

Cluster News

PARISH PARTNERSHIPS

OCTOBER 2007

Welcome to the second issue of Cluster News.

You should already have an outline agenda for your next Cluster Meeting, but just to confirm NKDC items so far:-

1. Visioning for the Local Development Framework,
2. Nominations for / voting procedure for spending the Devolved Fund,
3. Planning /other training.

(The reverse of the agenda shows a summary of the proposed voting system for the Devolved Fund.)

Affordable Housing

Following analysis and consultation with Skellingthorpe, Doddington and Whisby Parish Councils, NKDC is looking for interested landowners to step forward and make themselves known!

The sites would be for 100% affordable housing and need to be appropriate for up to 20 dwellings. Valuations will be in line with the economics of delivering affordable housing.

For further details, including a list of all qualifying criteria, please contact Bob Keech on: Tel 01529 414155 x 2573 email: bob_keech@n-kesteven.gov.uk or at the address

below: Bob Keech, Rural Housing Enabler, North Kesteven District Council, Kesteven Street, Sleaford, Lincs. NG34 7EF

The closing date for expressions of interest is Friday November 2nd, 2007.

The Housing department is also developing a comprehensive **Shared Ownership** scheme. The scheme offers local people the opportunity to get onto the property ladder, with a bit of help from local Housing Associations. This should help our young employed people buy their first home by removing the barriers of high house prices and rising interest rates.

To find out more, please click on the link: www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/sharedownership

Community Payback Scheme

Can the National Probation Service help you solve any parish project problems?

Whether it's a new coat of paint on the village hall, trimming some hedges or clearing litter, the National Probation service can help.

Community Payback offers parishes the chance to carry out maintenance and improvements work **without any labour costs.**

Each project would be risk assessed so that only appropriate offenders attend.

The workers need to have access to toilet and drink making facilities, with the relevant tools and equipment supplied and they would need one

consistent contactable person throughout the project.

Want to know more?

If you would like to know more, contact **Val Molendo on 01529 308257** and if you are interested, she will arrange for an Officer from the National Probation Service to contact you..

Forthcoming Consultation

Please note that the closing date for the Parish Perception Survey is October 19th. Completed questionnaires should be returned to Diane Crawford, Policy Officer at the council offices.

Play and Youth strategies

The draft Play Strategy has been prepared and when it is available, we will provide you with a link to allow you to view it via our website.

We have now appointed a Youth Strategy Officer, Gemma McFaul, to consult with and develop service provision for the young people within the district.

Gemma, who has a vast professional experience of working with young people says; "I'm really looking forward to developing this new role and making a difference to the lives of young people in the district."

“Access all hours”

Does the prospect of having access to County Council services at a time convenient to you sound appealing?

Terry Frost, Special Projects Officer, at Lincolnshire County Council is looking for twenty-five parishes to assist in piloting this exciting new way to access services.

Terry Frost had this to say: “We are developing a reporting system that will enhance access to services and enable the reporting of issues and requests for service provision outside the normal constraint of office hours. This facility will also allow the customer to track the progress of their report/request 24 hours a day, seven days a week”.

Initially, a pilot project will run for 3 months starting early in 2008. This will cover a range of services provided by the Development Directorate (formerly Highways & Planning). This pilot will provide an opportunity to test and validate the new access channel in a controlled environment.

If you are interested in taking part in the test programme, please submit your details to:

Sharon Bark, NKDC, District Council Offices, Kesteven Street, Sleaford, NG34 7EF. Email: Sharon_Bark@n-kesteven.gov.uk
Tel: 01529 308262

Spires and Steeples

Spires & Steeples is a new long distance arts and heritage walk from Lincoln Cathedral to St Deny's Church in Sleaford. The project is being developed by NKDC, Lincolnshire County Council and artsNK. Washingborough, Heighington, Scopwick, Dorrington, and Sleaford are just some of the settlements along the way. We want to engage local groups and parish councils in the project, so please come to a workshop on October 14th, 2.30pm at Branston Church Hall. To find out more, please click on the link: www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/spiresteeples

Connect2 Cycle and Walk Network

North Kesteven is the only district in the County to have 2 schemes in the final shortlist of Connect2, an exciting potential new network of cycle and walking tracks across the UK.

Sustrans, the UK's leading sustainable transport charity, is aiming to create a national network of 79 new walking and cycling routes across the UK.

The vision is to get people making local journeys in ways that benefit their health and the environment as well as creating a sense of

community pride. The NKDC schemes are from Leasingham to Sleaford over the A17 at the Holdingham roundabout and a proposed rural pathway between Bassingham and Carlton Le Moorland.

The support of local people is vitally important to make Connect2 a reality. Connect2 is competing against five other projects for a single grant of £50 million from The Big Lottery Fund's Living Landmarks: The People's Millions, with the winner to be decided by public television vote on December 8th and 9th.

Register your support on the website at www.sustransconnect2.org.uk or Text Connect2 to 80010.

Anti-Social Behaviour

North Kesteven District Council has made tackling the causes and impact of Anti Social Behaviour one of its six key priorities.

Although crime rates are low in North Kesteven, the fear of crime is high and the Council is also working to reduce that fear of crime. To help achieve its aims, the Council has established the Anti Social Behaviour Team, which consists of Heidi Ryder, Alistair Wood and new member of the team, Ian Wild. The team works in partnership with Lincolnshire Police and a raft of other agencies to address Anti Social Behaviour. The ASB Team also works at prevention work, for Anti-Social Behaviour and crime, with mediation and diversionary activities. The team will look at any form of Anti Social Behaviour and is able to act on and tackle most of the issues which are raised by members of the public or any of NKDC's partners.

If you want to speak to a member of the Anti Social Behaviour team please contact North Kesteven District Council on: 01529 414155.

Can the Scouts help you?

The Scout Association in North Kesteven is looking for community projects to become involved with, such as planting a wildlife garden, clearing a village pond or creating mosaics and woodworking.

Janet Guest, Activities Manager says, “We would particularly like Scouts to be involved in the creation of any art works you may be planning. That will help them improve their practical skills and give them a real sense of pride and achievement once completed”. Any movable pieces would then be displayed at the Scout and Guide International camp to be held in July 2008.

If you think your parish could help, or you know of a local artist that would be keen to assist, please contact **Janet Guest, Activities Manager, on 01400 272637.**

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