

APPENDIX B

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2017 QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Question to the Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee, from Councillor David Martin

In light of the fact that the Nottinghamshire Police Force has been reduced by around forty percent over the last few years and they now seem to largely ignore parking issues, does the Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee agree with me that the Nottinghamshire Parking Partnerships programme should be enhanced and expanded to fill the gap? Because I am sure that I am not the only County Councillor in the room who has faced repeated issues of inconsiderate parking simply because there is an apparent lack of enforcement across the County.

Response from Councillor Gordon Wheeler, Vice-Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee on behalf of Councillor John Cottee, Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee

Councillor Martin, I will not pretend for one moment, nor will any councillor in this room, that there are not issues with inconsiderate parking, especially around schools. In our divisions we have all got that, so let's be absolutely honest, and accept that right up front.

Nottinghamshire County Council took responsibility for the majority of parking enforcement from Nottinghamshire Police in May 2008, and I am sure you are aware of that. Together with the District and Borough Councillors, the Nottinghamshire Parking Partnership was formed to enforce parking restrictions on the public highway and within council-owned car parks. The Police have only retained responsibility for addressing parking that is causing an obstruction, and parking on pedestrian crossing markings, although the Local Authority can also enforce that. I know that the Police have to be satisfied that there was an actual obstruction, which I am sure you are aware of, as we get the same answer, as Councillors, right across the piece.

What I will agree to do is to have a look at the element of the Nottinghamshire Car Parking Partnership that the County Council has responsibility for, but also ask district councillors here this morning to have a look at the elements within their own districts.

The Notts Parking Partnership utilises a contractor to supply Civil Enforcement Officers and these are deployed right across the County. They concentrate, as you would imagine, on areas of greatest need. The District and Borough Councils have the responsibility for managing the contractor locally and determining the deployment hours and the beats followed. This management ensures the service operates as efficiently as possible and it has done so countywide for a number of years.

I am not going to pretend it runs smoothly everywhere, it doesn't. We do need to look at it, which is why I already accept that I will have a look at our elements of the partnership and I will very happily talk to you, because you raised the question, and update you as the discussions progress.

Enforcement hours can be increased, but in order to ensure the service is efficient, any significant increase needs to be commensurate with the scale of the parking problem, and this can only happen [again, as I am sure we are all here aware of] supported by a TRO (Traffic Regulation Order). That in itself causes problems because I am sure you are aware with a TRO that, when your community contacts you, like mine do, it sounds very simple, but it is not simple. To get an order can take 18 months, 2 years even, and that is assuming everyone agrees.

You have probably seen the Council's CCTV car (not very often as there is only one) zooming around (or perhaps not zooming around!) to show that zig zags and bus stop parking regulations are enforced where possible. But Councillor Martin what I would suggest to you, and all Councillors, now we are of limited resources, I mean we only have this one car, to go through your district manager, highlight the problem and work with the enforcement officer, depending on where your district is, to try and be part of enforcement where an issue has been identified.

Question to the Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee, from Councillor Tom Hollis

In the light of two serious road traffic incidents on Columbia Street and Chesterfield Road in my division in the last month, does the Chairman feel the County Council should take action to improve safety in these two locations?

Response from Councillor Gordon Wheeler, Vice-Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee on behalf of Councillor John Cottee, Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee

The County Council receives road accident reports directly from the Police and we use this information to maintain a comprehensive database of all such accidents on the County's roads in which someone was injured.

Last year, the police recorded just short of 1,700 injury accidents across the County. Unfortunately, because of the timeline, it can take several weeks depending on the investigation before the County Council get this information from the Police, dependent on the nature of the incident, injuries, and so forth.

There are works to improve the signage on Chesterfield Road at the junction with Strawberry Bank in the programme for this financial year and that work should be completed shortly. Also, a number of safety improvements were carried out in 2015 in the vicinity of Woodend Bridge on Chesterfield Road including carriageway repairs, and there are currently no accidents and no reports of accidents on the road since the work was completed.

There are no details or enquiries on record regarding an accident on Columbia Street regarding a damaged wall, but if you could supply me with this information, of course we will investigate.

This is an opportunity to remind all Members that on 20th July, you got an email from Sean Parks, inviting you to submit your proposals for future transport schemes. I know

some of you have, and I am grateful to those who have done so. This is an opportunity to remind you that the opportunity is still there until later on this month, so please do use that. I would suggest Councillor Hollis that if there are areas in your own division, which could benefit from being on this list, do put it on the list and let officers see it.

Question to the Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee, from Councillor Jason Zadrozny

My new Division of Ashfields contains one of the largest secondary schools in Europe, Ashfield School. As you can imagine traffic at peak times is a major issue to local residents. I have for some time been pressing for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) on the entrances to Searwood Avenue and Raymond Avenue but my requests have fallen foul of the below criteria:

- there have been three or more accidents in the last three years which have resulted in personal injury (none on record)
- emergency services and/or bus services are being severely obstructed by the parking on a regular basis (none on record)
- problems entering into or out of junctions by emergency services and/or bus services have been repeatedly and regularly reported (none on record)
- the parking restriction is likely to be respected by drivers and will have a significant beneficial effect on the area
- there would not be a significant transfer of the parking to adjacent areas
- the required public consultation on the restriction would not result in significant objections.

However the Council has just implemented the same TRO right across the road on two junctions opposite.

I have very grave concerns for the safety of children and residents walking through congested parked cars at peak times, and for the access and egress of residents and emergency services onto or off of the very very busy Sutton Road.

Would the Chairman agree with me that we should not have to wait for accidents for something to be done, as is outlined in the Council's criteria, and would he agree to review my requests with urgency?

Response from Councillor Gordon Wheeler, Vice-Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee on behalf of Councillor John Cottee, Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee

It concerns all of us when we get replies saying 'there are no accidents, and unless there are accidents there is not a lot we can do about it'. I think that Tony, in his comments earlier this morning said just that, and we have to take that one on.

One of the most difficult tasks, Councillor Zadrozny, as you are more aware, is the question of prioritising. Information comes in and resources are what they are. Councillor Cottee has already made a commitment to put extra funding in, which was agreed in the budget, but there is still only so much that can be done. We have to work with the information that comes into us and prioritise accordingly.

All Councillors, rightly so because you are working with your residents in your Divisions, will think that your problem is top priority. We all do that, and we expect an immediate response to our queries which go to the district managers.

I take on board unreservedly the concerns you have expressed, but we have to, at the moment, work with the statistics we have. Of course we will look to see what they [accident hotspots] are and I will use the same answer I gave to Councillor Hollis a few minutes ago. Please use the facility which will be open to you, through Sean Parks' [LTP Manager] email to put forward your schemes. This is a sensible way to identify and prioritise issues within your own divisions.

As I said to Councillor Hollis a moment ago, there are almost 1,700 injury accidents reported by the Police each year, and the statistical hotspots are not always at the locations where accidents look most likely. Sometimes, the sites of the most frequent accidents are locations where the danger is not immediately apparent, for exactly that reason. Drivers and pedestrians do not perceive the risk or take care to guard against it.

Statistically we get accidents where perhaps Councillors have not come with a request for something to happen in their division and that is just the way it sometimes pans out. We use criteria to target - as accurately as possible - the areas where serious accidents are proven to be most likely, and these criteria are kept under review.

Any accident is one too many, I accept that unreservedly. I am very happy to come and meet you in your division (and I know Cllr Cottee has already given the same commitment to Councillor Helen-Ann Smith), so immediately after we have finished the Council meeting today, I will ask for his diary to be looked at and dates be offered to both of you for the same visit. I have already had a discussion with Councillor Cottee, so I am not just saying something because he is not here, as tempting as it is!

You will get an email inviting you to agree a date for when Councillor Cottee can come and visit both of you so we can understand the issues, which you are so clearly passionate about and we will see what can be done. I still would encourage you to make full use of the [future transport bid] scheme as well.

Question to the Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee, from Councillor Joyce Bosnjak

Does the Chairman share with me the same concerns as the British Medical Association and GPs that a £2.7 million contract was awarded to private companies Capita and Centene to work directly on the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP), does he share my concerns that this was done without any dialogue with the elected members of this Council, and without a report going through this Council's democratic procedures? Will the Chairman be calling on NHS Nottinghamshire to make a full report to this Council regarding this contract and will he request that any future contracts relating to the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire STP go through the appropriate committee in order for elected members to be fully informed and to scrutinise if necessary?

Response from Councillor Stuart Wallace, Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee

No, I do not agree with the BMA. I believe that this is a ground breaking opportunity to give local people a more joined-up experience of healthcare, hospital care, mental health care and social care that meets their needs and makes the best use of available resources through a publicly funded and publicly led NHS and social care system.

The development of Accountable Care Systems is an opportunity to improve outcomes for local people by having a more joined up health and social care system which I'm sure all Members would agree will improve the health of local people and make the best use of available resources.

To assist with the transformation of the health and care system, the Government created some 50 Vanguard sites across England. One of the vanguards is in Rushcliffe and as part of developing the model in the south of the county, expertise have been provided from international companies: Centene Corporation from the United States and Ribera Salud from Spain.

A piece of work has been completed looking at how transformation could be achieved, and this led to a proposal that was agreed by National Health England on how an ACS could be developed, and national funding was awarded by NHS England to local NHS partners for this work. This involves an extra £2.7 million in this financial year for this purpose and has not been taken away from local health or local care budgets.

To develop a more joined up system of health and social care will take time and expertise. This is why the NHS have used some of the national funding to procure Centene, through a competitive process, to buy in the support that was thought to be needed. Centene are now established in the UK and work directly with health and care. They have a track record nationally and internationally of transforming health care systems internationally, both in the USA and with partnerships in Europe.

The Partnership procured Centene UK to provide the necessary advice and support. Capita, who are on the NHS provider framework, enabled Centene to bid for the work. In effect, Capita provided the doorway to allow Centene to bid, and Capita will remain a "sleeping partner" for the project.

Centene is expected to provide expertise in bringing organisations together to better meet the needs of the population and the factors that enable this to include best clinical practise, information, cost data and organisational redesign. I can reaffirm that Centene are not a provider of health and social care, and accountability will remain within local organisations.

The scale of this work nationally is unprecedented and that is why we should to learn from the international experience, from wherever it comes.

I can reassure Members that I am committed to being open and transparent about the work and the progress and updates of all 3 of the ACS including Nottinghamshire. This was the subject of a report to the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in

June this year. The report clearly set out the work that is being undertaken, outlining the role of Centene and Ribera Salud.

Further, there will be no “outsourcing” of the commissioning or regulation of the NHS and social systems.

The development has also been regularly discussed at the Member Reference Groups which have been in existence since 2015.

Regular reports will continue to be provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board and Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee, with any key decisions subject to approval by this Council.

Effectively, what you are seeing is that Centene are in the design process, and that, I understand, will take some six months. There will be further discussions post that, and in those we will be involved. I will be in contact with Steven Short from the South STP, to ensure that there is a clear understanding of communication. Additionally Steven will be attending and doing a presentation before the Health and Wellbeing Board on 4th October, where I am sure any concerns any members may have can be taken up directly.

Question to the Leader of the Council, from Councillor Alan Rhodes

Will the Leader of the County Council join me in welcoming the recent decision by the Member of Parliament (MP) for Mansfield in resigning his seat on Ashfield District Council and will she agree with me that no MP can effectively represent two different areas in two different constituencies and that Councillor Ben Bradley should do the right thing by his Mansfield Constituents and his Hucknall Constituents by resigning his seat as County Councillor for Hucknall North, without further delay and dedicate 100% of his time to his parliamentary duties?

Response from Councillor Reg Adair, Deputy Leader of the Council on behalf of Councillor Kay Cutts MBE, Leader of the Council

Councillor Ben Bradley has already explained why he has decided to resign his seat on Ashfield District Council and this has been reported in the local media. I do not feel the need to comment further on that decision.

So far as Nottinghamshire County Council is concerned, I am delighted that Councillor Bradley is one of several energetic new councillors to have joined our Group. I have no doubt he will provide excellent service to his constituents in Hucknall North, working in partnership with fellow Hucknall Conservative councillors, Kevin and Phil Rostance. I also believe that Councillor Bradley will prove himself to be a dynamic and dedicated Member of Parliament. The public of Mansfield obviously did not consider his Labour predecessor to be very effective, given that he somehow contrived to lose a majority of 20,000 over 20 years.

Councillor Rhodes' question is similar to one tabled by Councillor Bosnjak seven years ago, when she challenged Mark Spencer to resign his County Council seat in

Calverton upon his election as Member of Parliament for Sherwood. She too alleged that it was not possible to perform both roles at the same time, but he did so, very successfully. We know this, because when Mark chose to step down at the 2013 County Elections, Calverton residents immediately returned another Conservative, County Councillor Boyd Elliott.

Nottinghamshire County Council actually has a long history of County Councillors also serving as Members of Parliament. These include Labour councillors Frank Haynes, Paddy Tipping, Alan Simpson and John Heppell, none of whom saw their election to Westminster as a reason to immediately give up their seat on the Council. On the contrary, they all served out their term of office.

Unlike those days, politicians now have access to all the benefits of modern communications technology, meaning they can serve constituents and conduct their business from a variety of locations. Whether Councillor Bradley is working on any given day from an office in Hucknall, Mansfield, County Hall or Westminster, there is no reason why he cannot respond quickly and effectively to constituents' needs.

Of course, some of the matters Councillor Bradley will handle in his Parliamentary role will differ from those which concern the County Council. However, there will be many more occasions when the matters under discussion will have cross-cutting relevance to both local and central government.

Likewise, whilst it is true that Councillor Bradley's Parliamentary and County divisional boundaries do not overlap like Mark Spencer's did, many of the policies and themes that he will tackle on a daily basis will have common relevance to both constituencies, and indeed the rest of West Nottinghamshire.

Chairman, I am answering this question as if I believed it was genuine, but in reality I know this is not about Councillor Bradley's ability to serve his constituents. Rather, it is all about Labour smarting over the loss of three County Council seats and a once safe Parliamentary seat. They were lucky not to lose their MP in Ashfield, otherwise they would probably be calling for Councillor Tony Harper to resign too.

This Conservative & Mansfield Independent administration is proud to have a serving MP in its ranks, and we will do everything possible to make this "twin-track" relationship work for the people of Nottinghamshire.

Question to the Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee, from Councillor David Martin

A resident of Beech Court, Underwood asked the other day: Why is it that travelling to Basford from Underwood with a County Bus pass that upon transfer to the Medi-Link bus he was charged £1.20 whereas a fellow passenger with a City Bus Pass received the same journey for free?

Will the Chair look into this issue that is affecting residents in my Division?

Response from Councillor Gordon Wheeler, Vice-Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee on behalf of Councillor Start Wallace, Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee

Councillor Martin, I have been asked the same question by my residents on quite a few occasions. It just does not make sense. I will give you a little bit of background information, then I will come back to answer your question in full in a moment.

In 2016, Nottingham City Council classed the Queens Drive and Wilkinson Street Park and Ride sites as 'amenity' stops and as a result they no longer fall within the national concessionary fares scheme.

In April this year, the City Council introduced charges on the 'Medilink' service which they provided through the 'Link Bus' network. This means Nottinghamshire concessionary pass holders must pay the fare when boarding at Queens Drive or Wilkinson Street Park and Ride sites, but may use their pass at any other stop on the route after 9:30am, including the Queens Medical Centre and the City Hospital. It is illogical, I agree!

Nottingham City Council currently fund a discretionary element in their concessionary scheme which allows free travel on the Link Bus network. The City Council bears the full cost of concessionary passes used on this service, which operates entirely within the City area.

I recognise that residents find it frustrating when anomalies like this occur, because boundary lines which have great significance to the work of local authorities frankly mean much less to a member of the public simply trying to get from A to B.

I can tell you is that this issue was raised with our officers a few weeks ago and prioritised, and we have a meeting with them this week. Discussions are to commence on Monday with the City Council regarding this, in my view, completely crackers scheme. Also, discussions will be kick started on the Sky Link Services as well, which again is crackers, because it stops in three places when it leaves the City Centre and ends up at East Midlands Airport. We will be starting a discussion with the City Council about both schemes next week.

I am very happy once again, as I said in the previous replies, to keep you informed.

Question to the Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee, from Councillor David Martin

Although the County Council welcomes the additional extra £3 million to be spent on repairing potholes by this administration over the next three years does the Chairman of the Communities and Place Committee agree with me that methodology is a disaster at best and that it is high time we changed this shoddy practise and refocused our efforts on quality and not quantity?

Response from Chairman of the Finance & Contracts Management Committee, Councillor Richard Jackson, in the absence of the Chairman of the Communities & Place Committee, Councillor John Cottee

I am pleased that you acknowledge the excellent work that we are doing as a new administration to ensure our roads are better maintained.

It is proposed that the extra £3m in funding will be targeted at a planned mechanised patching programme focused on the unclassified road network. The proposed programme will be formed around sites which have previously received multiple visits (potholes/small areas of hand lay patching) to keep them in a safe condition. It is expected that this will allow substantial areas of repair to be undertaken through the effective use of the additional funding. The works involved will consist of either large inlay patching or full width resurfacing to restore the surface. The planned outcome of this programme of works is that street sections will be left in a condition where either no further works are necessary, or where they are fully prepared for future surface dressing. Members have been asked for their top sites of concern, and the deadline for submission for requests is 29th September.