



December News and Greetings from Marianne Overton MBE

Lincolnshire County Council
LCC and North Kesteven
District Council NKDC

Dear Residents,

Welcome to this newsletter. I hope you and yours are well. This is my personal newsletter to inform you what I am doing on your behalf and to keep in touch with you. Let me know if I can help with anything.

An Historic Breakthrough

It is an historic week as the first covid vaccines are administered, starting with the most vulnerable, older people and carers, and the NHS. It will be a long road and the three rules of face, space and hand washing do work.

Thinking locally, working nationally

The big national news this week was how much the government is giving for our local services. Working cross party with colleagues on the national body for Councils, where I am Vice Chairman, we produced very detailed supporting material to clearly demonstrate what is needed to keep councils afloat. We followed that up with on-line meetings.

Government have responded with some assistance in the short term, but not enough. They are expecting us to raise council tax to cover most of what is needed. Funding big items with Council tax is difficult because it is not shared out fairly across the country. We have asked for fairer funding and for secure funding of adult care in the long term, but both actions are now on hold.

A quarter of our income lost due to covid restrictions has not been supported, so our councils will be a bit short, probably taking some from reserves.

Nationally, Independents have also been fighting against proposals to vanish our current Councils into new layers of bureaucracy. The government put this on hold until after the elections in May.

The other battle picked by the government at this time is to do away with much of local planning. Thanks to many local people who looked carefully at the proposals and supported our objections. We await to hear more.



GoExplore Lincolnshire

Walk, ride and see Lincolnshire using a new app to find new routes from your phone.

Keeping healthy

“One You Lincolnshire” provides a real person to help you get on a healthier footing: food, exercise, alcohol or smoking, they can help with some fun ideas for success. <https://www.oneyoulincolnshire.org.uk/>

Fancy giving a hand in fresh air and exercise?

Fancy helping out in a covid-safe way, helping friends and neighbours with information and good wishes? You could take a few newsletters for your area, or take a part in the big delivery day, Sunday 20th December in Sleaford. A bit of exercise before Christmas is probably just the ticket! Give me or Cllr Robert Oates a call, co-ordinating volunteers 07500 928957.

Your View on Cycling in Lincolnshire

Thanks to all who responded to the call for improvements to the cycle network by the County Council. North Kesteven is now updating its strategy. It is a chance to gain further support for our local projects. Current strategy is at “cycle NK”. Cllr Green has put Bassingham to Lincoln forward as one important new route. You may like to add support. Ask your Parish Council for their support. Deadline 31st January 2021.

All libraries open for click & Collect

Please ring to book a book 01522 782010 or online.

EU: Days to prepare



Our EU Transition Board in Lincolnshire and nationally has met to raise local issues. With just days to go, we await to hear what tariffs we need to pay. The conservative “oven-ready deal” is still cooking.

Leaving the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland open, as it is, means EU staff will be checking goods from Great Britain arriving at the Northern Irish ports. The EU requires exporting hauliers to have their paperwork ready in advance and it isn't all ready yet. Anybody exporting, please don't forget to register.

<https://www.gov.uk/starting-to-export/within-eu>

There is a lot to yet be discovered, but it must be completed by the year end. New advice for citizens, businesses and councils is www.gov.uk/transition

There is a campaign to make Immingham and Grimsby into freeports. They currently employ 35,000 people and handle £74bn in trade every year. Freeports get tax reliefs, simple customs procedures and “streamlined” planning processes. Substantial new offshore wind turbines are planned for the Humber and the North Sea, set to quadruple.

European residents locally have until June to register for free residency under the “EU Settlement Scheme”. There is help from the Registrations department at LCC. An app can help, but if it fails, you will need to post your passport.

Housing objections due to traffic concerns

People frequently object to huge new housing developments onto already busy roads, because of the traffic congestion and pollution arising. A landmark case is in the courts now, seeking to prove whether a child's death was due to air pollution.

The Western Growth Corridor development of 3,200 homes near Tritton Road could make congestion worse and we, at the County Council, are objecting, asking for the road improvements first.

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Fighting for Better Planning

The government are demanding 300,000 new dwellings nationally, with each area taking the share they prescribe as a minimum. Services and facilities struggle to keep up. North Kesteven had 758 new dwellings completed last year, the most since 2012. The “concept plan” for the first part of the developments next to Bracebridge Heath were passed by the District Council last week. This area is earmarked for a total of around 6,000 more dwellings, plus a further 2,000 being built at Waddington.

The Skellingthorpe Rendering Plant is coming back to planning with amendments, probably February 1st. No news currently on the Norton Disney rendering site.

Creating a better Environment

Lincolnshire Independents have encouraged the Council to seriously tackle climate change, putting forward a motion to the very first Council meeting after the elections. The latest NK News shows how strong the intentions now are. We are working to embed improvements right across the work of the council and in its decision-making on planning.

Tree cover in our District is among the lowest in Europe at less than 6%. Independents started a working group for the Council to develop a tree strategy, helping to keep mature trees and encourage new areas of woodland. Our response to the new draft strategy is here.

www.lincolnshireindependents.org homepage



Tackling Homelessness

North Kesteven has received a considerable grant from Government to help find new accommodation and support for people who are homeless. If you know anyone who would benefit, please apply to North Kesteven and let's have no-one homeless this Christmas. 01529 414155 or by email at housingoptions@n-kesteven.gov.uk.

Tackling Covid

In Lincolnshire, infection rates have risen to one of the highest in the country. The rules are complex and there is huge anger at the closure of covid-safe gyms and hospitality businesses. The detailed rules are a bit complex, but we can keep our families safe, if we all keep the three rules. You can keep a check here.

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/interactive-map>

The detailed rules are here

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-3-very-high-alert>

There is plenty of useful guidance for venues, businesses and Parish Councils on the District Council website and Lincolnshire Business.

Helping Businesses: New Grants

There is a new grant for established businesses whose income has been hit by the government restrictions and have not received the previous covid grants. Further information on the District Council website, called the "Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)". Independents called for stronger support of small businesses and NKDC has responded, doing a great job. Phil Means provides excellent free business advice on 07920 472671.

<https://www.businessnk.co.uk/our-projects/our-team>

It is worth registering with North Kesteven District Council for the business newsletter. [@BusinessNK](#)

Also www.businesslincolnshire.com

Guidance for the self-employed

The Self-Employment Income Support Scheme grant extension, that provides critical support to the self-employed in the form of grants, has been extended and made available for 3-month periods covering November 2020 to January 2021 and February 2021 to April 2021. The grants will increase from 55% to 80% of average profits - up to £7,500. More on the government website.

Creating a greener future - grants

If you are in the business of developing technology or manufacturing to help a greener economy, there is £134m Projects examples include using AI to reduce beer waste in the brewing process and converting seaweed into compostable packaging to tackle plastic waste set to benefit. Have you got a plan?

Helping Communities: New Grants

Lincolnshire County Council has a rolling programme of Covid grants with decisions notified within 4 weeks. Working with the Lincolnshire Community Foundation we have £200,000 from DEFRA funds for local groups, charities and organisations that are combating hardship including economic, social or health impacts caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Eligible groups can apply for up to £5,000 to support the ongoing needs of vulnerable people and successful projects might include those that address: loneliness and isolation, mental health support, financial hardship, digital exclusion, telephone befriending etc.

Eligibility: Not for profit community groups, PTAs, social enterprises, community interest companies that have a governing document, accounts, bank account and relevant policies and procedures. Parish and town councils can also apply, provided the funded activity is not part of their statutory duty. New groups can ask a trusted partner to hold funds, should they be successful. Foundation staff can give advice about these matters if required.

Further information: contact Sue Fortune or Helen Cater on 01529 305825 or download details from

<https://lincolnshirecf.co.uk/grants/>

Schools



Remembering before Covid; Opening Potterhanworth Preschool

School children are working well under Covid guidelines, with 85% - 90% attendance overall, though some schools are harder hit. A hundred schools have had no cases at all. Children who have to miss school should have work at home, so they do not lose out. School play equipment is cleaned in order for children to use it and parents may want to do likewise out of school.

Broadband and Phones

I am working with the County Council to get improvements in more areas for both mobile phones, broadband and wifi.

EE has a contract with the emergency services to get wireless signal everywhere. Companies are sharing rather than competing in a new venture between EE owned by BT, Three, O2 and Vodaphone.

On Broadband, we at the County Council are working with Quickline to get wireless broadband within six months in our area. This round of funding is for LN and DN, followed by NG and PE.

The government's new promise of £1.2bn over five years is less than needed and not expected to help Lincolnshire. We have had new cables laid on two roads across the heath from Wellingore. It should have been a simple task inserting cables, but the pipes were broken and clogged with mud so had to be dug up and replaced. I am hoping improvements are on their way now.



Council Tax help

There are discounts for single occupancy of houses, being on very low income and having very little savings, for example. The Government used to repay the Council for money not received, but now it impacts directly on what services the Council can provide. There are extra charges on empty second homes, currently charged double, proposed to treble. The proposals are out for consultation now with changes that are slightly harder. Please let the Council and me know what you think.

Search "NKDC council tax consultation"

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Business Feature



Mental Health

Our community help schemes have been magnificent and many are now thinking long-term, and some are securing the future as a Good Neighbourhood Scheme. Let me know if you would like to be part of that. You may like to register to become a dementia friend or champion. There is online help: www.dementiafriends.org



Poetry and art

The Love Lincs Plants team are running a Haiku competition that children and young people can enter. Please do share this with your Watch group families as some of them may want to take part. There is more information: search Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Haiku" on the trust's website here: www.lincstrust.org.uk/what-we-do/love-lincs-plants/haiku-competition There is also an art competition for adults which may interest some of you – please feel free to share this with your contacts too. www.lincstrust.org.uk/what-we-do/love-lincs-plants/lincspirational-plants

Christmas Carols

Thanks to everyone for the wonderful carol singing, everywhere, uplifting our spirits, Including every churchyard in Witham Group!

**Happy Christmas and Best Wishes from your local,
Lincolnshire Independent Councillor,
MARIANNE OVERTON MBE**

Thank you for your support.

*Kind Regards,
Marianne*



Useful Information

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

Befriending Service Lincolnshire YMCA 01529 301965

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

Church Services

www.graffoechurches.co.uk with Michelle Godbold

Christine Goldsmith rectorleadenham@gmail.com

Reverend Dee Freeman 01522 788383

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.lincsccommunitybuildings.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, plus PCSO's 101 or www.police.uk
07973 846537/235/5827

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

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/callconnect/35955.article

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.lincsbus.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.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

Most villages have sites on the County Council web like
this, including Welbourn, Leadenham and Coleby.

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"

Wheelchair loan: No Name Lodge Geoff Nelson 788213

Young People Grants Carlton Le Moorland 07943760155

Healthy Eating

Local shops who deliver

East Midlands Dairy 01636 614760
Oldlings meat etc. 01522 810228
Nick Streeter's fish etc. 01400 272547
Grocery Paul Barton 07970 115351
The Old Forge, Brant Broughton 07958 189650
Greens, Bassingham 01522 788200
Welbourn Post Office and Stores 01400 272242
Leadenham Farm Shop 01400 273988

Pub/takeaway meals

The Tempest, Coleby 01522 810258
The Bell, Coleby 01522 813778
Thorold Arms, Harmston 07971 029 534 re-opening soon
The Bugle Horn, Bassingham 01522 789773
The Five Bells, Bassingham 01522 788269
Generous Briton Brant Broughton Tues-Sat 01400 272119
Akash Indian Takeaway 01522 811126 Navenby
Navenby Chinese Takeaway 01522 810773

Pre-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



Covid support Groups

A huge thank you to our local volunteers

Amazing work done by willing volunteers delivering food, medicines and offering neighbourly support.

- Aubourn and Haddington Luke Warwick 07765 900099
Hayley 07928 032 866
- Bassingham Support Group 01522 404025
- Beckingham C' Group Philip Wells 07930 990 950
- Brant Broughton and Stragglethorpe The Old Forge
Village Shop delivers locally free. 01400 273796, 07958
189650 9.30am-5pm Tues-Sat, Sun 10-4pm, Mon am.
- Carlton Le Moorland, Norton Disney and Stapleford
Nicola Smith 01522 404024 120 volunteers
contact@CleMsupport.co.uk
- Coleby Parish Council Sue 01522 810509
- Leadenham Volunteers 07519 308247
- Rector Christine Chris Goldsmith 01400 679081
07494870701 or rectorleadenham@gmail.com
- Welbourn Volunteers Alison 07 377 219 268
- Graffoe Parish Rector Michelle Godbold 01522 426723
with 75 volunteers, including daily phone calls.
- Witham St Hughs Jason Snape on 07894 872 533

December Carol Singing still to go

Bassingham 15th, Carlton Le Moorland 17th, Stapleford 18th
and Norton Disney on the 22nd

