

## District Councillors Report Helpringham 2026

### **E-Waste Action Week returns bigger and better**

Building on last year's success, [E-Waste Action Week](#) is coming back with an expanded programme. With two Repair Cafes in the week (in Sleaford and Bracebridge Heath) and drop-off points around the District, we're hoping it'll have an even bigger impact.

Electronic waste - E-Waste - consists of all those electrical and electronic items which we discard, including cables, which millions of us stash in drawers and cupboards. These devices are packed with useful materials that could be reused, saving the environmental damage caused by mining.

Sleaford Climate Action Network (SleafordCAN) and North Kesteven District Council are working together to run the Action Week from 16 to 23 May 2026. North Kesteven residents are encouraged to donate mobile phones, laptops, tablets and cables during the event, which will be refurbished and redistributed to people in need, or recycled securely.

At the event in 2025, which was focused on Sleaford, 84 laptops, more than 380 phones and tablets, and 220kg of cables were donated. Everything was data wiped and reset to protect the original user's information. Older devices such as those on 3G signals or where operating systems could not be updated, were sent to Ghana and Ukraine. Any remaining items were securely destroyed and the materials recycled. All the items that could be refurbished are distributed to local people and good causes.



### **Food waste recycling - successful first month**

One month after launching food waste collections in Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey, and two weeks into South Kesteven's rollout, early results show a positive response from residents.

Thousands of households are now using their food waste caddies each week, helping to recycle food that would previously have gone in the general waste stream. In the first month alone, more than 950 tonnes of food waste has been collected across the four districts.

The new service makes it easier for residents to recycle everyday items such as peelings, leftovers, tea bags and bones. All of the food waste that is collected from homes is taken to an anaerobic digestion facility, where it is turned into energy and fertiliser, supporting local agriculture and generating renewable power.

Read the full story on the [Lincolnshire County Council website](#).

#### **Some key reminders for caddy-users:**

- The collection is weekly so you can put your caddy out every week on your usual black, green-lidded or purple-lidded bin day – no matter how much or how little you have inside it.
- You can use any other plastic liners such as bread bags or shopping bags – they get separated at the plant.
- Your food waste caddy is collected by a different team in different vehicles, so will typically be picked up earlier or later than your wheeled bins.
- Only your orange-lidded caddy should be placed out for collection, please don't place your grey caddy inside your orange-lidded caddy.

Find out more about the service on the North Kesteven District Council [Find out more about the service on the North Kesteven District Council website](#).

### **Armed Forces Week in Sleaford**

The usual Armed Forces flag raising ceremony will take place in Sleaford Market Place to mark the start of Armed Forces Week.

Serving military, veterans' groups, civic dignitaries, the local community and charities are invited to attend the free event at 10.30am on Monday, 22 June, 2026. The event will close with a primary school choir performance.

This will be followed by the Celebration of Military Service, held at NKDC Council Chamber, Kesteven Street in Sleaford (a ticketed event) from 12pm-2pm. This event will recognise and commemorate the

15th Anniversary of the end of Op Telic, and the 35th anniversary of the end of the Gulf War as well as the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bomber Command and the awarding of Veteran Badges. Call NKDC on 01529 414155 to apply for tickets and ask for the Partnerships Team or email: [armedforces@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:armedforces@n-kesteven.gov.uk) As part of Armed Forces week, hosted in NKDC's Council Chamber, Veterans Support Service are planning an Armed Forces Community Open Day on Wednesday, 24 June, which also marks Reservists Day and is free to attend.

For more details on the events marking Armed Forces week, email [armedforces@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:armedforces@n-kesteven.gov.uk) or call 01529 414155 and ask for the Council's Partnerships Team. There is also information available on the Council's [Armed Forces Events webpage](#).

### **Heating Oil Support**

A new Fund has been launched to help vulnerable households across Lincolnshire manage the increased cost of heating oil.

The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF), a UK Government initiative established locally by Lincolnshire County Council and the district councils, now includes the heating oil support, which is being delivered in partnership with Lincolnshire Community Foundation (LCF), providing targeted financial assistance to residents most in need.

North Kesteven is covered by LCF and you can find more information, eligibility, and find out how to apply on [North Kesteven District Council's Heating Oil Payments webpage](#).

This initiative is designed to help vulnerable residents heat their homes and access hot water.

### **Explore the beauty and landscapes of North Kesteven at the 2026 NK Walking Festival**

Immerse yourself in the beauty and tranquillity of North Kesteven's towns, villages and open spaces, by taking part in a range of over 70 led walks at this summer's NK Walking Festival.

Whether you want a short or long trek, to enjoy an array of themed walks, or even try out some walking sports, there will be something for everyone and every pace at the 2026 NK Walking Festival, which takes place over 16 days between June 6 and 21, 2026.

Read the full press release on the [Council's website](#).

### **Empty Homes referrals**

The Empty Homes project is keen to receive referrals of any long-term empties locally, in order that it can help owners to move them forwards for return to use. This includes both those in need of major work and more smart, modern homes.

The below eye-catching poster design can be printed and displayed, or shared on your social media channels

The poster has been shared with parish and town councils to display locally. If, additionally, you'd like to receive any hard copies for display locally please email [emptyhomes@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:emptyhomes@n-kesteven.gov.uk) with a note of number and sizes required.

The empty homes project seeks to make best use of any empty properties, ensuring they contribute to our flourishing communities, easing the pressure on the need to build additional new homes and rectifying issues of community safety concern

### **Sleaford stakes its claim as UK Town of Culture**

A bid for Sleaford to be the UK's first Town of Culture in 2028 has been made to Government, highlighting the town's rich heritage, creative spirit and distinctive characteristics.

Sleaford's submission comes from the Sleaford Culture & Heritage Forum, comprising local cultural organisations, creatives, heritage groups and community partners, including the District Council. It is made in response to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Town of Culture competition which comes with has a top prize of £3m to deliver cultural programmes in 2028, and two further packages of £250,000.

Read the full story on the [Council website](#)

**Crisis and Resilience Fund**

On Monday, 16 March, the government announced targeted support will be available through the Crisis and Resilience Fund for low-income households that rely on heating oil and are facing immediate financial hardship due to increased heating oil prices. Putting them at risk of losing immediate access to heating or hot water. The Shared Revenues and Benefits Team are working to finalise eligibility criteria and will update this information as soon as possible.

If you come across any residents struggling with heating oil costs to e-mail [costofliving@lincoln.gov.uk](mailto:costofliving@lincoln.gov.uk) and Shared Revenues and Benefits will see what they might be able to do.