

District Councillors Report Helpringham - Jan 2024

Below is NKDC's current flood advice, it centres around a Local Community Resilience.

Community Emergency Plan

I've sent you details already about NKDC's advice on how to put a plan together, and I note it's an agenda item. Just to reminder, you can email LincsEP@lincolnshire.gov.uk they will assist in putting the plan together, and they are holding an information evening on the 19th February.

Devolution

Within the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement in late November, there was the announcement of a devolution deal between the Government and the local authorities of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council – the area known as Greater Lincolnshire.

The Government said this was an 'historic deal' marking 'a new devolution agreement' that would see 'the creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA), alongside a directly elected mayor for the area', with the first mayoral election to be held in May 2025. In recent days the three constituent councils of the mayoral authority (LCC, North Lincs and North East Lincs) have agreed and adopted the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution Proposal, and an eight-week consultation with residents in the Greater Lincolnshire area is underway to get their views before deciding whether to submit the Proposal to government either in its current form or an amended version. The consultation closes on January 29.

The devolution deal transfers new powers and funding to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, alongside a £720 million long-term investment fund (spread over 30 years) to drive economic growth and take forward local priorities. Alongside this, the deal also includes £8.6 million of investment in brownfield funding, devolution of the Adult Education Budget, and £28 million of capital funding in advance of the inaugural election to drive place-based economic regeneration in Greater Lincolnshire (subject to business cases).

You can find the Government's statement website [HERE](#).

And more information on what it means for Lincolnshire and how to get involved [HERE](#).

Through a majority decision, Councillors at North Kesteven District Council have now agreed to 'continue to engage positively with the implementation of the devolution arrangements, based on delivery of Greater Lincolnshire Vision for 2050 and those benefits that will come to the area through Devolution'.

Afterwards Council Leader, Cllr Richard Wright sought to explain elements of the deal in this video [HERE](#).

Council also undertook to promote awareness of the consultation and engagement process. This is all being co-ordinated by Lincolnshire County Council. Details of those can be found [HERE](#). A paper form can be requested.

There are various drop-in sessions taking place across the Greater Lincolnshire area and details can be found [HERE](#).

Locally the Sleaford one is on Wednesday January 10, 3pm - 7pm at the Source, Southgate and in Lincoln at the Showroom, Tritton Road, on Thursday January 25, 3pm - 7pm and also in Bourne, Boston and Grantham.

You can read the initial news article on the North Kesteven District Council website [HERE](#). And find out more information on the Lincolnshire County Council website [HERE](#).

Billinghay Rural Ward

The result of the Billinghay Rural Ward by-election is a Liberal Democrat win - the first Liberal Democrat councillor on North Kesteven District Council for around 20 years. Adrian Whittle polled 345 of the 863 votes cast in today's election.

Detail of works to highlight monument confirmed

Improvements to the area around Handley Monument which will better highlight its importance as a historic Sleaford landmark will start in January 2024.

North Kesteven District Council is using the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to make improvements which will highlight and reflect the character of the Grade II listed Handley Monument by uplighting it and improving the space around it.

The changes include:

A new electricity supply and low energy LED feature lighting, to highlight its architectural features and fully showcase it as a gateway feature to Sleaford town centre as people enter via Southgate.

An information board detailing the monument's history and Henry Handley who it commemorates.

Two new planters, each filled with a mix of planting to brighten up the area and with benches incorporated. Both of the existing trees are being retained within the planters.

Re-paving the area around the new planters, and giving the rest of the existing paving around the monument a good clean.

A new bicycle rack incorporated into one of the planters.

Removal of bollards where safe to do so, for better flow and accessibility by reducing the amount of street clutter.

The existing private access to the land behind the properties next to the monument will be maintained.

The project acts on a public survey which was carried out last autumn by North Kesteven District Council on the Handley Monument project. When asked what improvements should be made around the monument, the top response from respondents was 'lighting the monument', followed by 'removal of signage and clutter', and then 'seating and landscaping', and this is the work taking place.

The project has also been developed together with a stakeholder group including Sleaford Town Council and the Sleaford and District Civic Trust, and it has been shared with businesses next to the works. The Handley Monument project has been allocated £165,000 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

A survey was undertaken this autumn asking how people rate Monument Garden's facilities, and funding for the improvements will be provided by the Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. For more information visit the GOV.UK website [HERE](#) or read the full story [HERE](#).

New tourism experiences programme

Do you know of anyone who operates a business in North Kesteven that's geared towards the visitor economy?

They might be interested in a new business support programme offering free support in creating new experiences, trails, and tourism products.

Experts in the visitor economy Destination Lincolnshire and Unmissable England are delivering the support, and it's been secured by the Council through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

For more information visit [HERE](#).

The first units complete at Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park

Work to build 15 units at Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park is now complete, moving the development closer to welcoming in the first businesses to call it home.

They're all designed to meet business needs now and in future, by providing flexible space to grow and in reducing energy use through features including EV charging points, solar panels, and even skylights within the plot one units.

In plot one there are nine units ranging from 1,313 sq ft to 2,066 sq ft – these benefit from solar panels, energy efficient insulation and electric vehicle charging points. Plot three contains six slightly larger grow-on business units from 3,369 sq ft to 5,123 sq ft and these have solar panels, EV charging points and more.

There's just some final touches to go which will complete phase one, including planting. Follow [@northkestevenc](#) and [@businessnk](#) to stay up to date.

For more information please visit [HERE](#).