

FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 13 FEBRUARY 2024

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.2 the following question has been submitted to the Council from a member of the public, Laurence Goff:

“What is the District Council doing regarding rough sleepers during the winter months. Have they considered ‘NAP Pads’ which could save the lives of homeless people in the District. Would the Council have a suitable location for these. The NAP Pads are fitted with non-invasive ‘vital life’ sensors to confirm that the users are still breathing. Each pad is self-contained with toilet and wash facilities, a security door, window, power points, heater and LED lighting. These NAP Pads are being piloted in York and other areas and could save countless lives.”

Reply from Councillor Lee Brazier – Portfolio Holder for Housing

“Thank you, Laurence, for your question and thank you for originally raising this matter when you were a councillor here. I can confirm that we as an administration are meeting this week with the chair of Well Homeless Support to discuss NAPpads within Newark and Sherwood District. I can also confirm that our new temporary accommodation at Alexander Lodge is set to open very soon, which will have provision for homelessness support. During the severe weather we have had recently, we triggered our severe weather provision, where we offered temporary shelter to those who we knew were street homeless. Going forward, we are also looking at our wider temporary accommodation across the district and how we can improve this in the future”.

Supplemental Question from Laurence Goff

“Will the Council consider having a proper facility for the homeless such as a hostel?”

Reply from Councillor Lee Brazier – Portfolio Holder for Housing (supplied following the meeting)

The Council has an extensive provision of temporary accommodation, which is used for emergency placements of individuals or households who are experiencing housing crisis; either when threatened with homelessness or when remaining in their current accommodation presents a risk to any member of the household. Here is the breakdown:

Location	Number & Type of Accommodation
Wellow Green, Boughton	10 family units
Northgate, Newark	6 units designated for rough sleepers.
Alexander Lodge, Newark	20 units with the facility to make larger units

36 units in total for supporting homeless people and families

We recognise and appreciate the support of local organisations who also support individuals and families who may not engage with the Council or are unable to be supported through the statutory duties the Council has and these services complement our own.