

# Southwell Leisure Centre

## Flood Concerns



### Statement by Jeremy Berridge as Chair of Southwell Leisure Centre Trust

Southwell's Leisure Centre has developed around the pool which was constructed in 1965 by local residents who raised the necessary cash for it to be built. The Centre is held for the town by way of a Charitable Trust under the overall control of the Charity Commission in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

All Trustees are hold office with the sole duty to act in the best interests of the beneficiaries (the residents of Southwell and district) and always within the law.

At our last meeting all the Trustees supported a new pool and leisure centre for Southwell and have not taken any action which might delay this from happening.

The Cabinet at N&SDC approved the funding for new pool in principle on 19 December 2023 and on 15 January 2024 made a formal proposals to the Trustees, which made the provision of a new pool conditional upon the gifting of the existing Centre from the Trust to the Authority at nil value.

At an urgent meeting held on Friday 19 January 2024, Trustees recognised that whilst they could not agree to the proposed terms which would have caused a breach of Charity Law, they had a duty to the town to thoroughly investigate all lawful options available to them in respect of a possible sale of the Centre. This work has already been started.

There are two key issues, firstly any sale has to be lawful (therefore at value) and secondly it can only proceed with the general consent and authority of the people of Southwell who own the Centre.

The Trustees are united in their commitment to providing a fantastic health and leisure provision and representing the wishes of local residents.

The storms between October and January provided the first major test of new flood defences in Southwell although a few houses were still flooded.

Sadly, a number of homes in Edingley and Halam were also flooded and there has been localised flooding in Kirklington. In the former two villages the situation is made worse because the sewer floods. It is supposed to be a foul sewer only but it is overwhelmed by surface and ground water. There is a big problem with ground water in Halam. A few years ago Severn Trent had to line the sewers on Halam to keep out ground water. It didn't work. During this time they had to tanker sewage out of Halam. They are having to do that again now to avoid overwhelming Edingley. In short, the Severn Trent drainage system is completely inadequate.

Ten years on from the last severe localised flooding, Lib Dem Councillors are demanding a start date for the outstanding flood protection measures. 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 flood mitigation works and for Severn Trent to undertake upgrading works to the sewers.**

### Southwell Ward Lib Dem District Councillors



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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 Hotel in Southwell - 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 which are run by the Town Council. Customers at the hotel 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!**

# Southwell 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 started at the end of last year. However, there is still a shortfall in funding. 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.

# 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 Southwell 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 .

# Water Betrayal



Monitors used for measuring the amount of sewage pumped into the river 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.



# 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?

## 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.



# Keeping in Touch

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