

YOUR ASHFIELD



Ashfield

DISTRICT COUNCIL

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£1.9M
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£30m centre will 'attract high-skilled jobs' to Ashfield



THIS is the view of what Ashfield's new £30million Automated Distribution and Manufacturing Centre (ADMC) will look like once it's been built.

The facility will provide a hub for world-class distribution and manufacturing skills and is the foundation for Ashfield District Council's (ADC) vision to see the area leading the way in innovation and technology across the East Midlands.

And crucially, it is hoped the centre will attract investment and bring more high-skilled jobs to Ashfield.

The ADMC will give access to the latest automation technology for prototyping, manufacturing, research and development, and skills and training. It will work with businesses on how they can use technology, enable them to test new things and train staff on how to use and maintain automated systems.

The centre will be built in Lowmoor Road, Kirkby, off the A38, kick starting a £100million+ technology park development attracting inward investment and creating higher economic growth opportunities for Ashfield.

Funding for the ADMC has come from Ashfield's successful bid for

£62.6million from the government's Towns Deal.

Cllr Matthew Relf, Executive Lead Member for Growth, Regeneration, and Local Planning, said "Once the

It will provide a lasting legacy for generations to come and one we firmly believe will attract more high-skilled jobs to Ashfield and place us at the heart of the business world, not only in the East Midlands but beyond

ADMC is completed and functioning, it will become a magnet for businesses which recognise the need to embrace new technology to drive growth and improve.

"It will provide a lasting legacy for generations to come and one we firmly believe will attract more high-skilled jobs to Ashfield and place us at the heart of the business world, not only in the East Midlands but beyond."

Cllr Jason Zadrozny, said: "The economic benefits of this project are incredible and will allow the Council to unlock the District's true potential. This is all part of our broader regeneration strategy to make Ashfield a fantastic place to live, work, study, play and visit."

In addition to the building of the centre, the focus is also on improving the local environment. As part of the development native trees and hedging will be planted to create a new high-quality habitat and act as a screen from the residential estate across from the site.

A new species-rich meadow and a wet grassland meadow will be created to further improve the biodiversity. The site for the facility is an example of how repurposing land can actually improve its environmental and natural value.

THE BIG
ASHFIELD SPRING CLEAN
2025

MORE ON PAGES 4 & 5



THE BIG
ASHFIELD SPRING CLEAN

IT'S BACK... AND BETTER THAN EVER



COMING 17 FEB
2025

WELCOME to Your Ashfield... this is our first newspaper-style edition and we'd love to know what you think of it.

And it is fitting we've produced our own newspaper as there's so much going on across the District to tell you about.

As we approach Spring and hopefully warmer, brighter weather, it's the perfect time for a clean up. Our Big Ashfield Spring Clean is hugely popular with residents and yet again, we're delivering what you want by leading efforts to make our area neat and tidy for everyone.

Our waste teams will once again be out and about in force later this month, giving you the opportunity to dispose of unwanted items and extra waste using our flying skips. Read all about it on pages 4 & 5 and follow our social media channels to make sure you don't miss out.

In this issue we also celebrate local businesses which are thriving thanks, in part, to the help and support we can offer.

Make sure to turn to pages 12 and 13 and make a note in your diaries of the brilliant calendar of events we've got planned again in 2025.

We also showcase some of the fabulous investment projects we're leading on to realise our ambition to create an Ashfield seen as a centre for economic investment and growth, somewhere that recognises its responsibilities to be cleaner and greener and is a safe and happy environment for everyone.

Make sure to turn to pages 12 and 13 and make a note in your diaries of the brilliant calendar of events we've got planned again in 2025.

New nature trails planned for Ashfield parks

IF you like visiting our fabulous Green Flag sites across Ashfield, keep an eye out in the coming weeks for the addition of new nature trails marked by stylish and fun wooden totem poles.

Ashfield District Council has secured funding to create the trails at King's Mill, Sutton Lawn, Hucknall Titchfield Park, Selston Country Park, Kingsway, Brierley and Portland Park.

Each trail will have ten totem poles, including sensory ones, fun animal designs for children and even one with a magnifying glass for a close-up view of nature.

Cllr Helen-Ann Smith, Executive Lead for Parks and Environmental Services, said: "We are blessed with some fabulous green spaces across Ashfield and know how much they're

loved by local people. "These new nature trails will create a fun way for families to explore the wildlife and flora on their doorstep."

We are blessed with some fabulous green spaces across Ashfield and know how much they're loved by local people



All about us
Your Ashfield is produced by Ashfield District Council's Communications Team.

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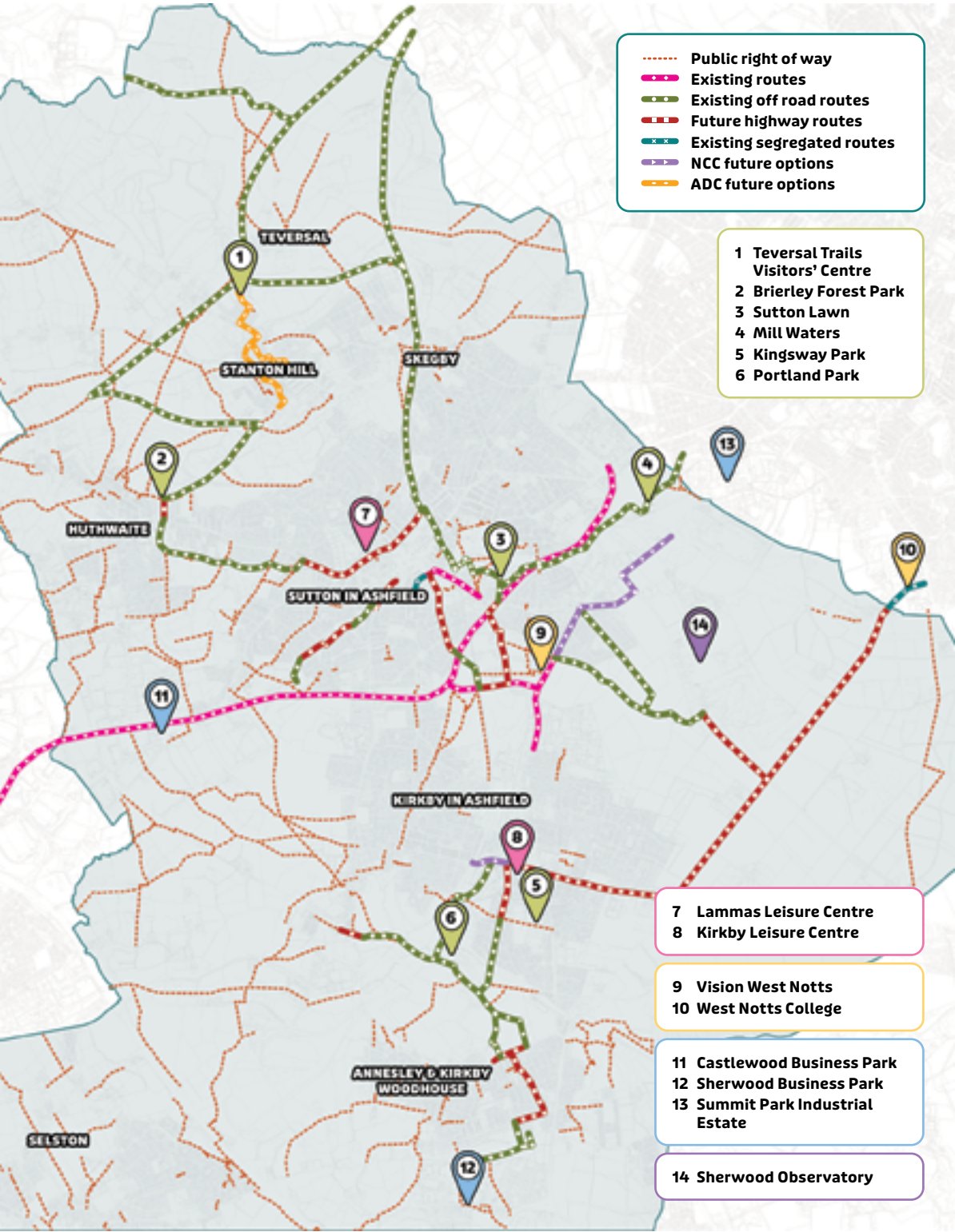
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An example of what the totems will look like



Plans unveiled for £1.9m 'green' network

WORK to create an ambitious cycling and walking network that connects key landmarks across Ashfield is set to start later this year.

The 'green' network will create more attractive and accessible routes for walkers and cyclists, offering a healthier, greener alternative to car and bus journeys.

It is being made possible thanks to £1.936million of Towns Funding cash that Ashfield District Council successfully bid for and secured.

It is being made possible thanks to £1.936million of Towns Funding cash that Ashfield District Council successfully bid for and secured.

The plan is to focus on investment in off-road routes where possible, providing family friendly links to the District's town centres, parks and tourist destinations such as the new Sherwood Planetarium, outdoor adventure facilities at King's Mill or Teversal's nature trails.

It will also provide links to major employment sites such as Summit Park and Castlewood industrial estate.

As part of the programme, Ashfield District Council will also review and develop existing on-road connections to cycle routes and footpaths.

Cllr Jason Zadrozny, said: "We're really excited about this project. It fits with our aim to make Ashfield a cleaner, greener place to live, work and visit, while also significantly improving our infrastructure to allow people to get from one place to another."

"Linking communities, reducing carbon emissions, helping people to be healthier – schemes like this one give us an amazing opportunity to help change the way we think about travelling around our local area."

Cllr Tom Hollis, Executive Lead for Strategic Housing & Climate Change, said: "We hope the network will give people a quality and efficient alternative to driving their car. The more we can encourage people to walk or cycle, particularly for short journeys, the faster we can hit our net zero targets, reduce congestion on our roads and improve the quality of air we breathe."

"It's also a great way of staying active, getting outdoors and enjoying everything Ashfield has to offer."

It is hoped work will start in the summer.

Pathway transformation

ASHFIELD District Council has been improving public footpaths across Ashfield to make them more accessible for everyone.

Penny Emma Way, in Kirkby, has undergone a transformation to allow easier access for cyclists, wheelchair users, pushchairs and pedestrians. It is the latest part of Ashfield District Council's Towns Funded projects to improve off-road cycling and walking routes across the District.

The work has seen a half mile cycling and walking route between Southwell Lane and Penny Emma Way widened.

Ashfield District Council has also cleared vegetation, put up new wayfinding signs and resurfaced using recycled materials. Materials excavated from the site will also be used when we improve other paths.

Cllr Jason Zadrozny, said: "Making sure our footpaths are accessible is a top priority. We are committed to making Ashfield a cleaner and greener place to live and work."

"This is the final footpath at Summit Pit Tip to be fully resurfaced and residents will be delighted. Over the last few years, we've spent more than £100,000 making huge improvements



to our footpaths in this area. This is the final piece of the jigsaw.

"Now, with Spring just around the corner, everyone should be able to

make the most of getting out in the fresh air and getting some exercise, which is why projects like this are so important."

The work was done by SPG Construction, based in Sutton, using local companies to source plants and materials for the project.

Ashfield District Council has already invested in improving the footpaths that run from Lindrick Road to Summit Pit Tip.

BIG Ashfield Spring Clean 2025

SPRING is on the way and what better time is there for a clear out and a tidy up ahead of the longer days and warmer weather to come?

We're gearing up for our annual Big Spring Clean, where neighbourhoods come together to tidy up their local areas and we strive to ensure Ashfield is spic and span for everyone.

Introduced eight years ago, the event is hugely popular across Ashfield, giving residents and businesses the opportunity to dispose of bulky waste and other unwanted items.

Last year we collected and disposed

Our Spring Clean is hugely popular with people and this year it's back bigger and better than ever

of around 100 tonnes of waste during the three week campaign which again will see flying skips, litter picks, community tidy ups and extra collections.

For Council Leader, Jason Zadrozny, the Big Spring Clean illustrates Ashfield District Council's commitment to a cleaner and greener area for everyone, along with working side by side with communities to improve their neighbourhood.

Jason said: "Our Spring Clean is hugely popular with people and this year it's back bigger and better than ever. In addition to the flying skips and extra collections, we'll also be focusing on our fabulous parks, cleaning up



Cllr Jason Zadrozny with colleagues from ADC's Waste depot

benches and other equipment, getting them ready for the Spring and Summer.

"We know residents love the Spring Clean and I'm delighted we're able to keep delivering it, demonstrating our commitment to a cleaner and greener Ashfield for all."

The programme kicks off on Monday 17 February with a launch event

by black bag collections around Sutton and Kirkby all that week – simply place tied up black bags alongside your red lid bin, ready for collection by our waste teams.

On Saturday 22 February our flying skips will be in Sutton. This is your opportunity to take excess waste, toys, and bric-a-brac to an ADC waste lorry

visiting five locations in the area throughout the day, starting at 9am. We will be operating across six zones in Sutton, with five locations in each. see full info at bottom of P5.

Then it's on to Kirkby and the Rurals where the flying skips will be visiting five zones across the area on Saturday 1 March. Community engagement events will be taking

place across that week too.

Then, in Hucknall and the Rurals there will be the extra black bag collections from Monday 3 March, ending with the flying skips in the town on Saturday 8 March, again visiting five zones.

For more information visit our website and search Big Spring Clean or follow our social media channels.



Ashfield youngsters growing flowers from last year's seed packs

Sowing the seeds for a blooming good summer

GREEN-FINGERED families across Ashfield have another opportunity to try their hand growing flowers and vegetables as Ashfield District Council gives away dozens more 'Growing Packs' for the Spring and Summer.

Last year more than 200 households received packs encouraging them to have a go at growing their own potatoes, lettuce and wild flowers.

The packs included a plastic planter, Let's Get Gardening book, potting soil, gardening gloves, and seeds.

Money from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund paid for the packs, with the aim of introducing children and families to gardening and encouraging them to grow their own produce.

And the feedback was hugely positive with one Ashfield mum saying: "I just wanted to say thank you for the really wonderful growing pack that I collected from ADC. My daughter and I have had a lot of enjoyment planting sunflowers and vegetables and watching them grow."

Another resident, Theresa Wiles, said: "We were really pleased with ours and had lots of fun setting them up. Thank you so much."

The packs will be available to collect, on a first come, first served basis, on 20 February in Sutton, 27 February in Kirkby and 6 March in Hucknall. See our website and social media channels for more details.



Play your part in keeping Ashfield clean and tidy



Cllr Jason Zadrozny (fourth from left) and Cllr Helen-Ann Smith (seventh from left) with ADC colleagues



Waste Collectors with Community Protection Officer Massey at the flying skips in Hucknall

Find your Big Spring Clean waste location

SUTTON Saturday 22 February		
• Buttery Lane Nr Skegby Trail car park	9am-9:45am	
• Whitehead Lane corner Saville Road	9am-9:45am	
• Springwood View Close	9am-9:45am	
• Bluebell Wood Way	9am-9:45am	
• Alfred Street	9am-9:45am	
• Laxton Avenue	9am-9:45am	
• Teversal Grange Car Park	10am-10:45am	
• Quarrydale Road meets Dales Avenue	10am-10:45am	
• High Hazles Drive	10am-10:45am	
• Frederick Street (Sutton)	10am-10:45am	
• Brown Crescent	10am-10:45am	
• Sheepwash Lane	10am-10:45am	
• Hazel Street Jct Oak Street	11am-11:45am	
• Beechwood Close	11am-11:45am	
• Whitegates Way	11am-11:45am	
• Willowbridge La Jct Bonser Gardens	11am-11:45am	
• Davies Avenue opposite Northfields CI	11am-11:45am	
• Union Street Nr The Homelands	11am-11:45am	
• Meden Bank	12:15pm-1:00pm	
• Cosgrove Avenue Nr Welford Close	12:15pm-1:00pm	
• New Street (Huthwaite)	12:15pm-1:00pm	
• Collins Avenue	12:15pm-1:00pm	
• The Oval Nr Shops	12:15pm-1:00pm	
• Charles Street Nr Garden Lane	12:15pm-1:00pm	
• Cross Row Nr Institute Street	1:15pm-2:00pm	
• Hill Crescent Nr Roosevelt Road	1:15pm-2:00pm	
• Strawberry Bank	1:15pm-2:00pm	
• Barnes Crescent jct of Leamington Dr	1:15pm-2:00pm	
• Cowpes Close	1:15pm-2:00pm	
• Stoney Street Jct Walton Street	1:15pm-2:00pm	

KIRKBY/ Rurals Saturday 1 March		
• Sorrel Drive Jct Amarella Lane	9am-9:45am	
• Wheatley Avenue Nr Chesnut Avenue	9am-9:45am	
• Western Avenue	9am-9:45am	
• Windsor Road	9am-9:45am	
• Church Lane Jct Old Chapel Lane	9am-9:45am	
• Oxford Street Jct Balfour Street	10am-10:45am	
• Frederick Avenue	10am-10:45am	
• Midfield Road Nr Angela Avenue	10am-10:45am	
• Royal Oak Drive Nr Oakham Drive	10am-10:45am	
• Smeath Road	10am-10:45am	
• Walesby Drive Nr Richmond Road	11am-11:45am	
• Homewood Drive	11am-11:45am	
• Recreation Road Nr Warren Avenue	11am-11:45am	
• Lathkill Drive Nr Victoria Road	11am-11:45am	
• Plainspot Road Nr Frances Street	11am-11:45am	
• Poplar Avenue opposite Laurel Grove	12:15pm-1:00pm	
• Greenwood Drive Jct Berry Avenue	12:15pm-1:00pm	
• Glebe Street Jct Sherwood Street	12:15pm-1:00pm	
• St Helens Drive	12:15pm-1:00pm	
• Rutland Road Nr Westmorland Way	12:15pm-1:00pm	
• Mary Street	1:15pm-2:00pm	
• Bannerman Road Jct Hampden Street	1:15pm-2:00pm	
• Felley Avenue	1:15pm-2:00pm	
• Mayfield Street	1:15pm-2:00pm	
• Providence Rd Nr Franklin Rd	1:15pm-2:00pm	

HUCKNALL Saturday 8 March		
• Millbank Place	9am-9:45am	
• Canberra Crescent	9am-9:45am	
• Derbyshire Lane Nr West Terrace	9am-9:45am	
• Sandy Lane Jct Windmill Avenue	9am-9:45am	
• Mandeville Close Jct Olympia Way	9am-9:45am	
• Jenny Burton Way	10am-10:45am	
• Christchurch Road Jct Edward Close	10am-10:45am	
• Orchard Street	10am-10:45am	
• Wood Lane Jct St Patricks Road	10am-10:45am	
• Kenbrook Road Nr Sports Pavilion	10am-10:45am	
• Yew Tree Road Nr Spruce Grove	11am-11:45am	
• Common Lane Jct The Common	11am-11:45am	
• Robin Bailey Way	11am-11:45am	
• Washdyke Lane Jct Greenwood Av	11am-11:45am	
• Vaughan Avenue Nr Hayden Lane	11am-11:45am	
• Farleyes Lane Nr Shortwood Avenue	12:15pm-1:00pm	
• Elm Avenue Maple Drive	12:15pm-1:00pm	
• Hankin Street	12:15pm-1:00pm	
• Goerge Street Jct St Mary's Way	12:15pm-1:00pm	
• The Drift Nr Piper Close	12:15pm-1:00pm	
• Ashdale Avenue	1:15pm-2:00pm	
• Robin Hood Drive Nr Chip Shop	1:15pm-2:00pm	
• North Hill Avenue Jct North Hill Cr	1:15pm-2:00pm	
• The Connery	1:15pm-2:00pm	
• Barbara Square Nr Ward Avenue	1:15pm-2:00pm	
• Beauvale Court nr Abbots Drive	2:00pm-2:45pm	

Boathouse project pumps £1.4m back into Ashfield’s economy

THE building of a new boathouse on the water’s edge at King’s Mill Reservoir, ploughed more than a million pounds back into Ashfield’s economy.

Construction firm Lindum used local firms to supply materials for the project which was completed last Autumn and will be home to a restaurant and water sports facilities.

The project, one of 16 being funded by Ashfield District Council’s £62.6 million Towns Deal, will provide greater access to sports such as paddle boarding, kayaking, sailing, and open water swimming on the reservoir.

Lindum Group Co-Chair Freddie Chambers said it had been great to work with Ashfield District Council to transform King’s Mill Reservoir.

“We spent £1.4m with local suppliers based within 20 miles of the site and we delivered 70 weeks of training for apprentices.”

He said: “We spent £1.4m with local suppliers based within 20 miles of the site and we delivered 70 weeks of training for apprentices. The project is a fantastic example of how Town Funding is supporting local communities by enhancing facilities, boosting tourism, and creating opportunities for improvements.”

Cllr Jason Zadrozny, said: “The boathouse not only provides top class, modern facilities for those wanting to use King’s Mill Reservoir, it’s also a fabulous example of a scheme that has seen the local economy benefit. Using local suppliers for materials means we’ve been able to support Ashfield businesses during the build. We’re now in the process of appointing a tenant to run the restaurant and water sports facilities”

“The boathouse not only provides top class, modern facilities for those wanting to use King’s Mill Reservoir, it’s also a fabulous example of a scheme that has seen the local economy benefit.”



Cllrs Matthew Relf (left) and Jason Zadrozny shown inside the building during its construction



Photos showing the construction of the stunning boathouse at King’s Mill Reservoir from start to finish

Mum’s pride at new homes named in memory of war hero son

A KIRKBY mum says she is honoured and proud that a new housing site has been named in memory of her soldier son, killed in action almost 16 years ago.

Rifleman Adrian Sheldon, 25, died in an explosion while serving in Helmand province, Afghanistan, in May 2009.

Now, his name is being given to a new 16 homes site being built by Ashfield District Council off Central Avenue, Kirkby.

Adrian Sheldon View will include two and three-bedroom houses, with the work likely to be completed by Autumn 2026.

Diane Sheldon, Adrian’s mum, has already visited the construction site, which is close to where her son grew up and where he is now buried in Kingsway Cemetery.

She said: “It’s a great honour and something for our family to be proud of. It keeps Adrian’s memory alive. I have talked at length with Cllr Jason Zadrozny about plans to build social housing with the street being named after Adrian. I think the name Adrian Sheldon View is perfect because of where it is. “For myself, my husband



Diane Sheldon, third from left, visiting the development named in memory of her son, pictured with (from l to r) Cllrs Tom Hollis, Andy Meakin, Jason Zadrozny and Dale Grounds. Also pictured is ADC asst director of policy and performance, Jo Froggatt



Rifleman Adrian Sheldon

Mark and daughter Amy, it is a place for us to reflect. All of the family live locally and some of his friends who are away with

the forces do come and see us when they are back. “Adrian was quite shy but a very generous, loving and kind

had some great friends in and out of the Army. He socialised when he could but when he got home, he just wanted to chill

per son. “He was close to his sister Amy, and it is sad he never got to meet her daughter Annabella, but we make sure she knows all about her Uncle Adrian. “Losing Adrian was a massive loss to all of his friends and family. It has been more than 15 years now, but we will always keep his memory alive.”

Cllr Jason Zadrozny, said: “I’ve been talking to Mrs Shel-

don for a number of years about honouring Adrian in the place he grew up.

“I am delighted we have now found the perfect spot, a special place to Adrian and his family. It will be a place where his family and friends can remember him and it is an honour for us to be able to respect his memory in this way.

“This will ensure that future generations will know the name Adrian Sheldon and the sacrifice he made for his country.”

The 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 per cent of each home’s electricity and electric vehicle charging ports.

Ashfield District Council is also exploring plans to name a street after Lance Corporal Paul Sandford, from Hucknall, who also died in Afghanistan aged 23. LCpl Sandford died during the conflict in June 2007 having served with the Worcester and Sherwood Foresters, and the authority says it will look into renaming a street in his memory if and when the opportunity arises.

‘Green energy’ slashes heating bills

SCORES of Council tenants will see their energy bills fall dramatically after having solar panels fitted to the roofs of their properties.

More than 120 bungalows owned by Ashfield District Council have had the panels fitted, allowing electricity to be generated.

The energy is then free for tenants to use to power their homes while any unused electricity is stored in a battery pack, also supplied as part of the scheme, and able to be used when needed.

This green energy is not only helping the environment by reducing carbon-emissions but is also making tenants’ homes less dependent upon the electricity network.

Audrey Garner is one of those to benefit. She’s had the panels fitted at her bungalow in Kirkby in Ashfield.

She said: “All the people working on site have been amazing. We did think about not having it done but after ADC staff came and explained the benefits, we decided to go ahead. It will be great to save on our power bills and this as far as I am concerned is the best way to do it.”

The scheme was jointly funded by ADC, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and Nottingham City Council via the East Midlands Mayoral Combined Authority.



Audrey Garner, of Kirkby, outside her bungalow now fitted with solar panels, pictured with Cllr Chris Huskinson

Cllr Chris Huskinson, Executive Lead for Leisure, Health and Wellbeing, said: “There are so many benefits to a scheme like this - generating a renewable, clean energy through solar power and also helping our tenants save money. We know energy bills can be a real concern for many people but for these tenants, that worry has been eased considerably thanks to their homes now helping generate the electricity they use.

“We will continue to work on obtaining further grants and funding options to help lower our carbon foot-

print and support more tenants across the District, as we work towards a cleaner and greener Ashfield.”

The panels were installed through a partnership between Green Gnomes and Rothwell Plumbing Services (RPS).

RPS chief executive, Graham Rothwell, said: “We are a family-owned business established for 35 years, and we specialise in delivering energy efficiency projects across social housing. It’s been fantastic to work with Ashfield on this scheme - which will see homes across the area benefit from

Renewable Energy installations.

“We worked closely with Ashfield’s delivery team and have been able to deliver quality installations to the properties. As a result of the project, we’ve also been able to create two employment opportunities and work with the community team at Homesteads Community Centre to fund and install a solar panel system that will benefit local users.

“It’s fantastic to see the Council taking action to support tenants and contribute to the Net Zero agenda that will directly benefit the local community.”

Green Activity Grant Scheme now open

ASHFIELD organisations are being urged to get the support they need with our Green Activity Grant Scheme.

This is to get residents involved in activities that benefit their mental health.

Eligible groups will be able to apply for grants of up to £1000, funded by part of our £3.2million UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The grant can be used to fund activities include walking, cycling, or wheeling groups, purchasing equipment for gardening and growing activities, and buying tools or equipment to help wildlife groups. These are just a few examples and is not an exhaustive list of eligible activities.

More information is available on our website www.ashfield.gov.uk and searching for green activity grant scheme



Awards ceremony showcases the very best of Ashfield

SHINING stars from Ashfield’s business and voluntary communities will come together later this month at a ceremony to honour the winners of this year’s Discover Ashfield Awards.

Now in its fifth year, the awards celebrate the fantastic people, organisations and businesses across the District and their achievements over the past 12 months.

And with 16 awards up for grabs, it will make for a memorable evening when the winners are announced at Kirkby Leisure Centre.

Cllr Jason Zadrozny said: “Yet again we’ve had some fabulous nominations which showcase the phenomenal work that goes on across Ashfield. It has been humbling to read about what some of the unsung work people do in our communities, alongside the efforts local businesses are going to providing excellent customer service.”

Chair of Discover Ashfield, Martin Rigley OBE said: “I’m thrilled the Discover Ashfield Awards have now become so successful in their own right that even being nominated is something to be rightly proud of.

“I look forward to congratulating this year’s recipients who will be able to say with real pride that they are a Discover Ashfield award winner.”

The categories up for grabs at this year’s awards, which are being sponsored by Kirkby plumbing and heating firm Matthew and Tannert Limited, are:

• Best High Street Business
• Best Start-up Business of the Year (sponsored by Matthew & Tannert Ltd)
• Best Business of the Year
• Careers, Education, Information, Advice & Guidance
• Community Champion
• Graduate Retention Provider
• Green Ashfield (sponsored by APPH / Héroux Devtek UK)
• Life Skills Provider
• Outstanding Organisation
• Phenomenal Project
• Superhero
• Very Important Volunteer (sponsored by Matthew & Tannert Ltd)
• Young Entrepreneur of the Year
• Place to Visit
• Entrepreneur of the Year
• Outstanding Partner



Staff from Felley Priory receiving their awards from Cllr Dale Grounds (left), and Cllr Jason Zadrozny (right)

TWO of last year’s Discover Ashfield award winners were Amanda Cooper, Very Important Volunteer, and Felley Priory, Best Places to Visit.

Amanda was recognised for being a fantastic volunteer who has shown an ability to go above and beyond for the projects she takes part in. Described as having superb communication skills and very much respected by everyone, judges

heard nothing is too much trouble for Amanda and she thrives on being set challenges.

Felley Priory, near Underwood, is described as one of Nottinghamshire’s best kept secrets. The house, its 2.5 acre garden, and Farmhouse Tea Room are nestled in beautiful rolling countryside. The garden has been carefully planted so that there are plants of interest all year round. An annual fea-



Amanda Cooper, winner of the Very Important Volunteer award, pictured with Discover Ashfield Chair Martin Rigley

ture of the garden is a carpet of Daffodils in the orchard, some of which are extremely rare. The carpet of yellow, apricot, white and orange is a sight to behold during March and April.

Match-making plan to fill empty homes

A NEW match-making scheme that brings together empty homes and property investors is being piloted across Ashfield.

The aim is to create more homes and bring empty properties back into use for those looking for somewhere to live.

The Council says the idea is a simple one but hopes it will turn out to be very effective in creating more homes across the District.

It works by connecting owners of empty properties in Ashfield with investors, who want to turn them into lived-in homes.

The benefits to the owner are:

- Helps take the hassle out of selling a property
- Provides an option for properties that require extensive renovation, but the owner cannot secure a mortgage or estate agents don’t wish to market.
- Can help save on estate agent fees as there is often no need to advertise the home on the open market
- Reduces the likelihood of having to pay the Empty Home Premium Charge (providing the home is sold within 12 months of becoming



Hucknall Councillor, John Wilmott, pictured outside a property matched with the empty homes scheme



A property in Annesley Road, Hucknall that's involved in the empty homes scheme

empty)

Property investors, landlords or letting agents benefit from the scheme by getting access to homes that are often not on the open market, helping find a tenant and access to ongoing ten-

ancy support for new tenants.

The scheme can’t guarantee a deal will happen but does try to find the best match using the information in the Council’s lists of possible sellers and buyers.

Cllr Jason Zadrozny, said: “We’re not only committed to building more homes across the District but, as this pilot project illustrates, we’re constantly looking at ways to bring empty properties back into use to cre-

ate homes so many people are looking for.

“If you own an empty home and want to sell your property or if you are a potential investor, get in touch with the team by emailing [\[ashfield.gov.uk\]\(http://ashfield.gov.uk\) and they will provide you with further information.”](mailto:Ehresidential@</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Domestic abuse survivors find ‘sanctuary’ from Council scheme

DOZENS of women who have suffered domestic abuse are feeling safer and more protected thanks to a scheme which helps them stay in their own homes.

The Sanctuary Scheme works with abuse survivors who wish to stay in their own home, where it is their choice, where it is safe to do so and where the perpetrator no longer lives within the accommodation.

Ashfield District Council again secured funding last year for the scheme, which has now helped almost 50 women across the District.

The money is used to improve safety and prevent unauthorised access by installing security measures inside a survivor’s home. These include safe rooms, new locks, stronger doors, security lights, and portable police alarms.

Cllr John Wilmott, Ashfield’s Executive Lead for Community Safety and Crime Reduction, said: “The Sanctuary Scheme has proved invaluable for many vulnerable survi-



vors of domestic abuse across the District, helping them feel safer and more secure in their own homes. Sadly, domestic abuse and violence continues to affect far too many

people, predominantly women and girls, and we remain determined to do whatever we can to help those who suffer.” Tackling violence against women and

girls is a priority for the Council as part of its aim to create a safer and stronger Ashfield for all. The District has two dedicated Domestic Abuse workers who have supported over

100 domestic abuse survivors over the past year. The Council works in partnership with domestic abuse charities in the area who co-locate from Ash-

field District Council’s offices in Kirkby-In-Ashfield, alongside Nottinghamshire Police and other agencies.

Helping young people make better choices

AN intervention programme aimed at steering young people away from trouble is now in place across Ashfield.

The Immediate Justice Youth programme is designed to nip bad behaviour such as nuisance and harassment in the bud and prevent it escalating.

It is used for teenagers aged between 14-17 with the hope it will help them make better choices and change their behaviour.

The programme is an add on to the Immediate Justice programme introduced earlier this year which requires adult perpetrators to give something back to their communities as part of delivering justice to victims.

This sees offenders cleaning up public spaces or taking part in other positive community activities within days of their offence.

The Youth programme sees young people caught up in trouble-making given the opportunity to reflect on their behaviour with the support of youth workers, recognise the harm it is causing others and



change their ways.

It needs the parents or guardian’s consent and is aimed at a young person who is not known to the local authority or police for causing issues, and is generally well behaved but unaware their actions are having a negative effect on others.

There is also a reparative element

to the programme – this is where young people also have to give something back to the community, such as working with a charity or a community project.

Cllr John Wilmott, Executive Lead for Community Safety and Crime Reduction, said: “Young people are at an impressionable age,

and we know there are some issues around ASB and low-level nuisance behaviour which is driven by peer pressure and a desire to ‘fit in.’

“This programme is about intervening early to prevent bad behaviour escalating and helping young people make better choices. It’s not about letting people get away with it, or not being held accountable for their actions – it’s the opposite of that while recognising there are other ways we can have a positive affect on young people’s behaviour.”

The Immediate Justice programmes are funded through Safer Streets which has seen Ashfield successfully bid for £1.5million in recent years.

Cllr Wilmott added: “Our commitment is to a safer and stronger Ashfield. We know antisocial behaviour, vandalism and other low-level crime can really impact negatively in our neighbourhoods, which is why programmes like this, coupled with the other tools at ours and the police’s disposal, are so crucial in being able to tackle it.”

What is the Sanctuary Scheme?

FOLLOWING referrals, a dedicated team at Ashfield District Council complete security assessments on a survivor’s property and recommendations are made in consultation with them on what measures could be used to help improve their safety. These are then installed by trained ADC staff at no cost to the victim.

The aim of the scheme is for victims and survivors of abuse to feel safe to remain in the familiar environment of their own home whilst they are experiencing the problems that arise from domestic violence and abuse. ADC believes survivors should not feel forced out of their home because of someone else’s behaviour towards them.

What kind of measures are put in place?

Not everyone’s experience of domestic abuse is the same. When a co-ordinator attends the security assessment they will not just look at the property, but also discuss with the survivor what will help them feel safer.

Depending on the property and needs, measures that be taken include:

- Video doorbells
- Lighting to the outside
- Internal alarm system
- Ensure locks to doors are sufficient
- Sash jammers on windows

Who can apply?

Anyone. It does not matter whether you are an ADC tenant, private renting or own your property. The scheme will consider any referral as to whether it is suitable.

How do I apply?

If you have support from an IDVA or other service including police, domestic abuse organisations or social care, you can speak to your support worker who will assist in making a referral on your behalf.

You can also self-refer by contacting asbduty@ashfield.gov.uk or 01623 450000 and providing your contact details so the Sanctuary scheme coordinator can call you to discuss.

DOMESTIC abuse is behaviour intended to dominate, threaten, coerce and control someone else in an intimate or other family relationship.

DOMESTIC abuse is not only about violence and physical harm. It can include emotional, psychological, sexual or financial abuse. Forced marriage, female genital mutilation and so-called ‘honour’-based violence are also forms of domestic abuse.

Get help now

- in immediate danger - 999
- women: 0808 800 0340 (24/7)
- men: 0800 995 6999.

If someone is being abused, they may be experiencing some or all of the following:

- mocking, humiliation, insults, criticism
- being checked up on, followed, or stalked
- pressure, threats, intimidation, or violence
- destruction of their possessions
- isolation from family and friends
- being forced into sex
- having money taken or controlled
- lying, blame and denial of the abuse.

Ashfield District Council is White Ribbon accredited meaning the authority has high standards when it comes to responding to domestic abuse and is working towards achieving ‘Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance’ Accreditation.

Good hygiene key to safe tattoo or piercing

ENVIRONMENTAL health officers are urging people who want a tattoo or skin piercing, to do their research and make sure they visit reputable establishments with good hygiene practices.

A team at Ashfield District Council has been taking part in a national study sampling microbiological data from tattoo parlours and skin piercing premises across the District. Samples have been sent to the UK Health Security laboratories for testing.

The aim was to find out how hygienic these premises are.

The majority of samples in the national survey showed satisfactory levels of hygiene indicators for bacteria. However, others showed water borne bacteria was being transferred to items such as green soap or onto practitioners’ hands from ineffective hand washing.

This has potential to cause infections if getting into broken skin.

In response, Ashfield’s Environmental Health Team has written to tattoo and piercing premises across the District with guidance on general and daily precautions to ensure effective hygiene practices and

prevention of infection.

Cllr Chris Huskinson, Executive Lead for Leisure, Health and Wellbeing, said: “It is really important people do their research before having a tattoo or piercing, to make sure the establishment has strict hygiene practices in place to reduce the risk of infection. “Ask questions about this before you have anything done – a good, reputable establishment won’t mind you asking – and look after your health.”

WHAT to look out for when getting a tattoo or piercing:

If booking a tattoo or piercing, look for signs of good hygiene and cleanliness. Good practices used to reduce the risk of infection are:

- Using single use-sterile products
- Hand wash sink for hand washing only.
- Good cleanliness of the premises.
- Effective disinfectant of treatment couches and instrument trays.
- Safe handling and storage of sharps in yellow boxes.
- Green soap made using distilled water.

Eating well and staying healthy

FISH ‘n’ chips, pizza, curry ... we all like a takeaway treat but can ordering a takeaway ever be a healthy option?

Ashfield District Council has been working with and encouraging businesses to provide healthier food options on their menus and help customers manage their weight.

Along with other councils in Nottingham we have introduced the Healthier Options Takeaway (HOT) Scheme. It aims to increase accessibility and awareness of healthier options through takeaway outlets.

Many takeaways, restaurants, cafes and coffee shops already offer healthier options for their customers and display information about this on their menus. Other food outlets may offer healthier options, without realising or promoting it.

By making small changes to what is offered or how food is prepared, cooked or served, takeaways can offer more, healthier choices for their customers.

If you’re a food business in Ashfield and would like to apply for the Healthier Options Takeaways award you can find out more in the food business section of our website.



The award recognises those takeaways who offer healthier options. By gaining the award, businesses will be seen to be committed to supporting local communities to lead healthier lives.

Other benefits include:

- increasing customer choice
- increasing customer satisfaction and sales
- enhancing reputation of the business
- receiving a certificate and promotional material to display in premises

• recognition of achievement through our website and social media.

The merit lasts for two years, unless there is a change of owner or cuisine, as this would mean the award would expire.

ADC also has the right to remove the merit if the food hygiene rating of the takeaway falls below level three.

There is no cost in applying for the merit.

Cllr Chris Huskinson, Executive Lead for Leisure, Health and Wellbeing, said: “Our

food choices affect our health and wellbeing, with two in three adults in England overweight or obese.

“Food outlets can play a big part in helping their customers to make healthier choices more easily. That’s what the HOT scheme aims to do – making it easier for people to eat healthily, even if it’s a takeaway.”

You can find a list of all Ashfield businesses who have the HOT award on our website.

Don’t miss out on your right to vote

LOCAL elections are being held on 1 May 2025 when voters go to the polls to elect Nottinghamshire’s county councillors.

There are ten County Council electoral divisions across Ashfield.

To make sure you can cast your vote, you will need voter ID when you visit a polling station.

• 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

• There are restrictions on the handling of postal vote packs so the best option is to post your postal vote in a Royal Mail post box

• More information is available at electoralcommission.org.uk/waystovote

Remember - You will need photo ID to vote in the polling station on **1 May 2025**

somebody else’s behalf), there are now limits on how many you can vote for

• You’ll have to renew your application every three years

• There are restrictions on the handling of postal vote packs so the best option is to post your postal vote in a Royal Mail post box

• More information is available at electoralcommission.org.uk/waystovote

Register to vote deadlines

• The deadline to register to vote for the May elections 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

TENNIS FOR EVERYONE

WALKING TENNIS

Inclusive tennis sessions to support people to stay active for longer. Come and give it a go.

When:
Every Wednesday 10.30am-11.30am

Where:
Hucknall Leisure Centre

Only £3.70 per session

Book via our app, the website or at reception

everyoneactive.com [everyoneactive](https://www.facebook.com/everyoneactive) [@everyoneactive](https://twitter.com/everyoneactive) [@everyoneactive](https://www.instagram.com/everyoneactive)

Free events for all in Ashfield

2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

Films IN THE Park

Selston Country Park

21 June



HUCKNALL FEST!

5 July

Titchfield Park, Hucknall

Ashfield FOOD & DRINK Festival

at Hucknall

Hucknall High Street

17 AUGUST

SPARKS IN THE PARK

Saturday 1 November

Sutton Lawn



ASHFIELD SHOW

Sutton Lawn

AUGUST 8, 9 & 10



Christmas in Ashfield

Sutton Christmas Lights Switch On

Thursday 20 November

Christmas in Ashfield

Kirkby Christmas Lights Switch On

Thursday 27 November

Christmas in Ashfield

Hucknall Christmas Lights Switch On

Wednesday 3 December



OUTDOOR cinema, live music, arts and crafts ... you'll find it all in Ashfield this year at one of our fabulous FREE events.

Last year thousands of people enjoyed the return of Ashfield Show, run over three days in August on Sutton Lawn.

This August it will be back again, as will our outdoor cinema as we host Films in the Park in Selston, and the Ashfield Food and Drink Festival in Hucknall.

Cllr Jason Zadrozny said: "We've got something for everyone again this year, whether you love live music, cinema, food and drink, or simply just going out with the family and having a good time.

"We're determined to keep these events free for everyone as they are a great way for people to get out and about and enjoy what Ashfield has to offer. They also bring in people to the District and are a way for us to promote and support local businesses."

Make sure to keep an eye on our social media channels and website for more details as we get nearer to each event.

In the meantime make a note of these in your diary.

- Films in the Park – Selston 21 June
- Hucknall Fest - 5 July
- Ashfield Show Sutton Lawn - August 8,9 and 10
- Ashfield Food and Drink Festival – Hucknall 17 August
- Sparks in the Park – Sutton Law 1 November
- Christmas Lights switch on: Sutton - 20 November
- Kirkby - 27 November
- Hucknall - 3 December

We've got something for everyone again this year, whether you love live music, cinema, food and drink, or simply just going out with the family and having a good time



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

Need help looking for work or boosting your career?

CHOOSING a job or changing a career can be a major life transition – one that requires careful thought, planning, and work.

But don't worry, there's plenty of support and information available to help you or a family member when looking for work.

New career options

If you are exploring new career options, you will need to ask yourself a couple of questions:

1. What do you want to do?
2. How do I get there from here?

The first question deals with the goal of your career search, and the second one with the process of finding a job or career – how to go about reaching your goal. The questions are related. You could have a new career clearly in mind but don't know how to achieve your goal, or you could talk to all the right people and do all the appropriate career exploration tasks without any clear sense of direction.

This is where the below can help.

Who am I?

The more you understand about yourself, the better your decisions will be and the more effectively you will be able to implement those decisions.

There are several ways to gain this information, you can speak with a career adviser and / or you can take some assessments, such as the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). Around 1.5 million people take the test online each year and more than 88 per cent of Fortune 500 companies - as well as hundreds of universities - use it in hiring and training. It's by far the most popular assessment to support careers guidance.

Search online for MBTI testing – some sites such as Truity.com and 16Personalities.com offer this for free.

The test will give you an insight into your 'best fit' personality type and you will understand more about your natural strengths, challenges, and what career themes are more likely to suit you. To have a more accurate assessment you can pay for professional feedback, to help you understand your results in more detail from a qualified MBTI Practitioner.

What do I want to do?



The answer to this is often not clear for most people. It may be helpful to break down an enormous issue like this into smaller, more manageable questions such as:

- What do I want to do on a day to day basis?
- Where do I want to be in one year? five years? ten years?
- What would I like to have accomplished in one year? five years? ten years?
- What kind of people do I want to work with?
- What kind of working environment do I find most comfortable?
- What kind of work environment allows me to be most productive?
- What motivates me to do my best?

When you know yourself better you can categorise occupations by their 'fit' with your personality type, interests, and skills, then you will be able to find a job that more closely matches your natural preferences.

How do I get there?

The process of career change involves many activities.

People naturally tend to engage in those tasks that are consistent with their personality type and avoid those that require them to work against the grain of their preferred styles. However, all activities will need to be accomplished in order to be successful. So, if you are struggling to do certain stages, then this is where you need more support.

The good news is that there are plenty of organisations available who can assist you:

Free Employment Support Programmes

Ashfield GradBoost programme

As part of Ashfield District Council's allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), a new Graduate Talent Match programme 'Ashfield GradBoost' has been developed and is available to support graduates, with a home address in the Ashfield District, to progress into sustainable graduate-level employment.

GradConsult Ltd will be delivering this free programme on behalf of Ashfield District Council, with the aim of

supporting Ashfield graduates acquire the relevant skills needed to progress into graduate-level employment within the District through individual coaching, bespoke webinars, and other types of support.

The programme is available until the end of March and you can find more information by visiting www.gradconsult.co.uk/ashfield-gradboost or email ask@gradconsult.co.uk

Future Advice, Skills and Employment Ltd

Futures offer honest, straightforward, and practical advice and support. It can help you to explore your options, find opportunities, and prepare for the future.

Future can also assist you with self-marketing:

- Advice to get your cover letter noticed
- Tips to move your CV to the top of the pile
- Interview techniques that give you confidence and prove your capability
- Support with your job search or

securing a training placement.

- telephone: 0800 0858 520
- email: hello@futuresadvice.org
- website: www.futuresadvice.org/careers-advice/

National Careers Service

The National Careers Service provides careers information, advice, and guidance. It can help you make decisions on learning, training, and work at all stages in your career.

Try their free online skills assessment and search the library of job profiles to gather information on which roles might best suit you.

- Phone: 0800 100 900
- website: www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/

Working Well - East Midlands

Working Well - East Midlands delivers Individual Placement and Support in Primary Care (IPSPC) across Nottinghamshire, Nottingham City and Derby City. Working Well East Midlands helps people with physical health, mental health conditions, or disabilities to find the right job, return to work after long-term sickness or keep their current job.

- email: referrals@standguide.co.uk
- telephone: 0161 881 4826 option 5
- website: www.standguide.co.uk/index.php/working-well-east-midlands/

Jobs Boards

If you are looking for online vacancies, there are numerous sites available online where thousands of local jobs are posted each day:

Find a Job / Find an Apprenticeship Service - GOV.UK

GOV.UK, the UK's public sector information website, is encouraging businesses to advertise their job vacancies and apprenticeship opportunities on their "Find a job" and "Find an apprenticeship" platforms.

On these web pages, you can find local opportunities that are available:

- website: www.gov.uk/find-a-job
- website: www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Cash for charity strengthens mental health support in Kirkby



A CHARITY that inspires and empowers people with disabilities to live more independent and fulfilling lives, says new funding from Ashfield District Council will allow it to help more people across the District.

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

It provides free support helping people develop their skills, prepare them for employment and manage their mental health, leading to more fulfilling, independent lives.

And thanks to £180,000 funding from Ashfield, the charity now has a Pathways hub at Kirkby Library, open to residents on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9am to 4pm.

Nikki Amirsaeedi, Employment Projects Manager at Portland, said: "We have been supporting Kirkby residents since the service began in 2018 from our hubs in Sutton and Mansfield, but having a base in Kirkby Library alongside our partners at Inspire, means more people can access and benefit from our valuable support. If you're a Kirkby resident and would like support to improve your mental health or to find employment, please come and see us, we are here to help."

The funding, from the Towns Fund, is spread over four years.

The charity offers three pathways:

- Rebuilding Mental Health – For people who sometimes feel worried, stressed or need to improve their confidence. Delivered in partnership with Inspire Learning, two different 'Rebuild' courses are run, one day a week over five weeks. Tutors work with customers to help them learn how to manage anxiety and depression, stress and change and improve their overall mental health and wellbeing. Customers can also be referred to a



counselling service for free 1:1 sessions.

- Preparation for Employment – for people who want to find work but don't know where to start. Portland advisors support customers to assess their employability skills and needs, create a professional CV, search and apply for work and prepare them for interviews.
- Support for Employers – the charity works with local employers to help them find the right candidates for their roles, and to support them to become more accessible workplaces.

One former Rebuild Client said: "The support from Pathways has been absolutely amazing, some of the best support I've ever had in my life. If you feel you need help, please go and see

Are you a voice for Ashfield?

WOULD you like to be a voice for Ashfield, having your say on decisions we make?

We're here to serve all people across the District and we're working hard to make the area an excellent place to live, work and visit.

With millions of pounds being spent on regenerating our town centres and significant investment and innovation coming to Ashfield, there's never been a more important time for you to give us your views.

Our Citizens' Panel is made up of local people who are actively willing to engage with us either face-to-face, over the phone or take part in regular surveys to help us improve our services and as a Council.

And we want new voices to join the panel, especially younger people and those from different backgrounds.

You can become a voice of Ashfield if you are 16 or over and live in the District.

Cllr Jason Zadrozny, said: "Every year we have to make hundreds of decisions that affect our communi-

ties. That's why it's crucial we listen to what people have to say.

"Our Citizens' Panel gives you the chance to speak for your community, to have your say and be heard. We especially want to hear from women and younger people – it's crucial our panel is truly representative of our communities."

Every so often we'll host a focus group or send out a survey to find out Citizens' Panel representatives' opinion on something. We aim to be as flexible as possible with how we communicate, so you can either choose to have us contact you by email or by letter.

Once you join, you can be a member for as long as you like - it's free, there are no obligations to take part in anything you don't want to, and you can opt out at any time.

If you are interested you can email Improvement@ashfield.gov.uk or contact the council reception on 01623 450000 and quote 'Citizens Panel.'

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Be part of something bigger





www.ashfield.gov.uk/your-council/jobs-careers

JOIN

#TeamADC

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



Reach for the stars at new Planetarium

YOU'D have to have been on Mars not to know about the fabulous new planetarium now open at Sherwood Observatory.

The £6.8million project in Coxmoor Road, Sutton, brings the wonders of the universe up close in a state-of-the-art visitor centre, complete with exhibition hall, classrooms, meeting rooms and café.

It's nothing short of spectacular, visitors will be blown away by what they can see.

The world class centre has seen a disused underground Victorian reservoir transformed into a 59-seater Planetarium showing a journey through space with immersive shows. The original features of the reservoir, such as the intricate brick arches, have been kept, preserving the history of the building.

Funding for the project Sherwood Science Discovery Centre and Planetarium – a joint project between Mansfield and Sutton Astronomical Society and Ashfield District Council – came from the £62.6million secured by ADC from the government's Towns Deal.

Inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers

Cllr Jason Zadrozny, said: "It's nothing short of spectacular, visitors will be blown away by what they can see. To have a facility like this in Ashfield is fantastic because it gives local people the opportunity to experience and learn more about space and the universe."

Steve Wallace, Planetarium Project Manager, said the new visitor centre, sitting alongside the original observatory, will be a huge draw bringing people to the area and inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

To buy tickets or find out more visit www.sherwood-observatory.org.uk

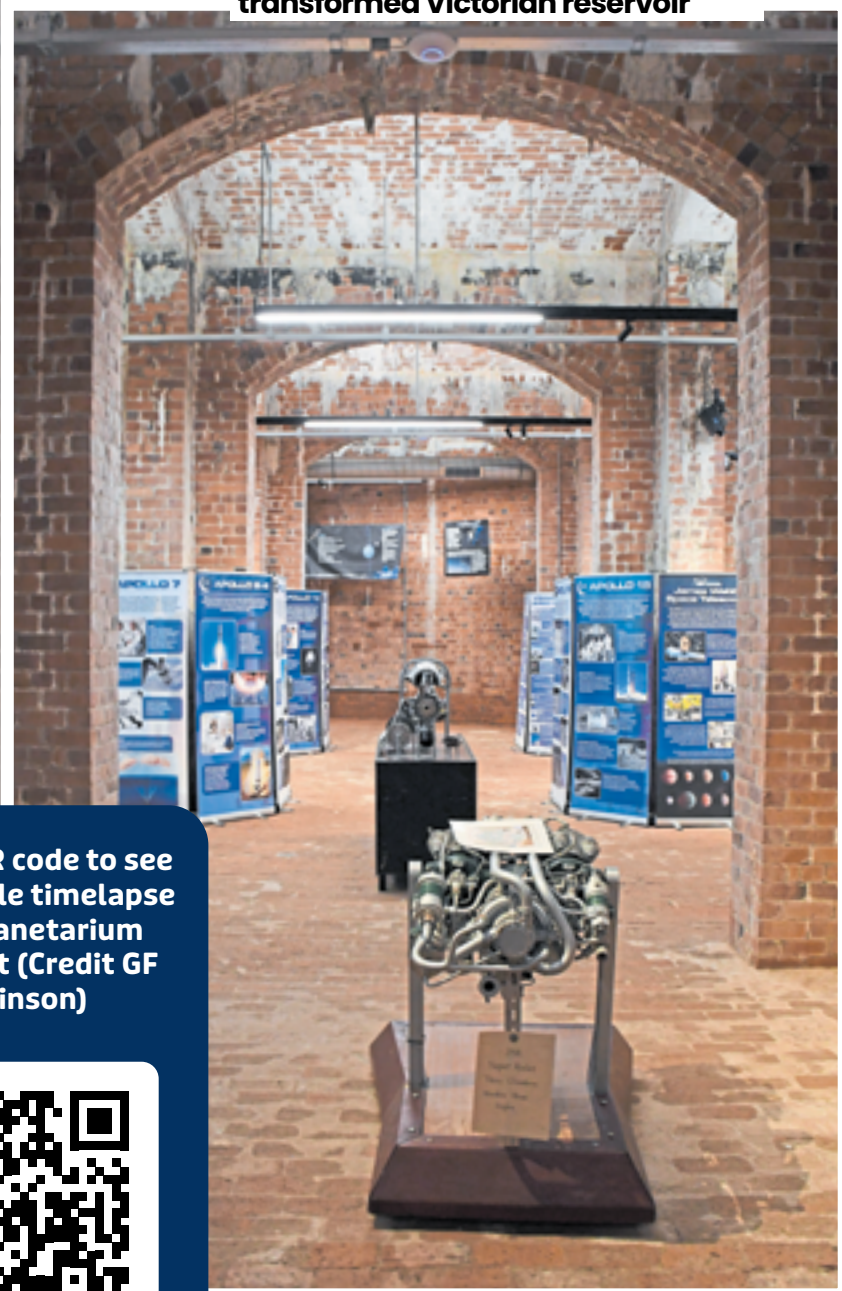


Images showing some of the spectacular displays visitors can see from inside the planetarium

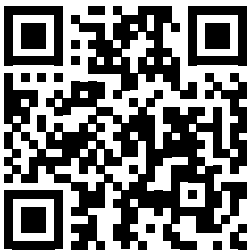
Ashfield councillors pictured inside the planetarium (from l to r) Andy Meakin, Tom Hollis, Jason Zadrozny, Chris Huskinson, Sam Deakin, Helen-Ann Smith and Matthew Relf



Above and below, inside the transformed Victorian reservoir



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



Photos showing the fabulous new planetarium building, both inside and out





Cllr Jason Zadrozny and chief exec Theresa Hodgkinson pictured with ADC colleagues

AN independent report has once again praised Ashfield District Council for its services as the authority continues to reach for the stars.

Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) is a highly valued improvement and assurance tool delivered by the local government sector for the local government sector.

It involved a team of senior local government elected members and officers undertaking a comprehensive review of key finance, performance and governance information, followed by an intensive three and a half days on-site visit at Ashfield District Council (ADC) to provide robust, strategic, and credible challenge and support.

In June 2024, peers visited the council offices on Urban Road, meeting with Council members and staff from across the organisation.

Peers commented on the progress made since the previous Peer Challenge to ADC in 2020, which congratulated the Council on its achievements.

A report produced by the Local Government Association highlighted positive feedback and recommendations to further improve Ashfield District Council for its residents and businesses.

The report states:

“The Council has a good, ambitious corporate plan with clear outcomes, which sets out an exciting path for the Ashfield District.

“ADC has already, and is planning further work to improve residents’ lives, as well as visitors’ and businesses’ experiences.

“The Council is also delivering good, solid services generally to local people.

“ADC’s work is well supported by its strong financial position, especially

steering its ambitious agenda

“All this is impressive for a District Council of its size with a workforce of about 600 staff serving approximately 127,000 residents.”

Theresa Hodgkinson, Chief Executive Officer at Ashfield District Council said:

“We are delighted with the feedback. As a Council, we are building on what’s best about our communities and the area’s heritage to carve out a great future for Ashfield and these commitments solidify our objectives.

“We will now work to build on recommendations made to help us continue the path from good to great across all of our services.”

Cllr Jason Zadrozny, added:

“This report highlights the dedication from our councillors and staff to

Our apprentices are an asset to Ashfield

APPRENTICESHIPS are more than just a training opportunity; they are an investment in the future.

At Ashfield District Council, apprentices are a vital part of our team, bringing with them fresh perspectives and new ideas that strengthen the services we provide to you and help us plan for the future.

In our Housing Operations department, we currently have five apprentices covering various trades.

Connor Severn is studying for a diploma in plastering, Max Clipstone is doing carpentry/joinery, Callum Turton is studying electrical, while Brandon Sissons and Nick Meldrum, are studying plumbing/heating.

The five are undertaking work with experienced colleagues, who share their experience, skills and knowledge in a practical environment, as well as undertaking formal learning.

At the end of their apprenticeships they will have full qualifications.

In our Housing Management team, Pamina Choudhury is a Tenancy Team apprentice.

She provides support to the team, helping coordinate workload for the team, handling incoming enquiries from tenants and undertaking general admin tasks.

Joseph Mychalyszyn is an apprentice with the Income Team.

His role includes helping



Cllr Andy Meakin with ADC apprentices

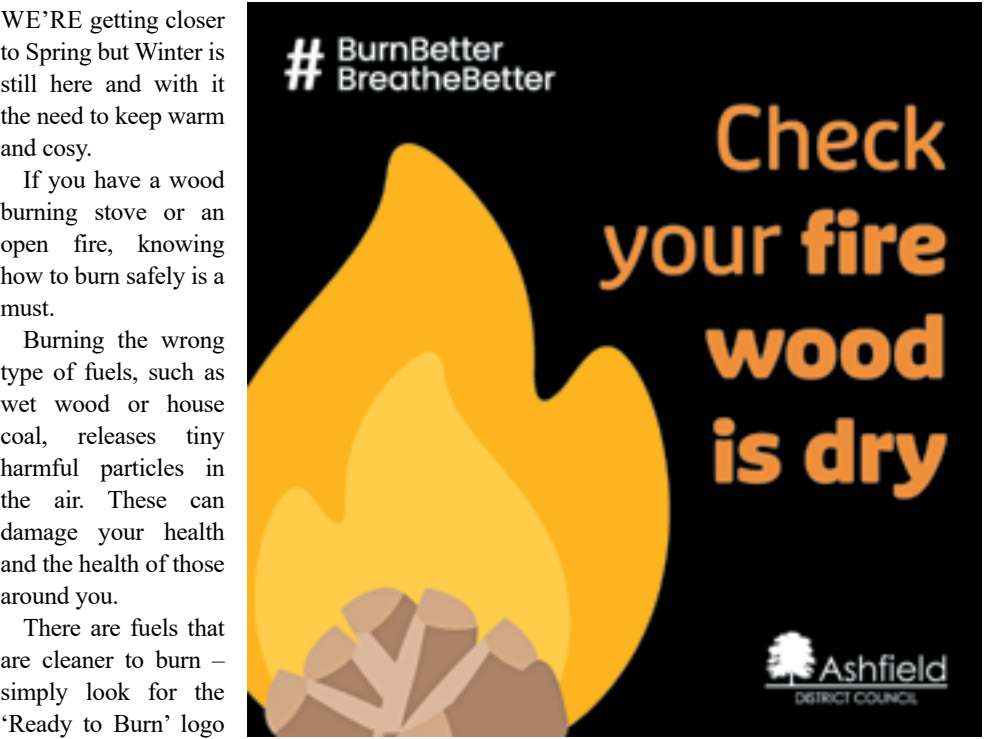
manage Universal Credit verifications, coordinating outbound correspondence, monitoring incoming enquiries from tenants and undertaking general admin tasks.

Pamina and Joseph will also be assisting the team to develop computer systems to improve/develop our processes.

They will be contacting tenants over the phone to undertake tenancy audits to ensure the information we hold about you is up to date.

They will also shadow experienced officers, who share their knowledge and experience with them, along with undertaking

Burn better, breathe better



WE’RE getting closer to Spring but Winter is still here and with it the need to keep warm and cosy.

If you have a wood burning stove or an open fire, knowing how to burn safely is a must.

Burning the wrong type of fuels, such as wet wood or house coal, releases tiny harmful particles in the air. These can damage your health and the health of those around you.

There are fuels that are cleaner to burn – simply look for the ‘Ready to Burn’ logo on bagged fuel.

And don’t forget to maintain and clean your appliance regularly through a skilled tradesperson.

If you have to burn this winter, always choose fuels that are cleaner to burn. Look for the ‘Ready to Burn’ logo so you know you are choosing the cleanest available fuels and reducing the risk to yourself and your family.

There are some simple ways to check for moisture in wood:

1. Weight – compare with similar sized logs. If the log is heavier this can indicate moisture.
2. Sound – dry logs give a hollow sound when tapped.
3. Cracked ends – this indicates that the logs are dry.
4. Bark – the drier the log, the looser the bark.
5. Colour – dry wood tends to be lighter in colour.
6. Moisture meters – these can be purchased relatively cheaply and tell you how much moisture is in the wood – aim for a moisture content of less than 20 per cent.

Your stove and open fire also needs regular maintenance to help it perform better.

This will also lead to needing less fuel to produce more heat and fewer harmful particles. They need to be professionally installed and maintained but there are actions you can take to keep it safe.

This includes:

- Clean out the ash.
- Check fire-bricks for cracks.
- Clean the stove glass.
- Check the seal around the stove door.
- Clean the outside of stove or

Environmental risk management systems

MANY businesses in the area are committing significant resources to their climate change obligations and net-zero targets.

Over the last 3 years we have been encouraging the sites that hold Environmental Permits, to develop their systems and procedures around an environmental management system to help them fulfil their climate change obligations.

This approach not only has the benefit of helping businesses achieve lower environmental risk scores, but it also has a wider effect of helping to create a self-challenging approach to identifying process improvements, which in turn has the co-benefit of reducing their environmental impacts.

This approach continues to be a central theme for our interaction with these businesses.

Look after your wellbeing

THE Ashfield Wellbeing Network is planning five events across the District this year.

Events are open to everyone and are FREE. They are aimed at raising awareness of services and opportunities in different areas, and include music from local artists, groups or school choirs, and children’s entertainment ranging from activity to nature-based sessions.

The network is a local partnership whose mission is to work collaboratively to help people improve their health and wellbeing, develop pride and aspirations in our communities and promote Ashfield in a positive manner.

Key partners in the group include

- Active Notts
- Ashfield District Council
- Ashfield Voluntary Action
- Everyone Active
- Nottinghamshire County Council, Public Health and Social Care
- NHS Mid and South Notts Place Based Partnership
- Your Health, Your Way

One resident from the Leamington estate told us ‘It was a great chance for me and my granddaughter to meet new people, catch up with old friends, learn what’s happening in and around our area and for my granddaughter to try the activities.’

2025 calendar dates

Tuesday 18 February Kirkby Plaza 10am-2pm

Tuesday 29 July location TBC in Kirkby 10am-2pm.

Wednesday 9 April Leamington PA 10am-2pm.

Weds 28 May Selston Parish Council 10am-2pm.

Tuesday 29 July location TBC in Kirkby 10am-2pm.

Wednesday 27 August in Hucknall location TBC 10am-2pm.



Walking back to health and happiness thanks to Council grants

DID you know there is money available to support local groups providing opportunities to improve people’s mental health?

Our Green Activity Grant Scheme can give up to £1,000 to fund activities such as walking, cycling, or wheeling groups, purchasing equipment for gardening and growing activities, and buying tools or equipment to help wildlife groups.

These are just a few examples we have helped fund and is not an exhaustive list of eligible activities.

Previous recipients of the grant – which is funded by Ashfield District Council’s £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 Jason Zadrozny, said: “This is another fantastic grant scheme that we are very proud to be able to offer. Supporting mental health is hugely important to the Council and it has been proven that spending time outdoors regularly can improve mental wellbeing so this grant scheme will benefit hundreds of residents.

“Our community organisations and charities in Ashfield all do a valuable job of offering support and services to some of the most vulnerable people in the District and we will continue to fund them to carry out their incredible work.”

The Our Centre Cosey Mosey walking group in Kirkby has previously benefited from the grant. One of their members is an 81-year-old local woman who has macular degenerative disease which affects her sight. Her mobility was becoming an issue, and she was referred to physiotherapy by her GP.

She was encouraged to join the Cosey Mosey group, and says it helps keep her as mobile as possible.

“It gets me out the door and into the countryside and it’s really great to meet the group and have a chat as well as a nice cup of tea afterwards. I really notice the trees and flowers and love listening to the bird-song and smelling nature.”

She has seen improvements in her mobility, ease of breathing and muscle strength.

“I have more energy for everyday tasks, being able to relax and feeling healthy and happy, and I feel safe with the leaders,” she added.

Community groups and organisations that aim to improve and support residents’ mental health through the great outdoors, can apply for the funding by visiting the Council’s website or emailing healthandwellbeing@ashfield.gov.uk

The Green Activity Grant Scheme will be issued on a first come, first served basis until all the funds have been allocated.



Your Ashfield Cabinet and Committees

ASHFIELD District Council is currently made up of 35 councillors who sit on a range of committees.

Councillors are elected for a four-year term, to represent the people in their respective area. They have regular contact with the public through Council meetings, telephone calls, emails, surgeries and street surgeries. Surgeries provide an opportunity for anyone to go and talk to their councillor in person.

The Cabinet (or Executive) is the part of the Council responsible for most of the policy decisions that influence day-to-day operations. Members of the cabinet are appointed annually by the Leader of the Council and cabinet members (or portfolio holders) are each responsible for different areas of activity.

The membership of all committees is agreed at the annual Council meeting every May. Here you can see which councillors make up the Cabinet and their responsibilities, along with the names of committees, and their chairs and vice-chairs.



Jason Zadrozny

JASON Zadrozny is the leader of Ashfield District Council. His main responsibilities are for overseeing the Council's performance, ensuring it delivers on its corporate aims. Jason also works closely with the Chief Executive, Theresa Hodgkinson, leading on Ashfield's corporate strategy. The elected councillor for the Larwood Ward, Jason is the lead for the Council's strategic partnerships, its corporate risk management and the Council's corporate communications function.

01623457506
Cllr.J.Zadrozny@ashfield.gov.uk
Ward Cllr for Larwood



Helen-Ann Smith

HELEN-ANN Smith is one of two Deputy Leaders of the Council. As well as deputising where necessary for Cllr Zadrozny, she is responsible for Ashfield's fabulous parks and open spaces, streets, waste management (such as bin collections) and recycling. The Stanton Hill & Teversal councillor also has responsibility for the Council's transport fleet and its maintenance of Ashfield's cemeteries.

07909338015
Cllr.H.Smith@ashfield.gov.uk
Ward Cllr for Stanton Hill & Teversal



Tom Hollis

TOM Hollis is also Deputy Leader of the Council. As the Executive Lead for strategic housing and climate change, Tom has to oversee the Council's housing strategy, including new developments, environmental health services, licensing and building control. He is the elected member for Huthwaite and Brierley.

07854720602
Cllr.T.J.Hollis@ashfield.gov.uk
Ward Cllr for Huthwaite & Brierley



John Wilmott

JOHN Wilmott is Ashfield's Executive Lead for Community Safety and Crime Reduction. John is responsible for the Community Safety Partnership, Ashfield's approach to tackling anti-social behaviour, its community protection department and the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children. The Hucknall North councillor also has oversight of the Council's approach to community cohesion and combating modern slavery and human trafficking.

07854845449
Cllr.J.Wilmott@ashfield.gov.uk
Ward Cllr for Hucknall North



Rachel Madden

RACHEL Madden's portfolio cover the Council's financial strategy. This relates to its management of Council funds and its Capital Strategy and Programme. Rachel, who is councillor for Annesley & Kirkby Woodhouse, also has responsibility for ADC's revenues and benefits, commercial property, financial governance, strategic procurement and the Towns Fund, which is funding numerous regeneration projects across Ashfield.

07747026290
Cllr.R.E.Madden@ashfield.gov.uk
Ward Cllr for Annesley & Kirkby Woodhouse



Andy Meakin

ANDY Meakin's role is to ensure the Council delivers on its requirements under the Social Housing Regulation Act 2023. This was introduced following the Grenfell tower block tragedy and aims to improve the standards, safety and operation of social housing. Andy, the elected member for Abbey Hill, is also responsible for the Council's Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and matters relating to Council tenants, such as support, management and engagement, housing repairs, aids and adaptations, and housing capital investment.

07739444885
Cllr.A.Meakin@ashfield.gov.uk
Ward Cllr for Abbey Hill



Chris Huskinson

CHRIS Huskinson is the Executive Lead Member for the Council's Leisure, Health and Wellbeing strategy. Chris is responsible for Strategic Leisure, including outdoor sports provision and the running of the District's leisure centres. The Greenwood and Summit councillor also oversees the Council's approach to Health and Wellbeing, the Arts, Heritage, Tourism and Culture, and Corporate Events, such as the Ashfield Show.

07564342380
Cllr.C.Huskinson@ashfield.gov.uk
Ward Cllr for Greenwood & Summit



Samantha Deakin

AS Executive Lead for Customer and Digital Experience, Samantha Deakin oversees the Council's Customer Experience and Digital Services Transformation – the way members of the public interact with the Council both in person and online. Sam, who is a councillor for Sutton Central & New Cross, is also responsible for the authority's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) strategy, its cyber security and the Council's website platform.

07948517756
Cllr.S.Deakin@ashfield.gov.uk
Ward Cllr for Sutton Central & New Cross



Vicki Heslop

VICKI Heslop's portfolio is for overseeing the Council's Governance. This includes its Legal Services department and Scrutiny and Democratic Services – the gathering of evidence on issues affecting local people and subsequent recommendations. Vicki, who is a councillor for Sutton Central & New Cross, also oversees the Council's Electoral Services and Internal Audit, the Council's HR and Payroll, Health and Safety, and Emergency Planning and Business Continuity.

07946344554
Cllr.V.Heslop@ashfield.gov.uk
Ward Cllr for Sutton Central & New Cross



Matt Relf

MATT Relf is the Council's Executive Lead for Growth, Regeneration and Local Planning. He is on the Discover Ashfield Board and is responsible for overseeing the Council's strategy around Regeneration and Economic Growth. Matt, who is the elected member for Sutton Junction & Harlow Wood, is also responsible for Business Support, Ashfield's Town Centres, its markets and the Council's Car Park Strategy. Matt also oversees Strategic Planning – Local Plan and Development Advice & Management.

07800805719
Cllr.M.Relf@ashfield.gov.uk
Ward Cllr for Sutton Junction & Harlow Wood



Arnie Hankin



Paul Grafton

ARNIE Hankin is Chairman of Ashfield District, while Paul Grafton is the Vice-Chair. The Chairman is the civic and ceremonial head of the Council, and Arnie and Paul's roles are to be ambassadors representing Ashfield and the communities they serve. They represent the Council at civic functions such as Remembrance Day, while the Chairman or Vice-Chair preside over full Council meetings, ensuring they are conducted professionally and in accordance with Local Government legislation. Arnie, who is the elected member for Selston, and Paul, the Huthwaite & Brierley councillor, serve as Chairman and Vice-Chair for a year, before handing over to two other councillors in April.



Oliver Hay



Dale Grounds

PLACE and Innovation Select Committee
This committee conducts reviews to improve the Council's service delivery and ensures the public are getting value for money. It focuses on three of the six Corporate Plan priorities set by the Council - Economic Growth and Place, Safer and Stronger, Innovate and Improve. The current chairman is Hucknall South councillor, Oliver Hay, while the Vice Chair is Kingsway Ward councillor, Dale Grounds.



David Shaw



Sarah Lewsey

ENVIRONMENT and Communities Select Committee
This committee conducts reviews to improve the Council's service delivery and ensures the public are getting value for money focusing on three of Ashfield's Corporate Plan Priorities. These are Cleaner and Greener, Homes and Housing, and Health and Happiness. The Chairman is Hucknall West councillor, David Shaw, while the Vice Chair is Sarah Lewsey, the elected member for Kirkby Cross & Portland.



John Smallridge



Trevor Locke

LOCAL Plan Development Committee
This committee informs and advises Cabinet in reaching any decisions they may have to make in moving forward the Council's planning policy, including preparation of the Local Plan - establishing how land is designated, which areas are to be built upon, and which areas are to be protected. The committee's Chairman is John Smallridge, elected member for the Dales Ward. The Vice Chair is Hucknall South councillor, Trevor Locke.



Sarah Madigan



Jamie Bell

PLANNING Committee
The Planning Committee exercises the Council's functions relating to Town and Country Planning and Development Control. It is responsible for making informed and fair decisions about planning applications, balancing social, economic and environmental needs to achieve sustainable development. The committee Chairman is Sarah Madigan, the Ward councillor for Leamington. The Vice Chair is Jamie Bell, elected member for Annesley & Kirkby Woodhouse.



Kier Barsby

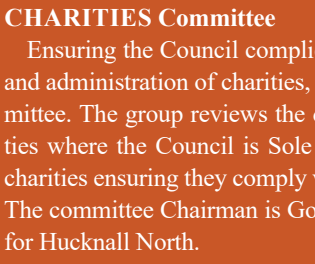


Julie Gregory

PRINCIPAL Select Committee
This committee maintains an overview of the work undertaken by the Council's appointed Select Committees, including setting the Select Committee Work Programme. It reports any recommendations from the Select Committees to Cabinet for their consideration. The committee also maintains an overview of Council performance and the Annual Budget setting process. The Chairman is Sutton St Mary's Ward councillor, Kier Barsby, and the Vice Chair is the elected member for Jacksdale & Westwood, Julie Gregory.



Gordon Mann



Warren Nuttall

CHARITIES Committee
Ensuring the Council complies with laws around the running and administration of charities, is the responsibility of this committee. The group reviews the day to day running of all Charities where the Council is Sole Trustee. It also promotes those charities ensuring they comply with the relevant Trust purposes. The committee Chairman is Gordon Mann, the elected member for Hucknall North.

LICENSING Committee
The Licensing Committee determines applications made under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005 and agrees the Council's overall licensing policy. They make decisions on applications for things such as hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, animal welfare, alcohol and regulated entertainment. The Chairman is Greenwood and Summit Ward councillor, Warren Nuttall.



Jodine Cronshaw

CHIEF Officers' Employment Committee
This committee deals with all employment issues concerning the Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer, and other Chief Officers. It meets when required to make appointments to senior council officer posts. The current Chairman Jodine Cronshaw, who is the elected member for Skegby.



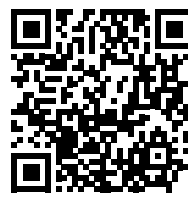
David Walters

AUDIT Committee
This committee provides assurance as to the capability of the Council's risk management framework and control environment. It provides scrutiny of the Council's financial and non-financial performance in that context, and maintains oversight of the financial reporting process. The Chairman is Ashfields Ward councillor, David Walters.



Lee Waters

STANDARDS and Personnel Appeals Committee
This committee is focused on all aspects of ethical governance across the Council. It promotes high standards of conduct by Members and Officers, through developing policy including the Members' Code of Conduct. It appoints Sub Committees to hear and determine appeals in accordance with the Council's procedures including in respect of discipline (including dismissals) and other appeals where the right of appeal to an Employment Tribunal exists. The Chairman is Lee Waters, councillor for Hucknall Central.





Accelerate your business with the help of Ashfield support programme

BUSINESSES across Ashfield are reaping the benefits of a support programme which helps them grow, reduce energy costs and access new markets.

The Ashfield Accelerator scheme, commissioned by the District Council, gives local companies the chance to tap into a range of support mechanisms.

It started in Autumn 2023 and is being delivered by East Midlands Chamber and funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

The programme has already helped numerous businesses across the District, including the award-winning Mill Waters Café run by Patricia Ironside.

Located in the heart of nature within the Mill Waters Park, surrounding the reservoir, the café has built a strong reputation for its homemade food and welcoming atmosphere.

Patricia and her team (pictured) have built the business up over the last 17 years, including increasing turnover each year for the previous three years by over 20 per cent. The team

includes five trainees with Special Educational Needs, an important part of her business philosophy.

She wanted help looking for ways to improve what the café provides and offer something different and new. With the help of the Accelerator programme, Patricia focused on chocolate as the next extension to the offer at her café, particularly as no other businesses in the local Ashfield area offered handmade chocolates and bars.

The Food and Drink Forum, an Accelerator project partner, helped Patricia with marketing support. They also helped her apply for a Growth Voucher, which enabled her to take

advantage of two days training from Ellie Wharrad of Studio Chocolate in Nottingham.

And once Patricia began introducing samples of her chocolates in the café, 80 of customers who tried them placed an order. She has since trained another member of staff and now offers classes and workshops for hen parties or corporate team building days.

By manufacturing products in-house that are aligned with the business ethos of “homemade” while offering something not available locally, the support has given the business an additional competitive advantage.

Patricia said: “I’m already seeing

additional business as a direct result of the training this grant allowed me to invest in. I would encourage any local business to make time to go through the grant process.”

Cllr Matthew Relf, Executive Lead for Growth, Regeneration and Local Planning, said: “The Accelerator programme is proving extremely valuable for businesses across the District who are the engine that drives our local economy.

“Successful businesses mean more growth and more job opportunities for people, and that is crucial to our plans for a vibrant economy for Ashfield.”



Ashfield District Council’s business support team is your first point of contact if you need business advice or permissions from the council but don’t know where to start.

THEY can help guide you through the range of Council services that your business may need to contact. There are many different business support options and different routes to take depending on the stage and type of business, your growth plans and the support you require.

Contact the business support team by email with specific questions, but remember to tell them a little about your company, so they can identify which support opportunities and grants are most suitable for your business, and which of the local, regional or national partners can best assist you. Contact them at business.support@ashfield.gov.uk



Bakery business booms thanks to High Street support programme

A HUCKNALL businesswoman says free expert help given to her business has led to an increase in customers and an upturn in trade.

Ashfield District Council teamed up with SaveTheHighStreet.org on a six month programme aimed at revitalising the town’s High Street and shopping centre.

Shops and businesses were given help to unlock new ideas and fresh approaches, designed to increase footfall and make the most of other trading opportunities.

The programme was funded using some of the £3.2 million allocated to Ashfield District Council (ADC) from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) - a fund aimed at building pride in local communities and increasing life chances as part of the Levelling Up agenda.

Lauren Watson set up Guilt Free Pleasures - a gluten free and vegan bakery - eight years ago as a hobby. She moved into a shop in Annesley Road, Hucknall five years ago.

She said the programme had been fantastic for her business, leading to an upturn in sales and a growing customer base.

“I’d highly recommend it to any local business. To have that expert insight into your business is invaluable. They suggested some small but



Lauren Watson, owner of Guilt Free Pleasures pictured with Ashfield Councillors (from l to r) Lee Waters, John Wilmott and Gordon Mann

very effective changes to how we operate – introducing a loyalty card for example, and the way we use our social media channels.

“The results have been fantastic and I’m really pleased I took part in it.”

Cllr Matthew Relf, Executive Lead for Growth, Regeneration and Local Planning, said he was delighted local

businesses had seen tangible benefits from the programme.

“High Streets up and down the country have changed significantly in recent years. Retailers and businesses have been faced with some big challenges - the surge in online shopping, the fall-out from the pandemic and cost of living crisis. Ashfield’s High

Streets have not been immune from that.

“We know how important they are to our communities and it’s why we wanted to give businesses in Hucknall this fantastic opportunity.

“Our ambition is to make Ashfield a great place to live, work and visit. We continue to secure significant invest-

Free events for healthy hearts



LOOKING after your heart is super important to help keep you fit and healthy.

And residents in Hucknall have been doing just that by joining a scheme run by four of the town’s GP practices.

The Byron Primary Care Network (PCN) has been working in partnership with health, local authority, and voluntary and community groups to deliver six community-based outreach clinics focused on cardiovascular disease.

Two events took place last year, one pictured above, with the remainder planned for 2025.



Attendees can access a range of health checks including blood tests, blood pressure, atrial fibrillation and Body Mass Index (BMI). Health and wellbeing support is also available from partners including: Your Health Notts, Ashfield District Council, Everyone Active, Ashfield Voluntary Action, NHS Talking Therapies, Your Time, Social Pre-


scribers.

Support in signing up and using the NHSapp and resuscitation and defibrillator training sessions have been available too.

The events have been very well attended and have supported people to understand more about their own heart health and find the right treatment and support.

For more information email nnicb-nn.hucknall-inw@nhs.net





HUCKNALL SENIORS INDOOR CRICKET CLUB

INDOOR CRICKET FOR MEN AND WOMEN AGED 50+

Tuesday 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Wednesday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Hucknall Leisure Centre | Linby Road
Hucknall | NG15 7TX

Everyone welcome - whether you have played for England or only you on the beach why not come and join us.

Five Ashfield communities score £1.2m ‘Premier League’ sports facilities

HUNDREDS of Ashfield residents have given the thumbs up to plans which will transform sports facilities across the District.

Ashfield District Council has teamed up with the Football Foundation on a project that will see PlayZones built in five areas.

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



Creating five PlayZones across Ashfield will give local people access to first class sporting facilities for free, or at low cost and builds on our commitment to make Ashfield a happy and healthy place for all.



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

The Council has finalised the five



Selston Parish Council Chairman Cllr David Martin, pictured at the site of the new PlayZone at the village high school, welcomes the plans.

He said: “It is fantastic we are able to work with Ashfield District Council and the Football Foundation to deliver these facilities for our Rural areas.”

sites which will benefit from a PlayZone. They are:

- 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)

The Football Foundation will provide 75 per cent of the £1.255 million

build costs and provide technical expertise for the facilities. PlayZones have a multi-use games area with built in goalposts, hoops and/or nets, surfaced with tarmac or a synthetic surface.

The facilities are fenced and gated and need to be booked in advance with a balanced programme of paid for and free activities.

Ashfield District Council undertook a consultation programme with 500 residents asking for their views ahead of finalising the plans. These included women and families, community

groups, schools, and users of current facilities.

The majority of those asked were supportive of improving sports facilities in their area and said they were keen to see activities such as football, basketball, tennis, bootcamps, bike riding, netball and roller-skating made available.

Cllr Chris Huskinson, Executive Lead for Leisure, Health and Wellbeing, said he was thrilled the Council had secured the deal with the Football Foundation.

He said: “Creating five PlayZones

across Ashfield will give local people access to first class sporting facilities for free, or at low cost and builds on our commitment to make Ashfield a happy and healthy place for all.”

It is hoped work will be carried out during the early part of 2025 and the facilities completed and ready for use by the Autumn.

*The Football Foundation is made up of a partnership between the FA, Premier League, Sport England and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Museum celebrates Hucknall’s role in UK aerospace industry



Ashfield District councillors pictured with volunteers at the flight test museum

A MUSEUM celebrating Hucknall’s role in the flight testing of some of Rolls-Royce’s iconic aeroplane engines, is gearing up to reopen after a major refurbishment.

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.

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.

The Grade II-listed wing hangars on the Hucknall site, in Watnall Road, were built in 1944 and house documents, artefacts and exhibits telling the story of the flight and ground testing performed on engines there from 1934 to 1972.

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.

Simon Gibson, Chair of the HUFTM Trustees, said: “We have always firmly believed

that Hucknall has an international aviation heritage provenance on a par with locations like Farnborough but quite simply nobody knew about it.

“We have always had fantastic support from Ashfield District Council, going back to 2017 when we took the idea to heritage officer Simon Britt. Since then, ADC has always seen the value of the Museum as a place of interest for Ashfield, the surrounding environment and indeed the nation.



“We are now seeing the benefits of the staggering amount of work the limited resource volunteer team has put in over the last year or so and we can’t wait to fully reopen.”

Cllr David Shaw, said: “The work that has gone into this project has been phenomenal and we’re delighted to support the trustees to ensure Hucknall’s place in Britain’s aerospace history is celebrated and never forgotten.”