

District Councillors Report Helpringham - May 2024

Lincs Reservoir

Anglian Water has released an artist's impression of the proposed new reservoir showing an example of what the reservoir close to Screddington, Helpringham and Swaton could look like in the future - <https://www.lincsreservoir.co.uk/>

Second consultation 30 May – 25 July

Over the eight-week consultation period, the project will be welcoming feedback on the emerging design for the reservoir and the associated water infrastructure required to fill the reservoir, treat the water, and transport it to homes and businesses.

It will focus on the following areas:

The emerging design for the reservoir (known as the masterplan), shows ideas for where recreation, wildlife, nature and other features could be, together with the shape of the reservoir and its embankments.

The locations and land areas Anglian Water has identified for the associated water infrastructure needed to transport water from source to the reservoir, for treating the water, and for supplying it to homes and businesses.

AW will also be providing information on our preliminary proposals for wider areas of land in the vicinity of the reservoir, which we could need for environmental mitigation and construction.

Residential property support scheme

The residential property support scheme is still being finalised and should be launched to coincide with the second phase of consultation.

Sleaford Market Place progress

An initial timeframe is now being set for the works to Sleaford's Market Place.

North Kesteven District Council has communicated to key stakeholders the new expected timings for the approved scheme, which will see Market Place revitalised using around £1 million in UK Shared Prosperity Fund money to create a welcoming space for people in the centre of Sleaford.

It's planned that its use as a public car park will cease in mid-July, with the exact date currently expected to be Friday, July 19 but may be subject to change. Onsite preparations and assessments will then take place, before groundworks which are set to begin at the end of July and will continue through into December. The work is expected to be completed in mid-December.

Council and Lafford Homes tenant's repairs

How to report a repair: To help streamline things for NKDC tenants and make it easier for them to report a repair, the advice on doing so has changed slightly. If it's a new repair, tenants should call the **Ian Williams Ltd phone line on 01529 712554**

Those who have had a contractor visit to undertake a repair but are awaiting further contact from that assigned contractor, or any tenants who would like more information on a repair that's been assigned to a contractor, should still call us on **01529 414155 and speak with our Repairs Team**

Heckington Parish Council

A parish council by-election was also held on May 2, 2024 for Heckington Parish Council; won by Jacki Wright polling 419 votes over Andrew Davison's 398.

Climate Change Member Champion introductory email and survey to parish/town councils

An email was sent to every parish and town council in the District on 4 May introducing Councillor Head's new role as Climate Change Member Champion. Please complete if possible to allow NKDC to make use of the important information requested.

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/qhc8w6>

A17 overnight closures

A section of the A17 will be closed overnight between Holdingham Roundabout and the A52 Bicker Bar Roundabout for a period of three weeks until Sunday 19 May 2024. The closure will take place five days a week between Sunday and Thursday from 20:00 to 06:00. The road will be open throughout Friday and Saturday evenings. Diversions will be in place during these hours.

NK Plan 2024-27

The NK Plan 2024-27 has recently been approved, outlining the Council's vision for flourishing communities across North Kesteven over the next three years.

The focus for Our Economy is to support sustainable and regenerative local economic growth and resilience, transitioning to a Green Economy working within environmental thresholds.

Key ambitions include supporting business growth, attracting investments and celebrating all that the District has to offer. [View the NK Plan 2024-27](#) to read more about the Council's plans for the next three years.

GRANTS

Small grants made available to village halls in England

Managed by Action with Rural Communities in England (ACRE), the fund has already awarded over £1 million to rural communities, helping them undertake ambitious improvements to their buildings. Works undertaken or scheduled to take place include new roofs, insulation, extensions, and more energy-efficient heating systems.

The grant fund is re-opening to new applicants who wish to undertake smaller projects such as disability access, toilet upgrades and new kitchens. Grant awards of between £2,000 to £5,000, and up to 20 per cent of eligible project costs, are on offer. Project expenditure must take place before 31 March 2025.

The minimum grant available has been set at £2000 and the largest grant at £5000. Note: As the grant can only be 20% of eligible project costs your committee must have the 80% match in hand or identified at the point of submitting the application.

For more information please visit the link: <https://acre.org.uk/press-release-small-grants-made-available-to-village-halls-in-england/>

Local councils are now also invited to apply for fund

Good causes, not-for-profit groups, and now local councils too are all invited to seek funding for community projects through an ongoing grant scheme.

The Sleaford REP Community Power Fund is £125,000 of grant money available up until 2025 to support community projects. The fund is delivered in partnership by Schroders Greencoat, owners of the Sleaford Renewable Energy Plant, and North Kesteven District Council which helps administer it. Community projects that contribute to environmental sustainability, sport, wellbeing and education,

in order to empower and foster community development are all eligible to apply, and are encouraged now to get their applications in.

Projects eligible for funding include – but are not limited to – enhancing green spaces, support for community groups, investments in community facilities and organising events or performances. The eligibility criteria for local councils differ slightly from other community groups. Local councils may only apply for capital projects and must provide 50% match funding.

The fund allocates £25,000 per year and grants up to £5,000 per application in a single year.

Applications are reviewed quarterly by the Sleaford REP Community Fund panel, which is made up of representatives from the energy plant, North Kesteven District Council and the local community.

To qualify for funding, groups must be not-for-profit entities with a registered office located within five miles of the Sleaford Renewable Energy Plant and possess a constitution or governing document, as well as a bank or building society account.

The locations eligible to apply for funding are; Anwick, Asgarby and Howell, Ashby de la Launde, Aswarby and Swarby, Aunsby and Dembledy, Burton Pedwardine, Cranwell, Culverthorpe and Kelby, Dorrington, Ewerby and Evedon, Great Hale, Heckington, Helpringham, Kirkby la Thorpe, Leasingham and Roxholm, Little Hale, North Kyme, North Rauceby, Osbournby, Ruskington, Screddington, Silk Willoughby, Sleaford, South Kyme, South Rauceby, Swaton, Threekingham and Wilsford.

For more information please visit: <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/council-news/2024/02/local-councils-now-also-invited-apply-fund>

View the Community fund form guidelines [HERE](#).