



Welcome to 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

Council launches public survey to shape the future of the Borough

Boston Borough Council is excited to announce the launch of a public survey aimed at shaping a borough that is fit for the future - The Boston Plan 2040.

The council is committed to creating "A Borough that is fit for the future." This means tackling challenges, embracing opportunities, and working with communities and partners to build a thriving, inclusive, and sustainable Boston.

The Boston Plan 2040 will prioritise three main areas to improve the quality of life for everyone in the borough:

- Thriving Economy - Supporting growth and creating opportunities for businesses and residents.
- Community Cohesion and Resilience - Building an inclusive, supportive, and welcoming community.
- A Healthy and Sustainable Boston - Promoting well-being and environmental sustainability for future generations.

The success of the Boston Plan depends on the input of its people. This is your chance to influence the direction of Boston's future and ensure your voice is heard.

You can access the survey, which closes on Friday 7 February 2025, at <http://www.boston.gov.uk/BostonPlan>.

The Boston Plan 2040 is expected to be launched in Spring 2025. Residents can stay updated on its progress by following Boston Borough Council on Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor and WhatsApp Channels, or by visiting the council's news section on the website.

Read more here: www.boston.gov.uk/article/27883/Council-launches-public-survey-to-shape-the-future-of-the-Borough

Boston May Fair 900th Anniversary Exhibition

This year, Boston celebrates the 900th anniversary of its first May Fair. To mark this historic milestone, Boston Guildhall Museum will host an exhibition celebrating the fair from 22 March to 17 May 2025.

The exhibition will feature photographs and objects from Neil Watson and the Showman's Guildhall. Additionally, the museum is inviting local residents and visitors to contribute to a community exhibition by sharing their memories of past May Fairs.

If you have photographs of the May Fair and would like to contribute to the exhibition, Boston Guildhall asks you to please include the names of the people in the photos if known, an approximate date, and any stories or memories associated with the image/s. Submit your contributions to TICBoston@boston.gov.uk by 12 February 2025 for a chance to be featured in the exhibition.

By submitting a photograph, you agree to its use in the exhibition and any related promotions, while retaining copyright ownership.

For those without email access, images can be brought to the Guildhall during its opening hours (Wednesday to Saturday, 10.30am to 3.30pm).

Unlike many towns that have moved their fairs to out-of-town locations, Boston continues to host its fair in the town centre. It remains one of the top street fairs in the country, cherished by showmen, townsfolk, and visitors.

For more information about the 900th anniversary of the Boston May Fair and the exhibition, visit the Boston Guildhall's Facebook page.

Discover the magic of projection mapping at Boston Brilliance

Get ready to be amazed as cutting-edge technology transforms Boston's landmarks into dazzling works of art! Projection mapping uses advanced techniques to project dynamic images and animations onto buildings, creating stunning visual effects that tell stories and celebrate history in vibrant, larger-than-life displays.

Join us in Boston Town Centre on Friday 14 and Saturday 15 February, with the light switch-on from 5.30pm.

Find out more here:

https://www.facebook.com/events/3849397781974599/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%5B%7B%22surface%22%3A%22notifications_tab%22%7D%2C%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22attachment%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22newsfeed%22%7D%7D%5D%22ref_notif_type%22%3A%22feedback_reaction_generic%22%7D

Supporting those affected by recent flooding

A dedicated webpage with helpful information, resources and updates is available to support residents in parts of Boston Borough who were impacted by flooding. If you or someone you know has been affected, this website can help: www.boston.gov.uk/flooding-jan25

A relief fund has also been set up – guidance can be found here:

www.boston.gov.uk/article/27835/Boston-Flood-Relief-Fund

Council Tax Support Scheme increased to support struggling families in Boston

Families with no or low income in Boston Borough will be entitled to full council tax support from April 2025.

Boston Borough Council has unanimously voted to increase the amount of Council Tax Support available to low or no income households with children from 75 per cent to 100 per cent.

This is to help ease the financial burden for families struggling to make ends meet.

Around one in three children in Boston Borough live in low-income households. Currently 1,109 households with children receive council tax support, of which 727 receive the maximum award.

The Council also voted to increase the maximum amount of Council Tax Support eligibility for other households from 75 to 85 per cent as well as the creation of an Exceptional Hardship Fund.

The decision follows a fundamental review of the Council Tax Support Scheme and included a public consultation with residents, organisations and other authorities who set council tax. The changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme will come into effect in April 2025.

To find out more about the scheme, please visit: www.boston.gov.uk/article/27935/Council-Tax-Support-Scheme-increased-to-support-struggling-families-in-Boston

Demolition underway for Boston's Rosegarth Square redevelopment

Demolition of an empty shop unit and a former office block in Boston Town Centre is now underway, marking a major milestone in the Rosegarth Square redevelopment project.

Over the coming weeks, visitors will witness the removal of the former B&M store and Crown House building, previously housing the job centre.

The project, led by Boston Borough Council and initially funded by £14.8 million Government fund, aims to transform the area between the River Witham and the bus station into a vibrant public space with a new park, public art, housing, and retail opportunities.

Read more here: <https://www.boston.gov.uk/article/27928/Demolition-underway-for-Boston-s-Rosegarth-Square-redevelopment>

Independent Persons vacancies

Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council, which collectively form the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, are looking to appoint 'Independent Persons' to support the work of the Councils. Boston and East Lindsey will be considering the appointment of lead and reserve Independent Persons whilst South Holland has a vacancy for a reserve Independent Person.

The role of the Independent Person involves providing an objective and impartial view on Code of Conduct complaints received against District/Borough Members and Town/Parish Councillors. In addition, Independent Persons are appointed to a Panel for the purposes of advising the authorities on matters that arise relating to the dismissal of relevant officers of the authority.

Applicants should have a good understanding of the ethical standards required of persons holding public office, demonstrate high standards of personal integrity and be able to make judgements based on evidence or information presented.

For more information or to download a recruitment pack, visit:

www.boston.gov.uk/Independent-persons-vacancies

Providing a lifeline for families fleeing war and conflict

In March 2023, Boston Borough Council announced it had secured Round 1 Government funding to purchase a number of family-sized homes through the LAHF scheme, followed by further funding from Round 2 later that year. Designed to ease pressure on housing and homelessness services, the scheme ensures that support for local households remains unaffected while providing a safe haven for those fleeing war zones.

The initiative focused on families resettling in the UK after supporting British armed forces in Afghanistan, as well as Ukrainian refugees at risk of homelessness. Twelve properties have now been occupied by Afghan and Ukrainian families, with a further property being used to support local families in need of short-term accommodation prior to moving on into longer

term housing. Many of these families have since embarked on employment or training, contributing to their new communities.

For the purposes of clarity, the LAHF scheme is not aimed at households who have arrived in the UK illegally, outside of government sponsored resettlement schemes. It is not aimed at households and individuals seeking asylum in the UK.

Councillor John Baxter, Portfolio Holder for Housing at Boston Borough Council, said: "The funding we secured from the Government enabled Boston to play a crucial role in supporting families who have endured unimaginable hardship. These families have been warmly welcomed by our community, and securing stable housing has allowed them to rebuild their lives while easing pressure on local housing and homelessness services."

Beyond providing immediate support, the Council's purchase of these homes will leave a lasting legacy. The properties will eventually bolster the borough's permanent housing supply, helping to address local housing challenges and support residents for years to come.

This achievement underscores Boston's commitment to compassionate resettlement efforts while maintaining vital services for local residents in need.

Owners of former Post Office ordered to carry out essential repairs following legal notice

Boston Borough Council has had a legal notice upheld by the courts, ordering the owners of the town's former Post Office to renovate the historic landmark.

The Grade II listed property on Wide Bargate has been closed since 2014 when the Post Office relocated services to WH Smith's.

In October 2022, the Council granted planning consent to Red Lion Wide Bargate Ltd to turn it into 22 apartments as well as commercial space on the ground floor.

The following year, the Council started to receive regular complaints about the building's poor condition.

The Council contacted Red Lion Wide Bargate Limited and were told renovation and repairs would begin in April 2024, however this did not happen.

In June last year, the Council served a formal notice on the owners, instructing for the necessary works to begin to improve the appearance of the property and to preserve it from further decay.

Red Lion Wide Bargate Ltd, formally appealed against the notice, stating the poor condition was justified, that the works the Council required were considered excessive and that the time frame to carry out the works was insufficient.

Ahead of the court hearing as part of the formal appeal process, the owners formally withdrew two grounds. The appeal sought extra time for the works and asked for the renovations to start in February 2025.

On 20 December last year, Boston Magistrates Court found the Council were fully justified in taking the action, however it accepted the owner should be granted more time to comply. The court upheld the requirements to improve and repair the building, with an extended deadline for the works to be carried out until September 2025.

Read more about this story: <https://www.boston.gov.uk/article/27886/Owners-of-former-Post-Office-ordered-to-carry-out-essential-repairs-following-legal-notice>

Boston 2030 stakeholder engagement session

As part of their stakeholder engagement work on the Boston 2030 project Urban Foresight are organising a World Café style event on Thursday 6th February. The event will take place in the White Hart Hotel, Boston between 9:30 and 1pm.

The event is designed to bring key partners and stakeholders together to discuss the ambition and opportunities for Boston 2030. Full details of the event will be sent out a couple of weeks prior but please let us know if you would like to attend the event by registering via the link below at your earliest convenience.

Reserve a spot online: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/boston-2030-world-cafe-event-tickets-1203371880689

Free entertainment during the February half-term

Join us at Boston Guildhall Museum and Fydell House on Friday 21 February between 10:30am to 3pm for a Fairy Trail!

After you have completed the trail, take part in the free craft activities in Fydell House. The Fydell House Tea Room will also be open for refreshments and lunches.

There is no need to book tickets for this event, just turn up.

Dates announced for 2025 Farmers' Markets in Boston

Join us for our regular market, Farmers' Market, or special one-off events. It's the perfect opportunity to support local farmers, enjoy fresh produce, and connect with the community.

The dates for this year are the following Saturdays:

- 22 February
- 22 March
- 26 April
- 24 May
- 28 June
- 26 July
- 23 August
- 27 September
- 25 October
- 22 November

For more information or to participate, please email us at markets@boston.gov.uk.

Pop Up Creatives Exhibition Market next month in Boston

Get to know the creative community of Boston with the upcoming Exhibition Market, where you'll have the chance to support the amazing artists and creatives we have on our doorstep.

We're still looking for creatives in and around Boston to be part of this exciting event - all artforms are welcome, from painters to print-makers to jewellery makers.

Limited stalls are available for this event, happening at Boston Stump on Saturday 15 February - email NPO@boston.gov.uk to register your interest.

Changes coming to our flood warning service in 2025 – a notice from the Environment Agency

For almost 30 years, the Government has been helping to keep communities safe through our flood warning service.

Over 1.6 million people across England currently receive warnings, giving them time to protect themselves from the impacts of flooding. This year, they are taking a big step to modernise this vital service to ensure it can securely and reliably warn our communities for the next decade.

In late summer 2025, they are launching a completely refreshed system to create and manage flood warnings. This includes a brand-new 'Get flood warnings' digital service on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), making it easier than ever for the public, organisations, and partners to stay informed about flooding. You can see the improvements they're introducing in our recent show and shares.

Before launching the replacement service, they're looking for around 1,000 people to test it between February and May 2025. Feedback from potential users will be invaluable in shaping this crucial service. They are inviting staff to help share the testing opportunity with their networks and to volunteer themselves.

Reasons to take part:

- Be among the first to try the new service.
- Help ensure it works for everyone.
- Make flood warnings better for the future.
- Directly influence the development

The application form can be found at: [Help us test our new flood warning service](#)

They're seeking testers from all walks of life, including:

- People living in flood risk areas, whether they currently receive flood warnings or not.
- Flood wardens and community groups.
- Those who might need extra support with digital services.
- Over-65s.
- Businesses of all sizes operating from locations within England.
- Professional partners.

Upcoming sessions with Lincs Digital

Lincs Digital have announced extra sessions in the East Lindsey area to help residents get online and access essential services more easily. The sessions promise one-on-one assistance, tips for staying safe online, as well as fun and interactive learning.

These sessions are:

Friday 7 February, 9am to 11am - Kirton Town Hall

Wednesday 12 February, 9:30am to 11:30am - Boston Centenary Church

Boston Borough Council joins WhatsApp Channels

Boston Borough Council is excited to announce the launch of its first WhatsApp Channel, providing residents and visitors with another convenient way to stay informed about local happenings.

Residents can now sign up to receive updates about the latest news, exciting events, activities, and services in their communities directly on their smartphones. Follow Boston Borough Council on WhatsApp [today!](#)

WhatsApp channels offer users a secure and private way to follow what matters to them, subscribing for free to news from their favourite organisations and celebrities. Channel admins and fellow followers don't have access to personal information such as names,

profile photos, or numbers. Followers can set notifications to read messages in real-time and, if they choose, respond with a simple emoji or vote in a poll. Without public or private replies to posts, Channels steps away from the sometimes-hostile atmosphere that has turned some users away from other social networks.

Channel followers can also easily share WhatsApp channel posts with individual contacts and WhatsApp groups, helping to keep their friends, families, and local communities informed.

The new WhatsApp Channel does not change how you can get in touch or share your views with the Council. Boston Borough Council will continue to run its other social media channels, public engagement sessions, customer contact service and website to support residents.

Boston Borough Residents: Sign up for 2025/26 Garden Waste collections!

Boston Borough residents can renew or subscribe online for garden waste collections for the 2025/26 season. Signing up online is quick and easy, allowing you to do it at your convenience. For an annual fee of £52.50, you'll receive a year's worth of garden waste collections.

New and existing customers will be automatically entered into a prize draw competition where 10 lucky winners will have the chance to win a full year's service for free. Additionally, when you sign up online, you will be automatically entered into a prize draw to win a Lincolnshire Hamper valued at £52.50. Please note these offers are not open to Boston Borough Council employees or elected members.

The subscription period for 2025/26 will begin the week commencing 31 March 2025. The final collections for the 2024/25 season will take place during the week ending 30 March 2025.

Councillor Butler encourages all residents to sign up: "Renewing your garden waste collection is a simple way to keep our community clean and green. Let's all do our part to maintain the beauty of Boston Borough."

Residents who subscribe will receive a letter with full details and a sticker for their bin(s).

For more information on this service, please visit www.boston.gov.uk/gardenwaste

East Lindsey District Council now has an official WhatsApp Channel – delivering timely updates and essential information straight to residents. Stay informed about local news, events, and services with the most current updates at your fingertips. Join us [here](#) today!

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