

From: Communications, Communications <Communications.Communications@e-lindsey.gov.uk>
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Subject: Boston Parish News - Wednesday 31 January 2024



Welcome to the January'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 Borough Council set to work even more closely with the area's parish councils

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The Council organised a parish council liaison meeting and was delighted with the attendance from across the borough.

Feedback from the parish councils was extremely positive with one representative stating it was the best meeting they have ever had with the Borough Council.

At the meeting, parish councils learned more about the many funding opportunities available to them and community groups for projects. They also received updates on council services and were given an opportunity to ask many questions.

It was a chance for the Borough Council to listen to the parish councils, learn more about issues impacting their communities, to answer questions as well as receive many suggestions and ideas.

Cllr Anne Dorrian, Leader of Boston Borough Council, said: "I was absolutely delighted to welcome so many parish council representatives - this is just the start of what I hope will become a closer working relationship with our parish councils.

"Parish councillors are all hard working, committed volunteers who want to do the best for their residents and communities. Boston Borough Council will support them and work together with the parishes to help in any way we can.

"The meeting had lots of information on funding as well as updates they can share with residents on such things as fly tipping and enforcement. There was lots of debate, sharing of information and ideas put forward.

"I would like to thank the parish councils for attending and I look forward to welcoming even more at the next liaison meeting very soon."

Boston Bike Night to return! A press release from Boston Bike Night organisers

Get ready, Boston! The much-loved Boston Bike Night, a highlight in our town for 25 years, is making a grand comeback this July, and it's all thanks to a dynamic new team taking the reins.

We're thrilled to announce that Sportsbikeshop, renowned for its passion for all things motorcycling, is stepping up as one of our main sponsors for this iconic event. Alongside them, (event organisers) Mental Riders and other local businesses are joining forces to bring this motorcycle extravaganza back to our town centre.

Councillor Dale Broughton, Portfolio Holder for Town Centre and Events at Boston Borough Council, said: "I'm delighted that a new team has come forward to save this popular event which has put our town on the map for many years. I'm looking forward to working with them to ensure that this event remains sustainable and continues to develop throughout its new reign."

Mark your calendars for the first Thursday of July! The event will span Central Park, Wide Bargate, and Pescod Square, with the Market Place serving as an additional venue. Expect an impressive showcase of motorcycles, and some new twists too, including a focus on mental health awareness, thanks to Mental Riders.

A spokesperson for the new team said: "A heartfelt shout-out goes to Richard and the original committee for entrusting us with the future of Boston Bike Night. We're honoured to carry on this tradition and take it to new heights.

"We're also on the lookout for corporate sponsors and volunteer stewards to help make the night a spectacular success. Interested parties, please reach out via the Boston Bike Night Facebook page."

Get ready to rev up your engines, Boston! This year's Boston Bike Night promises to be an unforgettable experience, blending our rich motorcycle heritage with fresh, innovative elements. See you there!

Public consultation underway as Boston Borough Council seeks views on draft budget 2024/25

Boston Borough Council is asking residents and businesses to share their views on the proposed budget for 2024/25.

The Council is proposing a Council Tax rise of 3 per cent - £7.20 per year for a Band D property - an extra 14p per week. Only 8p in every £1 we collect is the Council's element, which includes the levy that we are required to pay to the local internal drainage boards, which totals over half of the 8p.

The budget also proposes:

- To focus on the generation of additional efficiencies, shared services and income from commercial activities guided by our Delivery Plans.
- Increased capital investment in Council assets to help generate new income streams, reduce running costs and help deliver services more efficiently.
- Significant grant expenditure

The consultation is available to complete online at www.boston.gov.uk/budgetconsultation

The closing date for responses is Friday, February 2, 2024. Paper copies of the consultation can also be requested by calling 01507 601111.

For more information - <https://www.boston.gov.uk/article/25453/Public-consultation-underway-as-Boston-Borough-Council-seeks-views-on-draft-budget-2024-25>

Boston Borough Council cannot support the proposed Devolution Deal for Greater Lincolnshire

Boston Borough Council cannot support the Devolution Deal that is proposed for Greater Lincolnshire - that is the clear message being sent to Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and to Government.

After seeking views from all Councillors, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Anne Dorrian, has now formally written a response on behalf of the council to a consultation into the proposed deal and Mayoral Combined County Authority arrangements.

At Full Council on Monday 15th January 2024, Councillors voted unanimously to reject the proposals in their current form, with specific concerns relating to the deal itself and its governance, which at present does not give all District/Borough Councils a voice on the Mayoral Combined County Authority.

The Deal negotiated with Government by the upper-tier councils includes:

- £24m per year for 30 years.
- £28.4million to Greater Lincolnshire for 2024/25, to be allocated prior to the Mayoral Combined County Authority being established in 2025.
- The devolution of strategy and budgets related to skills; and multi-year transport budgets, with flexibility to allocate funds to local priorities.

Councillors were concerned that none of the projects put forward by the council for a share of the initial £28.4m funding pot for 2024/25 were supported by Lincolnshire County Council.

They also noted from data in the council report that over the past five years, Boston has received significantly less investment from Lincolnshire County Council for major infrastructure investment in recent years when compared to other areas in the county.

The consultation response states the council has little confidence that this will change going forward if the deal proceeds.

Cllr Anne Dorrian, Leader of Boston Borough Council, said: "The council speaks with one voice and is being very clear - this is not a deal we can support.

"Whilst the council welcomes the transfer of Government powers to the local area, it must come with appropriate funding that can make a real impact for our communities. This deal simply does not do that for Boston Borough or wider Lincolnshire.

"Council has confirmed a view that I have shared on several occasions with the upper tier councils that all district/borough councils must be represented on the Mayoral Combined Authority. Numerous times the Leaders of district/borough councils asked to be directly involved in the deal negotiations but until very recently the detail was unknown to us. Had we have been engaged sooner and in a meaningful way we could have maybe helped secure a better deal for Greater Lincolnshire.

"The deal, at present, does not outweigh the cost to our communities of introducing a Mayoral Combined County Authority with a Directly Elected Mayor who can raise a precept for our residents to pay at a time of serious financial hardship for many."

The council also has concerns over the deal document where there are significantly important details still to be resolved and has also raised concerns about the public consultation process.

LGA SIG welcomes commitment to implement long-term funding solution for Internal Drainage Boards

The Government has pledged its commitment to implementing a long-term solution to the way Internal Drainage Boards are funded.

In response to a written question, the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, made the following statement:

"Last year we provided one-off funding to local authorities struggling with Internal Drainage Board levies. We have listened to authorities who continue to face sustained increases in these levies. We will again provide £3 million outside of the Settlement to support those experiencing the biggest pressures. We will work with the sector and the Department for the Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs to implement a long-term solution."

Cllr Paul Redgate, chairman of the Local Government Association Special Interest Group - Internal Drainage Board levies which Boston Borough Council is a member, said: "The SIG councils are grateful to the Secretary of State for listening and recognising the serious impact the Internal Drainage Board (IDBs) levies are having on our councils. We welcome the commitment to address this long-standing issue and we look forward to progressing conversations further with Government.

"As a group of 29 councils all affected in some way by IDB levies, we have been working in partnership to collectively lobby the Government for a fairer and more sustainable way to fund the important work of Internal Drainage Boards without impacting on the council's ability to afford services. We will continue our effort until a formal agreed, long-term resolution is secured.

"There is no doubt the operations of IDBs are vital for our communities in reducing flood risk and maintaining water levels to reduce the impact of flooding. The IDB levy imposed by the Government - has reached unprecedented levels, leaving these councils in a precarious and unfair position with no choice but to put Council Tax up and consider cuts to services to fund these increases."

"The cost is one that SIG councils simply can no longer afford.

"The SIG is also grateful to the Government for awarding an additional £3m funding this year to the Councils most impacted by the levies. We await confirmation of the funding allocations."

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Sign up for your garden waste collections

With a simple click of your mouse, you can make this growing season's gardening duties that much easier by signing up for brown bin garden waste collections.

Go now to www.boston.gov.uk/gardenwaste and for just £2.50 per collection (£50 for a complete growing season's single bin collection) Boston Borough Council will take your garden waste away every fortnight from this April to the end of November and then again from the end of February, 2025, to the end of March, 2025.

Grass cuttings, leaves, hedge and shrub trimmings, weeds and plants can all go in the brown bin.

For further information, see Frequently Asked Questions, and terms and conditions at

www.boston.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Not online? Don't worry, you can sign up for this service by phone (01205 314200).

Boston Borough Council improves property-buying process in the area by joining national digitised register

Boston Borough Council recently migrated their Local Land Charges to a new national digitised register held by HM Land Registry [HM Land Registry](http://www.hm-land-registry.gov.uk), making it quicker and easier for local residents to buy properties in the Borough.

Coming as part of a wider digital transformation effort across the Council in a bid to improve service delivery and create cost savings for local taxpayers, [the LLC Register will allow users to search information online instantly](#), enabling buying decisions to be made earlier in the conveyancing process.

Most local land charges are restrictions or prohibitions on the use of property or land, such as planning permissions or listed building status. A search of the national register will reveal whether a property is subject to a charge. And enable the buyer to make an informed decision about the purchase.

Boston Borough Council has worked in collaboration with HM Land Registry and received positive feedback on how well the project has been delivered, utilising experience from working with East Lindsey District Council whilst also being the first example of neighbouring councils working together to deliver migrate to the new national digitised register.

Users of the national register can download a personal search free of charge or buy an official search for £15. This will allow unlimited repeat searches for six months. All information is delivered in a standard easy-to-read format, with geospatial maps.

It is a national ambition for all local authorities in England and Wales to transfer their local land charges service to the national register, when complete it will contain more than 25 million charges. Users will find it easier to search, merge and digest the information, while entrepreneurs and innovators will be able to develop new social and economic solutions that benefit the wider UK economy.

Nearly £2million awarded to projects across South & East Lincolnshire

Nearly £2million has been awarded by South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership to support local business growth, skills and community projects across the sub-region. The funding has been awarded through the UK Shared Prosperity and Rural Prosperity Funds (UKSPF/REPF), along with the next phase of the Lincolnshire Community Foundation's GRASSroots scheme.

The majority of the funding has been awarded through the 'Communities and Place' and 'Supporting Local Business' areas of focus, targeting those aiming to have a positive, meaningful impact on communities, as well as those looking to support local businesses to develop and create jobs in the area.

Through the UKSPF main programme, £1.6million will be distributed including to:

Partnership-wide:

Community-Based Digital Support Sessions (BBC / ELDC / SHDC): Using local venues across the Partnership area to support residents in our Districts (particularly in rural communities) to access digital services, go online and become digitally savvy, including supporting them to access key online services such as health providers and HMRC, as well as scam-awareness training.

PAB Languages - Global Entrepreneurs (BBC / ELDC / SHDC): This project will provide a structured programme supporting the development of entrepreneurship and upskilling employees of our larger businesses to engage with export and international markets, drawing participants from people in employment in food processing, logistics, social care and e-commerce.

Heritage Skills in South and East Lincolnshire (BBC / ELDC / SHDC): A Programme to encourage the development of traditional and 'at risk' heritage and craft skills, giving residents in our area the opportunity to try their hand at skills like lime plastering, traditional joinery and thatching, as well as supporting them to explore future careers in the heritage construction sector

Connect2Grow (BBC / SHDC): A project focussed on reducing economic inactivity in Boston and South Holland, helping individuals who are economically inactive or in receipt of universal credit, skills training and support, identifying suitable vacancies, providing job interviews and follow-on in-work support.

Higher Level Engineering Skills for South Lincolnshire's Key Sectors (BBC / SHDC): Working with local employers to build engagement, shape provision and strengthen local access to specialist higher level training in food and manufacturing engineering courses at the National Centre for Food Manufacturing. This will be supported by a Programme providing insight into the sector for local school-aged learners, giving them experiences of and hopefully, an interest in working in our area's vital agri-tech and food industries.

Future Skills Programme (BBC / ELDC): Delivered by the TEC Partnership, this will deliver digital training to 100 economically inactive beneficiaries focused on digital employability skills including data management, design, multimedia and AI support, supporting this group to gain key digital skills and access employment with local employers.

In addition, just under £300,000 will be distributed to the following Parish Councils, Village Halls and Community Groups through the Lincolnshire Community Foundation (LCF) GRASSroots scheme, which is funded by UKSPF and REPF across the sub-region.

The money will be distributed among:

- We'll Meet Again Museum
- Rhubarb Theatre
- Fosdyke Playing Field

Read more at: www.boston.gov.uk/article/25468/Nearly-2million-awarded-to-projects-by-South-East-Lincolnshire-Councils-Partnership

Boston Marathon UK 2024: Experience this yearly action-packed event

Scheduled for Sunday 28 April, this year's Boston Marathon promises an exciting race day in the heart of Boston. The action-packed day kicks off with the Full Marathon at 8am in the Market Place, followed by the 10K starting at 8:15am from the Central Park Gates. The Half Marathon commences back at the Market Place at 8:30am, while the Fun Run takes off from Central Park at 8:45am. This year's theme, "Bomber County," adds an exciting touch, with the Lancaster Bomber featured prominently on both the medal and T-shirt designs, proving to be a hit with the runners.

As of 22 January, the Full Marathon, limited to 800 runners, is already 87% sold out, while the Half Marathon, capped at 800 participants, is 30% sold. The well-established course remains unchanged, winding through picturesque locations such as Freiston, Butterwick, Benington, Leverton, Work End, and culminating at Boston College.

For those eager to participate in any of the four races or volunteer, visit the website at www.bostonmarathon.co.uk. Join us for a day of excitement, camaraderie, and outstanding athletic achievements at the Boston Marathon UK 2024!

The South & East Lincolnshire Crowd opens next round of funding to support local causes this spring

The South and East Lincolnshire Council's Partnership's (SELCP) Crowdfunding platform, named South & East Lincolnshire Crowd will open its next round of funding to support fantastic local causes across the sub-region. Working in partnership with Spacehive, the UK's leading civic crowdfunding platform, has already allowed the Partnership to support a range of grassroots projects in Boston, East Lindsey and South Holland through crowdfunding; including social and educational activities for the Lithuanian community in Boston, the restoration of a Church in Goulceby and a dog play paddock in Tydd St Mary.

Running a digital crowdfunding campaign means groups will need to ask members of the public to support your project with donations via the Spacehive website. This is a new innovative way of fundraising for many. However, for those less digitally-enabled there is a range of guidance and advice available, along with extensive one-to-one support.

Organisations can apply for up to £8,000 from the Council's funding pots to go towards their funding target. The Spring 2024 round will open with a project workshop held on Wednesday 15 February, inviting local good causes from across the sub-region to hear useful insights on how to get crowdfunding campaigns off the ground, what Council funding opportunities there are available and receive bespoke support. Registration is available at:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-south-east-lincolnshire-crowd-launch-tickets-794321616337?aff=oddtcreator

To find out more about crowdfunding opportunities for projects in the local area, please click here:

<https://www.spacehive.com/movement/southandeastlincs>. Further introduction workshops will also be taking place later in the year, please contact Local Communities Officer, Maddy Eyre at Maddy.Eyre@boston.gov.uk for more information.

Community Support Available

If your business or any other local businesses you know have been impacted by Storm Henk's flooding, Boston Borough Council is here to help.

Contact or refer them to us so we can offer support and assistance through emailing Niki.Shepherd@boston.gov.uk.

Retrofit Survey available to businesses and education providers

The South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership wants to hear from local businesses and education providers to understand the challenges in terms of decarbonising domestic properties.

We want to hear from those involved in delivering energy efficiency and low-carbon heating measures such as floor, wall and roof insulation, solar PV, air-source heat pumps, double glazing and heating controls alongside those whose business could be tapping into that market but has either consciously decided not to or isn't interested at this time.

We are also keen to understand from education providers and local businesses what the gaps are in terms of training opportunities to help people develop their skills in this area, either to broaden the current offer of a business, to retrain or to simply gain expertise within the domestic retrofit sector.

The information gathered from these short online surveys will be used to compile a report and development plan for addressing these challenges which will be submitted to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. A multi-million programme of support has been identified by the Department and could enable the local area to tap into funding to help address some of those challenges in the longer term if the need and be evidenced and solutions identified.

A series of online workshops have also been scheduled over the coming weeks. If you would like to discuss this work further, please call Sarah Baker on 07917 337857.

For more information and to take part in the survey, please visit <https://loom.ly/Pbn5i24>

The survey closes on Friday 9th February, 2024.

Single Person Discount Review in progress

The Council is currently undertaking a review of Council Tax accounts where a Single Person Discount has been claimed. This is to ensure that residents are receiving the correct amount of discount and that our records are accurate.

If you or someone you know receive a Council Tax Single Person Discount Review letter, this is because the Council's records indicate that a 25% single person discount is being claimed. We have a duty to review this to ensure that circumstances haven't changed and that all claimants still qualify for this discount. Anyone who receives a letter regarding their Single Person Discount should respond as promptly as possible.

Volunteering opportunities available

Consider joining our team as a CCTV Spotter Volunteer! In collaboration with Lincolnshire Police, we are offering a unique opportunity to be an extra set of eyes on live incidents. Volunteers will help to keep the streets of Boston safer.

Find out more here: <https://www.lincs.police.uk/police-forces/lincolnshire-police/areas/careers/join-us/vacancies/police-support-volunteer-vacancies/CCTV-Spotter-Volunteer-Ref-131/?fbclid=IwAR0azblfaaaqLi02QNoFetrp7BcFdgDRB67zEyUfXns5wyq5ZLEpLFRpcA>

Update on Boston College Mayflower Build

The existing building on the Mayflower construction site, Ingelow, is currently undergoing the planned demolition process. National Grid are finalising the power disconnection, which will lead to the commencement of the external demolition. These works are expected to take a couple of weeks to complete, resulting in full clearance of the site. Construction of the Mayflower is anticipated to begin in April/May.

National Grid Electricity Transmission – Grimsby to Walpole consultation

As part of National Grid's 'Great Grid Upgrade', around 140 kilometres of new high-voltage overhead cable are planned for a route between Grimsby West and Walpole. As part of the proposal, which is a nationally significant infrastructure project, three new connection stations are also planned for other areas of Lincolnshire to assist in the use of offshore wind power and solar power, among other functions.

The new overhead line would be routed between a new substation located near the existing Grimsby West substation, and a new substation in the Walpole area, with the other three new substations being on this route too.

The first stage of public consultations began on 18th January, running until 13th March 2024. This gives members of the public the chance to offer their opinions and feedback relating to the plans so that they can be refined and changed if necessary. The dates of the physical consultation sessions can be found below:

- Friday, 16th February – Eastville, Midville and New Leake Village Hall
- Tuesday, 27th February – Hubberts Bridge Community Centre, Boston

There will also be a series of webinars, where details of the proposal will be presented followed by an open Q&A session.

For more information about the project, public consultations and webinars, please visit nationalgrid.com/g-w.

Boston T Party Illuminate Parade

We now have received the film by Electric Egg of the Boston T Party Illuminate Parade 2023 that took place on Thursday 23rd November last year and the previous annual processions.

This film explores the process behind Illuminate, Transported's festival programme ambitions and evolution and the event's impact.

The 2023 Illuminate event was possible thanks to Arts Council England's Lottery Project Grants and Boston Borough Council.

It's wonderful to watch and re-live the celebrations, so make a cuppa and enjoy:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7k_d5i6E6Q

St Botolph's Bridge under maintenance

Lincolnshire County Council will be carrying out maintenance works to St. Botolph's footbridge from Sunday 4 February to Tuesday 6 February.

The works will include removing the algae and improving the overall aesthetic of the bridge.

A pedestrian diversion route will be in place via Town Bridge crossing the river, however the St. Botolph's footbridge will be open while the contractors are not on site. Pedestrians should be able to access it through the nights.

Restoration work starts in Boston

More restoration work is taking place in Boston Town Centre made possible through National Lottery Heritage Fund, Heritage Lincolnshire and Boston Borough Council.

The new year is looking busy, as preparations for work onsite begins at 18 Market Place (RSPCA.) Some of the works include:

- Reinstatement of stainless steel rainwater gutters, shopfront fittings.
- Repairs of the brickwork, sash windows and roofing.
- Replacement of entrance door ironmongery, dormer window.
- The front façade will also receive a new finish and a hand-painted timber signboard (and more!)

We look forward to seeing the finished look, another step to bringing back our town centre to its natural beauty!

[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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