



District Cllr's January Report 2022

Issued to Parish Councils & Meetings
Blyborough, Corringham, Glentworth, Grayingham Heapham,
Hemswell, Hemswell Cliff, Springthorpe & Willoughton

Planning Applications.....

Volume 1, Issue 1

As rec'd 31/12/21

Grayingham 143793
granted/ conditions

Hemswell 143653 15
Brook St granted/ condi-
tions

Glentworth— 144117
Partridge cottage com-
ments open

143866 36 Church St
withdrawn

Springthorpe 144150
pool and gymnasium at
Old Rectory comments
open

Willoughton Old Post
Office 143909

comments closed

143766—granted/ condi-
tions

Pending Appeals

The Forge—Hemswell

This is subject to an Ap-
peal, which began on
20th of Dec 2021 and
the outcome is expected
in the new year. The
owner may have his Ap-
peal upheld or dismissed
and if dismissed, his
only recourse is then to
the High Court.

The owner has had two
planning applications

refused along with the inter-
vention of the Secretary of
State.

It is the role of WLDC to
defend the refusal. It was
in July of 2019 that the first
planning application was
submitted.

The Forge is not listed how-
ever it is part of Hemswell's
industrial heritage going
back to the 17c.



Nettleham by election— Liberal Win

On Thursday 15 of Dec
2021 there was a by
election due to the resig-
nation of Cllr G. McNeill,
The seat was competed
against by 4 candidates
Jaime Oliver, Liberal De-
mocrat – 585 votes

(51%) A total of 1,150
votes from a potential
3,594 were cast and the
turnout was 32% – down
from 38% in the last
election in 2019. The
result leaves the make-
up of the council as

West Lindsey Admini-
stration Group 20 (17
Conservative, 2 Gains-
borough Independents,
1 Independent), Liberal
Democrat 13, Lincoln-
shire Independent 2, and
Independent 1.

District Cllr's Diary

13 Jan CP& R @ 6:30pm

24 Jan Full Council

4 Jan Corringham PC

10 Jan Hemswell Cliff PC
@ 7:30pm

19 Glentworth PC @
7:30pm

27 Willoughton PC 7:30pm

27 WL Churches Festival

Food Hygiene Inspections— reassurances given

One of the things our rates pay for is food hygiene inspections in the food outlets across the District which is to provide public confidence. All outlets have to display their rating—the maximum being 5. The food hygiene rating reflects the standards of food hygiene found on the date of the inspection by the local authority. The food hygiene rating is not a guide to food quality.

WLDC is challenged by volume

and resources to meet its ambitious targets however it is looking at ways to obtain more resources.

There is a national shortage of people qualified.

Apprentice scheme may be long term answer

Paul has been after food sample testing to give greater reassurance than just

inspections.



Chief Exe of WLDC Tours all Wards in WLD

Mr Ian Knowles has now toured all Wards that make up WLDC represented by 36 Cllrs. It was a 'getting to know the district'. On 26 Nov Paul concentrated on Hemswell Cliff which has plans to expand both its business and residential sector. We toured Hemswell Antiques, the fantastic Primary School , and I showed

him the vacant properties some were once thriving care homes and the newly purchased former Sergeant's Mess. We spent from 10am to 1:30pm . Ian is planning to publish a report of his visits across West Lindsey in the New Year & I for one look forward to reading it!



Corringham OAP's Luncheon

Paul was invited to the annual Christmas Lunch for Corringham's Senior Citizens on Wed 8th of Dec 2021 which was supported by 60 residents in the Parish. The event is sustained by raffle contributions at the village Quiz nights and a generous donation of £5400 from rge Willingham Relief in Sick-

ness Trust however last year because the monthly Quiz nights were disrupted by Covid—19, a charge of £5 was imposed. But it did not deter support. The Volunteers did a great job.

There was a raffle with generous prizes donated.

Paul invited the Rev Canon P Wain to say Grace and Paul expressed thanks to all those who made the event possible.

Corringham voted to approve of its Neighbourhood Development Plan on 2nd Dec 66 voted - 55 for with 11 against out of an electorate of 393.

Planning - Glentworth in the spotlight

An attempt by a developer to change part of its original plan for a house in a small Lincolnshire village has been approved, despite it being described by one councillor as a "dangerous cocktail."

[Lincolnshire Live](#) has previously covered the story of people living on [Hawthorne Close](#) in Glentworth who were unhappy with West Lindsey District Council's decision to allow the building of a house on a small patch of land at the end of the road.

The decision was made after the sale of the land to a developer for around £1,000, with planning permission being granted in September 2020 to erect one dwelling on land between Hawthorne Close and Elizabeth Close.

But the developer recently had to apply for retrospective planning permission after complaints from local residents following its construction of a "gabion wall to secure the stability of the land which sits adjacent to a watercourse."

When Lincolnshire Live previously visited the development site, residents said that the construction of the gabion wall, comprising cages filled with rocks, had actually narrowed the length of the adjacent watercourse, which has been described as a "vital piece of infrastructure."

Some residents told us that their garden had been flooded with sewage as a result of the actions by the developer.

But the retrospective planning permission seeking approval of the gabion wall has now been granted by a meeting of [West Lindsey](#) District Council's planning committee on Wednesday, December 1.

Sarah Pickering-Paterson, a resident of Hawthorne Close who attended the meeting, told councillors: "The watercourse is a vital piece of infrastructure that carries away the surface water from Glentworth.

"The watercourse has been made much narrower, from two metres to six inches in places.

"The applicant has significantly underestimated the size of the plot and the sole purpose of this work has been to extend and alter the size and shape of the development platform, in order to fit the dwelling on the plot."

Sarah also said that at a meeting on the development site, the Witham Internal Drainage Board said "in front of several witnesses" that if the application been made before works were completed rather than after, it would "likely have been refused."

But one of the council's planning officers, Russell Clarkson, focused on the "written position" of bodies including the drainage board and [Lincolnshire County Council](#).

He said: "Having all been on site, viewed what's on site, seen that element, the written response and advice from those bodies is that they have no objections - that is their written position to us today."

Amid claims that the developer has also gone outside of the boundary and is "encroaching on other people's land", Mr Clarkson said that this was something that "officers can clarify" with them.

Market Rasen - Swimming Pool



West Lindsey District Council still can't find the money to build a new swimming pool in Market Rasen after opening a £6.3million leisure centre, a report before members next week confirms.

The authority's Corporate Policy and Resources Committee will be asked to "accept that at this time the construction of a swimming pool is unaffordable and financially unsustainable" among the recommendations of the report.

Local campaigners have been clamouring for a swimming pool to be included as part of the brand new £6.3million leisure centre on Gainsborough Road, which opened in July 2020, since plans were revealed in 2018. They were told by council leaders it would not be sustainable or affordable and the poolless plans were approved in February 2019.

The report before councillors on 13 Dec said that the council and Market Rasen Town Council (helped by SLM Ltd – the authority's leisure management company) have both reviewed the business case, exploring the wider use of the site.

The report concludes, however: "Based on the business case presented, including assumptions and estimates, at this time the business case is not viable.

1. "Environmental impacts would have to be understood and mitigated, and whilst there is an obvious health and wellbeing benefit, the social benefit remains low due to estimated participation levels."

The report estimated capital costs of £4.9 million for a four lane pool option and £6.5m for a six-lane option.

2. It said that based on income costs it would take until year three to begin generating an operating profit.

3. It said there are currently no council funds available for investment and no grant funding.

4. The only option would be borrowing, which would add between £320,000-470,000 pressure on the budget for up to 40 years.

5. Environmental impacts were also undesirable and would result in further costs, it said.

6. Alternative options for the council include seeking more detailed analysis for around £17,000, or waiting to review the business case at a later date.

Either way, residents will be disappointed to know they won't be getting a swimming pool any time soon. The bottom line is, that there is not the wherewithal at WLDC to build a swimming pool. And there are further doubts about its 'sustainability'. In my opinion, Market Rasen has greater priorities than investing in such a facility at this present time. Since 2019, 206 swimming pools have closed due to lack of sustainability.

Governance and Audit Committee:

This committee will now meet at 10am instead of 2:30pm which is more convenient for the Auditors.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

There has been a wonderful response from Members wishing to be involved in 'The Queen's Green Canopy', please see the details below but there is only one downfall.....:

- Each Elected Member be afforded a tree to plant within their own Ward purchased by this Authority [*I have 10 communities which one am I to select for the planting and this offer places me in an invidious position which forces me not to support and Prosperous Communities has been insensitive to this*]
- Trees purchased under this scheme must be located in public locations.
- It will be for the Elected Member to work with their local communities to determine the chosen location and ensure any permissions needed are in place – Officer advice will be provided where requested
- Trees will be purchased to suit locations chosen by Ward Members (advice is available on the Woodland Trust Website) and will be at the sapling stage to reduce cost and make delivery easier.
- A commemorative plaque will be supplied with each tree (if requested) The QGC website will be offering templates for such plaques and all plaques across the District will be uniform in nature, and use the Jubilee branding
- It will be for each elected Member to determine how their Ward recognises the planting of the tree.
- The Jubilee itself falls in February and as such Elected Member tree planting events should be held throughout the month of February.
- Ward Members would need to indicate of their intention to plant a tree before Christmas, with orders being placed through January ready for ceremonies in February.
- Saplings will be purchased through the Woodland Trust, as the approved supporter for the QGC.
- Each event will receive promotion and press coverage through West Lindsey's media channels.
- Each Ward Member be allocated a maximum £75 to cover the cost of 1 sapling and 1 commemorative plaque, to be funded from within existing civic budgets.

If you would like to be involved and receive a sapling to be planted in your ward (as per guidelines above) please email your response to committeeadmin@west-lindsey.gov.uk no later than **22 December 2021** (please note the week extension to the deadline).

Sadly several Cllrs including Paul will not be participating in this offer as we will only receive one tree and I have 10 parishes

Tracey Bircumshaw, Assistant Director Finance to retire after 37 years in local government

After 37 years in local government and being 55 years young next March Tracy has decided to hang up her calculator and retire. She will leave at the end of May to see through recruitment of the Finance Restructure and the implementation of the OneFinance system.

Christmas Food Parcels

Paul was distributing food parcels to several residents in the Hemswell Ward on Christmas Eve. It was 'all hands to the pump' at 7pm making a memorable Christmas Eve for him and a reminder of those less fortunate, who are genuinely struggling to make ends meet.

Global Berry have their sights on Hemswell Cliff

Global Berry specialise in the distribution of raspberries, blueberries, blackberries and red currant. They boast of being specialists in selecting the best quality fruit, choosing those varieties that, by taste and appearance,

They have been whole-heartedly dedicated to these crops for over 30 years now, building strong alliances with **high specialized growers** of these products. In this way, only the most experienced and passionate ones have been selected to be part of the **Global Berry family**.

A **long experience** and **expertise** in the berry cultivation are the key factors that allow us to be recognised as specialists in offering **raspberries, blueberries, blackberries** and **red currants** during **all year**. In national season, we also offer products such as **strawberries** and **cherries**.

Based in Somerset and planning to build at Hemswell Cliff and over time are looking to employ 300 staff. A consultation is expected in the next few weeks Food Enterprise Zone energy supplied from the bio mass plant. Hemswell Cliff is part of a Food Enterprise Zone in Lincolnshire.

They have proven operational track record and expertise in glasshouse-grown fruit-farm operations, supplying 6 of the UK's leading supermarkets. Global Berry has recently expanded the group to introduce an additional site in Nocton, Lincolnshire, of 3.6 Ha of new and refurbished glasshouse, expanding our offering of strawberries.

“I owned a successful wholesale business in fresh fruit and vegetables back in Ireland, but I was always interested in growing the fresh produce that made it into the consumers baskets. An opportunity came up to take a long lease on a glasshouse nursery — which at the time was specialising in the production of tomatoes and peppers. Long-term leases on glasshouses are opportunities that do not arise often in the agriculture industry and so it was a chance I didn't want to miss! I saw the opening for increasing strawberry production in glasshouses in the UK to reduce imported volumes, and I went from there.”



Global Berry Director John Downes

Food production is responsible for a quarter of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, & it is vital that we tackle this climate change need as an urgent priority. The key challenges we see in cutting carbon emissions from the UK's food supply will be the impacts on affordable and sustainable heat sources, transportation and air miles, soil variations and water shortages.

Kirton Recycling Centre

A few years ago LCC and North Lincolnshire entered into an arrangement whereby residents in WLDC in close proximity could use the Kirton Recycling Centre.

The arrangement ceased possibly because of financial cuts.

However, there remains an outcry that the centre was closed to residents in WLDC and many wish it to be re

opened to them.

Residents in Scotter, Grayingham feel somewhat aggrieved and this was picked on at the May County Elections.



There is a demand for residents near Kirton to use it again

Key Challenges to WLD Economic Recovery

Covid-19 has brought into stark relief some of the challenges that West Lindsey was already facing before the pandemic, and the effects of the pandemic amplified and exacerbated those aspects even further:

- Sparse population and social isolation issues due to district's rurality: this not only emphasised existing vulnerabilities but increased the divide in both economic and health inequalities.
- • Prevalence of low skills base and difficulty attracting skilled workers from outside the district also due to remoteness from social opportunities and poor public transport.
- • Comparatively low economic output/productivity due to low value micro enterprises dominating our business fabric.
- • Low activity in inward investment. • Ageing workforce and population – aligned with out-migration of younger people.
- • Connectivity challenge for rural locations and the role of mobility and digitalisation in the way services are accessed in rural places including health provision.
- • Leverage of new infrastructure investment to deliver inclusive and sustainable growth that will contribute to bridging the gap between urban and rural areas and will make our place and people more resilient. Lack of much needed upgrades and improvements in existing infrastructure will severely hinder and affect our Place making vision and aspirations.
- • The revitalisation and future sustainability of our rural towns and high streets with the shift to increased online shopping and customers' changing behaviours
- Increasing Energy costs and many manufacturing outlets etc have invested in renewable energy or insulated their buildings or electric vehicles .

New digital high streets programme to boost local shopping launches across West Lindsey district.

A new programme to attract shoppers back to the High Street by harnessing digital technology has been launched in West Lindsey.

The initiative, Local Rewards, a collaboration between West Lindsey District Council and social media specialists, Maybe* Tech - aims to help businesses across the council area recover from the impact of COVID-19, by giving them the support they need to reach more customers and make more sales.

The programme will go live featuring 4,400 businesses from across the West Lindsey district and will offer free training and tools to companies looking to take part.

Local Rewards (<https://www.localrewards.chat/>) allows businesses to communicate with, and reward shoppers when they hit the High Streets and has been created with the intention of 'levelling the playing field' through enhanced digital skills, enabling The technology enables shoppers to see businesses near them, view and engage with their social media content and shop with them via Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp



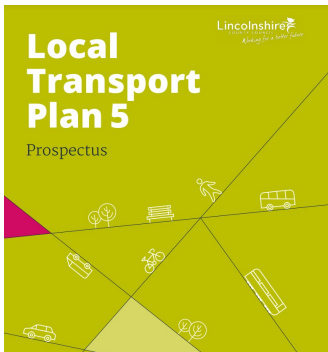
Residents and families living at Hemswell Cliff now have access to a newly-refurbished play park, as part of a continued drive to re-invest in the local area.

West Lindsey District Council (WLDC), along with Hemswell Resident Company (HRC), have been helping home owners in the Hemswell Cliff estate, re-invest part of their service charges back into the area for a number of years, to continue to improve the area for all. The efforts really are showing a difference!

Ward Councillor for the area, Cllr Paul Howitt-Cowan, said: "For me, this redeveloped park space demonstrates two things. First, it demonstrates the continued commitment to reinvest in the local area and secondly, it demonstrates the support that the council and local partners continue to give Hemswell Cliff. It has been fantastic to hear that local school children have already been making the most of the new play space!"

Head Teacher at Hemswell Cliff Primary School Mrs Angie Waplinton, confirmed that local children have already been making the most out of the fun, new facilities on offer.

Local Transport in Lincolnshire



The County Council has written a new Transport Policy for Lincolnshire

Last year our County Council put an extra 25% from reserves into road repairs, after the Government made a last minute snitch out of our expected funds. We pay our tax just the same, but not enough returned for local use. Already traffic has increased by 30% in the past decade, higher than East Midlands and England. Lorry traffic is back at pre-covid levels, with vans and cars close behind. If we want economic wellbeing, where spend is in balance with need, we need to drop this old-fashioned addiction to “growth” forever. Chasing the dragon of “growth” for someone’s “economic ambition” is simply damaging. Let’s focus instead on wellbeing of our communities, shaping places that have the facilities to match people’s needs now. A concerted effort to reduce and slow traffic through villages and urban communities needs to be seriously tackled and funded. An assessment of lorry movements is needed, to see what changes could reasonably be made. Planning must include a priority of reducing the need to travel, with local facilities within fifteen minutes walk or cycle. A much bigger proportion of road finance should be spent on good cycle paths, not only for the benefit of cyclists, walkers and mobility vehicles, but also to enable a better flow on the roads. This also requires considerably improved whole road maintenance as it is the edges where cyclists are severely at risk. 80% of Lincs roads are Class C or unclassified and need to be better maintained. [link to the report >](https://www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/local-transport-plan)

<https://www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/local-transport-plan>

Although globally transport contributes 21% of emissions, in Lincolnshire, transport contributes the largest portion, 39% of total CO2 emissions. (1.46m tonnes/yr) Transport related carbon emissions have hardly changed in the past fifteen years to 2018. (Page 27) Vans have increased by 70% since 2000. Even with Covid, there was a national reduction in emissions of 6%, while the required reduction in North Kesteven is 13.7% every year.

There is a significant increase in use of vehicles (30%) and a decrease in bus patronage almost the same amount over the past decade. The more housing the greater the pressure on the roads because in large parts of the UK you need a vehicle. This Transport Plan has a key role to play in reducing the emissions of our County.



Agriculture and Tourism are two major sources of income in Lincolnshire. Both will be negatively affected by a significant drive towards “growth” and the resulting traffic. The green uncluttered food producing county is under direct threat from any schemes. The attraction of Lincolnshire, its USP, is the open rural nature of our countryside dotted with historic market towns and villages. We should not build our policies on destroying this economic and social asset. We need to reduce the levels of harmful emissions to below that damaging to human health.

We would support clean air zones as part of a *package of measures*, including electric charging points. On its own, it may just make living in those areas more expensive for people who need cars to get to work especially in the rural areas of Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Cornwall, Northumberland and Cumbria.

He added: "Either way that original planning permission stands. The only thing we're looking at is the variation of the planning application.

"The time for challenging that original permission has long passed. It has been considered by the appropriate drainage bodies."

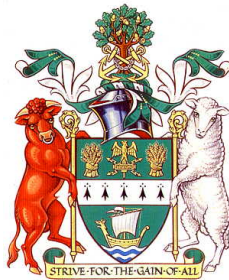
But Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan, the independent representative for areas including Glentworth on the council, told the meeting: "In my humble opinion this retrospective planning application is possibly the worst one I've ever come across. It is from beginning to end a dangerous cocktail and a text-book case for planning training.

"This has deliberately interfered with the watercourse. Flooding is an important consideration due to climate change. There is room for significant flooding possibly in the future, but this stream is an important conduit of flood water in this village.

"The excavation of the stream has affected its ecology, damaging animal life, plant life and even the trees on the north side of the stream."

Watch this Space as we may not have heard the end of this matter!

Contact Paul Howitt-Cowan
Independent District Cllr for the
Hemswell Ward
kenmare01@outlook.com
Tele 01427 612017



2 Kenmare Crescent
Gainsborough
Lincolnshire
DN21 1PR



Covid Vaccinations.....

How to get your vaccination in Lincolnshire:

the Lincolnshire Show-ground, or at a community pharmacy.

At a local GP vaccination centre - you will be called by your GP in the forthcoming days to arrange this – please ensure you attend when called forwards, or;

By visiting the [National Booking System](#) or calling 119, to book your appointment at one of our vaccination sites across the county, including our Mass Vaccination Centres at PRSA, Boston and

Please book as soon as you are called forwards

There's still a lot of people out there who haven't been boosted, including immunosuppressed and clinically vulnerable people, and medics are really keen they come forwards as soon as possible for their vaccinations

