

NK boasts one of the best qualities of life

District highlighted as 'oasis of civilisation' in a national survey

It's something that everyone living, working and visiting already knows, but the District is now officially recognised as one of the best places in Britain to live.

The quality of life already enjoyed by North Kesteven residents has been assessed as among the highest in the country.

At the start of the year the Halifax bank placed the District 36th in its list of all 405 local authority areas in the UK, based on a number of criteria relating to quality of life.

It is the only part of Lincolnshire included and one of only four which are away from the south or east of England.

The table recognises North Kesteven's low incidence of burglary, ease of traffic movement, good employment rate, small primary school class size, low population density, high academic achievements at GCSE and good house size, quality and cost.

These factors are so strong that they

outweigh poorer ranking for Broadband speed and gross weekly earnings, which are areas of priority action for NKDC going forward into 2012.

Council Leader Cllr Mrs Marion Brighton OBE said: "North Kesteven's ranking of 36th is a strong reflection on the work of NKDC and its partners in delivering high quality services which improve the lives of District residents.

"Those of us who live, work and enjoy leisure time in North Kesteven already know what a great place it is, but to have that quality of life recognised so strongly and promoted so widely by the Halifax is a strong endorsement.

"One media commentator referred to North Kesteven as 'one of only four oases of civilisation outside southern and eastern England and that is exactly how we like to think of the District,' she said.

The District Council is committed to enhancing all aspects of life in North Kesteven and where it is not directly

responsible for this it plays an active part in all partnerships, initiatives and ways to achieve this.

"While we welcome the findings as a reflection on North Kesteven as a great place to raise a family and do business, the study doesn't take account of our beautiful countryside, cultural heritage and strong community cohesion, which all combine to enhance our District even further," said Cllr Mrs Brighton.

On top of this study further recent assessments identify the Council as 'good, verging on excellent'; 'continuing to provide a high level of service at low cost'; and investing in its people and delivery excellent services across the district'.

And from this years council tax consultation, residents concluded that the Council has set the right priorities and is delivery excellent quality services whilst performing well with its money - all at a higher rate than even last year.

Jubilee jubilation to set flags a-flutter for summer events



Fly the flag this summer, adding to the festival of feel-good factor surrounding both the Diamond Jubilee and Olympic Games.

The District will be awash with red, white and blue in early June in celebration of the Queen's 60 years on the throne. Don't put the flags away or take the bunting down though as just three weeks later there'll be the Armed Forces Day

pageant and then, later in the same week, the Olympic Torch Relay will swing through Sleaford and Bracebridge Heath on June 27.

There'll be more detail of the Olympic procession and how you can join in, in June's **newsnk**.

Turn to page 6 to learn more about how the Jubilee will be celebrated in North Kesteven and also details of the Armed Forces Day events.



"I moved to the district several years ago and it's fair to say that I am a proud

North Kesteven resident. There's plenty to do, the cost of housing is reasonable, crime is low, and there is beautiful countryside on my doorstep. All in all it's a great place to live, work and visit."

Andy Holderness, Witham St Hughes



"Leaving a busy London life wasn't an easy transition in the late 80s. We gave ourselves

two years before moving on but are still here 23 years later. We appreciate a wonderful quality of family life, access to excellent schools, facilities and good transport and make full use of the leisure and arts facilities."

Pamela Marnie, Metheringham

Factors behind North Kesteven's high-ranking status

The report is based chiefly on quality on jobs, the housing market, education, health and crime.

- > The work of the NK Community Safety Partnership is key to the low burglary rate recorded as 17.4 crimes per 10,000 population; still the 8th lowest of all areas.
- > The District is mid-table with its employment rate of 75.8%.
- > It has one of the healthiest ratios of earnings to house price at 5.7; only nine areas have more affordable

- housing than North Kesteven.
- > Housing is among the largest; only two other areas have more than an average of 6.9 rooms in a house.
- > At 894, the traffic flow per square km is the lightest of all top 50 areas.
- > Ten areas have lower average broadband speeds than NK where 73% of people have more than two Megabytes per second; NKDC is working hard and investing £600,000 to increase local coverage.

- > Only eight areas have lower carbon dioxide emissions per person than the 2.1 tonne level in NK, reflecting the success of NKDC's emphasis on sustainability education and enabling residents to take 'green' action.
- > Only Rutland has a lower population density than NK's 115 people per square km.
- > Only five other areas score higher than the 83.6 % of students gaining five or more A-C grades at GCSE.



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newsnk

is your newspaper

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Editorial

Phone: 01529 308116

Email: communications@n-kesteven.gov.uk

Address: North Kesteven District Council
District Council Offices, Kesteven Street, Sleaford,
Lincolnshire NG34 7EF

Council Enquiries

Phone: 01529 414155 or 01522 699699 if calling from a Lincoln number

Minicom: 01529 308088

Emergency: 01529 308308 or 01522 699650

Website: www.n-kesteven.gov.uk

Email: customer_services@n-kesteven.gov.uk

Lincolnshire County Council: 01522 552222

INFO-LINKS North Hykeham

North Kesteven Centre, Moor Lane,
North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 9AX

INFO-LINKS Metheringham

15a High Street, Metheringham, Lincoln, LN4 3DZ

Billinghay Cottage & Parish Office

The Old Vicarage Cottage, Church
Street, Billinghay, Lincoln, LN4 4HN

Branston Connect

Branston Community Library,
Station Road, Branston, LN4 1LH

Heckington Parish Office

St Andrew's Street, Heckington, NG34 9RE

Navenby Village Office

19 High Street, Navenby, Lincoln, LN5 0EN

Osbournby Village Hall

London Road, Osbournby, Sleaford, NG34 0DG

Skellingthorpe Village Office

Lincoln Road, Skellingthorpe
Community Centre, Lincoln, LN6 5UT

The Witham Office

16 Torgate Lane, Bassingham, Lincoln, LN5 9HF

Waddington Parish Council

High Street, Waddington, Lincoln, LN5 9RF

Washingborough Civic Office

Fen Road, Washingborough, Lincoln, LN4 1AB

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Do you want to be a record breaker?

Anyone harbouring ambitions to be a World Record Breaker should step forward to join in with a mass move to dance to an 80s disco classic at a charity fun day

A group spearheaded by NKDC staff will attempt to set a new record for the world's largest Superman Dance, raising funds for Lives and the Council Chairman's charities along the way.

Needing at least 300 people to take part, postroom supervisor Lorraine Wise is calling on the wider community to join in and learn the moves required to spray, swim, ski, comb your hair and punch a Superman-style fist in the air in-time with Black Lace's 1983 hit Superman.

The one-off performance will last only a few minutes as the centrepiece of a fun day on Saturday May 5 in the Council's office car park.

"Hundreds of people secretly harbour an ambition to be a World Record Breaker and

what a great way to achieve it. It's an easy record to break and a really fun one too," said Mrs Wise.

"It's easy to pick up and requires minimal commitment to learn the moves. Anyone can do the moves, from tiny tots and families to school groups, trained dancers and people whose mobility is restricted."

The set moves will be taught to ensure they meet the record-breaking criteria and participants are asked to dress in Superman costume or 80s throwbacks.

On May 5, the NK attempt will be a part of a fun day including music, games, stalls a fire engine and a hoped-for RAF flypast.

Everyone who registers will be guided through the moves at training sessions.



To take part they must contact Lorraine before April 20 or turn up to a demonstration event at the Source, Southgate Sleaford on March 17, 10am to 1pm.

To get involved:

Call: Lorraine on 01529 497605 after 6pm

Email: lorraine-wise@fsmail.net

Write to: Mrs Lorraine Wise, 19 Wilkie Drive, Folkingham, Sleaford, NG34 0UE

Vicar's visionary work praised



Former Vicar of Sleaford, The Reverend Canon John Patrick was thanked for his leadership in driving forward the town's future regeneration.

Before taking up his new post as Subdean of Lincoln Cathedral, Canon John was presented with a commemorative paperweight by NKDC Chairman Cllr Ian Cartwright MBE.

This was in appreciation of his seven years as Chaplain to the Council and recent work as chairman of the regeneration group which is steering the Sleaford Forward masterplan process to shape the town's economic and social vibrancy for the next 25 years.

Council Chief Executive Ian Fytche said: "Quite apart from his civic role, Canon John has contributed a huge amount to the Council. He has led the Sleaford Regeneration Group with a huge amount of professionalism and great commitment, drawing together strong views into a coherent vision."

Cllr Cartwright commended Canon John for his 'calm, courteous manner and words of wisdom which have been a source of comfort' to seven chairmen, members and officers.

Safeguarding is in safe hands

One of the many responsibilities the District Council has is in ensuring the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

This is called safeguarding and the Council expects all of its staff, volunteers, contractors and councillors to share this commitment.

The Council has responsibilities to promote the requirements of safeguarding to the wider community and to have procedures in place to address concerns that anyone has about the safety and welfare of vulnerable people.

As an indication of how seriously the Council takes its safeguarding role a recent assessment gave compliance scores of 97.8% and 100%, which shows that its responsibilities are translated very well into practice in our frontline services.

Cllr Susan Waring, whose Executive brief covers vulnerable residents, said: "The assessments show just how seriously the Council takes its safeguarding responsibilities and how it filters them through to every level of service delivery."

"Every member of staff has been trained in identifying, understanding and acting on safeguarding issues both as they apply to them in their work and in their wider lives." "It is also important that the wider public can have the confidence to come to us with their concerns and be assured that they will be responded to."

Areas of safeguarding concern might involve:

- > Physical abuse – hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning, suffocating or other physical harm.
 - > Neglect – the persistent failure to meet a child, young person's or vulnerable adult's basic physical or psychological needs.
 - > Sexual abuse – forcing or enticing to take part in sexual activities.
 - > Emotional/psychological abuse – persistent emotional maltreatment that adversely affects emotional development or state of mind.
 - > Financial abuse – theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, misuse of property, possessions or benefits. It is the role of social care and/or the police to investigate allegations or concerns.
- If you have a concern about a child, young person or vulnerable adult, you should:
- > Collect as much information as possible about the situation.
 - > Be open about the concern if possible, although you can make anonymous referrals.
 - > Report the issue and observations immediately to Lincolnshire County Council Customer Services Centre on 01522 782111 or 01522 782333 out of hours.
 - > If you feel there is an immediate threat call the Police on 999.
 - > Or call NKDC on 01529 414155 and speak to the Child Protection or Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Co-ordinator.

Council Tax remains at 2010 rate

There will be no increase in the Council Tax charged by North Kesteven District Council for the year starting on April 1

This is the second year the Council has frozen its demand on Council Tax at the same level as the year before, meaning there has been no increase since 2010.

This maintains the NKDC charge for a band D property at £135.09 for the year, reduced to £90.06 and £105.07 for the smaller band A and B homes most people occupy.

Lincolnshire County Council has frozen its part of the bill too but the Lincolnshire Police Authority is increasing its demand by 3.96% to £186.39 at Band D.

The final charge in most places is also affected by the rates levied by parish and town councils, which have variously increased, decreased or maintained their demands.

Thirty two of North Kesteven's parish councils have frozen their rates, four have decreased theirs and a further 35 have put theirs up by varying sums, between less than 1% and almost 67%.

Councillor Mrs Marion Brighton, OBE, Leader of North Kesteven District Council, said the Council had striven to maintain a freeze in the

amount it charges despite continuing to develop services and investing in the District.

"The Government has made a one-off special grant available, which is equivalent to a 2.5% increase. Coupled with our careful financial management, this has enabled us to freeze charges for this year," she said.

"Despite pressures in finding almost £2m in savings over the last two years to balance out a significantly reduced settlement from Government of 30%, the Council has decided against increasing its charge on the Council Tax in order to support our residents at this time of continued hardship.

"We remain ever-mindful of our residents' situation and appreciate their satisfaction with the services we offer and the charges we make, whilst always striving on our priorities for better communities, homes and economy," said Cllr Mrs Brighton.

In the latest resident feedback during budget consultation 84% said they thought the Council performed well with its money in delivering services which 83% rated as good, against priorities appreciated by 63%

as the right ones.

Although it is the District Council which collects the Council Tax, it keeps less than a tenth for the delivery of its services locally, passing around 74 pence in every pound to the county council, 12 pence to the police authority and a variable amount which averages out at 4.5 pence in every pound to the parish councils.

Full details of what householders will be paying, broken down by property bandings and location are included in a booklet being sent out with the bills during March.

The £11.4m budget set by the Council includes a number of areas of investment, including:

- > Up to £605,000 spread over three years to fund improved Broadband connectivity across the District.
- > Maintenance of an £8,000 contribution towards the County Council's operation of the Leadenham household waste recycling centre.
- > A £6,000 enhancement for each of the two Citizens Advice Bureaux serving District residents.
- > Prudential borrowing to cover the costs of disabled facilities grants.

Council taxpayers believe North Kesteven District Council is delivering good services and performing well with the money it has available against the correct priorities.

That is the clear response from almost 150 residents who chose to feedback their views through surveys on the Council's website and viewpoint panel.

As part of its extensive consultation with residents and businesses in advance of setting its budget and Council Tax precept, NKDC held open forums in Sleaford, North Hykeham and Leadenham and also broadened out its survey online.

Having outlined their aims for the coming year based around better homes, stronger communities and a more robust economy and savings of £2m to achieve a budget of £11.4m on the general fund, senior officers and Executive Board Members invited residents' assessment.

Across the three events, 147 of the

attendees took part in voting.

> 84% felt the Council performed well with the money it has available – rising to 97% among the 57 attendees at North Hykeham.

> 83% rated the quality of the Council's services as good – with a 90% high in North Hykeham.

> 63% agreed that the Council had identified the right priorities for next year – again with a high of 72% in North Hykeham.

> Only 3% across all events disagreed with the priority setting or thought performance was poor, with others having no strong view. These satisfaction ratings have risen over the past two years. Last year 78% said services were good and 75% thought financial performance was good.

The Council's viewpoint panel is being refreshed to ensure it remains representative. If you want to contribute to service improvements contact the Research Team on 01529 308237.



Fly-tippers count the cost

Residents are reminded of the need to ensure proper disposal of waste following convictions costing two men a total of £1,170.

One pleaded guilty to failing to properly dispose of commercial waste by passing it onto someone without checking they were authorised to accept it and the other admitted fly-tipping the waste, which included furniture and an old static caravan.

Cllr Richard Wright, Executive Board member for environmental services, said: "These convictions reflect the Council's commitment to investigating every case of fly-tipping in the District and maintaining our

robust record on environmental protection.

"They're also a reminder to ensure that all waste is disposed of properly and responsibly, using the extensive range of services available to them. Residents should also check that those who are disposing of their waste are registered to do so; otherwise they could be making a costly mistake," said Cllr Wright.

In just over four years the Council has secured 23 convictions for waste offences through its robust and determined approach.

A bulky-waste collection service is detailed overleaf on page 4.

Convenient plan

Town centre toilets will remain open in Sleaford's Money's Yard after being taken over by the town council.

NKDC identified scope to close them as part of its drive to meet a £2m savings requirement. People would be advised to use nearby facilities in the National Centre for Craft & Design and the toilets demolished to make way for the identified regeneration of the area.

This would have brought an annual saving of around £14,000.

NKDC will now pass responsibility for the building's management and operation over to the town council, plus a contribution towards business rates.

This arrangement is for a year, from April 1, with a review after 12 months. It means that the Sleaford toilets will now be managed in the same way that all other public conveniences are in the District, by parish and town councils.

Council Leader Cllr Mrs Marion Brighton OBE said: "It is so much more satisfactory when two authorities can work together in partnership for everyone's benefit."

While the town council continues to explore future toilet provision, its leader Cllr Brian Watson, said: "We are pleased to safeguard this facility for the time being, for residents and visitors."

Light touch savings solution

Almost £10,000 a year will be saved by the Council switching the lights in its main Sleaford offices to LEDs.

As well as the financial savings there will also be a reduction in carbon dioxide output of 64.7 tonnes per year.

While it will cost £33,000 to fit the new lamps, that outlay would be recovered in just over three years and then contribute to ongoing savings. Operating and replacement costs are also reduced.

All existing fluorescent tubes will be swapped for LED tubes and only one lamp used where double lamps are currently fitted, without comprising the light output.

Savings are estimated at £9,644 a year, with running costs reduced from £11,374 to £1,730 and the new lamps' life expectancy will be more than 50,000 hours compared to 20,000 for fluorescent.

This move comes two years after sensors were fitted in the older part of the offices, which reduced carbon by 16.8 tonnes and energy costs by £4,000 a year.

The Council's own sustainability team SustainNK is able to advise householders and businesses on energy efficiency matters.

Contact them on 01529 414155 or sustainnk@n-kesteven.gov.uk

District eateries are top-nosh

More than half of North Kesteven's food premises are now top-rated with five stars for food hygiene.

A further quarter of the 1,104 registered businesses have achieved four stars under the new National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme which brings consistency across all local authority areas by replacing local quality-assurance schemes.

Six hundred now have five stars, 264 have four and 165 have three stars.

Previously under the 'scores-on-the-doors' scheme pioneered by

NKDC as a user-friendly and readily-transparent way for customers to identify the standards of companies involved in food preparation, storage and consumption, 215 had five stars and 444 had four.

The new system will be launched locally on March 28, bringing the area in-line with national standards that allow people to make informed comparisons and judge premises on the same criteria regardless of where they are in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Council services closer to home

A network of Community Access Points offers easy access to Council services and support close to home. There are offices in Sleaford, North Hykeham, Metherningham and a nine villages, as detailed on page 2.

Here you can:

- > View local planning applications
- > Get help with housing applications
- > Pick-up and drop-in forms
- > Pick up local information
- > Report problems like potholes, fly-tipping and faulty street lights
- > Report a missed bin collection and arrange bulky item clearance
- > Report Anti-Social Behavior
- > View the Electoral Roll
- > Make non-cash payments and benefit enquiries at some offices



More activity and events will be rolled out during the year. In addition, the Council website - www.n-kesteven.gov.uk - offers access and advice 24/7.

Demand for Citizens Advice at all time high

A royal visit to open the Sleaford & District Citizens Advice Bureau's newly expanded facilities illustrates the vital importance of the service in meeting the needs of all NK residents



Like a fourth emergency service, it's reassuring that the Citizens Advice Bureau is there, ready to help in times when we're most in need of a bit of clear thinking.

Behind the iconic blue and yellow logo in a dispensary of free, independent, confidential and impartial advice on our rights.

The Sleaford and District CAB is typical of all within the national network of Citizens Advice Bureaux.

It operates independently, sustained by the will and wits of a great many local volunteers and limited number of paid staff, financed chiefly by community and local authority grants and under increased pressure.

It provides the advice people need to contend with problems in their own lives; seeks to improve the policies and practices that affect people on a wider scale; campaigns for improvements in laws and services to the broader benefit of society; and offers that extra reassurance people need in seeking self-help solutions.

In the main it's legal and financial problems which draw people in and in these economically straightened times it's clear that an increasing number beat a path to the charity's offices in Sleaford's Money's Yard, with concerns spanning debt and unemployment, housing, immigration and consumer rights.

During the year which ended last April the Sleaford & District CAB helped more clients than ever before – the 4,124 enquiries representing 15% increase on 2009-10, which itself was a 40% surge on the year before.

It's this increased demand which prompted expansion into the former Tourist Information Centre to offer increased interview capacity and a better reception, all of which drew the admiration of The Princess

This was Princess Anne's third visit to the Sleaford CAB, having opened it in 2000 and launched its website in 2005. On her visit to open the extended facilities she commented on how impressed she was with them and how important they were to meet rising demand. "She spoke to every single volunteer and staff member and showed her deep appreciation for what they did," said Chief Officer Debra Cressey.



Royal when she officially opened the facilities in her capacity as National President of CAB.

It's also called for increased recruitment of volunteer advisors.

One key area of success is advising people of the benefits they are entitled to and helping them with their claims. In 2010-11 they helped 217 clients locally to claim benefits worth £1,038,272 annually and a further 53 to gain charitable payments worth £43,353. They also helped clients to reconcile debts totalling almost £4.8m.

Debra Cressey, Chief Officer of the Sleaford CAB, said: "Every year we've been getting busier, but especially so during the recession which has so many implications on housing and homelessness, increased benefit applications, employment rights and even relationship issues. One other key focus in this area is in claiming combat stress support for the Forces.

"A lot of our work is helping people to appeal against decisions by the Department of Work & Pensions. When we get involved they're usually overturned simply because we're used to the inherent complications of the forms.

"I'm expecting there'll be another rise in client enquiries as the Government's shake-up of the benefits system takes effect,

especially with disability, housing and attendance allowance benefits."

The 22,000-plus hours of service given by the 70 volunteer advisers in the last year equates to £343,138, which goes a significant way towards keeping running costs down to around £100,000 – a tenth of the sum brought back into the local economy through enhanced benefit claims alone.

In six years volunteer numbers have more than doubled to 56, on top of which there are 14 trustees who also administer advice. All give at least one day a week to satisfy demand, ranging in age from 17 to 70 and covering nine different roles.

Such striking statistics support NKDC's confidence in the service, contributing £32,700 annually.

A further £32,100 is given by NKDC to the Lincoln CAB to support its work with NK residents in the north of the District, who make up 19% of the 6,189 people helped there last year.

Both of these figures are enhanced by £6,000 on previous years' grants in recognition of the bureaux's vital work.

Parish and town councils and Lincolnshire County Council also support the CAB's core costs as the Government only provides funds to deliver specific projects dependent on successful bids. In addition the Royal British Legion and RAF Benevolent

Fund finance targeted work for active and former Service Personnel.

The Sleaford expansion has been financed through a £20,000 legacy provided by the Rotary Club of Sleaford and a £10,000 Big Lottery Fund grant and means that ever-more local needs can be addressed.

"Our success is down to the organisations that support us and our remarkable trustees, paid staff and volunteers who work passionately and tirelessly to ensure that all of our clients receive the help that they need."

"What these figures don't demonstrate is the difference we make to the lives of the people who come to us for advice. Many suffer stress and depression which can be relieved as the burden of their problems is eased."

It's an irony that just as demand for CAB services is at an all time high, the service itself is facing the very same financing uncertainties and challenges that it is there to resolve on behalf of clients.

"All of the support is received gratefully and put to great use, but the reality is that there is still a gap. While we are easing the anxiety of others through these difficult times, as we plan the future of our service at a time when funding is increasingly at risk, our own continues," said Mrs Cressey.

Sleaford & District CAB is open every weekday at Money's Yard, Sleaford, NG34 7TW.

General enquiries and self-help materials available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 9am to 4pm and on Thursdays 9am to 3pm and 4pm to 7pm.

Advice assessments are made on Monday, Tuesday & Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm and Thursday 4pm to 6.30pm.

Other surgeries are held at Billingham Children's Centre, Fen Road on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Call on **01529 308423** for an appointment.

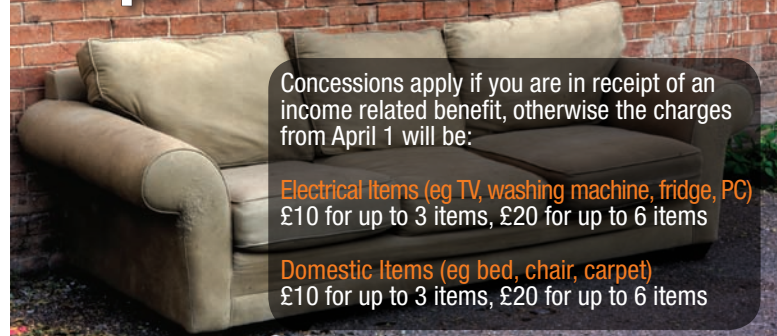
There's a Lincolnshire Telephone Advice Line with an advisor 10am to 3pm on weekdays or automated 24 hours with certain information.

www.sleafordcab.org.uk
www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Further online help and advice – **www.adviceguide.org.uk**

Working in association with the CAB, North Kesteven District Council is also able to help with advice on debt management, housing issues, benefits eligibility and access to many support services. Call in at any NKDC customer advice point, call on **01529 414155** or **01522 699699** or visit **www.n-kesteven.gov.uk**

Sofa to shift or carpet to chuck?



Concessions apply if you are in receipt of an income related benefit, otherwise the charges from April 1 will be:

Electrical Items (eg TV, washing machine, fridge, PC)
£10 for up to 3 items, £20 for up to 6 items

Domestic Items (eg bed, chair, carpet)
£10 for up to 3 items, £20 for up to 6 items

To arrange a collection please call **01529 414155** or **01522 699699** (if calling from a Lincoln number).
We aim to fulfil all appointments within five working days



Bin out by 7.30am

It's the early bird that catches the worm and also ensures that their bin is emptied.

Because bin collection times can and do sometimes change, residents shouldn't always expect the lorry to come at the same time.

Often calls into the Council's Customer Services concerning a missed bin are found to be down to the bin not being out on the kerbside by 7.30am as we ask.

To be on the safe side make sure your bin is out by 7.30am; otherwise you run the risk of it not being emptied.

Bus link increase

Use of the Sleaford and Metheringham area CallConnect bus has risen by a fifth in a year.

The number of passengers in the last year went up by 4,000 to 21,000, a rise of 20.1% which is typical of a trend of increased use across the county.

The increased demand has strengthened the future of the service which plays a crucial role in keeping people connected to public transport by simply booking a ride by phone or text up to a week in advance.

CallConnect is on 0845 234 3344.

Credit to Council

The Council retained its status in recognition of continuous staff and service development.

The Investors in People standard has been re-issued for the Council following a re-evaluation process.

Cllr Susan Waring, whose brief includes human resources, said the award recognised the tireless and selfless consideration of staff in carrying out their work, especially at a time of great change. "We are so proud of our staff and the jobs they do, especially during these difficult financial times," she said.

Day of action enhances safety at Stapleford Wood

A proactive joint initiative to stamp-out anti-social behaviour and public nuisance at a popular beauty spot is being stepped up

In response to local concerns about activity at Stapleford Wood, North Kesteven's Community Safety Partnership is taking the lead on multi-agency action.

This brings together the Council, Police, Lincolnshire Probation Trust and the Forestry Commission, which manages the woods for public access.

Building on their first day of action, there will be increased police patrols, more undergrowth clearance by offenders on the Community Payback Scheme to give greater visibility, and increased vigilance by the Council's fly-tipping and litter collecting teams. Mobile CCTV will continue to be deployed by the police.

While most people enjoy trouble free visits to Stapleford, some residents and recreational users have avoided

the woods. Now the agencies involved in the clean-up drive say they can be confident that issues that may have deterred visitors in the past will be stamped out.

Richard Wright, who chairs the Community Safety Partnership's joint action group, said: "Building on our first of three days with the Community Payback team, in the long-term we are looking at this as an ongoing multi-agency operation until we resolve the issues and restore public confidence surrounding their safety in the woods."

"All of the agencies will do everything necessary to regenerate the woodland for local community and family use."

With the main car park off the Stapleford road being an area of concern, undergrowth is being cleared to open up visibility splays surrounding

it in order to deter anti-social activity which includes fly-tipping, littering and occasional arson.

Forestry Commission Forester Val Coulton said: "While it's important to recognise that anti-social activities are carried out by a small minority, their impact is often out of all proportion to their numbers. We are confident that working together with other agencies we can tackle residents' concerns."

Lincolnshire Police's Insp Mike Jones, said it was important to help the public feel safe walking in the woods.

"We are jointly committed to cutting down the anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping nuisance so that people are comfortable using the woods. Everybody has got it marked up as an area to patrol and officers will be patrolling regularly."



The Community Payback team start with undergrowth clearance, overlooked by Richard Wright, police officers PC Pete Hanson and PCSO Carol Daman-Willems and Beat Forester Val Coulton

Funding for faster linkage

North Kesteven District Council is investing up to £600,000 into a pot which will finance a £57.2m rollout of superfast broadband to ensure every home in the county has better connectivity by 2015.

In readiness, all residents and businesses are being called on to maintain a demonstration of demand to ensure the District gets full coverage.

Over the coming months the County Council will be discussing with suppliers the delivery of its Local Broadband Plan using £14.3m of Government funding, a matching £14.3m pooled by Lincolnshire councils and £28.6m from the private sector.

This is all part of a national drive to ensure at least 90% of homes and businesses have access to at least two megabits per second by 2015.

NKDC's contribution of between £408,000 and £605,000 over three years is based on the relatively poor

Broadband coverage in the District.

The plan is to have a contract in place by late 2012, but because it's not clear which communities will be the first to benefit, NKDC advises a continued show of support for better broadband in North Kesteven.

Cllr Geoff Hazelwood, Executive Board member for Information Technology, said: "Better broadband is an essential component in a vibrant economy, which is why we place such emphasis on it."

"With potential suppliers looking at evidence of demand in communities, we cannot stress enough the importance of registering, so please sign up, and encourage your friends, family and colleagues to do the same."

"It will put your community in a much stronger position to receive a much better service."

Register your demand at www.onlincolnshire.org

Collection calendar change

In the past the Council has posted out to every household a leaflet and magnetic collection calendar but this year we are trying something new.

During March your new-look calendar will be in the form of a tag, attached to your bin after it has been emptied.

The tag can then be removed from the bin and taken into the house for safe keeping in order to refer to it all year.

This is a change from what we have done in the past but we feel that the most important information you want are the collection dates and what can and can't go into each bin.

Cllr Geoff Hazelwood, Executive Board member for waste services said that while it was clear that the magnetic calendar was well received, it was the only thing residents were keeping, tending to throw the leaflet away.

"This begs the question as to how much money is potentially being wasted by leaflets being thrown away," he said.

"In order to find out exactly in which format you prefer to receive our information the intention is to undertake some market testing in the spring."

If you can't wait until then to let us know your view then please email us at waste@n-kesteven.gov.uk



Arts Venues to LOV

A three-year programme is helping young people to get up-close and personal with their local arts venues they LOV.

The Lincolnshire One Venues (LOV) consortium of 10 cultural centres including the Terry O'Toole Theatre, National Centre for Craft & Design, Grantham Guildhall and Drill Hall and Collection in Lincoln has been awarded £200,000 by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to help young people become more deeply involved in the LOV venues and with the artists who use, work and perform in them.

The project is hosted by NKDC and will enable participants to develop as aspiring artists, programmers, promoters, consumers, critics and creative entrepreneurs.

The consortium aims to raise the profile of all venues and to pool resources to ensure arts programmes are of the highest quality.

New homes bonus funding

A windfall of more than £1m will support NKDC's priorities of building more affordable homes to meet local need and supporting economic growth.

The Government's New Homes Bonus money rewards local authorities for taking a proactive approach to the delivery of new homes to support local growth and community vibrancy.

North Kesteven's £1,141,129 is the largest sum awarded to any of the Lincolnshire councils from the fund.

The sum awarded represents a payment for each home that is

completed and a further £600,000 was paid out in this past year.

The new payment won't be received until the next financial year, where it will be allocated for maximum benefit to the District's flourishing communities.

"This money is a welcome reward for the leadership shown by North Kesteven in pioneering a new wave of building council homes and it will make a significant contribution towards furthering our aims of providing more affordable homes to meet local need," said Council Leader Cllr Marion Brighton OBE.

Road safety drive

Mature drivers are invited to test their skills in the safety of a simulator.

On Friday, March 23, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership will hold a free drop-in day at its North Kyme Life Skills Academy.

By appointment drivers aged 65 and over, can drop in for a chat about any driving concerns and have a go on their skid car and driving simulator which offers an all round experience of all driving scenarios.

If there is sufficient demand, further dates will be arranged.

Details on 01526 861170 or email andrea.dixon@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Charity quiz night

Brainboxes of the District unite, a quiz is arranged to pit your wits and raise funds for good causes.

The annual Brains of Kesteven quiz challenge will be held on Friday, April 27, in support of NKDC Chairman Cllr Ian Cartwright MBE's charities, ABF and St Barnabas Hospice.

Teams of up to six are welcome, at £6.50 per head including supper. Bar available. Held in the Sleaford council chamber from 7.30pm.

For quiz entry, contact Pauline Collett on 01529 414155 or the Info Links in Metherningham and North Hykeham, details on page 2.

Jobs advice event

An open day held in NKDC's Sleaford council chamber will help young people aged 17 to 24 to find work.

Between 10am and 2pm on Thursday March 29, specialist advisors, employers and training providers will give advice and support on finding work, applying for jobs, training and CVs, as well as debt and benefits

The partnership between NKDC and Sleaford Jobcentre Plus is a response to a steady increase in the number of young jobseekers.

If you cannot attend but want to know more, call 0845 604 3719.

Community Celebrations

As communities gear up to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in right royal fashion over an extended weekend in early June, NKDC is helping to put the flags out



Stay calm and party on with street events

In anticipation of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at the beginning of June, the Council has pieced together advice on staging a street party.

Residents wanting to put the flags out will benefit from a guide to help with their plans.

This makes it easier to organise such community events, without having to plough through mountains of forms and red tape and it even includes one simple form to detail your plans to the District Council.

In most cases all you will need is a road closure and although this will be the responsibility of the county council, NKDC is happy to pass on the application which needs

to be made with at least six weeks' notice.

It's NKDC's licensing team which will deal with any temporary event notices and alcohol licenses which may be required.

Last year there were more than 5,000 street parties nationally for the Royal Wedding and it is anticipated that demand this year will be at an all time high for the Jubilee and Olympic festivities, linked to a national initiative for a 'big lunch' on Sunday June 3.

Search for 'Street Party' on the NKDC website to find the free guidance and application forms.

There's also information on event planning at www.lincolnshireprepared.co.uk

Beacons burn bright

Royal Jubilees are chief among the moments of national celebration which are traditionally marked with the lighting of beacons and this June North Kesteven will be blazing a trail.

The aim is to have 2,012 Diamond Jubilee Beacons lit across the the country on June 4, 14 of which will be in North Kesteven.

They will all be at the heart of local community celebrations, shining out as a bright and burning symbol of solidarity for the Queen's 60 years on the Throne.

Each community is making its own arrangements for events surrounding their beacon, which include fireworks, camping, trumpet herald and village fetes.

In some cases the beacons will be enormous and in others more modest, lit in beacon cradles used for previous events. At Osbournby it will be a wooden structure in the shape of something relevant to the village and there's also a plan to place one at Dunston Pillar, the historic site of heath navigation lights.

Osbournby will also use braziers created during the Sa Fire workshops (right).

Official beacons are registered at Doddington Hall, Dunston Pillar, Ewerby, Leadenham, Metherringham, Nocton, North Scarle, Norton Disney, Osbournby, Screddington, Scopwick, Threkingham and Waddington.



Seat fit for a Queen

Villagers of Osbournby will be sitting pretty on their lasting legacy of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

A group of villagers has been involved in every stage of the process over a number of years to deliver the seat ready to be unveiled on the village green ready for June.

Working with NKDC's community arts programme artsNK, local residents have designed the seat, learned how to carve and produced ten panels which will make up their new piece of village furniture.

Osbournby Parish Council has reached deep into its limited resources to help fund the bench for the village green as part of their celebration of the Queen's Jubilee.

The artwork has been inspired by the intricate and beautiful pew ends in the parish church and has been designed by the group to reflect what they consider to be special about Osbournby.

North Rauceby craftsman Peter Tree is now building the new seat using the painstakingly crafted low-relief design panels.

> Osbournby's really putting the flags out with a special Sunday church service ahead of the seat's inauguration, a village garden walkabout, cream teas, family celebrations and a Jubilee Beacon bonfire.

> In Great Hale, there will be Open Gardens on Monday June 4, 2pm to 5pm. The cost will be £3 per person, to include a glass of Pimms or a cup of tea to toast the occasion in true British style. Children free. Tickets bought on the day from the Old Vicarage. Proceeds to the vilage newsletter.

Jubilee jubilation

Flags will be hoisted and bunting strung-up right across the District as streets, neighbourhoods and whole villages come together in Jubilee jubilation.

It's clear that many of North Kesteven's 100 Flourishing Communities will be making the most of the extended holiday weekend at the beginning of June.

But true to the spirit of community celebration many events will be specific to local residents, so keep your ear to the ground and eyes focussed on noticeboards and newsletters for details of what's happening where you live.

Highlights include the distribution of Jubilee beakers to children by parish councils, street parties, tea dances, events linked to the beacons mentioned on the left, and, in Nocton, an opportunity to see a quarter-size scale model of the Coronation coach and horses.

Deputy Council Leader Cllr Mike Gallagher said: "I hope that all North Kesteven neighbourhoods will be inspired to mark this landmark occasion in any way that unifies their community."

Armed Forces Badge

Armed Forces veterans who wish to be honoured with a special badge as part of this year's Armed Forces Day commemorations have until Friday, May 25 to register.

The badge recognises service with all HM Armed Forces, Volunteer and Regular Reserves.

They will be formally presented at a special ceremony in Sleaford on the evening of Friday, June 29, part of NKDC's Armed Forces Day events which include a parade in Sleaford on Sunday, July 1.

To apply for a badge to be presented at the ceremony, call 01529 488490, or email cranwellaviation@n-kesteven.gov.uk where advice will be given on the process.

Craft celebrations

Community arts organisation artsNK is inviting groups and residents to get creative to jolly-up the Jubilee.

The team is offering inspiration to unite generations in sharing skills and make celebrations colourful and create lasting artworks that can be enjoyed for years to come.

If you'd like to make your village shine in 2012 call artsNK on 01529 411190.

partnershipnk

working together in North Kesteven

01529 414155
partnership_nk@n-kesteven.gov.uk

Sowing

Seeds are being sown for more volunteer gardeners to help District residents and community gardening schemes.

Working alongside NKDC, the charity Garden Organic, is supporting enhanced awareness of the ease of growing your own vegetables.

There are already 51 volunteers across the county and more are needed to each support 10 householders and advise a local community food gardens.

A few years' growing experience together with a passion for encouraging others are all that's needed.

To become a volunteer Master Gardener or seek their free support and advice in starting to grow your own food, contact PartnershipNK or call Rick Aron, 07584 474779 or aron@gardenorganic.org.uk

Growing

If you like gardening and have more energy and enthusiasm than your plot can exhaust - or even if you have no experience at all - there are community growing schemes you can get involved in. Details from PartnershipNK.

Cooking

Free introductory cooking courses are being run in North Kesteven through the Sow Grow Cook scheme to promote healthier eating, balanced diets and more sustainable lifestyles.

The courses are open to anyone, lasting two hours over a six week period. They include basic cookery skills and general advice on nutrition, food safety and food labelling to help families rediscover the delights of home cooking.

Contact Partnership NK or course leader Jack Wright on 07779 713479 or jack@cook-connect.com

On the road

A new list of District schools is being drawn up to receive the NK Food Cart which was a massive hit last autumn, dispensing food tasters and tips to inspire healthy and wholesome meals at home.

The cart will be back on the road from April 17, with schools being notified in March so keep an eye on the Council's website and school newsletters.

Greylees cycle/foot path

The extended dual use path for walking and cycling between Greylees and Sleaford has been completed. It was funded by Sustrans, Lincolnshire County Council and NKDC, who are now working with Sleaford BID to increase its use through a series of forthcoming fun challenges.

Active Kids

Active Kids is a free 12-week programme for 8 – 11 year olds to help children lead healthier lives, get fitter and lose weight.

The sessions include healthy eating as well as fun and games. Family support is essential, so a parent or adult must come along.

A new class in North Hykeham will soon add to those in Sleaford and Leasingham.

Reserve a place with Kate Priestley on 01529 413828 or 07817 607592 or email partnership_nk@n-kesteven.gov.uk

Given its new status as the 36th best place in Great Britain to live, we can expect thousands more people to discover the delights of North Kesteven this year. To give residents a head start on what draws more than 2 million visitors to the District each year, here's a handy digest of events and attractions to guide you

Two million people travel in to North Kesteven each year to experience, explore and enjoy the many attractions, events or outdoor activities for either a day or a longer stay.

Latest research suggests that they contribute around £90m to the District economy by booking accommodation, eating out, shopping locally, visiting attractions, fuelling their cars, taking taxis, using local services and generating employment.

These are the tourists, drawn by major events such as the Waddington International Airshow, Heckington Show and World Egg Throwing Championships, as overspill from the Lincoln Christmas Market and happenings at the Lincolnshire and Newark showgrounds, as guests at the passing-out parades at RAF College Cranwell, driven by a nostalgic trip down memory lane from war-time military postings, seeking out the peace and tranquillity of the countryside and the District's perfect location at the heart of Lincolnshire.

And on top of this are the many thousands of excursions we all take as District residents, criss-crossing the area to walk at the Whisby Natural World Centre, step out onto the 135 miles of designated way-marked paths, take-in the attractions on our doorsteps such as Mrs Smith's Cottage, the National Centre for Craft & Design and Cogglesford Mill and generally enjoy all that's great about North Kesteven.

All that the District Council does to attract tourists, holiday makers and day trippers has a direct bearing on its priority in building a vibrant economy, but it also contributes to the general well-being of all residents who get to benefit from an enhanced events programme, more activities and an enriched cultural offering.

Day visitors are by far the largest factor with 1,720,900 of them in 2010 contributing £51.55m of the total £89.15m spent by a total number of 2,001,300 people.

The proportion of visitors who stay with friends and relations is also significant, being 168,700 in 2010 and spending £15.85m, which was almost as much as the 92,100 who stayed in serviced accommodation spent locally that year.

Collectively their tourist activity is thought to account for an average of 1,616 full-time equivalent jobs across the year – peaking at 2,809 in August – in sectors such as accommodation, recreation, food and drink, shopping and transport.

The peak of tourist activity is obviously in August when 345,600 day visitors join 15,400 people staying with family and friends and 11,100 in hotels, B&Bs, campsites and caravans to give a peak of 372,200.

But with attractions open and ongoing activity throughout the year, residents and their guests can enjoy the delights of North Kesteven's tourism offer from spring through to winter.



“Tourism makes a significant contribution to the cultural and economic vibrancy of the North Kesteven, bringing an estimated £90m and 1,600 jobs into the District. But it is of course worth so much more to us than in pure monetary terms.

I firmly believe that all of our lives are enhanced by having a strong tourism sector, whether it's through the enriched cultural offering of our museums and attractions, the full programme of events in our communities, well-maintained and signed walking routes, first-rate pubs, cafes and restaurants, beautiful historic churches and properties or thriving village shops, filling stations and farms. All of these contribute to the enjoyment of being in North Kesteven whether it's as a visitor or as resident population which is why, as a Council, we invest so much energy in the support and promotion of a thriving tourist economy.”

Cllr Mrs Marion Brighton OBE
Leader of NKDC



“In this new era of the 'staycation' where people chose to holiday at home rather than head abroad it's clear that North Kesteven satisfies everything they need. Located at the heart of Lincolnshire it's less than an hour to the coast and major cities but with peaceful countryside on the doorstep; and visitors appreciate that as much as we do. It's clear that people do want to come to North Kesteven and when they do they love it and stay for many years.

They come to us from Kent, Scotland, right across the Midlands and even close by and they value all of things that make the area so special. Sometimes I think we could all benefit from looking at where we live through a tourist's eyes and so I'd recommend anyone to get out and about over the spring and summer to rediscover what they love about North Kesteven.”

Chris Ashley
Director Lowfields and Highfields country fishing retreats



“Aviation heritage is a source of enormous interest, fuelled by passions, nostalgia, reminiscence, intrigue and fascination and it makes a massive contribution to the local economy. More than 115,000 visitors experienced the 10 Aviation Heritage Lincolnshire sites – four of which are in NK – last year, making a considerable economic impact. Visitors to these sites are many and varied; they cross the world solely to experience the aviation offering.

They're not drawn by castles, coast or countryside, but by aviation; sometimes individually, sometimes on organised tours and often on a trip down memory lane. Recently we've assisted many as 'ancestral tourists' who, having researched relatives who served here, travel from as far as Canada and Australia, to visit the airfields they flew from. Whatever their motivation, they find something different but interesting here.”

Phil Bonner
Aviation Heritage Lincolnshire project officer



“In my mind one of the chief reasons to visit anywhere is to get a taste of the place and I mean that quite literally; not only to soak up the local landscape, admire towns and villages and enjoy the attractions but also to sample the flavours of local food.

To that end there is plenty of reason to choose North Kesteven over anywhere else. There are so many first-class butchers, bakers, producers and other providers as local residents are well aware. There is a high proportion of Tastes of Lincolnshire members within the District and you only have to see the popularity of the Sleaford Farmers' Market on the first Saturday of every month to get a taste for the quality of what's grown, reared, brewed and prepared around us, or beat a path to the excellent farm shops and farm gates to get a feel for what makes North Kesteven such a treat.”

Rachel Green
TV chef, author and ambassador of Lincolnshire food

With so many options for countryside walks, high-ranking churches of national significance to visit, free activities at the District Council's and other community-run attractions and a wide choice of tearooms for a welcome cuppa, why not stride out with a spring in your step to Discover the delights of North Kesteven



One of the District's oldest – and most unique – attractions is **Cogglesford Mill** in **Sleaford**, an award winning, fully restored and working watermill, thought to be the only **Sheriff's Watermill still operating in England**.

Through many changes, mills have produced flour on this site for more than 1,000 years and freshly stone-ground organic flour is for sale. Special events and working days are held throughout the year. Open 12pm to 4pm weekdays and 11am to 4.30pm weekends and holidays from April; limited to 12pm to 4pm on all other weekend days. Free with free parking up to two hours and full disabled access. Details on 01529 413671

The mill sits alongside the **Sleaford Navigation**, a 13 mile waterway which was once a busy commercial route between the market town and the world via the River Witham.

The Sleaford Navigation Trust works tirelessly towards its restoration and at present the lower half is navigable for eight miles from the Witham up to Anwick and small boats and canoes can be launched from Eastgate Green to paddle the half mile between the mill and the town.

An easy-walking tranquil towpath gives access to nature reserves, public art, wildlife havens and the swimming pool in Sleaford.

Navigation House, once the headquarters of the Slea Navigation Company on Carre Street, tells a fascinating story relating to the development of the Slea and its part in the town's growth.

Open Saturday and Sunday, 12pm to 4pm through to April and then weekdays 10am to 4pm and weekends 11am to 4.30pm. Free entry. Details on 07966 400634.

Alongside, but very different in scale



and style, **The National Centre for Craft & Design** has everything you need to put a spring in your step.

Newly branded in bright colours and with a vibrant exhibitions programme, the NCCD is open daily to promote international leaders in their artistic fields.

It is the largest venue in England entirely dedicated to the exhibition, celebration and promotion of international craft and design and couples exciting exhibitions with an insightful programme of workshops, talks and conferences, an innovative craft shop and a licensed cafe serving locally-sourced produce.

Free admission, 10am to 5pm seven days a week. Full disabled access. Details on 01529 308710.

Sleaford has many hidden gems crying out for discovery, from the ruins of the castle at **Castle Causeway** and charms of the **Little Theatre** on Westgate – one of only two Georgian theatres in the country – via many architectural masterpieces to the delights of **St Deny's Church**, **Carre's Almshouses** and **Money's Mill**.

Just outside Sleaford there are attractions and interesting villages in every direction.

At North Raucsey, just a stone's throw from the prestigious and iconic flying school centred around College Hall, the **Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre** portrays the historic flying school's fascinating story from its early days as a Royal Naval Air Service base.

The experience includes interactive exhibits including a Jet Provost flight simulator, static planes and artefacts, storyboards and a video theatre.

Free entry. Open 10am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday year round and 10am to 4.30, daily from April 1 to October 31. Fully accessible.



Details on 01529 488490.

Other aviation-related attractions are detailed on page 10.

Off to the west is the Lincoln Edge where villages display remarkable historical origins and evolution over nearly 3,000 years, including a brush with royalty in 1870 when the Prince of Wales changed his clothes in a Navenby pub bedroom and overnight stops by Queen Victoria's train in sidings at Leadenham.

One unique feature is **Welbourn Forge**, open on the first Saturday of each month, 10am to 1pm, for the demonstration of age-old blacksmithing.

The District Council bought the forge 25 years ago to preserve it as a heritage site after a century of forging ceased in 1968.

Admission is free but donations are always welcome. Full disabled access. Group bookings welcomed. Details on 01400 272623.

Another is a tower from the former church of the Knights Templar at **Temple Bruer**, built in 1160. Engraved in the stones are names of airmen based at RAF Wellingore in World War II, doubtless seeking a moment's peace from the horrors of war.

It is open to the public and managed by Heritage Lincolnshire which runs a recreation of medieval life on April 29, 11am to 5pm

In the other direction, heading east, Heckington has much to offer beyond the country's biggest annual village show. The preserved railway station buildings at the **Heckington Village Trust Railway & Heritage Museum** contain related artefacts and local heritage. Open on Sundays and Bank Holidays only from Easter, 12pm to 5pm. Details on 01529 469595.

Also in Heckington the unique eight-bladed **windmill** offers a fascinating insight into milling by wind-power



through displays, tours, artefacts and demonstrations. New sails will be fitted this spring, for milling the flours, oats and muesli for sale. Entry to mill £1/£2. Open only on Sundays, 12pm to 5pm, up to Easter and then Saturday and holiday Mondays too. Every day through July and August. Details on 01529 461919.

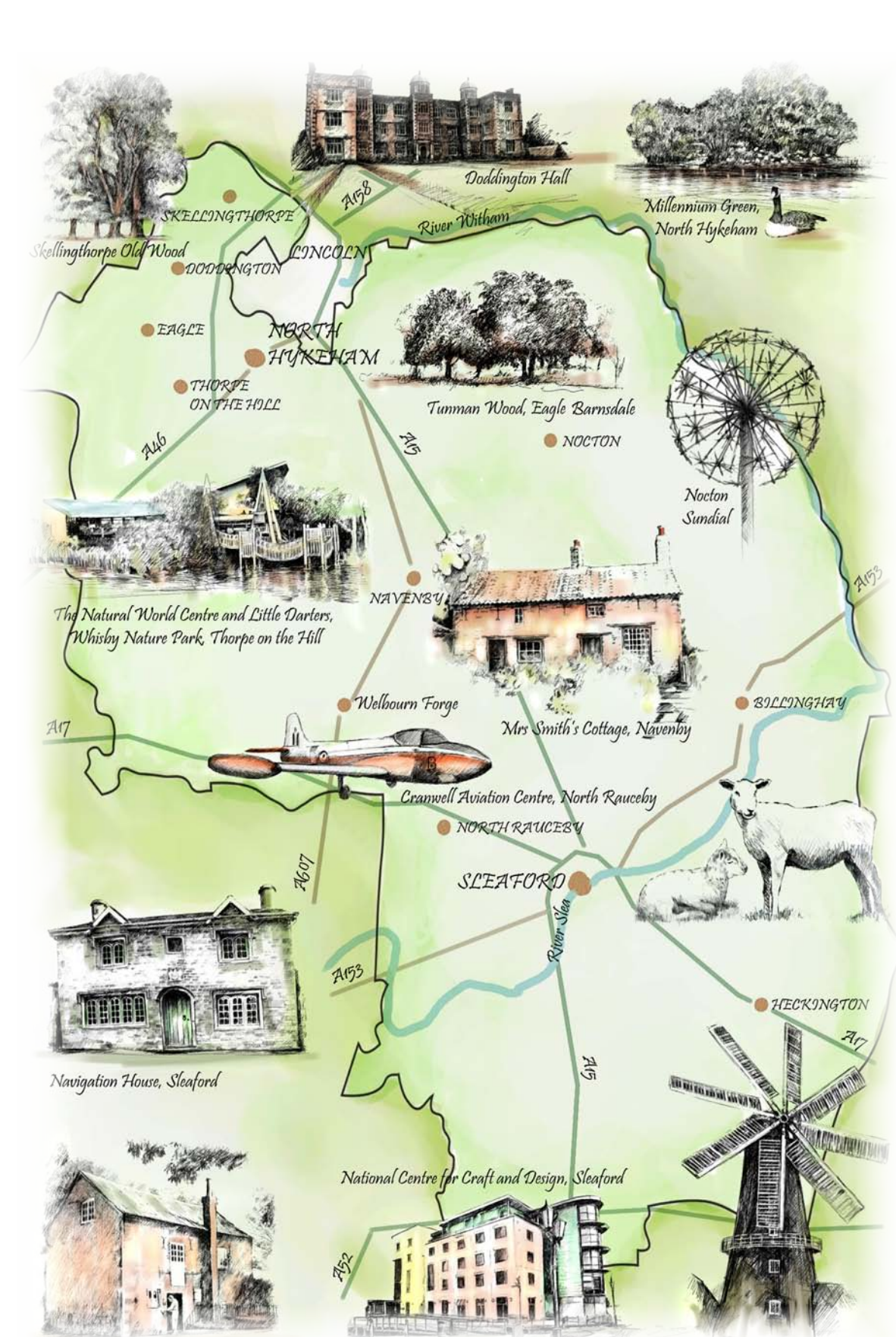
Local farming history is also displayed at the **North Ings Farm Museum**, Fen Road, Dorrington, which specialises in tractor, machinery and industrial railway heritage. Train rides are included in the £3/£1.50 admission price. Open Sundays, 10am to 5pm from April. Details on 01526 833100.

A further remarkable survival of a bygone era can be found at **Mrs Smith's Cottage** in Navenby. This is a simple cottage built in the mid 1800s and very typical of its age but what makes this one stand out is the way it remained intact as Hilda Smith resisted what she regarded as unnecessary change during her tenure for most of her life up to the age of 102. Guided tours are available and booking is advised.

Open 1pm to 4pm: Sundays from mid March to late November; Friday to Sunday from June to Sept; Wednesday to Sunday in August and all bank holidays except Good Friday. Full accessibility. Admission £2/ children free. Details on 01529 488490, 07887 928733 or www.mrs-smiths-cottage.co.uk

All of the large houses within the District remain in private ownership, with limited public access. **Doddington Hall** is a local landmark which has stayed within the same extended family since being built in 1600 and now includes a number of walks, garden access and farm shop as well as the house, all open variously throughout the year.

The gardens at **Aubourn Hall** are worthy of visiting when they open between May and July, as are the



Illustrated map created by Barry Gray, Manor Studios

November 4. Details on 01522 500566 or www.lvvs.org.uk

At the other extreme, the **North Scarle Miniature Railway** opens on Sundays 9am to 12pm at North Scarle Playing Field offering 2,000 feet of track. Details on 01522 881760 or www.lincolnmes.org.uk

Details on 01522 881760 or www.lincolnmes.org.uk

Another taste of yesteryear is available at the **Lincolnshire Road Transport Museum**, Whisby Road, North Hykeham, where more than 60 vehicles span the last 80 years. Open Sundays 1pm to 4pm up to May and then 12pm to 4pm daily except Saturdays, opening at 10am on Sundays and holiday Mondays. Special events on April 8, June 10 and

grounds of **Culverthorpe Hall**, built in the style of a Loire Chateau, they are opened occasionally including for an annual snowdrop walk.

Running almost the length of the District from Lincoln to Sleaford, a 26 mile path is a great way to discover the artistic and historic treasures in a string of villages on the **Spires & Steeples** route, with many beautiful landscapes along the way. Free and open footpath and cycle trail. Details on 01522 694353 or www.spire sandsteeples.com

Further options for getting out and about include **Whisby Natural World Centre**, Thorpe on the Hill, a network of dog-friendly walking routes around reclaimed quarry lakes with an education centre, shop and café at its heart.

A great family favourite, the free attraction offers great award-winning adventure facilities for children of all ages and exciting evolving exhibitions.

The nature park is open dawn to dusk, with the centre open 10am to 5pm. Details on 01522 688868 or visit www.naturalworldcentre.co.uk

Whisby is one of the component attractions that make up the **Witham Valley Country Park**, a network of linked outdoor spaces including Skellingthorpe Old Wood, Lincoln's Commons and parks and Tunman Wood with a programme of events across its 26,000 acres detailed at www.withamvalleycountrypark.co.uk

discovernk
in the heart of Lincolnshire

Stepping Out in North Kesteven

The most striking aspect of North Kesteven's appeal is its natural environment and the ease with which we can experience the great outdoors.

Across the District's 356 square miles – 95% of which is classed as green space – there are a wealth of landscapes, ancient woodlands and historic buildings. The fascinating history woven into the landscape extends from the Roman waterways of the Carr Dyke, through medieval settlements, to the more recent airfields of World War II.

To help discover this fascinating heritage and enjoy the diverse wildlife of our countryside, NKDC offers an extensive network of way-marked walks right across the area.

The Stepping Out walks cover the full breadth of the landscapes, landmarks and historical timelines which define North Kesteven and with free, year-round easy-walking access there really is no more delightful way to explore.

There are now 18 different informative leaflets and a website providing easy to use maps and directions for all 28 walks, together with points of interest along the way.

Many of the walks are enhanced by artsNK art commissions and all are well-maintained by the WatchNK rangers, with each one offering something new according to the seasons which means that you will never tire of walking the 135 miles of Stepping Out routes or branching out onto the wider footpath network.

Details on the walks and countryside events within North Kesteven are at www.countrysidenk.co.uk or contact the Countryside Promotion Officer on 01522 694353.

See page 15 for the map of the newest walk, at Doddington.

Witham Valley web

If you log onto a website today, you're sure for a nice surprise

Everyone using the Witham Valley Country Park's excellent website to discover what's happening where within the park's vast network of open spaces, is eligible to win tickets to the Newark and Nottingham County Show.

At www.withamvalleycountrypark.co.uk you'll not only find all the activities at Whisby, Skellingthorpe Old Wood, North Hykeham's Millennium Green and the wider span of 26,000 acres linked for cycling and walking, but also a simple survey which offers the chance to win the show tickets.

Just fill this in with your thoughts on the best parts of the park and ideas for its growth and you could be tripping off for a day at the show on May 12 or 13.



Pond Dipping at Lollycocks

Dip in to the teaming life at the pond on Lollycocks Field in Sleaford, one of NK's local nature reserves, on April 12.

Join the WatchNK Countryside Rangers to explore the depths of the pond and learn what lurks below its calm surface; from the comical water boatmen to the sinister-sounding water scorpion, who knows what you will find.

Under 16s must be accompanied, suitable clothing and willies worn and feel free to bring your own net and bucket

Booking is essential on 01522 694353 or email theresa.hobbs@leisureconnection.co.uk

Lollycocks Field at Eastgate is a reserve that's accessible to enjoy alongside the River Slea at Eastgate all year round with a volunteer warden programme.

Free discovery of the District

The Council's four tourism operations are swinging open their doors with special treats in store.

In readiness for the season Cogglesford Mill, Navigation House, Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre and Mrs Smith's Cottage will all be open on March 11, with Mrs Smith's Cottage also open on March 10.

This is part of a weekend of free access to attractions across the county kick-starting British Tourism Week.

Council Leader, Cllr Marion Brighton, OBE said: "This is a great opportunity for residents and visitors to see those local places we often drive past and intend to call in on one day."

Mrs Smith's Cottage is suspending admission charges for these two days and other attractions, where entry is always free, there'll be a free treat, such as a bag of flour at Cogglesford and refreshment at Cranwell when mentioning Discover Lincolnshire.

Cogglesford will be open 11am to 4pm; Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre 10.30am to 3.30pm; Navigation House 11am to 4pm; and Mrs Smith's Cottage 10am to 4pm.

Heckington Mill will also be open both days, 12pm to 4pm and St Deny's Church, Sleaford from 9am to 4pm on the Saturday and 7.30am to 7pm on Sunday.



The 2012 Heart of Lincolnshire Visitor Guide is just as useful for local residents as those from further afield.

As well as compressive listings of places to stay, to visit and to dine, there are features on aviation heritage, Stepping Out walks, community arts trails and celebrating the area's status in the heart of Britain's Favourite Food Spot.

Call in to any Council outlet, detailed on page 2, or tourist attraction for a copy.

It can also be downloaded at www.n-kesteven.gov.uk

Former V-Force personnel sought

Former personnel and others connected with the Vulcan Bomber's time at local airbases are being called up for a reunion event.

The team behind previous get-togethers of former V-Force air and ground crew personnel is staging another two day event on April 28 and 29 at the Newark Air Museum, where Vulcan XM594 is now based.

It also fits with commemoration of 60 years since the formation of the V-Force; the 50th Anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis; and the 30th Anniversary of the Falklands Campaign.

Local V-Force bases include RAF Waddington, RAF Coningsby and RAF Scampton, close to which many former crew members still live. There was also manufacturing capacity at Avro Vulcan in Bracebridge Heath.

The event is open to the public, with displays relating to the V-Force. Details at www.newarkairmuseum.org.uk

Reunion details at www.vforcereunion.co.uk or contact Don Chadwick at 01254 771756 or Foxbarn@btopenworld.com



Cold War Vulcan at Waddington

Aviation Heritage

North Kesteven is so rich in aviation, past and present, that an Airfield Trail has been created to ensure every aspect of this proud part of our heritage can be found.

The pocket-sized North Kesteven Airfield Trail guide is an ideal booklet to keep in the car for those moments when a scenic and interesting detour is called for.

It takes in the obvious operational sites of RAF Waddington and RAF Cranwell, their viewing areas, details a further eight long-since demised airfields and discusses Digby whose role continues to be critical if not always immediately clear.

Key to the North Kesteven aviation heritage story are the four visitor centres at Cranwell, Metheringham, Digby and Waddington, which form a substantial mass within the Aviation Heritage Lincolnshire partnership that represents 10 key sites across the county.

The partnership involves three district councils, including NKDC, and the county council, with the

aim of raising the profile of aviation heritage across the county, through co-ordination, visitor trails and participation in the AHL Passport Scheme.

RAF Waddington is today the home of the Sentry E-3D AWACS and Sentinel R1 surveillance aircraft but was home to the Vulcan bombers during the Cold War and traces its origins back to the Royal Flying Corps in World War I.

A thriving heritage centre can be visited, for free, by appointment only. Details on 01522 726603.

There's also the viewing enclosure on the A15 for watching aircraft come and go.

Whilst Lincolnshire is known as Bomber County, the aviation heritage in North Kesteven is quite diverse. At RAF Digby you can view the original Fighter Command plotting table in the Lima Operations Museum and learn the history of the Fighter Command airfields at Digby, Coleby Grange and Wellingore. Open every Sunday, May to October, for guided tours at 11am.

Group visits by arrangement. Details on 01526 327619.

Cranwell Aviation Heritage Centre in North Rauceby tells of the training role of RAF Cranwell and the RAF College. Run by NKDC, it also traces the history of the Royal Naval Air Service in Lincolnshire prior to the formation of the Royal Air Force. Special events on May 12 and 13 celebrate Cranwell's centenary as the world's first military air academy.

Open 10.30am to 4.30pm daily, closing at 4pm in March. Details on 01529 488490.

Metheringham Airfield Visitor Centre at Martin Moor is run entirely by volunteers and portrays the austere life at a wartime airfield which had tremendous losses. It was from here that Norman Jackson flew with 106 Squadron and was awarded one of the last Victoria Crosses of WWII. Open Wednesdays, 11am to 4pm and Weekends, 11am to 5pm from end of March. Groups welcome by arrangement. Details on 01526 378604.

Launch pad

An exhibition at the Whisby Natural World Centre, offers a launch pad for discovering the District.

From April 28 to June 10, you can find out where to source a working forge, medieval tower or see how flour is ground in a restored water mill.

A display from Hill Holt Wood shows the value of ancient woodland and a quiz will intrigue everyone.

During the week from June 2 there will be a number of children's workshops linked to the exhibition.

The centre and Nature Park offer a huge number of activities and attractions for all the family, from extensive dog walking and bird-watching opportunities, to adventurous play on the award-winning Little Darters complex or simply to sit and sip in the lakeside café.

Details on 01522 688868 or visit www.naturalworldcentre.co.uk

Aviation tours

The growing success of NKDC's aviation tourism sector has led to a rush of early bookings for its Behind the Scenes events.

In recent years a package of special-access tours has drawn visitors from across the country to discover the history and meet serving personnel at RAF personnel at RAF College Cranwell, RAF Digby and RAF Waddington.

Months ahead of both the Cranwell and Waddington events the limited places sold out, leaving just a few remaining for RAF Digby on May 25 where the visit includes access to the Lima Sector Operations Room. Tickets £15, booking essential on 01529 414155 or email Deborah_Roberts@n-kesteven.gov.uk

Aubourn heritage

Monthly open days held at Aubourn Clock Tower will showcase the historical items displayed in the community facility.

The Community Heritage Room has been refurbished over recent years by Aubourn and Haddington Parish Council and provides a facility for meetings and events.

The Heritage Room will be open between 2pm and 4pm on Sundays, April 14, May 13, June 17 and July 15.

Admission is free with second-hand book sales supporting upkeep of the clock. There is disabled access and toilet facilities available. Details from the parish clerk on 01522 789630.

Cycling legends become landmarks to enhance new route

Three cycling legends have now become NK landmarks as part of the new cyclepath linking Leasingham and Sleaford.

With an enhanced bridge and path across the A17 at Holdingham ensuing safer cycling and walking between the village and the town for travellers on foot, bike or wheelchair, it's hoped that the figures of the cyclists will motivate others to take this safer and quicker route without having to negotiate the busy dual carriageway.

The characters feature as cut-outs alongside a bench as part of a national programme that links all 79 similar small-scale but high-impact projects across the country which are part of the same Sustrans Connect2 scheme. Low level solar lighting is also being installed.

The idea is that walkers and cyclists

will stop and have their photographs taken alongside the life-size portraits of popular Sleaford cycle shop owner Nev Crane, retired dental surgeon Mark Gould who cycled between Leasingham and his Seaford practice four times a day, and cycle-crazy 10-year-old Oliver Harding who's always on his bike in Leasingham.

They were all chosen from public nomination and they and their families are all thrilled with the sculptures which make a striking addition to the well-used path created by NKDC in association with the County Council and sustainable transport charity Sustrans.

Nev Crane was known as 'Mr Cycle'. He travelled the world competing and regularly took part in the Milk Race, a triumph captured in his portrait. His widow Jean said he would be hugely impressed with the



Connect2 route, the bridge and the bench he now features on.

"Given all the efforts Nev made towards safer cycling in Sleaford it's great that through the bench his memory can continue to have a positive influence," she said.

Although no longer cycling himself, Mark Gould hopes the path will inspire others to commute daily or just to make the occasional journey into town by foot or cycle. His wife Pat said: "It's completely transformed the trip into Sleaford and we're pleased to see so

many people use it."

Leasingham Primary School pupil Oliver Harding said the path offered 'a safer and quicker way to get across the A17 and means we can easily get on to the other cycle paths for longer journeys'.

The bench is funded by the sustainable transport charity Sustrans as part of its support for the route which also drew funding from NKDC and the county council and is being delivered through a community steering group.

North Kesteven Community Safety Partnership



Low crime levels continue

Crime in the District continued to fall in 2011 through the co-ordinated work of the NK Community Safety Partnership and its partner agencies.

In North Kesteven, crime fell by 4.1% from April to December compared to the same nine months in 2010.

The continued fall can be attributed to the way the District is policed, with a Joint Agency Group managing hotspot areas where there is identified concern over crime and anti-social behaviour.

Each hotspot has its own problem-solving plan with each agency putting in different interventions appropriate to local need which might be a zero tolerance to ASB from the police, council promotion of reporting crime or extended opening of the local youth club. Such proactive and practical measures help to prevent crime from happening in the first place.

Such strategic and co-ordinated work, coupled with these priorities, helps to keep crime levels low:

- Funding activities for young people, to reduce ASB
- Funding domestic abuse services to support sufferers
- Part funding the shop-watch radio scheme to reduce theft from shops.

Quickly & quietly, without mess or stress

Acquisition of door opening devices will save the Council and other social landlords money and secure speedier access to properties.

The CSP has bought the smart new tools to help police officers to enter properties, quickly and quietly, without making a mess of the door and stressing other residents by using a door ram.

For many reasons the police need to enter properties without the owner or tenant's consent, often using a ramming device which damages the door and frame and they often need replacing, which has cost implications.

Partnership chairman Cllr Mike Gallagher said: "This is an innovative way of saving the local authority money and supporting the Police in their job of fighting crime."

It's that Easy education programme

An education programme is being launched by the CSP in association with secondary schools in the District.

Residents say they support enhanced education of children over themes associated with anti-social behaviour.

The "It's That Easy" project will be rolled out initially to current Years 9 and 10 though the year and then to every subsequent year group so that every young person in the District will eventually have the same educational input.

The aim is to help young people understand the consequences of crime and ASB, on themselves and their community, by illustrating just how easy it is to make positive or negative choices that either lead away from or towards criminality and custody.

Partners include Lincolnshire Police – focusing on public disorder; Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue – focusing on arson and fire safety; Lincolnshire Children's Services – focusing on internet safety; Lincolnshire Co-operative – focusing on alcohol safety; Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership – focusing on road safety; and NKDC – focusing on anti-social behaviour.

Responders to Warmth

Living in Lincolnshire, suffering from ill health and requiring assistance to keep warm?

Responders to Warmth may be able to assist

Contact us for details on the services

available on 0845 606 4566

admin@responderstowarmth.co.uk

www.responderstowarmth.co.uk

Income, savings and health eligibility criteria apply.
Details on application.



More homes planned for need

NKDC is continuing in its drive to deliver properties to satisfy local demand for quality, affordable homes

Thirty five families are settled into the comfort of the new homes NKDC has built across the District through its pioneering drive to improve the supply of affordable, quality housing in the District.

On top of this 11 more are being built at Martin which will complete the £6.2m project for 46 homes over two years, jointly funded by the Council and the Homes & Communities Agency.

The Council is also looking at options to increase its stock of homes for individuals and families in need even further.

Officers are now working up plans for three more sites across the District to be ready for whenever fresh

funding becomes available, so that there is no time wasted in delivering more homes.

Alongside that, other initiatives being progressed to maximise the supply of quality affordable housing include support to revitalise empty homes, working with other social housing providers to deliver quality projects and Living Lincolnshire which promotes the need for provision of land in rural communities to meet local people's need for affordable homes.

Through its foresight and efficiency, NKDC took the lead in building council homes again once funding rules changed and has now built 10 schemes in Sleaford, Ruskington,

Branston, Waddington, Wellingore, Martin and North Hykeham to meet local demand.

All have been built to highly sustainable standards above and beyond requirements to ensure they are as comfortable and cost-efficient to live in as possible.

"There is a great need for such housing in North Kesteven, where we are ahead of the game by building to meet people's need," said Council Leader Cllr Marion Brighton.

"Every time I see one of the completed schemes I am struck by the quality of them. Every one is designed and built to the highest quality and I certainly wouldn't mind living in one," she said.

Neighbour nuisance ended

Action by the District Council has brought an end to a reign of terror for neighbours of a Sleaford man.

He was evicted from his flat following a catalogue of anti-social and criminal behaviour which was dealt with through a joint operation between the authority's housing and ASB teams and Lincolnshire Police.

The Court awarded the Council an immediate possession order enabling it to evict the tenant, who was also told to pay the £750 legal costs.

The case was brought to a conclusion in the courts because his behaviour did not improve despite repeated efforts of lower-scale intervention to a total of 97 complaints over a year relating to persistent loud

noise, swearing, damage and affray.

In two further cases tenants were warned that they will face immediate eviction if the neighbourly nuisance they have engaged with continues. The warnings relate to tenants in Sleaford and Ruskington and hangs over them for a year through a suspended possession order.

Cllr Stewart Ogden, Executive Board member for housing, said: "The Council has a number of ways to manage nuisance inflicted by tenants on neighbours and the wider community and, as a signatory of the Respect standard of Housing Management, we do not hesitate to robustly enforce the terms of the tenancy to ensure a safe and peaceful life for all."

Billinghay plan is moving forward

Billinghay is using a funding grant to pioneer a Neighbourhood Plan.

This is a new approach to planning, giving communities the chance to decide what goes where in their parish. They will also help to assess physical assets and set out what should be protected and where future development should go.

The process of preparing the plan is still in the early stages, being taken forward by a group of residents who came forward to form a working group late last year. It meets monthly and wants to engage with other residents as the plan progresses. Email partnership_nk@n-kesteven.gov.uk to be kept up to date with progress.

Monthly drop-in sessions at the Foyer

If ever you're in need of advice on financial matters, community policing, housing or volunteering, there's now a monthly session at Sleaford Foyer open to all.

The Wednesday drop-in sessions are held at the East Road facility, with each subject dealt with in turn.

Sleaford CAB is there 10-11am on April 4, May 2, June 6 and July 4.

Local police officers will be there on March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13 and July 11, 2-3pm.

Sleaford Volunteer Centre will be inhouse, 11am-noon, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20 and July 18.

Notts Community Housing's floating support will be there 2-3pm on March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27 and July 25.

Empty homes are a cost to owners

Owners of empty homes are missing out on more than £5,000 a year it is estimated.

This figure varies slightly according to property size and many other variables, but it is a typical sum that represents around £4,500 in lost rental income potential and around £600 in Council Tax costs.

The alternative is to improve the property and let it out, which is something the Lincolnshire Empty Homes Project can help with.

In the 10 months to February, the project helped bring 17 empty homes back in to use in North Kesteven alone, which contributes towards the District Council's aims of increasing the availability of affordable housing and helping the 1,300 families on the housing waiting list.

The project provides advice and information such as assisting in building schemes, helping with selling and letting and enforcement against owners who neglect their properties.

In North Kesteven there are 684 homes standing empty for six months or more, mostly in private ownership. Each one has a different history and the Council can advise about options for its re-use.

If you own an empty home and want to discuss your options, or live near one and want to report any concerns you have about it, call project officer Luke Taylor on 01529 308297 or email luke_taylor@n-kesteven.gov.uk.

More details of the Empty Homes Project are online at www.lincsemptyhomes.org.uk

Optimism and occupancy levels both rise as businesses relocate

The rising number of firms choosing to locate to Council business parks shows optimism for the local economy's future

As work begins on the Council's seventh cluster of workshop units to cater for new and growing small businesses, it can report 100% occupancy at half of the existing sites and high take-up at the others.

New businesses moving in say favourable costs, good transport links and quality of life are all important reasons for coming to NK.

Chartered surveyors Hodgson Elkington LLP manage the centres on NKDC's behalf, most recently letting to an online first aid equipment sales company at Billingham Business Park where helpful incentives, flexible rental terms and security on site have been important factors.

The new Sleaford Business Centre opened only a year ago has tempted a national fabrics wholesaler to relocate from Leicester, with new staff recruitment prospects set to follow.

With an archaeological business in there too, just two of the eight units remain available at the converted station building, with a party potentially interested in one of those.

"The recent lettings, occupancy levels and general interest in workshops, offices and craft units are



Marie Gutteridge with new business tenants Russell Trimble and Nitin Noble at the Sleaford Business Centre

a reflection of a genuine desire to operate in North Kesteven at a time when other areas of the country are struggling," said Marie Gutteridge who handles the lettings.

Across the estate of 61 units in six locations, the occupancy is 90%, with the Aubourn Enterprise Centre, Moorlands Trading Estate in Metheringham and St John's Craft Workshops in Bracebridge Heath all at capacity; both Billingham Business Park and Reedspire in Sleaford at 80% and the Sleaford station site at 75%.

North Kesteven District Council Leader Cllr Marion Brighton OBE said the confidence shown by start-up and incoming businesses in the District and the Council's provision for them,

underlined the Council's priority in supporting a vibrant economy locally.

"There are many reasons why North Kesteven is a first-choice as a place to do business which are underlined by the recent survey highlighting its quality of life.

"It is reassuring that high level of occupancy at Sleaford station in particular exceeds all aspirations so soon and that all of our sites are proving to be so popular, which underlines our fresh investment in the creation of 14 new workspaces at Bracebridge Heath to offer a further 15,000 square feet of flexible and adaptable accommodation to suit fledgling enterprise," said Cllr Mrs Brighton.

In the first of a new series of firm facts about businesses in the District, newsnk visits Househam Sprayers Ltd at Leadenham

Housham Sprayers is the UK's leading supplier of agricultural spraying machines, having grown significantly over the past 30-or-so years.

Alongside the HQ at Leadenham Forge there's a sales arm at Woodhall Spa and a small manufacturing plant in Hungary.

Of the 102 Lincolnshire employees 72 are based at Leadenham, where self-propelled crop sprayers are designed and made, taking two weeks to build a sprayer.

As a significant player on the domestic and European markets, Househam specialises in meeting bespoke requirements, adapting equipment to cater for all crops from grass to sunflowers whilst most competitors can only offer standard products.

The strong growth overseas, especially in eastern Europe is relatively recent and sales are also made in Australia and New Zealand. Field days will be held across Europe this year to demonstrate the locally-assembled products.

It was a desire to create the right impression with overseas visitors particularly which was a strong motivation in the recent office

refurbishment with new entrance.

The company offers two apprenticeships and employs a graduate placement annually, generally recruiting from prestigious Harper Adams University College.

Having attended on one of the monthly visits made by the Leader, Chairman and local ward Members to businesses across the District, Cllr Mrs Brighton said: "It's fascinating to learn what a major force Housham is on the international agricultural machinery scene. Househam is another of the unsung success stories of North Kesteven; carrying the District's name around the world."

> A visit to the perfume factory in Metheringham was equally inspiring, seeing how it had risen like a phoenix from the ashes following a staff-led buy-out after the previous operation went into administration a year ago. Although employing only a fifth of the previous numbers, a high-profile client base inspires great optimism.



Siemens shows its economic mettle

The main steel framework is now in place for Siemens' £25m facility at the District's newest business park, Teal Park.

The nine-month construction phase alone is expected to create jobs for around 250 construction workers.

The company is relocating its gas turbine business from existing sites in central Lincoln to a new complex of 50,000 sq ft of offices and 85,000 sq ft of servicing premises, becoming the anchor tenant of Teal Park which has the potential to attract £500m of business investment and create some 4,000 jobs over the next 10-15 years.

Siemens' plan is to move its workshop and staff to Teal Park later this year, ready to start operating in early 2013.

Apprenticeships Training Agency

An initiative making it easier for young people to find apprenticeships, and small businesses to find apprentices will be launched in late spring.

The purpose of the pilot is to help young people find placements in small county firms, and encourage firms to consider apprenticeships, by minimising their exposure to the risks associated with employment of apprentices.

To find out more, contact Partnership NK on 01529 414155, or partnership_nk@n-kesteven.gov.uk

In these belt-tightening times it makes sense for businesses to cut costs wherever they can

The Council's SustainNK team offers companies free advice, on-site consultation and tailored reports to suggest options which will cut outputs of both cash and carbon. They can also identify sources of further support, grants and advice and highlight initiatives such as tax relief on capital energy expenditure and feed-in tariffs.

sustainnk
This is a North Kesteven District Council Service

To find out how your business could benefit email sustainNK@n-kesteven.gov.uk or call 01529 414155

Council case for Sleaford regeneration is strengthened

Actions taken by North Kesteven District Council in respect of Sleaford's regeneration have been endorsed by a High Court Judge.

In dismissing a Judicial Review application brought by town firm Turnbull & Co against the Council, Mr Justice Ouseley said NKDC had acted responsibly within its regeneration remit, having fully considered and taken balanced and measured assessments of all the implications.

The award of full costs against Turnbull's reflected the Judge's conclusive determination that there was no basis to Turnbull's case.

Council Chief Executive Ian Fytche said: "The judgement confirms the decisions made by the Council. It is an unequivocal outcome which reinforces what the Council is doing in

respect of Sleaford's regeneration and the processes it is taking to achieve its aspirations.

"Having stood up to the most forensic examination at the highest level and found to be robust, residents can be confident in the quality of the Council's decision-making."

Turnbull raised six grounds for challenging the way the Council handled the Tesco application for a new store and associated requirement for a new link road and level crossing closure.

The Judge determined the crossing closure and wider regeneration proposals would not compromise the business' future and that the Council had adequately assessed all impacts on the business and appropriately concluded that it did not undermine it.

He found the various planning

committee reports had been balanced, comprehensive and robust and thorough in their consideration of all implications.

His judgement was that the Council had appropriately considered the Tesco application – and wider implications on the transport network that flow from that - and that the Tesco and link road aspects were inextricably linked.

Mr Justice Ouseley's decision enables the Council to finalise the planning permission for the Tesco store and gives greater confidence to move forward with other aspects of the town's regeneration.

It also adds weight to the approval of the Sleaford Maltings redevelopment, with its critical link road to be entirely funded by Tesco.

Development activity is generated by power plant

Groundwork in advance of building the £100m Sleaford Renewable Energy Plant will begin shortly.

With roadworks on the A17 to improve access scheduled to be completed by early March, contractors will move on to the Boston Road

access. Archaeological investigations of the site are also underway and the anticipation remains for the generation of renewable energy to begin in early 2014.

The project will now be owned by the BNP Paribas Clean Energy Fund,

with Eco2 continuing to manage the construction and long term operation.

As part of Eco2's wider package of community benefits, it will be pumping heat from the power station to five community assets in the town, including the refurbished Leisure Centre.

Building Control awards

New annual awards celebrate excellence in design and development quality

The first NK Building Control Awards were made to North Hykeham firm Danwood and its associated contractors in recognition of the excellence involved in their recent expansion project.

The call centre and customer experience centre at the company's national HQ in Whisby Road is now being put forward for the regional LABC awards, which honour designers, developers and builders involved in schemes which the local Building Control Unit considers to be worthy of recognition.

This may be because of the unusual design or innovative idea or quality of the project as a whole.

The team suggested Danwood – one of the country's largest office print suppliers – and was so impressed with the contribution of architect Dan Rontree at Heronswood and contractor Stuart Jesson that they presented three certificates in total.

Cllr Richard Wright who has Executive oversight of building control, made the presentation. "We were very impressed with the Danwood project because of the building's transformation both in terms of design and quality of workmanship throughout the project," he said.

"Danwood's achievements exemplify the aspirations of the building control unit



in promoting excellence at every level within the safe development of accessible buildings."

Only those schemes which have chosen to use the local authority's building control services are eligible for the LABC regional awards.

By using the authority's services clients can also be assured of:

- Extensive technical expertise
- Value for money
- Local knowledge and a quick response
- Advice on other access & safety matters
- Professional face-to-face and direct telephone enquiries.

The Building Control Unit delivers a safe built environment, ensuring the health and safety of people in and around buildings, their welfare and convenience, furthering the conservation of fuel and power and ensuring reasonable provision of disabled facilities.

The Unit provides a plan-checking and site-inspection service to the public, builders, architects and developers to ensure compliance with building regulations, and also has responsibility for:

- > Dealing with dangerous structures and demolitions to ensure public safety
- > Enabling the public to view the public sewer maps
- > Keeping the register of Approved Inspector building regulation applications
- > Land Charge enquiries
- > Promoting access for the disabled

Cheaper heating oil offer

A bulk-buying scheme for heating oil can reduce costs and bring wider community benefits for residents in rural parts of the District.

The community organisation Community Lincs is spearheading the scheme locally as part of a national programme. While it will take orders direct from consumers they also plan to recruit an army of co-ordinators to handle local arrangements.

In return for an annual fee, Community Lincs will offer a price a few pence per litre below the prevailing rate charged by other suppliers.

Community Lincs' Chief Executive Fiona White is confident of success where there is a heavily reliance on heating oil in

rural areas, having been proved to work in other parts of the UK.

"Given the dramatic increase in the cost of oil, we are committed to delivering a service that will provide some financial relief for hard hit families and businesses," she said.

To access the scheme the annual membership fee is £20 for householders, £30 for community buildings/voluntary groups and £100 for business.

Mrs White says the outlay will be more than made up by the savings on the oil purchase price. Local co-ordinators have the membership fee waived.

Further information at
www.communitylincs.com
or on 01529 301980

mynk

Name: **Karen Lowthrop**
Job title: **Chief Executive Officer, Hill Holt Wood**

Where do you live? In a self-build eco house at Hill Holt Wood. We are only one of a 1,000 families in the UK that live 'off the grid', collecting rainwater and producing our own electricity without being connected to the national grid.

How did you end up living there? Having bought a wood 17 years ago with a vision of 'proving the value of ancient woodland in the 21st century' we moved into a caravan awaiting planning permission. The Social Enterprise business was soon up and running but it was another 10 years before we moved into our log cabin. Hill Holt Wood is a community owned and controlled business which owns 22 acres of the woodland and we live on the remaining 14 acres. I have a lovely walk to work!

Where would you recommend people to visit in the District? The District has something to offer everyone. Visits to the Natural World

Centre and the National Centre for Craft & Design are always inspirational. Walking is a fun way to keep fit so getting out on the Stepping Out walks is a great way to discover new places. Skellingthorpe Old Wood, Tunman and of course Hill Holt Wood are favourites.

What NKDC service do you appreciate most? It's no accident that NK has been identified as one of the best places to live for good quality of life. I appreciate the innovative way the District Council, its members and officers work in providing top quality services to its customers. Hill Holt Wood plays a role in delivering some of those services through WatchNK to ensure a greener, cleaner environment.

What does North Kesteven mean to you? As a social entrepreneur I love living within a District which is forward thinking and cares about its people, places and the environment, the triple bottom line.



Nathan Cook was a 'natural leader'

Tributes have been paid to the energetic, visionary and inspiring contributions made by an enthusiastic member of the NK Youth Council.

Although he had only been on the group a year and attended three meetings, Nathan Cook's contribution was significant, making mature and sensible suggestions for improved services to suit teenagers in the District and efficiently keeping meeting records.

He died suddenly, aged 14, at Christmas as a result of leukaemia.

His Youth Council colleagues have vowed to redouble their efforts in ensuring teenagers' perspectives are more fully considered in all aspects of life in North Kesteven



Nathan Cook, seated in black, with Youth Council colleagues

and fulfilment of his projects.

"Nathan was a dedicated member of our team. He contributed a lot of fantastic ideas, brought fun into our meetings and was genuinely a lovely guy who will be dearly missed by us all," they said.

Children's Services Officer Jade Warren, said: "Youth Council meetings were different when Nathan was there, he brought energy and enthusiasm that everyone could see and feel. He had great ideas and was willing to lead; he was wise beyond his years, with a mature approach to his work and a natural leader."

Cllr Susan Waring has Executive oversight of youth matters. Impressed with Nathan's immediate effect in helping the group gel together, she said: "Nathan was very passionate about the Youth Council's objective of giving young people a voice. The group will continue to work hard in this area and ensure the projects that he initiated continue."

Do you have views on the way NKDC shapes and delivers its services?

If so you are key to the way we operate and your suggestions will be most valued

The Council has a Viewpoint Panel which is a prime focus for active consultation with residents to ensure we are meeting expectations and responding to needs. This is a panel of around 1,200 people whose feedback is regularly invited through surveys, focus groups and public meetings. To ensure our panel is truly representative of the local

community we are always looking for new members. The Council is committed to eliminating discrimination and to actively promoting equality of opportunity for everyone who lives, works or visits here, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, religion or belief, race, ethnic origin or nationality, disability or age. Consultation helps us to make sure we are providing fair and equal access to all our services.

To be involved, contact the Corporate Information Manager on 01529 308237 or email research@n-kesteven.gov.uk

**North Kesteven
VIEWPOINT PANEL**

Arts and theatre offerings spring eternal

From bunting for a Queen's Jubilee to swing for a king, North Kesteven's cultural outreach has it all



National Centre for Craft & Design Navigation Wharf, Sleaford. Further details on 01529 or www.thehubcentre.info



Until April 15 Museum of Broken Relationships

A collection of keepsakes from around the world tell of long-lost passions or momentous moments in life.

Created in Croatia, the exhibition began as a local art installation and is now a permanent museum in Zagreb, collecting and presenting anonymous objects and stories from communities around the world.

From the tragic and war-torn, to the simple, sexy, silly and downright hilarious, the objects and their stories strike a chord with everyone – especially those contributed locally which now become part of the permanent evolving collection.

April 28 to July 1 Made in the Middle

This is the Midlands' main exhibition of contemporary craft which takes place every three years promoting regional excellence in woven textiles, precision leather cutting, dramatic silverware, paper jewellery, colourful glass and ceramics including those of Sleaford ceramicist Kate McBride.

Admire and wonder at home-grown talent and purchase a beautiful object for yourself, your home or as a gift for a loved-one from this fascinating exhibition, taking place in the Main Gallery.

Until April 29 Transplantation

Contemporary jewellery by British and Australian artists explores a sense of place and cultural identity through the upheaval of cultural transplantation. A powerful and thought-provoking exhibition that encourages viewers to consider how the topic relates to them.

Roof Gallery and in the Town May 5 to June 24

Concrete Canvas: Craft and Design on the Streets of Sleaford

An exhibition with a difference, mostly taking place outside of the gallery. Bringing colour, social interaction and life to the streets of Sleaford this exhibition makes us look twice at our immediate surroundings and everyday routines. Site specific artworks by selected artists will pop up throughout the town during the course of the show, with an opportunity to add your own. The Roof Gallery will offer clues to discovering the whereabouts of these illusive artworks and document your interaction with them.

Special Events & Learning March 8, 7pm

Free film screening Oranges and Sunshine (15)
Details the scandal the forced migration of 130,000 children from the UK to Commonwealth countries on the promise of oranges and sunshine but what they got was hard labour and life in institutions.

March 9, 7.30pm Past Lives

A thought-provoking and engaging visual and live musical experience with recently discovered archive footage and new compositions by renowned musicians Cipher. For 16 years plus. £9 & £7.

April 9, 7pm Interactive Lecture with Gini Dellow

Local writer, Gini Dellow, explores the themes of The Museum of Broken Relationships and her recently completed semi-biographical novel; The Irony of the Rings, a story of a family torn apart by an adulterous affair, discussing how effective parenting based on a love, respect and responsibility can support children through broken relationships. For 16 years plus. £2 & £1.50.

April 28 Professional Practice Symposium

In partnership with Design Factory and artsNK and taking inspiration from Made in the Middle, we discuss and reflect

on the influences of cultural heritage in craft practice today. For 16 years plus. £30 & £20 including lunch.

May 5, 11am to 3pm Walk & Craft

A morning walk to inspire an afternoon of outdoor craft workshops and activities for all ages using ceramic, papermaking, concrete and textile crafts. Cost from free for under five to £8 for adults & £20 for families.

Workshops Saturday March 17, 1pm - 4pm Loved Again

Breathe new life into treasured objects, creating exciting, quirky and functional pieces. Ages 16 & above, £15.

March 24, 11am - 4pm Pretty as a Postcard

Create a textile postcard using vintage materials and trimmings. Tea & cake included. Ages 16 & above, £25.

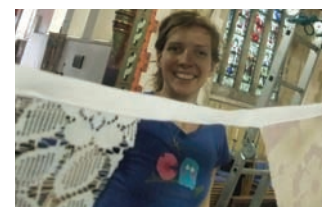
May 12, 10am - 4pm Knit the Streets

Challenge the concept of street

art through the application of craft practice. Tea & cake included. Adults, £25.

May 26, 1pm - 3pm Made of Mud

Get messy with sculptor James Sutton and create green graffiti. Cost from free for under five to £8 for adults & £20 for families.



June 4 Bunting

Prepare for the Jubilee celebrations by crafting a triangle – knitted, felt, embroidered, crocheted or appliquéd – to be strung into one complete length of bunting. Free. Entry closes on May 31.

Information about workshops and other events taking place through the season are detailed in the NCCD's brochure and online.

Terry O'Toole Theatre North Kesteven Centre, North Hykeham. Booking on 01522 870251 or www.terryotooletheatre.org.uk



April 1, May 6 & June 3, 7pm Reading Group

Monthly book club. Free entry.

March 18, April 22, May 20 & June 10, 7pm

TOTT live! Open Mic Night
Monthly showcase of local talent, join in or just sit back. Free entry.

artsNK Adult Musical Theatre Dance Class

Led by professional dance teachers, **every Thursday** in the NK Centre Dance Studio. Age 18+, £2.50 per class.

Djembe Drum Workshops
African drumming with Gambia master drummer Njega Sohna **every Tuesday** evening, 7pm. For ages 14+, £6 & £3.

March 14, 7.30pm Ian Siegal Band

Whether fronting his band or sitting solo with an old resonator guitar, Siegal's live country blues performances are captivating. Tickets: £12, £10 & £5.

March 15, 7.30pm The Alchemystorium

The Alchemystorium Cafe dispenses coffee in a highly unusual fashion, using silent physical comedy, striking visuals and puppetry Gomito present a new comic romance. For ages 12+ with some comic sex scenes. Tickets £9, £7 & £5.

March 17, 3pm The Secret Garden

New production links with the centenary of the classic children's story, blending storytelling with striking physicality, beautiful puppets, live singing and an original soundtrack. For ages 5+. Tickets £5, £18 for a family.

March 31, 7pm & April 1, 2.30pm Making Our Dreams Come True

A creative fusion of all forms of dance, visiting the circus, Alice's wonderland, the land of Oz and many other dreamy places. Tickets £8 & £5.

April 19, 7.30pm The Honey Man.

New Perspectives Theatre Co's fascinating and beautifully-detailed account of growing up and growing old through the unlikely alliance of a 15-year-old girl and an 'ancient' afro-Caribbean man at the edge of an English village. For adults and older children. Tickets £9, £7 & £5.

April 20, 7.30pm Tribute to the Kings of Swing

International vocalist Gary Grace makes a welcome return performing classic songs from Sinatra and The Rat Pack, Tony Bennett, Matt Monro, Nat 'King' Cole & Michael Buble. Tickets £12.50.

April 21, 3pm HullaBa Lulu



Entertaining, hilarious and poignant, show with exquisite puppetry, live music and songs to explore love through engaging characters and spellbinding story. For ages 5+. Tickets: £5 & £18.

April 27, 7.30pm Ayanna: Freedom Singer

British vocalist, cellist and composer Ayanna leads the way in Black folk music with a rich mix of soul, classical music and unique stories. Tickets £12, £10 & £5.

May 5, 7.30pm Liz Lenten Band

Tales of triumph and tribulations of life, family, relationships and love in song. Tickets £10 & £5.

May 19, 7.30pm Question Time

Hykeham & Swallowbeck Churches Together hosts a thought-provoking evening looking at the relationships between life, religion, politics and current affairs. Tickets £5.

May 25 & 26, 7pm Smith by Robert Staunton

A lively drama for all the family from in-residence community theatre company, ACTion@TOTT based on murder, mayhem and mysterious strangers. Tickets £7, £5 & £22 for a family.

May 31, 7pm Summer Primary Dance Showcase

A celebration of children's dance and the themes surrounding transition to secondary school based on artsNK work with children of Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. Tickets £3 & £2.

June 16, 7.30pm The Band of RAF Waddington

On the Queen's Official Birthday, the Band at RAF Waddington provides an evening of musical entertainment, conducted by Dave Jackson. Tickets £8.50 & £6.50.



June 22 - 24 7pm Dance Fever 6

Talented students of Lyndsey Ellis School of Dance present a high-energy, variety show featuring ballet, tap, jazz, breakdance, hip hop and musical theatre routines. 22 June, 7pm; 23 June, 3pm & 7pm; 24 June, 6pm. Booking advised, £7 & £6.50.

July 23-27 Madd Summer

Performing Arts Summer School for ages 8 – 14 years in music, dance and drama workshops to develop creativity in a fun and informal atmosphere. Booking essential, price held at £60 up to June 1 on 01529 410595 or artsnk@leisureconnection.co.uk

Break into Dance

If you're looking for a fun and creative way for you or your children to keep fit, why not try something a bit different with artsNK's hip hop classes?

The classes teach a variety of moves and styles ranging from hip hop to break dance – building skills and creativity and improving general fitness and strength too.

Guidance is given at the beginners class on Tuesdays from 4.45pm to 5.45pm and at the intermediate class, 3.30pm to 4.45pm, both at the NK Centre, North Hykeham.

Classes £2.50 per person each week, suitable for over 10s. **Details on 01529 411197 or artsnk@leisureconnection.co.uk**



Local animation group to be launched

A series of animation workshops is getting people animated in and around Sleaford.

anIM, an exciting new animation group set up by artsNK with Lincoln artist Gavin Street, will continue to give local people a chance to learn about and engage in animation.

Run in partnership with Kesteven and Sleaford High School it aims to get more people involved in digital art within their local community, initially producing a series of short films that explore the movements involved in exercise and keeping fit.

Once the pieces are complete, they may even be used as a practical guide for a health trail around Sleaford.

No previous arts, drawing or animation experience is necessary. For up to 18 participants on any day.

Details from artsNK visual arts manager Nick Jones on 01529 411190 or nick.jones@leisureconnection.co.uk

For more information and booking, call the NK Outreach Team on 01522 870252 or email nkyouthoutreach@leisureconnection.co.uk

Vitality team wins county award

A North Kesteven exercise scheme for older people and those with medical conditions has picked up one of the county's top sports awards.

NK's Vitality Team was announced as winner of the Lincolnshire Sports Partnership's Contribution to Physical Activity award.

The group which works alongside the artsNK team, beat off competition from eight other nominations.

Project manager Louise Thompson said the award recognised the team's hard work as well as the importance of the one hour sessions aim at improving balance, coordination and mobility in a social and fun environment by focussing on gentle exercises to increase flexibility, strength, posture and independence.

To find the nearest of the 50 Vitality classes to you, call 01529 411194 or visit www.vitalitylincs.co.uk

Pictured left to right: Elaine Knight, artsNK's Performing Arts Manager; Louise Thompson, Vitality Project Manager for Lincolnshire & Kimberley Wilson, Vitality Project Support Officer



Step out in Doddington

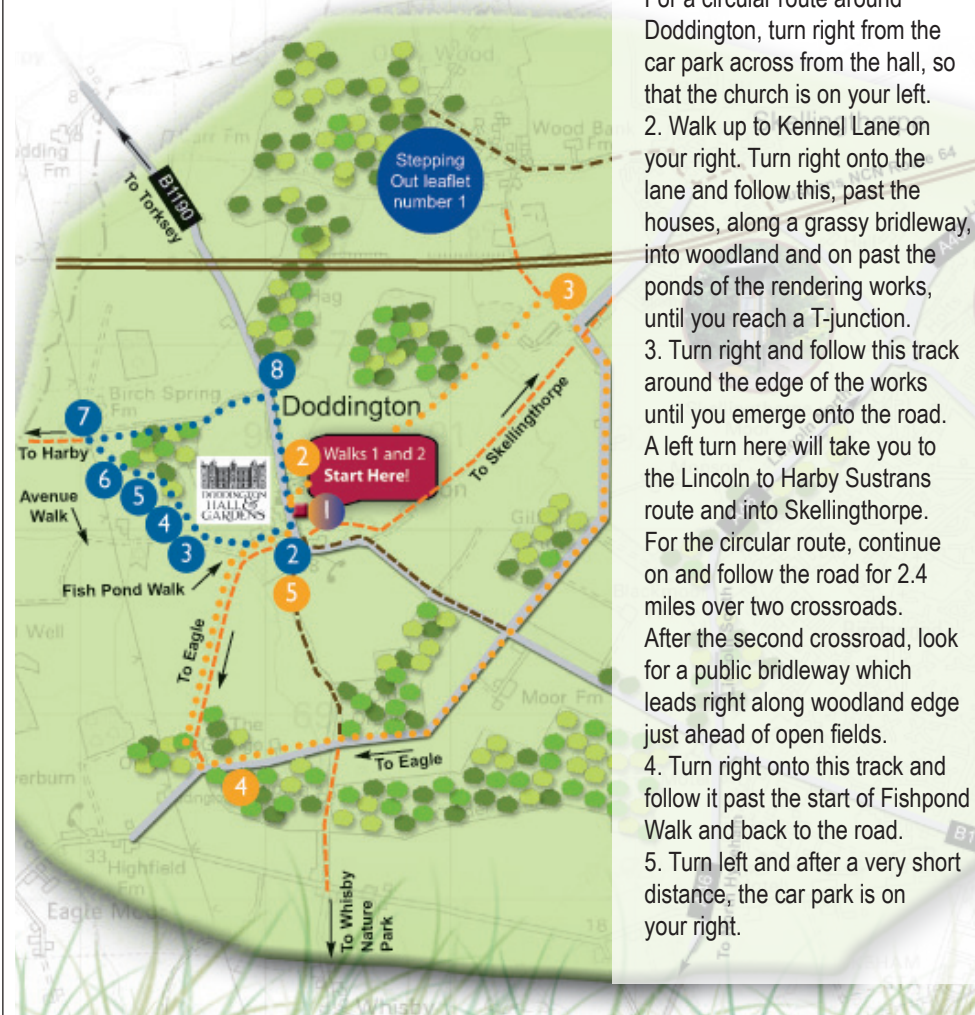
The new Doddington Stepping Out walks offer fresh opportunities to discover parts of the District other strolls struggle to reach

The Stepping Out series has been expanded with the addition of a new leaflet which brings the number of walks options up to 17.

The new leaflet follows the same easy-to-use clear

guidance as all of the others, detailing way-marked paths and local landmarks, with routes of 1.9 miles around the hall and 4.9 miles across wider countryside and others around the Doddington Estate.

These walks are centred on the 400-year-old Doddington Hall with easy links through to nearby Skellingthorpe Woods, Whisby Nature Park and other parts of the Witham Valley Country Park.



For a circular route around Doddington, turn right from the car park across from the hall, so that the church is on your left.
2. Walk up to Kennel Lane on your right. Turn right onto the lane and follow this, past the houses, along a grassy bridleway, into woodland and on past the ponds of the rendering works, until you reach a T-junction.
3. Turn right and follow this track around the edge of the works until you emerge onto the road. A left turn here will take you to the Lincoln to Harby Sustrans route and into Skellingthorpe. For the circular route, continue on and follow the road for 2.4 miles over two crossroads. After the second crossroad, look for a public bridleway which leads right along woodland edge just ahead of open fields.
4. Turn right onto this track and follow it past the start of Fishpond Walk and back to the road.
5. Turn left and after a very short distance, the car park is on your right.

The Natural World Centre, Whisby



Lincolnshire: Links to the Past Exhibition

The Natural World Centre and Lincolnshire Archives present an insight into the history of Lincolnshire.

The exhibition up to April 22 allows visitors to trace their family history using the new online search directory, 'Lincs to the Past'. Family research advice given free.

There's also film footage created by Lincolnshire Archives and local artwork inspired by family memories. Details from Ann Worrell, on 01522 688688.

Easter Half Term

Easter workshops, all suitable for ages four and above accompanied by an adult, £2.50 per child per session. Book on 01522 688688

2 - 6 April, 2pm - 3pm

2 April – Natural dyeing workshop

3 April – Crafty time – Make an

Easter Bonnet

4 April – Easter decorations

5 April – Easter masks

9 - 12 April, 10am – 11am

10 April – Make your own decorations

11 April – Make your own mask

12 April – Natural dyeing workshop

Photographic Competition

Submit photos taken at the Natural World Centre, Whisby Nature Park or Little Darters Wildlife Adventure Area into a competition to feature in the centre's 2013 calendar. Capture the beautiful flora and fauna through the camera lens as you explore the park.

Entries printed to A4 size in a frame and submitted between May 10 and June 10; for display from June 18 to July 15.

Two categories: up to 16 years and 17 years and above.

Entry details on 01522 688688 or email whisby@leisureconnection.co.uk

Thorpe on the Hill, 01522 688688 www.naturalworldcentre.co.uk

Sleaford Leisure Centre

Beginning at the end of the year, a comprehensive refurbishment will transform Sleaford Leisure Centre. The improved facility will be equipped to reflect the requirements and rising expectations of increasing numbers of users. Plans inspired by extensive consultation carried out over recent weeks are being drawn up as the Council prepares to make its £2.65m investment in the Eastbanks facility.



Ensure you're kept up to speed with progress by joining the users' forum or registering for newsletter updates by emailing sleafordleisureconsultation@n-kesteven.gov.uk or call 01529 308008 and leave a message.



North Kesteven Social Strollers

New Health Walks

Two new walks have been added to the North Kesteven Social Strollers' schedule of weekly health walks.

There's now a Thursday walk in Skellingthorpe and a second one in Ruskington on a Wednesday.

This gives eight free health walks, which are all defined as 'a short, safe, social, local, low level walk, often led by volunteers' and open for anyone to take part in by just turning up ready to go.

They are especially aimed at the over 60s to offer a low-intensity exercise of between 45 minutes and an hour.

Details from Donna Lill, on 01522 870252 or nkhealthandsports@leisureconnection.co.uk

Mondays from Billinghay Children's Centre LN4 4HU at 10am

Tuesdays from Leasingham Village Hall NG34 8LB at 11am

Tuesdays from Sleaford Leisure Centre NG34 7ET at 1.10pm

Wednesdays from All Saints Church, Ruskington, NG34 9EL at 10.30am and 1.30pm

Wednesdays from the Natural World Centre, Whisby, LN6 9BW at 11.30am

Thursdays from the Heritage Room, Skellingthorpe, LN6 5UU at 11am

Fridays from Metheringham Library LN4 3DZ at 11am.

Piecing the plan together



Central Lincolnshire
Joint Strategic Planning Committee

A major plan is being pieced together that will shape the places where we live, work, learn and shop.

This will form the Core Strategy of planning policies to support vibrant, attractive, flourishing, prosperous and sustainable communities within Central Lincolnshire – and you can be ahead of the game in ensuring it's the right picture.

The Core Strategy will be released for formal consultation during the summer, but you can familiarise yourself with – and help to form – the emerging model now by keeping a regular eye on the Joint Planning Unit's work at www.central-lincs.org.uk

This is a unique opportunity to be involved in placing the jigsaw pieces that will shape the communities in which you live.

A joint and co-ordinated approach is being taken for the forward planning of North Kesteven, West Lindsey and Lincoln City – which make up the Central Lincolnshire policy area, sharing the same vision through to 2030.

This has already identified the need for 42,000 more homes and 210 hectares of employment land across the entire 817 square mile area to support an anticipated population growth of 86,000.

New shops, schools, health facilities, open spaces, flood defences and energy sources all need to be fitted into the jigsaw too.

To make sure the right balance is struck and that the pieces are put in the right places to promote, protect and enhance the area, you need to get involved now.



01522 699013 / 01529 308084

@ Talkplanning@central-lincs.org.uk



www.central-lincs.org.uk