**COUNCIL**

**8 MARCH, 2022**

**ADVANCE QUESTIONS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS**

**Questions to the Executive Mayor from Councillor Stendall**

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In Your Capacity as Mayor. With the exception of the letter sent on behalf of this Council to the Boundary Commission of England, setting out the opinion of this Council against the incorporation of Grange Farm Ward and Brick Kiln Ward into Ashfield Parliamentary constituency, which also outlined alternative suggestions of where the balancing of constituent numbers would better be taken from, have you submitted additional objections in your personal capacity or as Mayor of Mansfield?

**Questions to the Executive Mayor from Councillor Stendall**

In your capacity as Mayor. Are you aware that we are now in the second round of the Boundary Commissions for England, Parliamentary Boundary consultations, and there was a public face to face consultation session at County House yesterday the 7th March and today the 8th March?

**Questions to the Executive Mayor from Councillor Stendall**

In your Capacity as Mayor. The Conservative Group at Notts. County Council, the Leader of that group who is also Mansfield’s MP, agrees to the inclusion of Grange Farm Ward and Brick Kiln Ward being incorporated into Ashfield Parliamentary Constituency?

To demonstrate your support to the residents of Grange Farm Ward and Brick Kiln Ward what lobbying have you undertaken with the Leader of Notts. County Council, Mansfield’s MP to set out the public’s strong opposition to these changes, against them being included into the Ashfield Parliament Constituency?

**Question to Councillor Burgin from Councillor Stendall**

The Hermitage Nature Reserve is in my Ward. Would you give me an update on how this Council is progressing as to when we are likely to see some positive outcomes and improvements to the Nature Reserve?

**Question to Councillor Whitby from Councillor Shields**

As you are the portfolio holder who looks after the interests of our Local Parks and Open Spaces and are ultimately responsible for the Budget in your Portfolio duties, do you think it was right for you to allocate 150K in the 22/23 budget year and 100K in the 23/24 budget year for investment in Berry Hill Park when Berry Hill Park is set to receive C£3 million for this purpose? As this is a closed question a simple Yes or No will do.

**Question to Councillor Richardson from Councillor Shields**

Can you tell Council how many meetings you have had with the BID since you took up your post of Portfolio holder for Regeneration and the Town Centre?

**Question to the Executive Mayor from Councillor Elliman**

Mayor, the brown bin service over the past year has been nothing short of atrocious at times. To offer a reduced fee is right but the £5 discount does not anywhere near reflect the multiple missed collections that residents had to suffer. Can you please confirm if you think this is fair and reflects the poor service that residents received?

**Question to the Executive Mayor from Councillor Elliman**

Mayor, can you please confirm how much was spent on the aborted CEO search with recruitment agencies?

**Question to the Executive Mayor from Councillor Elliman**

Mayor, In Overview and Scrutiny on 15 Feb an Officer spoke about a much improved cleaning machine that was hired in to use across the district, for approx 3 weeks allowing them to catch up due to sickness, absence etc. It would appear sensible that a business case could easily be put together for this machine to be purchased for use across the county sharing with other districts.

We have seen the legal function that was a shared service with Ashfield split up and we have gone back to our own legal function and the loss of synergies and benefits that a shared function brings.

Do you think there is a protectionist attitude running through the Council driven by yourself that the winding back of shared service functions ultimately to the detriment of residents?

**Question to Councillor Whitby from Councillor Barton**

In recent times after COVID, some Churches and community hubs have been struggling with finances and running costs. Unlike Leisure, private businesses and Councils etc they have been unable to access grants given and made available by the Government etc. I already have one church closing in my Ward and I have another which is struggling financially. This is because of a number of reasons, one being the regular congregations are not back yet like they were before lockdown. These places are community hubs, they hold many clubs for all ages, including the U3A, cubs , scouts and Boys Brigade as well as holding coffee mornings and community events . Also the Royal British Legions Parade and Service as well as holding Weddings, Christenings, Funerals, which they are obviously known for.

Until they get back on their feet we should try and help as an Authority if we can, because if places like St Albans, Forest Town has to close it will be a disaster for the local community. Myself and fellow Councillors and residents are trying and have helped in many ways but they need more help, especially in the near future.

Can you please as Portfolio Holder for Finance investigate and look to see if we as a Council can provide any Grants, financial support packages, or even help with service costs to help any Church or Community hub in our District who needs help in these difficult times? Once these places are gone they are gone forever and they offer something that communities rely on and bring Communities together.