

Mike Quigley Column Know Your District Council

In my last column of 2007 I have some fantastic news to share with everyone.

This Council has helped secure a £250,000 lottery grant to invest in play provision for youngsters across the District.

We have been working closely with the Big Lottery Fund and community organisations from the area under the Bassetlaw Play Partnership to make this happen.

Now the news we have all been waiting for has come through, and the money, which will be invested in new play facilities across the District, could more than double to £600,000 if other funding projects bear fruit.

I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the hard work put in by Council officers and other agencies in making all of this possible and look forward to the exciting new projects this money will help fund.

Carrying on the good news theme – the Council's two new leisure centres will be up and running and open for business on 7th January 2008.

We have invested nearly £11 million in building the centres, and it certainly looks like money well spent to me.

With obesity becoming an increasing problem nationwide, we are doing what we can to get Bassetlaw people fit and healthy. Both leisure centres boast a six lane 25-metre swimming pool as well as a dance studio, sauna and steam room facilities and a 46-station fitness suite.

So for all those people making a New Year's resolution to get fit and active – why not sign up for a Council gym membership. Contact Worksop Leisure Centre on 01909 473937 for more information.

Unfortunately, despite strong representations from this Council, four post offices will still be closed in the New Year across Bassetlaw.

That means we will lose these vital community facilities and that is a great shame. I hope this does not lead to further post office closures and we will continue to campaign against post offices being closed.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year and all the best for 2008.