



Conservatives secure gains in Mansfield's local elections

Gaining 3 seats and becoming the main opposition group at MDC means this was the best result for the Conservatives since the '80s

Congratulations to new Councillors Andre Camilleri, Ben Brown, Sinead Anderson, Nigel Moxon and Liz Langrick, who will be an amazing team to hold the Mayor to account at MDC!



This Conservative team has been absolutely fantastic, and I know they'll work hard for local people at MDC

Can I also offer my thanks and commiserations to those who didn't win this week from all parties, and perhaps particularly to Josh Charles, Nick Marks and Robert Elliman who were fantastic Conservative candidates that came within just a handful of votes of winning.

It is a brave thing, to put yourself up for election and to decide to stick your neck out; to stand up in the court of public opinion. It's no fun to lose, particularly as often for local Councillors you can work so hard and still miss out due to factors beyond your control such as people's perceptions of national politics... It's even tougher when you miss out by just a tiny margin as many did this week. In Broxtowe one Councillor even lost on the toss of a coin after votes were tied! Huge credit to everyone who stood!

We also went from 4th in 2019 to finish 2nd in the Mayoral election, which is great progress!

Well done to Cllr Andre Camilleri, who more than doubled the Conservative vote from the last elections, and the team who worked so hard to support him. Unfortunately it wasn't to be this time and Labour retained the position of Mayor, but that increase from 2,500 or so votes in 2019 to almost 6,000 this time is a brilliant step forward. Well done Andre!



Obviously all that means that Labour won the election overall, and Andy Abrahams was re-elected as Mayor

Party politics and previous disagreements aside, can I say congratulations to Andy and to his team. Of course the Conservative group and I will do everything we can to collaborate with him and deliver things for Mansfield.

It has to be said that our statements ahead of the election about the nature of the contest proved to be correct. In this two horse race, voting Independent has ultimately watered down the anti-Labour vote and allowed Labour to retain the Council and gain seats.

In many seats around Mansfield the opposition vote was split, with Conservatives in 2nd place and Mansfield Independents a distant 3rd. Ultimately voting independent, splitting the opposition vote and, lead to Labour winning many more seats. **If Independent voters had voted Conservative instead to stop Labour and change the Mayor, we would have a Conservative Mayor now, and the Conservatives would been the largest party on the Council.** Unfortunately that didn't happen and the opportunity has passed, but it just goes to prove that voting Independent genuinely did lead to Labour retaining their hold at MDC.

The end result is:
Labour: 25 seats
Conservatives: 5 seats
Mansfield Independent Party: 4 seats
Other non-aligned Independents: 2

[Find the full results here](#)

I've been discussing the wider national situation after a tricky week for the Conservatives, and I spoke to Sky News

yesterday

Watch it here

Ways to keep in touch

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God save the King



On an historic day for Britain,

I hope you enjoyed the Coronation and procession today.

There are events this weekend, including a party in Berry Hill Park tomorrow (Sunday 12 -4pm). [CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)

Nobody does the pomp and ceremony quite like we do, and like millions around Britain I was glued to the spectacle of the military parade and fly-past, as well as the ceremony itself where the King was clearly emotional about the significance of the day. A proud day for him, and for Britain, and it's always wonderful to see the crowds turn out to catch sight of the King and Royal family. Long live the King!



New Community Diagnostic Centre Green-lit!

Government's efforts to tackle NHS waiting lists are making progress. Our new Community Diagnostic Centre, funded by the Department of Health and Social Care to deliver thousands of extra tests and scans, has been given the green light through Planning this week.

The Centre will be built next to Mansfield Community Hospital, and represents a multi-million pound investment in our area!

[Find out more here!](#)

£3,099,586

EXTRA INVESTMENT
FOR SCHOOLS IN
MANSFIELD

Every state school
in England will receive
a cash boost to invest
in extra resources,
creating a better future
for our young people.



Great news!

[Find out more here...](#)



Improving roads across Nottinghamshire...

We know that pothole repairs need improving, that's a given, but the wider strategy ultimately is to do far fewer repairs and far more high quality, long term resurfacing work. There are budget constraints and there are regulatory constraints, but I think you'll agree from the below that when we are able to do that, to schedule in proper long term repairs, the results are excellent.

Here's Arun Dale and Birkland Avenue, where Via have done that scheduled work and it's fantastic. One of my staff even commented that it even smells great!!

Now we've struggled for the levels of funding to do enough of it, and with the huge damage over the winter we've been playing catch up. We're currently looking at plans to improve repairs, to use the extra £3m we've just had from Government to recover things, and how we can apply these quality expectations to emergency repairs...

However, what's clear to me is that the end goal we're going for - the high quality resurfacing work - we've absolutely got down to an art. Where we're able to do it, it's great. Now we need to more more of it!!



PUBLIC ORDER BILL

NOW LAW

- ✓ **Tougher sentences** for protestors blocking our roads, railways, and emergency services.
- ✓ **New measures** to clamp down on road blocking 'lock-on' protestors.
- ✓ **More powers for police** to carry out Stop and Search on protestors and intervene before chaos is caused.
- ✓ **New court order to stop** reoffending protestors who repeatedly use highly disruptive protest tactics.



Our Public Order Bill have received Royal Assent and is now law. Giving new powers for our police to protect the public from disruption and damage caused by activists during protests.



Mansfield Town FC awards night

A pleasure to attend the Mansfield Town Football Club awards last weekend, starting in the beautiful early evening sunshine, and to celebrate some of the successes of the season. Let's hope there's one last success to come this weekend. A big win for Stags on Monday, and a few former-Stags at Gillingham getting one over on Salford, could still be enough to sneak us in the playoffs. Stranger things have happened!

Anyway a huge thank you to John Radford and the team at Stags for everything they've put in to this club for some 13 or so years now. A club that's grown and grown over that time and, off the pitch, is in the best shape it's ever been as a club and a business. They've put so much in to their hometown club and all the fans know and appreciate it!

Special shout out for Elliott Hewitt, who did his ACL recently, was on crutches tonight with a knee brace, and then won almost every award and had to keep getting up and down to the stage!... Wishing a speedy recovery! Had to get a pic with Jordan Bowery (pictured) too for my 9 year old, as his favourite Stags player!

Fingers crossed for one last push and a bit of luck next weekend!!



FA WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTHERN PREMIER DIVISION



Celebrating more football success!

Huge congratulations to Nottingham Forest Women!!

[And finally, this week's column! ↓](#)

Click below to read...

Ahead of Thursday's local elections, I asked Mansfield residents to consider voting for a change at Mansfield District Council. [Read here.](#)

That's all for this week!

Thanks for reading and I hope you have a great weekend!

Ben

Follow me on social media





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