

GENERAL POINTS:

SKDC purchase of Langtoft housing for refugees: I attended the public meeting on 29th August. I think many of the issues here arise from the way in which it was communicated and a perceived lack of transparency. I have asked for a meeting with the director of housing (Craig Spence) and the portfolio holder for housing (Cllr Dilks) this week (w/c 4/9) to try to get a few answers to questions that I feel are still unanswered. Over the past few weeks I have had a few emails from residents who are not on social media. They have asked whether the village notice boards could have been used to broadcast the information regarding housing. I think that this is certainly something to bear in mind for the future as it would have been a suitable place to have displayed the SKDC Press Release at the time.

Ward Walk: Cllr Trollope-Bellew and I have very recently arranged a ward walk with Cllr Cleaver (Leader of the Council) around Casewick Ward. This will be 10-2pm on Friday 29th September. We will need to cover all of the Parishes within the ward but think it sensible to start in Langtoft. If members of the Parish Council would like to join us to express opinions or suggestions they are welcome to do so. It might be worth us hiring the hall at some stage but I am aware that the village toddler group use the hall on Friday mornings. Views from Parish Council welcome.

SK Funding workshops: There was a workshop held in Deeping in July. Information was provided to community groups on the various pots of money available, such as UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and how to apply. Further sessions will be held: 21 Sept - Stamford, 18 Jan - Grantham, 21 Mar - Bourne. The next session which is being held in Stamford is 6-8pm, 21 Sept, at the Corn Exchange

UK Shared Prosperity fund: First board meeting since the May elections took place during the first week of August. Less than £5k is now an officer delegated decision. More than £5k goes to the Board.

Recycling: Purple lidded bins to be introduced later this year with first collection early 2024 as per my previous report.

SKDC have put aside £300k to fund Green initiatives as part of the Climate change fund. Please get in touch if there are any Green initiative you would like to see the Council take forwards.

SK Today - this is now online only for households. There are some hard copies available in Deeping library if anyone would like one. (I have previously shared the online link on Life in Langtoft) The next edition will be available from 18th September: <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2321>

Meet the Cabinet sessions: An opportunity to meet the Councillors who form the SKDC Cabinet. If anyone would like to meet the SK Cabinet, they are holding open sessions each month. The last one was in Billingborough. September's one will be held in Deeping. I believe it is on Monday 25th September but I would be grateful if Cllr Dilks could confirm

Council in the Community Events: This is an opportunity for residents to speak to officers (as opposed to Councillors) in the community. The last one was held at the Bourne Corn Exchange on 17th August 12-2pm. Residents could discuss issues including housing,

environmental health, cost of living. I am not sure on the time or place of the next event but will share on Life in Langtoft as soon as I am able to do so.

Deeping Swimming Pool: LCC have stated that bids to take the site are to be submitted by the end of October

Mallard Pass: Site visits took place in August. Further hearings in September. Final decision expected before the end of the year.

SKDC Cost of Living: There are now two SKDC Cost of Living Advice Officers who can direct to financial support

Plans for Devolution: There are plans for possible devolution of some central government powers (and the money to fund them) to Lincolnshire. This would be delivered through a combined mayoral authority covering the whole of Greater Lincolnshire (made up of LCC, North Lincolnshire and the NE Lincolnshire areas). Once an agreement is reached between the Lincolnshire Councils a new combined authority would be created which would not take away any powers from district councils and none from our county council except the responsibility for transport strategy. You can read the plans

here: <https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s55045/Appendix%20A%20-%20Devolution%20Greater%20Lincolnshire%20Growth%20Energy%20Food.pdf>

Cllr Cleaver, Leader of the Council met with Cllr Gale Walker, Leader of Rutland Council the other week and discussions were had around how to keep the A1 clear of litter, improved rail services in Stamford and Oakham (SKDC has already responded to the national public consultation raising concerns about the proposed ticket office closure at Stamford Railway Station), EV charging point on the A1, Council cooperation in terms of leisure, culture and heritage projects and discussions around Stamford North/Quarry Farm.

Housing Register: Those on the Housing Register with SKDC will have received a letter asking them to reapply as the council is moving in to a Choice based letting system in due course.

Wait less App: NHS Lincolnshire would like feedback from members of the public who use the Waitless app. This is an app which enables users to see where NHS services are available and within what time frame. This includes urgent and emergent NHS care as well as Pharmacies. Details at www.e-waitless.com

Consultation on Community Strategy: Community groups and residents are being asked for their views on how SKDC can best support and develop the communities they serve. A four-week consultation was launched on Wednesday focusing on the building blocks that will underpin the Council's Communities Strategy.

The consultation offers residents, voluntary and community groups and other stakeholders the chance to help shape the Council's community leadership role. Key to the strategy are four principles: **Partnerships** – to nurture existing partnerships between the Council and the voluntary sector, as well as develop new ones **Inclusion** – to establish on-going dialogue with under-represented communities **Place-based community development** – to focus on issues, interconnections and relationships in specific areas and work to improve quality of life for the people who live there **Sustainability** – to support and maintain relationships with community and voluntary groups for as long as they need/want the Council's support To take part, please go to our website: <http://bit.ly/OurPeopleOurPlace>

SPECIFIC TO LANGTOFT:

Highways: 30mph up to Penfield - I have asked the question but this has been declined. Would suggest Cllr Dilks follow this up

BP fuels station: Large sign has gone. Last update was that enforcement were trying to establish what was and what was not acceptable in terms of the temporary lower level advertising. I received an update 5/9 and further correspondence is ongoing.

Fence 45 Manor Close: Land in question was probably under the ownership of the original developer from many years ago, although this has not been confirmed. Enforcement have issued a section 330 notice for change of use as unable to contact owner. I have asked for an update but have not heard anything more since last month's report as above.

Bins East End park: Have been emptied by SKDC as 'goodwill gesture' but they believe them to be the responsibility of the parish council. I have raised this with 19/8/23 and have not had a response.

Seat on swing West End Park in playing area: I have reported this to SKDC - Karen Whitfield's team investigating. I have been assured that this will be fixed it have not had confirmation that work is now complete

Anglia Water Pipeline: I have not had any further updates

Hope to see you next week,

Vanessa

Cllr Vanessa Smith

Casewick Ward

South Kesteven District Council