



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

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

### **Keeping in touch**

This is a newsletter I do for you every month, normally sent by e-mail. If you know anyone else who might find it useful, please let me know:

[marianne.overton@biosearch.org.uk](mailto:marianne.overton@biosearch.org.uk)



### **Action for local health services**

I called for support to help Witham St Hughs get the promised local health services, and we have worked on it at the District Council.

Sadly, the conservative party approach to add

swathes of housing and centralize services for efficiency, leaves many of our residents struggling. The pressure on A&E is also increased whilst Grantham is shockingly downgraded to minor injuries and Lincoln over-burdened.

Now an alarming proposal to close Skellingthorpe Surgery is on the table. And where next?

At NKDC, we have offered to work with the local GP's to enhance health and reduce costs, perhaps by sharing buildings at least. We have also looked at getting more from developers – currently a tough call!

If you would like to add your support, please let me know; we are running petitions, letters and social media campaigns. We need to keep our local services.

### **Petition for safer rural roads: Second call!**

We have made good progress. However, the contract is about to be re-let, this time with a worrying reduced service for rural areas, set by the Conservative administration at Lincoln. The new plan is to increase risk by taking longer to repair deep potholes from 28 days to 3 months, on many of our rural roads. This is dangerous and I have objected. A petition is here. [www.lincolnshireindependents.org.uk](http://www.lincolnshireindependents.org.uk)

### **Supporting our local heritage: your view?**

The Conservative proposal is to save £750K, by taking a tougher approach. The plan is to develop the Collection, keep the Castle but offload the Usher Gallery, Gainsborough Old Hall, Discover Stamford or Stamford Store and Ellis, Burgh le Marsh and Alford windmills. The heritage service would retain Heckington Windmill, Museum of Lincolnshire Life, and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

As with the libraries, the idea is to encourage volunteers to take on the responsibility instead. Please go to “Heritage consultation” on the County Council website and download the consultation form, which you fill in on line fairly quickly. The questions are designed to get specific answers, so you need to decide before you start whether you want to support the plan or not.

Local heritage facilities add to our local sense of pride in our identity, to our local economy and our wellbeing. Centralising facilities could increase traffic and congestion and deplete tourism in our rural communities.

[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk) and search on “future-of-the-heritage-service-consultation/” and click on the consultation document at the bottom.

### **“Stick up for our Environment”**

#### **The Great British Spring Clean - March 22 - April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Would you like to take part? Leadenham is one of the Schools and the Parish Councils who are planning an event to demonstrate to residents how they are contributing to keeping the village clean and tidy. Join them at the Village Hall, 11am - 12pm on Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup> Let's get some more events organized, like beacons across our countryside. I am appalled at the state of our verges. You can report the worst cases of litter on 01529 414155. Please join our concerted campaign in all our communities.



## Supporting Communities: Grants

Small grants for local community use are still available. Fund NK from the District Council is up to £2,500 and the WREN grants are up to £50K. A useful new grant is available to set up community businesses. Up to £10K for a feasibility study and between £1 and £15K for the project itself. Apply by 9<sup>th</sup> April for the first round. Let me know if I can help at all. You can sign up for regular grant updates from the County Council website.

## Bomber Gateway Trust, Norton Disney

The project is doing well with the foundations in place and podium imminent, with good local support, now targeting £140,000. [www.bombergatewaytrust.co.uk](http://www.bombergatewaytrust.co.uk)



## Update on Community Pub at Harmston

Our Community pub has been awarded £39,000 Leader grant for improving our rural economy. The outbuildings have been found to need underpinning, and the pub will now open after Easter. Shareholders got to meet prospective tenants and the new couple are about to be announced. If you would like to give a helping hand about the place, so that more can be done, please contact [thoroldarmsactiongroup@btinternet.com](mailto:thoroldarmsactiongroup@btinternet.com)

## Are you manufacturing?

Sleaford Quality Foods NG34 7JX are hosting an event on manufacturing. 22/03/2019 08:00 - 13:30 Organised by Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub and NatWest 07776 194024 [events@bizlincolnshire.com](mailto:events@bizlincolnshire.com)

## Invitation to Beeswax, Nocton

As requested, I have organised a visit to the HQ of Beeswax Farms on March 20<sup>th</sup> 10.30am. I found my visit with District Councillors very interesting, especially the scale of operations, innovative ideas in practice and an ethical approach to the long-term future. If you are interested, please let me know as numbers are limited.

## NKDC Budget

For County Council budget, see my January newsletter. The District Council budget is based on a tax rise of 3.1%, the maximum amount allowed without holding an expensive referendum. There is a shortfall in future years which the Council expects to fill. For example, by making money through building and selling houses through a wholly owned separate company called Lafford Homes, which I have supported.

The annual revenue budget is just under £15m pa. We also have a housing account where repairs and improvements are paid by the rents received. By government dictat, we have to reduce household rents by 1% every year. This gets reversed to small regular increases from 2020/21 following cross-party national discussions with ministers.

We also have a capital budget for building things, forecast at £25m next year for new housing plus 20pc grants and a further £36m available. It is planned to improve a number of our heritage sites and Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park.

Borrowings are around £65m, at around 3% interest, costing just under £2m p.a. Total reserves are around £20m, with just under £3m added this year.

This has been an easier year as we kept all our business rates (instead of sending them to government) and still kept most of the New Homes Bonus. That is the incentive fund designed to get councils to give permissions for lots more housing. We also got a two-year grant for the extra expense of providing rural facilities.

Grants for disabled facilities in homes will continue and a new Heritage Grant Aid of £25,000 is in place.



Lincolnshire Independents at North Kesteven District Council

## Supporting local businesses

I helped set up the Navenby Business Network to share marketing and advice for businesses in our area. Would you like to find out more? Contact me.

The Council has responded positively to my call to support small local businesses. Advice and grants are available. If I can help, please let me know.

## Supporting you on Planning

I have supported good applications that add to our communities and fought tooth and nail against poor applications that risk damaging our rural quality of life. I spoke and voted against the rendering site at Norton Disney and for a better access at Skellingthorpe. More work is needed as they return this month with more environmental protection measures. Further afield, but with principles at stake, we together worked to save the recreation ground in Sleaford and against extraction of oil from rock in Biscathorpe, just announced as unviable.

## Welcome to Rector, Rev. Christine Goldsmith

A warm welcome to our new Reverend at St Helen's Church, Brant Broughton on Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 7pm. She has served in the Surrey Police Force, then with British Airways as cabin crew, before managing at Heathrow Airport. Christine was ordained in Cyprus and comes to the Leadenham plurality with wide experience and understanding.

## Wildlife Watch for Children

Our local RSPB Explorers and Wildlife Watch Group for children 7-13yrs is lively and fun. Events calendar available. Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March is a farm visit to see calves just born at Beckingham. Very exciting.

## Bardney Bridge closed mid-April to July

I attended a public meeting in Branston Booths organised by Lincolnshire Independent, Cllr Peter Lundgren. We ask for the bridge to be open to the school bus and cars, not closed for three months including inactivity and painting.

## Safety

Recent burglaries involved smashing a window and using the key in the lock to open the door. It seems we need to leave keys and valuables out of sight, in your car or at home.

## ID Needed to Vote on May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Please register to vote and consider registering to vote by post. You can still take it sealed into the polling station. For a postal vote or to register, here are the simple forms: <https://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/>  
Return to NKDC, Kesteven St, Sleaford NG34 7EF or scan the form and e-mail to [elections@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:elections@n-kesteven.gov.uk).

## MP's go Independent



You may have seen me on BBC Question-time, saying our MP's should put their party politics aside and stand up for residents. It seems some of them were listening! Big party politics is failing. Instead, we need to think about people in our communities and work together to do our job well.



Independents got together this week at the Cathedral Centre to help find solutions to the drugs problem linked to homelessness and mental health issues. We also looked at Children's Services and the forthcoming elections. Councillors are part time, paid allowances and work for the local community.

## Thank you



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**

**Councillor Marianne Overton MBE**  
*Independent Councillor for Bassingham and Welbourn 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*

## Some Regular Events

### Fridays

All Fridays: Hammond Hall, Bassingham Coffee Morning for all ages. Harmston Happy Hour in Village Hall 6-9pm, Beckingham Social Club and Witham St Hughs Village Hall Drop Off then Drop In - St Michael's, Bassingham 9-10.30

### Lunch Clubs from noon

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues noon Bassingham Village Lunch Club Book 789236 £5

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Bassingham Lunch Club Book 01522 789935 or Lynn 789031 £5

3<sup>rd</sup> Mon Carlton Le Moorland Vill. Ha. 788303 £3.50 1pm

### Music

First Wed monthly **Traditional Folk Music** (Instrumental) at the Bugle Horn, Bassingham LN5 9HQ on the first Wednesday monthly 8 – 11pm Excellent meals are available too, thanks to Pat and Caroline.

First Wed monthly **Folk at the George**, Leadenham 8pm Excellent meals from Jed and Julie.

Every Monday Music with Mummy Bassingham Care Centre elaine 07717 758 4851.30-2pm

### Health Walks

Every Wed. Five Bells, Bassingham 10.30am

Every Fri The Venue, Navenby 10.15am

**Running** Witham St Hughs every Mon and Thurs 7pm

**Men on the Mats** 45mins Beginners' Pilates, Harmston Vill. Ha. clainsworth@btinternetcom Thursdays 2pm

**Pilates and Yoga** Sunday evenings Harmston Vill. Ha. 7 and 7.45pm £6 or £8/both

**Crafts** First Wed eve and Thurs pm Sarah 788901

**Teas** Term-time Tuesdays Witham St Hughs Vill Hall 2pm Coleby Library and tea Second Wednesday 10.30am Welbourn Vill. Ha. First Thursday monthly 2-4pm

## Useful Information

### 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

### Access to Wellbeing Services and care

The Carers service 01522 782224

carers\_team@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Support for Adult care is available 01522 782155

### 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-](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/overnight-roadworks)

roads/overnight-roadworks

roadworks@lincolnshire.gov.uk

To receive info' on twitter #lincsc roads

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## 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 07973 846 537

Facebook Hykeham town rural NPT T @hykeham NPT

## Highways, Transport and Travel

Good newsletter from [lincscountycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:lincscountycouncil@gmail.com)

New site [www.accesslincoln.co.uk](http://www.accesslincoln.co.uk) shows all the options,

or ask [accesslincoln@lincolnbig.co.uk](mailto: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](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)

Trains [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com)

Local Plan [www.central-lincs.org.uk](http://www.central-lincs.org.uk) 01529 308084

Mobile Library 01522 782010 or [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk)

## Planning on line

See and comment on applications to get your voice heard.

Search "planning on line north Kesteven"

## Village websites

Withamstaple.com; yourbassingham.co.uk

[www.facebook.com/groups/WhatOnInNocton](http://www.facebook.com/groups/WhatOnInNocton)

[www.facebook.com/groups/455116074527966/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/455116074527966/) Navenby

and Wellingore business parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk

[www.harmston.info](http://www.harmston.info) [www.navenby.net](http://www.navenby.net)

[dunstondossier.org.uk](http://dunstondossier.org.uk) [nocton.blogspot.co.uk](http://nocton.blogspot.co.uk)

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

Branston <http://www.tucann.co.uk/the-sheepwash-times>

Branston Library 01522 880426

[www.mrssmithscottage.com](http://www.mrssmithscottage.com)

## County Events- Good web page here

Search Lincolnshire County Council out and about or use

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/news/county-news/features/out-and-about-august-2017/131439.article>

## Events overleaf

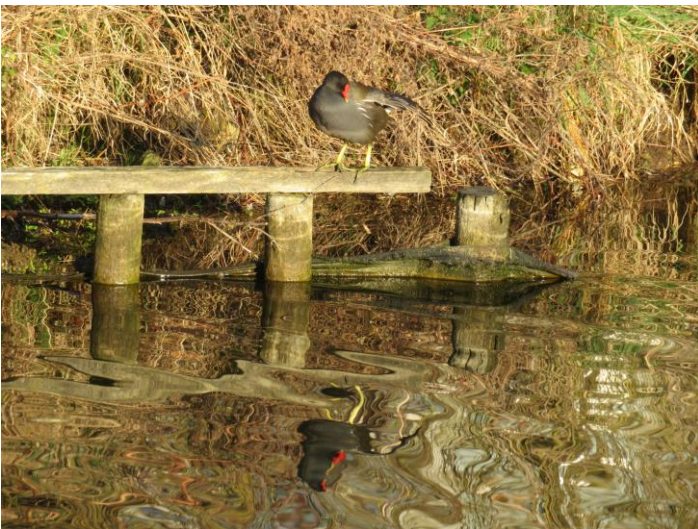
## March Events

6<sup>th</sup> Evening Spring Bingo Hammond Hall, Bassingham 7pm  
7<sup>th</sup> Norton Disney tea and chat in the Village Hall 2-4pm  
9<sup>th</sup> Books and Butties Wellingore Memorial Hall 10-12  
11<sup>th</sup> Garden Club Tower Room, Hammond Hall Paul Maxey  
of Scothern Nurseries on propagation £3 7.30pm  
11<sup>th</sup> Bassingham Village and playing field charity  
Hammond Hall, Bassingham 7.30pm  
13<sup>th</sup> U3A Wellingore & District "Teas of the World" 10am  
13<sup>th</sup> Coleby Library and coffee morning 10.30am  
14<sup>th</sup> Welbourn Gardening Club and AGM Janette Marillion  
speaking on on Spring Fever 7pm  
16<sup>th</sup> St Patrick's Ceilidh Harmston Memorial Hall 7.30pm  
23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Clean Bassingham, start at the hall 10am  
27<sup>th</sup> Stick up for your environment Leadenham Vill. Ha. 11  
30<sup>th</sup> Spring Sensation All Saints Wellingore 10am -1pm  
30<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning, Navenby Methodist Church Hall 10-12  
30<sup>th</sup> A night at the Movies with the Silver Sounds Band, St  
Peters, Navenby £8 incl. refreshments 07464 007997 7pm  
30<sup>th</sup> 1980's Dance Evening in the Hammond Hall,  
Bassingham £10 Live music from the Palavers, singing  
from Act Two and DJ 7pm til midnight  
30<sup>th</sup> Folk Music at St Mary's Carlton Le Moorland 7.30pm  
31<sup>st</sup> Craft Fayre at the Venue, Navenby 10am-4pm  
31<sup>st</sup> Mothering Sunday

## April

Coleby Car Boot Sales resume on the first Sunday monthly

## Moorhen on the River Slea



Kite over the Cliff Edge, in increasing numbers as they feed on roadkill, among other things! Perhaps influenced by the significant increase in rural traffic.

Below: One of the discussion groups at the Transport Forum in Bishop Grossteste College. Spring Cowslip



