

District Councillors Report - July 2024

Preparations underway ready for Market Place closure

Final arrangements are being made ahead of works to make Sleaford Market Place a useful space to hold markets, events and public activities more freely.

Ahead of the scheme, details on the work schedule are being shared with stakeholders and nearby businesses.

Advance signage will also be installed to forewarn of the closure of the Market Place as a car park from July 19, followed by further signs to say that the businesses around the Market Place are open as usual, to give information on alternative car parks and direct people to the temporary location of the market and Farmer's Market at Eastgate Car Park.

Some final onsite checks will then take place before the groundworks begin at the end of July, running through to an expected completion in mid-December.

[For full details and FAQs please see the website.](#)

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](#).

Handley Monument works

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

From Monday 10th 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).

Artwork - Have you noticed this new artwork that's popped up in Sleaford?

It's a collaborative piece with artist William Lindley, installed at the old Post Office building on Southgate, and celebrates Sleaford Castle and the Bass Maltings. It's one of three such collaborative art projects this summer that aim to celebrate and reconnect with Sleaford's heritage and history.

Roadworks at Northgate, Sleaford

Lincolnshire County Council has given advanced notice of works set for Northgate in Sleaford that will involve road closures over an eight week period from Monday, July 22.

In the main the closures will happen in sections, but with a full overnight road closure in place from 6pm to 6am daily from Saturday, August 3 for up to two weeks.

They say "sections of the B1518 Northgate are deteriorating, so we are taking the opportunity to rebuild them to improve safety and usability of the road. In addition, we'll also be using this opportunity to carry out a full refurbishment of the traffic signals at the B1518/Tesco junction, under a single lane closure for up to eight weeks from Monday, July 22. Additionally, we will be

undertaking footway resurfacing and numerous pedestrian improvements from Monday, August 19 for up to four weeks."

The diversion route will be via the B1518, the A17 and Sleaford's one-way system.

The County Council says that because it is such a large project, there will inevitably be some disruption, but every effort will be made to keep this to a minimum. This includes:

Maintaining access for residents and emergency services throughout the project as far as reasonably practicable

Keeping pedestrian footways open to the public

Having gatemens present at each end of the closure to assist with access and egress

Implementing a signed diversion route during closures

Seeking to carry the scheme out as quickly and efficiently as possible

Up-to-date information about roadworks in Lincolnshire [can be found online](#).

The finale day last Saturday for RiverLight Festival 2024 did not disappoint!

The packed day of live performance and street theatre, culture and art exhibitions, music, food, a business trail with support from Business NK, shopping and more was topped with a grand parade which partied its way through the town centre from the Boston Road rec. The parade was led by a giant swan and followed by schools with their pupils in wonderful costume, stilt performers and more. Thanks to all who came along to support it on Saturday, and to everyone involved in delivering the whole week of festivities.

You can watch a highlights video of the finale day [HERE](#).

RiverLight Festival is funded by North Kesteven District Council, through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. With a packed programme of activity generated by the Hub, together with renowned artists and performers, community groups locally, businesses, schools and many more participants and volunteers; it's a vibrant celebration of Sleaford and pride of place beyond.

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.

Children playing in the street

ASB Officer

Thank you for your email. I have spoken to the neighbourhood officer for the area. The resident had also contacted NKDC about this issue in June when the Parish Council initially received his complaint. Sarah (the ASB Officer) has spoken to residents over the phone about their concerns of children playing in the car park area. Since then she has been out in the area on 3 occasions to monitor what's happening and making herself available for any residents to approach her to discuss their concerns. Since her dialogue with the residents, she has not received any further complaints to date.

I understand from Sarah that NKDC own the 'circular' car park area in front of the newer houses on School Lane. Unfortunately we would not be able to install signage advising against playing the car park as the challenge would be to enforce them (in a similar respect to No Ball Game signs). However when I'm next in the area, I will put up some of our ASB signage.

Neighbourhood Officer

Officer has increased their presence; they will be out and about at least once a week. Looking to speak with local residents.