

## District Matters

**Recycling:** From September SKDC have been offering kerbside collection of batteries. It is hoped that this initiative will soon include the collection of single use vapes as well. The latter has been delayed because SKDC are awaiting an additional license for vape collection. Batteries can be left in clear plastic bags next to the wheelie bin every week. It is thought this new measure will reduce fires in bin lorries and recycling centres which can occur when batteries are crushed or damaged when they are inappropriately put into wheelie bins. Batteries can still be recycled at retail outlets as before. In the first week of this initiative 735kg of batteries were collected across the district. It is anticipated numbers to settle at around 75kg per day.

**Quarry Liaison Committee for Greatford:** First meeting on 25th September online. Not all representatives as outlined in the Section 106 were present. Landowner has kindly agreed to extend the invitation to neighbouring parish councils (Baston, Langtoft and Barholm/Stowe) as well as Greatford who were present at the meeting. Workings of the land have been suspended as per the planning conditions as access needs to be built first. LCC have approved plans for this. A company to extract the minerals is still being negotiated.

SKDC is offering a Tree Planting Guide, designed to provide advice to town and parish councils and guide community groups on how they can best ensure the success of local tree planting initiatives. (Copy attached). There is also a 100% funded, Make Space for Nature Biodiversity Projects Scheme, which also includes tree planting. With money from UKSPF for Green Space Improvement, South Kesteven District Council is looking to support town and parish-led rewilding initiatives that will provide biodiversity and social amenity value across the district. The first application window will shortly close on Monday 28th October 2024. This will be followed by a second deadline of Monday 16th December 2024. To complement this funding, SKDC has previously distributed our Rewilding Menu (please see attached). This document provides a comprehensive overview to the implementation of different biodiversity measures. Locations put forward for biodiversity improvements must be town, parish or county council owned and accessible to the public. All projects will need to conclude before the end of March 2025. Please direct any queries to [climatechange@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@southkesteven.gov.uk)

To view any SKDC active consultations go

to: <https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/consultations> (Currently a consultation on Design Code for the District - The code will set standards for how buildings, streets and public spaces should look, feel and function and will go through multiple stages of public engagement before being finalised. We're starting off by asking what your favourite and least favourite places and buildings are, and if they're appropriate examples for new development in the years to come. To participate, please visit <https://communities.createstreets.com/southkesteven> to share your views on a selection of buildings, places and streets. You can also click anywhere within the District to share your views on a place of your choosing. It will remain open until October 31.)

**Empty Homes Officer:** SKDC is looking to recruit an empty homes officer to address this problem.

Last Monday saw the formal opening of our new SKDC Customer Service Centre in Grantham. There are also customer service points at the Bourne Corn Exchange on Mon/Wed/Fri and there is a self-service access point at Stamford Arts Centre.

I have been contacted by a resident asking for the hedge at the bus stop, south bound A15 to be cut back. I have spoken to the owner and hedge cutting is planned for November

A15 Crossroads: A county matter but interestingly had a discussion about whether a timer could be put on the lights at Baston. I have suggested that the Baston County Councillor (Cllr Baxter) speak to Cllr Dilks.

Workings East End: No update

Anglia Water Pipeline: Likely to be another couple of years until works complete. SKDC are unable to take any enforcement action on this delay.

End