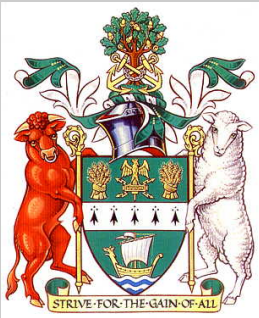


District Cllr Dec Report

Serving Blyborough, Corringham, Glentworth Grayingham, Harpswell, Heapham, Hemswell, Hemswell Cliff, Springthorpe, & Willoughton.

December 2023

District Cllr's What's On



- 4 Hemswell Cliff PC
- 5 Corringham PC
- 11 Grants working Group
- 11 Heritage Leisure Tourism & Events
- 14 Christmas OAP's Luncheon Corringham.
- 15 Leader's Panel

- January 2024
- Hemswell Cliff
- Corringham PC
- 10 Glentworth PC
- 16 Overview & Scrutiny
- 16 Hemswell PC
- 18 Willoughton PC
- 22 Full Council
- 26 Leader's Panel

“Wishing you all the joys of the season and happiness throughout the coming year.”

Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire councils are consulting on a Greater Lincolnshire devolution proposal.

We'd like as many people as possible to have their say and promoting the opportunity, explaining the concept and encouraging responses is a huge part of that.

People can take part in the consultation in several ways. These include attending an event, taking a survey

on paper, over the phone or online at [Have your say: Greater Lincolnshire Devolution | Let's Talk Lincolnshire](#)

You will receive promotional materials in the post shortly. Should you require more, please email us on engagement@lincolnshire.gov.uk

The consultation is open now until 29 January 2024.

Please make sure you fill in a survey

yourself via <https://www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/devolution>

Should Greater Lincolnshire have a Mayor?

Should Greater Lincolnshire have a Mayor? The previous consultation in Lincolnshire made clear that people do not want an elected Mayor for the whole of North, North-east Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire. We are a population of 1.1bn people spread over 7000km². If we thought it was hard to influence County Council to provide good roads and ser-

vices in our local areas, how much harder if the area is bigger still, with two thirds of the voting Councils being North and Northeast Lincolnshire? The additional layer of Government would raise its own taxes on top of what we currently pay. Three District Councils [WLDC being one of them] would have no

vote, but four of the seven may be allowed to sit at the table. In other areas, the relatively small amounts of money offered for the extra services was noticeably swallowed up in administration and redundancy payments. We want devolution of powers and money to our Councils as they are, without costly reorganization.

Scampton

WLDC is expecting this week along with other Councils the decision on the Judicial Review

Watch this Space!

I was hoping it would be available by the time I published my December report.

Leader's Panel heads off to Hemswell Court



On the 26th of Jan 2024, Leader's Panel will collect at this Grade II complex for its Away Break to discuss future policies and the 2024./25 budget. Leader's Panel is comprised of Chairs and Vice

Chairs with senior officers of WLDC.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

New Requirements for Developers

New requirements for all developers Anyone wanting to develop land will need to show how their plans fit with policies listed in the latest Local Plan, adopted in April. You can comment on the proposed list before midnight on 13th December. <https://>

www.central-lincs.org.uk/consultations The online Response Form is here to e-mail to talk-planning@central-lincs.org.uk.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

Grant Update

The Grants Working Group met on 2nd of Nov [it will met for the last time this year on 11 of Dec. Cllr L Mulally has joined the group on the resignation of Cllr Rogers. It adjudicated on 13 grant applications ranging from £20k to £3, 694 making a total award of £

Willoughton Parish Council submitted an application to refurbish its play area and was awarded just over £10k

Corringham Village Hall received a grant of £10,440 for sound proofing its big hall which has certainly improved the sound quality of that space. Ever since it had a new roof in 1993 the acoustics have been a problem, but not any more. This improvement comes in the 60th year of the hall.

Grants are still available and I urge the nine communities that makeup the Hemswell Ward to explore applications and not miss out!

Love Lincolnshire Wolds Partnership Meeting:

The next Love Lincolnshire Wolds meeting took I take place on Tuesday 28th November, at 12 noon at Ocean Walker Academy, Langton by Wragby, Market Rasen.

Solar Arrys.....

Solar Arrays Comments continue. The main issues raised so far is the size of the projects, well over 2,000 acres and loss of country landscape that is currently growing crops, whilst other measures such as insulation and roof panels are still not in place, even on large commercial buildings. Our Par-

ish Councils are doing an amazing job working through all of the issues in detail as is the 7,000 acre Group.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

Savoy Cinema



Savoy Cinemas has signed a landmark agreement to deliver a **£9m cinema and leisure development** in Gainsborough town centre.

The agreement includes the development of a four-screen cinema complex, restaurant, retail units and car parking provision.

Find out more about this exciting development on our website here <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/.../savoy-cinemas-signs...>

Savoy have 6 sites to date — Boston, Corby, Doncaster, Grantham, Nottingham & Work-sop.

Leader's Panel heads off to Hemswell Court



The Administration heads off to Hemswell Court in January to receive presentations from national experts and to plot a way forward for the next civic year.

The next meeting of West Lindsey Churches Festival is on Monday 29th of Jan 2024 via ZOOM.

The meeting will be exploring both the venue and key speakers for its

March Conference.

WLCF has secured for one year only £8k in order to finance the festival.

New Requirements for Developers

Did you Know
The Government has rejected a 4 day working week for civil servants!

New requirements for all developers Anyone wanting to develop land will need to show how their plans fit with policies listed in the latest Local Plan, adopted in April. You can comment on the proposed list before midnight on 13th De-

cember. <https://www.central-lincs.org.uk/consultations> The online Response Form is here to e-mail to talkplanning@central-lincs.org.uk .

Neighborhood Plan Approved



Hemswell Cliff's Neighbourhood Development Plan finally approved.

The picture captures the moment when the Chair of WLDC, Cllr Bunney receives the document from representatives of Hemswell Cliffat Full Council in November

Grants are still available and I urge the nine communities that makeup the Hemswell Ward to explore applications and not to miss out!

New Monitoring Officer for West Lindsey District Council

We are delighted to announce that WLDC has ap-

pointed a new permanent Monitoring Officer at the Council, Lisa Langdon.

To contact the monitoring officer please email MonitoringOfficer@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Solar Arrys and news bites

The main issues raised so far is the size of the projects, well over thousands of acres and loss of country landscape that is currently growing crops, whilst other measures such as insulation and roof panels are still not in

place, even on large commercial buildings.

Civic Christmas Carol Service Market Rasen Methodist Chapel on 6th of Dec.



Devolution Deal.....

“I am concerned about the move towards a combined authority and although not officially in the public domain, I think we need to make our voices heard on the concept.

It's great to see so many Independents across the County, doing a great job in their Councils and for residents. Thank you to Boston and South Kesteven Independent Councillors running your Councils successfully. It's fantastic to see the change of control and the enlightened approach to a listening, responsive and inclusive local Government, focusing on what local residents need and want, rather than thinking how to carry out a discredited national party agenda. What an opportunity!

Combined authority for Lincolnshire?

I am concerned about the insidious arrival of a Combined Authority for the whole of Lincolnshire, North and North-East Lincolnshire, shared previously with our Independent Council Leaders. The Local Government Association (LGA) had two pieces of professional investigation into the impact of a combined authority.

There is no impact in performance, savings are little more than reducing local services, and there is a considerable loss in local democracy as the new body is more centralised. Our current system has local authorities of a size to match the size of their job. Joint working avoids duplication. We have a shared front door in Fixmystreet.com so easy for people to approach.

It also shows a significant loss for Independents who rely on connections with local people. Thus the bigger the area, the more residents have to rely on the national parties seen on TV. The LGA lost over 500 councillors at the last election, as their seats were dissolved.

The cross-party District Councils Network, part of the LGA, also had a report done, and an called “Bigger is still not better” by Professor Colin Copus, which pours cold water on devolution models.

The suggestion previously considered by our councils was lost, but discussion seems to be back. Previously led by Cllr Martin Hill Conservative Leader of Lincolnshire County Council, the plan to is to set up a new combined authority on top of our current Councils, taking areas such as say, Transport and Skills (Colleges). If this is a full local authority, with audit, a number of committees, scrutiny – the lot, it is a huge undertaking for just a few services. In addition it has an elected Mayor. Last time the public was consulted on a Mayor, 40% were strongly against and the majority voted against a Mayor. County Council was going ahead in 2016, but the Labour support collapsed at the last moment, so it was rejected.

If intended as a weak Mayoral model, the three voting authorities would have a veto, preventing Mayoral action. The three voting members to be set in legislation are Lincolnshire, North and North-east Lincolnshire. District Councils are legally not included, so any few District Councils are there by grace and favour, which can also be removed. (Four out of seven would be the minimum votes to be able to say the votes are from the North and North-east. That area, with lost industries, could easily become the focus of the new organisation, rather like the current “red wall” areas. In terms of funds, Lincoln has benefitted significantly in money for new roads, demonstrating to me that a swing seat is far more important than what is ready and waiting for the dissolution of the next two tiers. It seems to me to be better for us to keep our identity that we have worked so hard to build up in reputation, and then work together >



across authorities to make any efficiencies we reasonably can Districts have supported it.

Experience elsewhere in the Country, such as Cornwall and Northampton, is that any gain is quickly lost in the additional bureaucracy and promised powers, such as a local tourist tax, have not arrived.

A Chief Exec of a bigger organisation requires a bigger salary and the lower levels are then also up-graded. If savings are what is wanted, there is nothing to stop us working across councils with shared services, as some of our councils currently choose to do for strategic planning, legal services, pensions and benefits.

In terms of new money, we need to recognise that the current County revenue Budget is £1.1bn, £544m without schools. So the £20-30m previously offered between ten Council areas is not a lot and may well be focussed on the areas that can grow the fastest, such as Immingham and the new free port. Two out of three votes are from the North and North-east. That area, with lost industries, could easily become the focus of the new organisation, rather like the current “red wall” areas. In terms of funds, Lincoln has benefitted significantly in money for new roads, demonstrating to me that a swing seat is far more important than what is supposed to be a “devolution deal”. The promised money, with strings, no doubt, may be what the Government was planning to give to our County anyway, but this ties us to work for it in a contract or “deal”.

I hope this food for thought will be of interest to you. Let me know what you think. There is a widespread belief that this is a trojan horse, with a new authority ready and waiting for the dissolution of the next two tiers. It seems to me to be better for us to keep our identity that we have worked so hard to build up in reputation, and then work together across authorities to make any efficiencies we reasonably can”.

[Text by Marianne Overtone MBE Independent County and District & Cllr Vice Chair of LGA]

WLDC is opposed to the devolution deal & as your Dist Cllr remain vehemently opposed to devolution. Marianne captures in this article the salient points I share on Devolution.

Battle Ground drawn?

A consultation by Savill's which undertakes work on behalf of Thonock & Somerby held a consultation on Tuesday 21st of Nov at Corringham Village Hall. It is proposed to build 29 dwellings to the south east of the village off the A631 which conflicts with the Neighbourhood Development Plan.



More conservative lunacy ?– now they are proposing an elected Mayor? What next?

The Lincolnshire “Devo Deal” adds bureaucracy and cost, for little gain to Lincolnshire.

This is a new tax-raising layer of bureaucracy. This deal sells Lincolnshire short and we are not buying it.

I am concerned about the move towards a new additional layer of Government, called a combined authority announced today. Lincolnshire is a great County, and one we need to fight for, big time. On the Local Government

Association, I am one of five in the Country, fighting for better funding for our Councils.

We have an increasing number of Independent Councillors, doing a great job in their Councils and for residents. In Lincolnshire, we have in Boston and South Kesteven Independent Councillors in Leadership, successfully running our Councils, listening and inclusive. **But not all District Councils will have a seat at the new table.** Indeed their vote is not even needed to create a “combined” authority.

A new Combined Authority for the whole of Lincolnshire, North and North-East Lincolnshire, around 7,000 sq.km, from Stamford to Scunthorpe is too big. The Local Government Association (LGA) has provided two pieces of professional investigation into the impact of combined authorities, called “**Bigger is not Better**”. and the update “**Bigger is still not better**”. **We should take notice.**

Performance is shown *not* to be better in these large authorities covering many miles, but **democracy** is reduced. Power over a very large area is difficult to influence democratically, and the Government sets the rules to support “growth regions”, such as in North and North-east Lincolnshire. That would pull our resources out of our county area.

Savings are little more than reducing local services, as we can make those anyway by working across our councils. Our current system has local authorities of a size to match the size of their job. We make savings and avoid duplication by Joint working in **local partnerships**. We have a shared front door in Fixmystreet.com so easy for people to approach.

This is a new layer of bureaucracy on top of the current levels, with the associated costs and a Mayor who also raises an additional tax.

This feels like the thin edge of the wedge. How long will it be before *all* our services are centralised in the name of “efficiency”. An efficiency that has shows no evidence of ever being achieved. We are told this is just another authority being created without reducing the other layers, at this stage. Because of the huge areas a mayor will cover, it is a tough call for anyone who wants to directly connect with residents.

Our Councils need more money, and this proposal spends much more on bureaucracy; £2m just to set up the new authority.

Two out of three constituent authorities, are from the North and North-east. That area, with lost industries, could easily become the focus of the new organisation, rather like the current “red wall” areas. In terms of funds, Lincoln has benefitted significantly in money for new roads, demonstrating to me that a swing seat is far more important than what is supposed to be a “devolution deal”. The promised money, with strings, no doubt, is small compared to the total needed. But this ties us to dance more directly to the Government’s tune, in a contract or “deal”.

It is worth noting, that the current County revenue Budget is £1.1bn, £544m without schools. Plus the other nine Council budgets. That is what it takes to run local services. Then there is the capital money for schools and roads. The £24m offered between ten Council areas does not go very far and Government sets the rules. It may well be focussed on the areas that can grow the fastest, such as Immingham and the new free port. It looks like a “bung” that will leave rural Lincolnshire short-changed again.

Is it really extra money? I think not. There is £36bn due to our regions from the failed HS2 Extension. That should come to our councils, not to some new body, just set up.

New tax-raising Mayor

Having an elected PCC has done nothing for us in extra funding. We are still languishing at the very bottom, the worst funded in the country, but with a further 2,000 asylum seekers expected. I cannot see how having an elected Mayor will make the slightest difference, except to our pockets.

We see this Government sending funds to densely populated urban areas, like Manchester or Birmingham, where they hope to make the most “growth”. Just creating a Mayor does not create a Birmingham, here is Lincolnshire. Like so much that has come out of Government lately, this proposal is ill-considered. Last time the question of Mayor went to public consultation, the public said “no”, with 40% strongly against. Even if they change the question, I hope tax-paying residents will make their views known loud and clear.

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan - Local Validation List Consultation



Central Lincolnshire LOCAL PLAN

City of Lincoln Council, North Kesteven District Council and West Lindsey District Council have worked jointly to develop a set of local validation lists following the adoption of the 2023 Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. These lists set out the information that is required to be submitted before a planning application can be validated.

Before the lists are brought into force, views are being sought on the validation lists in a six-week consultation. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plans team are hosting this consultation on behalf of the three Authorities and welcome your views on the

local validation lists. There are paper copies available to view at each of the Councils' receptions.

The Consultation opened on **Wednesday 1st November 2023 and will close at 23:59 on Wednesday 13th December 2023.**

You can register your comments by filling in the **online form available here**. Alternatively, you can download a **word version of the consultation response form**, which can then be sent to **talkplanning@central-lincs.org.uk** with the subject title “Local Validation List”.

For more information visit: **Consultations | Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (n-kesteven.gov.uk)**

Business Grants Now Available

During 2022, the Council developed and submitted its' UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) Investment Plan. The Investment Plan made provision for the West Lindsey Business Grant Programme which comprises of three main schemes, including capital and revenue grant provision to support business sustainability (under UK Shared Prosperity Fund), capital grants for non-agricultural farm diversification and capital and revenue grants for agri-tech business development (under Rural England Prosperity Fund and WLDC local funding).

The council is working closely with its grant administration partner NBV Enterprise Solutions Ltd, to offer grants to eligible businesses ranging from £1,000 to £15,000.

The fund is **due to close in December 2024** to new applications, but may close earlier if all of the Council's funding allocation is awarded. For more details on the grants the Council are offering visit:

<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/business-services-support/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-rural-england-prosperity-fund-business-grants>



Minister for Nuclear visits the STEP project at West Burton

Fantastic to have the Minister for Nuclear visit the STEP project at West Burton. A multi-billion pound investment in North Nottinghamshire, that will make us an international hub of fusion and clean energy technology.

This is a huge local investment and globally significant development.

Bus Services during the Christmas Season

The countdown to Christmas has begun!

At this time of year many people are looking for information and updates regarding Christmas bus service operating hours and timetables throughout Lincolnshire - please visit <https://lincsbus.info/christmas/> for information and operator details.

Here you can also find information regarding Callconnect operating and office hours throughout Christmas and new year.

For more help and advice with public transport in Lincolnshire, your transport helpline is available on 0345 456 4474 Monday – Friday 9.30am- 5.30pm and Saturdays 9.30am – 4pm. Our friendly team will be happy to help.

Please share this information with your local community and on your social media platforms using the posters and social media images attached. Please let me know if you would like these posters printed and sent in the post for display.

Don't forget to also follow our LincsBus twitter feed <https://twitter.com/LincsBus> as we are sharing as much operator information as we can as live updates come through.

Merry Christmas from all of us at Lincsbus.

