

## **District Councillors Report - June 2024**

### **Pre-Election Period for General Election**

The Pre-Election Period describes the period of time immediately before elections or referendums when specific restrictions on communications activity are in place. The restrictions will continue to apply until 10pm on Thursday 4 July 2024, when polls close.

Information for residents about key dates, voter ID and more: [HERE](#)

Further information about the election is available on our website: [HERE](#)

Pre-Election Period guidance on Members Library: [HERE](#)

### **Two most senior officers to leave NKDC**

North Kesteven District Council's two most senior officers – Chief Executive Ian Fytche and Deputy Chief Executive Phil Roberts – will leave the Council later this year.

The announcement comes when they both feel that the Council is in a confident position to move forward positively with clear values, purpose, intent and vision, with a strong leadership team in place, a sound financial footing and a clear direction of travel.

Ian will have completed 19 years with the Council when he leaves at the end of December, and Phil 20 years when he leaves in mid-September. They have reached their decisions independently of each other, concluding that the time is right to explore new directions and personal priorities. Council Leader Cllr Richard Wright has thanked them both for their decades of dedicated service.

Read more about this important news in yesterday's email or the news story on the website: [HERE](#).

### **Climate change Member Champions survey**

If you haven't done so yet, can you please respond to the Climate change Member Champions survey. The survey will provide NKDC with invaluable information about climate action at parish level, along with details of local events and communications channels.

The closing date has been extended to 21 June, but will be left open for responses should any meetings fall after this date. Please do [contact Cllr Head](#) with any questions, the link to the survey is <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/qhc8w6>

### **Armed Forces Day event**

On 24 June a flag-raising event will take place at 10.30am at St Denys Church, Sleaford Market Place, followed by a veteran's lunch and presentation of veterans badges.

Veteran's badges are awarded for any length of service duration in any of the armed forces or merchant navy, as a regular or reservist. The deadline to apply for a veteran's badge has now passed. You can find more information [here](#).

### **Handley Monument works**

The first phase of works has started to better showcase Sleaford's Handley Monument.

From Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June, up-lighting for the monument will be installed by contractor Lindum Group. Areas around the monument will be fenced off during these works, as the team will be lifting the paving to run cables underneath and installing a power box that's required nearby. The works are expected to be completed within the week. People will still be able to walk through the area during these works, but there will be limited access at times for vehicles to the private car park behind (at the back of the Ivy pub).

## **Sleaford Castle Exhibition**

The secrets of Sleaford Castle, unseen for nearly 450 years are on display in another of the town's greatest historical legacies, Navigation House.

Following extensive research and archaeological investigation last summer by Sleaford Castle Heritage Group volunteers, the exhibition uses discoveries to look back into 900 years of history and present a sense of the impressive Norman castle and the impact it had on Sleaford and the surrounding area.

Built between 1123 and 1139, it stood proudly for 450 years and hosted King John and Henry VIII before being dismantled around the time of Elizabeth I.

With the exception of a restricted amateur excavation in the 1860s, no concerted attempt has been made to unearth its mysteries – until now.

But through the endeavours of the heritage group, formed in 2018 by Sleaford Town Council, site owners, and Sleaford & District Civic Trust, the castle is now being revealed to everyone.

Whilst a broader project seeks to increase access and interpretation of the site, North Kesteven District Council is making good use of UK Shared Prosperity Funds to build pride of place and community, by commissioning the **Uncovering Sleaford Castle Exhibition – open at Navigation House, Friday to Monday 10am to 2pm**, through to March 2025 – to present discoveries from the comprehensive geophysical and archaeological investigations.

These include floor tile fragments featuring cat and dog paw prints, Medieval pottery and a Bavarian coin-like token from late in its occupation.

Alongside this exhibition the funding has enabled the creation of a virtual reality model of the castle, interpretation boards to be installed on Castle Field, the development of an engagement programme and educational workshops, ensuring that the exhibition not only preserves the past but also educates and inspires future generation on the significance of what remains of the place where King John slept shortly before his death at Newark in October 1216.