

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 would like to receive next month's edition, please let me know:  
[marianne.overton@biosearch.org.uk](mailto:marianne.overton@biosearch.org.uk)

### Petition for safer rural roads

With £13.7m extra from the government for potholes, LCC now plans to increase risk by taking 3x longer to repair dangerous potholes or sunken drains, from 28 days to 3 months, on many of our rural roads. This is outrageous. I have objected. Would anyone like to help getting support for a petition, please? New response times are shown here.  
[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Download/114905](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Download/114905)  
The petition is here.  
[www.lincolnshireindependents.org.uk](http://www.lincolnshireindependents.org.uk)

### Road Repairs: Fix My Street

I have continued to chase up repairs that have been reported and not repaired in time. Please keep reporting as it really does help. You can ring 01522 782070 or better, report via the Lincolnshire County Council website or using Fixmystreet app downloaded onto your phone. You can mark it on the map and see if it has already been reported or "fixed" by contractors. It should not vanish off the map until fixed. Please help save lives by reporting dangers on the road so they can be fixed soonest.



Harmston WI Centenary Event, part of the celebrations right across the Cliff Villages

### Coleby Film Nights are Back!

The film nights are back for 2019 and the first showing will be *Mama Mia Here We Go Again* to be shown at the Village Hall on Tuesday 19th February at 7.00pm for supper and 7.30pm for the film.



### Have your say on the future of travel & transport within around a fifteen- mile radius of Lincoln!

In our rural areas, traffic has increased by **42%** in 15 years since 2002. By contrast, in urban areas, the increase is only 6%, so I guess it must have been pretty much at congestion maximum all along. 37,000 more houses are in the Conservative/Labour-led "Local plan". Too many, I believe, not matched by jobs, facilities nor even road maintenance. The frightening traffic projection is for a **further 35%** increase by 2036.

Use of buses declined with the reductions in service. Use of bicycles is down too. Light goods vehicles are up with the click, collect culture. Please add your thoughts. <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

In February there are two more round table consultations 3-8pm at Welton Village Hall LN2 3LU on the 25th Waddington Community Hub LN5 9RF, 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Update on Community Pub at Harmston**

Our Community pub is having some improvements and is planned to open before Easter. Interviews will shortly be in progress for tenant landlords. 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)

### **Street Lighting from your Parish Councils**

Thanks to all who contributed to the consultation on street lighting. The new policy is on the County Council website, search "street lighting policy". There is serious concern about safety, and the £1.7m savings not realised. The conversion to LED lights is good but turning lights off has been very contentious. Parishes can choose to pay for whole streets to be switched back on for a one-off payment to cover 20 years lighting at £150/light or £300/light if you miss the normal round. Otherwise lights are dimmed, part night lighting, dusk to midnight and 6 am to dawn. Criteria for exceptions are based on safety.

## **No more speeding through villages, please**

When prosecutions are made, it often turns out to be local people, accidentally going too fast.

A number of villages and groups of villages have clubbed together to purchase a portable speed indicator device. They have been proven to be an effective reminder. The Cliff Cluster of Parish Councils is in the process of identifying a local person responsible, identifying their sites and contributing to the purchase.

The tragic loss of lives on the A607 must drive us to do all we can to prevent any further loss of life on the roads.

## **Proposed Rendering Plants**

Both applicants, Norton Disney and Skellingthorpe have not yet come in with their environmental data, so the earliest formal public consultation is March end. At a recent County planning meeting, GH By Products applied for a new 0.7ha lagoon near Gainsborough. Sounds nice, but it is a poly bag filled with over 4,400 cubic meters of material from the Skellingthorpe plant. The plan is for it to be stored, then spread on the land, albeit limited by the regulations controlling nitrogen on the land. Environmental conditions are applied, including control of smell and reducing the risk of pollution with a 2m bund.

## **Local Issues, national solutions**

Two highlights for me have been speaking in the Speaker's House in the Houses of Parliament in recognition of 100 years since the first women got to vote. It is part of series both in the Cliff Villages and nationally.

The other highlight was representing England in the UK delegation of the CEMR, which represents 130,000 councils across all Europe. As the elected spokesperson on climate change and waste regulations, I recently had the honour of moderating at our conference in Ludwigsberg, near Stuttgart, bringing all sides together to

update the Paris Agreements, five years on. This links with local work to improve the Environment plans at North Kesteven and what to do with waste in Lincolnshire.

## **More Money for Lincolnshire**

Lincolnshire Independents remain in the forefront calling for a bigger pot for local services and for rural Lincolnshire. As Vice Chairman of the Local Government Association, I was able to speak to ministers directly about the local needs and worked with colleagues cross-party, with success. We got one-off extra government funds and Lincolnshire gets its share: Roads (£13.7m), adult care (£5.7m more) and children's mental health out of the NHS shared funding and more money (£7m total this year) for the higher costs shown in providing rural services. It is needed, and saves the heritage and other services, but small compared to the 60pc of our funds taken from us in the first place. It is only for this already stormy year. I am also working on the long-term funding of adult care and "Fairer Funding", the way in which funds are shared between councils. Both have significant impacts on the essential services our Council can provide.

## **ID Needed to Vote on May 2<sup>nd</sup> Now better to vote by post.**

North Kesteven is going alone in Lincolnshire to require ID if voting in person. To vote on the day, you will need ID such as your **passport or photo driver's licence**, or **two** types of non-photographic ID such as a **utility bill** and **poll card**. This will not apply to postal voters. Voting by post remains the same as always and seems a more attractive option now. Please consider registering for a postal vote.

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).

## **Thank you**

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

