

District Councillors Report – Helpringham Dec 2024

Christmas Bin Collections

North Kesteven's Christmas Collections

No side waste will be collected from alongside any bins.

Any extra waste or recycling that won't fit in your bin should be taken to a Household Waste Recycling Centre. Opening times are at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/recycling-waste

Find your bin day anytime at www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/findmybinday

CHRISTMAS WEEK	
Normal collection days:	Collection day CHANGED to:
Monday 23 December	Saturday 21 December
Tuesday 24 December	Monday 23 December
Wednesday 25 December	Tuesday 24 December
Thursday 26 December	Friday 27 December
Friday 27 December	Saturday 28 December
Monday 30 December	No change
Tuesday 31 December	No change

NEW YEAR WEEK	
Normal collection days:	Collection day CHANGED to:
Wednesday 1 January	Thursday 2 January
Thursday 2 January	Friday 3 January
Friday 3 January	Saturday 4 January

Please have bins out by 6.30am on the appropriate collection day. From Monday 6 January 2025 all collections return to normal days.

RIGHT THING, RIGHT BIN

Please ensure only the right things go in the right bin. See www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/recycling
 Batteries and electronics can't go in your bins - take to your Household Waste Recycling Centre instead. Glittery or foil wrapping paper and cards must go in the black bin only to be made into electricity, along with food waste, wrappers and plastic bags.

A reminder for our garden waste customers - collections reduce in December and January. Do check your collection calendar or www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/findmybinday

Free trees for communities across North Kesteven *

Apply now to secure free trees for your community - whether it's a single commemorative tree or a community orchard, you have the opportunity to make a lasting mark on the environment in your neck of the woods. NDKC have dozens of trees to give away, and can offer advice to help you plant the right trees in the right place. This offer is open to groups, charities, businesses, schools and more - anywhere that can accommodate trees!

Find out more and apply at www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/communitytrees

Households urged to check eligibility for winter support schemes

[From 1 November, households in England and Wales receiving certain benefits including Pension Credit could be eligible for extra money to help keep warm during the cold weather until the end of March 2025.](#)

The Department for Work and Pensions' Cold Weather Payments are an automatic bank top-up of £25, triggered to be paid to eligible households when the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, zero degrees Celsius or below for seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to an eligible person's postcode.

The £25 payments will be paid automatically to households receiving certain benefits including, Pension Credit, Income Support, income-based Job-seeker's Allowance (JSA), income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Universal Credit and Support for Mortgage Interest.

Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Mayoral Authority

After some time in the making, the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority is expected to be established early next year. The Devolution Deal is based on a shared ambition and vision to promote a flourishing future for all, supported by four missions and 24 mission targets developed by the ten local authorities in Greater Lincolnshire. This has contributed to and evolved in recent NK Plans thereby creating an important link.

The economy is fundamental to the development of Greater Lincolnshire and delivering our future prosperity, and the focus of the devolution deal addresses priorities for skills and employment, infrastructure and investment.

The Deal will bring several benefits over 30 years amounting to £720 million in funding for economic development, transport, net zero, skills, education, and digital infrastructure. In addition, funding has been allocated ahead of the formal arrangements being established next year, including £2.2million to support the development of Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park.

As part of the Devolution framework, the three constituent authorities (LCC, North Lincs and NorthEast Lincs) lead on the new arrangements and formation of the new Combined Authority. The seven district and borough councils are non-constituent members. However, in developing the governance arrangements, the seven district authorities in Lincolnshire have a voice to represent those interests through the establishment of a 'District Joint Committee'.

On Monday, at the Extraordinary Meeting of Council, Members approved being part of a newly established 'District Joint Committee'. This governance arrangement provides oversight of the initial formulation and development of the Combined Authority, facilitates joint decision making on matters within its remit, nominates four places to sit on the Combined Authority and places on Audit and Scrutiny.

This mechanism ensures that local leaders, businesses and institutions work closely together for the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability in this new Combined Authority's service delivery. It is important to emphasise that no local authority functions are being removed because of the existence of the new Combined Authority.

It is intended that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will serve a two-year term of office. In the Terms of Reference, there is a typo with use of the word bi-annual which will be rectified. West Lindsey District Council will provide committee secretariat for the District Joint Committee.

Next May will see the election of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayor alongside Lincolnshire County Council elections.

Sleaford Museum

Sleaford Museum is extending its usual Saturday opening hours for the day, so that more people can come by. Its exterior walls have been repainted, it has new wall lighting and it's more visible from the road following the changes. It also has new signage, which was recently installed.

The improvements at Monument Gardens have been delivered by North Kesteven District Council together with stakeholders including Sleaford Town Council; which is the landowner; Sleaford Museum, the Sleaford and District Civic Trust, and Sleaford in Bloom which has long helped look after the area. Nearby businesses have also been kept informed throughout the project.

Contractor Lindum Group completed the works, while D Hatcher and Sons restored the Sleaford signage. The repainting of the Wyvern Barrier was completed by Bell Group. The project is funded by Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Parking machines update

The option to pay by mobile phone could very soon be available at Council car parks in Sleaford, as part of work to address intermittent but recurring card payment difficulties.

Current signal and connectivity issues caused by reduced availability of the 3G network are at times preventing the Council's car park machines from being able to take card payments. Recognising the inconvenience caused for car park customers, North Kesteven District Council is urgently exploring how parking payments via mobile phone could be put in place. It's hoped that it could be imminent, once a provider and a plan to implement the new system is agreed.

It would likely be via an app along with the ability to pay over the phone. The authority is also due to consider replacing the current machines with new cash and card machines, as a longer-term solution. The existing machines are now coming towards the end of their lives. In the meantime, every effort is being made to maintain and keep the current machines operational. Daily checks are made on all of the Council's parking machines in Sleaford. Any new issues however, such as a machine not taking cash, can be reported by calling the Council offices on 01529 414155. The option to use cash remains and it's still advisable to keep some with you as all parking must be paid for to avoid fines.

Parking charges start from just 50p for two hours (at Grantham Road Car Park) or 70p for up to an hour (at Eastbanks, Cogglesford Watermill, Station Road and Westgate), plus the first hour is free at the Town Council-owned Eastgate Car Park and free evening, Sunday and Bank Holiday parking at all Council-owned car parks.

There is also free parking at all North Kesteven District Council-owned car parks on [every Saturday this December](#), to help welcome shoppers and visitors.