



Political difference put aside as Labour group cheers Tory Rivals' applause for councillor hurt after going to woman's aid

A councillor who was beaten unconscious when he tried to help a woman in distress has received a round of applause from his political rivals.

Leicester City Council's only Tory member, Ross Grant, experienced the unusual sensation of being cheered by the Labour majority benches in the Town Hall chamber.

It was the first full council meeting since the incident last month where Coun Grant was injured when he stepped in to help a woman who was being threatened by a man outside Leicester rail station.

The politician was set upon by the man and an accomplice, who kicked him to the ground and left him needing hospital treatment.

He was helped by other passers-by.

Lord Mayor Steve Corral led the tributes, saying: "An issue cropped up last month where Coun Grant was assaulted by two men on London Road while attempting to protect a lady who was being threatened.

"I would like to commend him publicly for his actions and hope he is feeling somewhat better now.

"Violence is unacceptable in

BY **DAN MARTIN**
Politics Correspondent

this city and if those people are apprehended they should feel the full force of the law."

Coun Grant told the Mercury: "Most of the time I find myself arguing with the Labour councillors in the chamber so yes, it was a little strange to have them clapping me.

"It has certainly never happened before and I don't expect it to again. We fall out a lot but this was a nice touch from them."

Coun Grant said he had also received an unexpected bou-

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Councillor Ross Grant

quet of flowers from the Labour group while he was recovering from his injuries.

He said: "I got a nice note from them and the flowers. They didn't need to do that, but they did.

"I'd just say again that what I did was the same thing that anyone would have done in that situation."

He said he had also received a call from Labour police and crime commissioner Lord Bach shortly after the attack.

He said we was now mostly recovered but still has a sore nose.

The police are looking for the culprits but so far have not made any arrests.

The attack happened at about 2.30am on Sunday November 18 when Coun Grant was heading home to Knighton after watching a tribute band called The Ramoned in the city centre.

He said: "After it happened a few taxi drivers came forward to say what they had seen and there was some CCTV, but you couldn't make out who was in it. The trail has sort of gone cold."

■ Anyone with information is asked to call Leicestershire Police on 101



ATTACKED: Councillor Ross Grant was set upon by two men

Pure animal attraction: Zoo's award for tourism

TWYCROSS Zoo has been presented with a special award recognising its investments in the tourist attraction, which have led to an increase in the number of visitors.

The past three years has seen ambitious strategic investments at the zoo in its infrastructure at the site and animal habitats.

As a result of its long-term development plan, Twycross has recorded an increase in visitor numbers of 6.2 per cent in 2015 and, looking further back, across the three-year period between 2012 and 2015, an increase of 20 per cent in visitor numbers.

COMMENDATION

This increase, as well as the zoo's financial performance, led to the judges of the Coventry and Warwickshire Tourism and Culture Awards giving them their special commendation award.

Dr Sharon Redrobe, chief executive officer at the zoo, said: "I am privileged to lead an outstanding team of dedicated and enthusiastic people, who all worked extraordinarily hard to make this happen within the financial constraints as a charity."

Supermarket reopens after £1.48m refit

ASDA Oadby supermarket has been relaunched following a £1.48million investment.

The relaunch was officiated at by its manager, James Oxbrough, alongside Jill Gore, chair of trustees for Age UK in Oadby, and one of the store's longest serving members of staff, Helen Dartnell.

Age UK's dementia-friendly garden was recently vandalised and, as a thank you for helping with the store event, Asda Oadby provided a new shed for the charity.

Helen has worked in the store's George department since 1987.

Store manager James Oxbrough said: "It was great for Age UK to come along to help us celebrate our relaunch alongside one of our longest-serving colleagues, and we were thrilled to be able to help out with the restoration of the charity's garden."

COMING UP

South American rodent is looking for love in Rutland
SEE PAGE 8

Hotel's delight at receiving Gold Standard recognition

AN UPPINGHAM hotel has been awarded the Gold Standard Establishment by the world-renowned Les Routiers Guide.

James Torbell, director of The Falcon Hotel, said: "We are delighted to have been presented with this respected and esteemed award. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Les Routiers and praise the hard work and dedication of our staff."

The hotel has recently undergone a renovation, with every room refurbished and re-equipped with the highest standard of beds, furnishing and bathrooms.

Most recently, the extension of The Falcon's Garden Terrace function room has seen the space transformed to seat 130 guests.



ACCOLADE: Falcon Hotel

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