliery has closed.

UK Coal wishes to process coal that is extracted at Daw Mill Colliery in Warwickshire on the Welbeck site. I understand that this is for a temporary period and would involve bringing the "run of the mine" material (i.e.unprocessed coal) to Welbeck and then extracting the coal. A planning application has been submitted to Nottinghamshire County Council which would vary the planning condition to allow the waste from this Warkwickshire operation to be deposited on the tip. The application is for the importation of 150,000 tonnes which is expected to produce 105,000 tonnes of coal and 45,000 tonnes of waste.

It is proposed that the run of mine would be transported by rail and road, generating one train and a maximum of 40 HGV trips per day.

The application is currently under consideration, and in due course will be reported to this Council's Planning and Licensing Committee. It would be quite wrong of me to express a view one way or the other, but I am confident all of the issues, environmental, transport and anything else, will be reported to the Planning and Licensing Committee to allow an appropriate decision to be made.

Question to the Leader from Councillor Joyce Bosnjak

At the pre-general election hustings, Cllr Mark Spencer MP is on record as saying that if he were to be elected as a Member of Parliament, then he would pursue that role on a full-time basis.

Previous members of the County Council from all sides have been criticised for trying to carry out the roles of County Councillor and MP, where they ultimately had to relinquish their County Councillor role. So does the Leader agree that being a County Councillor is also a full-time calling, and for the good of his constituents, Cllr Spencer should forfeit his position as a Member of this County Council, with a by-election being called at the earliest opportunity?

Response from Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts, Leader of the Council:

I'd like to thank Councillor Bosnjak for her question for it gives me the opportunity to congratulate Mark Spencer again on his election victory. I'm sure that Nottinghamshire will benefit from his energy in Westminster. I'm also sure that Parliament will benefit from his extensive experience and background in local government. The early signs are that the new Government recognises the importance of elected local representatives, and I'm sure that we can rely on Mark to push the case for abolishing quangos and returning powers and responsibility to elected local government.

I understand from talking to Mark that he intends to devote his time and energies into representing his constituents on a full-time basis and not to seek outside employment. I applaud this. Mark is also Member of Parliament for his County Council Division so I do not see any difficulty in Mark continuing to represent his constituents in Calverton, both here and in the Houses of Parliament.

Councillor Bosnjak may recall that previous Labour county councillors when elected as MPs continued to serve as councillors between their election to Parliament and the next County Council election. Indeed, with the availability of communications technology it is considerably easier to conduct business remotely than it was when previous members combined both roles. Colleagues in the Conservative Group have expressed their support for Mark if there is a clash between his duties in London and representing his constituents at County Hall. Indeed only last week he accompanied Conservative Cabinet Members on a visit to Rolls Royce which is in his constituency. Mark has no difficulty in representing both Westminster and Nottinghamshire County Council.

I am content to leave the decision to Mark over his future on Gedling Borough and Nottinghamshire County Council and my group are very proud that we have sent one of our own to Westminster. Long may he continue to serve the people in the Parliamentary division of Sherwood.

APPENDIX C

COUNTY COUNCIL 24 JUNE 2010

REPORTS FROM CABINET MEMBERS

1. Leader of the Council

In response to questions, the Leader responded that Ann Marie Spence, whose son was just six years old when he lost a four year battle against leukaemia, had been very brave.

The Joint City/County Leadership Group meeting had been held at Experience Nottingham, not at Nottingham Council House as detailed in the report. The meetings were not in public and included many people already.

2. Adult Social Care and Health

In response to questions, Councillor Rostance advised Members that he been busy since end of May. He had been on a constructive visit to Dallas Street and other centres and they do a fabulous job. Adult Social Care & Health was changing and the Council needed to make those changes. There would always be a need for some people to attend day centres, but also access other services as well, which is why the personal budget was being introduced, to allow them to access the services they required.

3. Children and Young People's Services

It was advised that the John Fretwell sports complex where the Service Disability Support Team annual awards evening was held was in Warsop not Mansfield Woodhouse as stated in the report.

In response to a question, Councillor Owen stated that he was lucky to have two good deputies able to do visits and that where appropriate local Members would be notified.

4. Community Safety

In response to questions, Councillor Murphy advised Members that the Council had a great Trading Standards Team. The team was working to tackle rogue traders, but it was difficult as they frequently managed to be one step ahead. However, the rogue traders needed to be luck every time, whilst the team only needed to be lucky once to catch them.

Councillor Murphy was unsure whether the partnership working in Gedling and the doorstep crime toolkit was a pilot.

5. Culture and Community

Councillor Cottee informed Members that when Hucknall Library was opened, Councillor Pettengell was the Chairman, not the Chairman Elect as stated in the report.

In response to questions, Councillor Cottee informed Members that the figures for the Robin Hood festival had not arrived yet, but he would review them once he received them. He had written to the staff who went the extra mile to deliver the festival.

The development of libraries was planned to be continued. He was not looking to cut libraries or services in libraries at the present time. Councillor Cottee did not know what the situation was regarding uniforms for library staff and agreed to find out and report back to the Member directly.

The England and Wales Cricket Board had been working with schools to promote cricket and Cllr Cottee would continue to press for further promotion of the sport in schools.

6. Environment and Sustainability

In response to questions, Councillor Butler advised Members that he would keep an eye on the situation at Kirkby recycling centre. He had not received any complaints regarding the facility, but asked Members to advise him if they became aware of any issues. Residents could also use Mansfield recycling centre as an alternative.

The suggestion to have collection points in council buildings for smaller items such as batteries and printer cartridges as part of the WEEE scheme was well received and would be investigated.

The changes to the Local Improvement Schemes which meant that smaller amounts of money could be bid for were being well received and accessed. Small things can make a big difference within a community and this scheme could help.

In response to questions regarding the proposed Energy Recovery Facility, Councillor Butler informed Members that the Council was currently in a contract with Veolia. The delays to the public enquiry were not down to the company but were actually part of the process of the enquiry. There was no point in investigating any alternative options whilst this option was still progressing as that could be a waste of time and resources.

It was hoped that there would not be any increase in fly tipping following the closure of the recycling centres at Gedling, Stapleford and Sutton, but there would be communication with the district councils so that if there were any problems the County Council could see how it could help.

Recycling week was a national campaign with the date set and promoted nationally. Opportunities for promoting it in County News next year would be investigated.

7. Finance and Property

In response to questions, Councillor Adair informed Members that the Council had been expecting to receive £4,244,000 in Local Area Agreement Grants and had received 50% of the funding so far. The Council were waiting to hear whether or not the other half would still be given.

In relation to capital grants for things such as new schools, over the past 13 years the way the economy had been managed had left the authority with no money, causing the situation the authority was in now.

8. Personnel and Performance

In response to a question, Councillor Stewart replied that sickness absence had always been a problem for Councils and he was working with everyone to bring the figures down. The new trigger levels had been in for a few months and it would soon show whether this had had any effect. The current situation did not help stress levels for staff.

9. Transport and Highways

In response to questions, Councillor Jackson informed Members that he was aware of the poor state of Mansfield bus station and would be pushing for funding for all three bus stations that needed to be replaced by the Council. The Worksop bus station was now a longer term aspiration, and there were land issues with the site being considered.

The River Leen Corridor project was very exciting, however, it relied on external funding and so the chances of further projects happening in the near future were unlikely in the current economic climate. However, other projects like this should be aspirations for the future.

The residents parking scheme with a fee of £25 was fair and most residents have accepted that it was required. If there are some specific issues, Councillor Jackson was happy to discuss these with Members and residents individually, and asked for details of the specific problem raised to be provided to him.

Salt stocks were not where they would normally be now, plus the increased demand for salt meant the price was expected to increase by 20%. However, although more salt needs to be purchased, the Council should be in a good position by the winter.

Councillor Jackson was very pleased that the decision had been taken to no longer carry out such extensive works on the A52. The planned gas mains work was no longer taking place, which meant the road works did not have to go so deep.

In response to a question regarding the number of grass verge cuts the district councils were being paid to do against how many they were planning to do, Councillor Jackson replied that district councils were provided with funding for four cuts and six cuts in urban areas. If fewer cuts were being done the Council would need to investigate. There should be four cuts done as this was considered to be the minimum necessary to ensure road safety, so this would need to be taken into account.

The Winter Conference had been well received and following it there would be some changes to procedures. All Members were asked to complete a feedback form regarding issues in their area, but very few forms had been returned yet and Members were asked to return their completed forms.

Members were advised that they could use their division budget to buy new grit bins. The cost of a bin also included the cost of it being filled with grit for two years.