

NETTLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 16th January 2018

District Councillor's Report

Members will be aware of concerns raised with me about the process being adopted by the district council with regard to the reserved matters planning application by **Truelove Property & Construction** at land to the rear of 72 Scothern Road (Ref. 137106). Following these discussions I sought the advice of senior officers at the district council and our planning lawyer. I am pleased to report that I have received assurance from all three that the process that the district council is following is appropriate for a reserved matters application in these circumstances.



I have received one application for monies from my **Councillors' Initiative Fund** from **Buddies Demntia Cafe** to assist their activities at the Nettleham Community Hub. I am considering an award of £100.00. Members will recall that I had previously reported that the **Nettleham Village Hall Committee** had also made contact and I had issued an application form; I have now, somewhat belatedly, received and approved an award of £225.00, which will help cover the cost of a new notice board. There remain no monies for allocation in the current year. A further £1,000.00 will be released at the start of April later this year.

I thought it might be of interest to include in this report a chart showing the allocations of where this funding has gone over the past two years. I think that we are very fortunate to have such a variety of recipients within the parish which just shows what a wonderfully dynamic and thriving community we have.

Since the last meeting of Nettleham Parish Council I have attended a **Chairmen's Briefing** for the Governance and Audit Committee on Monday, 8th January which was followed by a **Member Workshop on the Leisure Contract**. You may be aware from Press reports that the district council is investing £7.8m in renewing its leisure services offer. The current contract cost the authority around £300,000 per annum. The new contract will include £1.4m for refurbishment of the West Lindsey Leisure Centre, in Gainsborough into a Leisure and Wellbeing centre which will be repaid to the council, plus 4%, over the 15 year life of the contract. More importantly for Nettleham residents, £6.4m will be invested in a new leisure centre at Market Rasen which will be around a twenty minute drive away or accessible by local public transport infrastructure. Over the same period the current contract would have cost council taxpayers £4.5m. The new contract will generate a revenue of around £2.4m over that period. I have also attended a meeting with the new **Director of Estates**, Ms Harvey Dowdy, from the **University of Lincoln**, on Tuesday, 9th January. I hope that we will all benefit from more positive relations in the future. On Wednesday, 10th January I was very pleased to chair a meeting of the **Community Awards Panel**. Plans are advancing well for this year's awards and I would encourage the parish council to consider if there are any individual or groups that might be right for this sort of recognition. Information is on the council's website: <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-council/my-councillors/chair-of-the-council/community-awards-2018/>. By the time of tonight's meeting I will have also chaired a meeting of the **Governance and Audit Committee**, this will be preceded by training, the most important item under consideration by the committee, in my opinion, is the Draft **Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19** which sets out the way in which the district council invests public money. With recent press interest in our commercialisation strategy this document sets out the banks and other organisations that we will deal with and provides a valuable analysis of performance and economic analysis.

I will be representing the district council at a meeting of the **Association of Public Service Excellence** in Edinburgh later this week which sadly means I will be missing a **Member Workshop on the Review of the Constitution** (Part III Code and Protocols) on Thursday, 19th January. A meeting of the **Chief Officer Employment Committee** will convene on Monday, 22nd January to consider the future senior management structure of the organisation. Later in the day there will be a meeting of **Full Council**. This will be broadcast live on the webcast services. I am very pleased to report that my group on the district council has decided to bring forward a motion supporting the delivery of affordable homes across the district, it is believed that the appropriate model for the district council would be a **Local Housing Company** and it is our intention to mandate officers to investigate how best we can ensure we are delivering appropriate housing in the district and play our part in tackling the lack of appropriate housing development. I will also be attending a meeting of the Leaders' Panel on Friday, 26th January.



Giles McNeill

Working hard for the Nettleham Ward