

FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 6 MARCH 2025

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.2 the following question was submitted to the Council from Mr Laurence Goff:

Emily Blagg 90th Anniversary of Her Death On 7th April 1935 – 2025

Is it time to now recognise, acknowledge an exceptional intellectual woman of her life work in and around Newark? Would you agree it is time that Mrs Emily Blagg can be remembered with a Blue Plaque that can be on display at Newark Palace Theatre, Blagg and Johnson, Newark Cemetery, the two house she lived in: The Lodge 23 London Road around the corner from Lime Grove; 2 The Park Newark; and where she lived the rest of her life at 131 Lime Grove.

Her contribution had a profound impact and has transformed Newark with her life work and story having been told on TV programmes like Bargain Hunt, with many repeats also at Newark Advertiser, Blagg and Johnson, Newark Library, Newark Palace Theatre and on the internet.

A wonderful and incredible woman, her legacy must live on for what she done for Newark and putting us on the world's map of history marking. As part of International Women's Day on Saturday 8th March 2025, let us now put this tribute right so other woman can be inspired by her achievements.

Would you agree that this wonderful and incredible woman's legacy must live on for what she done for Newark? As part of International Women's Day, let us now put this tribute right so other woman can be inspired by her achievements.

Reply from Councillor Rowan Cozens – Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture & the Arts

Emily Blagg's profound legacy is alive and well in Newark.

Despite the pandemic, this remarkable woman's achievements were highlighted as part of the Palace Theatre's centenary celebrations in 2020.

And that was only right as it was thanks to her that generations have been able to visit the magnificent theatre that she built in the heart of the town.

Now, during the 90th anniversary of her passing, we have been contacted by various parties keen to explore the possibility of securing a blue plaque to commemorate her.

The blue plaque scheme is not administered by Newark and Sherwood, but by Historic England and awards are very hard won.

Outside of London, where the scheme has only been in operation for a short number of years, plaques have focussed on individuals known nationally and internationally who have 'made a significant contribution to human welfare or happiness; and/or have made an exceptional impact in their field, community or on society at large'.

We have registered for the application process and irrespective of the outcome, will continue to celebrate the impact she made on Newark.

Supplemental Question from Mr Laurence Goff

Would you agree more inspirational women need to be recognised like Emily Blagg, would you agree with me to have a special award in her honour.

Reply from Councillor Rowan Cozens – Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture & the Arts

Welcome further discussions.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

In accordance with Rule No. 3.3.3 the following question was submitted to the Council from Councillor John Lee:

Given that we are moving towards a unitary system where services will likely be amalgamated rather than separated, is now really the right time to be relocating the camera system hub? Has there been any communication with other councils either by yourself or by Councillor Paul Peacock about whether this is a financially wise decision in the context of future service integration?"

Reply from Councillor Paul Taylor – Portfolio Holder for Public Protection & Community Relations

I would like to thank Cllr Lee for this question.

It gives me the opportunity to share with you how much we have achieved in reducing ASB. Since I have been in post as Portfolio Holder for Public Protection and Community Relations.

At the end of January, ASB overall across the district is down 15.4% year on year.

In Castle ward it is down 37%, in Beacon Ward 37% and Devon ward 29%. Those wards collectively make up what we would know as Newark town centre.

Within your ward Balderton North and Coddington where we have delivered safer streets 5, ASB is down by 58% despite you have opposed almost every intervention.

Even with those fantastic reductions in ASB I am not going to be complacent when it comes to protecting the people of Newark and Sherwood Safety.

Bringing the CCTV control room back to Newark will deliver a step change in protecting the safety of the people of Newark and Sherwood. I certainly am not willing to put their safety at risk so that you can play petty politics.

We are already a year into our two year notice period. There are two reasons why we made the decision to give notice that we intended to leave the control room CCTV partnership.

First and foremost we need a control room covering the district which is efficient and effective and is proactively monitored. The current system is not the New control room in Newark will be.

We need a state of the art system which is monitored in real time and can deliver a step change in performance in order to move it from being reactive to proactive.

Regarding the timing, devolution is unlikely to happen until 2028 at the earliest. It would then take at least 4 years until the new unitary authority got round to reviewing CCTV based on what has happened in Northamptonshire. At the moment we don't even know what the new unitary council will consist of.

To cancel opening a new CCTV control room in Newark would risk leaving the public without the protection of CCTV for around 6 years . You may be willing to risk public safety in order to play petty politics, I am not.

I regularly talk with leading members involved in public protection across Nottinghamshire and none of them have raised any concern about our development of a new proactive CCTV system for Newark.

We have even had a senior councillor from another Nottinghamshire Council visit our ASB summits to see the work we are doing around ASB because they know how much we are achieving in Newark and Sherwood. We have also had a research team from the Home Office visit Newark to look at how we are being so successful in reducing ASB.

I would like to finish this answer by reminding Cllr Lee that when we made the decision to continue with giving Newark a state-of-the-art CCTV system located back in Newark you had the opportunity to have the decision called in and fully debated at Full Council. You chose not to do so and instead chose to play political games. You keep on with your silly games and I will continue with protecting the public of Newark and Sherwood.