



March News 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

Money for Public Services

Councillors agreed the money to be used to support our council services.

Both District and County Councils have kept the rise in Council tax at under 3%, 12p/week for District on band D and more from County, which is four times as big. The District Council turnover is £65m, a third to be raised from council tax.

The Government have changed the way they decide how much of your income tax to return for local spend. The County Council benefitted by £36m, similar to the increase required for adult care. After a very late change, the District kept a similar sum to last year, but from next year, the Government support drops significantly. At District, 10% of net funds is spent on borrowing.

This year, the **District Council** is taking £1.5m out of reserves and allocating £5m of its reserves to pay for the reorganisation that nobody wants.

Planned capital spend for building is high, at a steady £120m borrowed, which is £556 per household and £32 on the Council tax. This is largely ear-marked for Sleaford Moor commercial area and other projects, still to be examined in detail. Reserves are planned to drop from £37m to £27m. Borrowing to build houses is in addition.

As Leader of the Opposition at District Council, I raised the following concerns; the high cost of borrowing, the cost of "reorganising" our councils. I asked for better support of our communities through a Councillor community grant, tackling litter, spreading the benefits of any spend through to the villages and rural businesses who are having properties revalued in April, likely leading to an increase in business rates going to the Government.

At County, the meeting lasted from 10am to 6.30pm, with short breaks for lunch and tea. It seems to be a record! We had 11 amendments, from all opposition groups including the Independents. We called for better flood defence funding, summer reading scheme and retention of the increase needed to meet our resident needs. The Council took less than 3% tax increase, rather than the amount the Government calculated we needed, 5%.

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In my next meeting, funding for the important service for mental health support was scheduled to be cut, you may know the high performing charity "Shine", that brings in a huge amount of voluntary support and remarkable successes. I argued fiercely that the council cannot say they cannot afford the service, when we chose not to raise what was needed. I have asked for further work to create a better solution.

I also supported the preventative work that helps keep adults healthy and the NHS able to cope, road surfacing and restoring the Grantham High Street. One party proposed a raft of cuts, taken from the Castle, children's transport and winter gritting.

The Independent Remuneration Panel had looked in great detail at exactly what councillors do and in their professional opinion recommended an increase of 13%, but the councillors declined.

Solar on Roofs, not Farmland!

Public Inquiry March 10th Open Floor Hearing 11th 4.30pm
LNER Stadium, Sincil St, Lincoln LN5 8LD Register [here](https://www.national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010154).



Huge thanks to everyone who supported or attended the packed Public Meeting at Welbourn Village Hall last week. As Chair of the group, I am proud of our community support and the determination and expertise in our action group. Katina Johnson and Frances Innes organised a significant team to leaflet in advance. Robert Cross, from Welbourn Parish Council, welcomed us to Welbourn, saying "another full turn out, which shows us that people do care". I opened the meeting as Chair of the Cliff

Villages Solar Action Group as well as County and District Councillor, and Leader of the Lincolnshire Independents. We had informative presentations on the Fosse Green Application from Nick Lyons, Chairman of Thorpe on the Hill Parish Council. Jeff Bartle explained the risks of large-scale battery storage, Alistair King spoke on land use and Barry Smith on Cyber security. Marc Williams from the Springwell Action Group, spoke about how much we need your support from the Communities.

Cllr Dan Brookes, lead member at Lincolnshire County Council and Dr Caroline Johnson MP spoke against the application. Thank you to everyone your kind donations to the campaign.

Please register to attend and/or speak at the Lincoln public Inquiry on March 10-12th. The open forum for all is from 4.30pm on the 11th. Please sign up and support.

Solar on Roofs, not Farmland

Global companies occupying our good farmland for the next sixty years with vast areas of glass, steel and concrete, paid for by us in tax and high electricity prices. While 630,000 acres of commercial roofs lie vacant? It's madness. This is one of three applications nearby, each the size of a London Borough. Want to help? Please get in touch. www.cvsag.org

It is a big battle, but there are changes that give us hope;

- 1) National need for solar is already fulfilled to 2035 according to the Government body, NESO
- 2) UK Safety agency is raising concerns on battery safety and put out a moratorium, which may be effective for us.

Visit from the Chief Executive

I am hugely proud of our communities and was delighted to have the chance of showing round our District Council Chief Executive, Kath Marriott to see our local successes and issues at first hand.



Thank you to fellow District Councillor, Cllr Hagues and Parish Councillors at Beckingham for the full tour from the river, traveller site, community woodland, memorial garden, dog-walking field, Church and the very popular Community Club. Thanks also to staff at Navenby

Parish Council who raised issues of parking and traffic, the school and the surgery. We also looked at the safety of the exit from Brant Broughton onto the A17, the new housing at Leadenham, the Polo Club and Pheasantries, the A607 and the vast proposed solar and battery sites.

Talking business, our refreshment hosts were "down the Road" in Navenby.



Supporting young people

Exciting night of awards to voluntary youth workers by Boys and Girls Club, and Lincolnshire County Youth Voluntary Services. Congratulations and thank you!



Supporting Health services

I questioned senior officers last week about the very temporary closure of Navenby Practice, now reopened. CQC registration requires at least two partners to be responsible and the Welby Practice gives opportunity to strengthen the medical offer. We want shorter waiting times and a wide range of services available locally. As an example, I visited the Co-op Health Hub in Birchwood to view the facilities with rooms for consultation, podiatry and hopefully even a dental hygienist in future. Is this possible in other areas?



What does a health hub look like? Co-op in Birchwood

Policing

I had a useful conversation with our Police and Crime Commissioner last week. With a good settlement from Government, and a 4% rise in tax, it is hoped to recover some of the police recently lost in poor previous budgets. We are a relatively low crime area, but the thin blue line needs to be there when we need it.

The plan to merge 43 into 12 regional forces, taking away powers from Lincolnshire continues. Also handing the powers from the Lincolnshire PCC to the Mayor. As with merging councils, there is no evidence that merging police forces would cut crime or improve performance.

Local Government Reorganisation

The Government says they are pressing ahead with dissolving ten councils and creating two or three new ones. From the section 24 notice, expected after the decision on structure in June, the current councils will no longer be able to make any new commitments, but will carry on normal business.

Elections in Lincoln

The 29 cancelled elections, including Lincoln were uncanceled with just weeks to go before the election, as it was discovered that cancelling democracy is illegal in UK! We have by-elections in Sleaford too.

Food Waste

Food waste is collected in North Kesteven from April 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 north of Lincoln. More [here](#). The plastic bags are removed at the start of the process and go to the Energy from Waste plant.

NK Community Champion Awards

NKDC award ceremony was held for 2025 with winners [listed here](#) and you can nominate for 2026 [here](#).

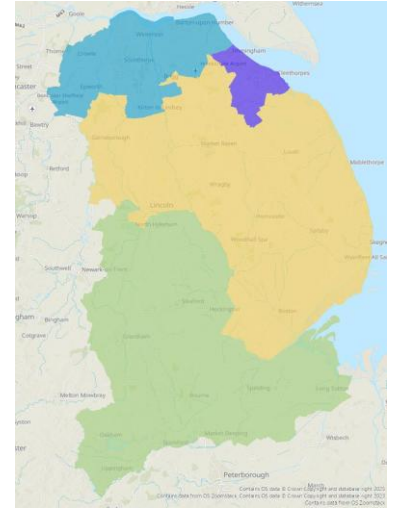
The Hub, Sleaford

The hub has become a good place for coffee and a bite to eat. There is a lot going on. [Events](#). The next exhibition reception is on March 27th 6-8pm.

Dissolving our Councils

The Government will decide, ready for elections to the new councils in May 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. Local voices get diluted, making local people easier to over-ride. Of the options, I believe this gives us the most opportunity.



Congratulations

Congratulations to pupils and the Sir William Robertson Academy who raised over £5,000 in the Grantham Rotary Swimarathon. In total the Rotary raised £40,000 for local good causes.

Brant Broughton and Stragglethorpe Parish Council have created four lovely information boards on the Village Green, the Playing Field, Rectory Field and Stragglethorpe.

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](#).

March Events

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

3rd, 17th and 31st Bassingham Lunch Club Hammond Hall
Book Lyn 01522 426498 Noon
6th World Prayer Day
7th Race Night Brant Broughton Village Hall Pie and Pea Supper £15 07476 925 5817pm
7th Welbourn Forge fired in action 10am-1pm
7th St Michael's Coffee Morning, Bassingham 10.30-11.30
8th Irish Jam Joiner's Arms Welbourn 3pm start
11th Wellingore and District U3A Jean Townsend speaking on the Queen Mother 10 for 10.30am
11th Coleby Village Hall Coffee Morning 10.30-12.30
11th Norton Disney Bingo
12th Norton Disney Tea and Chat 2-4pm
12th / 26th Mobile library Service starts Haddington/Carlton le Moorland 11.15am
12th Welbourn Gardener's Club Meeting room Plant sale and "Ideas for improving your garden" 7pm
14th Welbourn Coffee Shop 10-noon
14th Books n Butties Wellingore 10-noon
15th Mothering Sunday at Brant Broughton Church 10am
19th Brant Broughton Village Hall Coffee Morning 10am-12
20th Bassingham Comedy Night Tickets £15 from www.act-two.info/Bass-events 7pm for 8pm
20th Cheese and Wine eve with vocalist £10.50 01522 788266 7pm
21st Carlton le Moorland Coffee Morning 10am-non
21st Welbourn Easter Bingo 7 for 7.30pm start
21st Navenby Methodist Church Tea and cake 2pm
24th Swordsmanship, The Lincolnshire Yeomanry by Mike Credland, Leadenham Military History Club, £5 7.30pm
26th Waste not want not 1-3pm St Michael's Bassingham
28th Beebi Del as Dolly Parton, Leadenham Village Hall £2.50 01400 272413 7 for 7.30pm start
29th Palm Sunday Stapleford, 10.30am: Clocks forward 1hr!
31st Wellingore All Saints AGM Welcome! 2pm

APRIL EVENTS

3rd Easter family activity morning for all ages, St Swithun's Church, Leadenham 10.30-noon
AND St Helen's, Brant Broughton 10am-noon
4th Bassingham Car Boot 07792 920 868 8am-noon £5/car
Owners cars on show and shine
4th Lighting the Easter Fire Service Norton Disney 7pm
5th Easter egg service, Stapleford 3pm
5th Carlton le Moorland Easter Service 10.30am
11th Grand National Watch Party Harmston Hall 2-5pm
12th Coleby Car Boot Sale
16th Brant Broughton Village Hall Coffee Morning 10am-12
19th Bassingham Bowls Open Afternoon 2-4pm
28th Storm over Yorkshire 1644, James Handley Leadenham Military History Group, £5 7.30pm

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
Brant Broughton BB.ReliefCharity@gmail.com
Carlton le Moorland Young People's Trust 07943 760 155
Navenby Heritage Trail 2.5km [Navenby Heritage Trail](#)

Useful Contacts

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 (Food Truck every Thursday, Bingo Tues, Pool 28/29th March)
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

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/>

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To protect a house or business against flooding

<http://www.marydthonau.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
AI Adoption Accelerator - overcome barriers and implement practical AI solutions.
Retail Accelerator - flexible, high-impact support for independent retailers.
Low Carbon Lincolnshire - cut energy costs and boost efficiency.
Lincolnshire Farm Support Programme - build resilience and explore future opportunities.
Your Business Boost - fresh ideas, practical tools, and a clear action plan.
Visit the Business Academy for access to valuable insights and resources tailored to business needs, under four themes: starting a business, running and growing a business, selling overseas and digital skills
Personal business advice is free.

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://lincsbus.info/callconnect/>

Dial a ride 01522 544983 Disabled door to door

Carsharing 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 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

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 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