

# District Cllr’s February 2023 Report to Hemswell Ward

Serving the Parishes of Blyborough, Corringham, Grayingham, Harpswell, Heapham, Hemswell, Hemswell Cliff, Glentworth, Springthorpe & Willoughton

## District Cllr’s Diary

1 Glentworth—Solar Farm Parish Event @7:30pm  
 6 Hemswell Clif PC @ 7:30P  
 7 Corringham PC @ 7:30pm  
 9 CP&R Guildhall @ 6:30pm  
 21 Overview & Scrutiny Guildhall @ 6:30pm  
 22 Glentworth PC @7:30pm  
 27 Update on West Burton

## Rural Affairs

I tuned into the Parliamentary Select Committee on Rural Connectivity on Wed 25 Jan, and learned a great deal.

Did you know that the rural economy is worth £260 million representing 15% of our economic output!

## OFSTED—HEMSWELL CLIFF—WILLOUGHTON SCHOOL.....*DIDN’T THEY DO WELL*

Christmas came well early for our school at Willoughton—Hemswell Cliff with achieving **GOOD** and a cause for great celebration & ‘a pat on the back’ for the Headteacher and her staff and the pupils in their charge.

We need to encourage and promote our village schools which offer a good academic record and pastoral care for the children & this school excels in its pastoral charge.

Keep up the great work!

Inspection dates: 15 & 16 November 2022

**Overall effectiveness** **Good**

The quality of education **Good**

Behaviour and attitudes **Good**

Personal development **Good**

Leadership and management **Good**

Early years provision **Good**

Previous inspection grade **Good**



WLDC is not funding celebrations for the Coronation of HM King Charles III in May.

Parishes will therefore have to draw upon reserves unless they factored in a spend in this year’s precept for funding celebrations!

This news will come as a disappointment in the wake of funding for the late Queen’s Platinum last year.



## New way finding signs installed directing visitors to local attractions

West Lindsey District Council is delighted that new visitor signs and interpretation boards have been installed in Gainsborough.

The wayfinding signs direct people to local attractions, walks and trails through a series of fingerposts and information boards. The information boards provide details of key locations and maps to assist visitors in navigating around the town. They also showcase a collection of interesting historical stories about the town.

Paul Howitt-Cowan, Chair of the Leisure, Culture, Events and Tourism Group at West Lindsey District Council is keen to attract new and repeat visitors to the district. He said: "West Lindsey has an abundance of tourist attractions from the magnificent Gainsborough Old Hall, a variety of wonderful sites filled with our heritage, to family attractions and beautiful countryside walks including the Lincolnshire Wolds, an area of outstanding natural beauty.

"We are passionate about our place and have refreshed our visitor economy strategy and action plan to improve opportunities to enhance the appeal to visitors to our wonderful district. These new wayfinding signs are part of that wider plan and I hope they will be welcomed not only by visitors but by local residents who can see that effort has gone into replacing the signs in the town."

This project is part of the Council's ambitious plans to regenerate Gainsborough Town Centre, which is currently undergoing a significant investment. It has been made possible thanks to the Council's £18 million Levelling Up Programme, which received just over £10 million from the Government's Levelling Up programme.

Further signage will be installed to highlight the new destinations such as the cinema and the parks, once these projects are complete.

Mick Grundy Site Manager for Gainsborough Old Hall, welcomed the new signs. He said: "It is fantastic for Gainsborough Old Hall, managed by English Heritage, to be part of the wayfinding townscape enhancement that will serve the community, local businesses and visitors alike. It is amazing to be part of the town's successful regeneration, albeit from a 500-year-old Manor House!"

For more information about visiting Gainsborough including, places to visit and things to do, visit [www.discovergainsborough.com](http://www.discovergainsborough.com), or follow @discovergains on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

To keep up to date with all the Levelling-Up projects follow us @investGainsboro or you can find out more information on the Invest website: [www.investgainsborough.com/luf/](http://www.investgainsborough.com/luf/)

The Visitor Economy Strategy can be read on the Council's website.

<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/growth-regeneration/visitor-economy-strategy>

### Postscript

**Can the villages in the Hemswell Ward consider a sign in each community to help visitors identify points of heritage?**



### What is a Corporate Plan?

It is a strategic document, listing the priorities for council actions for the period 2023 to 2027, giving our shared vision and our values and listing the priority areas on which the council intends to concentrate its efforts within the lifetime of the forthcoming civic year which begin in earnest after the 4th of May 2023 elections.

## Neighbourhood Plans

Hemswell and Harpswell joint NP	The NP has been successful at its examination. Arrangements for the NP's referendum are being finalised. The Decision Statement is to be issued shortly.	Increasing weight
Hemswell Cliff NP	The submission (Reg 16 final) consultation has ended. The Responses Document is now available. The process to appoint an examiner is underway.	Increasing weight

I hope to see these ND Plans formally approved within the first 6months of 2023. They have both been beset with challenges out of their control and I admire their patience and tenacity in pressing on.

## Purple Bin Rollout Update

WLDC is very much regarding the collection of purple-lidded bins as being ' business as usual' now.

The quality of the paper and card which we collect continues to be exceptionally high and contamination of the blue bin dry recycle has reduced.

The latest statistics show that 97.7% of purple-lidded bins are being presented on collection day, of those presented 98.8% have no contamination.

For blue bins, 98% are presented for collection, with just 2.1% of those being rejected due to contamination.

The extensive engagement work we undertook in supporting our residents with this major service change has worked well.

Further information around the quantity and quality of paper and card collected will be available in the next update.

## POLICE CHIEFS DEFEND PCSO CUT AS FORCE TAX RISE APPROVED

Police chiefs have been defending cuts to Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) numbers in the county as a 5.41% increase in the force's share of its council tax precept was approved.

Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel on Friday questioned Police and Crime Commissioner Marc Jones and Chief Constable Chris Haward on proposed changes to the workforce which will see the number of PCSOs in the county from 91 to 50.

Instead the money from the lost officers will be used to fund staff elsewhere in the force, including nine new safeguarding police staff tackling domestic violence, 12 detectives working on vulnerable children and adults, 15 call takers and five professional standards staff.

Mr Jones told councillors; "The challenges are, that while providing the largest budget we've ever seen for Lincolnshire Police, the force are not immune to the same challenges that every one of our households and every resident is facing whether that's increasing fuel costs, heating costs or other pressures."

Mr Haward also defended the reduced visibility of officers on the beat and rebuked the "myth" that PCSOs cost less than normal Police Constables.

"The vast majority of our police officer uplift has gone into frontline uniformed services focused on the areas where there is greatest demand and where we have the need.

"The PCSO decision is a really hard decision, it's not one I would have taken had I been able to do something different.

"What we've got to do now is work through what that means in terms of our future operating model, how our neighbourhood teams are realigned and re-commissioned while maintaining all of our other protective services across the country to keep people safe."

He said this included gaps in current provision around safeguarding, tackling vulnerability and tackling online paedophilia and the serious harm happening to children.

Where PCSOs will disappear from is not yet known, Mr Haward told the panel, as the full model had not yet been confirmed.

He said officers had been told of the decision early to allow them to apply for new roles in the next round of re-ruitment.

Mr Jones' proposals will see tax rise by £14.94 – a 5.41% increase. He is also proposing an indicative rise of £9.99 next year.

The proposed increase is expected to raise around £3.6 million more funding this year than in 2022/23.

A funding gap of £10 million is expected over the next few years, and the force needs to make recurrent savings of £3 million per year by 2025/26.

Lincolnshire County Council leaders will be asked to approve a 4.99% increase in council tax and generate an extra £7 million for roads maintenance next week, despite half of respondents calling for a lower figure.

The rise equates to 2.99% in general tax and a 2% rise in adult social care, and also means the authority will need to use £3.4 million of its reserves. It will mean residents in a B and D property will see an increase from £1,432.17 to £1,503.63 to the county council alone – a rise of £71.46. Councillors had also considered a 2.99% rise (0.99% general, 2% adult) rise with a £10.3million reserve, and a 3.99% rise (1.99% general, 2% adult) with a £6.9million reserve. An officer's report before members next week said that pre-engagement of 401 "County Views panel members" highlighted priorities such as road maintenance, public safety and care for individuals and families.

However, out of nearly 60 submissions around council tax more than half asked for a lower 3% increase than a higher 4-5% rise. "The council often finds through... public engagement that road maintenance continues to be raised as a top priority," said the report. "In order to continue to increase activity within this area, the council needs to increase its spending power, not least because inflation has increased the cost." "An opportunity has emerged to provide a balanced approach to council tax setting alongside advancing the priorities of the public.. "However, the Council needs to generate resources to fund this."

Officers said the rise would show the council had "done everything within its power to generate resources locally" when lobbying for increased roads spending and prevent government resisting extra funds. The extra £7million would be focused on highways maintenance such as additional pedestrian crossings, foot-way works and network improvements as well as reductions to the traffic regulation order backlog. Executive members will consider the proposals at a meeting next Tuesday.

### **Resignations from Parish Councils**

**Willoughton:** Cllr Peter Baldwin who had served several years and had a keen interest in the Willoughton Community.

**Corringham:** Cllr N Smith who had only served a few months and within 12 months Corringham has lost 2 Clerks and 5 Cllrs, remaining without a Clerk.

Your public service has been much appreciated.

I hope people will come forward to serve in a public capacity for the good of their Community

### **ALL FOR MORE PARKING ENFORCEMENT AROUND RURAL LINCOLNSHIRE SCHOOLS FOCUS ON PARKING ENFORCEMENT IN RURAL AREAS**

Councillors from Lincolnshire County Council have called for more proactive parking enforcement in rural areas, particularly around schools. We experience challenges at both Corringham & Willoughton.

During a meeting of the authority's Highways Committee on Monday, councillors were told about the high numbers of parking fines issued in town centre locations such as Silver Street in Lincoln, and Boston Market Place. Just over 35,000 parking fines were issued across the whole of the county in 2021/22 – a five-year high after numbers bounced back following Covid lockdowns.

Councillors called for LCC to focus on parking enforcement in rural areas, particularly around schools, to ensure that bus stops were not blocked and to improve the safety of pedestrians. They suggest that more regular enforcement and working with parish councils to fund cameras in these areas could help solve the problem.

Councillor Tom Ashton highlighted an issue near schools in his division, noting that there had only been a small number of parking fines issued in the area despite existing enforceable parking restrictions. He said parking near schools was not just a town centre concern but also affected villages where cars were blocking bus stops.

He suggested that LCC patrols should be more proactive in these areas, and that more regular enforcement would help solve the problem. "I'm just wondering whether we can do a little bit more to get our patrols into their own vehicles and into the county in a more proactive way. "If there is a pattern of enforcement with a degree of regularity that people are aware of, then the problem begins to be solved," he said. He also suggested LCC consider working with parish councils to fund cameras in rural areas.

Despite communities often wanting the council to do things for them, Councillor Ashton said there were cases where they would be willing to contribute financially to help solve issues. Councillor Kev Clarke said that parking in the Boultham ward, again outside the town centre area, often resulted in obstruction from vehicles. He questioned why the buck was often passed between LCC and Lincolnshire Police around the issue. Matt Jones, LCC's Parking Services manager, said enforcement was conducted in a firm but fair manner, with patrols in larger areas such as Lincoln, Skegness and Boston conducted daily, and smaller areas like Horncastle and Market Rasen patrolled once to twice a week.

He emphasised that the main point was the presence of patrols in the area. He said that dedicated officers did go around the county to monitor not just the town centres but also the outlying areas. However, he acknowledged that the school issues had been a concern for a number of years and said the authority would try to monitor the situation accordingly.



Full Council in January 2023, approved of allowances to Cllrs on the recommendation of an Independent Review 2023/2024, effective from April 2023

Basic Allowances 231,400 231,600  
Special Responsibility Allowances 65,600 65,100  
CIVIC allowances 2,100 2,300 -  
Mileage Passenger Supplement 17,400 17,400

Total 314,400 314,100

Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA): Recommended Rates  
Allowance Current

Rate

2022/2023

Proposed Rate 2023/2024

Basic Allowance £6,242 **£6,429**

SRA – Leader of Council £12,611 **£12,989**

SRA – Deputy Leader/s (in the event of two or more being nominated, the payment to be shared) £4,573 **£4,710**

SRA – Chair of Council £4,040 **£4,161**

SRA – Vice-Chair of Council £1,391 **£1,433**

Civic allowance for the Chairman of Council £1,634 **£447**

Civic allowance for the Vice Chairman of Council £1,634 **£447**

£1,683

£460

SRA – Committee Chairs (excluding Licensing Cttee and Regulatory Cttee) £3,152 **£3,247**

SRA – Regulatory Chair £1,578 **£1,625**

SRA – Licensing Chair £1,578 **£1,625**

SRA – Committee Vice-Chairs (excluding Licensing Cttee and Regulatory Cttee) £1,492 **£1,537**

SRA – Regulatory Vice-Chair £746 **£768**

SRA – Licensing Vice-Chair £746 **£768**

SRA – Leader of the Opposition (in the event of the Council being a 'hung' **£4,573** Council, the Leaders of the two largest groups be paid the same special responsibility allowance as for the Leader of the Opposition) **£4,710**

SRA – Deputy Leader of the Opposition £832 **£857**

Demolition work is well underway in Gainsborough to make way for new cinema



A new four-screen cinema, restaurant and commercial units for Gainsborough are another step closer as demolition work gets underway at the former Lindsey Centre in the Market Place Gainsborough. It will also connect Marshall's Yard with the historic Market Place via a new walk way.

It hoped to revitalise the Market Place especially in the evenings and encourage the coffee culture despite the present cost of living pressures.

## Voter ID at 2023 Local Elections

**From 4 May 2023 onwards, voters will be required to show an approved form of photographic identification at polling stations before they are given a ballot paper.**

The Government introduced this law in the Elections Act 2022, and it takes effect for the first time in England on 4 May 2023. This will affect all voters who vote in person or by proxy at the next local elections on **Thursday 4 May 2023.**

**For those who choose to vote by post, nothing will change. Voter ID has no impact on postal voting, only voting at polling stations.**



### National and Local Awareness Campaign

A new public awareness campaign, launched this month by the Electoral Commission and is supported by English Local Authorities.

The Electoral Commission is leading in targeting specific groups and those deemed hard to reach. Their campaign will include national media and newspaper coverage.

West Lindsey has launched its own local media campaign which includes:

- Information on our website
  - A programme of Social media posts from January through to May
  - 16 refuse lorries will be wrapped with the Voter ID requirement
  - Staff e-mail signatures will have the voter ID image at the bottom
  - Our franking machine has had its mark changed to include May 23 = Voter ID
- In conjunction with the rest of Lincolnshire Authorities, we will be using local radio over coming months to promote the need for ID

## Garden Waste Collection Service



Residents are now able to renew / subscribe to the garden waste service for 2023. The form is available both on our website and via customer services. Reminder emails have been sent to residents who provided an email address when subscribing to the service in 2022. Residents who were not able to provide an email address have been sent a reminder postcard in the mail, prompting them to renew for collections in 2023.

Subscribers to the services are being advised to do so before 6 March 2023 to ensure that they receive all 18 collections. Residents who subscribe to the service prior to this date, will receive their welcome pack containing their sticker in time for the first collection. The service commences again on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March as per residents collection calendars.

If residents are unsure how to subscribe to the service, this is the link: [Subscribe to the Garden Waste Service](#)

Alternatively they can ring customer services on 01427 676676, but will find themselves in a queue as demand for the Garden Waste service is always high. Using the online option is quicker and just as safe as speaking to one of the customer services team.

## SCAMPTON UPDATE

Gainsborough MP Sir Edward Leigh says he would like to see the runway at RAF Scampton kept serviceable whatever final decision is made on the plans for the base.

He believes the time-scale is "quite imminent" and that "this autumn is when West Lindsey District Council is going to basically take over ownership of it".

The £300 million redevelopment plans could see a hotel, restaurants and a museum built on the land, which was previously occupied by the Red Arrows who are now based at RAF Waddington. The Red Arrows left the air base in October 2022, after making it their home for decades.

In December 2022, it was reported that West Lindsey District Council was looking for a partner to regenerate and develop the site. The Corporate Policy and Resources Committee previously unanimously voted to continue work towards acquiring and regenerating the base.

Sir Edward Leigh, whose constituency covers the whole district of West Lindsey, told The Lincolnite: "It's too early to say exactly what it will be, but it won't just be housing. It will be some quite exciting things.

"There's going to be a preferred bidder (after the council take ownership of the base), who will have a series of offers – a mix of housing, maybe some sort of theme park and maybe some use of the runway.

"One of the ideas that a bidder had was quite a good idea, that some of these sort of oligarchs who fly into London come in with an aeroplane and it's too expensive to keep it in Heathrow, so their pilots can come here and stay in a hotel, and park their plane.

"One of the bidders had extraordinarily exciting plans for a huge theme park, they want to build a Red Arrows tower. They want to have a lake with surfing on it, but I think we've got to be realistic...and there's got to be some industrial development."

He added that he wants to see the runway kept open and would also like to see a "proper Bomber Command museum and to celebrate the history of the base of the Dambusters."

The MP said his role now in terms of Scampton is to meet with the procurement minister whenever the district council encounters a problem.

The Lincolnite has contacted West Lindsey District Council for further information.

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### **Policing for the Neighbourhood Team at Gainsborough and the surrounding villages.**

Michael Head – Neighbourhood Insp for West Lindsey Area

Yvonne Stubbs – Neighbourhood Sgt for Gainsborough and Saxilby

Lindsay Postles – Community Beat Officer for Gainsborough

Gayle Newton - Community Beat Officer for Gainsborough

Ian Shaw - Community Beat Officer for Gainsborough ( Currently away from the role)

Rachel Turner - Community Beat Officer for Saxilby (Due to return from maternity leave in Feb 2023)

Paul Drummond – Anti Social Behaviour Officer for West Lindsey

Tracey Burnett – PCSO Gainsborough

Melvin Crabtree - PCSO Gainsborough

Glenn Patchett – PCSO Saxilby

Melanie Goodwill – PCSO Saxilby

All members of the team are contactable by emailing – [gainsboroughandsaxilby@lincs.police.uk](mailto:gainsboroughandsaxilby@lincs.police.uk) – please note this is for non-urgent enquiries. If urgent please contact police using 999 or 101.

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## Quo Vadis — Selective Licensing

The proposal to renew and extend Selective Licensing has proved challenging and controversial. The original model for the SW of Gainsborough has had its successes but the perception has been that it had not fulfilled expectations. Rogue landlords still exist and tenants of rogue landlords have not fared well. One area continues to be Anti Social Behaviour – which can be of serious concern to low and enforcement is perceived to be 'patchy'. The new proposal was to extend the scheme into the rurality ie Hemswell ward, Wolds View and Market Rasen as well as the North Ward of Gainsborough.

However, the proposed scheme was turned down in Full Council after it was heavily criticized. The challenge has always been that the scheme netted both good and rogue landlords which was perceived as 'unfair'. Moreover, it was argued that there was sufficient legislation and in the pipeline to address matters without such a scheme.

A working group consisting of those ward cllrs involved in the proposed scheme had several meetings including a workshop for all Cllrs. There was little support to adopt the proposed scheme from all sides of the political spectrum.

## Patrol with BBC Radio Lincolnshire

On the evening of Wednesday 24th November 2022, Kim Enderby and Tom Rawle were joined on patrol by Sharon Edwards – a reporter for BBC Radio Lincolnshire. She accompanied them on patrol and the broadcast went live on the Breakfast Show on 5th December. She joined them on foot patrols along Riverside Walkway (there had been recent reports of dog fouling, so we patrolled engaging with members of public and dog walkers) and the "ten foots" around Gordon Street/ Sandsfield Road – with some evidence discovered amongst some recently dumped items that the team will be able to take follow up action on. The team then conducted some mobile patrols of the Cemetery area, Summergangs Lane and Laughton Woods, selected because of ongoing issues around ASB/ Fly tipping and burning of waste.

There was a high level of engagement with members of the public whilst on the foot patrols - where they expressed enthusiasm for the idea of the patrols and spoke with the reporter.

The team also obtained some useful intelligence from speaking with various persons encountered whilst out and about – which they can use to plan upcoming patrols and share with partner agencies such as the Police and Environment Agency. The patrols are now embedded into the team's routine duties, and they will be regularly patrolling across the whole District.

You can listen to the BBC Radio Lincolnshire interview here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0d9kmck>

(The interview is approximately at 1 hour 18 minutes)



## Solar Projects Update

Progress on the four solar NSIPs (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects) continues. Key documents and helpful links can be found on the WLDC dedicated webpage here: <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/planning-building-control/solar-development-proposals-west-lindsey>

WLDC have now engaged Atkins Ltd, a multi-disciplinary consultancy, to provide technical support for the assessment of the anticipated local impacts of the applications.

Cottam Solar Project (Island Green Power) - 600MW solar park across three sites in WL, totalling 1,270Ha. We have been notified that an application for an Order granting Development Consent was made to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on Thursday 12th January 2023. PINS have advised that they will have made a decision on whether or not to accept the application by Thursday 9th February. WLDC have been formally invited to comment on the adequacy of consultation undertaken by the developer, and a response is in the process of being prepared. In the event the application is accepted, PINS will be responsible for setting the examination schedule, which will be shared on further bulletins.

Gate Burton Energy Park (Low Carbon) - 500MW solar and energy park on approximately 684Ha of land, 4km to the south of Gainsborough.

PINS have advised that they anticipate an application for a Development Consent Order to be made by Friday 27th January 2023 (although it may be noted the Cottam application was received approximately a week after the anticipated date). Once an application is made, PINS will notify the Council of this, and the date by which a decision on whether or not to accept the application will be made by them.

West Burton Solar Project (Island Green Power) - 480MW Solar project across three sites within WL, totalling 788Ha in area.

Following the withdrawal of West Burton 4 from Bassetlaw District, the developer has revised the West Burton 3 site and undertaken further public consultation which ended 8th January 2023. Changes include a larger substation and addition of energy storage units on the site.

An application for a Development Consent Order is anticipated Q1 2023 (PINS have yet to give notification of an expected date).



Figure 1: An illustrative summary of the updated proposals for West Burton 3

**Tillbridge Solar (Tillbridge Solar Ltd)** Approximately 1,400 Ha of land to the west of Hemswell and Glentworth affecting Harpswell and Springthorpe.

The developer is expected to submit their application for a Development Consent Order in Q3 2023.

Prior to that date, the developer will be required to undertake public consultation. They have indicated that this will likely take place in Spring / Summer 2023.

## Age UK Lindsey's Aviva Community Fund Crowdfunder

Age UK Lindsey's dedicated team of staff and volunteers want to help older people who might be at risk this winter by helping them to be safer and warmer in their homes during the winter months. Working in partnership with other agencies and organisations that support older people such as Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service and targeting the most vulnerable older people in our local communities, we will deliver real help and support. Donation would help them support as many vulnerable older people as possible, with staff and volunteers ready to help support those older people who need the most help. Funds contributed locally by the end of January will be matched by Aviva and used to support AUKL's Winter Warmth project. This involves the assembly and distribution of boxes of seasonal essentials to 1,000 of the most needy older people in the area at this time. The link to the page, which gives access to more information about the project, is available here: <https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/thrive-in-the-home>