



Welcome to 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 Community Leaders engagement meetings have become a beacon of community collaboration

Over the past three years, the Boston Community Leaders Engagement meetings have become the heart of community collaboration and empowerment. Established through the Empowering Healthy Communities strand, these meetings are led by the Community Leadership Team and have proven to be a vital platform for fostering engagement and strengthening community initiatives.

Held every two months, these informal virtual sessions bring together 30-40 different community member and organisations to discuss a wide range of topics, including Town Deal initiatives, Hotspot Policing, the Boston Town Centre Strategy, external funding, environmental crime, the Health & Wellbeing Hub, key health messaging, and cost of living support.

Cllr Emma Cresswell, Portfolio Holder for Communities at Boston Borough Council, said: "The Boston Community Leaders Engagement meetings have been instrumental in driving positive change within our community. By providing a space for open dialogue and collaboration, we have been able to address critical issues more effectively and ensure that our initiatives are truly reflective of the community's needs."

The meetings have led to several notable successes:

- Vaccination engagement: During the pandemic, NHS representatives used these sessions to gather community feedback, which helped shape a more effective vaccination engagement plan, resulting in increased vaccination rates.
- Hotspot policing: Community leader feedback identified priority areas for policing efforts, leading to targeted interventions that improved neighbourhood safety.
- Towns Fund projects: Discussions around the Towns Fund led to successful funding applications for local projects, enhancing community infrastructure and services.

- Community events: Ideas generated during these sessions have resulted in successful community events that fostered local engagement and strengthened community ties.

Weekly updates are provided to community leaders, highlighting key achievements, current health messages, and upcoming events, ensuring that the community remains informed and engaged. Feedback sessions encourage community leaders to celebrate their successes, fostering a sense of pride and ownership.

Elizabeth Hopkins, Chief Executive Officer of Centrepoint Outreach, a long-standing community leader and member of the Boston Community Leaders group since day one, told us: "These meetings have been a game-changer for our community. They have not only provided a platform for us to voice our concerns and ideas but have also led to real improvements in our town. The sense of connection and shared purpose is truly inspiring."

The Boston Community Leaders Engagement meetings continue to promote collaboration, with businesses encouraged to showcase their products or services while highlighting community initiatives. These efforts not only highlight the impact of the meetings but also motivate continued involvement and engagement from all sectors of the community.

For more information on upcoming meetings and how to get involved, please email the Health & Wellbeing Partnerships Officer at karen.stengel@boston.gov.uk

A message to the Borough from The Worshipful the Mayor of Boston, Cllr Helen Staples

Please find below a message from the Mayor to residents which was posted on the council's social media channels earlier this month:

"As Mayor of Boston, I am urging all road users – including motorists and cyclists – to please ensure you and pedestrians are safe while travelling around the Borough. I am aware there have been some accidents and near misses in the Borough in the last two weeks, including in built up areas near Boston College or roads close to primary schools.

"It is down to all of us who drive or cycle on our roads to ensure we and the pedestrians we pass on our journeys are safe at all times and abiding by the rules of the road.

"Please do adhere to the road conditions, particularly now the weather is starting to turn cooler. We all live busy lives but it is always better to be late to your destination than something awful happening to you or someone else.

"Please allow plenty of time for your journeys, keep to the road conditions, drive to the speed limit and just look out and care for one another.

"Thank you for reading and for being considerate to everyone who makes the Borough the fantastic place it is."

More than £325,000 awarded to community projects and training programmes through latest round of UK Shared Prosperity and Rural Prosperity Funding

Community projects and skills programmes in Boston and East Lindsey have been given a boost of more than £325,000 combined from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), distributed by the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, and Lincolnshire Community Foundation (LCF). Several community projects, sports clubs, parish councils and village halls have been awarded more than £250,000 across the two districts in the final round of funding from LCF's GRASSroots scheme, which has been funded by UKSPF.

The GRASSroots scheme has now given £1.9million in grants. With match funding, this has led to a total investment of £2.9million in parish councils, village halls and small community projects. Funding has also been awarded to support Boston's Christmas Event, ensuring that the success of last year is repeated and developed further in support of town centre businesses. Additionally, more than £77,000 of savings generated through the efficient management of current contracts have been awarded to projects which fall under the People & Skills theme of the Partnership's UKSPF programme. This has been awarded after a competition between existing UKSPF Skills projects which are already successfully delivering, in order to support them to 'scale up' and reach more residents at this late stage in the programme's life.

The GRASSroots funding has been awarded in Boston to:

- Leverton Village Hall - renovation of the hall, including upgrading the toilets and kitchen space, along with the addition of a wheelchair ramp.
- The Local Community Centre, Boston - New fire alarm system.
- Forbes Road Bowls Club, Boston - Fibreglass shelter and new spectators' patio.
- Fishtoft 400 - Portable defibrillator and provision of mobility and balance classes.
- Friends of Holland Fen with Amber Hall - refurbishment of village hall toilets plus a new fridge/freezer.
- Swineshead Silver Band - External building works to weatherproof building.

Read more here: www.boston.gov.uk/article/27567/More-than-325-000-awarded-to-community-projects-and-training-programmes-through-latest-round-of-UK-Shared-Prosperity-and-Rural-Prosperity-Funding

Dance Again to Diggins exhibition officially open at Boston Guildhall

The much-anticipated Dance Again to Diggins Exhibition was officially opened on Saturday 12 October at Boston Guildhall. The invite only event featured speeches from Cllr Sarah Sharpe, Portfolio Holder for Culture at Boston Borough Council, along with Ron Diggins' friends, Brian Golland and Keith Feary.

Cllr Sharpe welcomed everyone to the exhibition and expressed her gratitude to the organisers for bringing this remarkable event to life. Cllr Sarah Sharpe, Portfolio Holder for Culture at Boston Borough Council, said: "I am thrilled to see the Dance Again to Diggins Exhibition come to life at Boston Guildhall. This exhibition not only celebrates the incredible innovation of Ron Diggins but also brings our community together to honour our rich cultural heritage. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the organisers and everyone involved in making this event a success. Let's dance to the legacy of Ron Diggins and keep his pioneering spirit alive!" said Cllr Sharpe.

In the late 1940s, a quiet revolution began in Swineshead, Lincolnshire, led by Bostonian Ron Diggins. As a professional radio engineer, Diggins initially provided public address systems for events. However, in September 1947, he transformed his equipment into the first mobile disco at the request of local farm girls, marking the birth of the Diggola. This mobile disco unit, featuring

twin 78 rpm turntables, a homemade mixer, lights, and speakers, revolutionized leisure time and created a worldwide phenomenon.

The exhibition celebrates the 75th anniversary of the invention of the Diggola by Bostonian Ron Diggins and will be open at Boston Guildhall until 11 January 2025. In addition to the exhibition, dance sessions celebrating Ron Diggins' legacy will be held at Boston Guildhall on Thursday 7 and Friday 22 November, and Thursday, December 19 (Christmas special), from 4pm to 6pm.

Council Tax Support Scheme consultation

Our Council Tax Support Scheme consultation is still live.

The public consultation is asking residents:

- whether to increase the maximum support to 100 per cent for households with children – and to increase to 85 per cent for other households.
- whether the Council should introduce a discretionary Exceptional Hardship Fund, which would include signposting to other support services.
- ways to make the scheme more efficient by reducing administration costs.

All views should be made on the consultation survey. To share your thoughts, please click on to the consultation here: [https://www.boston.gov.uk/article/27481/COUNCIL-TAX-SUPPORT-SCHEME-](https://www.boston.gov.uk/article/27481/COUNCIL-TAX-SUPPORT-SCHEME-CONSULTATION?fbclid=IwY2xjawFrQbVleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHaqZ2hpmwyPITuTGuaayJ1595xdnhirqzPOa3eU7acyWJM0kHvGI_Tbg_aem_TvLPGSajRFx54TzYEQibqA)

[CONSULTATION?fbclid=IwY2xjawFrQbVleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHaqZ2hpmwyPITuTGuaayJ1595xdnhirqzPOa3eU7acyWJM0kHvGI_Tbg_aem_TvLPGSajRFx54TzYEQibqA](https://www.boston.gov.uk/article/27481/COUNCIL-TAX-SUPPORT-SCHEME-CONSULTATION?fbclid=IwY2xjawFrQbVleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHaqZ2hpmwyPITuTGuaayJ1595xdnhirqzPOa3eU7acyWJM0kHvGI_Tbg_aem_TvLPGSajRFx54TzYEQibqA)

The consultation closes on Friday 15, November 2024.

Join us for “Let’s Talk Rubbish” – A community event on waste and recycling

The community is invited to attend the “Let’s Talk Rubbish” event, hosted at Zion Methodist Church, Brothertoft Road, Boston PE21 8HD, on Wednesday 6 November from 10am to 6pm. This event is designed to provide valuable information on waste and recycling, and to offer a platform for residents to ask questions and participate in engaging activities.

Councillor Callum Butler, Portfolio Holder for Environmental, said, “We think this would be a fantastic opportunity for our community to come together and learn more about waste management and recycling. It’s important that we all do our part to keep our environment clean and sustainable. I encourage everyone to attend and take advantage of the resources and information available.”

In addition to waste and recycling information, attendees will have access to other useful resources on topics such as housing, enforcement, and local police services. The event promises to be both informative and enjoyable, with free refreshments provided throughout the day.

A highlight of the event will be the raffle and tombola, with all proceeds going to support Dementia UK. This is a great chance to win prizes while contributing to a worthy cause.

Don’t miss out on this opportunity to learn, engage, and support your community. Mark your calendars for Wednesday 6 November and join us at Zion Methodist Church for a day dedicated to making a positive impact on our environment and community.

Community Skips trial continues

The next scheduled community skip trial day in St Georges Car Park will be on Monday 4 November from 8am to 1pm (or until full).

Following feedback from our residents the skips will be in place on Monday 4 and Monday 11 November at St Georges Car Park, and then will be moved to Cattle Market Car Park on Monday 18 and Monday 25 November.

Please be aware that some items cannot be placed in our Community Skips. Items not to be placed in the skips include:

- small appliances, for example a toaster, hair dryer or kettle
- asbestos
- clinical waste
- gas bottles, canisters or cylinders
- any other potentially hazardous materials

If skips are full when you arrive, please bring your waste items back later when space is available.

Warning over fake Universal Credit app and text messages

People are being warned about a scam involving a fake Universal Credit app and text messages. The app is called 'Universal Credit UK'.

The Department for Work and Pensions is investigating and is encouraging people not to use the app or respond to any suspicious text messages. People should use only the DWP Universal Credit website, and if you are unsure how to claim, the Citizens Advice Help To Claim service can offer support on 0800 144 8 444.

Anyone who has given information to the scam should report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

Boston Samaritans looking for volunteers

Boston Samaritans are looking to train, mentor and support new volunteers, with the next training cohort starting in January 2025.

To find out more and how to apply: www.samaritans.org/support-us/volunteer/

Community Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Fund

The Department of Health and Social Care is offering a £500,000 Community Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Fund, aimed at increasing the availability of defibrillators in public places where they are most needed. The fund will provide 1,100 new defibrillators and cabinets. To participate, match funding of £750 is required for a defibrillator with an external locked cabinet, or £660 for a defibrillator with an internal cabinet.

Please note, the fund is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, so early application is encouraged.

- For public access defibrillators, applications can be made at: www.defibrant.co.uk/
- For internal defibrillators, applications can be made via: <https://londonhearts.org/apply-for-a-defib/>

Flyway Trail

The Flyway Trail is entering its final phase, with stunning artworks being installed across Boston and East Lindsey.

This unique project explores the migratory routes of birds and their habitats here in Lincolnshire, with 16 new interactive artworks inspired by local wildlife. The Flyway Trail takes you on an adventure through Boston and East Lindsey, and includes a range human-scale butterflies, birds and more. They are designed to inspire and connect us with the nature around us.

Keep an eye out for installations like the vibrant butterfly at Boston Train Station by @imejoyce.art and the colourful yellow wagtail wings by @emilybowers.studio at Pescod Square Shopping Centre. Read our latest issue of Transported's newsletter to find out which other artworks have already been installed: https://mailchi.mp/def82a26a4d4/november21events-10141360?fbclid=IwY2xjawF9-85leHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHQgs4D2THxSGaSfDbx9q9-JTfzndsiQz9byPKdUPsKy9dfHmO6dK7P_wsA_aem_GY7c5WycFwtu3IaOg_bJPw

Printed flyers with a map and tick boxes so you can track each artwork as you explore will be coming soon. Stay tuned for more updates and visit www.transportedart.com/flywaytrailfor more info.

This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Live music planned at the Boston Christmas Festival

We're thrilled to announce that our Boston Christmas Festival will feature amazing performances from local bands throughout the weekend! Get ready to enjoy live music from:

- Stolen Fridays
- The Famous Unknowns
- Crossfire
- 11th Hour
- Chiana-Mai Sillett
- Matty Haynes

The whole event is being promote on our Facebook event page. <https://fb.me/e/7Ohclc6Q6> and we have a designated website section at <https://www.boston.gov.uk/Christmas2024>

St Botolph's Christmas Tree Festival is back

We're inviting the community, businesses, and schools to join our festive celebration. Decorate a tree and be part of the magic from Friday 29 November to Friday 6 December, with free trees being available!

Register at www.boston.gov.uk/xmastreefestival2024 and email karen.stengel@boston.gov.uk.

New Youth Club in Boston Borough

YMCA Lincolnshire is thrilled to announce the launch of a brand-new Youth Club at the Old Leake Community Centre.

The club will be open Every Monday from 4pm to 6.30pm and is free to attend.

This fantastic new club is open to all children in Old Leake and the surrounding villages. It is a great opportunity for kids to make new friends, learn new skills, and have loads of fun in a safe and welcoming environment.

For more information, email karolyn.lamb@lincsymca.co.uk

Call out to 11-18 year olds in South & East Lincolnshire to take part in the upcoming 'Infinite Museum' project

The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership and MBD have partnered to deliver the 'Infinite Museum', a virtual reality experience that looks to attract new audiences by bringing our local heritage stories to life.

The 'Infinite Museum' will comprise of a VR headset that will transport users to a virtual lift, exploring different floors that bring to life the rich history and heritage of South & East Lincolnshire, and highlighting heritage stories linked to our creative hub sites, such as Ayscoughfee Hall and Boston Guildhall.

MBD will be leading a first-come first-served opportunity at Ayscoughfee Hall, Spalding, for 6 to 10 young people to take part in community workshops, helping create the content for this unique virtual experience.

No experience is required to apply and take part in these workshops, which will take place on Saturday 2 November, Sunday 3 November, Saturday 23 November, and Sunday 24 November.

Learn more about the opportunity, and how any 11-18 year olds you know can apply, at <https://www.mbd.limited/young-person-workshops>.

If you're interested in hearing more about Infinite Museum, please visit <https://loom.ly/YSnXAYE>.

This project is part of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership National Portfolio Organisation programme, funded by Arts Council England.

[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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HOW WE WORK AS ONE TEAM
TO BE THE BEST FOR OUR
PLACE AND PEOPLE



WE TRUST



WE DELIVER



WE WORK
TOGETHER



WE ARE
PROUD



WE CARE
