

From: Communications, Communications <Communications.Communications@e-lindsey.gov.uk>
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Welcome to the December'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

New Year bin collections

We are reminding all residents to check their bin collection schedule.

There were no collections on Christmas Day or Boxing Day and there will not be any on New Year's Day, so for many households there will be a change in collection day.

Details can be checked here: www.boston.gov.uk/article/21671/Bin-Collection-Calendar?fbclid=IwAR12b4vpq1w2_nYmk8CJ6creOvo1ES-h8OfLUU0zWlrmftd2iBUkdXPAh7A

Government Funding Brings New Beginnings for Ukrainian Families in Boston

In a momentous step towards providing refuge and support, the first families have been housed in Boston Borough thanks to government funding secured by the council. Back in June, the council proudly announced its success in securing funding through the government's Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) scheme, earmarked for the purchase of five family-sized homes.

The LAHF is designed to reduce extra pressures on housing and homelessness services so they can continue to provide for local households with housing needs - it means there is no negative impacts on existing housing waiting lists.

Last month, we celebrated the occupancy of the first two properties by Ukrainian families who, for the past 18 to 24 months, have endured life in temporary accommodation. Since resettling in the UK, these families have been actively engaged in work and training, showcasing resilience and determination in the face of adversity.

This initiative not only highlights the compassionate response of the Boston community but also underscores the positive impact of collaborative efforts between local authorities and government

funding. As these families embark on a new chapter in their lives, we extend our heartfelt wishes for a smooth transition and a bright future ahead.

Cllr John Baxter, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning at Boston Borough Council, said: "We very much hope that these families moving into this accommodation will be able to fully integrate into the local community and the borough as a whole. Securing this additional accommodation has reduced pressures on our Housing Needs and Homelessness service and enabled the Council to continue to provide long-term for local households with housing needs."

Boston stands as a beacon of welcome and inclusion, offering a helping hand to those who have fled war and conflict. This success story is a testament to the power of compassion and the commitment to building stronger, more supportive communities.

People in this video are actors. Voice of Cllr John Baxter, Boston Borough Council and Tatiana from Ukraine.

[Ukrainian Families in Boston](#)

Residents and Council Cabinet break new ground in open Question Time

In a ground-breaking move, the council's first open informal question time session proved successful, as residents Rodney Bowles and Peter Warmesley engaged in in-depth discussions with the full Cabinet, raising their concerns and proposing items for further investigation.

The session set a positive tone for future interactions between local residents and portfolio holders. Among the attendees were Cllrs Anne Dorrian, Dale Broughton, Sandeep Ghosh, Emma Cresswell, Sarah Sharpe, Andy Izard, Callum Butler, and John Baxter.

Council leader, Anne Dorrian, expressed gratitude, stating: "I extend my sincere thanks to residents Rodney Bowles and Peter Warmesley for their thoughtful engagement during the open question session. The input of local people is invaluable, and we look forward to further collaboration as we seek to deliver on our promise made at the election – that we want to be a council that is inclusive, attentive and transparent."

The next open informal question time session at Boston Borough Council will be held from 6pm on Wednesday 16th January 2024, following this session those in attendance of the session will be invited to stay and watch the council meeting if they wish to do so.

Please note that members of the public can still submit formal questions to any committee of the council, and they have to arrive two clear working days before the day of the meeting.

Don't forget all public council meetings are now streamed via our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@bostonboroughcouncil1625

Boston Borough Calendar Returns for 2025 - themed Boston's Brilliant!

The calendar competition is back by popular demand. Embrace the chance to showcase your talent and capture the essence of our vibrant, brilliant borough.

For your chance to have your photo selected to illustrate a month throughout 2025 in our Boston's Brilliant 2025 calendar you will need to submit your chosen photographs to communications.unit@boston.gov.uk using the guidance below.

- Photos must have been taken between 1st October 2023 and 30th September 2024.

- Photos must be taken within the Borough of Boston.
- Photos must not be seen to be focused on an individual.
- You can enter up to two photos per month.
- Photos should be at least 1MB in size please. (This is to make sure the resolution is high enough for the calendar)
- When emailing your entries to communications.unit@boston.gov.uk please include the month they were taken, where, what they portray and your full name and a daytime phone number.

Winning entries will be selected by a dedicated judging panel later in the year. Closing date for submitting your entries is 11.59pm on Monday 30th September 2024.

The Boston's Brilliant 2025 calendar will be available to buy locally and further details will be made available later in 2024.

Read more here: www.boston.gov.uk/article/25189/Boston-Borough-Calendar>Returns-for-2025-themed-Boston-s-Brilliant

Boston Town Centre Embarks on Transformative Journey with the Launch of a New Strategy and Action Plan

A strategy and action plan for Boston Town Centre has been launched by Boston Borough Council's Cabinet on Wednesday 13th December 2023.

At a previous Cabinet meeting councillors approved the comprehensive Boston Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan, signalling a transformative era for the heart of the town. This strategic initiative aims to bring communities together by investing in the town centre, creating quality public realms, and fostering a vibrant retail and hospitality experience.

The aim of this strategy and its associated action plan is to seek to ensure Boston Town Centre is a town centre that provides services and a positive experience for everyone. That is whether they are young people, older people, people who are challenged by not having English as their first language, are disabled, or face other challenges.

The proposed vision for this strategy builds on the successful work taking place around the town in connection with the levelling up agenda and this strategy seeks to deliver against seven key strategic objectives.

You can find a full working version of the Boston Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan at www.boston.gov.uk/TCS2023-27.

Fixed penalty notice charges set to rise from 2024

Boston's Cabinet have fully backed a £600 rise in the fixed penalty charge for people fly tipping in the Borough of Boston - this is more than double the previous £400 charge, now totalling £1,000.

The decision will come into effect from Monday 1 January 2024. The new Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2023 which came into force on 31st July 2023, have increased the upper fixed penalty limit for the specified offences. The Regulations were introduced as part of the Governments Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan launched earlier this year, supporting Councils in tackling environmental crime offences.

Along with the fly-tipping increase measures, offences for household waste duty of care will be increased to £600, whilst littering offences will be increased to £250 and graffiti and fly-posting offences will be increased to £300 - all with early payment reductions if paid within 10 days.

Any fixed penalty notices not paid within the timeframe given by the issuer will be passed on for court action. This could also lead to a criminal conviction on their records.

You can report fly-tipping incidents and other environmental crimes to the Council via its website www.boston.gov.uk/report and you can also find out more information about your individual duty of care regarding waste and check a waste carriers licence here <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>

Boston's Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) restricting the consumption of alcohol within the town centre extended for a further three years

Boston's street drinking controls, Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) "Alcohol", has been extended for another three-year period commencing on 12th January, with the area remaining the same as the original order, which came into force on 12th January 2015.

Police and council officials have seen a decrease in ASB drunken behaviour and say far fewer people are consuming alcohol in the town centre and areas where the rules apply.

Enforcement action shows in the past three years up to 19th September 2023, 246 individuals have been dealt with under enforcement action for ASB Drunken behaviour and 43 individuals with ASB Street drinking.

Only two people have breached the Public Spaces Protection Order since it first commenced in January 2015. These two individuals failed to comply with either a police officer or police community support officer when they failed to leave the controlled area or stop consuming alcohol with immediate effect. These individuals were both issued with a fixed penalty fine.

Boston garden waste collection fees to rise in 2024

The cost of garden waste collection in Boston Borough will increase next year, as operating costs of the service have increased significantly.

From January 2024, the new annual subscription charge for the garden waste collection service will increase by £5, from £45 to £50 for the first bin per year (and £20 to £30 for additional bin requests at the property), to support the cost of service provision and to ensure that non-users are not subsidising the service. The increasing costs include fuel, employee costs and the cost of vehicle maintenance/replacement.

The report proposes to increase the subscription charge to £50 (this equates to £2.50 per collection) for the first bin per year and a reduced subscription charge of £30 for additional bin requests at the property.

Garden waste collections run fortnightly from April to the end of November, commencing again in February to March. Subscribers can dispose of loose green waste, grass cuttings, leaves, hedge and shrub trimmings, weeds and plants, without the need to take these items to the tip.

Residents who have previously signed up for the 2023/24 service will continue to receive their collections until end of March 2024. The new 2024/25 service subscription lines are due to open in early January 2024 by visiting www.boston.gov.uk/gardenwaste You could even get the coming season's service for FREE - all new and existing customers who sign up before Friday 31st March 2024, can enter a prize draw to receive the 2024/25 garden waste collection service for FREE, with one lucky winner also winning a Lincolnshire Hamper.

Current customers of the green waste service will receive an email from the Council about the change to the subscription fee and terms and conditions of the service during week commencing 18 December 2023.

Find out more about the garden waste collection service at: www.boston.gov.uk/gardenwaste

The important role of Internal Drainage Boards and why a fairer funding formula is needed

At times of flooding - as seen most recently in Lincolnshire with Storm Babet - there are stations housing machinery which pump flood water away to help reduce flood risk to homes, businesses and farmland.

These pumping stations play a vital role to help reduce the impact of flooding. Without them working around the clock at times of flooding and high water, we would be lost.

These stations are managed by public bodies called Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs). There are 112 IDBs in England which reduce the flood risk to over 600,000 people and 900,000 properties.

In Boston, the internal drainage boards which serve the borough are:

- [Witham Fourth](#)
- [Black Sluice](#)
- [Welland and Deepings](#)

Some pumping stations are powered by diesel while others are electric-powered. There is no other way to power them.

Like households and businesses, the IDBs have seen their costs and utility bills increase significantly, with these expecting to rise even more next year.

IDBs are funded from a levy which comes out of the money the council collects in council tax - but this method is impacting on the money that is available for the council to spend on services.

In 2012/13, the IDBs were partially funded by something called a Revenue Support Grant which was given to councils from the Government but that grant has been reduced. Councils are now having to fund the levy through the money that should be going to provide services such as street cleaning, refuse collection, planning and supporting vulnerable residents.

A limited number of councils have this financial burden as it is only councils which have Internal Drainage Boards that are subjected to the levy.

With the levy demand and the annual increase expected to rise again in the next financial year, it means even less money will be available for services through the money collected from council tax.

Read more here: www.boston.gov.uk/article/25204/The-important-role-of-Internal-Drainage-Boards-and-why-a-fairer-funding-formula-is-needed

Boston Festive Window competition winners:

The winners and runners-up of the Boston Festive Window competition are:

- Charity Winner: Sense
- Charity Runner-up: YMCA
- Food Outlet Winner: Café Noglish
- Food Outlet Runner-up: The Greenhouse
- Large Business Winner: Cammacks
- Large Business Runner-up: New Horizon
- Medium/Small Business Winner: Seacroft Mobility
- Medium/Small Business Runner-up: Maudes Jewellers

Thank you to the Mayor of Boston for presenting certificates and rosettes and Ros Reynolds who has sponsored the event by gifting the handmade rosettes.

South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership sets shared five-year vision in first Sub-regional strategy

The first South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Sub-regional Strategy has been approved by Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council.

The approval of the strategy for 2024/25 - 2028/29 reflects the original business case of the Partnership, which identified opportunities for greater alignment and collective working on strategic issues that are common for all the councils.

The Partnership - which is the largest of its kind in the country - formed in 2021. In that time working together the Council have already identified savings of more than £24million through more efficient ways of working together. The Partnership has also secured more than £180m in external funding to support services and investment in communities through programme such as Town's Fund and Levelling Up, which are resulting in significant construction programmes to provide new facilities.

The priorities for the Partnership as identified in the strategy are:

- Growth and prosperity
- Healthy lives
- Safe and Resilient Communities
- Environment

While the strategy sets out the ambitions for the sub-region, it also includes priorities of importance for each council.

The full strategy can be found here: [SELCP Sub-regional Strategy 2024/25-2028/29 \(PDF\) \[1MB\] \(opens new window\)\(opens new tab\)](#)

Planning fee increase from 6 December

The Government has confirmed new legislative changes to the planning application fees, which will come into effect from Wednesday 6 December.

These changes will impact planning charges as follows:

- Planning application fees will increase by 25%, with a 35% increase for major schemes
- An annual increase of application fees in line with inflation every April will be introduced from 2025, capped at 10%
- A new fee is being introduced for Prior Approval Applications for development by the Crown on a closed defence estate.

The full list of fee changes in England is available at: <https://bit.ly/40Yw1MT>, and full details of the amendments and schedule of fees can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3sOIExD>
For more information, please visit our website at: <https://loom.ly/LkwliA0>

Community Lottery Scheme celebrates one-year anniversary raising more than £34k for local good causes

The South and East Lincolnshire Community Lottery has gone from strength to strength in its first year. Celebrating its one year anniversary on Saturday 25 November, the scheme to date has managed to raise £34.7k in Boston, East Lindsey and South Holland, supporting local community groups and charities such as Blackfriars Theatre and Arts Centre, Woodhall Spa Cricket Club and Moulton Windmill.

Boasting a regular player base of over 590 resident a week, a typical week for the community lottery scheme can see more than £600 raised for good causes.

Not-for-profit organisations not currently involved in the scheme such as sports clubs, community groups and PTAs, are encouraged to sign up and start benefitting from the lottery at www.selcplottery.co.uk.

New leisure facilities provider begins new partnership

Parkwood Leisure and their sub-contractor (LEX Leisure) are from today the new operating partner at the Geoff Moulder Leisure Complex in Boston.

Parkwood Leisure run 80 leisure facilities on behalf of local authorities throughout England and Wales, including our Princess Royal Sports Arena after recently acquiring 1Life Management Solutions.

Glen Hall, Managing Director for Parkwood Leisure, said: "We are excited to begin operation of the Geoff Moulder Leisure Complex in Boston and look forward to supporting customers, local partners and the Council over the next few years.

The planned redevelopment will help to assure long-term high quality provision of local opportunities to be active, which is critical to maintaining the health and wellbeing of our local communities. We would also like to thank the Council for their professionalism and positivity during the procurement process, which provides a great basis for our future partnership"

Read more here: www.boston.gov.uk/article/25129/New-leisure-facilities-provider-begins-new-partnership

South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership leading the way in home upgrade energy improvements

The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership is leading the way in delivering the most Home Upgrade Grants in the Midlands, just two years after starting to build its unique in-house team.

The first phase of Home Upgrade Grants started to be delivered in April 2022 - aimed at properties with no main-gas connection. From a consortium of local authorities which form the Midlands Net Zero Hub, the Partnership has now delivered the highest number of upgraded homes - 172 (25 per cent) - all in South and East Lincolnshire.

The Partnership has also delivered the highest number of installed measures - 27 per cent - and delivered 337 home improvement measures - 181 more than the next highest delivering Local Authority in the Midlands. Improvements include generating energy through installing solar panels and low carbon heating methods such as air source heat pumps, alongside various insulation measures including loft, cavity and external wall insulation.

Outside the consortium, the Partnership also improved an additional 46 properties under HUG1 through a separate funding award.

In total, the Partnership's HUG1 scheme delivered a total of individual 556 measures and saw 77 homes upgraded to EPC Band C or above on average, savings residents an average of £693.50 in their annual bills.

The improvements and upgrades have seen 605 tonnes of Carbon saved annually.

This has all been achieved thanks to two successful funding bids - £929,966 directly from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (now Department for Energy Security and Net Zero) and £3.2-million via the Midlands Net Zero Hub.

Read more here: www.boston.gov.uk/article/25187/South-East-Lincolnshire-Councils-Partnership-leading-the-way-in-delivering-the-most-home-upgrade-energy-improvements-in-the-Midlands

UK Shared Prosperity Fund unleashes growth through its People and Skills investment in the region

Local businesses and skills providers in the South and East Lincolnshire sub-region can now apply for grants that will support the growth of jobs and higher pay in our area.

The available grants, through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), will have an emphasis on two themes: digital and employment skills, and local business skills needs.

The minimum grant award for theme one is £25,000, with no maximum level and the minimum grant for theme two is £20,000 with a maximum of £150,000.

Organisations eligible for the grants include:

- Higher and further education institutions
- Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)-registered independent training providers
- Local authorities
- Registered charities
- Community interest companies
- Constituted voluntary organisations
- Private sector businesses, which can demonstrate relationships with training providers who meet the criteria above.

Find out more here: www.boston.gov.uk/article/25030/People-Skills-UK-Shared-Prosperity-Fund

Boston railway station transformation starts as phase 1 of the redevelopment begins

Work is beginning on phase 1 of the transformational redevelopment at Boston Railway Station. £2.8 million is being invested at Boston railway station, funded by the Government Town Deal Fund through Boston Town Deal, The Railway Heritage Trust, Network Rail and East Midlands Railway (EMR).

The works will be carried out by the principal contractor Taziker Industrial Ltd and managed by EMR. Throughout the duration of the works, the station will be open as normal to all customers wishing to travel to / from Boston railway station.

Phase 1 works will see currently vacant spaces converted to facilitate the community Café and two small business start-up offices in the further phases of work that will continue throughout 2024.

Dave Meredith, Customer Services Director for EMR said: “We’re delighted the investment at Boston Railway Station is about to begin. We’re excited to work alongside the Town Deal and Boston Borough Council, The Railway Heritage Trust and Network Rail to significantly improve the facilities for our customers.

“The first phase of the development will see the community café and start up offices take shape. These changes will transform Boston Station as the gateway to the town, encouraging integration with the surrounding community and offering an improved customer experience to all station visitors.”

Neil Kempster, Chair of Boston Town Deal said: “It is fantastic to see work starting at Boston Railway Station, with these transformational improvements set to benefit both local people and visitors to the town.

“The railway station is a key gateway into Boston and the refurbishment that is now beginning will create a better experience and welcome for people arriving into the town.

“And, a really important and significant element of the work is the development of community facilities, with the role of the station within the town set to be enhanced as a result of this investment.”

Tim Hedley – Jones, Executive Director of Rail Heritage Trust said: “The Railway Heritage Trust is pleased to support this project to restore Boston Railway Station which was built by the Great Northern Railway and opened in 1850. It is a testament to the builders and the quality of their work that it still serves to welcome visitors to the town of Boston. This work will ensure that it will continue to do so into the future.”

Rob Goulding, Station and Depot Surveyor for Network Rail added: “We know how important stations are for the communities they serve and as the first impression that visitors receive. It’s fantastic to see work starting on Boston station and we look forward to seeing the new facilities being used by passengers.”

[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](https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/messenger)

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