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SPRING 2025

Ashfield

MATTERS



Ashfield

DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL TAX FREEZE

**OUR PORTION OF
YOUR COUNCIL TAX
FROZEN FOR 2025/26**

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ASHFIELD**
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Report potholes to Nottinghamshire County Council

Nottinghamshire County Council is responsible for maintaining highways, pavements, and roads in Ashfield. This includes filling potholes, pavement repairs, street lighting and road markings.

There are several ways you can report potholes to Nottinghamshire County Council...

Nottinghamshire County Council can only repair potholes that it knows about so please report them



MYNOTTS APP

Available on Google Play and the Apple app store

ONLINE

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/potholes

PHONE

0300 500 8080

MAJOR HIGHWAYS

Motorways and A roads in Nottinghamshire (A1, A46, A453, A52 and M1) are managed by **National Highways**.

Potholes on these roads can be reported directly:

Phone: 0300 123 5000

Email: info@nationalhighways.co.uk

ASHFIELD 24/7



YOUR DIGITAL ACCESS TO THE COUNCIL

Did you know you can access most Council services at the touch of a button?



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Sign up at: www.ashfield.gov.uk

Digital As#field



Welcome...

to the latest edition of Ashfield Matters – your guide to what the Council is doing across the District.

As Lead Councillor for Parks and Environmental Services, it is a pleasure to welcome you to this Spring edition of Ashfield Matters.

This is an incredibly busy time for my area and I am proud to say we have had **another successful year with our Big Ashfield Spring Clean!** This is something we as a Council are rightly proud of and a massive thank you to those who took part!

Spring will also lead us into another year of No Mow May, to help enhance biodiversity across the District, find out more on page 18.

In this edition we also bring you some fantastic news about your Council Tax. I'm proud to inform you that Ashfield District Council's portion of your Council Tax will be **frozen for 2025/26.** Find out more on the freeze and where your Council Tax goes on pages 14 and 15.

Work is progressing nicely now on our Automation Distribution Manufacturing Centre (ADMC) with the completion of the purchase of the land. This is a huge project for us and you will start seeing work at the site from the Spring. Find out more on page 7.

We also have all you need to know to make sure you are prepared for the **Nottinghamshire County Council Elections** and the support available if you need help with your Council Tax bills.

There's not long to wait now until Easter so I hope you all have a lovely break and time with your loved ones.

Helen Ann Smith

Cllr Helen-Ann Smith
Executive Lead Member for Parks and Environmental Services at Ashfield District Council

All about us

Ashfield Matters is produced by Ashfield District Council's Communications Team.

The magazine is delivered to every household in the District.

If you require assistance with this document or would like it in a different format, please contact Customer Services on **01623 450 000**

Contact us

You can contact Ashfield District Council in a number of ways.

Web: www.ashfield.gov.uk
Tel: **01623 450 000**
Email: info@ashfield.gov.uk

Making a payment

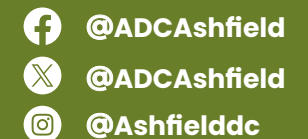
Did you know you can make payments for a range of the Council's services using our online payment service – have a look on our website www.ashfield.gov.uk/pay

Alternatively, you can call our 24 hour payment line on **0800 090 22 23**

Follow us on social media!

You can also keep up to date with all things Ashfield District Council on our social media channels.

Follow us for news updates, job adverts, events, competitions, meetings and more! Our direct messaging inbox is open for all your enquiries.



Hucknall Market milestone



Cllrs Lee Waters and John Wilmott are looking forward to the celebration events coming to Hucknall this year

Our Hucknall Market is preparing to celebrate a mammoth 150 years.

We will be marking the milestone on Saturday 26 April and would love to hear your memories of the market. It welcomed its first customers to Church Square on April 23, 1875.

The event will see the Saturday market regulars joined by some of the traders from the Ashfield Food and Drink Festival.

There will also be craftspeople and lots of community and charity groups setting up shop on the Market Place car park.

Visitors will be entertained with live music and fun activities will be on offer for the children. **If you have a story to share, please email markets@ashfield.gov.uk**

CALLING ALL GARDEN ENTHUSIASTS

Our Garden and Plant Fair is returning to Sutton.

The event will take place on **Sunday 18 May from 9am to 1pm** and is the perfect time to get those beautiful blooms in time for Spring. It will be held in Market Place car park.

Stalls will include a wide range of plants, trees, vegetables, ornaments and garden tools and equipment.

Anyone wanting to sell or promote any plants or garden related products is asked to contact the Markets Team on markets@ashfield.gov.uk or 01623 551385 with an expression of interest. However, **it is not just for professional traders**, it could be allotment holders or amateur gardeners who have grown their own plants from seed and have too many.



Can you be the blooming best this summer?

Assessing our historic bridges

We are currently assessing the damage to our historic bridges along the Skegby and Teversal Trail

Along with Nottinghamshire County Council, we will then look at ways to make sure they are safe and fit for purpose.

We will reopen the access to the public as soon as we can.

This trail was originally a railway line used to transport goods and as a passenger service. The Skegby line officially closed in the 1950s. The Teversal line continued in operation until it was closed in 1978.

The sites were transferred from the Great Northern Railway to the Sutton Urban District Council, and then later to us in 1974.



Cllrs Jodine Cronshaw and Helen-Ann Smith at Skegby Teversal Trail

Only for the brave

A new high ropes adventure is now open at Kings Mill Reservoir.

The new attraction is part of the outdoor adventure area that has been designed to create a new dimension to complement the existing facilities at the reservoir. Have you been brave enough to try it yet?

Adventures await at the reservoir with the Trek and High Trek course, the Net Park, a 100m Zip Wire and The Drop.

You can find out more and book your place by visiting <https://adventures.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/>



High rope action at The Mill Adventure Base

We're committed to Future Ashfield

Priority:
Economic Growth and Place

We have a number of major projects we are working on across the District with funding the Council has secured to make Ashfield a place we can be proud of.

Hundreds of jobs heading this way

Hundreds of jobs have been secured and hundreds more will be created thanks to a major new manufacturing site in Ashfield.

We have approved plans for the **multi million pound 7.28 hectare development** southeast of Junction 27 of the M1, in Mansfield Road, Annesley.

In a major coup for the District, Derbyshire aluminium firm, Garnalex, is moving across the border into Nottinghamshire, bringing with it more than **300 local jobs** and plans to create hundreds more.

The new site will provide much improved transport links, with easy access to the M1, along with room to expand for the firm. It was founded by Roger Hartshorn in 2018 to help **reduce the UK's reliance on imported aluminium.**

Garnalex intends to become a significant employer for Ashfield, bringing much needed long-term employment opportunities to the area. The 350,000 sq ft building will be as green and sustainable as possible.



Cllr Chris Huskinson, County Councillor David Martin and Christine Sarris, Assistant Director for Planning, pictured with Janet Hartshorn, and Roger Hartshorn CEO of Garnalex



Artists' impression of our new £20million centre that will create jobs and opportunities for Ashfield residents.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

We have now **completed the purchase of the land** for our new Automation Distribution Manufacturing Centre (ADMC).

Work is set to start in early Spring as we have now secured the land opposite Sutton Parkway Station. This will allow for the project, funded by the Towns Fund programme, to move forward.

Our ADMC will be a **national centre of excellence** for automation and is a flagship project for us.

It will attract businesses of all sizes to draw on its expertise, equipment and facilities to improve their competitiveness. It will also be a skills training centre to **allow residents to improve their skills to access higher paid jobs.**



Chairman Cllr Arnie Hankin signing the land purchase with Craig Bonar and Paul Crawford

Our focus is on ensuring that local people do not lose out to automation but are able to take advantage of it.

The ADMC will be the centrepiece of a dedicated Innovation and Technology Park in Ashfield. This will provide companies with the opportunity to co-locate within the centre or alongside it.

The stage is set



Cllrs Jason Zadrozny, Matthew Relf, Tom Hollis, Samantha Deakin and Helen-Ann Smith check the progress of Cornerstone Theatre

Work to the Cornerstone Theatre is now well underway.

It is due to be completed in **Summer 2025** and will provide modern facilities for theatre, cinema and live music. This will support Sutton Academy's curriculum while expanding new opportunities for a programme of external productions in the heart of the town centre providing a major boost to the town's night time economy.

The changing rooms and back of house areas are starting to take shape. Additional insulation has been added and painting is underway.

The reception is also progressing ready to welcome guests. **The newly refurbished theatre will support access to arts and culture.**



Artists' impression of the theatre located at the Sutton Centre Academy site

Portland Square and Fox Street update

Work to transform Portland Square and Fox Street is on track to be completed by **late May 2025**.

The Portland Square works are now well underway with the site cleared and earthworks being undertaken to the central area.

The old planters have been removed and the bases are in place for the **bespoke planter walls with seating**.

Power sources have been disconnected for the old cabinets and lighting columns to be removed. Temporary lighting is in place.

A significant amount of below ground works has now been completed at Fox Street. This includes underground drainage, filling of underground structures and laying of electrical cables for lighting and parking

charging points. Paving works are due to begin on Portland Square.

The defibrillator which was in the square has been relocated to the front of Rendezvous Café on Low Street and is fully operational.

Tree planting to both Fox Street car park and the square will be completed by the end of March.



Cllr Matthew Relf on Portland Square



Cllrs Vicki Heslop and Matthew Relf along with representatives from Lindum Construction test out the new benches on Portland Square

To further help our town centres and local shoppers, we are proud that we are the only District in all of Nottinghamshire keeping its two-hour free parking.

HUTHWAITE WELFARE PARK PLANS

We have big plans as work is set to continue at Huthwaite Welfare Park.

Previous work has included a new junior play space and tennis court facilities. **We are now moving on to the next stage of the masterplan.**

This will include initial improvements to the **boundaries to the park, installing football pitch goals and enhancing the play facilities.**

Larger improvements are in the early development stages to improve the skate park, multi-user games area and improve the landscape and access.

You can book the tennis courts by visiting <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/AshfieldParksTennis/BookaCourt>



Cllrs Tom Hollis and Paul Grafton at Huthwaite Welfare Park

Aerospace heritage museum to reopen

A museum celebrating Hucknall's role in the flight testing of some of Rolls-Royce's iconic aeroplane engines, will reopen next month after a major refurbishment.

Many famous RR engines were tested and developed on the historic site, including the famous Merlin which powered the Spitfire and other RAF warplanes during the Second World War.

Trustees and volunteers of the Hucknall Flight Test Museum (HUFTM) have been working tirelessly to renovate and bring back to life the unique aerodrome test facility for more than seven years.

And on 4 April the museum, in Watnall Road, will reopen, telling visitors the story of the flight and ground testing performed on engines there from 1934 to 1972.



Ashfield Councillors with volunteers at the Flight Test Museum

With the support of Rolls-Royce and members of the Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust, the trustees, and volunteers at HUFTM have been able to save and preserve numerous items which will go on display when the museum reopens in the Spring.

Communities score £1.2m 'Premier League' facilities

Five top class sports facilities are being developed across Ashfield thanks to £1.2million funding from an organisation supported by the Premier League.

We have teamed up with the Football Foundation on a project that will see PlayZones created at:

- Cowpasture Rec, Leamington (refurbishing the existing facilities)
- Stamper Rec, Skegby (new facility)
- Morven Park, Kirkby (new facility)
- Selston High School (refurbishing the existing facilities)
- Titchfield Park, Hucknall (refurbishing the existing facilities)

PlayZones are new or refurbished outdoor mini pitches, designed for football and other sports, aimed at tackling inequalities in physical activity and access to facilities. **The main priority groups the Football Foundation**

County and Parish
Cllr David Martin
at Selston High
School Astro turf



want to work with include women and girls, people living with a long-term health condition or disability and ethnically diverse communities.

The Football Foundation - which is a partnership between the FA, Premier League, Sport England and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport - will provide 75 per cent of the £1.255 million build costs and provide technical expertise for the facilities.

Construction of the facilities is due to be completed in the Autumn.



Cllr Jodine Cronshaw on Stamper Recreation Ground in Skegby, where a new PlayZone will be built

Cllr David Martin, with Cllrs Dave Shaw and Helen-An Smith for a kick about at Titchfield Park's PlayZone

Cllr Andy Meakin at Morven Park, which will get a new facility thanks to the project

We're making a SAFER ASHFIELD

Priority:
Safer and
Stronger

Ashfield District Council is striving to create a safer District, where residents, visitors, and businesses feel secure.



FLY-TIPPERS ARE PAYING THE PRICE

A resident was left with a hefty fine after not carrying out the proper checks before hiring someone to dispose of their waste.

Unfortunately for the resident, the waste was fly-tipped on Blenheim Lane, Hucknall, and investigated by our Community Protection Officer. **Hidden in the boxes was their address so we paid them a visit.**

When arranging for waste to be disposed of, **residents have a Household Duty of Care to check the person they hire has the correct license.** The resident was left with a £400 Fixed Penalty Notice.

They did give the details of the person hired to pick up the waste so they also had a knock at the door. **They were handed a Fixed Penalty Notice of £600 and were reported to the Environment Agency about their Waste Carrier's License.**

LANDLORD FINED FOR POOR HOUSING

A landlord has been fined almost £20,000 for renting out a **rat infested house with no heating or hot water.**

He owned two properties in the District. One had no electrical safety certificates – a requirement for private landlords – but the second was in significant disrepair with no heating or water, excessive damp and mould and a large infestation of vermin.

When he failed to make improvements, we issued civil penalties, fining him **£10,000 for a breach of Improvement notice and almost £5,000 each for the failure to have valid electrical safety certificates.**



Speak out against domestic violence

Domestic violence is closer to home than you may think. Speaking out if you see abusive behaviour in the streets, on public transport, at school or college or hear it in a neighbouring property is the first step.

Our teams are here to help. We run a Sanctuary Scheme where extra security measures can be installed into your property at no cost to you. This is to enable you to feel safer.

Across Ashfield we had 964 incidents reported in Sutton last year, 527 in Hucknall and 646 in Kirkby and the Rurals.

If you want more information, email: asbduty@ashfield.gov.uk, telephone: 01623 450000 and ask for a call back from our Sanctuary Co Ordinator.



Cllr John Wilmott and Paddy Guthrie with one of the alarms installed as part of the scheme

TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

We have heard your concerns about an anti-social behaviour in Sutton.

Rough sleeping and antisocial behaviour are a problem across the country, and unfortunately Ashfield is no exception.

We are working with businesses, residents and shoppers as well as police and drug and alcohol support services.

Action taken so far includes increased patrols to gather evidence, disrupt and move on rough sleepers and reassure the public.

We have so far identified around 30 problem individuals. We have also been engaging with businesses, increasing CCTV in problem areas and increased enforcement action, including injunctions, warnings and fines.

COUNCIL TAX FREEZE

ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL'S PORTION OF YOUR COUNCIL TAX WILL BE FROZEN FOR 2025/26

Despite ongoing cuts in funding from the Government, Ashfield District Council has a proven track record of financial excellence. Through savings, efficiencies and income generation, Ashfield District Council is able to propose a freeze to its Council Tax for the next 12 months.

“

As Supporting Executive Member for Finance, Revenues and Benefits, I am proud that the Council is on the side of the residents by freezing our part of this year's Council Tax

”

CLlr Dave Shaw

How your Council Tax is spent

For every £1 of your Council Tax...

Ashfield District Council provides all statutory services and much more and gets just **8p per £1**

Nottinghamshire County Council takes

76p

Ashfield District Council only gets

8p

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner takes

12p

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue takes

4p

0%

up 2%

up 5.5%

up 5%

We can help with COUNCIL TAX

Are you struggling to pay your bills to the Council?

If you are having trouble paying your Council Tax or rent, please contact us straight away. It's never too late to get in touch ...

If you think you might not be able to pay your bill, we can look at ways of supporting you, for example check whether you are entitled to a discount. We always try to work with your individual circumstances.

- Call 01623 457400
- Email: revenues@ashfield.gov.uk

Paying your rent

If you are a Council tenant and you are having difficulty paying your rent, we can provide support and guidance or direct you to services that could help.

- Call the Income Team on 01623 450000 Option 1, Option 2
- Email: income@ashfield.gov.uk
- Visit www.ashfield.gov.uk and search 'Pay Your Rent'

Council Tax Support

This is a discount you can claim if you are on a low income to reduce the amount you pay (depending on your income, capital and household size).

- Visit www.ashfield.gov.uk and search 'Benefits and Council Tax'



Discretionary Housing Payments

You may get extra help if you receive Housing Benefit or Universal Credit which includes housing costs, but it does not cover your full rent.

- Call the Revenues and Benefits Team on 01623 457400
- Visit www.ashfield.gov.uk and search 'Discretionary Housing Payment' and complete the online form to claim.

We're making Ashfield GREENER

Priority:
Cleaner and Greener

We are taking steps to make Ashfield a cleaner and greener place to live and work.



Cllrs Chris Huskinson, Jason Zadrozny, Tom Hollis and Helen-Ann Smith on the roof of Lammas Leisure Centre

SOLAR POWER WILL SLASH LEISURE CENTRE BILLS

Hundreds of solar panels fitted on the roof of a Sutton leisure centre will save the building almost **£1million in electricity bills over the next 25 years.**

More than **470 panels** have been installed at Lammas Leisure Centre in Sutton since the beginning of the year.

They will generate more than 150,000

kilowatts of electricity a year for the centre, which was opened by Olympic gold medallist Dame Kelly Holmes back in 2008.

This will save the centre £961,144 in electricity costs over the next 25 years. The panels on the leisure centre roof will reduce the building's CO2 emissions by more than 30kg a year.



Cllr Jason Zadrozny, David Walters and Kane Oliver help ADC staff plant native fruit trees on the Ashfield's estate

Tree-mendous effort

We have been busy planting trees across the District.

First up we have **six new native fruit trees on Ashfield Estate**, kindly donated by Out of the Box Events. This is in response to the return of Sparks in the Park with the idea being to capture the carbon created from the event.

Further trees have now been planted across the District, including at the new Sherwood Observatory and Planetarium, Oakwood Fields and John Whetton Park, Sutton.

They have also been planted in green space off Beacon Drive, Kirkby, with the help of young people from Brackenhill School. **A total of 2,411 young trees and 51 standard native and fruit trees have been planted.**

NO MOW MAY IS BACK

We are once again taking part in No Mow May to help enhance biodiversity across Ashfield.

The campaign, in association with PlantLife, will see areas of grass left to grow throughout the year to provide food for pollinators and insects. We will also be planting new wildflower meadows across the District.

Areas of grass that will be left to grow include Summerfield open space, Kirkby; Micky's Field at Sutton Lawn; Selston Country Park; Kingsway Park; Acacia Rec, Annesley Woodhouse; Titchfield Park, Hucknall; Pye Hill Road and Wharf Green Main Road, Jacksdale; and Quarrydale Road, Sutton. We will also be planting wildflowers in these areas.

Grass that needs to be cut for safety reasons will still be mown in May. Other areas will remain un-mown until the Autumn – see our website for full details.



Chairman Cllr Arnie Hankin joins the Greenspace team for the tree planting

Calling all businesses

Changes are being made to the way businesses recycle from the end of this month.

The new Simpler Recycling guidelines apply to all businesses with 10 employees or more from 31 March 2025.

It means that waste will need to be separated into:

- Recycling (cans, plastic and foil)

- Cardboard and paper
- Food waste
- Glass
- General waste.

This is something we can help you with. If you need help with applying the guidance to your business, please contact us at environment@ashfield.gov.uk

BIG THANK YOU FOR SPRING CLEAN

The Big Ashfield Spring Clean has once again proved a huge success. **Tonnes of rubbish has now been removed from across the District and our streets have been given a good clean.**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has joined us for this annual event. We could not do

this without the support of our volunteers and the hard work of our Waste Collection team.

The street cleans, flying skips, bulky waste collections and side waste collections have once again been well received and utilised.



Cllrs Tom Hollis, Andy Meakin, Helen-Ann Smith and John Wilmott collecting rubbish as part of the Big Ashfield Spring Clean



Our Discover Ashfield Award winners 2024

What a night we had as we celebrated the businesses and the people who make Ashfield the great place that it is. Our Discover Ashfield Awards night was a great success and we would like to take this opportunity to once again congratulate our winners. Here are all the winners:



Headline Sponsor 2025



In partnership with the Education and Skills Partnership

Best High Street Business

Arc Cinema

Highly Commended

Team Prom

Best Start-up Business of the Year

Sisters Polish Shop
The Beauty Garden

Best Business of the Year

FireRock Brewing Co.
Linwood Raker Ltd
Devtek

Careers, Education, Information, Advice & Guidance

Kip McGrath

Highly Commended

Michaela Gregory

Community Champion

Mike Harris

Graduate Retention Provider

Innovation Nottinghamshire

Green Ashfield

- sponsored by
Héroux-Devtek UK

Hucknall Wildlife Group

Life Skills Provider

Sinead Higgins

Outstanding Organisation

The Tin Hat Centre



Highly Commended

Ashfield Play Forum

Phenomenal Project

ATTFE Community
Stars Volunteer Programme

Superhero

Callum Winterton
Gary Jordan MBE

Very Important Volunteer

Tony Newbury
William Hickman

Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Amayah Stone

Place to Visit

Mill Adventures Base

Entrepreneur of the Year

Carl Ellis
Lee Mason

Outstanding Partner

Everyone Active

Special Recognition

Ashfield Spartans Boxing Academy
Ken Burrows Ltd
A Wass Funeral Directors
Steve Wallace

Chairman's Business Award

Linwood Raker Ltd

Chairman's Community Award

Hucknall Rotary Club, Sutton
Rotary Club, Kirkby Rotary Club

Digital Skills Provider

ATTFE College



REMEMBERING 80 YEARS ON FROM THE HOLOCAUST



We have planted a memorial cherry tree to mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

This has been planted in Wharf Green Park in Jacksdale. The tree is to remember all those who suffered and perished during the Holocaust.

Cllr Julie Gregory and County Cllr David Martin plant a memorial cherry tree at Wharf Green Park, Jacksdale

We're building Council homes

Priority: **Homes and Housing**



An artist impression of the new homes on Hardwick Lane

Our largest housing site so far



Work is continuing at our largest housing development to date as we start on the foundations.

We are building **40 new affordable homes on Hardwick Lane**, Sutton, and we are now putting in the new road as we prepare to start digging the foundations. This should take around 18 months to complete.

These Council properties will be ideal for individuals, couples and families.

The site will feature two-bedroom bungalows, one and two-bedroom flats, and two, three and four-bedroom houses. **Two of the homes will have a fourth bedroom and bathroom on the ground floor**, making them suitable for families where one member is a wheelchair user.

These new homes will have **increased insulation** in the walls and floor, a gas boiler that is hydrogen ready, **solar panels** that will supply approximately 30% of electric used and electric vehicle charging ports.

Nature will be given a helping hand too, with all homes having **bat and swift boxes, hedgehog holes** in the fences, and **bee bricks**, alongside native planting to encourage biodiversity.

We are desperately in need of good quality family homes in Ashfield as **over 4,000 people are currently on our waiting list**. This is why we will continue to find suitable locations to build Council homes across the District.

BUILDING WORK STARTS ON ADRIAN SHELDON VIEW

Houses will soon start appearing at Adrian Sheldon View.

The site has now been cleared and prepared as we start the building work on the new estate in Central Avenue, Kirkby. **The 16-home site will be named in honour of the Rifleman Adrian Sheldon** who was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2009. The site will include two and three-bedroom houses, with the work likely to be completed by Autumn 2025.



CLLrs Tom Hollis, Andy Meakin & Dale Grounds check on the progress of the building work

The homes are being built on land just off Kingsway that has been **sat derelict for many years** after previously being used for Council garages.

NEW HOMES NEARLY READY TO MOVE IN

Work is now nearly complete on new Council homes in Brierly Road, Sutton, and Mill Close, Huthwaite.

Two two-bedroom bungalows are now nearly ready in Brierly Road and these will be suitable for wheelchair users. This is a group of housing applicants that we have struggled to assist in the past because of the limitations of our housing stock.

Mill Close will welcome two two-bedroom houses. The new homes will be **thermally efficient with solar panels** and other measures to reduce carbon use and make them more affordable to run.



Mill Close will have three-bed semi-detached houses similar to Spruce Grove.

We're investing in health and wellbeing

Priority:
Health and Happiness

Ashfield District Council is investing in health and wellbeing to help people live healthier and happier lives, to prosper in their communities and remain independent throughout life.

Grants supporting mental health

Mental health grants have been awarded to 18 groups and organisations across Ashfield. **The Green Activity Grant Scheme can give up to £1,000 to fund activities that support the mental health of our residents.**

Hope Springs Horticulture CIC, Kirkby Community Foodbank Allotment Project, Gardens of Giving, in Stanton Hill, Ashfield Voluntary Action and St Thomas's Church Kirkby are among those who have received the funding.

Previous recipients of the grant – which is funded by our £3.2 million UK Shared Prosperity Fund – have reported **positive feedback about how their activities have helped residents** with their wellbeing by improving healthy lifestyles.



CLlr Helen-Ann Smith with Sarah Armon from Gardens of Giving CIC

LET'S GET CREATIVE

Ashfield Creates is working with every community in the District to encourage creativity.

The new £1million programme is designed to give **everyone in the District access in artistic activities**. You can also have your say on what you would like to see.

The team will be going out to every community with **events, arts workshops and creative skills opportunities** until Autumn 2027. This will be done through a network of Local Creative networks, bringing together artists, residents, community groups, schools and businesses.

You can have your say, see what's on and sign up for updates at ashfieldcreates.co.uk



CLlrs David Walters and Jason Zadrozny on the colourful bench which hopes to bring friendships into people's lives

CREATING NEW FRIENDSHIPS

A pink bench that became a real talking point has been transformed into a place where **friendships can blossom**.

The bench on Ashfield Estate made the headlines after it was painted pink overnight. After reading the positive

feedback to the bench, we decided to give it a fresh bright pink coat and turn it into a friendship bench.

We have put the friendship bench overlooking the pond. Those who are feeling lonely and wanting someone to talk to are encouraged to use the bench as a place to strike up a conversation.

ON YOUR BIKE

We are making upgrades at Annesley's Nuncargate Park.

The BMX course is being upgraded to improve its **all-year-round use** and

make it accessible for BMXs, scooters and skateboards.

This will mean that the course will be **reshaped and given a new Tarmac surface**. Watch this space.



CLlrs Rachel Madden and Chris Huskinson visiting where the improvements will be at Nuncargate Recreation Ground

Your Views

Matter

The Citizens' Panel is your way to help us on our journey from good to great across all of our services.

The panel is made up of local people who are interested in making a difference in Ashfield. This is through face-to-face conversations, over the phone or taking part in surveys on the topics that interest you.

Your voice helps us improve our services and as a Council.

We are looking for new people to join us to have their say - you can join if you are 16 or over and live in the District.

Once you join, you can be a member for as long as you like - it's free! You can choose what you take part in and you can opt out at any time.

Recently, we have sent a survey to panel members about how we engage as a Council. It asked about upcoming topics for discussion and opinions on whether we continue with the name Citizens' Panel.

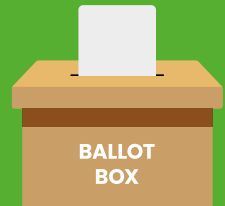


If you are **interested in joining**, you can fill out our online form, email Improvement@ashfield.gov.uk or contact our reception on 01623 450000 and quote 'Citizens Panel.' www.ashfield.gov.uk/citizens-panel



COUNTY ELECTIONS

Elections will take place on 1 May 2025 to elect Councillors to Nottinghamshire County Council. There are 10 electoral divisions in Ashfield each electing one Councillor. You will need voter ID to vote in the polling station on 1 May 2025.



- Check your polling card so that you know **where your polling station is**.
- A wide range of photo ID will be accepted, including **passports, driving licences and cards with a PASS mark**.
- The name on your ID should be **the same name** you used to register to vote.
- If you don't have an accepted form of ID, you can apply for a **free voter ID document** known as a Voter Authority Certificate.
- You can apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate



Postal and Proxy Voting

- You can now apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote, and you'll need to prove your identity.
- Please **apply in plenty of time** if you are going on holiday to prevent any problems receiving your postal vote. Applications made close to the deadline will be sent out only a few days before the election. Check the Council website for expected delivery dates.
- As a proxy (voting on somebody else's behalf), you can be appointed to vote on behalf of up to **2 domestic electors**.
- There are restrictions on the handling postal vote packs so the best option is to post your postal vote in a **Royal Mail post box**. If you prefer to hand it in to the Council offices or at a polling station you will be required to complete a form.
- More information is available at electoralcommission.org.uk/waystovote

Registration deadlines

- The deadline to register to vote for the elections on 1 May 2025 if you are not already registered is 11 April 2025.
- The deadline to make changes to existing postal or proxy votes or make a new application to vote by post is 5pm on 14 April 2025.
- You must be registered to vote in order to make an application for a postal or proxy vote



Rachel Newton, the Council's Electoral Services Assistant, is reminding residents to register to vote

We're freezing the price of your garden waste collections. Sign up today!

Don't forget to sign up for our garden waste collection service. For just £35, you can save yourself some trips to the tip.

If you sign up to have your garden waste collected, you will have an extra bin with a brown or black lid, so you can then help by recycling even more, by disposing of your:

- Grass cuttings
- Prunings and twigs
- Hedge trimmings
- Plants and weeds
- Leaves
- Cut flowers.



www.ashfield.gov.uk/gardenwaste

FREE BULKY WASTE COLLECTIONS



YOU CAN ALSO SIGN UP FOR A FREE BULKY WASTE COLLECTION FROM APRIL 1.

BIG CHANGES TO YOUR COLLECTION

We are now offering one free bulky waste collection of **up to 3 items**, for all residents each year.

Every household across Ashfield will be able to book **one free waste collection a year**.

www.ashfield.gov.uk/bulkywaste