

## **Parish Update – March 2023**

### **South Kesteven Prosperity Fund**

I'm delighted to say that South Kesteven District Council has £1 million available for community projects across the district through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Applications can now be made now by town and parish councils, parish meetings, charter trustees and community groups to finance projects that deliver community improvements and build pride in place.

There are four project categories: building improvements; green space and outdoor improvements; culture, arts, and heritage; and heritage initiatives.

Applicants will need to show a need for their project, as well as demand and the ultimate benefit it will have for the community. The applications will then be considered by our UKSPF Board.

Full details – and an application form – are available on the South Kesteven website. I would urge you to share this news with all the community groups you are involved with so that we can make the best use of this opportunity.

### **Digital upgrade for CCTV**

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is also helping to make our District a safer and more secure place. A £284,000 project will see ageing CCTV technology upgraded, with a digital line installed and existing analogue cameras replaced with digital equipment.

We will have much clearer imaging and better picture and video sharing capabilities, far superior to analogue, and the new functionality could also allow us to deploy mobile CCTV in the future – good news all-round.

I will update you on our plans for investing the remainder of our £3.89 million UKSPF allocation as decisions are taken.

### **Tourism matters**

As you know, we are all committed to supporting tourism, which is incredibly important to the local economy.

Around 40 tourism venues and visitor businesses from right across the district came along to share ideas at a networking event in Bourne to explore how the sector can promote itself and work together better.

All the statistics point to the sector recovering well after Covid. In 2021 tourism contributed £168m to the South Kesteven economy, recovering from the £90m economic contribution during the pandemic lockdown and restrictions.

We are waiting for the 2022 figures but that's very positive progress. It shows the sector is bouncing back and we are here to help.

### **Council support for Deepings Literary Festival**

This year's Deepings Literary Festival, on May 27th and 28th, is being supported by South Kesteven District Council with a £2,179 Community Fund grant.

This donation will help facilitate a book-themed weekend of activities specifically for young families, involving local children's authors and performers.

Preparations are well under way for this year's festival, where free activities will add to the high-quality educational opportunities already scheduled.

As usual, events will take place at the Deepings Library and Community Centre and other venues.

This is one of the first awards from our Community Fund for 2023/24 and we are looking forward to supporting many more throughout year. If you would like to see if any groups you are involved with can apply, simply visit the South Kesteven District Council website and search for Community Fund.

### **Supporting the arts centres**

Stamford Arts Centre has been celebrating the great work of the venue and its creative contribution to the district.

In an event funded by Arts Council England, visitors enjoyed some family-friendly entertainment, performances from local and professional groups, plus displays of illuminating artwork.

We have a vibrant and diverse creative industry here in South Kesteven and Stamford Arts Centre is one of the Lincolnshire One Venues - a network that develops the cultural and creative landscape across our county.

There were live performances from the historian, Phillipa Massey, singer-songwriter Chloe Lorentzen and the Stamford Poet Laureate, Scott Coe. In addition to the performance work, workshops have been held with schools, community groups and residents to create the artwork that was put on display.

### **Award nomination for SKDC**

I am absolutely delighted that South Kesteven District Council is in the running for a prestigious national award, having been shortlisted in the Most Improved Council category in the Local Government Chronicle Awards 2023.

These awards share best practice across the local government community, promoting and sharing work to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government services across the UK.

Simply being shortlisted for an award is recognition of the hard work and dedication, on a daily basis, of all those striving to provide the best possible service to our residents and businesses, and we should all take pride in it.

### **SKToday has landed!**

Your latest edition of SKDC's community magazine, SKToday should be with you by now.

This issue is another important one as it contains the bin collections details for the various upcoming Bank Holidays.

Our editorial team has also put together advice on how households can better cope with the cost of living, facts and figures on the Council Tax and what we do with your payments – and it also features our vital homelessness prevention work and highlights some inspirational women of South Kesteven.

### **May local elections**

Finally, an important reminder that photo ID will be required to be able to vote at a polling station in May, when local elections take place across South Kesteven.

Accepted forms of photo ID include a passport, driving licence, Blue Badge, Older Person's bus pass, and identity cards with the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram. Most voters will already have an accepted form of ID - and those who haven't can apply online or via SKDC. Full details are on our website.