



Serving the Parishes of
Blyborough Corringham, Glentworth, Grayingham
Harpwell, Heapham, Hemswell, Hemswell Cliff,
Springthorpe Willoughton
that make up the Hemswell Ward

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BUSINESS NAME District Councillor's Newsletter

Kay bows out after 17 years as Clerk of Willoughton Parish Council

Mrs Kay Badwin retired on Thursday 28th August as Parish Clerk of Willoughton Parish Council after 17 years of sterling service. Kay was showed with gifts in token of appreciation for her dedicated service. She was until her retirement the longest serving Clerk in the Hemswell Ward todate.

Her successor is Cllr Hazel Fox, who happens to be Town Parish Cllr at Kirton in Lindsey and the Deputy Mayor! We wish Kay a long and happy retirement whilst welcoming Hazel and looking forward working with her.

Currently only Corringham has a vacancy for a Parish Clerk.

Marion Graham has now retired as Chair of Springthorpe Parish Meeting and we are grateful to her for her service. Gillian

Proctor has now assumed the mantle and we wish her well in that post.

Composition of WLDC

There are 36 District Cllrs serving WLD. Some are single wards such as that of the Hemswell Ward with one district Cllr whereas Welton is served by 3 district cllrs. In the summer Cllr Steve England, the former Chair of WLDC resigned from the Conservatives to become an Independent reducing the Conservatives from 17 to 16. The political landscape is proving interesting.

Conservative 16

Liberal 13

Independents 7 divided

2 Independents

2 Lincolnshire Independents

3 Independents who are aligned with the Conservatives propping them up with

a working majority of 19 cllrs

At the May 2023 Elections there is a strong possibility that Independents may hold the key to power if the Conservatives and Liberals do not have sufficient cllrs to take control

If all 7 Independents were to vote with the Liberals on a vote no confidence the Liberals would be in power but there is no likelihood of that materializing. Watch this space as the election results are revealed in May '23. Nationally the Conservatives are not in a 'good place' and this resonates even at the local level.

At the 2019 election in 2019 they had 19 cllrs, 3 of whom have left to become Independents. And hopefully voters will vote not for party but for the best candidate who will serve the Community regardless of political party or of none.

A Summer of busyness

The Summer season has been busy for me, it is usually a "quiet" period.

I have been quite involved with Lincolnshire Rural Housing which has dwellings in Corringham

Moreover, The Forge at Hemswell has been almost a daily concern and remains unresolved.

Who are these Becketts?

by Paul Howitt – Cowan

Corringham Village Hall

Friday 30th of September 2022

@ 7:30pm

All Welcome

Admission £4 including light Refreshment

evolution vs Local Government Reorganisation: The debate at the heart of Lincolnshire's future

The devolution of power to a combined Greater Lincolnshire authority will be on the wishlist of many Lincolnshire councillors when the new Tory leader is elected in September.

However there continue to be fears the move could lead to local reorganisation down the line which would see all of Lincolnshire's councils dissolved and replaced.

Speaking to councillors and media, it's easy to feel the two ideas of devolution and local government reorganisation can get conflated, mixed together. So what's the difference?

Devolution – the creation of an all new power

Greater Lincolnshire authorities Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council have been leading the charge on the latest bids to get government to devolve powers to them since way before the first attempt back in 2016.

Under devolution, a new layer of beaurocracy would be created on top of the existing 10 unitary and two-tier councils.

This would be a new overarching council, led potentially by a directly-elected mayor, would draw down powers and funding the government usually controls in a bid to deal with them locally.

If you were to speak to councillors locally, they might tell you that their authorities did this with reasonable success over the past two years, tackling and handing out COVID support from the ground rather than the government taking on the responsibility.

Speaking recently to Conservative County Councillor Colin Davie, the executive portfolio holder for economy and environment, he told Local Democracy Reporters that local councillors that local members understands Lincolnshire "very well".

"The county understands the wider strategic view that you need to have to build the infrastructure and build the economy and the core services," he said.

"Government needs to trust places a lot more... ultimately our decisions will be judged by our voters, the people who live in Lincolnshire and if they don't like what we decide they'll have a chance to sanction us. "We should be allowed to shape what the future looks like and work with government to do that. Take some of the government money that they spend unwisely on benefits and management of systems around health and spend it better locally, get better outcomes, better bang for the buck."

However, what some, particularly in district councils, fear is that from the point of the creation of the new authority it would then begin drawing "up" – taking responsibilities away from councils instead of government and whittling them down to a shadow of the authority they had before.

This, they fear, would lead to Local Government Reorganisation – the dissolving of all the authorities leaving only the one.

In a recent interview Labour leader of the City of Lincoln Council Ric Metcalfe told reporters that councils locally could do a "much better job" than government.

"We know our area and we can collaborate locally to get those things done," he said.

"However, he said: "It remains quite unclear about whether over time, this new Combined Authority might start to take on or it's sometimes been described as sucking up some of the functions that are currently performed by district councils."

rently performed by district councils.”

For instance, he suggested there could be questions over why the districts control waste collection separate to county council which sorts and recycles the waste, why not have it all dealt with under one authority? Or whether housing could be dealt with on a wider scale.

“Before you know it, district councils have been stripped of all of the current things that are important to them, which they think they do well and all of a sudden, the question that arises is, well, ‘what’s the point of having district councils then?’”

Councils were disappointed to have not been involved in the latest round of deals announced in February. Invites instead went to Cornwall, Derbyshire & Derby, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, Durham, Hull & East Yorkshire, Leicestershire, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire & Nottingham, and Suffolk.

However, bosses have previously said they remain committed to the next bid, expected sometime next year. How that will see Lincolnshire looking in the future is still smoke in the crystal ball it seems.

New Clerk:

Dr Elizabeth Raymond has been successfully appointed Parish Clerk and Burial Clerk at Hemswell. We wish her well in this new post which has been vacant for some considerable time.

Glentworth Village Hall:

During the summer there has been much activity in creating a new play area at the village hall. I have been to have a look at its progress and it is looking ‘brill’. It is cause for great celebration. This facility will be welcomed by families and the envy of adults as they cannot play on the equipment!

Solar Farms— a promise to be kept or broken?

A friend of a friend e mailed me on 7/08

“I was at a wedding yesterday and speaking to a relative who lives at Newmarket. They are further along with the solar application near to where he lives and the battery storage would be 150 metres from his home. They have formed a group and have employed a lawyer to fight it. Apparently they have had many meetings with the company as well.

He is a member of the Conservatives and attended a meeting last week with Liz Truss. He spoke to her individually about his situation and she told him that if she becomes Prime Minister she will stop the Government funding for these projects as she believes that growing food is more important.

It will be interesting to see if she gets in and if she keeps her word, as she said she would do it quickly”.

The Hemswell Ward faces 2 large solar farms; one at Corringham and the other at Glentworth bordering on Springthorpe and this has led to much disquiet in Springthorpe.

CONTACT DETAILS

District Cllr for the Hemswell
Ward

Cllr PDJ Howitt-Cowan

Tele 01427 612017

kenmare01@outlook.com

Serves on ;
Overview & Scrutiny
Licensing
Regulatory

Represents WLDC as
Chair of Charles Cooper Alms-
house Trust
Chair of WL Churches Festival

In addition to the green public realm, there are a number of other projects taking place in the town as part of our 'Thriving Gainsborough 2024', which includes:

- Redesigning the use and streetscape of the Market Place.
- A 4-screen cinema, two retail units, a restaurant, and additional parking.
- Extend the Townscape Heritage Initiative to refurbish heritage buildings and wider shop fronts
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- Implementation of wayfinding strategy to direct residents, businesses and visitors around the town.
- Refurbishment of the bus station.
- Extending the live above the shop

Crucial land survey for pocket park set to take place in Gainsborough this month.

Exciting plans to create a new pocket park, improve green spaces and the market place are currently being developed as part of Gainsborough's town centre regeneration programme.

West Lindsey District Council has appointed Dom Latham Ltd to carry out surveys of land at Caskgate Street and the Market Place. Surveyors will assess the opportunities and understand any possible issues at the sites.

They will carry out the work on Monday 12 September until Friday 16th September. During this time motorists are advised that traffic management arrangements will be in place whilst the surveys take place. This is to provide a safe environment for the workers to carry out the crucial work.

As previously reported, the Council launched the £18 million 'Thriving Gainsborough 2024' project, which builds on the Invest Gainsborough Programme of work. The plans were given a huge boost thanks to £10 million grant awarded to the Council from Central Government, as part of the 'Levelling up' Programme.

"Our future 'Thriving Gainsborough 2024' programme presents a great opportunity to deliver on West Lindsey District Council's ambition for the next phase of Gainsborough's growth.

"Work is being done to create a green public realm – including a new Pocket Park along the riverside, improvements to the existing park and redesigning the use and streetscape of the Market Place.

"The creation of the new parks and improved green spaces in the heart of the town will be brilliant places for our communities to enjoy, and regenerating the town centre will mean that residents will have less need to travel out of town for leisure and shopping."

As part of the work, the Council will be consulting with members of the public who currently use the spaces to see how they would like to use them going forward.

To keep up to date with all the projects follow us on @InvestGainsboro or you can find out more information on Invest website: www.investgainsborough.com/luf/

Other projects;

Implementation of wayfinding strategy to direct residents, businesses and visitors around the town.

Refurbishment of the bus station.

Extending the live above the shop programme to create more homes in the town centre.

West Lindsey Churches Festival

September Diary

2 Church Tourism Nottingham

5 Full Council@
7pm /
Hemswell Cliff
PC 7:30pm

6 Corringham PC
@ 7:30pm
Over View &
Scrutiny 6:30pm
12 Selective Li-
censing 10am

14 Glentworth PC
@ 7:30pm

15 Licensing &
Regulatory
6:30pm

19 Hemswell PC
@ 7:30pm

21 WL Churches
Festival AGM
Nettleton
10:30am

22 CP&R 6:30pm
Willoughton PC
@ 7:30pm

25 Selective Li-
censing Work-
shop for Cllrs

26 Springthorpe
Meeting about
Proposed Solar
Farm

Now in its 26th year and a flag ship of WLDC aligned to tourism

3 yearly Grant Review
Hitherto it has received £24k for the past 3 years. ie £8k per year. The recent Grant Review

The data for the May Festival held after a 2 year gap due to Covid realized

Number of volunteers also declined

Not all the participating churches had returned their forms which skews the data which is required as part of the

Grant Review.

The Festival attracts an older age group which has been hesitant at coming out of their homes due to Covid. And many organizations in Lincolnshire are reporting likewise.

2023

WL Churches Festival holds its **Annual General Meeting at Nettleton Village Hall on Wednesday 21 of Sept @ 10:30am**

As Chair of WL Churches Festival, Paul was

invited to a day conference at the William Booth Birthplace in Nottingham last Friday in which delegates from the UK took part

Their focus was on attracting more people to visit these sites and appreciate their heritage value.

Lenient guidelines leading to low fly tipping fines

The LGA is asking central Government to update the sentencing guidelines regarding fly tipping

During 2020/21 an average fine was £335. The latest data shows the average fines were £65 less than the £400 fixed

penalty notice councils can issue

The LGA recommends much tougher fines to deter fly tipping which costs councils £50 million a year to clearing up.

The present situation 'encourages' fly tipping because the fines are

perceived as far too lenient and instead of imposing fines courts should make more use of suspended sentences and custodial sentences for anyone convicted of second fly tipping offence.

Council launches new approach to investigate illegal fly tipping across the District.

West Lindsey District Council is continuing its proactive approach to the problem of illegal fly tipping.

High visibility tape and stickers are now being used by the Council's Community Safety Team to raise aware-

ness of the issues caused by the illegal dumping of items across the council area. The tape and stickers serve to reassure the public that the Council is aware of the fly-tip and in the pro-

cess of dealing with it. The team works across the district daily, to identify those responsible for fly tipping, in a bid to put a stop to it.

Energy Efficiency Incentive update

West Lindsey District Council has determined an ambition to become a Green Council and has set a net-zero carbon target across its operations by 2050. Becoming a net-zero carbon Council is very important as it will help to address climate change and protect the natural environment that so many of us enjoy. Installing energy saving measures within the home can help reduce emissions alongside reducing fuel poverty by installing more efficient systems. The retrofitting of energy efficient measures also support the council's Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Strategy.

Living in a cold, damp home is harmful to physical and mental health. Installing household energy efficiency measures, will not only reduce carbon emissions, but will make it easier and more affordable for residents to maintain a warm, comfortable environment, thereby reducing cold-related illnesses and associated stress.

West Lindsey have worked in conjunction with the Midlands Energy Hub since 2021 to secure funding for two different schemes as follows:

The **Local Authority Delivery (LAD)** scheme is to improve the energy efficiency of homes of low-income households, helping reduce fuel poverty, phasing out high carbon fossil fuel heating, and delivering progress towards the UK's commitment to net zero by 2050.

The Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) is to support low income households by upgrading the energy efficiency of properties that are off the gas network in England. Funding intends to enable the installation of multiple measures to improve the energy efficiency of properties.

In May 2021, WLDC were successful in a bid and received £560,000 capital (+10% admin) from the Midlands Energy Hub for LAD2 (Local Authority Delivery scheme phase 2) This scheme was delivered by E.on and installed 4 properties with Air Source Heat Pumps, 48 with Solar and 1 with cavity wall insulation

For the next allocation of funding, the government put both schemes together under the heading of the Sustainable Warmth Competition. In January 2022, WLDC made a bid to Midlands Energy Hub and received £924,000 under the Sustainable Warmth Competition which is broken down as follows:

	Capital	Administrative Allocation
Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) Phase 1	£530,000	£53,000
Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 3	£310,000	£31,000
Total	£840,000	£84,000

The Sus-
Competition

delivered on behalf of WLDC by Yes and all funding must be spent by 31st March 2023

tainable warmth
grants are being

BEIS has set the following criteria for any funding allocated under all of these schemes:

To target the worst first, homes with an EPC rating of E, F & G, 30% of properties can have D rating. All contractors must be Trustmark registered and installations compliant with PAS2035 (specification for whole house retrofit.)

Eligible measures include Air Source heat pumps, electric storage heaters, Solar PV, external wall insulation, cavity wall insulation and loft insulation

Households with an annual income of £30k or less are eligible

Grant maximum £10k (LAD2 and LAD3)

Grant maximum £25k EPC G rating, £20k F rating, £15k E rating (HUG)

WLDC website has details of current initiatives available and how to apply.

<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/housing-homelessness/green-sustainable-living>