

Cllr. Ian Carrington (LCC) – latest News April 2023:

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan

The new version of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan was approved last week – ‘Central Lincolnshire’ is a partnership of Lincs County Council and three Local Planning authorities: North Kesteven, City of Lincoln and West Lindsey. I have a double interest, both as a County Councillor and as one of NKDC’s representatives to the governing Committee. I’ve spent four intense years working on it and the results are very significant for every village in NK.

Firstly, what I believe were excessively high planned housing numbers have been significantly reduced. To be clear: we need new homes for local people, not least the next generation. But only in the right numbers and the right places.

But the revolutionary thing about the new Plan lies its measures for the environment and responding to climate change. The Plan has a comprehensive suite of measures. For example it requires all new buildings to be built to highly energy efficient standards (which will cost less to run) with capacity for renewables generation and built-in adaptability. It also strengthens measures to ensure all new development is well designed, putting quality of life for residents first with powerful policies for environmental protection and biodiversity. And it includes detailed guidance to ensure developers must adhere to the plan.

There are many other important elements, and taken together it’s a template for good development and the protection of our village way of life. More details at: <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/>

Former Metheringham Airfield Biodigester

There is a proposal for an industrial scale anaerobic digester to be sited on part of the former Metheringham airfield. Whilst this is just outside my County Division I am deeply concerned that the scheme has the potential to have significant impacts on villages for many miles around. A particular worry is that the facility will be powered by chicken muck, which will mean many thousands of HGV loads of animal waste passing through rural roads and villages. I will keep a very close eye on this proposal – as a member of the County Planning Committee I must of course avoid pre-judging the scheme, but there are many details which need to be made fully public and very carefully assessed!

Vapes: A new battleground for Trading Standards

Between April and December last year, Lincolnshire Trading Standards seized over 5,000 illegal vapes from shops in the county. These were oversized vapes, containing too much nicotine - sometimes as much as 16 times the limit.

The service has also seen a rise in the number of complaints of vapes being sold to children in our area, and has done a lot of work informing local businesses of their legal duty to make sure these products aren’t sold to under-18s.

[Local MP Dr. Caroline Johnson has a private member’s Bill before Parliament seeking to control vapes].

Museum refresh to mark 20 years

The Collection Museum is celebrating its 20-year anniversary in 2025. Ahead of this milestone we're refreshing the award-winning venue, starting with a common sense name change.

From 1 April, The Collection Museum will appropriately be called 'Lincoln Museum'. This will help visitors from outside the county better understand what the site has to offer, and end any confusion surrounding what it is a collection of.

Later this year, work will start on refreshing the museum's visitor facilities and gallery spaces which will be updated and modernised.

Refreshing Lincoln Museum will have wider impacts on the visitor economy across the city and county, ensuring that we have the high quality attractions that keep visitors coming to Lincolnshire.

Do you know a Good Citizen?

The hard work and selflessness of volunteers across Lincolnshire help to make our county a great place to live, and they serve as an excellent example to us all.

The Good Citizen Awards was designed to shine a spotlight on these residents and organisations who go the extra mile to support their communities, so please help us promote and celebrate their fantastic achievements.

Nominations for the Good Citizen Awards 2023 are now open, and we are looking for individuals, young people, pairs, and organisations, who serve as a real positive force in their communities.

86 per cent of children get first-choice secondary school

Of the 8,555 children applying to Lincolnshire secondary schools this year, 86 per cent (7,358) will receive a place at their first-choice school. It is likely that this figure will rise further by September because of the appeals process and movement on the reserve list.

Currently 8 per cent have been offered a place at their second preference, with 2 per cent receiving a place at their third choice, resulting in 96 per cent of all applicants receiving one of their preferences.

The 4 per cent who haven't got one of their preferred schools will be offered a place at the closest school in Lincolnshire with spaces available. It's good to see that the vast majority of families received offers at one of their preferred schools, and that many parents utilised our online parent portal to make their application this year and receive their offers on national offer day.

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

Or just ring Electoral Services at North Kesteven District Council on 01529 414155 or email elections@n-kesteven.gov.uk.

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