

## District Councillor's July 2023 Report – Hemswell Ward

### DEVOLUTION:

This appears to be on 'the cards' once more. And LCC appears to be pushing for a Mayor who will act as the go between Lincolnshire and Westminster. It may well be that the districts remain but shorn of power and possibly responsibilities.

There are several challenges to what appears to be proposed that revolve round democratic deficit.

- A Mayor will be invested in considerable power and there do not appear checks and balances to curb his powers
- Furthermore the districts will not be part of the inner cabinet that will be controlled by the county and the unitary authorities, the districts will only be consulted.
- Householders will not have a vote on devolution
- Furthermore what monies are released will I believe go to Humberside East Coast Lincoln and WLD will lose out. This is important because the main thrust or driving force is economic development which all parts of Lincolnshire should benefit by
- There is a political sting in devolution – the way it is to be set up, if things go pear shaped, it will not be the fault of Westminster but of the Mayor and yet the purse strings will continue to be held by Westminster ie the Ministers.
- Devolution was initiated by the Blair Administration for Wales, N Ireland and Scotland and has proved to be a disaster as will devolution across England given time. The press makes out that Andy Burnham, the Mayor of Manchester is a doyen of devolution, but he has wasted thousands on projects which have not materialized.

**Planning Application** Land adjacent to Astra Antiques Centre, Hemswell - "Lot 5a And Lot 5b", Caenby Corner, Hemswell

I can confirm that a planning application has been received and is with the validation team. It will be assigned to a planning officer as soon as possible but I know they are running a little behind at the moment.

**146974 - CHANGE OF USE: Existing use unknown, to proposed commercial use (haulage, storage, and distribution).**

I can confirm that I have been liaising with the Environment Agency who has visited the site regarding the storage of waste which appears to be fire hazard.

### SCAMPTON

This remains on the radar

- At Full Council we approved of the supporting motion for both Scampton and the neighbouring villages and appreciative of the input of LCC.
- There is to be a Judicial Review 12/13 July but the outcome may take a little time to be published.

- Other former bases have failed in the Courts, as the Government argues that it is exercising powers under Class Q, which is understood to be of a 12 month duration, there is a suspicion that the asylum seekers may be on site longer than 12 months.
- The Home Office is not forthcoming to respond to questions from WLD
- 5<sup>th</sup> July a special planning application is to be tabled at the Epic Centre on the Lincolnshire Show ground to determine the exhumation of Guy Gibson's doggy [Niger which is latin for black]
- It has attracted much interest and i as Champion of Heritage at WLDC have submitted my comments opposing the exhumation and asked for the grave to be monitored if RAF Hemswell is taken over for asylum seekers.
- Whilst we await the decision from the Courts I argue that we must consider the very likelihood that the site will be used for asylum seekers from Manston in Kent and therefore we should be thinking of contingency plans with multi agencies to support these people who will have a lot of time on their hands and subject to boredom. They will in no way be restricted
- The Police are to receive an extra £1.8 million to train up officers for the site but that sum will not go far and it will take time to recruit and train up these officers whilst swathes of Lincolnshire are losing PSCO's in the rurality.
- Sir Edward Leigh is pro active indeed vociferous against Scampton being identified for asylum seekers and is totally against the plans at the sacrifice of £300 million development plan

## **FLY TIPPING**

2 people were caught on mobile camera on Cow Lane Upton and duly fined - £400? each that is small sum when you look at the cost per annum for fly tipping across WLD.

## **OBESITY**

A recent survey strongly suggests that 77% of adults WLD are obese – obesity can be caused by many factors but this figure suggests that we need to push for well being and more physical activity in conjunction with education to prevent the problem

## **LOCAL ELECTIONS**

In a debate on the House of Lords, it was said that in the recent May elections only 35% of actually voted nationally and this does not go well for democracy. It is a fact, that in the Hemswell Ward only 32.1% turned out to vote, it would be interesting to know why people appear to be indifferent or apathetic in both local and parliamentary elections, although the current national landscape does not help. I am personally against making voting mandatory. There is an irony here, in Ukraine they are fighting for their democracy whilst we in the UK appear to be squandering our democracy at our peril.

## **GAINSBOROUGH CONSTITUENCY**

A recent parliamentary boundary review has decided that Gainsborough Constituency is to remain. This covers the whole of WLD.

## **SOLAR FARMS**

At Prosperous on 11<sup>th</sup> there is a Paper on Gate Burton Solar Farm and Corringham will form part of that if approved. Tillbridge are carrying out consultations, they have held one at Glentworth and Corringham, Hemswell is forthcoming. The opposition Group are vigorously fighting these proposed developments for various reasons namely; their density is alarming the scale of which is serious and will transform the landscape for possibly 60 years if approved and taking up farm land from food production. The technology is very questionable and I favour the nuclear fusion development for Gate Burton.

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRAGIC DEATHS IN THE LOCALITY**

4 young people have died recently from WLD, and my condolences go out to their families and friends. A young girl lost her life swimming at Cleethorpes. She came from Lea, whilst a 15 year old boy from Gainsborough hailed from Gainsborough, he allegedly walked into the R Trent at Gainsborough.

## **COMMUNITY GRANTS**

### **Grant funds and support schemes**

In addition to this fund, we currently have the following grant funds and support schemes running.

#### **Community Action Fund**

Revenue grants for community activities and projects between £1,000 and £20,000 (UKSPF scheme)

[www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/funding](http://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/funding)

#### **Community Facilities Fund**

Capital grants for community facilities and assets between £1,000 and £50,000 (UKSPF scheme)

[www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/funding](http://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/funding)

#### **Community Development Fund**

Grants for organisational development or project feasibility between £100 and £10,000 (UKSPF scheme)

[www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/funding](http://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/funding)

#### **Community Defibrillator Service**

Installation and maintenance of community accessible defibrillators

[www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/defib](http://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/defib)