

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 19th MAY 2011

agenda item number **11a i.**

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Meetings with borough/district councils

1. As part of my ongoing dialogue with our borough and district council partners, I was pleased to hold a meeting with the Leader and Chief Executive of Gedling Borough Council on 4th April 2011.

Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club Civic Reception

2. On 5th April I was pleased to attend a Civic Reception in celebration of Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club, winners of the 2010 County Championship. The event in the Derek Randall Suite at Trent Bridge Cricket Ground was hosted by the Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council, Councillor Thomas Pettengell; The Worshipful The Mayor of Rushcliffe, Councillor Mrs Marie Males and The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Councillor Brian Grocock.

Visit to Wilkinsons

3. On 7th April I visited the Head Office of Wilkinsons in Worksop, a family run business which started from humble beginnings in the 1930s and now has over 300 stores in the UK and has expanded into Asia. I met with Stuart Mitchell, the CEO, and we shared our approaches to transforming our organisations, our ambitions for the economic prosperity of the County and the importance of improving the A453 for Nottinghamshire Businesses.

New Ski Tow Facilities at the National Water Sports Centre

4. On 15th April I was delighted to officially open the new water ski tow facilities at the National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont. The ongoing development of the National Water Sports Centre demonstrates

the County Council's commitment to providing excellent leisure attractions for the people of Nottinghamshire and encouraging visitors to our beautiful county.

5. In preparation for what hopefully will be several months of warm water sporting weather, the main ski tow cableway has been extended in both length and height. Two new shorter cableways have been introduced which are ideal for encouraging new participants and allowing the more advanced enthusiasts to perfect their skills. Finally, new obstacles have also been installed for the adrenalin seekers and top athletes.
6. Thanks go to the contractors, Rixen, for completing the project on schedule and to a high standard. I would also like to thank Sport England whose continuing support has helped to make this work possible.
7. Our customers are the lifeblood of the National Water Sports Centre and these improvements make our facilities the best of their kind in the region, ensuring we really can provide something for everyone.

Visit to Nottinghamshire Business Venture

8. On 20th April, with my Cabinet colleagues, I visited the Nottinghamshire Business Venture in New Basford, a local Enterprise Agency which provides advice and training for people considering starting up a new business. We met with young entrepreneurs who were at varying stages in establishing their businesses in Nottinghamshire. They were an inspirational reminder of the importance of new and small businesses for the economic growth of the County and providing jobs for local people.

Meetings with GP Consortia

9. The introduction of GP Commissioning for local health services is linked with some significant changes in the responsibilities of local government including the establishment of a Health & Wellbeing Board and running a local Public Health Service.
10. Between 8th March and 21st April, accompanied by the Deputy Leader of the Council and the Corporate Director for Adult Social Care, Health & Public Protection I met with all the Nottinghamshire area GP consortia to discuss the changes, hear their aspirations and understand how Nottinghamshire County Council can help. I am very committed to ensuring that the new arrangements work effectively in Nottinghamshire and I am pleased to report that a Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board has now been established and met on 4th May, chaired by Councillor Martin Suthers.

Visit by the Chairman of English Heritage to Creswell Craggs

11. On 5th May I was delighted to join Councillor John Cottee, Cabinet Member for Culture & Community and Chairman of the Creswell Heritage Trust in greeting Baroness Kay Andrews, Chairman of English Heritage, as she paid a welcome visit to Creswell Craggs.
12. Baroness Andrews specifically asked to visit Creswell Craggs and we were only too pleased to organise a presentation on the 30-year conservation strategy and a site visit to the Gorge and Church Hole Cave.
13. Creswell Craggs has been placed on the 2011 UK Tentative List for World Heritage Status and the enthusiasm and backing of Baroness Andrews can only be beneficial to this bid.
14. Also present for the visit were Dr Anthony Streeten, East Midlands Regional Director for English Heritage; Councillor Andrew Lewer, Leader of Derbyshire County Council; Councillor Barry Lewis, Vice Chairman of Creswell Heritage Trust and Cabinet Member for Young People at Derbyshire County Council; Barry Joyce, Conservation & Design Manager at Derbyshire County Council and Ian Wall, Executive Director of the Creswell Craggs Trust.

Meeting with the Interim Executive Director, East Midlands Councils

15. On 6th May I received a visit at County Hall from Jan Sensier, the new Interim Executive Director for East Midlands Councils. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how East Midlands Councils can best serve the needs of local authorities such as Nottinghamshire County Council over the coming year. Jan takes over from Stuart Young, who is now on secondment to the Local Government Association as their Director of Local Government Partnerships.

COUNCILLOR MRS KAY CUTTS

Leader of the Council