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Residents living nearby say anti-social behaviour had been increasing at the derelict site

Police investigate fire at former social club

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Investigations are continuing into a fire at a former sports and social club, once described as being the 'hub of the community'.

Fire crews from Newark, Collingham, and Worksop were called to the blaze at the former Flowserve site on Hawton Lane, Balderton, at 7.34pm on Sunday, following reports that the sports and social club was on fire, causing extensive damage.

A spokesman for Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue confirmed the cause was believed to be deliberate, and it has been passed to Nottinghamshire Police.

Meryl Dickinson lives on Grosvenor Road and said that she saw huge flames coming from the building before emergency services arrived.

"I could see what I thought was huge clouds at first but it was a lot of smoke and then

heard the crackling over the fence," she said, "It went up so quickly."

The site, previously owned by Flowserve, a US pumps manufacturer, was put on the market in 2007 and remained derelict for over a decade until it was acquired in 2019. Lovell Partnerships and property developers CB Collier have permission to build 309 homes.

A resident on nearby Kew Gardens said anti-social behaviour in the area had got worse in recent years.

"It's been terrible," she said, "You get lots of kids going up there on their bikes and you used to see them battering things down in there [the social club], we thought something like this would happen."

Balderton parish councillor Jean Hall has spoken of the community's dismay at this latest state of events, as

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Emergency services tackle the fire at the former Flowserve site. Photo: Notts999fire

Jailed for assault

A man has been jailed over a vicious drunken town centre assault that left his victim unconscious

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Revamp approved

Changes to Newark Market have been narrowly agreed, despite concerns over the impact on its character

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Tributes to rugby player

Tributes have been paid to a young Southwell rugby player killed in a crash on the way to training

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WIN TICKETS AND A PIZZA PACKAGE TO EASTER FAMILY FUN DAY AT SOUTHWELL RACECOURSE: PAGE 17



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