

## District Councillors Report – Helpringham March 2025

### North Kesteven Parish and Town Council Forum

All Parish and Town Clerks will be invited to attend the above Forum on Thursday 10 April 2025 that will take place here in the District Council Offices.

This will provide an opportunity for them to meet the new Chief Executive, receive important updates on significant district issues and to network with other Parish and Town councils within North Kesteven. The invitation is extended only to Parish/Town Councillors to allow them the chance to hear about forthcoming matters; this does not include dual-hatted Members.

Whilst some of you are dual-hatted Members, in your role as District Councillors, you will know that a Member Briefing on Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation was held last week. There will be a further Briefing event taking place on 11 March and an extraordinary meeting of the Council being scheduled for 18 March, thereby giving you that insight.

### LCC and Mayor elections on 1 May

Lincolnshire County Council elections, alongside elections for the first Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire, are taking place on 1 May 2025. North Kesteven delivers the election on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council's Returning Officer with Kath Marriott appointed as Deputy Returning Officer.

### Council Budget Meeting

On Thursday 27 February 2025, the Council approved the budget which opened the door on opportunity for investments in homes, jobs and public services across the District totalling almost a third of a billion pounds.

The District Council's council tax charge for the coming year will increase by between £3.50 and £4.44 for most households in North Kesteven, after Councillors again voted to balance affordability and financial sustainability.

The government has allowed councils to increase rates for 2025/26 by 3% or £5 at Band D, whichever is the highest.

By taking a position of need, not want, North Kesteven District Council has chosen to pursue a lower increase of 2.61% on its portion of the overall bill. North Kesteven's remains the third lowest of all Lincolnshire charges.

At Band D the increase in the NKDC charge will be £4.95 for the year ahead, making the total paid to the District Council by a Band D household £194.40 for a full year of services. This equates to £3.74 a week – which is less than 10 pence more a week than last year.

Though, three quarters of all homes in North Kesteven are banded A to C which means a lower increase of £3.30, £3.85 or £4.40, to give a District Council rate of £129.60, £151.20 or £172.80 over the year.

Dependent on the specific band, this is £2.49, £2.91 or £3.32 a week for all District Council services (less than 7, 8 or 9 pence more per week). More details can be found [here](#), and there's an update from Councillor Wright below. Tap or click the image to play.

### E-Waste Action Week \*

Did you know that there are an estimated 880 million tech devices and cables languishing in UK homes? Perhaps you've got a junk drawer or box under a bed that's full of unloved kit? All this stuff is packed with potential awaiting recycling.

To help tackle this, we're working with Sleaford Climate Action Network to run an E-Waste Action Week from 10-15 March 2025. The week will highlight the importance of proper recycling of electronic and electrical waste, what methods are available, and the environmental and practical importance of doing so.

During the week people will be encouraged to donate, repurpose or recycle their e-waste as well as learning more about the wider issues.

There will be collection points for unwanted phones, tablets, laptops and cables which will be refurbished and donated to good causes. You can also bring items to Sleaford Repair Café on Saturday March 15, 12.30-4pm, either for repair or donation.

Collection points are Sleaford and Heckington Libraries (during their opening hours), and Ruskington Methodist Church (Saturday March 15, 10am-midday). Find out more at <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/e-waste> and there is a [shareable poster here](#).

#### **LCC survey seeks views on local childcare**

LCC is asking for your thoughts on childcare needs in Lincolnshire. This will help plan new services that fit your family's needs. They also want to know if you can find childcare and, if not, what's stopping you. Please only fill out this survey if you use or plan to use childcare in Lincolnshire.

By "childcare," they mean care and education for your child (0-11 years) that you pay for and rely on so you can work, study, or volunteer.

This survey is part of their yearly check on childcare in Lincolnshire. Visit [Let's talk Lincolnshire](#) and share your views by 18 March 2025.

#### **VE Day events**

NKDC are compiling a list of local VE Day events. If you know of any taking place, please email [Communications@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:Communications@n-kesteven.gov.uk)

#### **Drainage and flooding - a must-read**

There's a new guide setting out how NKDC works with partners and on behalf of communities when it comes to drainage and flooding, including in emergencies.

You can find it [HERE](#). Please do familiarise yourself with it. It details lots of the different policies and strategies in place, the Council's legal duties and powers on flooding and drainage, and the various agencies all with different responsibilities in these interconnected areas of work.

Among the key topics in the new document are the Council's role and activities during a civil emergency such as flooding, and ongoing areas of work such as prevention. It also covers ongoing responsibilities such as contingency planning, business continuity management, communication and collaboration - and linked to that, the cross-partner groups we play an active role in including the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum which kicks into action during emergencies and the Lincolnshire Flood Risk and Water management Partnership led by the county council.