

CENSUS 2021

In two months time it will be Census 2021, the 10 yearly reckoning of who's who doing what.

This will be a digital 1st census where we're encouraged to fill it in online.

By taking part in the Nationwide Survey of housing and the population, residents can make a real difference in ensuring we get the best level of funding and service locally for North Kesteven and Lincolnshire and that decision makers are on top of trends and population changes.

Information from it will help decide how services are planned and funded at local level. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes.

Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete theirs online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request.

Census day is March 21st but there'll be a longer period for completion and return. For more information, visit census.gov.uk

LANTERNS AND BALLOONS

The Environmental Agency Protection team have issued new guidance via the Council website on the release of Chinese-style lanterns and helium balloons.

Both items are often used in celebrations and commemorations, but can cause significant harm to animals and property. The guidance offers suggestions for alternative ways of marking events.

FRONTLINE WORKER TESTING

The Council is pleased to have made available one of its facilities for the expansion of Covid-testing capacity for frontline key workers.

Importantly the provision at the Better Gym in Sleaford is NOT a community testing facility; available for only for those colleagues across the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum's partner organisations who would benefit from a symptomatic quick response lateral flow testing to ensure they can continue to carry out their roles safely and effectively.

This will include police officers, firefighters, health and social care workers, enforcement officers, refuse crews and people identified for testing given the public facing nature of their work in maintaining services and responding to the pandemic and their inability to undertake their work from home.

Each organisation will determine which frontline colleagues to put forward for the testing, which needs to be done at least twice a week, at least two days apart until the end of February. This will enable asymptomatic cases to be identified and isolate appropriately. It is down to each organisation to determine their critical staff.

Testing for KEY WORKERS and those whose work requires them to work away from home can be accessed without an appointment, 8.00am to 8.00pm, seven days a week on walk-in basis at:

Lincoln, Croft Street Community Centre LN2 5AX
Boston, Haven High Tollfield Campus PE21 9PN
Boston Peter Paine Performance Centre PE21 7QR
Sleaford Better Gym NG34 7EH
Lincoln City Football Club LN5 8LD
Newark Leisure Centre NG24 4FH

Most sites have ample onsite parking, but for Lincoln's Croft Street use Lincoln College's car park. (LN2 5HQ)

Anyone with Covid symptoms should get a test in the usual way: call 119

HOLDINGHAM WORK UNDERWAY

Works to add new approach lanes and traffic lights at the busy roundabout started on Monday 15th February. The scheme is expected to take ten months to complete, subject to suitable weather. The project to modernise and improve the roundabout is now underway, including building new lanes at each approach and installing traffic signals. Once complete, people can expect increased safety there, along with smoother journey's now and in the future when there are more people travelling in and around Sleaford.

The works will include excavating a large part of the roundabout and it's central island to make way for the extra approach and roundabout lanes. Over 9,000 tonnes of tarmac and other material, and over a mile of underground drainage, and twenty new traffic signals will be used.

Councillor Richard Wright, Leader of NKDC said " it's encouraging to see work get underway on this scheme which, together with last years successful works at the rugby club junction, is critical to freeing up traffic flows, both for Sleaford and the wider network.

Not only will this be good for Sleaford but the District and the broader economic position by encouraging people and businesses in the town , but also for enhancing quality of life and environmental gain by relieving congestion which impacts air quality and peoples use of time" "Freeing traffic flow is equally beneficial in releasing the full commercial potential of the District Council's new economic growth area of Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park as well as opening up broader economic regeneration and highways safety aspirations for the town. Naturally there will be short term pain in terms of temporary closures and diversions, in pursuit of the long gains, which we will all need to bear with. For now though, with us all cutting back on travel to that which is essential only, my hope is that the impacts will not be so keenly felt and the work can progress with great efficiency."

Drivers can expect a combination of 24/7 narrowed lanes and lane closures, a series of night time temporary traffic signals, full road and roundabout closures as and when needed. A temporary 30mph speed limit will also be in place when approaching and existing the roundabout from all directions throughout the entire project.

Please note that works will be carried overnight until mid March, at which point they will be switched to daytime.

For more information about this and other major highways projects, visit:

www.lincilnshie.gov.uk/major-projects

Best Wishes

Councillor Lucille Hague's