

REPAIR CAFÉ IS BACK FOR 2024

Sleaford repair café run by Sleaford Climate Action Network, is returning in 2024 in a bid to keep more items out of the waste system and staying in use.

You can take along small electricals, toys, clothes and textiles, I.T. equipment, bicycles and many other items for a free repair by experienced volunteers (though donations are welcome).

The café is open from 12.30 – 3.00pm at the Riverside Church Hall, Southgate on :

16th March 18th May, 20th July, 21st September and 16th November.

The team are always looking for new repairers so if you have the skills and experience in repairing any items, please contact Sleaford CAN. For any enquiries call 07962 360581. There are also repair cafes in Lincoln. Search for Lincoln Repair Café UK on Facebook and Instagram.

ELECTIONS IN 2024

There will be at least one major election taking place within North Kesteven this year – and likely more – which will require you to make a few decisions and take a series of actions.

For certain there will be an election on Thursday May 2nd to choose the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

The next United Kingdom General election is also to be expected to be held in 2024.

And at any time, there could be by-elections, neighbourhood plan referenda or other forms of ballots held.

All of these require potential voters to be registered to vote; to have with them one of the approved types of photo I.D if using a polling station or to make arrangements to vote by post or proxy if desired; and to understand other changes that may impact on where and how you cast your vote.

Now is a good time to make sure you have what's needed in place.

CHANGES TO OVERSEAS ELECTORS

From Tuesday 16th January 2024, British citizens* can register as overseas electors if they are currently living abroad, and:

Are currently or were previously registered to vote within the constituency, either as a domestic elector before they left the UK or, as an overseas elector since they left the UK.

This is known as the previously registered condition, OR were previously registered in the constituency (including those who left the UK before they were old enough to register to vote). This is known as the previously resident condition.

There is no longer a time limit when they were last registered or resident in the UK. A British Citizen can register as an overseas elector regardless of when they left the UK, provided they satisfy the previously registered or previously resident criteria.

Overseas electors can only vote at UK Parliamentary elections and UK wide referendums.

Examples of individuals who may be eligible to register under this condition include:

A person who, before they left the UK, was registered to vote in a local or parliamentary register.

A person who has previously been registered as an overseas elector and whose declaration has expired.

A person last registered as basis of being a Declaration of Local Connection elector, a Merchant Seaman, an anonymous elector, or a service voter.

If an elector successfully registers as an overseas elector, then their declaration is valid for up to three years. Each declaration will expire on the third 1st November after the date the declaration has been made unless the elector renews their declaration.

NEW DROP IN ADVICE SESSIONS

Citizens Advice Mid Lincolnshire will now be holding drop-in advice sessions at Sleaford Community Grocers, Units 17/28, Riverside Centre, Sleaford, NG34 7PD. Advisors will be available every Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND

Charities, community groups, social enterprises and parish and town councils operating within North Kesteven can apply for a share of £74,389 to help meet the costs of activities and opportunities for people living in rural areas.

The Rural England Prosperity Fund is part of the Governments initiative for Levelling UP, targeted at rurally isolated areas, and running alongside the UK Shared Prosperity programme.

Initial bids for between £5000 and £10,000 should be made by February 16th for the capital costs of schemes that strengthen communities, building pride in place, to bring people together and create social connections that will grow and thrive.

Projects must be rural areas e.g. towns, villages, and hamlets with populations below 10,000, or market or 'hub towns' with a population of up to 30,000 that serve their surrounding rural areas as centres of employment and in providing services. This means that some areas of North Hykeham and Waddington West are not eligible for funding.

On the Councils behalf, the grants are being managed by the Lincolnshire Community Foundation which will support applicants through the process. Call on 01529 305825.

£300,000 SECURED FOR HARD-TO-REACH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

NKDC are part of a consortium that has been awarded £300,000 to help local homes to become more energy efficient. For some, searching for information on-line or making applications for support schemes is more difficult to do, and some houses are harder to adapt to be more green. That's where Lincs 4 warmer Homes scheme comes in, with a dedicated team that is tasked to help those who have struggled to access other schemes.

Residents will receive one to one help to make improvements that will lead to more cosier and comfortable homes.

For help, call 01427 675199 or email energy.advice@westt-lindsey.gov.uk

This is funded by the Governments Local Energy Advice Demonstrator project and NKDC is working with Lincoln City Council, SKDC, WLDC and Lincolnshire County Council.

MMR VACCINE UPDATE

With an upsurge in the Midlands of cases of measles, the UK Health Security Agency is promoting the availability of a vaccine that does not contain porcine (pig derived ingredients).

The advice for people who have not already done so, to get their measles, mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine as soon as possible. The MMR vaccine can be given at any age (including for adults) and two doses are recommended. It is safe, effective, and free of charge.

In the UK, there are two MMR vaccines which work very well. One of them contains Gelatine derived from pigs and the other one doesn't.

FREE ACCESS TO ZELLAR FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (SMEs) IN NORTH KESTEVEN

Under our 2030 carbon net-zero ambition for both the Council and the wider District, NKDC is subsidising places on the Zellar programme so that 300 local small to medium business's can access this scheme free of charge and can kickstart their sustainability journey's.

Zellar is an online sustainability tool, that helps businesses through the process of calculating and understanding their carbon emissions and then builds an achievable plan to reduce them, based on the size and sector of their company.

Businesses using the Zellar app and website can reduce emissions and save up to £4,100 in energy bills. One years full subsidised access to Zellar is worth £299.

Best Wishes

Lucille



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