

District Councillors report-November 2017

Boundary Changes

The Boundary Commission has set out the revised proposals for new constituency boundaries changes to MP constituency boundaries. The proposals for Sleaford remain as they did under the initial proposals – removal of North Hykeham from the constituency name as these wards along with Waddington West ward are proposed to transfer to the Lincoln constituency. Bracebridge Heath and Waddington East return to the newly named **Sleaford** constituency and the wards of Heckington Rural and Kirkby la Thorpe & South Kyme are proposed to move to the Boston and Skegness constituency. The Sleaford constituency would also include the South Kesteven Wards of Belvoir, Loveden, Peascliffe & Ridgeway and Viking.

This would give an approximate electorate of 74,561 for the new constituency compared with their figure of 86,652 used for the review.

This is the last chance for people to have their say on the proposals and the Commission is encouraging people to look at the proposals and contribute to the review by using the web address above.

Unlike last year's consultation, the Commission will not be hosting public hearings across the country - there is no provision to allow this in the governing legislation.

Views are to be submitted directly to the Boundary Commission at www.bce2018.org.uk,. Consultation on these proposals will last for eight weeks, until **11 December 2017**.

Message from Councillor Richard Davies, Executive Board Member for Highways at LCC

We are aware that some of you may have received comments about part-night streetlights switching off earlier than midnight after the clocks went back last weekend.

Please be assured that this is not due to a technical fault.

The street lights have sensors that monitor the number of daylight hours, which is how they set their internal clock.

During the autumn, the lights enter a period of adjustment, when their timings may vary as they adapt to the switch to Greenwich Mean Time.

Unfortunately, this is unavoidable. However, it should have little or no impact on safety.

Information event for landlords

A free exhibition and forum to keep private sector landlords and letting agents up-to-date with the latest legal changes taking place in the world of private renting is being held in Sleaford.

North Kesteven District Council is teaming up with DASH Landlord Accreditation and East Midlands Property Owners (EMPO), to stage the event, which is taking place on Tuesday, November 28, at The Source, Southgate, from 4pm to 8pm.

The event is aimed at residential landlords and letting agents who want the latest advice and support in offering good and safe housing.

NKDC's Safe as Houses team will be on hand to answer any questions and offer further help and support.

At the end of the event, there will be a question and answer, followed by refreshments and networking opportunities.

To register for this event, or find out more about DASH Landlord Accreditation scheme, call 01332 640324 or email linda.cobb@derby.gov.uk

NKDC is running the Safe as Houses scheme within the District for the mutual benefit of tenants and landlords.

This initiative seeks to raise the standard of private rented homes to achieve warmer, healthier home which are both easier to let and better to live in.

It aims to raise awareness of landlords' roles and legislative obligations towards their tenants and the property. Tenants also need to be more aware of their rights as well as their responsibilities.

The Team works proactively and supports landlords to ensure the provision of quality housing which is warm, secure and free from health risks. Advice on housing standards and the expectations and legal requirements for all landlords is also provided.

For more information visit www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/safeashouses, email safeashouses@n-kesteven.gov.uk or call 01529 414155.

Heckington Windmill officially opened by HRH The Princess Royal 13.10.17

The people of Heckington celebrated on the 13th October when they welcomed HRH The Princess Royal to open the regeneration project at Heckington Windmill to the public. This marks the end of a 13-year programme to save and restore the windmill site.

Heckington Windmill Trust has raised £1.6m including securing the largest ever Heritage Lottery grant for a project. It's been used with thousands of hours of volunteer time to create a unique centre telling the story of the mill and how it still has a role today in grinding flour for our food.

As well as the world's only working eight-sail windmill the site now boasts a micro-brewery using malt from the mill, and a bakehouse and tea room that serve delicious cakes made from the flour.

Proposed Council Tax Support Scheme 2018/19

North Kesteven District Council is currently considering how it can fund the Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme from April 2018 and has put forward proposed changes to the current scheme for public consultation.

Before approving a final scheme, North Kesteven District Council is required to consult with any person we consider are likely to have an interest in the operation of the scheme.

The proposed changes to the scheme have been published on our website and there is an open consultation which can be viewed at www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/2018-19consultation. We have issued a letter to all residents in receipt of Council Tax Support and invited them to consult on the scheme.

The consultation period started on Monday 9 October and ends at 5pm on Friday 17 November.

Councillors will decide the final Council Tax Support scheme for 2018/19 when we meet in January 2018. We want the views from residents whether they get Council Tax Support or not to ensure we make an informed decision.

North Kesteven listed within Housing Heavy Hitters

North Kesteven District Council's Corporate Director Phil Roberts has this week been singled out as a progressive leader within local government housing development.

Industry magazine Inside Housing includes him within their 'Power List of the Heavy Hitters driving the Delivery of New Homes' – identifying him as one of eight 'Accelerators', described as 'individuals moving at a pace'.

While it was an honour to be recognised alongside such innovative and influential peers, he said the credit should rest with the wider team of officers and Members at North Kesteven which had pioneered and progressed such a consistently strong programme of delivery.

First as Head of Housing and now as Corporate Director at North Kesteven, Phil oversaw the resumption and escalation of an in-house building programme, with NKDC being one of the first out of the ground in 2009.

Under Phil's leadership, the Council has:

- built more than 200 new homes across 24 communities at a cost of around £20m;
- innovated through straw bale and passivhaus technologies;
- embraced wide ranging solutions to increase thermal efficiency;
- and broadened its mechanisms for access to better, low-cost, warm and comfortable homes for both affordable and private rent.

Beyond this, the Council has been acknowledged as the best for replacing houses lost from its stock through Right to Buy, repeatedly high-performing at low cost, responsive to tenant needs and a leader in its work to bring empty homes back into use and improve conditions within the private rented sector.

Judges praised North Kesteven as a 'hugely innovative council really showing how it can be done as a smaller authority'.

They recognised that delivering 200 homes over eight years was a 'huge number for a rural council in a period pervaded by political and economic barriers to local authority development'.

Phil is one of only 41 people hand-picked by a judging panel to be included within the Who's Who for 2017, highlighting council achievements and championing those who ensure more people have a quality home to live in.

Nominations were assessed by an expert panel who were looking for vision, innovation, ambition, success, influence and most importantly, leadership that overcomes challenges, inspires and achieves.

Future of LAPS- Update

The feedback on the suggested survey has now been sent to Corporate Info team to be collated and formed into a final document for distribution.

The next step in the LAPs business case review is ensuring Parish Councillors are engaged in order for NKDC to understand their ideals when it comes to the LAP delivery. Hayley Kent-Simpson has sent out a list of dates for those wishing to be involved in this process.