

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Happy Easter!

I hope you are well and are enjoying getting out in the Garden or seeing people again, at last. Great to see the Churches are open for Easter.

Venues and volunteers

As we reopen, you may have been involved like me in a number of discussions on how to make that possible. There is useful advice for volunteers and venues below.

Council Meetings

As Vice Chairman of the Local Government Association, colleagues and I asked Government to allow us to continue *an option* to meet on line, but they have rejected that. From May 7th meetings decisions are made must be in person, 2m apart with ventilation *and* must allow the public, so our venues are not practical. Leisure Services and schools will have reopened. It's also illegal indoors until May 17th at the earliest.

MPs, however, retain the right themselves to participate remotely until at least June 21 but the powers-that-be in the House of Commons will not make time available to legislate for councillors to do the same.

Annual May Meetings following the elections will be in enclosed spaces, often with large numbers of people, including the public and press. This has serious risks. This also risks damaging the gains seen in public participation in remote council meetings during the pandemic and our vital local democratic process.

Left with no choice, Lawyers in Local Government, the Association of Democratic Services and Hertfordshire County Council have made an application to the Courts to declare that councils already have the powers needed to hold online meetings. The LGA will be providing support in these proceedings as the representative body for councils. It feels like a lack of respect for local democracy, but local voices remain vital to successful decisions.

As things are, from May 7th, we meet in person and only when the national covid restrictions allow.

Elections

As we enter election purdah, the day job carries on. Anyone who wants a postal or proxy vote can ask the District Council to send a request form, or download one from the web. It needs to be completed, scanned and returned to Elections NKDC (elections@n_kesteven.gov.uk) before April 20th. It is easy to register to vote by April 19th, using your NI number.

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voting-person-post-or-proxy/voting-post>

Planning at Leadenham

The very contentious application to expand the Polo Business a distance away in the open countryside at Hilltop Farm was deferred this week to seek improvements in the impact on the current residents and on the High Level Stewardship meadow. An important principal is thus established about getting the best solutions from planning. Many thanks to my fellow local member and excellent councillors who spoke so effectively.

Highways

I have a useful discussion with Highways today. As before, I am running a summary list for our priorities and asking for regular updates on the one list and I will share it with you, of course. On verges, the legislation does require cleared dyke material to be left on the landowner's side, not the highway verge. Highways take enforcement action to protect the verges. Potholes, road resurfacing and other issues, such as flooding from new developments in Navenby and in Welbourn are on our agenda.

Kind Regards,

Marianne

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From the Lincolnshire CVS Area Officer Team

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you need help navigating this guidance or if you have any further questions. You can contact us on: 01205 510888 or email enquiry@lincolnshirecvs.org.uk.

Advice for venues

ACRE has prepared updated information to help volunteer management committees negotiate the latest easing of Covid-19 lockdown measures.

The guide can be downloaded for the Acre website: [New information to help village halls reopen - ACRE | Action with Communities in Rural England](#)

Advice for recruiting and managing volunteers

This useful summary has been provided by Community First Yorkshire.

"How changes in restrictions at Step 1B in the Roadmap out of lockdown (29 March) impact volunteering

From 29 March, at Step 1B of the [Roadmap out of lockdown](#), people will no longer be *legally required* to stay at home, meaning people will no longer be *legally required* to undertake their volunteer role from home unless they cannot reasonably do so. From this date forward, people should continue to volunteer from home where possible and they can leave home to volunteer if they are not required to [self-isolate](#) for any reason.

- People can meet in groups of any size, indoors or outdoors, while volunteering.
- Volunteering which cannot be done from home can continue in closed business or venue while it remains closed to the public.
- Businesses/venues, community centres and libraries which are otherwise required to close or restrict their activities are permitted to open and be used, including by volunteers, for a number of [specific purposes](#) only.
- Accommodation such as hotels, B&Bs and holiday lets, which are otherwise ordered to close, are permitted to open for people who need to stay for volunteering purposes.

As ever, people should follow [social distancing guidance](#) while volunteering outside the home, or [COVID-secure guidance](#) if in a workplace. While travelling to volunteer or while volunteering, people should follow [safer travel guidance](#).

Changes in advice for clinically extremely vulnerable people (1 April)

From 1 April, [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) people will no longer be advised to shield. Like everyone else, people in this group should volunteer from home where possible. They can also

choose to **volunteer** outside the home. However, they're advised to take extra steps to keep themselves safe. This includes minimising:

- the number of social interactions they have
- the time they spend in places where they can't maintain social distancing

Volunteering in groups

- While volunteering, people can meet in groups of any size, indoors or outdoors.
- Formal support groups are exempt from gathering restrictions up to a limit of 15 participants (aged 5 and older), however there is no limit on the number of volunteers. For, example, 10 volunteers could support a group of 15 participants."

Source: <https://communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/coronavirus>

NCVO have free resources on how volunteers can best be engaged and supported during the covid-19 pandemic. We have included links to some below:

[Volunteering under national restrictions](#)

[Recruiting and inducting volunteers during the pandemic](#)

[Planning for volunteer roles](#)

[Insurance and volunteering](#)

[Inducting volunteers](#)

[Furlough and volunteering](#)

[Supporting volunteers in your team](#)

[Volunteer expenses](#)

[Retaining and engaging volunteers](#)

Please remember that anyone, whether frontline or based at home who develops coronavirus symptoms, should get a test in the usual way: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

Advertise your volunteer roles

And don't forget to let us know about any volunteering roles you have available. We will share with prospective volunteers and include in our Opportunities Booklets. Talk to your Area Officer or email your role information to enquiry@lincolnshirecvs.org.uk

Funding opportunities

Calor Rural Community Fund

Deadline 21st April

The fund supports rural communities with projects that are off the mains gas grid and will improve local life. In 2021, projects have the opportunity to use the crowdfunding platform to raise awareness for their initiative, giving them the chance to raise money for their project. Next deadline for application is April 21st. For more information visit [Calor Rural Community Fund | Calor](#)

Made by Sport #ClubsInCrisis Fund

Grants to support Grassroots Community Sports Clubs Affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic (UK)

Open for applications 12th April

In response to the Covid-19 crisis, Made by Sport, in partnership with the Cash4Clubs scheme, has launched a new Covid-response fund to enable grassroots community sports clubs across the UK to improve the lives of disadvantaged young people affected by the pandemic.

The will provide grants of up to £2,021 to local sports clubs and third sector organisations using sport to help young people develop life skills, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, improve employability skills, or tackle mental health issues. Match funding is encouraged.

For further information contact Lincolnshire Community Foundation: [Lincolnshire Community Foundation \(lincolnshirecf.co.uk\)](http://lincolnshirecf.co.uk) or <https://www.madebysport.com/clubsincrisis>

Tritton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm Community Fund

Today, (1 April 2021) Lincolnshire Community Foundation (LCF) has announced the launch of Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm's annual community fund. The £40,000 per annum fund, established to support community projects located within 5km of the project's onshore substation near Bicker and within 3km of the point at which the project's cables come ashore near Anderby Creek.

Applications for the first round of funding must be received by 28 May 2021 and successful projects will be announced at the end of June 2021.

For more information about the Lincolnshire Community Foundation, please visit: <https://lincolnshirecf.co.uk/>

LCVS Area officer Team

Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service - the heart of YOUR community

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