NWLDC council tax 2024 report in relation to special expenses regime

Special expenses and concurrent functions and the double taxation effect on areas such as Kegworth, Castle Donington and Ashby.

NWLDC decision to move various expenditure from “special expenses” to the general fund budget has highlighted the double taxation of local residents.

Ashby Town Council has done a lot of background work on this, led by its Clerk and Cllr Bigby. A report which has been circulated as part of this matter.

Historically, if NWLDDC undertook any service on behalf of a parished area it would charge for this through the special expenses part of the council tax, this included the Coalville area and a number of other parishes. It would appear that from undertaking an inhouse review the authority has decided that a number of things are for the benefit of the whole of North West District area, and have removed them from the special expenses, meaning that everyone pays for the expense, not just a specific area.

As can be seen from the Ashby report it appears that the Principal Authority has discretionary powers which allows it to make changes with little or no consultation or partnership working with the local councils and without clear justification as to why the existing policy has been change.

Looking into this matter in more depth, it would appear that the Principal Authority is looking to off-set costs usually borne from the collection of special expenses, in particular for Coalville, to be paid for by all tax payers in the district, thus freeing up more resources with in the budget to fulfil projects in the Coalville Regeneration area.

What can Castle Donington Parish Council do:

1. Support the report of Ashby Town Council.
2. Insist on the meeting with the Section 151 officer which has been mooted.
3. Arrange a meeting with the three main parishes affected, including the ward members and respond to NWLDC raising concerns regarding this sudden change.
4. Explore options in relation to the Concurrent Function grant as highlighted by NALC.