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Welcome to the September/October's Parish News from your local Council. If you have any enquiries about any of the articles, please feel free to contact the communications team at communications.unit@boston.gov.uk

Boston to receive £20 million additional funding

Boston is to benefit from £20 million funding from the Government towards regenerating the town, growing the economy and tackling anti-social behaviour.

The Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has made the announcement as part of 55 "overlooked" towns given a £20 million endowment-style fund - each to be spent over a 10-year period.

Businesses and local people in Boston - as well as Spalding and Skegness which will also receive £20m funding each - will be instrumental in driving forward the future improvements and regeneration of their towns, with the fund aiming to boost local people's pride for where they live and work.

The additional funding for each of the Partnership's sovereign Councils comes after £20 million Levelling Up funding for Spalding; £21.9 million Boston Town Deal funding; £14.8 million Levelling Up funding for Boston and £24.5 million Town Deal funding secured for Skegness.

In a joint statement, Cllr Nick Worth Leader of South Holland District Council; Cllr Anne Dorrian Leader of Boston Borough Council and Cllr Craig Leyland Leader of East Lindsey District Council said: "This is fantastic and unexpected news for each town, our councils and the wider South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

"We welcome that the Government has again recognised Spalding, Boston and Skegness when making this national funding announcement and now there is work to be done to understand more about how this money can be used. Our next steps will be to gain a full understanding of how these funds will help to support our high streets, businesses and communities.

"We look forward to working out the finer details in the coming weeks and months, and then beginning that serious work with our communities and businesses as soon as we can."

Boston Borough Council makes pledge to be Age-friendly employers

Boston Borough Council has signed the Age-friendly employer pledge, organised by the Centre for Ageing Better. 44% of the workforce across the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership is aged over 50, and the pledge displays commitment to improving work for people in their 50s and 60s, by recognising their value and expertise.

The pledge shows our commitment to improving work for people in their 50s and 60s, recognising their value and expertise and to help make our workplace even more age-friendly.

This means we are taking action to improve our recruitment as well as the retention and development of workers across the partnership.

Nationally, most people are working later in life but older workers can often face prejudice and are overlooked. At the same time, the job market is changing with many sectors struggling with skills and labour shortages. In signing the pledge, the partnership recognises that older workers are often key to filling these gaps. The Partnership is proud to have a good record for employing and retaining older workers and is committed to improving this even more going forward.

Cllr Anne Dorrian, Leader of Boston Borough Council said: "It is important that the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership is recognising the value those aged over 50 bring to our workforce. Older workers often bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to teams, and in many instances they become role models to their peers and those just starting out in their careers.

"There is a lot everyone can learn from a multigenerational workforce and I am very proud the Partnership has made this pledge to show its commitment."

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Event Showcases Progress of Multi-Million Pound Investment for Boston

Multi million pound investment in Boston is progressing well, with significant improvements now being seen on the ground - with more still to come. Boston Town Deal's exhibition event which was held on Thursday 28th September at Blenkin Memorial Hall, a building already transformed through the Town Deal.

Many future aspirations were presented at the event, including the Boston Leisure Project, The Centre for Food and Fresh Produce Logistics, Boston Railway Station improvements, and Healing the High Street – an effort to regenerate the town centre.

A special session was held for young people, with attendees from Haven High and Boston College coming along to find out about the future prospects of the town. The students were invited to share their opinions on the plans for the future of Boston.

The exhibition event culminated in a presentation by the Chair Neil Kempster, who said: "It has been fantastic to share an update on Boston Town Deal's progress, highlighting our achievements to date and the exciting plans that are continuing to be delivered".

A pre-recorded version of his presentation can be found here - <https://youtu.be/jnVv-1ebuk0?si=JDP5RslsWlzPMyp>

Festive event planned at St Botolph's Church

Boston Borough Council is thrilled to announce a Christmas tree festival will be held at St Botolph's Church from Thursday 23rd to Sunday 26th November. Community groups, businesses, schools and more are invited to decorate a tree. A limited number of trees will be give out free of charge on a first come, first served basis, but participants may provide their own tree as well.

Participating is easy – complete the form at www.boston.gov.uk/xmastreefestival and return to Nichola.holderness@boston.gov.uk expressing your interest.

Boston Residents asked for thoughts on 2024/25 Council Tax Support Scheme

Residents in Boston Borough are being asked to share their views on the council's proposed Council Tax Support Scheme for next year.

The scheme is a way of helping people on low or no income to pay their annual council tax bill. The overall cost of the scheme is around £3.7million with Boston Borough Council supporting around 2,500 working age households. An online consultation has been launched as each year, the Council must decide whether to change the scheme for applicants who are of working age.

The council is proposing to keep the Council Tax Support scheme the same for 2024/25 as it is now in 2023/24 and is seeking views on whether it should up-rate the scheme for working age claimants in line with the Department for Work and Pensions provisions for Housing Benefit.

This will apply to all Council Tax Support claimants and will keep the local Council Tax Support scheme aligned with national welfare provisions.

The maximum support available to working age applicants is 75 per cent, meaning that all working age households have to pay at least 25 per cent towards their Council Tax.

Pensioners are not affected by any changes made to the local Council Tax Support Scheme as the rules for applicants of pension age continues to be set by Central Government. Pensioners can continue to get up to 100 per cent discount on their Council Tax.

War Disablement Pensioners as well as war widows and war widowers are also protected.

The means-tested scheme allows for vulnerability within the calculation, including people with children, disabilities or caring responsibilities.

The council tax collected by Boston Borough Council goes towards Borough services (and a share to Internal Drainage Boards), Lincolnshire County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner, Parish Councils and BTAC Special Expenses.

To share your views, follow the link [BBC CTS Consultation 24-25 \(snapsurveys.com\)](https://snapsurveys.com)

Festive competition and Boston Town Centre enters partnership with The Festive Lighting Company

This collaboration promises the transformation of Boston's town centre into a winter wonderland for the holiday season. Twinkling lights will illuminate the town centre, creating a captivating and magical ambience that residents and visitors alike will cherish.

Additionally, local businesses are invited to participate in a Christmas window competition. Retailers are encouraged to turn their shop fronts into festive canvases, each telling a unique holiday story. This will make Boston come alive this winter, with increased community togetherness.

Shaun Moore, Managing Director of The Festive Lighting Company, said: ""The Festive Lighting Company are delighted to once again be providing the Christmas lighting in Boston, we look forward to creating a winter wonderland that businesses, residents and visitors will enjoy during the festive period."

Boston Town Centre strategy

In an exciting move to redefine the heart of Boston town centre, local businesses and residents are invited to share their insights and aspirations for the future through a consultation on the Boston Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan.

Boston Borough Council is committed to working in partnership with businesses, residents and partners to revitalize the high street and the surrounding public realm, making the town centre a place to be proud of, a place recognised for its great heritage and a place that is cherished by its diverse communities to work, live and enjoy leisure time in.

The consultation process seeks to engage members of the community and businesses to help shape the development of Boston's Town Centre. As part of the process, various avenues for participation have been established, including public engagement sessions, online surveys, and interactive workshops. The intention is to gather a diverse range of perspectives and ideas to inform the strategy and action plan effectively.

"Listening to the community and businesses is at the core of this endeavour," says Councillor Dale Broughton, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for the Town Centre at Boston Borough Council. "We see the importance of our town centre as a key economic hub that supports the vibrancy of this great borough and that is also a key focal point for those who reside within our local neighbourhoods. We believe seeking ways to further unlock the potential of the town centre, working as we do with our partners, is going to be incredibly important if our high street is going to survive the many challenges it faces."

The Boston Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan aims to address a variety of themes that relate to the high street, including clean and safe, open for business, culture, heritage and events, and transformation. The input from the consultation will be instrumental in confirming and identifying key priorities, guiding decisions, and allocating resources effectively.

The consultation process, which closes on Sunday 15th October 2023, will feed directly into finalising the Boston Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan for 2023 to 2027 entitled "A Town Centre for Everyone" that will be considered by Boston Borough Council's Cabinet this autumn.

All Boston residents, business owners, and stakeholders are encouraged to participate and lend their voices to this significant initiative. Whether through public engagement sessions, online surveys, or interactive workshops, every perspective matters in charting the course for a dynamic and thriving town centre.

For more information on the consultation process, schedules, and how to get involved, please visit www.boston.gov.uk/TCS2023

Boston Christmas Festival 2023

Celebrate Christmas in Boston this year with events, performances, and festive fun for the whole family at the Boston Christmas Festival.

Boston's Christmas Festival 2023 is an exciting four-day Christmas event taking place in Boston town centre featuring a Christmas Market, live music, entertainment, parades, and much more. Expect a town-centre main stage featuring a range of local musicians and performers.

Check out the itinerary on the following link for all of the Christmas activities taking place in the town over this impressive four-day event: [Boston's Christmas Festival 2023 - Boston Borough Council](#)

Wyberton Wombles Clean-Up

A clean-up will be held in Wyberton in the morning of Sunday 29th October. From 9am to 12 noon, volunteers will have the opportunity to make a difference and support the community they live in. To find out more about the clean-up, contact Stephen Slater on 07595 635891 or email Stephen.slater5@btinternet.com.

Autumnal events at Willoughby Road Allotments coming up this month

Two events at Willoughby Road Allotments are scheduled this month as part of the Growing Art Project.

This Sunday, 8 October, 11am-2pm, come and make your own hand made pumpkins and vegetables to take home, using the craft of needle felting. Suitable for beginners and ages 10+, no booking required. Additionally, there will be Pumpkin Carving on Saturday 21st October – no booking necessary and suitable for all ages.

Find out more about the Growing Art project here:

<https://www.transportedart.com/.../current.../growing-art/>

Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust event

Join Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust on October 10 at The Local Community Centre, Boston for an NHS info event, from 9am to 2:30pm.

Visitors will discover vital support for older people and frailty mental health in your area, and plans to expand the dementia hospital at home service will be discussed.

Come chat with the team and join community support groups for a day filled with valuable insights.

For more information, email lpft.involvement@nhs.net.

Boston Market UK confirms the next Teenage Market

After another recent successful teenage market, another one is planned for Saturday, 28th October. Budding young entrepreneurs and entertainers to join us on the day as the event brings an added vibrancy to the market and our youngsters get to experience being a market trader.

Please contact the Market Manager Ian.Dunn@boston.gov.uk for further information.

Heritage Skills and Crafts Day at Boston Stump

There is free entry for anyone willing to try willow weaving, lino printing, corn dolly making, mosaics and more at the Boston Stump on Saturday 14th October. The event will last from 10am to 4pm and offers live demonstrations of woodcarving, violin making, medieval bow making, pottery and much more.

Changing Places toilet opens at the Cattle Market Car Park on Wide Bargate.

A 'Changing Places Toilet', next to the main public toilets, has officially opened. Standard accessible toilets meet the needs of some disabled people – but not all. Changing Places Toilets have larger facilities that have the right equipment, including a changing bench and a hoist, designed to support disabled people who need assistance. This was made possible by funding from central government as part of the Changing Places Fund. It is the third Changing Places UK to be opened in Boston with the first at Central Park, and second in Lincoln Lane car park, Boston. Bespoke access control measures have been installed, to keep the toilets as safe from vandalism as possible, and ensure they are always available. For further information and registration information: <https://www.changing-places.org/find>.

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