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Sent: 25 October 2023 11:22
Subject: Boston Parish News - October 2023
Attachments: Wellbeing Lincs Annual Report 23.pdf



Welcome to the 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

Changes coming to Absent Vote applications

A new application process for Postal and Proxy Vote Applications is being introduced by the Government from 31 October 2023.

The current-style Postal and Proxy application forms can only be accepted up to 30 October 2023. Any applications received on the current forms from 31 October 2023 cannot be accepted and will be requested to complete the new application process.

The new application process will allow electors to apply online and will require National Insurance Numbers to be provided. Further details can be found on the Electoral Commission's website:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance-returning-officers-administering-local-government-elections-england/absent-voting>

Levelling Up case study – Boston

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities has showcased Boston's £14.8 million redevelopment plan for Rosegarth Square in a case study.

You can read the case study here <https://bit.ly/493KbA6> and a video to accompany the scheme can be found on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/eHiXjyHNHC4>

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023

A draft on new proposed polling arrangements have now been published on the Boston Borough Council website: <https://loom.ly/JtI7yFc>

People can let us know their thoughts in writing to Electoral Services, Boston Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, PE21 8QR or by email to elreg@boston.gov.uk by November 29 2023

Join the Wombles Big Borough Clean-up

Help make your community sparkle on Sunday 29 October with the Wyberton Wombles Big Borough Clean up. The clean-up is taking place from 9am to 12noon, or you can give just an hour if you cannot attend the whole event.

Equipment will be provided but if you have a Hi-Viz or a litter picker, feel free to bring those with you.

The clean-up is taking place in the following locations:

- Meet at Municipal Buildings car park PE21 8QL, off Fydell Crescent.
- Meet at Boston College, Skirbeck Road, PE21 6JF
- Meet at Spirit of Endeavour, Marsh Lane, PE21 7QS Or Food Plus car park, The Sidings, off Sleaford Road, PE21 8EQ
- Meet at B&Q, New Hammond Beck Road, PE21 7JD Or Peter Paine Sports Centre, Rosebery Avenue, PE21 7QR
- Meet at Boston Town Football Club, Tattershall Road, PE21 9LR Or Maud Street car park, Maud Street, PE21 6TP

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)

Funding opportunity through Sported

Cash4Clubs welcome applications from not-for-profit organisations, including charities, community groups and traditional sports clubs. To be eligible for funding, applicants must be either registered charities, community interest companies or clubs with a structured governance and constitution.

You can apply for £2,000 to support your activities using sport for social purpose

This Cash4Clubs programme is all about supporting community sports groups and getting vital funds to those that need it most. We will prioritise applications which clearly demonstrate:

- Access to sport for one or more underrepresented groups, including women and girls, people with disabilities, from racially diverse communities, from the LGBTQ+ community or from lower socio-economic groups.
- Sustainability of your activities to keep people playing.
- An increase in reach to engage with even more people.
- Expansion of your activities to engage with new audiences that you haven't worked with before.
- Broader social impact on the local community, eg tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, reducing loneliness, supporting mental health and well-being.

For more information, please visit: [Cash4Clubs \(sported.org.uk\)](https://sported.org.uk)

Digital Poverty Alliance

Digital Poverty Alliance is working with Currys to help families (with children aged 4-16) get online. They are providing laptops to those who do not currently have a device and have barriers preventing them from buying one.

This scheme is for families that live in Boston Borough.

You can access more information about the scheme, including how people can apply, by going to their website: <https://digitalpovertyalliance.org/>

This service has now been added to the Lincolnshire County Council bank of support services across Lincolnshire: <https://lincolnshire.connecttosupport.org/digital-support/>

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](#)

Wellbeing Lincs – annual report

Please find attached the annual report for Wellbeing Lincs

Destination Lincolnshire Tourism Awards – winners

The best of Lincolnshire's £2.4bn visitor economy were celebrated at the Destination Lincolnshire Tourism Awards 2023.

The awards brought together the best of the best working within the visitor economy. Winners were decided in line with the VisitEngland judges' criteria - spanning the tourism, hospitality, attractions, accommodation, and leisure sectors from across Greater Lincolnshire.

Kate Calder from V-ATE Automotive Smokehouse and Bowl at Sutterton picked up an Unsung Hero award.

Public Toilet Refurbishment Notice - Boston Cemetery

The public toilets at Boston Cemetery will undergo decoration and improvement works starting on Monday 6 November and will be temporarily closed for two weeks during the enhancement process.

For any information on these works or any concerns please contact nigel.hall@boston.gov.uk

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[The Council issues a regular newsletter by email to residents. It's free and keeps you informed on the Council work and that of its partners. If you'd like to subscribe to receive this please sign up at www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/messenger](http://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/messenger)

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