

## LINCOLNSHIRE SET TO WELCOME UKRAINIAN GUESTS

Lincolnshire is preparing to receive its first Ukrainian evacuees after 100's of families reached out to offer sanctuary, safety and a warm welcome under the new Homes for Ukraine programme. In tandem with the preparations being made in homes across the county, a network of local councils, other public bodies, charities and other community groups is continuing to develop, in partnership, a range of services and mechanisms to underpin the response.

The Government has now advised the Lincolnshire Resettlement Partnership to anticipate guests being allocated to around 200 sponsors in the next couple of weeks. This is through the phase one of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, following the approval of the initial visa applications. Sponsorships are spread reasonably evenly across the districts of Lincolnshire, with between 25 and 35 per area initially. As more visas are approved, NKDC anticipate the number of hosted arrivals to increase in the coming weeks.

In advance of the arrivals, various checks are starting to be made by the local authorities to ensure the suitability of the accommodation for the imminent arrivals.

Under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, people offer up space for six months and go on to make a direct link independently with the named guest. Sponsors and guests are required to find each other and make a match, perhaps through a relationship already in place, through friends, a charity or a similar organisation. Either side can then make the necessary visa application, naming both parties, which triggers the sponsorship being agreed.

Alongside this, the Ukraine Families Scheme enables family members to join Ukraine relatives already resident in the UK. The schemes operate differently, for example no payment is made and no checks are required. A further process for community sponsorship is being developed nationally. Within Lincolnshire, in anticipation of the first arrivals, the various councils and organisations contributing to the response have been working hard on understanding the emerging guidance and putting processes in place such as wellbeing support, safeguarding measures and checks. They are also working hard on aligning health and education provision and with voluntary and charitable sector partners in developing a broader range of responses and 'wrap around' support, plus a community fund for local giving.

An overview of the Lincolnshire response and mechanisms for how you can get involved - as potential host or by giving to various funds - and links to broader government guidance can be found at [www.Lincolnshire.gov.uk/Ukraine](http://www.Lincolnshire.gov.uk/Ukraine)

If you're aware of any additional support drives in North Kesteven which could be added please email [communications@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:communications@n-kesteven.gov.uk)

## ENERGY REBATE

Payments of £150 Council Tax Energy Rebate will start to be distributing from the end of April. Eligible households in council tax Bands A to D are being reminded that the forthcoming energy rebate will be distributed as a stand alone payment not as an adjustment to the council tax charge. With distribution of the rebate for eligible households to ease the burden of escalating energy costs set to start from late April, residents who do not already pay their council tax by Directy Debit are advised to set one up to ensure a smooth payment of the rebate to them.

## TV LICENSING DISPENSATION FOR JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Throughout 2022, events and initiatives will take place to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee culminating in a four day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June 2022.

To mark this historic occasion, and during the bank holiday weekend, the BBC is offering local communities a special one-off TV Licence dispensation.

The dispensation will allow those celebrating by arranging events in town halls, community centres and streets across Britain, where TV is not usually watched, to screen the live programmes throughout the weekend without having to apply for a licence.

If you have any queries or would like to know more please contact Dan Cooper from the BBC on [Daniel.cooper@bbc.co.uk](mailto:Daniel.cooper@bbc.co.uk) or phone him on 07756 215298.

#### PLATINUM PAGEANT TICKETS

The organisers of the Platinum Jubilee Pageant, taking place on the streets of London on the 5th June have also announced a public competition for tickets. They have produced a celebration pack of ideas to inspire communities across the UK to organise their own events that connect to the main pageant.

The governments Platinum Jubilee website now has over 650 events listed which include private street parties as well as including larger public events. Councils are encouraged to support their communities to hold local celebrations and street parties and add them to the online street map. The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, wrote to councils earlier this year to highlight how councils can support the Jubilee celebrations. As planning for 'live sites' requires a long lead in time, the government suggests that early decisions are taken on providing locations with screens for communities to watch Jubilee events together.

More information about the Jubilee celebrations can be found at :-

<https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk/>

#### NK LOTTERY UPDATE

In last Saturdays draw, March 26TH, a total of 1,198 tickets were sold, 60% of the proceeds of which will benefit the pool of (currently) 57 good causes.

There were 23 prize winners this week: 5 x 25, and 18 x three free tickets. To participate in the NK Lottery, see what good causes are local to you and promote it locally, see

[www.NKlottery.co.uk](http://www.NKlottery.co.uk)

#### PRIORITY SERVICES REGISTER - ANGLIAN WATER

NKDC have received a reminder from Anglian Water about their Priority Services Register which may be of value to vulnerable or elderly residents, or those struggling with cost of living.

"As the cost of living crisis is affecting many of our customers it's more important than ever that people who need help paying their bills are being supported".

Anglian Water's specially trained EXTRA CARE support team can create personalised payment plans to help their customers budget, provide some breathing space if they need some extra time to pay, as well as guide them to extra help available.

With different tariff options, customers could be eligible for a discount of up to 50% on their water charges, depending on their situation.

#### LOOKING AFTER LOLLYLOCKS

Work to boost biodiversity by improving habitats for native species at our very own Lollylocks Field nature reserve in Sleaford is getting started. Looking after Lollylocks is one of the four schemes aimed at improving connectivity for wildlife and providing better access and enjoyment of blue green spaces in the town of Sleaford. It's all part of the £1.2million Witham/Slea Blue Green Corridor project. A partnership scheme of work funded by the European Regional Development Fund, South

Kesteven District Council, North Kesteven District Council and the Environmental Agency and the National Trust.

The work at Lollylocks will see several enhancements for wildlife including a new Kingfisher nesting bank, native planting and an extended boardwalk.

#### LGC AWARDS 2022 SHORTLIST

NKDC has been shortlisted for a Council of the GCA 2022, one of five councils announced for the prestigious Local Government Chronicle Awards. This represents a fantastic recognition for the achievements of the whole team, and the impact for every service in NKDC's communities. It reflects the values, culture and vision of the whole organisation, and can be very proud of such an significant achievement.

The five councils shortlisted are:-

Great Yarmouth BC  
Manchester City Council  
North Kesteven DC  
Staffordshire CC  
Telford and Wrekin Council

The full list of nominees for all LGC Award categories can be found here:-  
[LGC Awards 2022 - shortlist 2022 \(LGC plus.com\)](https://www.lgcplus.com)

#### FEEDBACK ON WAYFINDING SIGNAGE

New directional signs highlighting more key amenities and attractions across Sleaford town centre are to be installed to replace the existing signage.

The ten existing green metal finger posts are due to be removed later this month, to be replaced with an expanding wayfinding scheme following local input.

This expanding signage will better reflect all that Sleaford Town Centre since the current finger posts were installed over 25 years ago, by highlighting heritage assets, shopping leisure attractions and other key aspects more effectively across the wider area. NKDC is leading on and undertaking the work, with Sleaford Town Council and Lincolnshire County Council as key partners.

A full audit of the existing wayfinding signage in the town centre was carried out in 2018 by the three authorities, and a further review took place in 2021.

It found the existing finger posts are not fully reflective now of all there is to see and do in Sleaford town centre. Additionally in some places the information on the signage has become outdated and some signs have become damaged over time. The audit work also found room for improvement in ensuring signage is accessible- considering for example the height of the existing signs, the readability and the limited information carried on them.

The new wayfinding signage will be designed and shaped using local input, with opportunities for residents, businesses and key stakeholders to share their thoughts in different ways including engagement by consultant's Landmark.

Best Wishes

Lucille



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