

NEW YEAR 2025

Ashfield

MATTERS



Ashfield

DISTRICT COUNCIL

A group of approximately 15 people, including men and women of various ages, are posing for a group photo. They are standing in a room that appears to be a planetarium or a museum, with large informational posters on the wall behind them. The posters include titles like 'Atgettersenon', 'Planetarium diemis', and 'sky'. The people are dressed in a mix of casual and semi-formal attire. Some are wearing lanyards with ID badges. The overall atmosphere is professional and community-oriented.

PLANETARIUM IS OUT OF THIS WORLD

**READ ALL ABOUT
SHERWOOD
OBSERVATORY
ON PAGES 14 & 15**

**2025 EVENTS
CALENDAR**
PAGES 12-13

**NEW COUNCIL
HOMES**
PAGE 21

**MEET OUR
TRADERS**
PAGES 26-27

Citizens' Panel

We are looking for residents to join our Citizens' Panel to help shape the future of Ashfield.

Our Citizens' Panel is a collective of people who usually meet twice a year to help shape our services. We will also send you surveys to find out what you think. You can be involved as much or as little as you like.

Anyone interested is invited to join us at Ashfield Watnall Road Community Centre, Hucknall, on **26 February** with a session from 1pm to 2.30pm and a later one from 6pm to 7.30pm.

We will also have a drop-in session between 3pm and 5pm.



Find out more using this QR code
www.ashfield.gov.uk/citizens-panel



Welcome...

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

What a year 2024 was – there is so much to look back on and be proud of. It was the year that we brought back two major events to the District and they were huge successes.

The three-day Ashfield Show and Sparks in the Park saw thousands descend on Sutton Lawn for some free entertainment. **This is something that you asked for and we were determined to bring back as a Council – and we did it.**

We look forward to doing it all again this year, only bigger and better. I hope you will join us.

The recent **opening of Sherwood Observatory Planetarium and Science Discovery Centre** has been a huge project for us and it is brilliant to now see it finished. This will bring people to the District from far and wide to see something so unique and powerful. It will transform you to another world. Please take the chance to check it out – you won't be disappointed. See all the pictures on pages 14 and 15.

We have also now started work to transform Portland Square and the Cornerstone Theatre is coming along nicely. **There is plenty to look forward to in 2025.**

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our residents a very happy New Year from everyone here at Ashfield District Council.

**Cllr Jason Zadrozny, Leader
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.



@ADCashfield



@ADCashfield

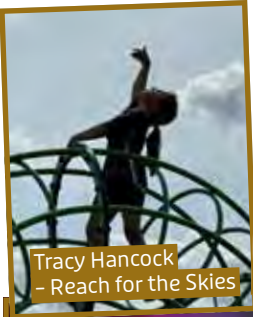


@Ashfielddc

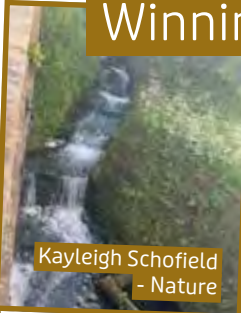


Ashfield
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Winning photos of Ashfield



Tracy Hancock
- Reach for the Skies



Kayleigh Schofield
- Nature



Tony Booth - Aurora over
Sherwood Observatory

Congratulations to the winners of our Discover Ashfield Photography Competition 2024. **We had some stunning shots this year and would like to thank everyone who took the time to enter.**

The winners were 'Reach for the Skies' by Tracy Hancock in the Active Ashfield category, 'Aurora over Sherwood Observatory' by Tony Booth for Made in Ashfield and the Under 16s winner was Kayleigh Schofield with 'Nature'.

They each won a £50 Love to Shop voucher and a £50 voucher to spend at the local Leisure Centres.

JOBS FAIR A HUGE HIT

Jobseekers were out in force as **more than 600 people attended our 2024 Ashfield Careers Fair.**

Our annual event, held at Kirkby Leisure Centre, saw more than 50 businesses come together to offer over **500 vacancies and apprenticeships across the District.** It was sponsored by ECS Engineering Services and Kinver Solutions. Thank you to all those who attended and made it such a success.



CEO Theresa Hodgkinson
and Cllr Chris Huskinson
with the West
Nottinghamshire
College team



Cllr Dale Grounds
with the Army Reserves

Moment to remember

The five crew members who died when the Stirling Bomber, EH988, crashed in Annesley have been remembered.

Our Chairman Cllr Arnie Hankin attended the ceremony at the RAF Stirling War Memorial in memory of the five people who died when the plane crashed at the site on January 14, 1945. The crew were on a flight from RAF Winthorpe to Northern Ireland where the aircraft was to be decommissioned.

Unfortunately, they never made it to their destination. **We will remember them.**



Chairman Cllr Arnie Hankin and Cllr David Martin (left) at the memorial service

All aboard - STEM bus in Ashfield

Our councillors paid a visit to Sutton Academy to welcome the InnovateHer bus.

It comes after the ITS technology group partnered up with InnovateHer to sponsor three schools across the country.

Sutton Academy was the chosen school for the Midlands. It was thanks to our support that the school was selected for the region.

The project aims to introduce more young people to STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects. The bus arrived at the school for the launch of the project with pupils in years 8 and 9 invited to find out more.



Cllrs Matthew Relf and Vicki Heslop with staff from InnovateHer and Sutton Academy

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.

The Community Safety Team in Selston



Cllr John Wilmott with the Community Safety Team in Hucknall



We are here to listen

Our Community Protection Officers have been out and about to hear your concerns.

During our pop-up days of action in Hucknall and Selston, homelessness, drugs, shop theft, street drinkers and vehicle-related nuisance behaviour were all raised as concerns.

These events are an opportunity for us to **engage with shoppers and businesses and gather intelligence**. Following the event, we passed on intelligence to the relevant services.

We will be holding more pop-up events throughout the year so keep an eye on our social media to find out where we will be next.

FLY-TIPPER PAYS THE PRICE

A Sutton resident ended up with a hefty fine after bags of putrid rubbish were found abandoned on a public footpath.

Our CPO spotted the bags while out on patrol in Walton Street, Sutton. They mainly contained food wrappers, dirty nappies and empty beer cans.

They were linked back to a resident, where more of the same rubbish was found at the property, and they ended up in court. After pleading guilty, the resident was ordered to pay a fine of £466, victim surcharge of £186, court costs of £85, which totals to £737.



The foul smelling waste dumped in Sutton

Community safety vans are real lifesavers

Our community safety vehicles are now equipped with defibrillators thanks to a generous donation from Lindum Group.

They have been fitted in three of our vehicles, meaning **our teams will be able to provide immediate help in emergencies.**

The medical devices are used to deliver an electric shock to the heart in cardiac emergencies.

These improvements to our vans are part of our initiative to enhance safety and address anti-social behaviour in the District.



Cllrs Helen-Ann Smith and John Wilmott and the Community Safety Team

WARNING TO YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN ASB

Young people across Ashfield involved in environmental crime or anti-social behaviour will be held to account.

Following the introduction of the Immediate Justice Scheme in January this year, a new youth programme is being launched by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

It will see young people involved in the crimes made to **repair the harm they have done to communities.**

The programme will include a community-focused element as well as an educational component. This approach aims to help young people aged 12 to 17 reflect on their experiences, **guide them towards better decision making and provide preventative intervention.**

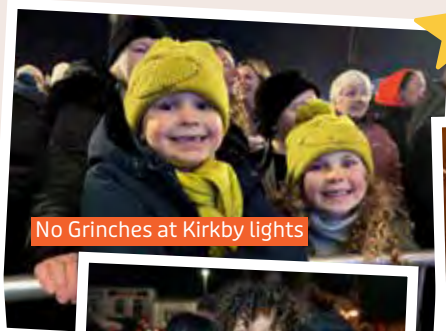
Christmas in Ashfield

2024

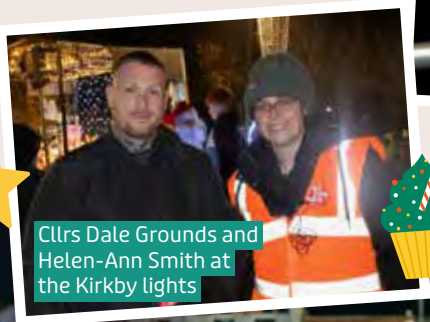
Christmas
is a magical
time and last
year was no
exception.

Thousands turned out in Sutton,
Kirkby and Hucknall to kickstart
the festive period and see the
lights officially switched on.

Proudly sponsored by everyone
ACTIVE



No Grinchies at Kirkby lights



Cllrs Dale Grounds and
Helen-Ann Smith at
the Kirkby lights



Big smiles for the switching
on of the Christmas
lights in Sutton



A little cold did not stop the fun in Sutton

The entertainment from the schools was brilliant, as always, and we would like to thank them for bringing the joy of Christmas to Ashfield.

Chairman Cllr Arnie Hankin,
Cllrs Tom Hollis and
Helen-Ann Smith on the stage



Cllrs Dave Shaw,
John Wilmott, Gordon
Mann and Lee Waters
at the Hucknall
Christmas lights

Elfin around in Sutton



All the fun of the fair



Visitors also enjoyed some seasonal entertainment and were able to browse some fantastic local traders as part of the Christmas markets.



Sweet treats in Sutton

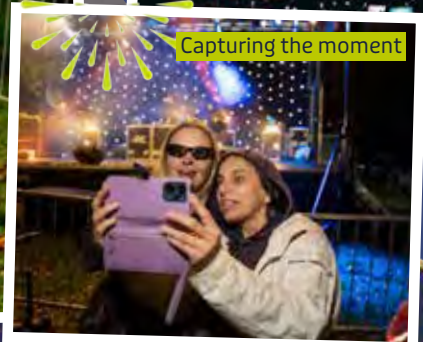


Breanna takes to the stage

SPARKS IN THE PARK

Our first fireworks spectacular in more than 10 years was a huge success.

Thank you to everyone who came to Sparks in the Park on Sutton Lawn back in November - what a night it was. Thousands of people showed their support for this free event.



**OUT
OF THE
BOX**
EVENTS



Danielle Grace Williams kept the crowds dancing

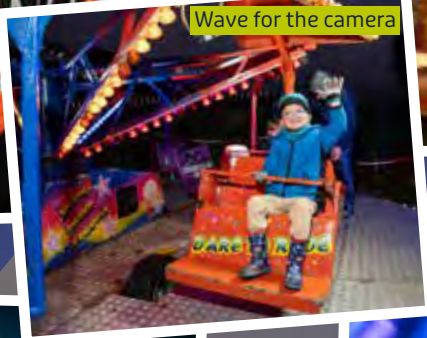


Cllrs Paul Grafton, Tom Hollis and Helen-Ann Smith

Plenty of smiles at the fair



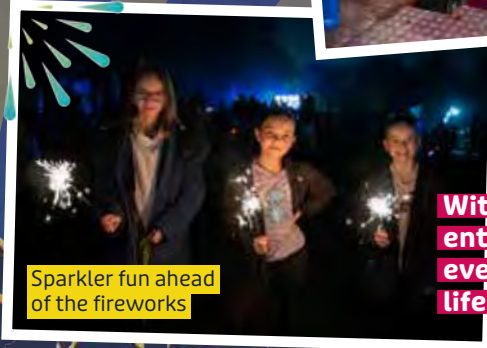
Wave for the camera



Cllr Paul Grafton counting down to the fireworks



Sparkler fun ahead of the fireworks



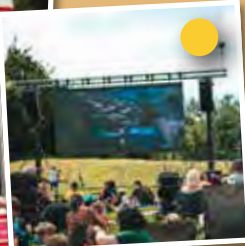
With fairground rides, children's entertainment and, of course, the main event as the Ashfield skyline came to life, it really was a night to remember.

Films IN THE Park



Selston
Country
Park

21 June



HUCKNALL FEST!

5 July



Titchfield
Park,
Hucknall

ASHFIELD SHOW



Sutton
Lawn

AUGUST

8,9
& 10



We have a busy year of events coming up in 2025. Make sure to get these dates in your diary

Ashfield **FOOD & DRINK**

Festival at Hucknall

 **Hucknall High Street**

17 AUGUST



SPARKS IN THE PARK

**Saturday 1
November**

 **Sutton
Lawn**



Christmas in Ashfield

2025

**Sutton Christmas
Lights Switch On**

Thursday 20 November



Christmas in Ashfield

2025

**Kirkby Christmas
Lights Switch On**

Thursday 27 November



Christmas in Ashfield

2025

**Hucknall Christmas
Lights Switch On**

Wednesday 3 December



**OUT
OF THE
BOX**

We're committed to the Future Ashfield

Priority:
**Economic Growth
and Place**

We have 20 major transformational projects being funded by our Towns Deal and Future High Streets Fund that will create an Ashfield we can all be proud of.

To infinity and beyond

The brand-new Sherwood Observatory Planetarium and Science Discovery Centre has welcomed its first visitors.

The visitor attraction promises to welcome people from far and wide to the District to experience the new wrap-around immersive shows. **It is an educational experience like no other** as schools, scouts, guides and other groups are already booked in.

The former Victorian subterranean reservoir has been transformed into an education centre below the planetarium and there is a café run by staff and students from the nearby ATTFE College.

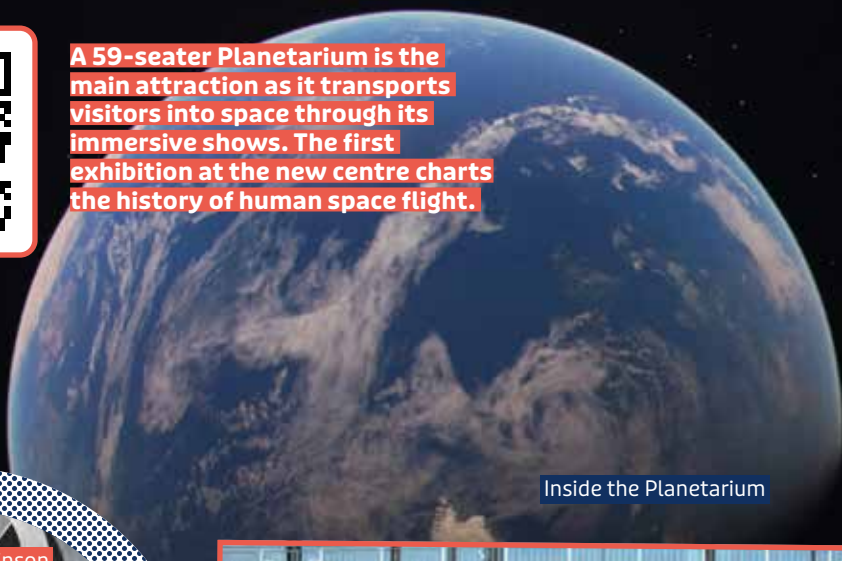
The ambitious £6.8m project was led by the team at Sherwood Observatory and was made possible through several government funding rounds, corporate donations and the support of the Council.



Theresa Hodgkinson (centre) and Ashfield cllrs at the opening of the new Planetarium



A 59-seater Planetarium is the main attraction as it transports visitors into space through its immersive shows. The first exhibition at the new centre charts the history of human space flight.



Inside the Planetarium

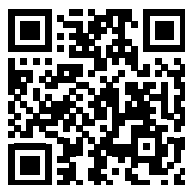
CEO Theresa Hodgkinson with artist Jane Dovey



CLlr Matthew Relf (centre) with the Sherwood Observatory team



Use this QR code to see an incredible timelapse of the Planetarium being built (Credit GF Tomlinson)



PORTLAND PATHWAYS IS EXPANDING

Portland Pathways is expanding its services **with £180,000 to support more people in Kirkby.**

The money has been awarded through the Towns Fund and will be spread over four years.

Portland Pathways is an award-winning community focused initiative which aims to improve mental health and employment opportunities for people with disabilities in Nottinghamshire.

As part of the Portland Charity group, Pathways provides free support to help people develop their skills, prepare for employment and manage their mental health, leading to more fulfilling, independent lives.



Cheryl Levers and Anna Ashton
talk about Portland Pathways
with Cllr Andy Meakin



WORKS UNDERWAY AT CORNERSTONE THEATRE

Refurbishment work has now started at Sutton Community Academy's theatre.

We are giving the building a new lease of life as it is upgraded and rebranded as Cornerstone Theatre.

The new theatre, which is due to be completed later this year, will offer **shows, cinema, music and comedy nights.**

It will feature new dressing rooms and a green room, toilets – including a changing places room – foyer and box office. The auditorium will be completely refurbished with new flooring, ceiling, acoustic wall treatments and doors.



CLlr Matthew Relf (centre right) with the team behind the new Cornerstone Theatre



Ashfield cllrs with CEO Theresa Hodgkinson, Edward Chambers of Lindum Group (left), and Council staff.



PORTLAND SQUARE TRANSFORMATION STARTS

The transformation of Portland Square is well underway.

The new-look Portland Square will feature **two raised lawns with inbuilt seating and 8 new semi-mature trees** to bring greenery back into the centre. Alongside the planters will be **new streetlighting, new level paving and more outdoor space for businesses to use. State-of-the-art CCTV cameras will also be fitted.**

Work is expected to be completed by the Summer. Together with the Cornerstone Theatre development and improvements to Low Street the new look square is part of a programme to **transform Sutton into a vibrant and thriving town centre to be proud of.**

Funded
Kirkby a
TOWN
£62



PUTTING ASHFIELD ON THE MAP

Work is progressing on our flagship project that will see Ashfield become a trailblazer in the East Midlands for automation and distribution.

The development of the Automated Distribution and Manufacturing Centre (ADMC), is moving ahead at pace.

This will be a national centre of excellence in automation, a home to innovation in technology and high skilled jobs.

The centre off Lowmoor Road, Kirkby, will be the centrepiece of a £100 million business park. **This will attract investment from manufacturing and distribution companies, bringing new, well-paid jobs to the District.**

We are working in partnership with Vision West Nottinghamshire College (VWNC) and Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and other partners, including local businesses to deliver the ADMC.

The site received planning permission in Summer 2024 and preparatory works on site have started. The construction will take place throughout 2025. As part of the development of the business park, **native trees and hedging will be planted to create wildlife habitats and to enhance the natural environment.**

A new species-rich meadow and a wet grassland meadow will be created to further increase the biodiversity. The ADMC is scheduled to open in early 2026.

A new artist's impression of how the ADMC could look

led by the
and Sutton
S DEAL
2.6m



Funded by
UK Government



Ashfield
DISTRICT COUNCIL

We're building Council homes

Priority: **Homes and Housing**



Diane Sheldon (centre left) with Cllrs Jason Zadrozny, Tom Hollis, Andy Meakin and Joanne Froggatt, Assistant Director - Policy and Performance, Cllr Dale Grounds

Mum of Ashfield soldier visits new homes



The mum of Adrian Sheldon has visited the site of new Council homes being named in his honour.

Diane Sheldon visited the site in Central Avenue, Kirkby, which will be **named Adrian Sheldon View in honour of the rifleman who was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2009.**

The site will feature 16 new homes and work is now being carried out on installing the drainage. It will include two and three-bedroom houses, with the work likely to be completed by Autumn 2026.

The new street has been completely cleared of vegetation and the derelict garages have been demolished ahead of the building work starting.

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.

The brownfields site will help us achieve our long-term goal of continuing to build more affordable housing.

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 use and electric vehicle charging ports.

We are desperately in need of good quality family homes in Ashfield as **4000 people are currently on our waiting list.** This is why we will continue to find suitable locations to build Council homes across the District.

WORK STARTS ON TWO NEW HOUSING PROJECTS

Work has now started to create new Council homes in **Brierly Road, Sutton**, and **Mill Close, Huthwaite**.

Brierly Road will be home to **two two-bedroom bungalows** that 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 three-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.

Both developments are due to be completed by Spring 2025.



HARDWICK LANE WORK STARTS

Those in Sutton may have noticed work in Hardwick Lane as we start on our largest housing development to date.

We are building 40 new affordable homes which will be ideal for individuals, couples and families.

The site will feature two-bedroom bungalows, one and two-bedroom flats, 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 use and electric vehicle charging ports.



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.

Back of the net for football plan

We have now approved plans to bring the Playzone programme to five sites in Ashfield. We are working with the Football Foundation on the investment programme which **creates new or refurbished mini all-weather pitches for football and other sports, such as basketball.**

The chosen locations are:

- Cowpasture Rec, Leamington
- Morven Park, Kirkby
- Stamper Rec, Skegby
- Selston High School
- Titchfield Park, Hucknall

We are now working to complete desktop surveys and site surveys will take place this month. **We are keen to hear from any clubs/groups who would like to use the facilities.** Please get in touch via healthandwellbeing@ashfield.gov.uk.

We are aiming to submit planning applications in late March and, if approved, for the build phase to take place late summer, with facilities open in Autumn 2025.



Cllr Jason Zadrozny and
Cllr David Martin in Selston

PLAY AREA MADE SAFER



Cllrs John Wilmott and
Gordon Mann at Washdyke Lane

It is important to us to make play areas as welcoming as possible.

That is why we have replaced the old mesh fencing around the play area at Washdyke Recreation Ground in Hucknall.

New hooped top playground railings have now been installed, making the play area a safer and more inviting space to play for youngsters.

ing



Cllrs Dale Grounds and Jason Zadrozny at last year's Discover Ashfield Awards

CELEBRATING OUR ASHFIELD STARS

Shining stars of Ashfield are set to once again be honoured in the Discover Ashfield Awards 2024.

The awards celebrate the fantastic people, organisations and businesses

within Ashfield and their achievements over the past 12 months. **Now in its fifth year, the ceremony will be held on 28 February** where we look forward to meeting this year's winners.

NATIONAL HONOUR FOR HUCKNALL LEISURE CENTRE

A massive congratulations to Hucknall Leisure Centre after winning a national honour at the ukactive Awards.

The centre now has a brand new award to showcase after it triumphed in the **'Regional Club/Centre of the Year - Midlands'** category at the International

Convention Centre in Birmingham. The centre is run by Everyone Active in partnership with Ashfield District Council.

Thoroughly deserved - congratulations to the whole team.



Hucknall cllrs with the team at Hucknall Leisure Centre

We're restoring PRIDE in Ashfield

Priority:
Cleaner and Greener

We have been making investments into more electric vehicles at our Waste and Environment Depot, to ensure we are kinder to the planet whilst saving money.



Cllr Tom Hollis with Maintenance Operative Chris Percival at Huthwaite Cemetery

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

We might still be wrapping up to keep warm from the winter cold but we have already started planning for Spring.

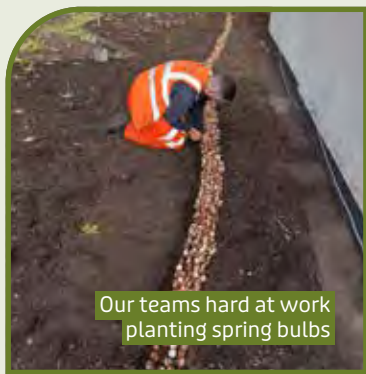
Our dedicated teams were out throughout October and November planting bulbs ready for Spring to provide a sea of colour across the District.

We have also been working on some shrub bed rejuvenation to make sure it is looking its best when the weather starts changing. Bulbs have been planted across Kirkby, Hucknall and Sutton.

Cemetery path repairs

We have now made repairs to the path at Huthwaite Cemetery. The path leading to the Cenotaph at the cemetery had been highlighted as a particular hazard to those visiting loved ones.

This work included tarmacking the path, which has improved accessibility for those visiting the cemetery to pay their respects. **This was done ahead of Remembrance to ensure everyone had the opportunity to commemorate the fallen.**



Our teams hard at work planting spring bulbs



Kirkby-Sutton path is transformed!

Ashfield cllrs with
Katie Mills and
Steph Sheppard
of Kinver and
Damon Giles, of SPG.

This is the first phase of a comprehensive package of works to **improve off-road cycling and walking routes.**

The half mile cycling and walking route between Southwell Lane and Penny

Emma Way has been widened to 1.8m width.

Works also included vegetation clearance, new wayfinding signage and resurfacing using recycled materials.

OLD SHOP GETS NEW PURPOSE

An empty high street shop has been brought back to life.

The property at 9-11 Low Street, Sutton has been designed to meet the demand for commercial, services industry and education providers looking for high quality, energy efficient space on the high street.

This is part of the Council's strategy to support our high streets to provide a wider variety of services to complement retail. No. 14 Low Street was also refurbished earlier in the year and now hosts the Rendezvous Café and two flats on the first floor.

The improvements have been designed to be sustainable and a recent appraisal showed that the property has met Net Zero requirements.



Cllrs Jason Zadrozny and Matthew Relf
at the shop in Low Street

Ashfield is home to hundreds of small and independent businesses including cafes, homeware stores, and bakeries. Let us introduce you to some of our business owners as we ...

Meet the traders at...IDLEWELLS INDOOR MARKET



Idlewells Indoor Market, Sutton, is one of the best indoor markets in the East Midlands. After investing £1.8million into the renovations of the market in 2018, we are extremely proud to say that the market and the traders inside are thriving.

The traders in the indoor market really make it a fantastic place to shop, meet, and eat, so we thought we would introduce you to some of the friendly faces behind the businesses that call Idlewells Indoor Market their home.

Tanglewood Florals – Julie

Best seller: *The flowers!*

Trading at the market for:
Six months

Why do you love market trading?
The customers and the other market traders are all brilliant and friendly. It's a great atmosphere, a fantastic place to be.



Julie of Tanglewood Florals



Ashfield Cheese Counter – Wade

Best seller: The Cobbler
– a vintage cheddar

Trading at the market for:
Five and a half years

Why do you love market trading?

Being able to offer customers good quality produce and seeing the same faces returning for more.



Wade of Ashfield Cheese Counter

Tina's Woolly Crafts – Tina

Best seller: Tinsel Chunky Wool

Trading at the market for:
Five years

Why do you love market trading?

I've been in retail all my life and I love being able to help people with my knowledge of wool and crafts.



Tina of Tina's Woolly Crafts

Kay's Krafts – Kay

Best seller: My handmade
trees of life

Trading at the market for:
Seven months

Why do you love market trading?

I like the customers, chatting to them, and the other traders here.



Kay of Kay's Krafts

THE **BIG** **ASHFIELD** **SPRING** **Clean** **2025**

What you can expect from the 2025 Big Spring Clean!

FLYING SKIPS



SIDE WASTE COLLECTIONS

BULKY WASTE



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Interested in being involved? Whether it's creating your own litter pick events or joining some of our Big Spring Clean action days, we want to hear from you! Contact Springclean@ashfield.gov.uk

From 17 February 2025

