



# Southwell Leisure Centre



Rumours are flying around town about the future of the Leisure Centre. Conservative District Councillors, along with their MP, have started scare stories after the closure of the swimming pool for tests on 29th October.

It has been known for some time that there has been some water loss. Lib Dem Councillor Jeremy Berridge, the new Chair of the Leisure Centre Trustees, reports that the safety checks on the 60 year old pool were needed. He is pleased that the tests to date indicate that the concrete pool basin is sound but that the original pipe work is corroding and will need replacement.

The problem was known to the previous Conservative administration which did nothing to resolve it. The District Council is now being pressed by the Trustees to undertake the pipe replacement as soon as possible. Recently Newark and Boughton have had new swimming pools but our pool is now nearly 60 years old.



## More Pothole Promises

The Government has made another promise! This time it is £8.3 billion to fund pothole repairs, but only £2.2 billion will go to the East Midlands - the lowest Regional allocation. However, funding will be spread over the next 11 years, even though urgent repairs are needed NOW.

Next year only £150 million has been allocated, less than 2% of the promised total funding. Recently the RAC reported that the number of cars requiring repairs because of potholes has risen by 50% in the last year. The average repair cost was £440 and that excluded replacement tyres.

It is estimated that £14 billion is the minimum needed to put right a decade of neglect due to funding cuts for road maintenance. Is the Government really serious about ending the pothole crisis, or is it yet another hollow promise?

## Christmas Greetings

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
from Southwell Liberal Democrats*



## Storm Babet Flood Report

Storm Babet in October provided the first major test of our new flood defences. Overall, the protection schemes for Southwell worked well in the prolonged downpour. **A special "thank you" to the volunteer Flood Wardens and Town Council staff for their hard work during the storm.**

Sadly, eight homes in the Church Street area flooded again because the Potwell Dyke Mitigation Scheme has not even started. The scheme is designed to hold back flood water with reinforced earth banks on Harvey's and Minster Fields, releasing it in a controlled way. VIA only submitted plans in 2021 promising completion in 2022. After that, the Environment agency demanded more information to confirm structural viability. A new start date has not been announced.

### Flood Funding Concerns

Ten years on from the last severe flooding, Lib Dem Councillors are demanding a start date for the Church Street and Easthorpe flood protection. The Town Council has agreed to a proposal from Peter Harris, Chair of Governance and Finance, that further Town Council funding should be withheld until the project goes ahead. It has been calculated that every £1 spent on flood defences saves £5 in damage. It really is time for the Conservative led County Council to complete the long awaited mitigation works.

### District Councillors



Karen Roberts  
07790458773

Peter Harris  
816000

Email: [info@southwell-libdems.org.uk](mailto:info@southwell-libdems.org.uk)

**If you have any comments or concerns about local issues why not get in touch with your Liberal Democrat Team?**

**We do not guarantee a solution but your voice will be heard in the right quarters.**





# Car Park Success!



There has been a long running campaign to convince Greene King - the owners of the Saracen's Head - to change the car parking regime to be the same as the rest of the town. This has now been sorted out. The Saracen's Head car park now gives users 'free' two hour parking to bring it in line with the other car parks in the town run by the Town Council. Customers at the Inn can register at the Reception desk for a longer free of charge stay.

**We are also pleased to see the revitalised Saracen's Head and Oak Restaurant and look forward to their continuing success. Great news - thank you to all of those who worked to get this result!**

# Water Betrayal



Monitors used for measuring the amount of sewage pumped into the Greet are faulty or not even installed. Severn Trent refused to disclose the amount and times of sewage discharge into our river - following a Freedom of Information request from Peter Harris, saying that full disclosure may "adversely affect the current investigations and any regulatory or court hearings that may result" by "Ofwat and the Environment Agency [who are] conducting an investigation into sewage treatment works"!

Focus will report.

## Signed Off!



The Large Sign for Brackenhurst on Nottingham Road, which obstructed the view of the Minster and the town has now been taken down.

Thanks to the Civic Society and many residents who have campaigned for the removal of this sign along with Cllr John Lightwood - pictured here with before and after views .

## Skatepark: Nearly There!



With huge support from the town and skateboarders, the Town Council and Friends of Southwell Parks have raised well over £150,000 for the new skate park. Work starts by the end of this year. However, we are some funds short. The Town Council has started a crowd funding campaign to bridge the gap to raise £10,000. If you would like to help do contact Cllr Karen Roberts on 07790458773.

## Tree Planting



The Town Council has received over 20 Nottinghamshire 'heritage' apple trees from a local apple tree nursery. These are been kept ready for planting in community orchards in the town later this year. The types of trees will be put on notices so that residents will know what the apples are - and their possible use!

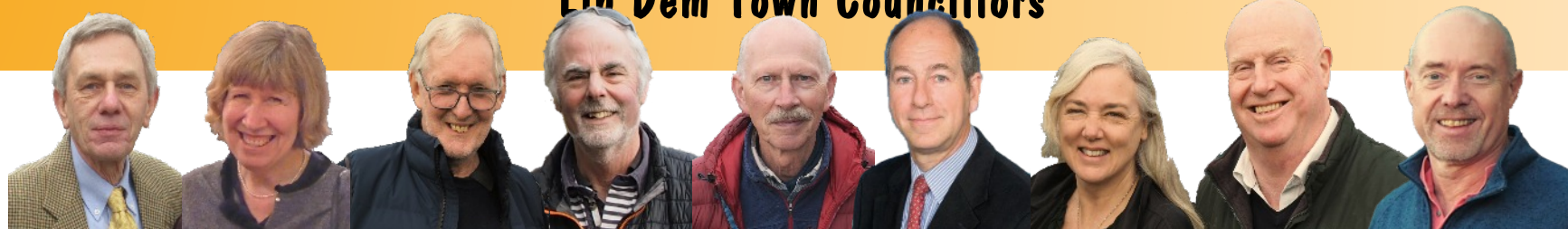
## District Council News



Lib Dem Councillor Keith Melton - who represents villages southeast of Southwell in the Trent valley - has been appointed Climate Change Cabinet member on the no-overall control District Council. Keith is National Chair of the Green Liberal Democrats.

In May, the Conservatives lost many of their Councillors across the District. The Lib Dems are working with the Newark Independents and Labour Councillors to support local residents across the area. Focus will report. Peter Harris now chairs the District's influential Audit and Governance Committee.

## Lib Dem Town Councillors



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# Keeping in Touch

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