



Winter News November from Marianne Overton MBE

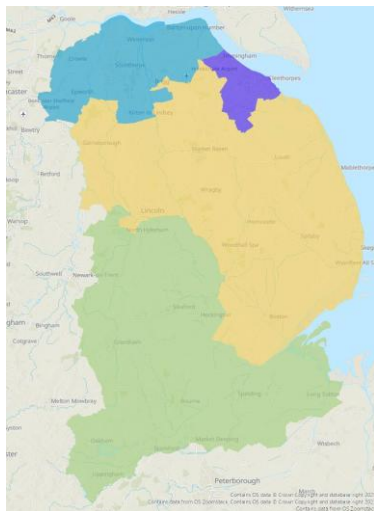
Welcome to my monthly personal newsletter to let you know what I am doing on your behalf and to keep in touch with you.

Let me know if I can help you. Text or call 07920 235 364

Local Government Reorganisation

Local Government Reorganisation centralises local powers into fewer hands. I see it as a costly distraction when we are already facing a shortfall. The “hope savings” just do not appear and powers go to the big Mayoral authority, not to our councils. Worse, it creates very large organisations that make it very hard for local people to be heard. If you thought our District Council was hard to influence, try something 7-10 times bigger!

However, if forced in Lincolnshire, the Independents prefer the smallest possible option of councils, focussed on our towns, such as Sleaford, Grantham, Spalding and Stamford. Ours would be the area shown as Green on the map. Full proposal is [here](#). Three proposals were submitted from Greater Lincolnshire and the Secretary of State for Local Government will decide, ready for elections to the new councils in 2027, they say. They plan a year overlap with District, County and Unitary councillors all in place at once.



Reorganisation into ever bigger areas was proposed by the Conservatives and continued by Labour.

Bigger areas mean people are less likely to know their local councillor and are more likely to vote on what they heard on social media or TV, and that favours the big parties with money for TV and targeted messages.

What's new is the fall of Labour and Conservative parties, and it has just been announced that the Mayoral elections are cancelled next year. In our County, only Lincoln has elections next year. As any Government loses support, it becomes difficult to implement unpopular policies, such as Local Government Reorganisation and mass industrial solar on farmland.

Solar: Time to Make your Voice heard!

The time has come! [Fosse Green application](#) is going to planning at North Kesteven District Council in Sleaford on **Tuesday 16th December 5pm**.

- Can you please attend? A show of force will help.
- Can you please write in? Every voice counts, even just a paragraph. Go to “Planning online north Kesteven”, register if new, and search on “23/0325/NSIP”

The officer's report going to committee is [here](#). 23/0325/NSIP - Fosse Green Solar Industry near Thorpe On The Hill, Morton, Witham St Hughs, Haddington, Thurlby, Norton Disney, Bassingham and Boothby Graffoe will affect North Hykeham, Navenby and all our cliff and lowland villages to Brant Broughton, as the applications connect. It changes the nature of our attractive villages set in rural and productive farmland to industrial solar.

There are 13 connections proposed, and Fosse Green is just one of them. The cumulative impact of industrial development is horrendous, swallowing 40 sq km of farmland, an area bigger than the whole of Lincoln.

Plus acres of up to 1,324 shipping containers filled with Lithium batteries, close to our villages, with all the risks that entails to us, and to our water supplies following fire.

The Fosse application is for 2,643 acres (5 miles) over 60 years. Almost a quarter is best quality land 3a. Solar panels are 3.5m high in fenced concrete compounds with their own inverters etc. Lithium batteries are either in the compounds or together in 128 acres. Cables up the Cliff Edge to Navenby take 867 acres of farmland. For context, a football field is about 1.5 acres.



Huge thanks for the letters you have already signed for me, over a thousand in total! I am meeting with the minister again next week, but online this time! I have asked our MP to organise an event for us to attend in Parliament to make our voices heard in the New Year.

Speaking on local issues

I spoke on BBC Sunday Politics East Midlands this week, available on BBC iplayer 7/12/25. Topics below.



Tourist Tax

We all need local services, and we pay council tax for that, which of course, tourists do not pay. So it's not unreasonable, as long as it little enough not to put people off and the money is guaranteed to go back into locally enhancing our visitor offer, so people want to spend more days here.

But it should be to our local Councils, not the Mayor. Local councils have councillors from across the area with brilliant local knowledge, important in improving the offer.

It needs to be easy to collect, not another administrative burden for businesses. Proud of our heritage here, so much to discover.

Minimum wage

£10.85 16-21 from April this year. Apprentices £8/hr 21 and over £12.71 from Nov

Yes, of course we want young people to earn more, but small business will need to have their burdens eased. Small businesses have seen increases in National Insurance, tax, pension contributions and now even tax on the tips you give.

What the government should be doing is focussing on the global businesses, the likes of Google and Amazon who avoid paying billions, leaving the rest of us to pay more.

Union flags

Of course, we all like to see our national flag proudly displayed, but do we need it on every lamppost and how often will they be replaced? A scruffy flag is certainly worse than no flag! The money could be better spent on our local communities, a fund which has been reduced.

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Tree Honour: East Midlands Tree outside number 10.

Delighted, it's a good job the area had not been covered with solar panels! Lincolnshire has just 4% tree cover, compared to ten times that in Europe. The Government aims to have 16.5% with an interim target of 106,000 acres more tree cover by 2030. With all these demands on our land, we need to put solar on roofs, not farmland.

Street Lighting

Following complaints, I have investigated the delay in getting streetlights repaired. Dean Kelly explained that lights in NKDC are coming to the end of their useful life. In some the inside socket is rotted, meaning we need specialist contractors to work on the live wires, without turning them off. (Called a Distributer Network Operator with fuse and socket.) Thus, it is not a simple job, and needs licence from National Grid, a specialist sub-contractor (3 months allowed) and may need a road closure. (12 weeks' notice required).

Other simpler lamp replacements can be done, when the new replacement lamps arrive.

Meanwhile NKDC is having to replace all their lights over to LED in a programme-managed by Ruth Denton, NKDC.

Saving Energy

A new guide is out helping you to save money this winter.

- Switching devices off at the plug instead of leaving them on standby can save **up to £45**
- Turning the thermostat down by just one degree can save around **£90 a year**
- Replacing old bulbs with LEDs can cut lighting costs by **up to 75%**
- Boiling water in a kettle instead of on the hob uses less energy

The full guide is here [104 energy saving tips for your home](#) Or visit the Centre for Sustainable Energy's page to find out **How to make a draught excluder**.

You can upgrade your boiler or have a more energy efficient heat pump under the Boiler Upgrade Scheme at thermly.co.uk.

We have pushed Government to put more grants into making homes warm and they have responded [here](#).

A full run-down of Grants was in my previous newsletter. Let me know if you need it resending.

Welbourn Horse Chestnut tree

What happened in 1897?

To celebrate Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee on the throne, a tree was planted on Welbourn Green. Sadly, that tree has finally got diseased and had to go. We tried pruning it in the hope of a rejuvenation, but no luck. It's time to plant another tree.

Q1 What kind do you think would be best? Oak, Beech, Hornbeam? Q2 Shall we have an event to mark the new planting?

Q3 What memories have you got of events on The Green under the old Horse Chestnut Tree?



Our Nature Reserves

Serving on the Advisory board of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust for many years, I have been pleased to support many improvements and areas protected to help everyone get the chance to experience our local natural world, close up. I am newly appointed by the County Council to the Snipedales Nature Reserve Management Committee. Our most local nature reserves are probably our gardens – worth a thought!

Have you seen the Autumn flocks gathering together and enjoying our fields lately? In the last week, we have seen 500 plus lack-headed gulls, 150 Pink-footed geese, 50 Redwing, 60 Goldfinch, 400 Fieldfare, 150 Skylarks and 5,000 Starlings. Fantastic to see, right in our home area.



Food Waste

Food waste is collected in North Kesteven from 2026, as required by Government. You get two smaller plastic caddies with a weekly collection. The food goes to make green electricity in a biodigester near Lincoln. More [here](#).

Business Spotlight

Welcome to new businesses in Navenby High Street, the Tethers at “Dress me Up” for smart clothes and wedding dresses, and Italian hairdresser, Salvatore Visconi, for drop-in men’s haircuts. Great to meet you and good luck!



Want to keep in touch?

If you know anyone else who would find this newsletter useful, please suggest they drop me an [email](#) here. I write a weekly bulletin which you can find [here](#). Please keep in touch with social media. [facebook](#) or @overtonmarianne Best wishes,

Marianne

Marianne Overton MBE

Working together for people and planet

Local services need local decisions

Are you following me on Facebook yet?

You might like it! Click [here](#).

Events

Huge thanks to all of you who have been making our local events so successful!

Our Commemorative events for Remembrance Day were well attended, as here in Sleaford.



Thinking of my father who was a tail-gun Charlie in the RAF, my mother who drove ambulances and my father in law, a decorated battle of Britain pilot: Just a few of those who gave so much.

Thanks to Marc Williams who hosted a packed Christmas "Thank you" event at Scopwick, during a pause in the Battle of Springwell. Announcement due in July 2026.



Navenby was packed with many busy stalls and happy people, in a very successful Christmas Lights on event.



A packed St Michael's Church in Bassingham enjoyed the Waddington Military Wives Choir, with lovely refreshments!



December Events

1st and 5th Wreath-making 6.30pm Carlton le Moorland Village Hall (Mon 1st) and St Mary's Church 5th £37/person Book 07951 438 875 maysand@btinternet.com

10th Coffee Morning Coleby Village Hall 10.30-12.30

11th Tea and chat, Norton Disney Village Hall 2-4pm

11th Welbourn Gardener's Club, Village Hall 7pm

12th Welbourn Christmas Bingo, doors open at 7pm

13th Welbourn Christmas Coffee Shop, Village Hall 10-12

13th Carlton le Moorland over 60's Christmas Lunch 01522 788303 Andy/Sue on 01522 788303 1pm

13th Songs and Carols St Mary's Carlton le Moorland 7pm

13th Christmas Quiz at Beckingham Social Club 7.30pm

13th Leadenham Christmas Dinner 01400 272413 £25 7pm for 8pm

14th Children's Christmas Party Hammond Hall, Bassingham 2-4pm

14th Circus Starlight Festive Cabaret at Leadenham Village Hall £10A, £8/child, or family tickets 4.30-6.30pm

14th Carols for Christmas All Saints, Stapleford 4pm

14th Carols around the Christmas Tree, Carlton le Moorland 6pm

16th Bassingham Primary Community Show 2pm

17th Singing and sound Navenby

17th Carols in the Barn, Middle Farm, Thurlby 7pm

18th Brant Broughton Coffee Morning, Village Hall 10-12

19th Joiners Arms Welbourn Christmas Party 8-late

19th Coleby Family Christmas All Saints 6pm

19th Carols by Candlelight Navenby Methodist Church 6pm

19th Christmas Bingo Hammond Hall, Bassingham 7.30pm

20th/21st Robin Hood Panto Wellingore Memorial Hall 07833 135034 2pm and 7pm

21st Christingle and crafts Witham St Hughs Village Hall 4pm

21st Christmas Carols All Saints Church, Beckingham 6pm and afterwards at the Social Club

21st Nine lessons and carols at St Peter's Church, Norton Disney 7pm

21st Carol Service & mince pies, All Saints, Wellingore 4pm

22nd Carols on the Green, Green by Coronation Cresc, Coleby 6pm

22nd Festive Florals with Prosecco and Bellinis £30 including take home table decoration Beckingham Social Club wendy68@btinternet.com 7pm

24th Christingle, St Peter's Navenby 3.30pm

24th Midnight in Bethlehem, candlelit carols St Mary's Church, 9pm

24th Graffoe Parishes Midnight Mass, Coleby 11.30pm

24th Midnight Mass at St Michael's Bassingham 11pm

25th Happy Christmas!

25th Christmas Communion St Germain's, Thurlby 9.30am

25th Christmas Communion, All Saints Wellingore 10am

26th Boxing Day Walk Welbourn Primary School 10.30-12

31st New Years Eve Party at Beckingham Social Club £5 7.30pm and Leadenham Village Hall £5 8.30pm

January Events

3rd The Forge, Welbourn 10-12

3rd St Michael's Coffee Morning, Carlton le Moorland 10.30-11.30

6th and 20th Bassingham Lunch Club 789935 noon

10th Books & Butties Wellingore Memorial Hall 10-12

14th Wellingore Memorial Hall U3A 10 for 10.30am

14th Coleby Coffee Morning Vill Ha 10.30-12.30

14th Munch Club, The Tempest, Coleby 1pm

15th Coffee Morning Brant Broughton Vill. Ha 10-12

15th and 29th Quiz at the Royal Oak, Aubourn

16th and 23rd Harmston happy hour Memorial Ha. 5-9

17th Coffee Shop, Welbourn 10-12

17th Carlton le Moorland Coffee Morning, Village Hall 10-12

17th Tea and cake Navenby Methodist Church 2pm

27th Military History Club Leadenham Village Hall workshop on the washing of spears £5 7 for 7.30

28th Book Club Robin Rose Bake & Books Navenby 10am

28th -321st Act Two Panto Rapunzel at Bassingham School Hall £11/£8 www.act-two.org

28th Tea@3 Wellingore Memorial Hall 3-4pm

31st Bassingham Community Emergency Team Engagement morning Hammond Hall 9.30-12.30

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who have put together such an amazing set of local village events in our beautiful countryside!

Some Useful information

[3 Villages Magazine](#)

[Witham Staple Magazine](#)

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 £3 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 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Ring 01522 810373 or pop through his door.

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 2.5km [Navenby Heritage Trail](#)

Useful Contacts

Local shops who may deliver

East Midlands Dairy 01636 614760
Nick Streeter's fish etc. 01400 272547
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
The White Hart, Lincoln (locally owned) 01522 526222

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:101 or www.police.uk NKDC Annual [Report](#)

Or hykehamtown.npt@lincs.police.uk Hykeham Jordan
07799082 456, Mick Rimmer 07827902489 and for the
Cliff Villages Matt Roberts 07796557600
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://lincsbuss.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.lincsbuss.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 online north Kesteven”
Local Plan www.central-lincs.org.uk 01529 308084

Village websites

Withamstaple.com; yourbassingham.co.uk
www.carlton-le-moorland.org.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
dunston dossier.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 0AP
£3.50/£2

Open Weekends Friday to
Monday noon til 4pm

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 by local volunteers – enjoy!

Thanks to wonderful Local people supporting our events