

Hemswell Ward

D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L L O R ' S N O V E M B E R R E P O R T

Cllr's Diary for

November

2 Glentworth PC @
7:30pm

7 Full Council @
7:00 pm

7 Hemswell Cliff
PC @ 7:30pm

8 Overview & Scrutiny @ 6:30pm

10 CP&R @
6:30pm

21 Hemswell PC @
7:15pm

UK'S FIRST FUSION ENERGY PLANT AT WEST BURTON.

Leader of West Lindsey District Council, Cllr Owen Bierley said: "We welcome this opportunity to work closely with Bassetlaw District Council on this highly ambitious programme, which will significantly contribute to our and the Country's ambition for Net Zero by 2050. Not only that, it will help create thousands of highly skilled jobs within the local economy. West Lindsey has an established and strong manufacturing and engineering sector and we look forward to strengthening links and supporting this economic growth opportunity for the area. Nuclear Fusion technology is a potential source of almost limitless clean energy which can be used within the National Grid to power the country. As such, in the light of this new announcement we urge Government to consider the implications and viability of the solar NSIPs proposed in West Lindsey, which plan to take advantage of current National Grid capacity, which if approved will have a catastrophic impact on the countryside and our rural communities due to their sheer scale and amount of agricultural land they will take out service for food production."

On 3 October 2022, the government announced that the West Burton power station site in Nottinghamshire has been selected as the home for 'STEP' (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production), the UK's prototype fusion energy plant which aims to be built by 2040. Fusion is based on the same physical reactions that power the sun and stars, and is the process by which 2 light atomic nuclei combine while releasing large amounts of energy. This technology has significant potential to deliver safe, sustainable, low carbon energy for future generations.

The government-backed STEP programme will create thousands of highly skilled jobs during construction and operations, as well as attracting other high tech industries to the region, and furthering the development of science and technology capabilities nationally. The ambitious programme will also commit immediately to the development of apprenticeship schemes in the region, building on the success of the UK Atomic Energy Authority's (UKAEA) Oxfordshire Advanced Skills centre in Culham. Conversations with local providers and employers have already begun, with schemes to start as soon as possible. The UK government is providing £220 million of funding for the first phase of STEP, which will see the UK Atomic Energy Authority produce a concept design by 2024.



Selective Licensing Update

The Broadcasting Engineering Conservation Group or BECG which had been looking for premises for some time has established at Hemswell Cliff, occupying the former Community Centre.

BECG was open this year for [Heritage Open Days](#) on Saturday 17

September and Sunday 18 September. This will be the first opportunity the public received a peek at their collection and at the new building in Hemswell Cliff which they are busily restoring.

The enthusiastic group inherited a complex that had been terribly vandalized, which led

to a lot of work removing debris. They set about installing new windows and solar panels on the roof.

Their central aim is to preserve historic artefacts and also enrich the understanding and interpretation of tv history for future generations



Solar Farms Protest Group-

I attended along with other representatives of their local communities a meeting on Wed 19th of Oct at the Rose & Crown Upton, I identified 5 from the Hemswell Ward. Various updates were presented. I was there to listen to what people had to say and therefore made no contribution. From my experience of the Wind Farm at Hemswell Cliff which did go to a Public Enquiry held on the Lincolnshire Show Ground There was a perception in contrast to the MP for Bassetlaw, that the MP for Gainsborough was not sufficiently on the ground

Monies raised from various events held since March had only realized £1,700. If there is to be a Public Enquiry many more thousand will have to be raised to secure the service of a barrister. Hemswell Cliff anti Wind Farm group raised it from the villages and this group needs to redouble its efforts to secure sufficient financial support for legal representation.

The group needs to focused on scouting for a barrister with experience of renewable energy particularly in solar farms. However, I recognized and appreciated an enthusiasm amongst the assembled group to stop these planning applications.

I detected a lack of coordination across the villages to be affected and welcomed the suggestion from Carol to hold meetings around the area and blitz the villages about the meeting using social media and leafleting to get the message across. There is to be a meeting at Glentworth Village Hall on . There is a strong argument of taking the message to Parish Councils/ Meetings and advertising in various village and church publications. Communications is the name of the game

It appears that smaller landowners may be inclined to take up the offer from the solar farm companies, there is one big landowner with tenant farmers—Rochester Bridge Trust and overtures need to be made with the Trust to ascertain where it stands on the issue ' food' or 'energy'. If the Trust sign up to solar, that will represent a significant acreage turned over for solar energy & thereby take the 'rug under the feet 'of the current tenant farmers.

**COUNCILS FALL OUT OVER INCOMPLETE
DEVOLUTION PLAN AS LINCOLNSHIRE
LEADERS SEEK FRESH BID**

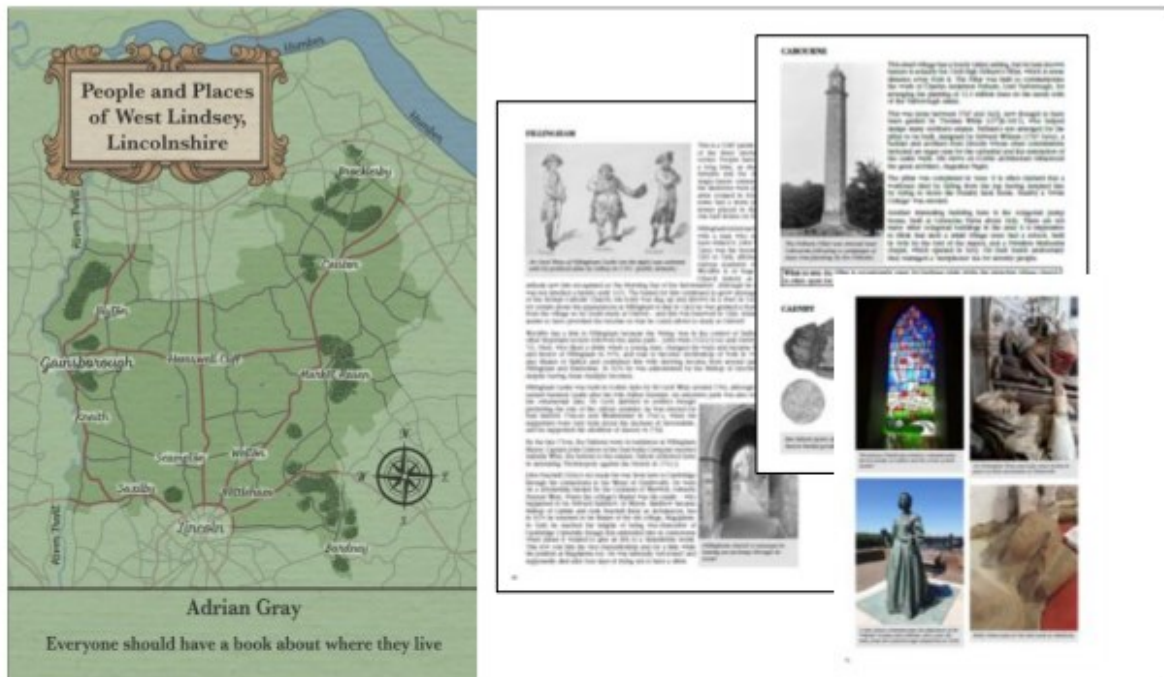
Lincolnshire district council leaders have accused those behind major devolution plans of rushing through the process and publishing “incomplete” documents. The seven district council leaders criticised a deal which was discussed in a series of meetings on Friday, and said they do not believe the papers being considered were complete or offered the best deal for Lincolnshire residents. The Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee, attended by leaders from Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council, voted to seek a deal “at the earliest opportunity” on Friday 4th of Oct.

The upper tier leaders also wrote to the Secretary of State Simon Clarke telling him ‘we have agreed in principle the substance of our bid’ and ‘we will be ready’ to submit in the next round. District council leaders said that while productive discussions had taken place, current proposals “**did not reflect the best deal for residents**”.

A joint statement from district council leaders said: “Although all 10 councils agree that devolution is a good thing for the county, the process cannot be rushed. “We have challenged the timing of releasing the papers, which are not the finished article and therefore we cannot seek to adopt them. “We did not expect these documents to be published at this time as they are incomplete. “None of us want to miss out on an opportunity for devolution and the extra powers and money this could bring to the area. “However, we have a responsibility to work collaboratively to get the best deal appropriate for our strategic geographies.”

Councillor Martin Hill, leader of Lincolnshire County Council, said he was “genuinely surprised” by the statement from the district councils and said all 10 councils had agreed to support the devolution bid “if necessary with a mayor” with a final substantive bid by the end of 2022. He said the authorities had “all been collectively working on [the bid] for months and even years. “There have been no substantive objections made by Lincolnshire district councils to date,” he said. “The government has made it clear that devolution is their vehicle for extra investment in local areas and there is a risk that unless we move forward at pace, our county will lose out. “We have done substantial business engagement through the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), with Lincolnshire businesses being strongly in favour of us seeking devolution, and keeping them informed of developments. We fully intend to keep our partners engaged with the process.” He said the meeting on Friday had included the LEP chairman. “We do not agree with the district councils that draft proposals should be kept secret from the public and business, which would be contrary to the principles of openness and transparency. “We fully recognise that these documents are a work in progress and will continue to refine these in a collaborative way to ensure the best possible deal for Lincolnshire. “Unfortunately, Greater Lincolnshire is not in the current bidding round of devolution proposals but our three councils have been given the responsibility by government to deliver a bid for next year, and will do so for the benefit of the residents who we represent.” > see page 6

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE JOYS AND SECRETS OF WEST LINDSEY?



A new book from local author Adrian Gray celebrates the wonderful landscape and history of West Lindsey – the sort of book that everyone who lives here should have! Checking in with each settlement in turn whether village or town, Adrian uncovers some amazing stories of people who lived there over the years – the great and the good mix with the criminal and – in one or two cases – the downright wicked! The book also explains the best things to see and many interesting incidents, so there is bound to be plenty to amuse everyone.

In these pages you will find great writers, significant artists and inventors, but also eccentric clergymen, amoral aristocrats and even the odd revolutionary....

More than 170pps of large format with many pictures including a large colour section. Ideal for your own reading pleasure or to share out to promote interest in West Lindsey.

The normal price is £20 plus £3.50 P&P, but we are providing a **special price** of £18 POST FREE – making a saving of over £5 – for West Lindsey councillors and staff. To get this discount please call Bookworm Retford (01777 869224) or email sales@bookwormretford.co.uk for early attention. Books will be delivered to the WL offices.



Adrian Gray read history at Cambridge and we were taught by the same professor, Dr Patrick Collinson who was a leading authority of the 16c & 17c. Adrian is a wonderful colleague to know and has a cache of publications 'under his belt'. A great lecturer and passionate about history.

INCREASES IN CHARGES BUT NOT IN LINE WITH INFLATION

West Lindsey are set to freeze car parking charges for the next year as other fees could rise by around 6%. The authority's Prosperous Communities Committee says that rise will be the minimum necessary to cover budget cost increases next year but, at half the 12.3% increase expected, but that they will only bring in £6,100 extra to cover costs.

At the same meeting on Tuesday night, the authority will also be asked to agree to provide free parking for Christmas events on November 18 and December 10.

Despite freezing parking charges, however, the authority will **increase the electric vehicle charging payments.**

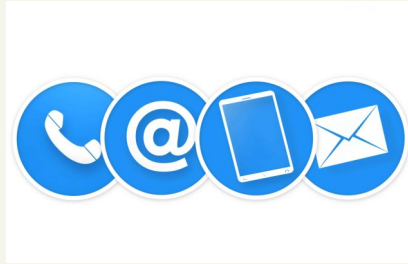
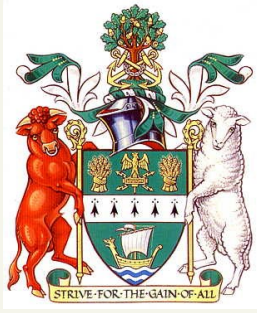
"Given the general belief that our proposed fees and charges are fair and reasonable, the significant risks to fee income are not with fee levels themselves, but with the achievable volumes and delivering against business plans," said the report before councillors.

Elsewhere, "minimal" increases to cemetery charges will bring in an extra £100, while licensing income will increase by £1,200, housing fees will see a £1,500 rise, while planning will see £700 hike.

Some other fees have also been frozen, including the Trinity Arts Centre in order to remain competitive.

The new fees and charges will apply from April 1, 2023.





District Councillor: PDJ Howitt-Cowan [Independent]

Representing :Blyborough, Corringham, Glentworth, Grayingham, Harpswell, Heapham, Hemswell, Hemswell Cliff , Springthorpe & Willoughton

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TRINITY ARTS CENTRE BECOMES FINALISTS IN TOURISM AWARDS

“Unfortunately, Greater Lincolnshire is not in the current bidding round of devolution proposals but our three councils have been given the responsibility by government to deliver a bid for next year, and will do so for the benefit of the residents who we represent. ”

Councillor Rob Waltham, leader of North Lincolnshire Council, said: “The government ’ s devolution agenda continues to gather pace. In addition to the combined authorities already agreed, there are now firm proposals for rural areasThe government has made it clear that devolution is their vehicle for extra investment in local areas and we are moving forward at pace together to secure that for the communities across Lincolnshire. ”

Councillor Philip Jackson, leader of North East Lincolnshire Council, said: “ Things are moving incredibly quickly, and together, we need to move with that pace to make sure that Greater Lincolnshire doesn ’ t get left behind.“ We need to do what we can to make sure that local people and communities will benefit from any investment proposals that are on the table, both now and in the future. ”

My Comment:

I remain concerned about ‘democratic deficit ’ and believe everyone in Lincolnshire should receive a vote on devolution or local government reform.