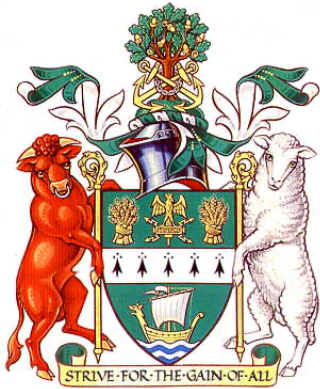


## District cllr's May Report



A huge thank you to our Parish, I am struck once again by the dedication of our Councils to improving life for people in our villages. Thank you for all you continue to do in our communities and your kind support.

After a turbulent time, I hope Hemswell Council settles down. It may wish to reflect on a review of its Neighbourhood Development Plan in the view of recent planning applications.

And training in Planning may also prove profitable

## WLDC

Annual Council starts a new civic year and we are now in our second year under the Liberal Administration which secured that position by me lending my support. Last May after 15 years running WLDC the Conservatives had to step aside and let the Liberals into power. The Liberals had been in the wilderness and the transition both for the Liberals and Conservatives has had its challenges compounded by the fact 18 were newly elected councilors with no experience, one being a 19 year old who happens to be one of my vice chairs The greatest challenge has been the future of Scampton absorbing much time of councillors and officers. However, the managing of the £10 million Levelling Up Fund is now well on way [ refurbished bus station, and Whitton's Gardens, landscaping the Baltic Mill site] as is the cinema which is due to open in 2025.

## Future Projects on the horizon

Two projects that are looming is the future of the Gainsborough Leisure Centre which is now 60 years old and the main pool is well past its shelf life. The choice is to re site it, repair it or indeed build a new pool on the existing site.

## Solar Farms

The huge scale of industrial developments continues to be a significant battle with unlimited applications coming in – thousands of acres of farmland in Lincolnshire right now with many new pylons. A recent debate in the House was very critical of good agricultural land being taken up for solar.

## **Scampton**

The very future of Scampton has dominated the last 12 months And it continues to be on the agenda for the time WLDC has invested much time and energy in this project. The talks with the Home Office which now owns the site are progressing positively and constructively. It has always been in the Council's sights to secure the site for the £400 million development for commercial and heritage and that remains the case. Watch this Space

## **Devolution**

Devolution of Lincolnshire – I am no supporter of devolution and critical of the fact that every householders have been denied a vote on it and am not impressed with an extra £25 million which will not go far and those supporting it hold out the promise of more funding to come, time will tell.

**Emperor's New Clothes** – “Devo Deal” In a classic case of the Emperor's new clothes, this socalled “devolution deal” for Lincolnshire takes power away from people to an additional layer of Mayoral government and guarantees nothing. Our MP's could object and stop it now. Please write to them, to the Minister and to the Prime Minister. Include your address so they know they work for you. Draft letter and petition here. Minister [Jacob.young.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:Jacob.young.mp@parliament.uk);

## **Anniversaries**

WLDC marks 50 years being established in 1974, Trinity Arts Centre 40 years. The Friends of Gainsborough Old Hall 75 years and 10 years of Community Wheels

## **Clean Air**

Did you know that the air is monitored in our villages by the District Council? The annual mean legal limit of NO<sub>2</sub> for health is 40µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

## **WL Churches Festival**

This is held in May - East side 11/ 12 and the West side 18/19

Council appointed at its recent meeting last Monday;

## **District Cllr's portfolio for 2024/25**

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny

Vice Chair of Heritage, Tourism Events & Leisure

Member of Community Grants Working Group

Member of Leader's Panel

Chair of WL Churches Festival

Member of Conservation Group

PDJ Howitt-Cowan

15/05/2024

Chair of Charles Cooper  
Almshouse Trust