



DISCOVER Ashfield

The official newsletter of Discover Ashfield

The ambassador events are being relaunched!

Wednesday 28th April 2021

18:00pm – 20:00pm



The Chair of Discover Ashfield Martin Rigley MBE presenting an Ambassador with their certificate

This spring Discover Ashfield is relaunching the Ambassador events with all new discussion topics and group activities. The Ambassador events take place every quarter and are a great way for Ambassadors to meet one another and collaborate on developing initiatives happening around the District.

The Chair and Vice-Chair, Martin Rigley MBE and Louise Knott, and theme leads Liz Barrett, Pete Edwards and Darron Ellis are all looking forward to welcoming back Ambassadors for the 2021 events and connecting with new and familiar faces. Our spring event will be hosted online via Microsoft Teams and email invitations will be sent out to all Ambassadors.

The Chair, Martin Rigley said:

“I am thrilled to be announcing the relaunch of the Ambassador events! The Ambassadors are an important part of Discover Ashfield and all have a true passion for making positive, long-lasting changes in Ashfield. The Ambassadors represent the best of Ashfield and to share and build ideas collectively with them about developing projects in the area is nothing but inspiring.”

“I am really looking forward to seeing all the Ambassadors in April and discussing what’s next for Ashfield in 2021.”

Are you passionate in supporting the development and regeneration of Ashfield? Do you want to help build and shape great opportunities for our communities with like-minded people?

Why not sign up to become a Discover Ashfield Ambassador? Please go to page 10 for more information about the role and how to sign up.



Messages from Theme Leads



Martin Rigley, MBE

Chair of Discover Ashfield / Theme Lead: Succeed in Ashfield

“As an Ashfield business owner I cannot fail to be impressed how our community has responded. Not only with the management of the vaccination programme but also the setting up of the Lateral Flow Testing Centre at the Lammas Leisure Centre. We have asked all of our employees to get tested at least once a week.

The people at the testing centre are so well organised and professional, it takes no time at all to get tested and the results come through within 30 minutes. It may feel like a small gesture in the fight against the pandemic but everything little we do chips away at the impact the virus can have. I would encourage all businesses to ask their staff to do the same.”

Pete Edwards

Theme Lead: Be Happy, Be Healthy

“I am delighted about the upcoming launch of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Strategy 2021 – 2025. Lots of consideration and health data has helped to shape our vision for the next four years and we have adapted our approach to focus our resources on areas in Ashfield with greatest need for health improvement.

Our vision is that ‘Everyone who lives in Ashfield leads a healthy and happy life’ and we believe that our new approach will make a greater impact on reducing the health inequalities that exist in Ashfield

I have been the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership for over 10 years and I continue to be so proud and thankful for all the work the partnership is doing for our community.”



Liz Barrett

Theme Lead: Love Where You Live

“As an Ashfield resident and the Theme Lead for ‘Love Where You Live’, I am incredibly proud of what our community has achieved in the most challenging of years. We have ensured that we have cared and supported our most vulnerable residents. We have done this in many different ways from checking on our neighbours, delivering shopping / food parcels, collecting prescriptions and work towards reducing social isolation. We have also taken time and energy to brighten up our homes and streets with rainbows and messages over this last year making Ashfield vibrant.

The community spirit of Ashfield is deeply precious and something for us to celebrate and appreciate. We are incredibly fortunate to have Kings Mills Hospital in Ashfield who have done a herculean job during the pandemic day in and day out. As a community we are incredible grateful to each and every staff member who works at Kings Mill Hospital and who contribute to its outstanding quality.”

Darron Ellis

Theme Lead: More to Discover

“It has been so wonderful to see the number of local of people exploring our heritage and walking trails during these difficult times. Visitor centres have adapted and provided a takeaway service at places like Mill Waters and Brierley Forest Park. The public have embraced our great local spaces and as a community have pulled together to help and support one another. We have some truly inspirational people in the area, and Ashfield has stood up to these testing times in its usual determined, and positive way.

The last year has been challenging in many ways. But as we come out of lockdown, exciting opportunities are ahead. The Towns Fund and the proposed investment at Sherwood Observatory are just two of the many great things to look forward to. We are truly blessed to have the open spaces and recreational places to visit and explore.



I look forward to better days for everyone and with summer around the corner, and with people staying closer to home for breaks and holidays, now is the time to “Discover Ashfield”.”



Discover Ashfield Photography Competition 2021



Cameras at the ready! The Discover Ashfield photography competition is returning for spring 2021.

The competition, now in its third year, is open to everyone in the District and offers the chance to win a £100 High Street voucher. So get those cameras ready and show what a great place Ashfield is to live and work.

This year's brief is to take a photograph which captures Ashfield's Community Spirit. The pandemic has brought out the best of Ashfield's residents and we want to celebrate that with the photography competition.

Once again, there are four categories in the competition, and each category represents a Discover Ashfield theme.

To help inspire you to capture a photograph which reflects both community spirit and a Discover Ashfield theme, we have listed some examples below.

**BE HEALTHY,
BE HAPPY**



This could be a photograph of a carer supporting a resident, or an individual participating in an online exercise class.

**LOVE WHERE
YOU LIVE**



This could be a photograph of a community organisation helping residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, or neighbours meeting up for a socially-distanced walk in a local park.

**SUCCEED IN
ASHFIELD**



This could be a photograph of a local business delivering items to customers front doors, or colleagues working together in a work place.

**MORE TO
DISCOVER**



This could be a photograph of a pub in Ashfield serving takeaway meals, or people admiring a local landmark.

How to enter:

The competition is open between Friday 2nd April - Monday 10th May 2021

Entries can be submitted via the below website link:

www.ashfield.gov.uk/photocomp

You can enter up to 3 photographs in the competition, but only one per category. Each photograph must be a maximum file size of 2MB.

Under 16s can enter but we will need a parent or guardian's name.

You should read the full terms and conditions, and our competition privacy notice, before submitting an entry.

Good luck!

Love Where You Live Theme Lead,
Liz Barrett said:

'There were some fantastic photographs entered into last year's competition and I was thrilled to be on the judging panel. We are all so proud of how Ashfield has pulled together to get through this pandemic. With Ashfield's talented photographers capturing the community spirit that we have in abundance in our District, this really will be a picture-perfect combination.'





Board Member Updates: Welcome Peter Gaw and Julia Terry!



Website: www.inspireculture.org.uk

Peter Gaw: Chief Executive Officer at Inspire: Culture, Learning and Librarians

Peter was appointed his role at Inspire in January 2016 which is a charitable society that delivers a range of cultural, learning, heritage and library services across Nottinghamshire. Inspire provides some these services as well as Nottinghamshire Archives on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council.

As CEO, Peter leads the organisation and a team of over 700 staff members. Peter and his team are passionate in inspiring people to read, learn and enjoy culture and are committed to ensuring the best opportunities are open and accessible for people and communities across Nottinghamshire.

Peter is the Chair of the East Midlands region of Libraries Connected and sits on their national advisory committee. In 2020, Peter was awarded a BEM for services to libraries and culture in the Queen's birthday honours.

Peter is really pleased to join the Discover Ashfield Board and said:

"I want to ensure Ashfield can get the best opportunities from everyone working together and that culture and learning are fully part of the districts future prosperity and community life."

Julia Terry: Development Worker at Transforming Notts Together

Julia joined the team at Transforming Notts Together in March 2020 which is an organisation that works across Nottinghamshire to support and equip churches to build community in their areas. An important part of Julia's role is to facilitate and promote partnerships between churches and agencies in the area with the purpose of creating sustainable local projects.

Julia is passionate in developing constructive connections which help to meet community need and provide lifelong, positive change. Julia and her team are currently presenting a range of free online workshops for people and organisations to join including Grief and Loss and Basic Budgeting for Young People.

Julia is delighted to join the Discover Ashfield Board and said:

"I'm really honoured to represent the Faith Communities on the Discover Ashfield Board and sharing with you some of the great projects that are going on, and hopefully work together to set up more."



Website: www.transformingnottstogether.org.uk





The Winners of the Discover Ashfield Award 2021



Last year's Health and Wellbeing Ambassador Award Winner Dance Artist Annie Ball

Congratulations to the Discover Ashfield Award Winners of 2021!

Discover Ashfield Awards nominations opened from 20th January to 28th February this year and included new categories such as the COVID-19 Hero Award, COVID-19 Business Award and COVID-19 Young Hero Award which was sponsored by McDonalds. The introduction of the new categories has meant that we can recognise and thank Ashfield residents and businesses who have helped our communities through the pandemic.

The panel which included The Chair Martin Rigley, were faced with some tough decisions, as there were so many inspiring nominations, all of which have achieved so much in different ways. We will be awarding certificates to all of this year's nominations to recognise everyone's amazing efforts and achievements throughout the year and to say thank you for going above and beyond for Ashfield.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to nominate a resident, organisation or business. Here are the 2021 winners:



Community Ambassador Award

Winner: Lynne Ryland
Runner Up: Sarah Madigan

Covid-19 Hero Award

Winner: Kate Antony
Winner: Chef Dave Marshall

Covid-19 Young Hero Award

Winner: Caleb Wheatley
Winner: Callum Parr
Winner: Saralee Parr
Winner: Ruth Lamb

Covid-19 Community Organisation Award

Winner: Let's All Eat
Runner Up: Mansfield & Ashfield Support Group
Runner Up: Portland College

Best of Ashfield Award

Winner: Teresa Jackson
Winner: Newstead Brass



Health and Wellbeing Ambassador Award

Winner: Terry Atherton
Runner Up: Joan Cannan

Carer Award

Winner: Sharon Grocock
Winner: Peter Robinson



Covid-19 Business Award

Winner: Swiftool
Runner Up: Ideal Cars

High Street Business of the Year

Winner: Scott & Co Fresh Fruit and Veg
Winner: The Fruit Corner

Succeed in Ashfield: Education and Industry Partnership

Are you a local business? Would you like to help inspire young people in Ashfield?

The Succeed in Ashfield: Education and Industry partnership are looking for local businesses who can provide careers opportunities for secondary school students in Ashfield, from workplace tours to uplifting talks in assemblies.

If you are a local business and would like to help inspire a generation with career prospects, please email discoverashfield@ashfield.gov.uk



Feel Good Families



Feel Good Families is a local project which aims to engage families from the Ashfield area, encouraging them to play, smile and be active together.

More recently activities have been available for families to access online via our 'Feel Good Families' Facebook page as well as our ever-popular themed family trails in local parks. We really enjoyed seeing so many families taking part in our 'Hearts in Parks' trail in February as well as entries for the love themed window display and Love Where You Live Poetry competition.

As we start to see a light at the end of the tunnel, we hope to be able to provide more community-based activities for families to get involved in. Over the next few months, we will be encouraging families to get involved:

- Books in Parks Trail

Follow the trail around the park and look out for the children's books we have hidden for you to find and take home to read.

- Spring / Easter themed activities during the Easter holidays.



Image: Jemma Lee

Would you like to become a Feel Good Families Ambassador?

This could simply be helping us to promote Feel Good Families within your local community or supporting us with the delivery of activities for families to get involved in. For more information email feelgoodfamilies@ashfield.gov.uk or contact Dianne on 01623 457233

Calling all Ashfield Mums – can you help by completing a short survey?

We are currently working on ideas to provide new opportunities to encourage local mums (of all ages) to be more active as part of work to support Sport England's This Girl Can Campaign. To help us to understand what local mums would like to be made available we have developed a short survey which we are encouraging mums to complete.

Everyone getting involved will be given the chance to enter into a prize draw to win a £50 shopping voucher. The link to the survey is as follows:

www2.ashfield.gov.uk/limesurvey/index.php/351339?lang=en



If you would like more information about any of the above or to keep up to date with our latest activities, please follow us on our Facebook page, get in touch at feelgoodfamilies@ashfield.gov.uk or you can register for free at www.ashfield.gov.uk/feelgoodfamilies



Future High Streets Fund: £6.27 million awarded to Sutton in Ashfield!

It was announced on December 26th 2020 that Sutton in Ashfield will receive £6.27 million in funding from the Future High Streets Fund. This funding will help to revive and modernise Sutton town centre and provide residents with places to enjoy and relax with their friends and families.

The following projects are being delivered through Future High Streets Fund:

Sutton Community Academy Theatre

A major renovation of Sutton Community Academy's theatre which will be open to the public for film screenings, theatre and live music.

Low Street

The purchase and conversion of vacant properties on Low Street for a variety of uses on the ground floor and apartments on the floors above.

Fox Street pop-up food court and car park

Redeveloping the derelict plot of land behind Lloyd's bank to provide better access between ASDA and Portland Square.

Maker Space

A place where people can access tools and workspaces so that those lacking the space or funds at home will be able to make anything they like. The maker space will also be available for businesses to access and support people setting up a business.

The funding has been greatly welcomed by The Chair, Martin Rigley and other Discover Ashfield board members. The fund will be a great boost to the town centre and the Board are eager to see the plans for these projects become a reality.

Succeed in Ashfield on LinkedIn!

Are you a business in Ashfield?

Looking for news, support and networking opportunities with other local businesses?

The Succeed in Ashfield LinkedIn page is now available for business owners and managers whose business is Ashfield based.

Search Succeed in Ashfield on LinkedIn and join us today.





Towns Fund: Submitted and Pending

As part of the Towns Fund, Kirkby and Sutton could receive up to £25m each to fund plans to create thriving and revitalised town centres, with a wide range of services and retail offer, a vibrant night-time economy and enhanced leisure offer.

After much consideration and public consultation, the finalised Town Investment Plan for Kirkby and Sutton was submitted earlier this year. The projects were discussed in detail at the Discover Ashfield board meetings and the Board were all supportive of the projects and helped to shape project plans further. The creation of the Town Investment Plan was a real team effort and our collaborative board meetings, amongst other smaller stakeholder meetings, meant that all features and aspects of the projects were carefully considered and developed.

The Chair, Martin Rigley said:

'I just want to say a big heart felt thank you to everyone who was involved in the development of Town Investment Plan for Kirkby and Sutton. The District has really pulled together on this bid and it has been an inspiring process to witness. From the Discover Ashfield Board to the residents in Ashfield who took the time to submit surveys last year regarding their views on key project ideas, it has been an incredible effort by all.'

The Board are currently waiting to hear back on the Town Deal Offer which is scheduled to be sent back to towns at the end of March. The Board will reconvene after the offer is received to discuss the next steps.

Towns Fund Project Overview

Here is a summary of the key projects which have been submitted in the Town Investment Plan and include new housing, better education and leisure facilities:

Be Happy, Be Healthy

- North Kirkby Gateway – The new building will provide a central health hub and space for the Portland Pathways project.
- Sports Hubs – At Sutton Lawn and Kingsway Park we will be further expanding these sports hubs with better facilities.

Succeed In Ashfield

- Automated Distribution Manufacturing Centre (ADMC) – The ADCM will support the adoption, integration and expansion of automated technologies for businesses; locally and across the Midlands region in a sustainable manner.
- Ashfield Construction Centre and Ashfield Civil Engineering Centre – We are working with Inspire, Academy Transformation Trust Further Education and Vision West Nottinghamshire College on a new joint construction skills centre. Portland College will also receive funding from this project to help develop a construction space on their site. We are also working with Vision West Notts on a new civil engineering education centre.
- Sutton Library Innovation Centre & Kirkby Satellite – Refurbishment of Sutton Library and making a digital offer at both Sutton and Kirkby Libraries to help communities develop their digital skills.
- Skills and Enterprise Programme – Support packages for start-up businesses, self-employment, SMEs and apprenticeships.

More to Discover

- Sherwood Observatory Science Discovery Centre – We will be helping support the exciting plans at the Sherwood Observatory to build a new planetarium.
- Water Leisure Development – At Kings Mill Reservoir we are developing a new leisure offering that will enable more people to experience water sports activities and the beauty of the reservoir.
- Cycling and Walking Routes – This project will see the walking and cycling routes across the district expanded and upgraded to provide greater connectivity.
- Portland Square – Refurbishment of Portland Square with a reconfigured layout.

Greener, Cleaner Ashfield

- West Kirkby Gateway – Around Kirkby station we are planning a new gateway building with a business hub, transport interchange and to the South, start up industrial units.
- High Street Property Fund – This project involves the purchase, repurposing and refurbishment of high street properties. This includes converting three vacant units into a new indoor market on the pedestrianised area of Kirkby town centre.
- Portland Street Sustainable Housing – The development of housing on the site bordering Portland Street in Kirkby.

In addition to all of these physical projects we are also working on a raft of programmes focussed on helping people and businesses in the area with developing skills. These range from helping tech novices to start using the Internet, to helping businesses to develop their online presence so they can access new markets, through to new training centres to learn a new skill.



Towns Fund Accelerated Projects: Development Updates

Some of the Towns Fund projects have received accelerated funding, following the award of £1.5m. Please see below an update on how these projects are progressing.

Low Street – The purchase, renovation and re-purposing of vacant properties on Low Street.

Negotiations are currently taking place and the Council are continuing to explore opportunities for other vacant properties along Low Street as part of the Future High Street Fund project. A variety of new uses for the ground floor are currently being considered with above floors set to become residential apartments.

The Portland College Newstart Hall

The Newstart Hall is currently being refurbished to create a Centre of Excellence for disabled people in Sport and Theatre. This building will provide a community hub with sports facilities available free of charge to local schools and community groups. Work is progressing well with scheduled demolition now complete and works to the floor underway. The planned completion for this project is spring 2021.

Kirkby Indoor Market

Three vacant units on the pedestrianised area of Lowmoor Road are being converted to create a small indoor market in the heart of the town centre. A contractor has been appointed and the planning stage has begun. A design consultant has also been appointed to develop the branding for the indoor market and will work with students from Vision West Nottinghamshire College to create the new design. The consultant will also support the college and markets team to produce a marketing plan.

Hornbeam Park Play Area

Contractors have commenced work to regrade the site, construct footpaths and install new bins, seats, signs and fencing. Developments continue to progress with the installation of the play equipment and the work is on target for completion by mid-March. Contractors will be relandscaping the site and completing security fencing before the play facilities are opened to the public.



Image: Kathy Oakley





Discover Ashfield Supporters and Ambassadors: What's the difference?

Become a Discover Ashfield Supporter or Ambassador and join a growing team of people who are passionate about Ashfield and promoting the area.

The Role of the Discover Ashfield Supporter

A Discover Ashfield Supporter will champion and take pride in Ashfield.

As a supporter we encourage you to:

- Support the community and place that you live and work i.e. support local businesses and charities, help neighbours, visit local attractions, walk on short journeys rather than drive.
- Promote great things you are aware of and share with Discover Ashfield – this could be an event, information about local heritage.
- Talk positively about Discover Ashfield with friends, family, residents, businesses, colleagues to raise awareness .
- Like and follow Discover Ashfield on Facebook and Twitter.



The Role of the Discover Ashfield Ambassador

A Discover Ashfield Ambassador will fulfil the roles of a Supporter as well as create and develop opportunities to support the district's communities, growth and success.

There are four types of Ambassador and each type reflects a theme of Discover Ashfield and the individual's interests, skills and passions:



Health & Wellbeing
Ambassador



Community
Ambassador



Business
Ambassador



Visitor
Ambassador

You may have an interest in more than one theme detailed above.

Ambassadors are encouraged to think about their own skills, knowledge and interests and what they would like to do to in line with the mission statement. Some examples include:

- Attend Discover Ashfield Ambassador events.
- Make positive changes in the place that you live and work i.e. collaborate with other ambassadors at events to build and shape opportunities to support the development of Ashfield.
- Use the Discover Ashfield branding on your own webpages and marketing.
- Encourage other people to sign up as supporters and ambassadors

Please email discoverashfield@ashfield.gov.uk for more information about the projects and initiatives happening currently and how to sign up.