

# Ashfield **MATTERS**

## Cost of Living Edition



**Read our Cost of  
Living guide on  
pages 12-23**

**SELSTON COUNTRY  
PARK PLAN**  
PAGE 4-5

**NEW COUNCIL  
HOMES**  
PAGE 6

**THE BIG ASHFIELD  
SPRING CLEAN**  
PAGE 8-11



# JOIN OUR **WARM HUBS** ACROSS ASHFIELD

Whether you are looking to make new friends, catch up with old friends, do a bit of exercise or just enjoy a hot drink and read a book in one of our cafés, then our Everyone Active Centres are exactly what you've been looking for. There will be an activity each week along with a free hot drink and a biscuit.

Free Access to Wi-Fi is available & charging facility for Phone/laptop

Sessions will run through out December, January & February. 'No need to book, just turn up'

- **Meet up with friends**
- **Make new friends**
- **Stay active**
- **Enjoy a hot drink**
- **Play some board games**
- **Build a puzzle**

**Mondays Kirkby Leisure Centre**

**10.30-12.00pm**

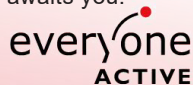
**Tuesdays Hucknall Leisure Centre**

**1.30-3.00pm**

**Wednesdays Lammas Leisure Centre**

**1.30-3.00pm**

A warm welcome awaits you.



[everyoneactive.com](http://everyoneactive.com)



# Welcome...

**to the latest edition of Ashfield Matters – in this special edition, we focus on the cost of living, the biggest single issue that residents face across the District.**

This edition of Ashfield Matters features information, advice, and support around the cost of living and the associated difficulties it's causing. **We felt that it was important to use this magazine in a way to genuinely benefit residents, this magazine is your guide to where to get help when you need it the most.** You can find the cost of living section on pages 12 – 23.

In December, the Council held its annual State of Ashfield Debate. This year, we focussed on the cost of living. In this debate, we brought together some of our amazing voluntary and community organisations like Our Centre, Citizen's Advice Ashfield, and Under One Roof, Hucknall.

It was at this meeting, that **the Council launched the 15 point plan** to help residents traverse the current climate. You can read about some of the actions from the plan on **pages 16 – 17**. One of the things the meeting agreed was to produce a copy of Ashfield Matters, aimed at providing information and helping signpost residents to vital help.

We know that everyone is feeling the pressure from the rising costs of food, and other essentials at the moment, which is why **we launched the Feeding Ashfield network**. Feeding Ashfield brings together organisations who can help tackle food poverty and insecurity. You can find more information about this on **pages 14 – 15**.

**The BIG Ashfield Spring Clean is back and even better for 2023, you can read all the details on pages 8 – 11.** This year is more important than ever that we provide more ways for residents to dispose of waste, more community litter picks, and more support for schools as we continue to **deliver on our priority to inspire pride in our communities**.

In this edition, you will also find further details on our fight to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour across Ashfield, our **exciting plans for Selston Country Park, and yet more Council homes being built by a Council determined to do their bit to help the most vulnerable**.

I hope you enjoy this issue and don't forget to let me know if you have any comments you'd like to make.

**Cllr Jason Zadrozny, Leader  
Ashfield District Council**



## All about us

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

The magazine is delivered to every household in the District.

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

## Contact us

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

Web: [www.ashfield.gov.uk](http://www.ashfield.gov.uk)  
Tel: **01623 450 000**  
Email: [info@ashfield.gov.uk](mailto:info@ashfield.gov.uk)

## Making a payment

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

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

 [@ADCAshfield](https://www.facebook.com/ADCAshfield)

 [@ADCAshfield](https://twitter.com/ADCAshfield)

 [@Ashfielddc](https://www.instagram.com/Ashfielddc)

 **Ashfield**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



# Parks & Places UPDATE

## SELSTON COUNTRY PARK

**Following community engagement and feedback in December and January, the plans for the new play facilities at Selston Country Park have been finalised.**

The new play area will focus on the natural environment by making the most of the landscape of the park to create an inclusive play environment. The play area will focus on using timber and rock, and enhancing existing features for sand play at the site to provide a new play experience in the heart of Selston.

The new play facilities will sit alongside the recently-opened Selston Café in the Park. The transformation of Selston Country Park forms part of the Council's strategy to improve play provision for the residents of Selston which was initially developed in 2018 to support the Parish Council to address the ageing play areas nearby.

Procurement of the new equipment is now underway ready for the new facilities to be ready in spring 2023.



Cllr Jason Zadrozny, Cllr Arnie Hankin and Cllr Andy Gascoyne at Selston Country Park

Event  
space/  
overflow  
carpark

Inform  
croquet  
pitch

STANDARD AND CRAD

ATH



# Plans for the new play area



# New Council Homes

## Froghopper Lane

The new development in Sutton on Froghopper Lane, off Davies Avenue, now has happy tenants occupying the 22 contemporary family homes.

Froghopper Lane is made up of a mixture of houses, apartments and disabled adapted bungalows, with each home having allocated parking. The homes are energy efficient and built to be future-proof to ensure tenants enjoy warmer homes with lower bills.

15 Homes have been built in Hucknall on former garage sites on Barbara Square, Chestnut Grove, Hawthorne Avenue, and Chatsworth Drive; and Sutton – 5 on Stoney Street, 2 bungalows on The Poplars, and 2 bungalows on The Beeches.

The Council are also currently building 62 homes across four sites in Sutton and Kirkby; 34 homes on Warwick Close, and 8 new homes on former garage sites on Darley Avenue and Spruce Grove, Kirkby, and 20 homes on Charlotte Gardens in Sutton.



Cllr Jason Zadrozny at the new houses on Froghopper Lane

Council officers from the housing team meet with workers at Warwick Close to officially start work on the new homes



## Warwick Close

Work has started on Ashfield District Council's largest housing development to date on Warwick Close in Kirkby, which will see 34 new affordable family homes being built.

In total 18 two-bedroom and 16 three-bedroom family homes will be built, with work scheduled to be completed by the winter of 2023. Located on the Coxmoor Estate, the new homes will include several energy efficiency measures to help towards the Council's carbon neutral aims.

# 8 ALLEYWAYS

**CLOSED**

Following a public consultation throughout December, eight alleyways notorious for attracting anti-social behaviour in Sutton, Kirkby, and Hucknall, will be closed or restricted under a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

The proposed PSPO will allow gates to be installed blocking access to the following locations:

## In Kirkby:

- Between Spruce Grove and Beacon Drive
- Adjacent 40 Rosewood Drive
- Between Spruce Grove and Poplar Avenue

## In Sutton:

- Between Bentinck Street and Bramley Court
- Between Downing Street and North Street
- Between Welbeck Street and Portland Close
- Between Bramley Court and Sutton Lawn

## In Hucknall:

- Rear of 34-37 Rockwood Walk

The Council's Community Safety Team have been working to identify alleyways that have been hot spots for crime and anti-social behaviour. The alleyways will be closed in the spring and shows the Council's commitment to working with residents to find solutions to the problems they face.

Closing the alleyways is part of the Council's Safer Streets initiatives, which has led to extra CCTV, improved street lighting and world-first Refuge camera technology in Sutton, which will soon be rolled out in Kirkby. The Council is determined to do all it can to assist Nottinghamshire Police in making Ashfield a safer place to live.

Cllr Andy Meakin discussing the alleyway from Beacon Drive to Spruce Grove with Council Community Protection Officers







We are rolling out The BIG Ashfield Spring Clean across the District for the sixth year as part of the Council's commitment to make Ashfield a cleaner place to live, work, and visit. We recognise that this year the last thing you want to pay for is a skip, or a man with a van, and during the current climate, The BIG Ashfield Spring Clean is just another way that Ashfield District Council is helping residents.

**Residents are invited to get rid of an extra bag of household waste during their designated week.**

On top of this Flying Skips will be out and about across the District for you to dispose of extra waste, bulky items, toys, and furniture.

We'll be inviting local schools and volunteers to get involved in litter picks in their communities, as well as donating planters, seeds, and soil to schools to encourage them to grow their own flowers and vegetables.

We will also be continuing with our year-long rolling free bulky waste collections which allow residents the chance to dispose of up to three items for free.



# STARTING 20 FEBRUARY 2023

**Your extra bag of waste should be put out on your regular bin collection day during the following weeks...**

<b>w/c 20 February 2023</b>	<b>Annesley, Annesley Woodhouse, Sutton, Huthwaite, Stanton Hill, Teversal, Tibshelf, Skegby, Harlow Wood, Kirkby, Nuncargate</b>
<b>w/c 6 March 2023</b>	<b>Bagthorpe, Bestwood Village, Brinsley, Hucknall, Jacksdale, Selston, Linby, Papplewick, Pinxton, Underwood, Westwood</b>

Your bag and bin will be collected at the same time so please ensure both are presented by 6am. As long as it is in a bin liner and doesn't contain hazardous material, liquids or electrical goods we will collect it!



## FLYING SKIPS

Flying skips will be out and about across the District on the Saturdays listed below. Bring your excess and bulky waste, toys, and furniture.



To find the locations and times please scan the QR code or visit:  
[www.ashfield.gov.uk/springclean](http://www.ashfield.gov.uk/springclean)

<b>25 February 2023</b>	<b>Sutton, Huthwaite, Stanton Hill, Teversal, Tibshelf, Skegby</b>
<b>4 March 2023</b>	<b>Hucknall, Bestwood Village</b>
<b>11 March 2023</b>	<b>Kirkby, Annesley, Selston, Jacksdale, Underwood, Westwood, Brinsley</b>



# FREE BULKY WASTE COLLECTIONS

The way we offer free bulky waste collections has changed. Every household can now book ONE free collection of up to three items each calendar year from 1 April to 31 March. Residents can book a free collection based on where they live.



The new year of collections starts in April with Kirkby & the Rurals, moving to Hucknall in May, and Sutton in June. The rotation then starts again, giving every resident the chance to book their one collection at four points throughout the year. The collections are available when it suits residents.

Kirkby and the Rurals	Hucknall	Sutton
Kirkby, Annesley, Nuncargate, Selston, Jacksdale, Underwood, Westwood, Bagthorpe, Brinsley, Pinxton	Hucknall, Bestwood Village, Linby, Papplewick	Sutton, Huthwaite, Stanton Hill, Teversal, Tibshelf, Skegby, Harlow Wood, Mansfield
Kirkby and the Rurals	April, July, October, January	
Hucknall	May, August, November, February	
Sutton	June, September, December, March	

You can also book via Ashfield 24/7 or call 01623 450 000

Bookings can be made up to two weeks before the collection month and collections must be made during the month stated for the area you live in. Bulky collections will still be available to residents at other times for £20 for up to three items. Full details on how to book can be found at:

[www.ashfield.gov.uk/bulkywaste](http://www.ashfield.gov.uk/bulkywaste)



## DURING LAST YEAR

We collected an incredible

# 11,268

items for **free** including:

## 1,148

sofas

## 1,256

fridge  
freezers

## 100 volunteers

undertook litter picks  
collecting more than  
**122 bags of litter**

## Over 230 tonnes of waste

## 22

Primary Schools received  
free litter pick packs which  
included High Vis vests and  
industrial bin bags

We fulfilled  
**3,756**  
free bulky  
waste  
requests

# THE BIG

## ASHFIELD SPRING CLEAN

## ROUND UP

## 2022

Flying skips collected  
**125 tonnes** of waste!  
The equivalent of...

## 20

ELEPHANTS

11 Primary Schools received wormeries



Cllr Jason Zadrozny with Cllr Samantha Deakin  
during The BIG Ashfield Spring Clean 2022



Cllr John Willmott, Cllr Samantha Deakin and  
Cllr Lee Waters with children from Broomhill School

# Cost of Living help

Over the next few pages we'll walk you through the support the Council, and other organisations, can offer to help you and your family navigate the difficulties that may arise due to the cost of living.



## Getting financial help to keep warm

**Rising energy bills mean keeping your home warm can be a struggle. There is financial support in place to help you when it's cold.**

### Winter fuel payment

This is an annual payment for older people.

To qualify you must receive a state pension (some exclusions apply) or get another social security benefit (not Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Child Benefit or Universal Credit).

If you qualify but haven't received an automatic payment contact the winter fuel payment helpline: telephone: 0800 731 01 60.

### Warm Home Discount

The Warm Home Discount (WHD) is a one-off discount on your energy bill over the winter. This year the discount is £140. It is available for 2 groups of people:

- Core group: you receive the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit
- Broader group: you have a low income and meet your energy supplier's individual criteria.

Check the Warm Home Discount Scheme to see if your supplier gives the discount. [www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme/energy-suppliers](http://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme/energy-suppliers)

### Cold weather payment

The cold weather payment is distributed if the average temperature in the area is recorded as, or forecast to be, 0 degrees Celsius or below for 7 consecutive days.

You may be eligible to receive a cold weather payment if you receive an eligible means-tested benefit;

- Pension Credit
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit
- Support for Mortgage Interest

You'll receive £25 for each 7 day period of very cold weather between 1 November and 31 March.

For more details, visit [www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment](http://www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment)



# Warm Rooms

**A series of warm rooms have been set up across the District to provide safe spaces for people to enjoy warmth and company.**

Ashfield District Council and Everyone Active have partnered to provide a warm room, every week, in Kirkby Leisure Centre, Hucknall Leisure Centre, and Lammas Leisure Centre. Residents can enjoy a free hot drink and biscuits, take part in an activity, or just have a conversation in a nice warm environment. Residents can take advantage of the warm rooms in our leisure centres on the following days until the end of February, places don't need to be booked:



- Mondays at Kirkby Leisure Centre from 10.30am–12pm
- Tuesdays at Hucknall Leisure Centre from 1.30pm–3pm
- Wednesdays at Lammas Leisure Centre from 1.30pm–3pm

## **Other warm rooms in the District available are:**

### **Sutton**

Monday – Friday – Warm space, drinks and toast

9am – 2pm (term time only)

All Saints Church, Huthwaite

Tuesday – Hot drinks, and biscuits

10am – 12pm

ATTFE Community Hub, Unit 14, Idlewells Shopping Centre

### **Hucknall**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday –

Coffee shop

9am – 12pm

Watnall Road Baptist Church

Wednesday – Warm space, drinks, and soup

11.30am – 1pm

Under One Roof, 3A Vine Terrace

Wednesday – Midweek group for children in school years 1 to 6 plus parents/carers

4.30pm – 5.30pm

Watnall Road Baptist Church

Third Saturday of the month – Creator Club

2pm – 3.30pm

Watnall Road Baptist Church



# FEEDING ASHFIELD

Ashfield District Council launched the Feeding Ashfield Network last year to bring together resources and organisations who can help to end food insecurity, and provide a lifeline to many residents during this difficult time.

The network is live on our website and features information on food banks and food clubs, where to find them, and how to access them.

**Food banks** – Often work on referrals and provide food, free of charge, to residents who need it.

**Food clubs** – Provide high quality food for a small fee, usually £15 worth of food for £3.50, and are open to everyone (some require you to live or work within 15 minutes)

Across the page you can see the Feeding Ashfield map, showing the locations of the services listed below:

## Sutton

**1 – Food Share (food club)** –  
Skegby & Stanton Hill Library,  
Mansfield Road  
Wednesday & Saturday 9am –  
11.45am

**2 – Let's All Eat Pantry in  
Huthwaite (food club)** –  
Huthwaite Methodist Church,  
Sherwood Street  
Wednesday 1pm – 3pm  
Thursday 3pm – 5pm

**3 – Mary's Foodbank** –  
Portland Pathways, Outram  
Street

**4 – Let's All Eat Pantry (food  
club)** – St. John's Methodist  
Church, Titchfield Avenue  
Monday 1pm – 4pm

**5 – The Summer House  
Food Club** – Summer House  
Children's Centre, Clare Road  
Wednesday 9.30am – 12pm

## Kirkby

**6 – Food On Our Doorstep (FOOD) Club** –  
Kirkby East Children's Centre, The Summit  
Centre, Pavilion Road  
Wednesday 1.30pm – 3.30pm

**7 – Kirkby Storehouse** – Ashwood Church,  
Portland Street  
Tuesday 2pm – 3pm

## Annesley Woodhouse

**8 – Community Foodbank St John's** – St  
John's Church Hall, Skegby Road  
Thursday 1.30pm – 3pm

## Selston

**9 – Tin Hat Centre (food bank)** – Matthew  
Holland Complex, Chapel Road  
Monday – Friday 10am – 12pm

## Hucknall

**10 – Engage Foodbank** – Under one  
Roof, Vine Terrace

**11 – OT Food Club** – Unit 100,  
Edward House, King Edward  
Street. Thursday 9am–1pm



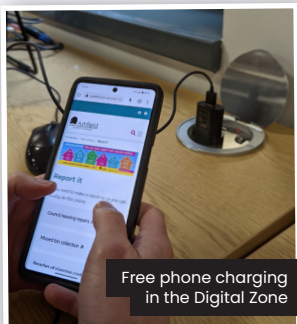
# How the Council can help you

Ashfield District Council is committed to supporting residents through the issues arising due to the cost of living. As part of our commitment we have created a plan that outlines ways we can help residents. On these pages you will find some of the points from the plan.



## Charging Zone

We have opened a new charging zone in our reception area at our Kirkby offices, to allow anyone to come in and charge up their electronic devices; saving residents money on their utility bills. We also offer free Wi-Fi and computer access to those who need it.



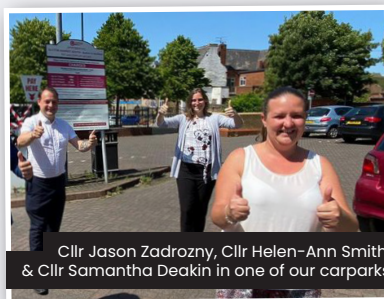
Free phone charging in the Digital Zone

## Support and Benefits

We will work with partners such as the DWP on holding Cost of Living Zones to ensure residents can access all the support and benefits to which they are entitled.

## Two hours free parking

Ashfield District Council is continuing to provide two hours free parking in all Council-owned car parks in Ashfield to encourage shopping local to support our independent businesses. The two hours free parking will allow more residents to access our town centres without spending out on parking, or excess fuel to visit out of town retail parks.



Cllr Jason Zadrozny, Cllr Helen-Ann Smith, & Cllr Samantha Deakin in one of our car parks

## Play Park Strategy

Continue to invest tens of thousands of pounds into the District's parks to create free, state-of-the-art play areas, and green spaces for families across Ashfield. Giving residents the chance to experience and interact with nature, and sports to improve well being.

## Secure Funding

The Council continues to support the voluntary sector to secure any available funding which may be able to help residents with the cost of living.



Cllr Jason Zadrozny & Cllr Christian Chapman at the Jacksdale MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)



# Council Tax Support Scheme

We provide a Council Tax Support Scheme for eligible residents who are on a low income and are struggling to pay their Council tax. We will maintain a 100% Council Tax Support Scheme for residents up to March 2024 as part of our plan.

Council Tax Support is usually given if you receive Income Support, Job Seeker's Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, Pension Credit, or Universal Credit.

Even if you do not receive any of those benefits you may still be eligible if you are on a low income.

You can apply for Council Tax Support on our website, or you can contact us by email: [revenues@ashfield.gov.uk](mailto:revenues@ashfield.gov.uk) or phone: 01623 457400

**We regularly support the work of local organisations and charities such as, Our Centre, Ashfield Voluntary Action, and Citizen's Advice in Kirkby, the Tin Hat Centre in Selston, Lets All Eat in Sutton, and Under One Roof in Hucknall. These agencies provide essential lifelines throughout our community and we are proud to work with them during the cost of living.**



Cllr Dale Grounds with staff from Kirkby Citizens Advice Bureau and manager Janice Abraham

## Free family events

Feel Good Families, the Council's family-focused team,

# Feel Good Families

**offers information, support and free activities for children, young people and families that live within Ashfield.**

To find out more go to our Feel Good Families Facebook page where all of the events will be listed. Keep an eye out for our 2023 events calendar full of free events and activities.



@FeelGoodFamilies



Cllr Warren Nuttall with the Team at Our Centre

**"We are lucky to have a staff which includes brilliant volunteers helping in whatever way they can. We can help people budget, look at any benefit entitlement, refer them to a foodbank and look at any help we can- we always try and find some positives to help anyone who needs it." – Janis Abraham, Citizens Advice Bureau**

# Getting help with **your money**

Everyone is feeling the pressure of rising bills and the cost of living at the moment – but there's help at hand if you are worried about money.

## **Don't Take the Bait**

The England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) have released figures that show that more than half the victims they have supported in the first half of 2022 had turned to illegal money lenders, or loans sharks, to pay for essentials such as utilities, food, and fuel. It is estimated that 1.08 million people could already be in debt to an illegal money lender.

Loan sharks are capitalising on the current financial climate to prey on vulnerable people who need money fast. If you are thinking of borrowing money always check that the firm or person is listed on the Financial Services Register, make sure they have permissions for the regulated activities you need, and only use the contact details

## **Debt and borrowing advice**

We understand residents may be worrying about their borrowing that was previously affordable but now making payments may be a struggle. It is important to seek advice as early as possible as finding a solution is much easier in the early stages.

If you are looking for advice with your debts, you can contact the following organisations who can help:

- Citizens Advice Ashfield  
telephone: 01623 203080
- Step Change  
telephone: 0800 138 1111
- PayPlan  
telephone: 0800 280 2816

Also, always speak to your creditors to see if there is anything they can do to help. Visit [www.mentalhealthandmoneyadvice.org/en](http://www.mentalhealthandmoneyadvice.org/en) for advice and support if you are experiencing issues with money and mental health.

listed on the Financial Services Register.

If you think you have, or someone you know has, borrowed money from a loan shark, contact Stop Loan Sharks anonymously on 0300 555 2222 or visit [stoploansharks.co.uk](http://stoploansharks.co.uk)

**STOP LOAN SHARKS**  
Intervention . Support . Education

We are working with Stop Loan Sharks to run a campaign raising awareness of the dangers of loan sharks. We jointly ran a competition with Quarrydale School to design artwork which will be featured on the sides of our bin lorries, so keep an eye out for the winning design!

## **Struggling to afford your rent or mortgage payments?**

Rent and mortgage payments are important and it's good to know where you can go for help when you need it.

If you rent and have a change in circumstance that means you may be struggling with payments, you can apply to the Council for a Discretionary Housing Payment.

These are not guaranteed and are paid for a period of six months, but if you are eligible, they can help you make your rent payments whilst you improve your circumstances or look for cheaper accommodation. Please contact our Housing Options team on 01623 450000 for advice.

If you are struggling with your mortgage repayments, speak to your bank or building society for help – or speak to Step Change for advice around arrears.

## Appliance usage costs



### Washing Machine

**Cost** (average use)  
£39.60 - £59.40 per year

**Cost** (single use)  
18p - 27p

**Average** time used  
220 times per year



### Dishwasher

**Cost** (average use)  
£47.84 per year

**Cost** (single use)  
22p

**Average** time used  
215 cycles



### Tumble dryer

**Cost** (average use)  
£88 - £216 per year

**Cost** (single use)  
73p - £1.82

**Average** time used  
2x per week



### Fridge

**Cost** (average use)  
£47 per year

**Cost** (single use)  
9p - 24p per day



### Hairdryer

**Cost** (average use)  
£14 per year

**Cost** (single use)  
6p - 68p

**Average** time used  
8 minutes



### TV

**Cost** (average use)  
£21.46 - 27.03 per year

**Cost** (single use)  
2p an hour



### Microwave

**Cost** (average use)  
£48.48 per year

**Cost** (single use)  
8p - 10.2p



### Kettle

**Cost** (average use)  
£32.76 per year

**Cost** (single use)  
9p

**Average** time used  
5 mins



### Oven

**Cost** (average use)  
£109.50 per year

**Cost** (single use)  
30p

Helping you be #EnergyAware

[www.ofgem.gov.uk/EnergyAware](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/EnergyAware)

ofgem

# £4m grant boost to keep Ashfield homes warm

**Ashfield District Council has invested over £4million to improve the energy efficiency rating of 200 Council and private sector homes within the District.**

The funding has been provided as part of the Government's Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme and Social Housing Decarbonisation schemes. The funding has allowed the Council to improve the thermal efficiency and/or reduce grid energy demand in Council and private sector homes in Ashfield.

One of the projects funded by the Green Home Grant was the installation of solar panels to the roofs of 81 Council homes and 34 private homes in the District.

This included bungalows on Carrfield Close, Sutton in Ashfield; Columbia Street, Huthwaite; and Lancaster Road (Astral Grove) Hucknall amongst other locations.

These solar panels provide tenants' homes with an amount of free generated energy for use at the time of generation, meaning lower bills for the tenants at a time when energy costs are rising.



Cllr John Smallridge outside the bungalows on Carrfield Close that benefited from the scheme

For a typical Council-owned bungalow, the panels generate on average 84kWh of energy per square metre (of panel) per year per home, saving on average 5.3 tonnes of Carbon per year per home helping the Council meet its Net Zero Carbon targets.

The Green Home Grant Phase 1b also funded external wall insulation to 31 Council homes and 14 privately owned lower income households.

The Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme Wave 1 funded upgrades to 104 council homes, which included external wall insulation and associated works to eligible properties (social properties).

The Council has also submitted a further bid to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme for a second wave of upgrades to a further 87 council homes in Ashfield.



# Helping your business in challenging times

**With added pressure on the business community across Ashfield, the Council has a range of support available for established businesses as well as those firms who are newly set up.**

All of this help, and more, can be found on our website by searching 'business support'.

## **Business support**

Our Business Support Team collate key information on useful topics for local businesses, including information for start-ups, commercial property, and how to expand your business.

## **Career Boost**

Our Career Boost section gives information to jobseekers on how to look for and find work in Ashfield.

## **Business rates**

We may be able to help you with your business rates if you are a business in Ashfield, new or established small or medium sized enterprise.

## **Food businesses**

If you are a business involved in food and drink, or you are an approved premises supplying food to other businesses you will need to follow hygiene and safety rules.

## **Help for business in setting up a licensed premises**

Receive some free advice for new business regarding: food, health and safety.

## **Loans and grants support**

There is a vast amount of help and support for existing businesses including loans and grants that you might find useful.

CLlr Matthew Relf speaking at the Business Support Team's Business Breakfast





# Ashfield Cost of Living HUB

**On each of the pages within our hub you will find key information and links to help to support you or your business during the cost of living crisis. You can find information on:**

Benefits, Council Tax, and  
Housing support

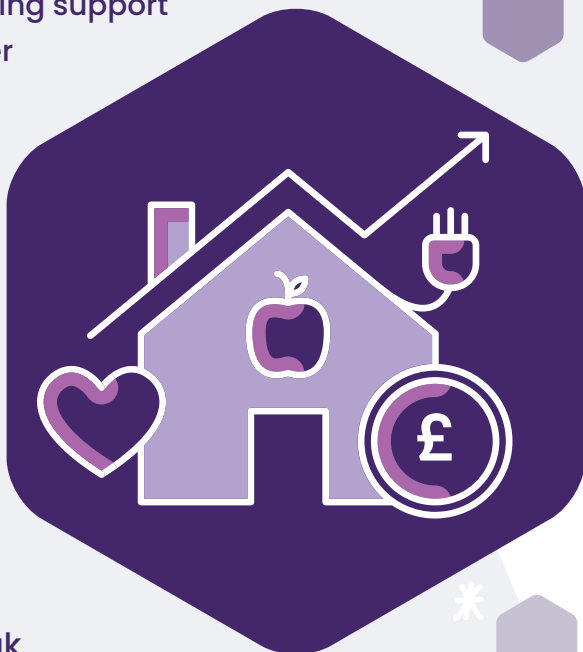
Council services support

Support for businesses

Money, bills and debt support

Health and wellbeing support

Support from other  
organisations



[www.ashfield.gov.uk  
/cost\\_of\\_living\\_support](http://www.ashfield.gov.uk/cost_of_living_support)

# Domestic abuse support

Throughout December, Ashfield District Council supported White Ribbon Day and the following 16 Days of Activism. White Ribbon Day and 16 Days of Activism are global campaigns which aim to end male violence against women and girls. We are proud to say that we are a White Ribbon accredited organisation for the next three years.

Our Domestic Violence and Vulnerability Officer visited various locations throughout the District supported by NIDAS, the Nottinghamshire-based Domestic Abuse charity, to raise awareness of domestic abuse and the support that is available.



Cllr Helen-Ann Smith, Executive Lead Member for Community Safety and Crime Reduction, Antonio Taylor Community Safety Manager & Emma Jimmick, Domestic Violence & Vulnerability Officer

"As a White Ribbon Accredited organisation, Ashfield District Council is here to support all survivors of domestic abuse, no matter your circumstance, so please come and talk to us."



**The cost-of-living crisis is a worrying time for everyone. Survivors of domestic abuse are being faced with a terrible choice; remaining in an unsafe home, or facing financial destitution or homelessness.**

The threat of financial destitution or homelessness has long been known to be barriers to leaving an abusive relationship. The cost-of-living crisis is only exacerbating this issue. No one should have to stay with an abusive partner simply because they have nowhere else to go.

Domestic abuse isn't always physical. Perpetrators of domestic abuse are using concerns of financial hardship during the cost-of-living crisis as an extra tool for coercive control. This can include restricting access to money, work, or items people need such as clothing and food.

If you, or someone you know, is facing this situation you are not alone and there is help available.

You can call Ashfield District Council's Community Safety Team on 01623 457 345

**For Men:**  
Equation 0800 9956 999 / [equation.org.uk](http://equation.org.uk)



## For Women:

JUNO Women's Aid  
0808 800 0340 / [junowomensaid.org.uk](http://junowomensaid.org.uk)  
NIDAS 01623 683250 / [nidas.org.uk](http://nidas.org.uk)

## LGBT+:

Galop 0800 999 5428 / [galop.org.uk](http://galop.org.uk)

# Christmas

## events in Ashfield were cracking

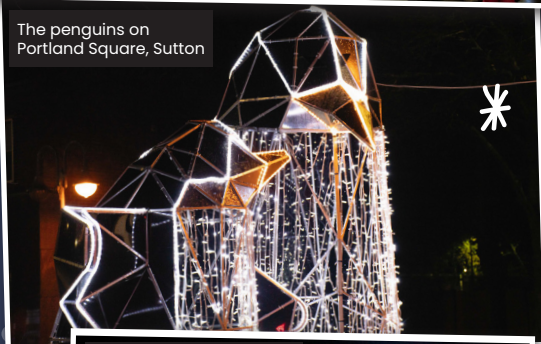
**Our annual Christmas events took place in November to spread the Christmas spirit throughout the District.**

Thousands of residents turned out to support the three events in Sutton, Kirkby, and finally Hucknall. Visitors were entertained by local primary schools including Holgate Primary School, Flying High Academy from Hucknall, Kingsway, Orchard, and Morven Park Primary Schools from Kirkby, and Leamington, Croft, and Dalestorth Primary Schools from Sutton. The crowds also enjoyed performances from choirs, dance schools, and Santa himself. There was a bustling market at each event with over 40 stalls at Sutton and Kirkby, and over 60 stalls at Hucknall.

Chairman of the Council, Cllr David Walters, and Vice Chairman, Cllr Dale Grounds, did the honours and switched the Christmas lights on at the events. The popular 3D feature lighting returned to the District to spark joy amongst residents.



Crowds at Kirkby's Christmas Festival as the lights switch on



The penguins on Portland Square, Sutton



Hundreds of visitors on Hucknall High Street browsing the stalls



Crowds gathered around Hucknall's snowman feature lighting



# Christmas

## Shop Window Competition

We asked shops throughout the District to help us get festive for the shop window competition, and once again, they delivered!

Our team of judges were impressed by the standard of Christmas displays and had a hard time choosing the winners.

The winners of the competition were:

Sutton



Kirkby



Villages



Hucknall



Rurals





## Give your career a boost with the Council's dedicated web page

If you are looking for a new career, training, or to start your own business, Ashfield District Council's Career Boost, is the perfect place to start. Our brand-new web page is dedicated to helping residents find local employment and training opportunities.

The Career Boost section has heaps of useful information, links, and guidance for people whether you don't know where to start, or how to look for a job our web page will guide you through the process. It can help you decide what kind of career you are cut out to do, point out the latest job fairs, and advice on how to turn your passion into a career.



Visit: [www.ashfield.gov.uk/business-licensing/career-boost](http://www.ashfield.gov.uk/business-licensing/career-boost)

## Upcoming Careers Fairs

**24th February 2023:** Jobs Fair, 10am-1pm, Pride Park Stadium, Derby, DE24 8XL

**19th April 2023:** Jobs Fair, 10am-2pm, Albert Hall Conference Centre, Nottingham, NG1 5AA

**21st April 2023:** Jobs Fair, 10am-1pm, Motorpoint Arena, Nottingham, NG1 1LA

**27th April 2023:** Jobs Fair, 10am-1pm, Pride Park Stadium, Derby, DE24 8XL

# • Careers Fair success •

**Over 700 job seekers and students flocked to Kirkby Leisure Centre for Ashfield District Council's annual Jobs and Careers Fair.**

The Jobs and Careers Fair aims to connect students, job seekers, people who are looking for a career change or training, with businesses and organisations to help them achieve their career goals.

Visitors had a chance to speak to representatives from over 90 employers across nine sectors including Education and

Training, Manufacturing, Healthcare, Government, Transport and Logistics, Construction, Retail and Hospitality, Sport and Leisure, and Security.

As a result of the event, 269 follow up appointments were made, and three vacancies were filled on the day!

Visitors networking at the Careers Fair



# KIRKBY LEISURE CENTRE

11 & 12  
March

Community  
Celebration Weekend

To celebrate Kirkby Leisure Centre's six-month anniversary, the Council and Everyone Active are hosting a Community Celebration Weekend.

Join us there on 11 and 12 March for tons of free activities, taster sessions, and the chance to meet some special celebrity guests who will be revealed in the coming weeks.

Check our social media channels and website for full details of the event and how to book activities

 @ADCashfield

 @ADCashfield

 @Ashfielddc



Eddie the Eagle Edwards



*Strictly Come  
Dancing's*  
Ola Jordan

COMING SOON...

# Hucknall's £2.7m Teaching Pool

Ashfield District Council's new teaching pool at Hucknall Leisure Centre will soon be ready to welcome a new generation of swimmers!

**Work on the brand-new second swimming pool is progressing well, and the facility is on track to open in early summer 2023. Concrete foundations have been laid and the external structure of the new building, which will house the pool, has been connected to the existing structure.**

The new teaching pool, with a maximum depth of 900mm, will focus on providing swimming lessons to the Hucknall community.

This work will complete the £5.5million investment into Hucknall Leisure Centre which has included upgrading the gym with state-of-the-art equipment, a brand-new café and reception area, a new wetside changing village featuring different sized areas to accommodate multiple users, and new cycling studios.



@eaHucknall



Cllr Lee Waters takes the opportunity to sign the steel



Cllr Trevor Locke, Cllr John Wilmott, Cllr Jason Zadrozny, Cllr Lee Waters, and Cllr Nick Parvin on site