

## **April 2026 NSDC update by Cllr Karen Roberts & Cllr Peter Harris**

At the previous five hour meeting of the Council the meeting was adjourned for an Extraordinary meeting that was held at the end of March. Whilst the agenda was to discuss staffing arrangements relating to the Local Government Reorganisation, the whole meeting was held in secret. Peter challenged this saying that at least there should be some announcements made relating to the meeting and its results - but no the Council decided that the whole process was held behind closed doors. So no mention of anything that was discussed or agreed can be disclosed - a very unfortunate process.

The Planning Committee that had deferred the decision on the Halam Hill development to get a reassessment of the impact of the possible development on the landscape met to re-examine the application. Despite vigorous opposition indicating the problems with this site - and others that are likely to come forward as a result, the application was agreed by a majority of one. Keith Melton and Peter Harris voted against the application. Other better sites have already been agreed and tested in the referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan but these have not come forward.

As a result of the Government's insistence of having a five year land supply - and the N&SDC only having a little over three years, it is clear that on appeal sites are being agreed to proceed - despite the community's clear indication of where it would see development - rather than inappropriate development dotted around the edge of Southwell.

The other meeting since our last report was the Licensing Committee. Its papers are on the N&SDC website.

A report from Southwell Pub Watch indicated that there have been a few changes of chair which has been challenging and the latest chair is still getting to grips with managing the Pub Watch scheme. Our is probably the quietest of the three PWs on the Sherwood part of the district, with only a few serious incidents. They also have a WhatsApp group which works well and meet every 2 – 3 months.

The Southwell Lions Christmas street collection was reported - with £8000 collected, of which 97% goes to charity.

The N&SDC's Executive Shareholder Board met and had significantly redacted reports from Active for Today and Arkwood. A4T's lease on the Southwell Leisure Centre has now ceased, but their details of membership have not been passed to the Trust. This is very unusual as in all other instances Council's have passed data onto the new organisation. Despite this, the Trust has said that it is already meeting its membership targets and hopes to have the pool - where significant work has already been completed - by June. At the time of A4T's ending it had 1700 adult and 720 child memberships. A4T did not run any Easter holiday activities at the Leisure Centre.. A4T are not budgeting for any subsidy to run its two Centres this financial year but has reserved its position in case cash is needed. Peter Harris has raised the possibility of unequal treatment for SLC if there is subsidy money given to A4T later this year.

**Peter Harris and Karen Roberts**