

NEW FEARLESS WEBSITE LAUNCH

Fearless is a youth service of the charity Crimestoppers providing young people the opportunity to give information about crime 100% anonymously. You can now access the Fearless website directly from the Crimestoppers homepage as well as typing in :-

Crimestoppers-Uk.org/fearless

The website has been updated to provide young people and professionals with more information about the service, including a FAQ page and a dedicated section on the website for young people to learn about the range of crime topics.

PASSIVHAUSES WIN COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

NKDC are delighted to share that Passivhaus development at Potterhanworth was named as winner of the Sustainable Project of the Year category at the Greater Lincolnshire Construction and Property Awards.

With NKDC's building partner Lindum, the team has learned a huge amount through the project and raised to the challenge of building to the Passivhaus standard. The experience gained has contributed to developing NK's CO2sy Homes standard which all new council homes will be built to in the future.

Well done to all of the teams and huge thanks to Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce for recognizing the project in this way.

COMMUNITY LOTTERY GRANTS

The number of good causes and community groups benefitting from the North Kesteven Community Lottery is set to expand as a grant opens to spread the funding joy.

With about 500 people playing the lottery, which directly benefits 69 groups and organisations signed up to promote and receive a share of ticket sales every week, a further sum has built up specifically to benefit a broader range of good causes.

Through the administration of the Lincolnshire Community Foundation, the fund is now open to redistribution. Small, volunteer-led, District based charitable organisations are invited to apply up to March 31st for grants up to £500.

Funding will be targeted at organisations that deliver positive outcomes, supporting current and ongoing needs of people living in North Kesteven, ensuring their health and wellbeing is maintained - such as by reducing isolation and promoting cohesion, promoting connectivity, delivering community/cultural activities and events, or youth activities, including uniformed groups.

Details are available on the Lincolnshire Community Foundation's Grant Page at:-

www.lincolnshirecf.co.uk

The application process is straightforward, and help is available at every step from the team. Example's of the type of project costs that can be met include volunteer expenses, resources and equipment, event costs, premises costs, sessional fees, running costs, insurance and annual subscriptions.

The closing date for receipt of application is March 31st, 2023, with decision notified within 4-6 weeks.

COMMONWEALTH FLAG RAISING

North Kesteven District Council will be raising the Commonwealth Flag and conducting a short ceremony on Lafford Terrace commencing from 10.30 - 11.00am on Monday March 13th 2023.

This ceremony is held simultaneously with 76 cities in the United Kingdom who are raising a special Commonwealth Flag of Peace celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the signing of the Commonwealth Charter by our late Queen Elizabeth 11.

If you are present at the building on Monday morning, you are welcome to join the the small gathering in the presence of The Chairman of the Council and Chief Executive to mark this auspicious event.

BBC MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARDS

The BBC Make a Difference awards are back for another year to celebrate people who are going above and beyond to make a difference where they live. The awards are a chance to say "Thank You" and show recognition and appreciation for people who love to make life better for others.

Nominations close Sunday 5th March 2023 at 11.00am

Winners will be selected by a panel judges and wards will be given in each category, across each local BBC radio station.

LOCAL LANDCHARGES TEAM SHORTLISTED FOR NATIONAL AWARD

NKDC are delighted to reveal that their Local Landcharges (LLC) team has made the shortlist for the Best Performing Local Landcharges Department, at the 2023 Land data awards for Excellence- the only awards to recognise excellence and achievement in the profession.

For this award, the judging panel accesses NLIS Hub data collected between October 1st 2021 - September 30th 2022 on electronic turnaround times, the level of overdue searches, search accuracy and volumes, which are weighted against transactional volumes for the authority's area.

The results are combined and ranked to create a shortlist.

NK LLC team manages thousands of land and property searches each year and is an essential part of the home buying and selling process for their residents.

The winners of the Best Performing Local Land Charge, Department Award sponsored by the NLIS, will be announced at the Land Data Land Charges Awards for Excellence on 28th March 2023 at the Bristol Hotel, Bristol,

PLANNING AHEAD FOR THE CORONATION

With three months to go until the Coronation of His Majesty The King Charles 111 on Saturday May 6th, information and advice is being compiled to help communities plan their celebrations.

It is anticipated that communities across the District, whether at street or neighbourhood level, or entire villages and towns, will be looking to put the flags out, string up the bunting, lay out trestle tables and plan parties over the extended weeeeknd, as they did with such enthusiasm for last summers Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The Coronation programme will include the procession and service at Westminster Abbey on May 6th, the 'Coronation Big Lunch' across the country on May 7th with an evening concert in Windsor, and 'The Big Help Out' community activity on the bank holiday Monday May 8th.

The District Council has a central role to play in helping communities in their preparations - through the licensing, enviromental health, food hygiene, waste and street scene functions for instance, the Chairman of the Council would welcome the opportunity to attend and support events. Call 01529 308220 or email corporateandcivicsupport@n-kesteven.gov.uk with any invitations.

It is important to remember when planning any street parties that road closures must be applied for, as may certain entertainments or event licenses, and that any bunting or decorations should be hung to allow access for bin lorries operating on working days (including on the Bank Holiday Monday and any large or emergency vehicles.

Please also consider ways to minimise waste, promote recycling and progress climate action in anything you do.

As it did in advance of The Platinum Jubilee, the Council will share its website and through a newsletter a comprehensive guide to grant funding, useful advice, digital and downloadable resources from Buckingham Palace and top tips for party planning - in line with the King's stated aims for inclusivity, sustainability, low-cost, low-carbon, low-impact celebrations and broad community benefit. To sign up for the newsletter go to:-

[Www,n-kesteven.gov.uk/stayconnected](http://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/stayconnected)

There will also be a guide to known events and activities at www.heartoflincs.com

To get your community activity listed for free, email: heartoflincs@n-kesteven.gov.uk

EMPTY HOMES: COSTLY TO LEAVE EMPTY, BUT REWARDING RESTORED

With owners of long-term empty homes facing council tax bills four times higher than for occupied properties, this Empty Homes Week they are advised to seek support and guidance to bring them back into use.

More than 250 empty homes have been brought back into use across North Kesteven through the targeted intervention and involvement of a specific District Council initiative, over the past 12 years or so.

Not only do empty homes represent a lost opportunity for someone to be accommodated and contribute to community life, but they can be a target for damage and anti-social behaviour, cause environmental harm and present a danger. They are also a costly burden, not only failing to draw an income for their owners but costing potentially thousands of pounds a year in charges.

If a house remains empty over two years it is charged at double the full charge: escalating to three times the rate after five years and four times after 10 years.

After two years the Council's multi-discipline Empty Property Working Group pays particular attention to try and identify ownership, liaise and unlock barriers to refurbishment and promote to owners potential VAT reductions of other incentives to restoration and re-habitation. Of the 407 homes currently known to have been empty for six months or more, 87 have been empty for two or more years, 42 of them for over four years: 31 for five years and 14 for ten years or longer.

One long-term empty home is Heckington Manor which has been empty since 2003, gradually falling into a state of dereliction and attracting damage, trespass and nuisance. Since taking ownership in 2020, Charles and Sally Pinchbeck have swiftly set about bringing it back into use and greatly valued the support of various North Kesteven officers in advising them through planning, building safely and environmental technicalities.

More information on how to handle Empty Homes can be found on:

[Www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/emptyhomes](http://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/emptyhomes)

Or call Empty Homes officer on 01529 415415

VOTING ID

Please make sure on voting day to bring photo identification with you to present otherwise you will not be allowed to vote even if you are known to the officials.

Best Wishes

Lucille



Cllr Lucille Hagues

Chairman of Council

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A light blue banner for The Electoral Commission. On the left, it says "The Electoral Commission" and "Find out more at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID". Below that, it says "No ID? You can apply for free voter ID". On the right, a pink sticky note is attached with the text: "REMEMBER TO 1- Register to vote 2- Check my photo ID 3- Vote at a polling station!"