

OCTOBER 2022

REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL BY BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCILLOR JAMES NAISH

The key updates this month are as follows:

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

I took an action at the last Parish Council meeting to engage North Notts Police following a lack of communication with the Chair / Clerk. I have done this and am expecting the police to join the Parish Council meeting on 03/10.

COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

A series of measures to help manage the cost-of-living crisis have been taken by the Council including setting aside over £200,000 to – among other things – create additional Money Advisor capacity, establish a Hardship Fund, support a mobile outreach programme by Bassetlaw Food Bank and strengthen the Council's Tenancy Support team. A series of grants to local community groups are about to be announced to enable, among other things, establishing communal warm spaces across the District.

If residents are struggling with increased costs, please encourage them to get in touch with me. Help is available.

DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT (DSA)

The announcement about DSA closing on Monday 26 September was very disappointing – and the speed of this decision demonstrated that Peel Group had already decided the outcome before the consultation period closed. This was despite almost universal public support for the Airport remaining open, as well as cross-party political support for its continued operation – including from the new Prime Minister.

The Council produced a detailed report looking at the Airport's future viability and there are lots of untapped opportunities. We will work as closely as possible with public and private stakeholders to make sure that all avenues are explored over the next few weeks.

DRAINAGE / FLOODING

It was good to join the Chair at the meeting with Severn Trent in September. On the action that I have taken away ("share the "be prepared for flooding" leaflet being drafted by Bassetlaw"), this is being progressed by officers at the Council and I hope to share this with you towards the end of the month.

HABBLESTHORPE CLOSE

A number of steps have been taken over recent months to upgrade the properties at Hablesthorpe Close. Housing officers have also been in touch with residents over the past month to ask for excess waste in gardens to be removed.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

The split which has been agreed in principle needs to be formalised so that each parish can begin working on future Neighbourhood Plans before the current version starts to lose planning weight. There will be a brief consultation for members of the public to pass comment and then, assuming there are no major objections, it will be formalised at Full Council in December. Then you can put the Plan to bed for 2-3 years ... other than using it to assess planning applications, of course.

STEP PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT

The decision on the future home of the STEP project will be announced at the Conservative Party conference, possibly on Monday 03 October. BDC has worked very hard with others to encourage the UKAEA to make Bassetlaw the home for this unique project.

WOOD LANE SOLAR FARM

On Friday 30 September, I attended a meeting with Scottish Power (the new site owners) and Sturton Le Steeple Parish Council to discuss the timelines for this project. Building work is likely to take six to nine months but this won't commence until September / October 2023 with a connection to the electricity grid being made in the summer of 2024.

CONFIRMATION AS COUNCIL LEADER

Finally, on a personal note, I was formally appointed as Leader of the District Council on Thursday 22 September when Full Council met to approve the nomination. This election was triggered by the unexpected decision of Simon Greaves to stand down after 10 years in the role.

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

If residents need support with planning, funding, care or other issues, you can email me at james.naish@cllr.bassetlaw.gov.uk or call 07967 807 037.