

## District Cllr. Paul Howitt-Cowan – September 2024 Report

<b>Scampton</b>	The National Government has now confirmed that the site will not be deployed for asylum seekers which means that the commercial/ heritage project of c£400 million may now go ahead.
<b>Winter Fuel Allowance</b>	<p>Whilst we celebrate Scampton, the news that 10 million pensioners will not be receiving fuel allowance hits us hard especially in the rural areas as many in our villages rely upon oil etc. I understand an impact assessment was carried out and I know of several in the Hemswell Ward are falling foul of the new criteria and are just above the line. I suspect many pensioners may end up in hospital thereby bed blocking which is costly but at least they will be looked after.</p> <p>I would encourage all pensioners to claim pension credit as there are 800, 000 eligible for that top up on their pension. Those who will not qualify may apply for financial help from WLDC, but this is means tested. Those on pre-paid meters can receive help through 'feeding Gainsborough'. Representation has been made to the Government by WLDC to re consider this policy.</p>
<b>WLDC Budget Review</b>	WLDC is having to review its budget in the light of Government cuts. It must save £500k this year and over a million next year and the year after that. We can expect difficult choices in the next financial year, increase council taxes and increased charges all round.
<b>WLDC Core Funding</b>	<p>WLDC is reviewing its core funding, and this is challenging. The WL Churches Festival is a recipient of core funding and as the Chair of the Churches Festival Committee, I have already been interviewed and put my case forward for continued funding. The decision should be made on 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2024.</p> <p>The WL Churches Festival AGM is on Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024 at the Methodist Church Market Rasen. 10.00 - all are welcome.</p>
<b>Council Precept</b>	Some Parish Councils are sitting on a great deal of monies, such as at Corringham however Corringham is not on its own. WLDC cannot claw that money back, but it can put pressure on PC's not to increase the precept in the future until its reserves are considered reasonable. High reserves can only be justified, if a PC has costed projects in the pipeline and can fully evidence that.
<b>Willoughton Play Area</b>	On Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> September, I cut the ribbon on opening the newly refurbished play area at Willoughton. We were blessed with fine weather and many families supported the event.
<b>Glentworth Coffee Morning</b>	On Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> of September I will be attending a MacMillian Coffee Morning at Glentworth Village Hall which has started a coffee morning for the community, and I was able to assist in funding that facility.
<b>Hemswell Harvest Supper</b>	I hope to be with you for the harvest supper on 4 <sup>th</sup> October and look forward to being with you.
<b>Housing Expansion and lack of Infrastructure</b>	<p>I have reported fly tipping and failed lighting on Weldon Rd, Hemswell.</p> <p>At full Council it was agreed that something should be done about the lack of doctors, dentists, pharmacies, etc., in the light of the housing expansion in West Lindsey. Cllrs are very empathetic especially for those young people suffering with mental illness.</p> <p>The Government is pushing for more and more housing, but it is not addressing the infrastructure, nor the medical care needs for the community across the District.</p>