



Councillor Update

Congratulations to Lib Dem, John Lightwood (right) who was elected to the Council on 6 May, to represent residents of North Ward. We welcome him to the Council.



Congratulations to Cllr Roger Jackson for his re-election as our Nottinghamshire County Councillor. Southwell Town and Newark and Sherwood District Councillor, Penny Rainbow, has been appointed Chairman of Newark and Sherwood District Council. Well done, Penny.



Meet our new Deputy Clerk

Alice Dunn joins Southwell Town Council from Edwinstowe Parish Council. She brings a wealth of experience and was chosen for her strong financial skills. Alice will be a great asset to the town.

Funday on 3 July

This year's annual Southwell Funday will be held on Saturday 3 July between 12.00 midday and 4pm on The War Memorial Recreation Ground. Of course, this is subject to Government guidelines.



There will be a jazz band, children's play equipment, The Joker Entertainer and refreshment stands, as well as lots of community groups.

Follow us on Facebook Southwell Events, Instagram and Twitter @visitsouthwell or visit our website www.visitsouthwell.com **Come and join the fun!**



Town Reopens

Welcome back to Southwell's fully open town centre this summer! Come and see what treats our independent shops have to offer; enjoy a coffee or lunch out amidst Nottinghamshire's hidden architectural gems. Shop local and protect Southwell's town centre! We look forward to seeing you.

Riverside Footpath Closed

The footpath through Riverside Park is temporarily closed for Severn Trent to carry out repairs to the sewer pipe where it crosses the River Greet. Closure is needed for public safety because heavy machinery is moving about. The Town Council is monitoring the works and plans to improve the Park are being developed, particularly to prevent the footpath flooding during the winter.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Across the town, there is an increase in littering, dog fouling and vandalism. The toilets on Church Street are frequently left in an appalling mess. Let's work together to stop this. A lot of Council and volunteer resources are used clearing this up. Say no to litter, dog fouling and vandalism and look after our environment.



Summer 2021 Issue

NEWSLETTER

The Old Courthouse, Burgage,
Southwell, NG25 0EP

01636 816103

www.southwellcouncil.com
admin@southwell-tc.gov.uk

Opening Times

Mon – Fri 10am – 12.30pm

COUNCIL MEETINGS: THE WAY FORWARD

Unlike Parliament, the Government won't allow local government authorities to continue to meet virtually but requires meetings to take place face-to-face. All main Committee meetings resume in the Court House after 7 May. Due to limited space, only 2 members of the public can attend in person with the agreement of the Clerk. Meetings can be attended via Zoom or viewed on Facebook.

Southwell Leisure Centre Update

Southwell Leisure Centre has been run successfully for nearly 40 years by our local Leisure Centre Trust, with some funding from the District Council. The Centre had to close for most of the last 18 months due to the pandemic and the Trust hit financial difficulties. Newark and Sherwood District Council has long wanted to take it over. Now, having used up all its savings for expanding the Leisure Centre's facilities, the Trust has agreed to lease the Centre to NSDC to be run by its company Active4Today. The Centre is open and welcomes existing and new members.

Chair's Annual Report 2020 – 2021

From 24 March 2020, most of Southwell Town Council services and processes were suspended as the country entered the national lockdown during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. We started this council year part way through this period. Cllr Lyn Harris continued in the role of Chair to support Southwell Town Council officers and staff during this difficult time. Thanks to Lyn's unstinting efforts and those of the Clerk and her team, the Council was able to resume services and run its processes using online and virtual formats.

Council meetings resumed fully in May 2020 using Zoom online platform, which allowed residents to attend. Streaming on Facebook from August meant that even more residents were able to watch meetings, posting their views and comments as they listened. The Council sees this as a very positive step in engaging with the community and for the democratic process of local government.

The Town's Response to the Pandemic:

The pandemic brought out the best in the town, with many residents keen to volunteer to help fellow Southwellians, particularly the elderly and the shielding. Resident Charlotte Bond set up the Torpedos, which quickly grew to become a substantial group of volunteers offering to pick up prescriptions and do shopping for those in need. Chris Prentice took over the role of Chair and the group became a Charity. Southwell Town Council has worked in tandem with the Torpedos to staff the helpline. Town Councillors work on a rota to answer phone calls from residents in need, passing on information to the Torpedos' volunteer network. This service continues.

Other groups also stepped forward to help and particular mention should go to the Southwell Lions; Live at Home; the Turtle Doves, a voluntary free-soup scheme for the elderly run by Lisa at the Hearty Goodfellow; and Matt Sawyer for his food bank stall.

During the first lockdown, Nottinghamshire County Council decided to close King Street to traffic for several hours on Saturdays to enable socially distanced shopping. To help residents get used to this, town councillors have staffed the road closure every Saturday morning, advising drivers to avoid King Street to keep pedestrians safe. To see whether retailers and residents would like to see a permanent road closure, the Town Council undertook a questionnaire, the findings of which demonstrated popular support for this idea. The town council has submitted an application to

Nottinghamshire County Council to continue the road closure long-term and is awaiting a response.

Personnel Changes:

Clerk Tracey Broughton, resigned in September 2020 to take on a new role closer to home. Councillors were very grateful for the contribution that Tracey had made, offering invaluable advice during the period in which the Council took on additional responsibilities from Newark & Sherwood District Council. Deputy Clerk Lesley Wright was promoted to Clerk and assumed this role on 1st January 2021. The role of Deputy Clerk has been filled by newcomer to Southwell Town Council, Alice Dunn (see front page).

During the pandemic, the usual events and tourist activities run by our Events & Tourism officer, Honor Dunkley, could not take place and she had stepped up to offer additional help. As a result of this, Honor has been invited to take on the additional role of Communications Officer. In September, we welcomed a new addition to our grounds staff, Ivan Venkov who is proving a valuable asset. In April 2021, we said farewell to Assistant Clerk, Karen Green, who had served Southwell Town Council for 7 years.

In June 2020, we learnt of the sudden death of one of our best-loved town councillors. Councillor Beryl Prentice had served on the Council for over 15 years and had been Chair and Vice-Chair on several occasions. As a small tribute, the field behind Farthingate has been named Beryl's Meadow in her honour.

In November 2020, after 18 months as Chair, during a particularly busy and challenging period, Cllr Lyn Harris stepped down and I took over the role.

Improvements to the Town: Despite restrictions, plenty has happened: the Skatepark has been refurbished; Norwood Play area has had new equipment; the town centre brightening programme began; a new Land Management Plan with a strong environmental focus was instigated; 8 x Electric Vehicle Charge Points are being installed in the Bramley car park; and community groups have been invited to join the Climate Change Working Group.

It has been good to see some work finally taking place in the town by Nottinghamshire County Council. Flood mitigation work resumed along the Southwell Trail, at the top of Nottingham Road and on Church Street. We got our Zebra crossing at the crossroads on Newark Road and Lower Kirklington Road resurfaced!



Cllr Sally Reynolds

FORTHCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings take place in the Court House. Two members of the public may attend if pre-arranged with the Clerk. If you would like to watch a meeting or ask a question, you can attend via Zoom.

Full Council

Wednesday 16 June, 7pm
Wednesday 21 July, 7pm
No meeting in August

Planning Committee

Wednesday 2 June, 7pm
Wednesday 7 July, 7pm
Wednesday 4 August, 7pm

Town Environment Committee

Wednesday 14 July, 7pm

Governance & Finance Committee

Monday 28 June, 7pm
Monday 23 August, 7pm

Financial Update: The Council managed to keep its expenditure below budget, making a saving of about £16,000. However, because income - mainly from our car parks and markets - was £22,000 lower than budget, the Council has had to draw on its reserves to cover the deficit. The lower income is entirely COVID-related and this should recover over the next year or so.

On a positive note, Newark and Sherwood District Council provided some COVID related grant money. The Council also received a large payment of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) amounting to £200,000, which has been added to the Town Council's reserves.

The Town Council now has reserves of just under half a million pounds. Some of this is ring-fenced in connection with developments in town, whilst some will be made available for environmental improvements, such as the recent Norwood Gardens Play Park improvements and the Skate Park repairs.

CONTACT A COUNCILLOR

Chair

Sally Reynolds 01636 813779

Vice Chair

Malcolm Brock 01636 813726

County Councillor

Roger Jackson 07866 494731

Clerk

Lesley Wright 01636 816103

Deputy Clerk

Alice Dunn 01636 816103

Roger Blaney 01636 830743

Paul Handley 01636 815400

Lyn Harris 01636 815391

Peter Harris 01636 815391

Michael Jeffrey 07891 461396

John Lightwood 01636 815615

David Martin 01636 813954

Steve Perry 01636 816103

Penny Rainbow 01636 814720

Karen Roberts 07790 458773

Peter Scorer 01636 813972

Martin Stott 01636 816817

Stuart Thompstone 01636 815084

