

Common questions about Coalville

We find that people have lots of questions about what is or isn't happening in Coalville.

There are common questions that are regularly asked when we talk to people about Coalville.

People are generally happier when they know the answers to these questions (even if the answers aren't always what we'd like to hear!)

It's also important to us that people understand what NWLDC can and can't control in the town.

NWLDC commitment to Coalville

The council has done nothing for Coalville in the last few years

We are determined to influence the factors under our control and have recently completed or are currently working on a number of projects that show our commitment to the town. These include:

- A £23 million new leisure centre for Coalville
- The £1.5 million redevelopment of Marlborough Square to create an outdoor events and modern market space
- A £600,000 project to redevelop the Litten Tree, creating a modern indoor market and events space to complement the Marlborough Square regeneration
- A commitment to seek out and engage with cinema operators with a view to bringing a cinema to the town
- An investment of £175,000 to support the Leicestershire County Council project to reconfigure the traffic calming measures and visual improvement of Ashby Road, a key route into Coalville
- Giving £75,000 in grants to the owners of the former bus station to redevelop the building and bring it back into use.
- Giving 20 other Coalville businesses a combined £265,000 through our Coalville Frontages and Enterprising Town Centres grant schemes – improving the look and feel of the town. These include The Emporium, Bitter and Twisted, Kat's Antiques, Strands, La Torre and others. This scheme will re-open in the spring of 2019
- Invested in the recent restoration of the Coalville Memorial Clock Tower
- The conversion of the former Pick and Shovel pub, which had stood empty for more than 10 year into 14 affordable apartments
- Bringing exciting events to the town such as Picnic / Music in the Park, Coaville Writes, Christmas in Coalville and May the Toys Be With You
- Sponsoring new events in the town – like the ballet at Century Theatre and the Coalville Colour Run
- The development of former police station into new social housing to bring more people into the town centre

There are things that the NWLDC can't influence or control – brownfield sites and empty buildings are the responsibility of those who own them, the Belvoir Shopping Centre is owned by a private investment company – but we will always encourage and facilitate positive investment that brings benefits to the town.



Leisure facilities

Coalville needs a cinema / bowling alley / skating rink or similar entertainment – why doesn't the council bring one of these to the town?

We'd love this too and we are trying to encourage investment of this sort in the town.

These types of business are all privately owned and the ultimate decision of whether or not to come to Coalville lies with them.

We are investing in areas that the council can control – like Marlborough Square, the Litten Tree, the new leisure centre - to make the town a more attractive place for private businesses to invest.

We have an open door policy and will speak to and support anyone who is interested in investing in Coalville for the benefit of the town.

Is a cinema going to be supported? I think that is the question. I am not a cinema goer myself but I am sure there are still a lot of people want to go and see the latest Blockbuster. It would mean that we would need to drag in people from the surrounding areas, and then you are competing with the likes of the bigger towns with eating houses etc. I'm not so sure that it would be a big people grabber. But of course you never know

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The Belvoir Centre

Why doesn't the council improve the Belvoir Centre?

The Belvoir Centre is privately owned and the shops in the centre pay rents to these owners.

At the moment, we're focusing on investment into areas where the council has control.

Why doesn't the council buy the Belvoir Centre?

The council could only buy the Belvoir Centre if it were to be out up for sale at a reasonable price.

The council would need to borrow the money, take the risk in case the value of shopping centre reduced in the future and find somebody with the right skills to manage the centre.

So this idea is complicated and it would be a big decision, but we realise that it could make a big difference to the town.

Why can't the council buy the Belvoir shopping centre instead of buying the Littern Tree and altering Marlborough Square then encourage more shops have the market right down the middle of the prescient

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Support for businesses / business rates

The council should do more to support businesses in the town

The council does lots to support businesses in the town. We've given seven Coalville businesses £29,968 through our Enterprising Town Centres grant scheme and 12 further town centre businesses £192,000 through the Coalville Frontages Scheme.

Benefactors of the frontages scheme include:

- 16-18 Hotel Street
- Martin & Co, High Street
- Bitter and Twisted Micro Pub, High Street
- La Torre, High Street
- Strandz, Belvoir Road
- Swanswell, High Street
- Kat's Antiques, High Street
- Constitutional Club, Hotel Street

Two of the bigger projects that have been supported by our grant schemes have been Desirable Car which has received £50,000 to improve the front of the former bus depot in Ashby Road and £25,000 to support growth of their business and create at least nine new jobs.

The Emporium nightclub has received £44,000 from our frontage grant scheme.

We run regular retail workshops and learning opportunities for businesses and are always available to offer business advice if this is needed.

I heard the council has turned down Primark, Harvester and Farmfoods

This simply isn't true and isn't something the council wouldn't have the power to do.

Whether a business opens in the town or not is driven by market forces.

The council needs to reduce business rates in the town

Business rates are set nationally by Government and are based on the value of the property you trade from.

Most businesses in Coalville town centre pay zero business rates, due to the value of the properties.

Markets in Coalville

What is happening with the market?

The current market building is old, cold and not fit for purpose. It costs the council £100,000 a year just to maintain it in its current poor standard.

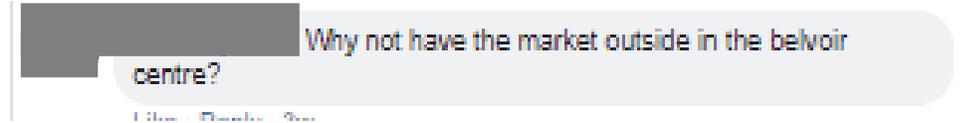
We are committed to creating a new public square in Marlborough Square and we have bought the Litten Tree to create complementary indoor and outdoor markets for Coalville, as well as new events spaces.

Both the Litten Tree and the square will incorporate new market stalls as well as those from the current market – creating a modern market that appeals to today's shoppers.

Why doesn't the council have an outdoor market in the Belvoir Centre?

The council doesn't own the Belvoir Centre and therefore has no control over it.

We would like to see more of the town regenerated and feel the Litten Tree and Marlborough Square offer the perfect opportunity for modern indoor and outdoor markets.



If the current market is failing, why are we keeping it all?

We aren't simply moving the current market, we are creating a new one. It will be designed to attract the modern shopper and provide what people now look for from town centres.

Marlborough Square

What is happening with Marlborough Square?

NWLDC is committed to designing Marlborough Square to create a public events and market space.

We had hoped to start work at the end of last year but this had to be paused after costs from contractors came in significantly over the original budget.

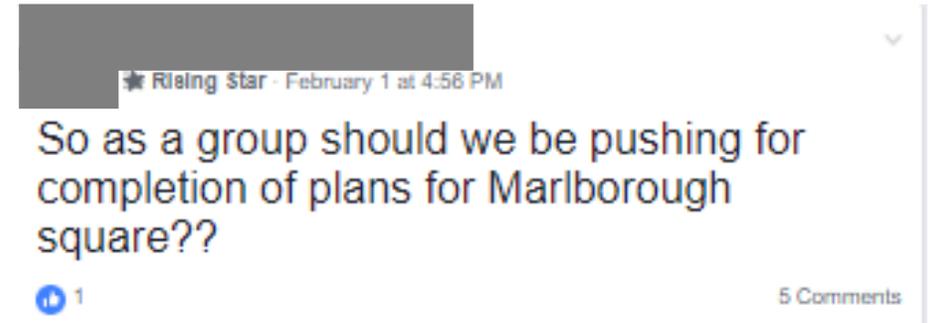
The scheme is currently being reviewed to ensure it provides value for money.

The council has no plans to scrap the scheme.

There's not enough car parking in Coalville and the council is getting rid of parking spaces in Marlborough Square

There are more than enough car parking spaces in Coalville.

The free parking spaces from Marlborough Square have been relocated to other car parks so there has been no reduction in free parking spaces.



Car parking

The council should make parking free in Coalville to attract more people into the town

NWLDC understands that car parking charges is a big issue in Coalville.

Whilst the amount charged is not huge (50p for an hour), the principle of paying to park is a negative for many people.

NWLDC introduced 'Free after 3pm' parking in 2017, to help people who might pop into town in the afternoon to collect something.

NWLDC is legally prohibited from making a profit from car parking. Any income from parking charges must legally be spent on parking services – maintenance and enforcement.

In 2017/18 the council made a loss of £182,198 on its parking service.

If free parking was introduced in Coalville, it would cost the council between £400,000 and £600,000 every year, which would impact on the overall budget.

Changing parking charges would be a political decision made by the ruling administration of the council.



Empty land and buildings

The council should buy land and empty buildings in the town

We don't have the funds to buy all land and empty buildings in the town, but we are proactive with the owners to push them to bring them back into use.

Where it makes good business sense and we have the funds, we do work to bring empty buildings back into use:

- We recently bought the Litten Tree to transform this empty building into a new indoor market for the town, to compliment the redesign of Marlborough Square
- We bought the former Pick and Shovel pub and supported emh to build an attractive apartment building
- We provided a £50,000 grant to Desirable Car to help them bring the former bus depot back into use

February 18 at 10:53 PM

Why can't they do something with the old rex cinema make that a multi function community centre for all..clubs for everyone Then Ping pong.. pool tables.. Ice hockey.. Bowling open one of the cinema screens can play classic films for all ages only change a few quid membership x 🙌

February 9 at 2:25 PM

Any idea what/who is going in the old Bus Garage??

Housing in and around the town

Why does the council keep allowing more houses to be built?

NWLDC is the planning authority and we grant or refuse planning permissions for housing developments.

Like all councils, NWLDC has to ensure there is enough housing supply for generations to come. Our Local Plan indicates that we need to provide 9,620 new homes up to 2031.

Development around Coalville plays an important role in providing the numbers of homes that are need.

People want to live in and around Coalville for many reasons – it is a good location, with good access to transport links a great community.

The south-east side of Coalville is a crucial part of the district plan to provide the necessary number of new homes. Planning permission has been granted for 3,860 homes on this land.

NWLDC is committed to improving Coalville so that people moving into new homes on the outskirts come and support businesses in the town and help it to thrive.

In cases like the former Pick and Shovel, and the land on Ashby Road, the council has built its own affordable properties. This is an important part of regenerating the town and brings more people into the town who then use the facilities it offers.



... have a feeling as more and more leases end. They will not be renewed and we will end up with housing on the site
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... This is what we need to make clear, we don't want housing in the town centre, we want more shops, restaurants, pubs and leisure facilities which would be normal for a town of this size.
Like · Reply · 2w

... think so too, they just want housing all over Coalville 😞 no interest in really regenerating it other than fake ideas that don't amount to anything. All smoke and mirrors
Like · Reply · 2w

February 17 at 7:17 AM
Good morning people, it's brilliant that more people are joining in the conversation. What is clear is that people don't want more houses/flats they want leisure facilities in the town centre
19
3 Comments



Coalville Park

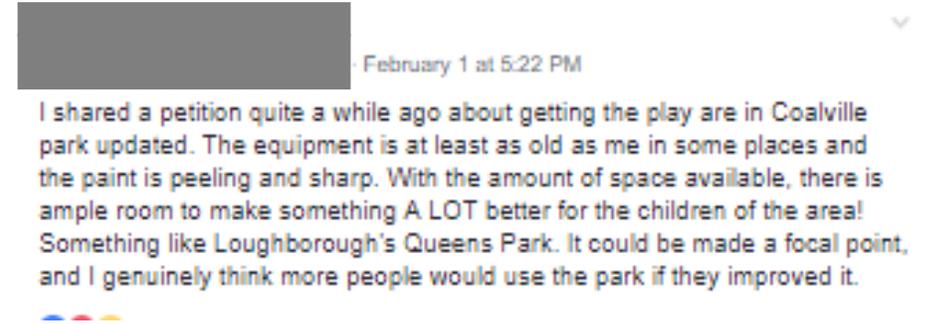
Coalville Park needs some new play equipment

We are supporting community members to create the Friends of Coalville Park group.

This group will help the public to have more of a say about what happens with Coalville Park.

As a constituted group, the Friends of Coalville Park will be able to bid for funding, hold events and recommend improvements for the park.

We'll be working closely with the group to make improvements.



Passenger railway / station

Will the council be re-opening the Ivanhoe Line and putting a station in Coalville?

We are supportive of reopening the line as this would bring new transport options to people in our district.

This would need significant investment in the railway itself.

A feasibility study done in 2016 looked at the costs of reopening the line and the potential income that would be generated from it if it was used as a passenger line.

This study showed that the costs involved with bringing the line up to standard and of running a passenger service make it prohibitive.

If evidence showed that the passenger line was viable and a company was found to provide the service, this would be something that we would support.