

## **Cllr. Ian Carrington (LCC & NKDC) – latest News March 2023:**

### **North Hykeham Relief Road (Lincoln Ring Road Phase 4)**

Preparation work on this £ multi-million investment is progressing well, and LCC has an update ready on the design and planning of the new road. Details include route optimization, environmental management, construction plans and walking & cycling routes. And some very important modelling data showing traffic impacts on villages near the route.

Drop-in sessions include:

Wed 15 March	Waddington Community Hub, High St LN5 9RF	3pm to 8pm
Thursday 16 March	Bentley Hotel, Newark Road LN6 9NH	3pm to 8pm
Friday 17 March	Bracebridge Heath Pavilion, Bath Road LN4 2TU	1pm to 6pm

LCC officers will be available to answer questions on the scheme which has great significance for Lincoln AND surrounding villages – parish councillors and members of the public will be very welcome.

### **Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

From November this year almost all planning permissions will have to demonstrate a biodiversity net gain (BNG) of 10% secured for 30 years. Individual schemes will be approved by the Local Planning Authorities (in our case, NKDC), and the Nature Recovery Strategy will provide a strategic framework and LCC will be the body in charge of this for Greater Lincolnshire.

BNG will be a very big change in the planning system with the potential to make improvements to both the environment and the quality of life in new developments. LCC will work in partnership with local planning authorities and others to help maximise these benefits as the system gets introduced.

### **RAF Waddington**

Operation Cobra Warrior is under way at RAF Waddington (and roaring over my home as I write this!) and will run through to 6<sup>th</sup> April. Details of various highways restrictions have been circulated to parish councils and can be found at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/roadworks](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/roadworks).

### **Improved support for domestic abuse victims**

Lincolnshire County Council, with support from Lincolnshire's Police and Crime Commissioner and NHS Integrated Care Board, has commissioned a new-look domestic abuse service which will see us work closely with partners to develop a more joined-up approach to support.

Local support services are an important first step for people in abusive relationships looking for help. So it's important people are aware of the support that is available. In making sure victims of domestic abuse are supported as soon as possible we can help reduce the impact on families and the likelihood of re-victimisation through early intervention.

To find out more about domestic abuse and support available please visit [www.domesticabuselincolnshire.com](http://www.domesticabuselincolnshire.com).

### **Nominations open for Lincolnshire's Apprenticeship Champion Awards 2023**

I'm a passionate supporter of apprenticeships – they can make a real positive difference to young people's lives and I'm proud to say that at the County Council we have over 300 apprentices developing their skills whilst serving their community. Applications are now open for the Lincolnshire Apprenticeship Awards.

The three categories for nominations are:

- Lincolnshire Apprentice Champion 2023
- Lincolnshire Apprenticeship Employer Champion 2023
- Lincolnshire Apprenticeship Training Provider Champion 2023

The awards seek to acknowledge and celebrate the efforts and commitment of apprentices, and those who have supported or delivered apprenticeships. The awards are run in partnership between the Public Service Compact group, Lincolnshire County Council and the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

The deadline for nominations is Thursday 31 March 2022. More information and application forms can be [found here](#).

### **New grant available to boost numeracy**

Multiply is a government-funded programme that looks to help adults over 19 years old improve their maths skills. Employers **and community groups** can now apply for a £1,000 grant to support numeracy development and become a Lincolnshire Multiply Champion.

The grants are awarded on a first come, first served basis, and could be spent by employers on piloting innovative approaches to learning maths in the workplace, or dedicating staff time to encouraging numeracy progression. Community groups may come up with ways to support their wider community in taking up Multiply courses.

For further information and instructions on how to apply please follow [this link](#).

### **Policing**

To update last month's briefing, I have spoken at both the County Council and North Kesteven to support our PCSOs who are currently threatened with a cut of almost half their numbers. Whilst it's right that the service embraces new methods and technology, I am passionate about the need for community based policing to remain part of the mix. The

police – be it warranted officers or PCSOs – should never be separated from the communities they serve. At NKDC the Leader and Chief Executive have opened a dialogue with the Chief Constable and Police & Crime Commissioner, and have also raised police budgets with the Home Secretary and policing minister. I will continue to back efforts by LCC and NKDC to support community policing in the future.

## **Voter ID**

A reminder that photo identification will be needed to vote at polling stations for the first time at this year's local elections. Valid forms of ID include passport, driving license or photo bus pass.

Maybe the simplest thing is to get a postal vote. If you don't have one already you can apply via the Electoral Commission website [electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID)

Or just ring Electoral Services at North Kesteven District Council on 01529 414155 or email [elections@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:elections@n-kesteven.gov.uk) .

*And finally to confirm an item which came too late to mention to some councils in my Division last month:*

## **County Council Budget**

The council's budget for 2023-24 was formally approved by the full council at their meeting on Friday 17 February – this section is repeated from last month's news for those parish councils who met before the approval date.

The final budget included the addition of £8.7m to the development fund. The money for this will be drawn from the council's reserves, and it will be used for projects that benefit local communities.

There was also an additional £7m for road maintenance, meaning the highways budget for 2023/24 has now risen to around £93m. Council tax will rise by 4.99% in total (this includes a 2% rise for adult care). However, Lincolnshire will still have one of the lowest council tax rates in the country. Despite the rise in council tax, and additional government funding, the council will still need to use a further £7.5m from its reserves to balance the books, based on current projections.

### **Cllr IAN CARRINGTON**

**Potterhanworth & Coleby Division**

**Chairman, Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Email: [cllri.carrington@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllri.carrington@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

Facebook: [Councillor Ian Carrington](#)

Twitter: [@CllrCarrington](#)