



March News from Marianne Overton MBE

Lincolnshire County Council
LCC and North Kesteven
District Council NKDC

Wishing you all the very best!

This is my personal newsletter to let you know what I am doing on your behalf and to keep in touch with you. Let me know if I can help with anything.

New layer of Government with tax-raising Mayor?

It seems the Government appear to want a new layer of Government, called a Combined Authority, including a tax raising Mayor in May next year. The minister, Michael Gove, says Mayors are “directly accountable local politicians with a mandate and a mission and a responsibility to deliver economic growth and improved opportunities for people in their area.” That is what our cross-party councils do now. Handing that instead, to a handful of people of one or at best, two parties, leaves you and your elected representatives out in the cold.

Money promises: These authorities can bid for funding with a good business plan “focused on improving the economy”. That’s the same as we do now. And we are currently spending not the £24m they suggest, but £360m on new transport projects in Lincolnshire alone. If we combine to form the huge area of Greater Lincolnshire, then we compete for funding with the freeports and failed industries of North and North-East Lincolnshire, while in rural Lincolnshire, enhancing the economy means more expensive housing and more solar industry. And we already have plenty of that.

Accountable? They say the Mayor will be more visibly accountable, but for what? Which council will be responsible for which part of transport, of housing or education? There are already 19 “devodeals” covering over 33 million people and no two are the same. In my book, that is *less* transparent and *less* accountable.

“Network North” funding was announced this week at £4.7 billion, for Travel and Transport next year after the election, mainly aimed at the Midlands and the North, from the Government’s failed HS2 extension. In Lincolnshire, we received £262 million. This money should come to Lincolnshire County Council for our roads and transport infrastructure, not the new Mayor and the

handful of people who make decisions for the new Combined Authority, with different objectives in mind.

If, like me, you feel this is a really bad idea, please kindly sign the petition [here](#). Please share our petition against the deal, giving our team a foundation to raise at full Council. [Link to Petition](#) The public [consultation](#) has voted *against* the Devodeal governance Q6, though you need to go to the appendix page 54 to find it! 56% of people making a preference, went against the deal. (1945/3456)



Money for our Councils – good news

As Vice Chairman of the Local Government Association, I had a good opportunity to help make the case for improved funds for our local councils. We got an extra £600m, and Lincolnshire has got its share.

For Lincolnshire County Council, we received an extra £8.4m, which we allocated to roads, flooding, tackling anti-social behaviour, fire and rescue in floods and the Green masterplan, tourism and public rights of way.

This year Lincolnshire County Council alone has £1.4bn to provide essential services, including schools, plus a capital fund for building of £150m more this year. Reserves stand at £139m much of it in school budgets. We have £50m extra Government grants this year for roads and transport, £65m including schools. The Government calculates our needs, based on us increasing tax by the full amount, so we would be short if we failed to raise tax by much less than the 5% expected for County Councils.

Our District Council received an additional grant of just under £200K which was included in the final cost of £55m for the year, less income of £35m leaving a net cost £19.7m from the Council tax. That adds just less than £5/year or 10p/week to a band D property. The capital programme this year is down at £23m, rising next year as more building comes on stream. Reserves are at £76m and borrowings £110m.

On both our Councils, savings and efficiencies were made, and services upheld or strengthened – hooray!

Why is more money needed locally?

Government grant funding dropped by 40% in real terms in the decade to 2020. Councils have had to reduce costs or services and increase income from taxes and charges. We have extra to pay for Adult and children's care, whilst 4% inflation and living wage increases was over £8m on its own, just this year. At the Local Government Association, we calculate a £4bn gap in funding for English Councils. A third say they are at risk of being effectively bankrupt. Those that have declared, are making huge cuts now, the same cuts we already made in libraries, road maintenance, support for the voluntary sector, leisure and arts. Result? We are now playing catch-up on collapsing roads.

Council Housing

19 new homes were purchased in Navenby where we have high demand, and a few at Leadenham. Rents on our 3,883 council houses are rising by 7.7%, in a calculation set by the Government to keep up with repairs and maintenance. (Consumer Price Index inflation plus 1%) There is also a capital budget for building and purchasing homes for us to rent out. The Housing Association rents are set a bit higher at 80% commercial value. Lafford Homes, an arms length property company of our District Council, are renting at commercial rates.

Working on further funding for Councils

The Internal Drainage boards (IDB's) are responsible for getting water out of the field drains and into the rivers, where the Environment Agency takes over. To protect the nation's farmland and rural areas, the IDB's take any money they need directly from the District Councils, adding to our Council tax. Large flat areas like ours, need a lot of pumping, which has been rising in costs with more extreme weather. Last month, I spoke in the Houses of Parliament on behalf of all Councils in England, seeking to secure long term national funding that was not out of our local pockets. The event was well supported by our MP's and leading councillors and is part of an ongoing campaign.



Leading Independent Councillors from North and South Kesteven, Boston and Newark and Sherwood.

Your voices: Event at the White Hart, Lincoln

I was pleased to host an event for Independents, fully booked at the White Hart Hotel in the heart of uphill Lincoln. Independent Council Leaders from South Kesteven and Newark and Sherwood District Council some shared secrets of their success. A new Lincoln member gave a Youth View and Councillors from across the East Midlands spoke on the soap-box stand. It was exciting to join up our meeting with the national Independent Network Saturday event online.

Local man Steff Wright, spoke powerfully as one of our "ethical multi-millionaires", speaking about his ethical business investments in food, *Gusto*, and eco-dwellings, calling for a level playing field in developments, so that all new houses have to be built to the same high energy efficient standard.

We ended the day with a private guided tour of the Castle walls with fantastic views for many miles around in the lovely evening sunshine, and a meal for those who still had energy to chat. If you would like to organise an event or just join in, please get in touch.





Strengthening our Independent councillors

Last week in Warwick University Business School, I led the third and final weekend for our tenth cohort of up and coming Independent Group councillors, graduating with distinction! It has been brilliant working with sixteen fantastic councillors through this amazing process and I look forward to seeing them achieve great things for their communities. It is incredibly heart-warming to hear of our members making great new successes, including two TV appearances and a motion passed unanimously this week!

Team UK



I had a fascinating meeting in Belfast this month with the team of councillors, who together represent our four countries of UK. Just two weeks after Michelle O'Neill took her seat in the Government of Northern Ireland, we found councillors relieved that much suspended work could begin and keen to share good practice across our organisations.

Civility

Nationally, I am leading a cross-party campaign about civility and respect when we disagree and when we agree. This week we had a big success where £31m is being given to the Police to take up one of our recommendations; to protect democracy by ensuring a consistent response to abuse of elected members, both councillors and MP's. That provides for an officer to respond appropriately at all times. Hooray!

Support for Sleaford Market Square

Consultation is now taking place on how to improve the plans proposed. Huge thanks to all the campaigners, especially Tony Henderson, who sadly died fighting for this cause. I paid tribute at his funeral this week at St Denys in the Market Square.

Transport for you: Call Connect Minibuses

The new Callconnect booking app is here. The service is available for all ages and abilities, where no regular service provides. They connect local communities and link with other transport options throughout Lincolnshire.

- On- demand and timetable bus services operating Monday to Saturday
- Bookable from 7 days in advance up to 1 hours' notice (subject to availability)
- Free concessionary travel and all single fares are capped at a wallet- friendly £2
- For anyone and everyone!

The app is free and quick to download! Register your details, select your pick up/ drop off points and select your journey available. You can use your local Callconnect bus service for shopping, going to work or college, visiting friends and more!

**Demand-Responsive
Transport in Lincolnshire**



lincsbus.info/callconnectapp | 0345 234 3344

Tackling Industrial Solar Developments

The huge scale of industrial developments continues to be a significant battle with unlimited applications coming in - 58,000 acres in Lincolnshire right now.



There is a good speech from one of our Lincolnshire Independent members, Cllr Peter Overton putting a motion to call for limits on the industrial solar developments, seconded by colleague, Cllr Mitch Elliott. The motion was amended and passed unanimously. He has now worked with the leader and officers to create a way to strengthen our planning system, which has been submitted to Government.

www.lincolnshireindependents.org.uk

The main issues raised so far is the size of the projects, well over 2,000 acres each and loss of country landscape that is currently growing crops, whilst other measures such as insulation and roof panels are still not in place, even on large commercial buildings. Our Parish Councils and public are doing an amazing job working through all of the issues in detail.

Interested?

Please come to the Public Meeting on April 9th 5-7pm at the Hammond Hall, Lincoln Road, Bassingham LN5 9HQ.

Working to improve our highways

With so many poor weather days, filling dry potholes has been a hard to do. Nevertheless, over the past year we have fixed more than 110,500 potholes, repaired 224 miles of roads, rebuilt 77 miles of footpaths and cleaned 192,235 drains. Please keep reporting road issues on "Fix My Street", and to me, as your local county councillor, if repairs take too long. Staff monitor the website closely and with photos are often able to directly order the work. We have significant improvements up to the year end, but much more to do, held back by the ongoing rain.



Please continue to report issues on the map on www.fixmystreet.com or ring 01522 782070.

A huge thank you to our local volunteers

Thank you for all you continue to do in our communities and your kind support. Good luck in all you do.

Best wishes,

Marianne

Marianne Overton MBE

Working together for people and planet



March Events

- Friday Walks from the Venue 10am for 10.15am Register
with Ray Holloway 07535 701115 Booking not essential
- 7th Norton Disney Tea and Chat in Village Hall 2-4pm
7th Cha and Chat Welbourn Village Hall 2-4pm
7th St John's Church, Temple Bruer AGM 7.30pm
9th Books and Butties Wellingore memorial Hall 10am-12.
10th Mothering Sunday
12th Royal British Legion at the Marquis of Granby,
Wellingore at noon
13th Coleby Library and Coffee Morning 10.30
13th Wellingore U3A AGM Memorial Hall 10.30am
14th Friendship Club Navenby Methodist Church Hall 2-4
14th Stand-up Comedy at the Marquis of Granby,
Wellingore £15 in advance, £17 on the door Book here
www.comedyhotspot.co.uk Open 6pm for 7.30pm
15th Flix in the Stix Brant Broughton 4.30pm for Children
and 7pm Adults
16th Welbourn Coffee Shop in Village Hall 10-noon.
16th Carlton le Moorland Coffee Morning 10-noon
19th Bassingham Lunch Club noon, Hammond Hall, Book
with Book with Lyn 01522 426498
20th Leadenham Wednesday Club Tea and cake 2-4pm
22nd Hoagy Musical Eve at Leadenham Vill. Ha. 7.30pm
22nd Welbourn Easter Bingo 7pm
23rd Coffee Morning, Navenby Methodist Hall 10.15-noon
23rd Coffee Morning, All Saints Church, Harmston 10.30-1
23rd Frank Birkbeck Trio Quality live music. Harmston
Tickets £7.50/10 07884 435730 6.30pm for 7.30pm
23rd Folk Evening at St Mary's, Carlton le Moorland, £10
incl. refreshments Tickets 01522 788748 7pm
24th Leadenham St Swithun's Brunch 11am -1pm
24th Scavenger Hunt at Whisby with Wildlife Watch 10am
Book with Marianne or Jean jcmartin0448@gmail.com
26th Shep's Quiz Harmston Memorial Hall 7.30pm
28th Friendship Club in Navenby Methodist Ha. 2.30-4.30
28th Withamside waste Not Want Not donate 9.30-
11.30am, collect 1-3.30pm at St Michael's Bassingham
29th Good Friday Walk of Witness from the Rise, Navenby,
to the Methodist Church, for outdoor service at 11am,
followed by coffee and buns in the hall. 10.30am

APRIL

6th Forge opens 1st Sat every month 10am

6th Car Boot at Bassingham

8th Leadenham Tennis AGM

9th Public Meeting on Industrial Solar Developments 5pm-7pm Hammond Hall, Bassingham

14th [Countryside Lincs](#) 2024 Lincolnshire Showground £11 and £6, under fives free. 10am – 4pm

Some Useful information

Lancaster Gateway, Norton Disney

This inspiring epic is remembering the sacrifices and how people fought so that we could have freedom today. Donations here. <https://www.bombergatewaytrust.co.uk/>

Take the Bus Campaign

Buses are still only £2 per journey, any journey. Timetables and info is here. <https://lincsbus.info/> or call 0345 234 3344. The Transport Helpline is 0345 456 4474.

Old Printer Cartridges for Charity

Richard Wilson wants your empty printer cartridges at 11 Chapel Lane, Navenby to raise funds for the Juvenile Diabete Research Foundation. Seal them in an envelope and pop them through his door. Or ring 01522 810373

Support from Local Charities

Sir Christopher Nevile/Summers [Charity](#) for residents of **Aubourn, Haddington and Thurlby**. For people who need a bit of help. Local Trustees. Apply 01522 788236

Carlton le Moorland Young People's Trust 07943 760 155

Navenby Heritage Trail

Have you explored the 2.5km [Navenby Heritage Trail](#)?

Useful Contacts

Healthy Eating

Local shops who deliver

East Midlands Dairy 01636 614760

Nick Streeter's fish etc. 01400 272547

Grocery Paul Barton 07970 115351

Greens, Bassingham 01522 788200

Welbourn Post Office and Stores 01400 272242

Pub and takeaway meals

The Joiner's Arms, Welbourn 01400 279356

The Red Lion, Wellingore 01522 810071

Marquis of Granby, Wellingore 01522 811100

The Kings Head, Navenby 01522 810367 open

The Tempest, Coleby 01522 810258

Thorold Arms, Harmston 07971 029 534

The Bugle Horn, Bassingham 01522 789773

The Five Bells, Bassingham 01522 788269

The White Hart, Carlton le Moorland 01522 788893

Generous Briton Brant Broughton Tues-Sat 01400 272119

Black Swan, Beckingham 01636 626474

Akash Indian Takeaway 01522 811126 Navenby

Navenby Chinese Takeaway 01522 810773

Cooked meals

[Andy's Fish and Chips](#) Van Bassingham Tues,

Skellingthorpe Wed, Caythorpe Thurs 5-8pm

[Hot lunches for senior citizens](#) 01522 404025 Bassingham, £5 for two courses. Book by Sunday 5pm

[Primary hot lunches](#) Thurs and Sat 01522 788488

[Age UK](#) will deliver 21 small single person meals for £20, plus £7 delivery 03455 564 144

Hollynelstropcatering@gmail.com - weekly meal boxes

[Sarah's Bakes and cakes](#) caron@awharrison.com Amazing @Sara's Cakes & Bakes

Business Advice is free from NKDC Phil Means on

07920 472671 www.businessnk.co.uk @BusinessNK

www.businesslincolnshire.com

Business www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/grants-funding

First Aid Course online

St John Ambulance stjohnambulance@email.sja.org.uk

Parish Offices for local support and information

Navenby Venue Tuesday to Friday 10-noon

Witham Office at Bassingham in the Hammond Hall,

LN5 9HQ 01522 789758 Open Mon, Wed, Thurs 9-1pm

Local Police Statistics <https://www.police.uk/>

Access to Wellbeing Services and Care

[Covid Helpline](#) continues 01522 782189

The Carers service 01522 782224

carers_team@lincolnshire.gov.uk

[Support for Adult care](#) is available 01522 782155

[Supporting People](#) 01522 782140 www.wellbeinglincs.org

[Umbrellas](#) events supporting all ages with additional needs and their families umbrellaslincoln@outlook.com

#EveryMindMatters advise on coping with anxiety and improving your mental health: <https://qoo.ly/35q2xs>

[Mental health](#) www.connecttosupport.org

[Bereavement Helpline](#) St Barnabus 0300 303 1897

tracy.tuffs@stbarnabashospice.co.uk

Lincolnshire YMCA 01529 301965

www.citizensadvice.org.uk 0800 1448444 free 8am-6pm

www.getsafeonline.org Keeping safe online

[Know anyone suffering memory loss? Contact](#)

[Wheelchair loan](#): No Name Lodge Geoff Nelson 788213

Church Work and Services

www.graffoechurches.co.uk
sara.davies@lincoln.anglican.org 07768 706952
www.withamsidechurches.org.uk
Navenby Methodist Church 01522 685226
<http://lincolnmethodist.org.uk/circuit-services-weekly-live-stream/> David.lawton@methodist.org.uk

Venue Finder

420 Lincolnshire Village halls are registered here.
www.lincscommunitybuildings.org.uk

Useful Advice for Charities

<https://www.charityhowto.com/blog/>

To protect a house or business against flooding

<http://www.marydhonau.co.uk/information/how-do-i-protect-my-home-from-flooding/>

Roadworks www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/overnight-roadworks
roadworks@lincolnshire.gov.uk Twitter #lincsc roads

Business Support

www.businesslincolnshire.com
www.teamlincolnshire.com do monthly webinars

Community Larders

Sleaford Community Larder at the Newlife Centre
<http://www.communitylarder.co.uk/>

Help save lives and keep countryside clean

Report Potholes 01522 782070
<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/potholes>
Or use "Fix my street" on line – works well.
<http://www.FixMyStreet.com>
Report Litter 01529 414155
customer_services@n-kesteven.gov.uk
Report illegal parking 01522 511142 or
ParkingServices@lincolnshire.gov.uk
Adult Concern 01522 782151
Police: Sgt Ken Whyte, 101 or www.police.uk
07973 846537/235/5827
Floodline 24/7 on 01522 782082
Volunteer locally www.rivercare.org.uk
Wild Things Rescue 01526 578579 9-9 every day
www.wildthingsrescue.uk

Highways, Transport and Travel

Good newsletter from lincscountycouncil@gmail.com
Roadworks www.one.network lincolnshire.roadworks.org
Transport www.accesslincoln.co.uk shows all the options,
or ask accesslincoln@lincolnbig.co.uk 01522 581906

Call Connect 8.30am - 7pm Weekdays and to 5pm
Saturdays 0345 234 33 44 or 01522 553143
<https://lincsbuses.info/callconnect/>
Dial a ride 01522 544983 Disabled door to door
Car-sharing www.lincshare.co.uk
Trains www.thetrainline.com
Facebook Hykeham town rural NPT T @hykeham NPT
Buses www.lincsbuses.info or Traveline 0871 200 22 33

Mobile Library 01522 782010 or www.lincolnshire.gov.uk

Planning on line

See and comment on applications to get your voice heard.
Search "planning on line north Kesteven"
Local Plan www.central-lincs.org.uk 01529 308084

Village websites

Withamstaple.com; yourbassingham.co.uk
www.carlton-le-moorland.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk
www.facebook.com/groups/WhatOnInNocton
www.facebook.com/groups/455116074527966/ Navenby
and Wellingore business parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk
www.harmston.info www.navenby.net
dunstondossier.org.uk nocton.blogspot.co.uk
Welbourn, Leadenham and Coleby are on the LCC site
E.g. <https://leadenham.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk>
Branston www.tucann.co.uk/the-sheepwash-times
Branston Library 01522 880426
www.mrssmithscottage.com

County Events- Good web page here

Search Lincolnshire County Council out and about or use
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk search on "county news"

Mrs Smith's Cottage

East Road, Navenby LN5 0EP
Open Weekends Friday to Monday noon til 4pm
Entrance £3.50/£2
Step into a time capsule into the life of Mrs Hilda Smith
who lived a simple and principled life here to 102.
The Cottage is owned by North Kesteven District Council
and manned with the help of local volunteers – enjoy!



West Kesteven Wildlife Watch and RSPB Explorers

If you have children 7-13, please ask me for a calendar of
events, or jcmartin0448@gmail.com