



**New Year Letter  
from  
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**Lincolnshire County Council  
LCC and North Kesteven  
District Council NKDC**



*Season's Greetings!*

**New Year Message**

Through challenging times, our local councils battled against a backdrop of chaotic national government, war in Europe and a cost-of-living crisis.

***Wishing you a happy and successful 2023.***

I hope you and your family are well. This is my personal newsletter to let you know what I am doing on your behalf and to keep in touch with you. Let me know if I can help with anything.

**Fixing our Streets**

Through "austerity", less of our income tax came back for local spend. Our rural highways fell apart. We ran a big campaign "Fix our funding to fix our roads" and thank you for your support. As part of a team, I work with ministers to get better funding and powers for Councils so we can do a better job for you. I put the case for more money for highways and Lincolnshire got an extra £12m. Independents have pressed our County Council to continue that level of funding and to focus more on our rural roads, which had got into a very poor state.

Elected last year as Shadow cabinet member for Highways, I have investigated and worked with staff to improve the service. We have new senior staff in place and are firmly holding the contractors to account.

In my County area, I started with relentless reporting of dangerous potholes to get the roads safe. Thank you for working with me on this. It is a team effort. I am now getting our worst roads resurfaced to keep the weather out. There is certainly more to do, but I hope you can see we have already made some big improvements.



As Local Councils, we worked together to make our case and some extra Government funding was received. Our communities have risen to the challenge of helping residents, neighbours and refugees fleeing from Ukraine. Village halls, pubs and tea shops have become warm hubs and community food banks, to help residents. As the NHS and Adult Care struggle, we see a big increase in people taking on care and voluntary work, to ensure vital lifelines are in place for the wellbeing of neighbours and residents. Brought together in 2022, we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and were saddened by her loss. Thank you to each and every one.

Lincolnshire Independent Councillors continue to work in support of our communities, despite the turmoil at a national level, caused by misdeeds and ministerial resignations, including five Secretaries of State under three Prime Ministers.

It is easy to see how a lack of public confidence in government at all levels might result and a sense of injustice and a growing anger prevail as we feel the impact of spiralling inflation and a real-terms cut in the value of our money. It was a salutary lesson to see the economic disaster caused by just 45 days of the Liz Truss administration, carrying out Conservative party policies of ever less tax for some and degrading public services. If we want to create a healthy society, we must support our local communities - people, businesses and our environment. Lincolnshire Independents have consistently shown that support and there is a great deal more that we plan to do.

**Supporting Local Services**

Lincolnshire Independents consistently campaign for better local services, facilities, and roads - the things that matter to our residents. In 2022 we campaigned successfully for our District Councils to support residents and tenants in tackling energy costs and inflation. We worked to get better local health services, retain Post Offices and maintain access to local banking. We worked nationally and locally on increased investment in cost-effective road maintenance, and now see a transformation in safer roads, with more to do.

## Improving Planning

We do need more houses to meet local demand but these houses need to be of the right type, in the right places and supported by the right local infrastructure. We are working to change Government policy, locally and nationally, which clings to a 1970's pre-occupation with extensive house-building but notably without the necessary services and facilities and without adequate energy-saving measures.

Lincolnshire has significant of off-shore wind turbines and solar panels, contributing our share. Now we see the threat of massive turbines, allowed in the new planning policy, and applications for solar panels covering thousands of acres of productive farmland, forcing more imports of basic foodstuffs, especially wheat. We need a wide range of local renewable solutions and to become highly efficient, cutting our energy use.

## Tackling Climate change

It has been a year of unprecedented fires and floods as extreme weather events hit England and abroad. Lincolnshire Independents worked to get the Climate emergency motion passed by Councils and embedded into everything we do now and in the future. We worked on a series of issues, investigating and collating into a plan which we put to good use locally and nationally. We held public meetings on the proposed changes to the local planning policy, including energy efficiency measures in new homes, space for nature and the number of new dwellings. The plan sets the rules for development until 2040. We collated the comments into a formal response and put your combined views to the Inquiry itself.

## Winning Elections, adding strength to our Councils

Lincolnshire Independents won all three of the most recent by-elections at North Kesteven in 2022, and we add considerable strength at both District and County Councils. We have made a significant impact for the better, but there is much more we can do. Counting our achievements over the past year reminds us just how much we can do, listening to our communities and working together for our communities.

## Thanks

My heartfelt thanks to colleagues and residents for doing so much over the past year - a great springboard for 2023. Lincolnshire Independents have refreshed our vision and areas of special interest for the New Year. We continue to have courage and resilience, a determination to support local communities through these very difficult times and protect the best of living in Lincolnshire. Thank you for all you continue to do in our communities and your kind support. Wishing you good health, happiness and success throughout 2023.

## Funding the Council

Council tax is about to be decided for all our Councils, and the Police Authority. In a cross-party team, I have worked hard on this with ministers who have responded with at least the basics. This only works if Councils put up Council tax by the maximum allowed. For Districts, that is 3% or £5/year. For County that is 5%, including 2% for vital social care. Many Councils are still short and will be making cuts in services. We are looking at the budgets for 2023/4.

Where do you think we can do less, need to do more and what are you pleased about and want to keep?

As a starting point, [here](#) is what we did last year.

file:///C:/Users/Overtonmarianne/Dropbox/My%20PC%20(Mariannehome)/Downloads/NKDC%20Tax%20Leaflet%202022-23%20(2).pdf



## Free Home Energy Upgrade

We have called long and hard for better support for home insulation to reduce heating bills. Here it is. If you haven't already had a good look at this scheme, also mentioned in my previous newsletter, then now is the time! Grants obtained by a group of our councils provide FREE insulation, solar panels, heat pumps, better electric heaters and more.

Anyone whose home would qualify for an Energy Performance Certificate rating of E or lower and is on a low income (household income after tax of £30k or less or on certain benefits) and savings of less than £16K is eligible to [apply](#). (EPC of D if capacity allows.)

As energy costs have soared, this is how to get help that will make a real difference to energy bills – and help save the planet! Ring *Yes Energy Solutions* on 03309 126199

## Recycling at NKDC Reached 47%

Thank you for putting the right thing in the right bin! I checked this week and our Council has improved to nearly half. The spoilt paper in the mixed recycling was costing us, and sometimes preventing the load from being recycled. That "contamination" rate is now right down, allowing more material to be properly recycled and making us money. Anything in the recycling has to be the right thing and properly clean and dry to be recycled.

## Useful Information

### Healthy Eating

#### Local shops who deliver

East Midlands Dairy 01636 614760

Oldlings meat etc. 01522 810228

Nick Streeter's fish etc. 01400 272547

Grocery Paul Barton 07970 115351

The Old Forge, Brant Broughton 07958 189650

Greens, Bassingham 01522 788200

Welbourn Post Office and Stores 01400 272242

Leadenham Farm Shop 01400 273988

#### Pub/takeaway meals

The Tempest, Coleby 01522 810258

The Bell, Coleby 01522 813778

Thorold Arms, Harmston 07971 029 534

The Bugle Horn, Bassingham 01522 789773

The Five Bells, Bassingham 01522 788269

Generous Briton Brant Broughton Tues-Sat 01400 272119

Akash Indian Takeaway 01522 811126 Navenby

Navenby Chinese Takeaway 01522 810773

#### Pre-cooked meals

Andy's Fish and Chips Van Bassingham Tues, Skellingthorpe Wed, Caythorpe Thurs 5-8pm

Hot lunches for senior citizens 01522 404025 Bassingham, £5 for two courses. Book by Sunday 5pm

Primary hot lunches Thurs and Sat 01522 788488

Age UK will deliver 21 small single person meals for £20, plus £7 delivery 03455 564 144

Hollynelstropcatering@gmail.com - weekly meal boxes



## Local Help Groups

- Aubourn and Haddington Luke Warwick 07765 900099 Hayley 07928 032 866
- Bassingham Support Group 01522 404025
- Beckingham Covid Group Philip Wells 07930 990 950
- Brant Broughton and Stragglethorpe The Old Forge Village Shop delivers locally free. 01400 273796, 07958 189650 9.30am-5pm Tues-Sat, Sun 10-4pm, Mon am.
- Carlton Le Moorland, Norton Disney and Stapleford Nicola Smith 01522 404024 120 volunteers contact@CleMsupport.co.uk
- Coleby Parish Council Sue 01522 810509
- Rector Christine Chris Goldsmith 01400 679081 07494870701 or rectorleadenham@gmail.com
- Welbourn Volunteers Alison 07 377 219 268
- Witham St Hughs Jason Snape on 07894 872 533
- Graffoe Parish Rector Michelle Godbold 01522 426723 with many volunteers, including daily phone calls.

Like me, you may like to become a dementia friend or champion and add support. Being confused and alone or in lockdown, dementia is a tough call. Let's keep our communities friendly and safe for all.

#### First Aid Course online

St John Ambulance <stjohnambulance@email.sja.org.uk

#### Parish Offices for local support and information

Navenby Venue Tuesday to Friday 10-noon

Witham Office at Bassingham in the Hammond Hall, LN5 9HQ 01522 789758 Open Mon, Wed, Thurs 9-1pm

Local Police Statistics <https://www.police.uk/>

#### Access to Wellbeing Services and Care

Covid Helpline continues 01522 782189

The Carers service 01522 782224

carers\_team@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Support for Adult care is available 01522 782155

Supporting People 01522 782140 [www.wellbeinglincs.org](http://www.wellbeinglincs.org)

Umbrellas events supporting all ages with additional needs and their families [umbrellaslincoln@outlook.com](mailto:umbrellaslincoln@outlook.com)

#EveryMindMatters advise on coping with anxiety and improving your mental health: <https://qoo.ly/35q2xs>

Mental health [www.connecttosupport.org](http://www.connecttosupport.org)

Bereavement Helpline St Barnabus 0300 303 1897

tracy.tuffs@stbarnabashospice.co.uk

Befriending Service Lincolnshire YMCA 01529 301965

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) 0800 1448444 free 8am-6pm

#### Church Services

[www.graffoechurches.co.uk](http://www.graffoechurches.co.uk) with Michelle Godbold Christine Goldsmith rectorleadenham@gmail.com [www.withamsidechurches.org.uk](http://www.withamsidechurches.org.uk)

## Where to get more information

Trading with the EU <https://www.gov.uk/transition>

[www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home)

Coronavirus cases: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

Business [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/grants-funding](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/grants-funding)

Lincolnshire County Council [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk)

North Kesteven District Council [www.n-kesteven.gov.uk](http://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk)

Local Government Association [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk)

Navenby Methodist Church 01522 685226  
<http://lincolnmethodist.org.uk/circuit-services-weekly-live-stream/> David.lawton@methodist.org.uk

### Venue Finder

420 Lincolnshire Village halls are registered here.  
[www.lincscmunitybuildings.org.uk](http://www.lincscmunitybuildings.org.uk)

### Useful Advice for Charities

<https://www.charityhowto.com/blog/>

### To protect a house or business against flooding

<http://www.marydhonau.co.uk/information/how-do-i-protect-my-home-from-flooding/>

**Roadworks** [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/overnight-roadworks](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/overnight-roadworks)  
[roadworks@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:roadworks@lincolnshire.gov.uk) Twitter #lincsc roads

### Business Support

[www.businesslincolnshire.com](http://www.businesslincolnshire.com)  
[www.teamlincolnshire.com](http://www.teamlincolnshire.com) do monthly webinars

### Community Larders

**Sleaford Community Larder** at the Newlife Centre  
<http://www.communitylarder.co.uk/>

### Help save lives and keep countryside clean

Report Potholes 01522 782070  
<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/potholes>  
Or use "Fix my street" on line – works well.  
<http://www.FixMyStreet.com>  
Report Litter 01529 414155  
[customer\\_services@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:customer_services@n-kesteven.gov.uk)  
Report illegal parking 01522 511142 or  
[ParkingServices@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:ParkingServices@lincolnshire.gov.uk)  
Adult Concern 01522 782151  
Police: Sgt Ken Whyte, plus PCSO's 101 or [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)  
07973 846537/235/5827  
Floodline 24/7 on 01522 782082

### Highways, Transport and Travel

Good newsletter from [lincscountycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:lincscountycouncil@gmail.com)  
**Roadworks** [www.one.network](http://www.one.network) [lincolnshire.roadworks.org](http://lincolnshire.roadworks.org)  
**Transport** [www.accesslincoln.co.uk](http://www.accesslincoln.co.uk) shows all the options,  
or ask [accesslincoln@lincolnbig.co.uk](mailto:accesslincoln@lincolnbig.co.uk) 01522 581906  
**Call Connect** 8.30am - 7pm Weekdays and to 5pm  
Saturdays 0345 234 33 44 or 01522 553143  
[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/callconnect/35955.article](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/callconnect/35955.article)  
**Dial a ride** 01522 544983 Disabled door to door  
**Car-sharing** [www.lincshare.co.uk](http://www.lincshare.co.uk)  
**Trains** [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com)  
Facebook Hykeham town rural NPT T @hykeham NPT  
**Buses** [www.lincsbus.info](http://www.lincsbus.info) or Traveline 0871 200 22 33

**Mobile Library** 01522 782010 or [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk)

### Planning on line

See and comment on applications to get your voice heard.  
Search "planning on line north Kesteven"  
**Local Plan** [www.central-lincs.org.uk](http://www.central-lincs.org.uk) 01529 308084

### Village websites

[Withamstaple.com](http://Withamstaple.com); [youbassingham.co.uk](http://youbassingham.co.uk)  
[www.carltonle Moorland.org.uk](http://www.carltonle Moorland.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/WhatOnInNocton](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WhatOnInNocton)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/455116074527966/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/455116074527966/) Navenby  
and Wellingore business parishes.[lincolnshire.gov.uk](http://lincolnshire.gov.uk)  
[www.harmston.info](http://www.harmston.info) [www.navenby.net](http://www.navenby.net)  
[dunstondossier.org.uk](http://dunstondossier.org.uk) [nocton.blogspot.co.uk](http://nocton.blogspot.co.uk)  
Welbourn, Leadenham and Coleby are on the LCC site  
E.g. <https://leadenham.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk>  
Branston [www.tucann.co.uk/the-sheepwash-times](http://www.tucann.co.uk/the-sheepwash-times)  
Branston Library 01522 880426  
[www.mrssmithscottage.com](http://www.mrssmithscottage.com)

### County Events- Good web page here

Search Lincolnshire County Council out and about or use  
[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk) search on "county news"

**Wheelchair loan:** No Name Lodge Geoff Nelson 788213  
**Young People Grants** Carlton Le Moorland 07943760155

### Supporting Local Heritage

Mrs Smith's Cottage, Navenby  
Open Friday to Monday noon to 4pm  
Volunteers welcome

