



# Nottinghamshire County Council

Meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

Date Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012 (10.00 am – 12.52 pm)

## Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

## COUNCILLORS

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

|                      |   |                    |
|----------------------|---|--------------------|
| Reg Adair            |   | Bruce Laughton     |
| John Allin           | A | Keith Longdon      |
| Fiona Asbury         |   | Rachel Madden      |
| Chris Barnfather     |   | Geoff Merry        |
| Victor Bobo          |   | Mick Murphy        |
| Joyce Bosnjak        | A | 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   |
| 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         |
| A Michelle Gent      |   | David Taylor       |
| Glynn Gilfoyle       |   | Parry Tsimbirdis   |
| Keith Girling        |   | Gail Turner        |
| Kevin Greaves        |   | Keith Walker       |
| John M Hempsall      |   | Stuart Wallace     |
| Stan Heptinstall MBE |   | Gordon Wheeler     |
| Rev. Tom Irvine      | A | Chris Winterton    |
| Richard Jackson      |   | Brian Wombwell     |
| Rod Kempster         |   | Martin Wright      |
| Eric Kerry           |   | Liz Yates          |
| John Knight          |   | Jason Zadrozny     |

## **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Hon. Alderman Martin Brandon-Bravo OBE

## **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Mick Burrows       | (Chief Executive)                                 |
| Jayne Francis-Ward | (Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)         |
| Anthony May        | (Children, Families and Cultural Services)        |
| David Pearson      | (Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection) |
| Nick Allars        | (Environment and Sustainability)                  |
| Carl Bilbey        | (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)         |
| Paul McKay         | (Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection) |
| Daniel Reynafarje  | (Policy, Planning and Corporate Services)         |
| Nigel Stevenson    | (Environment and Sustainability)                  |
| 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. Members stood in silence in memory of Councillor Les Ward.

## **1. MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED: 2012/038**

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the County Council held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 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 Michelle Gent
- Councillor Keith Longdon
- Councillor Philip Owen

Other

- Councillor Chris Winterton

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

**4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

Councillor Les Ward

Councillors June Stendall, Chris Barnfather, Alan Rhodes, Ken Rigby and the Chairman spoke in tribute to Councillor Les Ward.

Presentation of Awards

Councillor Kevin Rostance presented a national award from Partnership Assurance for the Council's Care Home Monitoring system in recognition for developing a cutting edge solution to improve services to the public who are looking for a Care Home. The award is for best use in technology in care 2012. Councillor Rostance presented the award to the Chairman.

Suspension of Procedure Rules

**RESOLVED: 2012/039**

That the Order of Business under the Procedure Rules for Meetings of Full Council be suspended to enable Full Council to consider Agenda Item 9 – Amendments to the Constitution, prior to Agenda Item 7 – Questions.

**9. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2012/040 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Suthers OBE.

**RESOLVED: 2012/040**

That paragraph 31 of the Procedure Rules for meetings of Full Council set out in the Council's Constitution be revised to state that 60 minutes is allowed for questions to Committee Chairmen.

## **5. CONSTITUENCY ISSUES**

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

Councillor Stan Heptinstall – Bramwell Care Home quality of care

Councillor Rachel Madden – Issues with the Highways Department

Councillor Jason Zadrozny – Issues with the Highways Department

Councillor Fiona Asbury – Traffic issues in Huthwaite

## **6. PETITIONS**

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

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

1. Councillor Brian Wombwell – Petition requesting a pedestrian crossing on Toton Lane, Stapleford
2. Councillor Jason Zadrozny – Petition regarding road resurfacing at Chancery Close and Courtfield Road, Sutton
3. Councillor Stuart Wallace – Petition requesting a bus shelter on Beacon Hill Road, Newark
4. Councillor Fiona Asbury – Petition concerning highways issues in Huthwaite
5. Councillor Fiona Asbury – Petition concerning parking issues in Huthwaite
6. Councillor Rachel Madden – Petition regarding cars 'rat running' through residential streets in Kirkby
7. Councillor Rachel Madden – Petition requesting a Zebra crossing near Annesley Primary School
8. Councillor John Cottee – Petition regarding street lighting in Keyworth
9. Councillor John Allin – Petition requesting speed cameras on the A60 between Church Warsop and Cuckney

10. Councillor Martin Wright – Petition requesting street lighting on Blidworth Lane
11. Councillor Martin Wright – Petition requesting a speed limit reduction on Blidworth Lane
12. Councillor Steve Carr – Petition regarding changes to the Number 13 Bus timetable
13. Councillor L B Cooper – Petition concerning a school patrol crossing on Davies Road, West Bridgford
14. Councillor Sybil Fielding – Petition opposing the opening of a pathway at Sulis Gardens, Worksop
15. Councillor Rev Tom Irvine and Councillor Mick Murphy – Petition regarding Children’s Centre services at the John Godber Centre in Hucknall
16. Councillor Sheila Place – Petition concerning street lighting in Styrrup
17. Councillor Steven Garner – Petition concerning parking on residential areas in Littleworth
18. Councillor Steven Garner – Petition opposing an LIS project in Forest Road, Mansfield
19. Councillor Ged Clarke – Petition requesting a Residents’ Parking Scheme for Redhill Road, Arnold
20. Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle – Petition concerning grass cuttings in Windmill Lane, Worksop

**RESOLVED: 2012/041**

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

**(b). PETITION RESPONSES REPORTS**

**RESOLVED: 2012/042**

That the contents and proposed actions in the reports back on petitions be noted and the petitioners be informed accordingly.

## **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 June Stendall regarding section 106 planning requests by the Police Authority (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 Liz Yates about Broadband in Bassetlaw (Councillor Keith Girling replied)
2. from Councillor Jason Zadrozny about the super-fast broadband scheme (Councillor Keith Girling replied)
3. from Councillor June Stendall concerning Notts Watch (Councillor Mick Murphy replied)
4. from Councillor Rachel Madden regarding Kirklands Care Home (Councillor Reg Adair replied)
5. from Councillor Rev Tom Irvine regarding Sherwood Industries (Councillor Kevin Rostance replied)
6. from Councillor Jason Zadrozny concerning the food waste recycling scheme (Councillor Richard Butler replied)
7. from Councillor Rachel Madden concerning the ploughing up of footpaths (Councillor Bruce Laughton replied)

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

## **8. CLARIFICATION OF MINUTES**

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

## **9. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

(Item moved prior to Agenda Item 7 – Questions)

## **10. ARRANGEMENTS FOR STANDARDS**

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2012/043 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Suthers OBE.

### **RESOLVED: 2012/043**

That the appointment of the following to act as Independent Persons under the Localism Act 2011 be formally approved for a term of 5 years from 23 July 2012:

- Charles Daybell
- Robert Lilley
- Christine Southwell

## **11. CO-OPTION TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Councillor Keith Girling introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2012/044 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Gordon Wheeler

### **RESOLVED: 2012/044**

That County Council ratify the recommendation of the Economic Development Committee to offer co-opted (non-voting) places on the Committee to two Nottinghamshire business leaders.

**12. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAM WASTE CORE STRATEGY –  
SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Councillor Richard Butler introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2012/045 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor John M Hemsall.

**RESOLVED: 2012/045**

1. That the County Council approves the Schedule of Proposed Changes to the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy for a six week period of public representations.
2. That Council notes that the December County Council will be asked to approve the subsequent submission to the Secretary of State of the draft Waste Core Strategy, along with its submission documents, for independent examination.

**13. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2011/12**

Councillor Reg Adair introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2012/046 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Michael J Cox.

**RESOLVED: 2012/046**

1. That the contents of the Annual Governance Report be noted.
2. That the letter of representation be approved.
3. That the Statement of Accounts 2011/12 be approved.

**14. PROVISIONAL RESULTS FOR SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES –  
SUMMER 2012**

Councillor Allen Clarke introduced the report and moved a motion in terms of the resolution 2012/047 below.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Lynn Sykes.

**RESOLVED: 2012/047**

That the report be noted.



The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 12.52 pm

**CHAIRMAN**  
M\_20SEPT12

## APPENDIX A

### COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012

#### 3-MINUTE SPEECHES

##### **Councillor Stan Heptinstall MBE**

“You all know that this County Council sold Bramwell Care Home to the private sector despite much opposition. At the time of the sale this care home was deemed to be of very high quality indeed and was providing excellent care for local people. Assurances were given that the quality of care in Bramwell would not change.

I have to advise you that the Care Quality Commissioning Body inspected the home in June of this year and found it to be wanting. The CQC have identified five areas where improvements are required. First, in treating people with respect and involving them in their care. Second, in providing care, treatment and support which meets people’s needs. Third, caring for people safely and protecting them from harm. In this matter the CQC concluded that people were not protected from the risk associated with medicines because the provider did not have appropriate arrangements in place to manage them.

The fourth area in which improvements are required is in staffing. The CQC concluded that there were not enough qualified, skilled and experienced staff to meet people’s needs. Here are some quotations from the report and I quote;

*“There were several times when there were no staff around in the communal areas because they were busy supporting other people with their needs”*

*“We also found evidence that there had been an increase in falls and the audit showed that during May 2012; out of 88 accidents, 31 of these had not been witnessed by staff”*

A member of staff is reported as having said the following:

*“It’s scary when someone needs one-to-one attention and we can’t watch them if we are with other people. People have a lot of falls, they have high dependency needs and there are not enough staff”*

Some further information for you; I am informed that since the transfer some 50% of the staff transferred across have resigned their positions. Staff morale is said to be at an all-time low. Despite this the remaining 50% are doing their very best to continue to try and deliver the care that is needed.

The fifth area in which improvements are required is in the standard of management. The CQC concluded that the provider did not have an effective

system in place to regularly assess and monitor the quality of the service that people received. In mitigation of this finding, a manager told the CQC that there was a group called the Friends of Bramwell and that feedback could be given by this method.

Councillors, I have to tell you that the Friends of Bramwell have tried to set up two meetings at Bramwell since this report. Both of these meetings have been cancelled by Runwood Homes. The most recent email received from Runwood says, and I quote;

*“Unfortunately the dates originally given have been rapidly filled in the diary. We will come back to you at a later date if we feel a meeting is needed”*

I am very concerned about this. I hope that you are too.”

### **Councillor Rachel Madden**

“I know the rules say that this 3 minute slot should be to raise a subject of interest to my residents but I have a sneaking suspicion that this speech may interest the residents in other divisions such as those of my Liberal Democrat colleagues.

I rise to comment on the highways section of this authority from whom I've had satisfactory if not good service up until April of this year. Actually, thinking about it, I still got good service in April, but in May it went down to just being OK and during June, July & August I'm afraid it's gradually sunk to very unsatisfactory.

My first gripe is regarding the email responses; they used to be 50% correct in stating that the group requests had been actioned. 50% because upon checking, only half the jobs supposedly marked for work were completed. But for the last month even the acknowledgement emails have now dried up.

I request work on carriageways and/or pavements which are agreed and included in the works programme. “Great” I think, “but, wait!” 9 months later they've disappeared off the list and it seems the money's allocated to them have been used elsewhere. I report overhanging trees and other vegetation on well-used footpaths and this is cutback most of the time. But all the cut materials are left all over the pathway so these paths end up just as unusable as before. Other requests are just being ignored so more and more pathways in my division are becoming impassable.

I could go on and on with such money spent resurfacing a short cul-de-sac used by, at the most, 2 vehicles whilst a parallel well-used road is in urgent need of repair. Or how about the footpath used by schoolchildren where a disabled child keeps tripping over potholes while an adjoining path which turns out to be the least well-used within my division has been resurfaced once and is earmarked again for resurfacing shortly in the last 18 months. Need I mention the weed control.

My division used to be neat, tidy & litter-free – not anymore. Potholes were repaired but now I have to report them 3, 4 or 5 times to get any action. Who does what? Is it the responsibility of the Districts or is it the responsibility of the County?

Please bring back the MOPS – things were good and went smoothly. They could be good again, thank you.”

### **Councillor Jason Zadrozny**

“I rise to speak on the same issue that Councillor Madden did. I think it's fair to say that since the Managing Operate Partnership (MOP) has been taken back by the County Council, the service has been derisory to a level that has been unparalleled in the history of my time as a County Councillor. So much so that the Chief Executive's ear has been bent about it at a number of times and I believe he's even visited my division to look at the complaints I've got.

What's worse, I can accept having a poor service, I can accept money being cutback, I can't accept not being acknowledged. And there are still emails outstanding from my district manager from July where they haven't even bothered to acknowledge them. When I've complained about it and resent the emails they've failed to acknowledge those. All of my group are handing in petitions today about issues that have been ignored and not even acknowledged by the Council. It's not good enough.

I managed to get one small job on Manor Road in my ward where cars were going around a very steep corner and swerving straight into a resident's front room. It's the safer route to school, it's the main footpath into Daneswood Primary School and I asked for some bollards to be put there. The Council in their wisdom knew better than me, refused to do that and put some white lines there instead and last week the gentlemen had another car in his front room. If a child walks on that path and we don't put some bollards there, there'll be a death and believe me, I don't want to be in this chamber saying 'I told you so'. It's not the sort of politics I engage in but I've been in here before telling you about Skegby Road and the near misses and old ladies being crushed in between parked cars. Nothing's being done and I will be here saying 'I told you so'.

Councillor Madden raised the weeds and the grass and without a shadow of a lie I've emailed the Chief Executive copies of photographs where I'm stood on Loundhouse Road in my division (mark the name down) where the weeds are taller than me! I'm 6 foot dead and they are on the outside edge of the pavement and I have reported it in and been assured that the rain's washing off the weed killer. I keep expecting Rachel Welch and a dinosaur to jump out from somewhere, it's embarrassing. We are damaging roads and pavements now by not doing those jobs because the weeds are getting under the tarmac and are

going to cause more problems. Where I can accept in tough economic times that some of our services need cutting, our weeds need cutting too.”

### **Councillor Fiona Asbury**

“I would like to speak about a highways issue in the Huthwaite area of my division. Ashfield Council have recently granted permission for a new doctor’s surgery on the corner of Skegby Road on what is effectively a crossroads. Though the surgery will have 28 parking spaces, the centre will employ around 15 staff so many of the spaces will be used by them.

At recent public meetings lots of residents have spoken about their fears of further accidents in this area from visitors to the doctors who will park on Skegby Road and Sutton Road. I’ve already asked in the past for double yellow lines on the corner of Skegby Road onto Sutton Road as quite a few people park already on that corner causing problems when leaving and entering and there’s going to be a lot more people using that which obviously will become more of a problem.

Also Sutton Road already suffers from speeding traffic. Members may well be aware of the tragic fatality that happened there a year or so ago with the junctions coming onto Sutton Road just below the brow of the hill. Speeding traffic & reduced visibility can only lead to more accidents and God forbid anyone else will lose their life there.

On behalf of my extremely worried residents in the area on whose behalf I will be handing in petitions, I plead with the Council to urgently review the traffic management of the area and seek a solution to issues there. Finally I know that finances are tight at the moment and unfortunately Ashfield District Council did not seek any community sum from the developer towards any local improvements. The Liberal Democrats have met with the owners of the site and the developers and we have in principle agreement from them that they will contribute to improvements that the Council recommends.

I and my residents look forward to these problems being resolved quickly.”

## **APPENDIX B**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012** **QUESTIONS TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY AND** **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AUTHORITY**

#### **Question to the Nottinghamshire Police Authority from Councillor June Stendall**

Would the Chairman tell me when I will receive the answer to the supplementary question I asked on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012 under the Standing Order 7.2 regarding 106 planning request by the Police Authority?

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

“Before responding to Councillor Stendall’s Question can I on behalf of the Police Authority and the Nottinghamshire Police Force express our sadness at the loss of Councillor Les Ward. His contribution and experience as a former Police officer are greatly missed and our thoughts are with his family. Also to the family, friends and colleagues of WPC Fiona Bone and WPC Nicola Hughes of the Greater Manchester Police Force who both were so tragically murdered this week whilst performing their duties protecting the people of Manchester.

Can I apologise to Councillor Stendall in the delay responding to her supplementary question to me on the 17<sup>th</sup> May. I am pleased to now be in a position to say that the update Councillor Stendall has requested is being emailed to her as I speak. I appreciate this has taken a little longer than the Authority originally hoped; this is primarily due to the unique pressures on staff due to the forthcoming transition of the Police & Crime Commissioner but I would like to apologise wholeheartedly for the delay.

Can I offer that once Councillor Stendall has had time to read and digest the response, myself, the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Constable are more than happy to meet her and discuss the issue further if she so wishes. On behalf of the Authority can I thank Councillor Stendall for a continued interest in funding streams to support policing and community safety issues.”

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

At the recent Fire Authority seminar on 7<sup>th</sup> September, the Leader of the Liberal Democrat group made a request through the Chair of the meeting for Fire Authority members to be provided with a financial explanation of the point at which additional cuts to the service will have to be introduced due to any financial shortfall. Is the Authority’s Strategic Director of Finance and Resources now in

the position to produce that information, as I believe all members of the Fire Authority and the County Council will find it very useful?

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

“The Fire Authority set a budget for 2012/13 and the following two years on 24 February 2012 in which a number of assumptions relating to the later years were relied upon. The extent to which these assumptions continue to hold good will determine whether any further budget reductions need to be made in 2013/14 and 2014/15. The assumptions were:

1. That a government grant would reduce by 18.5% over the remaining CSR period.
2. That Council taxbase would remain relatively constant.
3. That increases in council tax of 3.5% would be considered in each of the years 2013/14 and 2014/15.
4. That levels of pay in the service would increase in line with NFRS assumptions.

There are a number of reasons why these assumptions may not hold good. For example, grant formula changes may adversely affect Nottinghamshire as they did in 2012/13. The impact of business rates localisation is also unclear. Taxbase may reduce due to the impact of the localisation of Council Tax support. Government capping criteria may cause the 3.5% projected increase to be reduced. Pay restraint in the public sector may not be able to be sustained throughout the period. Variations in any of these factors may cause the Fire Authority to consider further budget reductions over and above those already planned.

The Fire Authority meets on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012 to set out budget guidelines for the Finance and Resources Committee and it is likely that this Committee will be directed to prepare a range of budget options based on Council Tax rises of between zero and 3.5%.”

## **APPENDIX C**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2012** **QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

#### **Question to the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee from Councillor Liz Yates**

Does the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee share my astonishment that, at the committee meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September, the Labour county councillor for Worksop East apparently did not consider improved broadband to be a priority for the businesses and residents of Bassetlaw?

Can I assure him that while Labour councillors seem uninterested, many Bassetlaw residents are fully behind the County Council's Campaign for the rollout of Superfast Broadband in Nottinghamshire, as illustrated by the petition I presented to Full Council on 5<sup>th</sup> July?

#### **Question to the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee from Councillor Jason Zadrozny**

Can the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee take this opportunity to update Members on the super fast broadband scheme? In particular, could he highlight any changes to the approach from National Government or the County Council which may put the scheme in jeopardy?

#### **Response by Councillor Keith Girling, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee to both these questions**

"To answer Councillor Yates: Yes, frankly, I was astonished by the comments of the county councillor for Worksop East, who appeared to suggest that faster broadband is not a priority or the "be all and end all" as far as enticing new business to Bassetlaw.

I don't know if these remarks were an echo of earlier differences between Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council, or whether Bassetlaw Labour, like many socialist states, regard the internet as a threat to their established systems of carefully drip-fed propaganda.

Either way, they're wrong. The reality is that faster broadband connection is crucial to the future of the Nottinghamshire economy and we are fighting against many other areas of the country to be at the head of the queue. This is no time to be downplaying the importance of broadband, not least for Bassetlaw.

Councillor Gilfoyle may be right that larger businesses choosing to establish themselves in Nottinghamshire will fund their own broadband installations, but my



concern is securing the right infrastructure for the (27,000) small businesses with the potential to become the big businesses and big employers of tomorrow.

Almost 48,000 Bassetlaw properties, both business and residential, are set to benefit from our planned infrastructure investment. That's 41% of the Broadband Plan total.

Digitally disadvantaged homes and businesses represent one in five properties in the county and are predominantly in the rural Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood and Rushcliffe districts. Research undertaken by Nottinghamshire County Council has confirmed that:-

- 44% of Nottinghamshire households cannot get 2 Megabytes per second (Mbps) broadband access;
- 66% of households and 64% of businesses in Nottinghamshire's rural areas have sub 2Mbps broadband provision; and
- 64% of households and 46% of businesses cannot get a broadband service greater than 4Mbps.

Our Plan sets out to transform Nottinghamshire's broadband infrastructure by addressing areas of market failure to benefit an additional 111,000 homes and 5,000 businesses. We want to: -

- Provide superfast broadband access of at least 24 Mbps to at least 90% of Nottinghamshire's homes and businesses by 2015;
- Ensure all premises in Nottinghamshire have access to a service of at least 2Mbps by 2015;
- Deliver solutions that have the potential for future speed uplifts;
- Develop an 'open' infrastructure network; and
- Provide short-term and long-term affordability for customers.

Chairman, I don't know if Councillor Gilfoyle's views in Economic Development Committee reflect those of his Labour colleagues but rest assured, this Conservative administration is committed to improving the local economy and the life opportunities of residents in Nottinghamshire. There are many ways to achieve this and faster broadband is as important as any.

Councillor Zadrozny's question requires a rather technical reply which is inevitable when you mix technology with the European Union, so I apologise in advance.

Nottinghamshire County Council has agreed to use the Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) Framework Agreement. There were originally a number of suppliers who expressed an interest, but there are now just two suppliers left on the framework – BT and Fujitsu. The irony is that if you ignore the framework and go down the competitive dialogue route (as did Herefordshire and Gloucestershire) you still finish up with BT!

The European Commission has identified issues regarding BDUK State Aid Umbrella Notification relating to passive access infrastructure and the possibility of a single supplier Framework Agreement. As a consequence, there is delay in achieving the State Aid Umbrella Notification. Nottinghamshire County Council cannot award a Call-Off Contract until this Notification is achieved. If a single supplier Framework is the final outcome, this will increase the need to demonstrate that value for money is being achieved in all aspects of delivery of the Nottinghamshire Call-Off Contract.

The County Council will secure a supplier via the Nottinghamshire Call-Off process but is waiting for BDUK to confirm its procurement slot. In the meantime, our dedicated broadband project team are working on all the necessary data gathering in preparation for the call-off process. This includes developing an Open Market Review for State Aid compliance, to ensure Nottinghamshire will be ready to proceed as soon as BDUK gives the green light.

Nottinghamshire County Council launched its demand stimulation campaign, called "Superfast Broadband for Nottinghamshire", on 6 July.

A successful outcome should encourage supplier interest and funding. So far, we have received more than 3,300 pledges of support, 26% of which are from Bassetlaw and would disagree with Councillor Gilfoyle's archaic view. We can add to that Councillor Yates' petition and many written accounts describing how poor broadband is affecting people's lives and suffocating the local economy. This evidence will be used to prove to telecoms companies that there is high demand for decent broadband speeds in Nottinghamshire.

Residents and businesses can pledge their support for faster broadband speeds in Nottinghamshire by visiting the website, [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/broadband](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/broadband) or calling the County Council Contact Centre on 08449 80 80 80. I urge all Members no matter what their political colours to encourage other people to fill the petition and give this their full support."

**Question to the Chairman of the Community Safety Committee from Councillor June Stendall**

Nottinghamshire County Council has awarded a grant to Notts Watch who have invited you to attend the launch of their new unique website which will be the first example of its kind in the country. The launch is on the 9<sup>th</sup> October between 12-2pm at The Arrow Centre. I understand you are unable to attend on this occasion. Do you agree that it is important, given the source of the grant that someone from this Council should be in attendance to show our support for the initiative? Is there any reason why the Vice Chairman or any member of the Community Safety Committee who is available on this day at this time could not attend to represent you and the County Council?

## **Response by Councillor Mick Murphy, Chairman of the Community Safety Committee**

“NottsWatch is a countywide umbrella organisation that maintains links with the ever growing number of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the seven boroughs and districts of Nottinghamshire.

In November 2011, Nottinghamshire County Council awarded a grant of £14,500 to NottsWatch for a 22 month programme. From this grant: -

- £6,200 has funded the design and build of a website, including an 18 month service contract;
- £2,500 is meeting the cost of crime prevention display materials and equipment including a scheme registration booklet;
- £2,480 is providing 160 NottsWatch members with professional training delivered by Nottinghamshire Police and partners, including improved community safety techniques, running neighbourhood watch schemes, personal safety and partnership working;
- £1,520 is enabling NottsWatch to run two conferences in the county - one on Saturday 24th November 2012 at County Hall and one in 2013 - to recognise and celebrate the achievements of volunteers; and
- The remaining £1,800 is assisting with co-ordination and administration costs.

Chairman, the work of NottsWatch meets four main aspects of Nottinghamshire County Councils' Strategic Plan 2010 -2014, not least Priority Three: making Nottinghamshire a safer place to live. It is the type of initiative that deserves and receives the support of this Council. They have my unequivocal backing as Chairman of the Community Safety Committee.

Councillor Stendall is absolutely correct that NottsWatch invited me to the launch of their new website on 9<sup>th</sup> October at the Arrow Centre in Hucknall. Unfortunately, I am away at the time and my PA emailed them with apologies to this effect on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

However, I am pleased to confirm that Community Safety Committee member Councillor Mike Quigley will be attending the launch on my behalf to communicate the support of all of us for the website launch and the overall NottsWatch initiative.

I regret not being able to attend personally on this occasion, but I hope I have made my backing of NottsWatch obvious in this answer and I shall seek to engage with them again at the earliest opportunity in the future.”

**Question to the Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Health Committee from Councillor Rachel Madden**

I understand that the plot of land at the junction of Fairhaven and Central Avenue, Kirkby, containing Kirklands has been submitted for, and been included in, Ashfield District's L.D.F. for housing. Could the Chair give me his 100% guarantee that Kirklands itself is not to be sold off and, secondly, his views on the risk that the residents of this facility could have their quality of life ruined by houses being built right outside their windows?

**Response by Councillor Reg Adair, Chairman of the Finance and Property Committee, on behalf of the Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Health Committee**

"There are no plans to sell Kirklands.

There was a comprehensive report considered by the Adult Social Care and Health Committee, of which you are a Member, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012. The report outlined proposals for the 6 retained Council-owned residential care homes and was agreed and supported by that committee.

However, strategically the County Council is duty bound to review its property portfolio and any surplus land not required for the Kirklands care and support centre will be sold in order to ease financial pressures on the Council. I would stress that the potentially surplus land adjacent to the centre is not in view of the residents' windows and any proposal would of course be subject to the usual planning approvals via Ashfield District Council."

**Question to the Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Health Committee from Councillor Rev Tom Irvine**

Can we have an update on the redeployment of the staff and subsequent outcome from the Sherwood Industries?

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

"A full report is to be considered at the Adult Social Care and Health Committee on the 1<sup>st</sup> October which provides an update on the current position.

However, Sherwood Industries employed 43 staff in February 2012, 29 of whom were disabled workers on the Work Choice programme. In brief, the current position is detailed below: -

- 16 staff members have taken voluntary redundancy;
- 8 staff members have been confirmed in alternative permanent posts within the Council;

- 7 staff members are undertaking their trial period in alternative permanent posts within the Council;
- 10 staff members have been placed in temporary supernumerary posts within the Council;
- 2 staff members are absent from work due to ill health and are being supported through the absence management process.

With regards to the 10 staff members that are on temporary supernumerary placements, work is ongoing to find them a permanent redeployment opportunity.

Each staff member has retained the services of a named human resources officer to support them in addition to the assistance offered from supported employment line management. The situation changes on a day by day basis as opportunities become available and a number of staff who are working in supernumerary placements are waiting for a meeting date to be arranged, or for the outcome of a meeting, with an appointing officer. Continued funding is being made available to support the supernumerary placements.

Also, a local company with whom we have been in discussions have offered our staff first refusal on four vacancies which they currently have. These vacancies have been offered to the staff group and, to date, one member of staff has expressed an interest and has met with the management of the company.

Chairman, a recent Labour Party leaflet in Hucknall claimed that the closure of Sherwood Industries resulted in 46 job losses. This is untrue.

First of all, every group in this Chamber, except Labour, agreed that closing Sherwood Industries was a sad but necessary decision which Labour councillors had lacked the moral courage to take earlier, leaving disabled employees in an unsustainable position and costing the taxpayer more than £800,000 year on year.

Secondly, and most important at all, there were not “46 job losses”. As I explained earlier, Nottinghamshire County Council worked with 43 Sherwood Industries employees and has fully supported each and every one. We will continue to do so and nobody has lost their job. I repeat: nobody has lost their job.”

**Question to the Chairman of the Environment and Sustainability Committee from Councillor Jason Zadrozny**

In the new corporate plan unveiled this month by Ashfield District Council one of the very few positive actions the Council proposed to take was the introduction of a food waste recycling scheme. The council has now informed members that the scheme will not go ahead as it cannot find a way to work through costing and transport issues with the County Council.

Can the Chairman outline the issues proving to be an obstacle for the introduction of this desirable scheme?

**Response by Councillor Richard Butler, Chairman of the Environment and Sustainability Committee**

“My understanding is that their bid, which was made without necessarily liaising with us first, was based on a number of flawed assumptions around tonnages and costs. These included the proposal of a collection methodology which would have required all of their existing kerbside recycling to be delivered to the Mansfield Recovery Facility (MRF) via a transfer station, rather than directly, as currently happens.

The cost of doing this would be substantial, and more than offset the landfill savings resulting from collecting the food waste in the first place. On that basis, Ashfield chose not to submit a final bid for funding to the DCLG.

The County Council is fully supportive of the principle of collecting food waste either separately, or mixed with green garden waste, provided it makes financial sense.

I’m sure that Councillor Zadrozny and colleagues appreciate the need to ensure any new services are cost effective, and do not impose substantial additional costs, potentially amounting to several hundred thousand pounds per annum, on either council in the current economic climate.

In the final analysis Ashfield withdrew from the bidding process simply because their business case did not stack up.”

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

It's the start of the harvest season and farmers are or will be ploughing up Rights of Way that cross their fields despite laws protecting these footpaths. I have had complaints regarding this for the previous 3 years of my term - reported to the relevant section within this authority - and one resident has raised the subject again already this year. So far no prosecutions have been effected by NCC so when is this authority going to start prosecuting the perpetrators?

**Response by Councillor Bruce Laughton, Chairman of the Rights of Way Committee on behalf of the Chairman of the Transport and Highways Committee**

“From the outset may I say that I find this question quite distasteful and the reason why I say this is I dislike it when politician automatically turn to what they see as the last resort of threatening prosecution when other avenues are available to them. Not once has Councillor Madden contacted me on this issue

and I can look round this chamber to numerous councillors who have spoken to me as Chairman of Rights of Way Committee – there's Gail, Vince, there's all these councillors around here; and we've managed to sort most of those problems out.

Can I only assume that Councillor Madden believes that if a footpath crosses a field it shouldn't be cultivated and should be maintained presumably like her front lawn? I recall making a pledge to this Council that if there were any problems as far as Rights of Way were concerned, please use me as the first port of call; I am more than happy to contact my officers on any issue in their divisions.

Farmers do have a right to cultivate footpaths that cross fields. They have to reinstate them within 2 weeks and on second cultivation they have to reinstate them within 24 hours. When they do plough up fields, our officers actually advise them to just run the tractor down the length of the footpath so that there is a tyre mark for people to follow and most farmers do carry out this process.

Can I also point out that this Council relies on the goodwill of the agricultural industry to maintain the Rights of Way system across this county and I can assure you that without their support the Rights of Way system within Nottinghamshire would be a lot worse off.

Running round prosecuting people is not the answer – it is only a last resort. I am more than happy to liaise with my officers and Councillor Madden and meet with the landowner to discuss the problems that she has in her division. Whenever there are problems with the Rights of Way across Nottinghamshire, we have found the best way forward is to liaise with the people involved and to negotiate a way forward. Even if that means to the cost of this Council putting in a diversion order to sort out the problem and we are actively doing that in some of the areas that Councillors representing this chamber today.”