

# DISTRICT CLLR'S Feb 2024 REPORT

## District Cllr's February Diary to date

2 Planning officer Re 147708

5Hemswell Cliff PC

7 Overview & Scrutiny Chair's Briefing

12 Springthorpe Parish Meeting

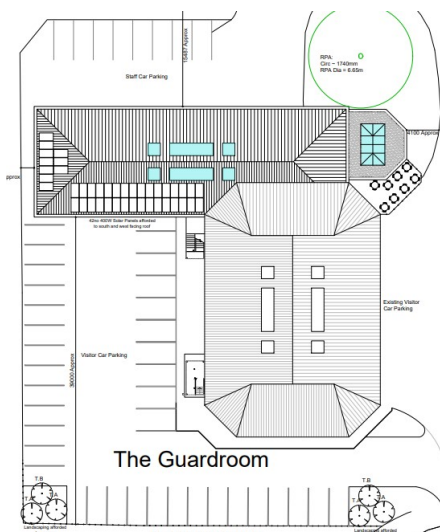
20 Overview & Scrutiny Committee

26 LCET Guildhall

27 Community Grants

Planning Applications

## 147708 Guardroom Hemswell Cliff



There is an application in for Appeal however Hemswell Antiques submitted a revised application in Dec and this has an extension until 1 of March



## SCAMPTON

WLDC is still pursuing an Appeal

The Home Office is reportedly wanting to use the former RAF Scampton air base as an asylum centre for up to four-and-a-half years.

Although recent legal proceedings have cited documents indicating a development timeline of up to three years, it is understood that the government agency now plans to house up to 2,000 migrants on the site for even longer.

Scampton and Asylum Seekers I have lobbied hard nationally against large numbers of young asylum seekers being placed at Scampton, without adequate support services and also concerned about their safety. It also prevents local investment plans. The Government is however, going ahead. The migrants will be living in portakabins on the runway, eight to a kabin. The RAF buildings are too degraded to convert for accommodation, but are being used for laundry etc. The Government has given an extra £2m for policing, £1m for the asylum seekers. They will also have their own nurseled health care and transport to Lincoln. Legal bills mount up as the Government seeks to overcome local people and the District Council. First arrivals are now delayed until mid-April and the issue remains a tinder-box.

## Blacksmith's Forge Hemswell

As you were aware the Council were seeking to establish via a survey the structural

condition of the dwelling. In order to do this both the Council and the owner have commissioned specialist surveys and the findings from both of these surveys are consistent in suggesting that the remaining gables of The Forge building are not structurally safe to support a re-build of the original building. In light of these findings, the Council, reluctantly intends to withdraw the enforcement notice that was served in November 2023 as this can no longer be complied with. In turn, this will also nullify the stop notice that is in place as it can only remain if there is a valid enforcement notice.

The conclusions of both CARE engineers indicate that the remaining gables of The Forge should be demolished ensuring that the original materials are handled sensitively, enabling them to be retained for future use. Any such demolition and re-construction would, however, require further planning permission as the 2004 permission relating to the site allowing the 'conversion and extension' of The Forge can no longer be implemented in accordance with the plans that were approved as part of that application.

As the site falls within the Hemswell Conservation Area and a previous application for a dwelling on the site was refused in 2021 (and upheld on appeal), the Council has invited the owner to utilise it's pre-application advice service prior to the submission of any subsequent application. The Council cannot mandate the owner to use the pre-application service, however the offer has been made.

This therefore means that there will be no enforcement notices in place for the site. We have advised the owner that any future work that takes place on the site without planning permission may constitute unauthorised

development for which the Council may take further enforcement action.

**The Council are not content with the position we find ourselves in on this matter,** however we do not believe there is any other approach we can take at this point in time. I recognise that this update will be of concern to you and am happy to discuss the matter further if that would assist.

The Council will continue to monitor the site and I will endeavour to keep you updated as to the position.

## **DEVOLUTION**

This historic deal marks a new devolution agreement between the government and the local authorities of Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire, and North Lincolnshire. This agreement will see the creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA), alongside a directly elected mayor for the area. The aim is for the first mayoral election to be held in May 2025.

The devolution deal transfers new powers and funding to the Greater Lincolnshire MCCA, alongside a £720 million long-term investment fund to drive economic growth and take forward local priorities. Alongside this, the deal also includes £8.6 million of investment in brownfield funding, devolution of the Adult Education Budget, and £20 million of capital funding in advance of the inaugural election to drive place-based economic regeneration in Greater Lincolnshire (subject to business cases).

This agreement is subject to ratification by those councils, and to the statutory requirements for making the secondary legislation implementing the provisions of the deal. These statutory requirements include those councils consenting to the legislation and Parliament approving it. Once that legislation is made the devolution deal will be confirmed.

It is my understanding that the Consultation exercise has now closed and the uptake was 'poor'.

Lincolnshire's ambitious devolution deal, promising £24 million annually for 30 years and a regional mayor, has hit a snag with its public consultation process. Despite Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and its partners in North and North East Lincolnshire heralding over 4,000 survey completions as a success, critics argue the figure barely scratches the surface of public opinion.

The consultation's "slanted" questions have drawn ire from some district leaders, suggesting an attempt to skew results in favour of the devolution deal. With a population of over 1 million, the mere 0.365% participation rate has raised eyebrows, casting doubt on the consultation's effectiveness in capturing the true sentiment of Greater Lincolnshire residents.

### **No to a tax-raising Mayor –**

Many of our members are very concerned about losing our District and County councillors' powers and money, pushed up into a new Mayoral Combined authority. Strategic planning, housing and transport are lifted from our District and County Councils into just a few hands of the Mayoral Combined Authority. I have been investigating and there are some serious risks in the "detail. New Scrutiny Committees of the combined authority should be politically representative. The political make-up of Lincolnshire shows the majority of councillors being Independent (66%). Taking in North and NE Lincolnshire waters down our contribution to 27%. The new additional layer, pushes power into very few hands and the money is no more than we get already. Money, including that from HS2 for transport should come to our councils as they are.

## **FOOD WASTE**

In 2026 all Authorities shall be legally bound to collect food waste in separate containers. There are a myriad of ramifications to this; such as the outlay costs, the vehicles, the containers and timeline for collection and disposal of food waste. WLDC is focusing on this which will cost several million pounds to set up. Environmentally this will be welcomed and the food waste will go to a biomass to produce energy. A pilot was created which proved a disaster as food waste was arriving from the south of Lincolnshire to the Bio mass at Hemswell Cliff defeating the green credentials.

WLDC is exploring using chips on the bins which would avoid costs for labels etc



### **Green Bin collection**

Now open for subscription of £44

First Collection 4<sup>th</sup> of March

There have been queries to the increased cost from some residents

The service has always aspired to work on a cost recovery basis – this year it suffered a

deficit of c£120k. The reasons are unprecedented rises in staff, vehicle, vehicle maintenance and fuel costs. Also, the price had been fixed for two years. The increase to £44, whilst unfortunate, should mean we achieve costs recovery and is equivalent to less than £2-50 per collection

### **ANNIVERSARIES 2024**

D DAY 80 years

Trinity Arts 40 years

WLDC 50 years

WL Churches Festival

To be held in May with .87 churches participating

### **SOLAR FARMS:**



Tackling Industrial Solar Developments The huge scale of industrial developments continues to be a significant battle with unlimited applications coming in - 58,000 acres in Lincolnshire right now. There should be limits on the industrial solar developments, The main issues raised so far is the size of the projects, well over 2,000 acres each 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.