



**Lincolnshire County Council LCC  
North Kesteven District Council NKDC**

**News from your local, Independent Councillor,  
MARIANNE OVERTON MBE**

## **Money for Lincolnshire**

National government has continued to keep hold of your income tax and not send it for local services. At the same time, extra demands from more people with more complex needs and a rising minimum wage has increased costs. The Councils have reduced services and raised local tax by the maximum amount allowed. The County with big costs like roads, adult and children's care is also taking £35.8m out of reserves over two years and sold off assets. The District Council provides around 10% of the local services and raised tax by £4.95/year per Band D dwelling.

In my national role, as Vice Chairman of the Local Government Association, I have been pushing for all of our business rates to be kept locally. This year for the first time, Lincolnshire is one of ten pilot Councils that is allowed to do just that. This is expected to mean we have over £18m more, with £7.5m going to the County Council and £1.2 to the North Kesteven District.

We also have a further £1.7m from the government for rural roads, added to £2.5m from reserves, £4m from an underspend (!) making around £8m more for highways.

## **State of our Roads**

Even before the snow, you will have noticed our roads are in a poor state. The amount of money spent on keeping our roads in order has been reducing steadily. This is a false economy as the roads then deteriorate ever faster as the water gets in.

I rang highways every day last week before the freeze, raised the issue at full Council and met the Director.

Richard Wills is now the Acting Chief Executive of LCC, following Tony McArdle's departure.

He accepted the criticism. They are behind schedule, even more so now the weather has worsened. As the water gets into the broken surface, it freezes and simply pops out the tarmac in a pothole.

The Director also accepted that we need to do more proper repairs. Their calculations had been that it was cost-effective to do thousands of emergency repairs for safety, but I argued they are popping out more quickly than expected. He acknowledges that this is also a reputational issue and is now changing the operations to do better repairs with the extra funding.

The diversion of the A17 traffic through our little lanes has caused immense damage which needs to be put right. Mud on the road is normally a police matter which has to be made safe within 24 hours. I examined the damage last Wednesday, prior to reporting it.

It remains important to report deep potholes, as the contract for repair in 28 days is still in place. It gives me the lever I need to hold them to the contract. It is best to report online; Lincolnshire County Council website, top right, "report a highways fault". Or phone 01522 782070.



Fieldfare braving it out waiting for us to put out stored apples.

## **Snow**

It is pretty rare to have all roads in Lincolnshire closed! My daily work on getting the backlog of potholes filled has paled under the load of a drifting blizzard! What a humdinger St David's Day, the first day of our Acting Chief Executive Richard Wills. The poor weather put a heavy strain on our public services, and they coped well.

A huge thank you to all who have been out checking on neighbours and helping out. Others, like me, offered help on social media and the District Council held a bank of volunteers. **Welbourn** Parish Council is also gathering a volunteer group. Contact Sarah on [welbournparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:welbournparishclerk@gmail.com)

## **Working children**

Did you know that children under 14 and less than year 12 need a work permit issued by the council if working part-time? For more information contact Miriam Shucksmith on 01522 554990 or [CEE@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:CEE@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

## Council Service in Bassingham and Navenby

The Witham Office is open at Hammond Hall Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9-1pm for any council business and free access to the internet. It's a great service, please try it and let me know what you think. The Navenby Office at the Venue is open weekdays Tues-Fri 10am to noon

## Planning

I continue to fight for better funding for our communities. The government has set the rules against us and in favour of the developers. Some party members do not find it easy to challenge as they know the underlying objective is to get more houses built. The costs on us and stretching of services to breaking point cannot be allowed to continue. If we cannot afford to build the houses and provide what is needed for those residents, in a sustainable way, then why do it? The "housing crisis" is not a Lincolnshire issue.

Planning applications are coming back to committee to be let off their obligations to contribute to the community costs that arise from the development. For example, £173, 303 is being handed back on the Top Farm, Navenby and the amount of affordable housing dropped from 35% to 25% at the same time.

At Witham St Hughs, 1,250 new dwellings are planned. Experts calculated the extra cost to some basic infrastructure would be £14.4m. The planning committee agreed £8.5m in 2016. In February, they came back and were allowed to reduce that to just over £6m.

Who is going to pay for this shortfall or do we just go without? I am taking this up locally and nationally. The planning still seems to be a developer's charter, with us paying the price. Will this housing help local people? The amount of affordable housing (85% retail value) has been reduced from a normal 35% to 16.7%.

## Consulting on Key Planning Applications

You can comment on live applications or search "planning on line North Kesteven or "<http://planningonline.n-kesteven.gov.uk/online-applications/>

## Rendering Factory at Norton Disney

As of today, there is no news on the application at Norton Disney. The Leo Group is continuing with plans to improve their current site. Comments are being collated ready. Write to [dev\\_planning@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:dev_planning@lincolnshire.gov.uk) and copy me at [marianne.overton@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:marianne.overton@lincolnshire.gov.uk) For information, the planning officer is [neil.mcbride@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:neil.mcbride@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

## Norton Disney

A local resident has applied for permission for an art installation, a memorial consisting of a steel replica AVRO Lancaster Bomber overlooking the A46. 18/0149/FUL

## Harmston Pub, Thorold Arms

Change of use to a dwelling. Comment on 18/0137/FUL

## Witham St Hughs

There is just over half a million towards a local health facility which I wanted to tie down to the village of Witham, encouraging the NHS to use it there. The overall reduction in contribution was agreed, but the health part delayed. Application number 15/1347/OUT

## Waste site, Boundary Lane, South Hykeham

Despite my objections, planning permission was given to treat asbestos on site. The Council's enforcement officer has been to check and is requiring them to seek permission for further unauthorised work. (PP-06536057)



## Local Voices, International Influence

European regulations on waste and climate change are being adopted by the UK. With your voices about local recycling points ringing in my ears, I spoke in Brussels last week, representing you and 130,000 councils across Europe. I called for regulations that work in rural areas.

## Garden Waste

Composting at home means you get to keep the nutrients in your garden. Or the District Council will do a fortnightly collection for £30/year. To rejoin call 01529 414155 during working hours or [www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/gardenwaste) They also have a good value service to remove large items

## District Council By-election

Thank you to all who voted on or before February 22<sup>nd</sup> in Eagle, North Scarle, Thorpe on the Hill, Swinderby and Witham St Hughs. There was a 21.3% turnout: C. Byron Liberal Democrats 64 P. Rothwell Conservative 563 Elected. Nikki Dillon Lincolnshire Independents 347

## Community Award

Rotary and the Wildlife Trusts present Lincolnshire Environmental Awards for groups or individuals who take care of our environment. Send up to 300 words describing your work or your nominee. Deadline 31<sup>st</sup> March [www.lincsenvironmentalawards.org.uk](http://www.lincsenvironmentalawards.org.uk)

## Three Centenaries in 2018

A hundred years of the RAF, a hundred years since armistice and a hundred years since some women got the vote! Our Cliff Cluster agreed to organise a series of celebrations along the string of villages in September. If your village would like to do something to mark the occasion, there are grants available of up to £2,000. Please get in touch with me.

Thank you all for your support and for all you do for our communities. Let me know if I can help further.

*Kind Regards,*



**Marianne Overton MBE**

*Marianne*

### Councillor Marianne Overton MBE

Independent Councillor for Branston and Navenby on Lincolnshire County Council and for the Cliff Villages on North Kesteven District Council  
Leader of the Lincolnshire Independents  
Vice Chairman of the Local Government Association

Follow me on  or 

## MARCH EVENTS

5-10<sup>th</sup> Holly Nelstrop's pop up plant shop at Leadenham Teahouse. Delicious vegetarian lunches & teas.10-4pm  
6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Bassingham Lunch Club Book 789236 £5 noon  
6<sup>th</sup> Quiz Night at Harmston Memorial Hall 8pm  
7<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Lent lunches Beckingham Welbourn and Stragglethorpe £3.50 for TEAR 12.30-2pm  
8<sup>th</sup> National Women's Day  
8<sup>th</sup> Mobile library Carlton, Norton Disney, Bassingham  
8<sup>th</sup> Welbourn Gardening Club Village Hall *Primulas* 7pm

9<sup>th</sup> Bassingham Annual Parish Meeting for all, includes talk with Q and A on the Citizen's Advice Bureau 7pm  
10<sup>th</sup> Bassingham Village Garage Sale Book with Roger Hales 01522 789758 £5 10am-4.30pm  
10<sup>th</sup> Books and Butties Wellingore Memorial Hall 10am  
10<sup>th</sup> East of England Singers at St Helen's Church, Brant Broughton £7.50 adult/£3.50 children including refreshments and chat at the end.  
Wendygwatkin31@gmail.com 7.30pm  
10<sup>th</sup> St Chad's Roving Supper, Welbourn £18 from Jane or Fran 01400 273734 7pm  
11<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday  
13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Bassingham Lunch Club Book 01522 789935 £5 noon  
13<sup>th</sup> Presentation on a creating neighbourhood plan for Leadenham at the Village Hall 7.30pm  
14<sup>th</sup> Wellingore U3A Robin Dunsneath on "Ten years in an Irish Cottage" Tea at 10am for 10.30am start  
14<sup>th</sup> Royal Quiz Night  
14<sup>th</sup> March 2018 - the crime writer Sarah Ward is coming to talk to the library about her work. Her books feature female detective Connie Childs and are set in Derbyshire. Coleby Village Hall 10am  
15<sup>th</sup> Garden Group in the Hammond Tower, next to the hall, Bassingham Dr Andrew Ward on Marvellous mints and perfect poppies 7.30pm £3  
15<sup>th</sup> St John's, Temple Bruer, AGM 7.30pm  
16<sup>th</sup> National LGA Spring Conference for Independents at the Cathedral Centre and at the Collection in the evening, celebrating 100 years of the RAF. Homelessness, housing and planning, health services, brexit and our agriculture, women in the services and in Councils. If interested in coming along or in being a councillor, please contact Marianne on 07920 235 364 or Aimee at the LGA on 0207 664 3224  
17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Craft Club, Carlton Le Moorland Book with Sarah 01522 788901 raising funds for "Stamp out Cancer"  
17<sup>th</sup> All Saint's Wellingore Spring Clean 9.30am  
17<sup>th</sup> St Peter's Navenby Coffee Morning at The Barn, North Lane, Navenby 10.30am - noon  
17<sup>th</sup> Act Two 70's music night singalong with live band "The Midlanders" then DJ dance Bassingham Hall £10  
17<sup>th</sup> St Patrick's Day Party, Harmston £5 incl. hot food, live music with Matty Haines 7pm  
18<sup>th</sup> Farm Visit open to families with Wildlife Watch and RSPB explorers group. Rectory Farm, Beckingham by kind permission of Clare Leggott 0136 612 676 10am  
19<sup>th</sup> Carlton Le Moorland Lunch Club, Village Hall £3.50 All ages welcome. Book 788303 1pm

20<sup>th</sup> Navenby Archaeology Group, Methodist Church Hall  
 ex Time-team Carezza Lewis on test pits £3 7.30pm  
 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Bassingham Bowls Open Days with  
 refreshments and a chance to have a go. 2pm  
 21<sup>st</sup> St Chads Welbourn music appreciation society 7pm  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Library Aubourn, Haddington and Witham  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Chocolate Bingo at Welbourn Village Hall 7 for 7.30  
 24<sup>th</sup> Coffee morning, Navenby Methodist Church 10am  
 24<sup>th</sup> Lili La Scala Cabaret at Leadenham Vill. Hall £9.50 incl.  
 a glass of wine [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) 7.30 for 8pm  
 25<sup>th</sup> British Summertime  
 31<sup>st</sup> Hammond Hall Quiz, Bassingham, teams of 4 book by  
 27<sup>th</sup> 01522 788949 7.30pm for 8pm start

## APRIL EVENTS

7<sup>th</sup> Carlton Le Moorland Spring Show Village Hall opens to  
 all at 2.30pm  
 7<sup>th</sup> Jumble Sale Hammond Hall, Bassingham Bring after  
 1pm, opens 2-3.30pm  
 7<sup>th</sup> Welbourn Forge is open and working, as it did in 1864,  
 well worth a visit, a chat with volunteers and a browse  
 of the exhibition photographs.

## Useful Contacts

### Access to Wellbeing Services and care

NEW Children's Health 01522 843000

The Carers service 01522 782224

[carers\\_team@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:carers_team@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

Support for Adult care is available 01522 782155

The Wellbeing service will help set up and people in a  
 vulnerable position with finance, transport, support  
 groups etc. 01522 782140

### Roadworks

[roadworks@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:roadworks@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

To receive info' on twitter [#lincscs\\_roads](https://twitter.com/lincscs_roads)

### Help save lives and keep countryside clean

Report Potholes 01522 782070

[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/faultreporting](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/faultreporting)

Or use [www.FixMyStreet.com](http://www.FixMyStreet.com)

Report Litter 01529 414155

[customer\\_services@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:customer_services@n-kesteven.gov.uk)

Report illegal parking 01522 511142 or

[ParkingServices@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:ParkingServices@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

Lincs 2 Advice are on 0300 303 8789

Non urgent Health 111, Police 101, Electricity breaks 105

Fraud 0300 123 2040

Grants [community\\_lincs@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:community_lincs@n-kesteven.gov.uk)

Careers service 0800 100 900

## Transport and Travel

Call Connect 8.30am - 7pm Weekdays and to 5pm

Saturdays 0345 234 33 44 or 01522 553143

[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/callconnect/35955.article](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/callconnect/35955.article)

Dial a ride 01522 544983 Disabled door to door

Car-sharing [www.lincshare.co.uk](http://www.lincshare.co.uk), [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com)

## Some Recent Events



Congratulations to residents of Thorpe on the Hill whose  
 neighbourhood Plan was voted in by the public last month.  
 Turnout 39%, 153 yes, 16 no Good luck all!



In parliament, authors and contributors to a new book, "The  
 Voice of the Councillor", improving our work for residents.



Spring Crocuses at Fothergill Wood, Witham St Hughs