

# Cluster News

PARISH PARTNERSHIPS February 2008

Welcome to the February issue of **Cluster News**.

The January round of cluster meetings saw many of you voting to spend your **Devolved Fund on Mobile Speed Indicator Devices**. We are now looking to meet with the Police to agree operational details, before any equipment is purchased.

We will advise you of progress as soon as we can.

Just for your interest, here are some of the issues which are currently common to most of the clusters:- drainage, litter picking and dog fouling, community transport, affordable housing, and of course, speeding.

*We look forward to seeing you in April!*

## Spires & Steeples update

**Spires & Steeples** will officially launch on the bank holiday weekend of May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. This coincides with Sleaford Live, a festival including Drama at the Playhouse, recitals at the United Reform Church and bands at the Barge and Bottle public house.

A number of specific **Spires & Steeples** events are being planned for the Sleaford Live weekend. New pieces of public art will be unveiled in Sleaford, Branston and Washingborough, and two classical concerts, organised by ArtsNK, will be held at venues along the route on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

On Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a different dimension to the celebrations, with a Marathon length, over 26 miles!

The ASPIRE walk commences at 8am at Lincoln cathedral and is being lead by NKDC's Chief Executive, Ian Fytche.

There is also a chance for each community to become involved, by hosting events in their own villages; for instance, a simple guided walk around the village.

**If your community would like to be involved in the launch weekend, Please contact Sarah Graves of ArtsNK on 01529 41193.**

## Enjoy life!

If you live in **Washingborough, Heighington, Canwick, Branston or Mere** – expect an NK survey through your door!

NKDC is currently reviewing its priorities for residents and as part of this, we are asking you to complete the survey, it should take you no more than 10 minutes.

**Plus, there is an opportunity for all entrants to win a Nintendo Wii!** Nintendo Wii provides good, fun exercise for all ages, young and older.

The closing date for completed questionnaires is March 28<sup>th</sup> and we will draw a lucky entrant out of the hat on that day. Look out for the survey coming through your door!

## Local Housing Allowance

Local Housing Allowance is the new way of working out Housing Benefit for private tenants. LHA is currently in operation in 18 pilot local authorities and will be introduced nationally on 7 April 2008.

LHA is based on rent levels for the area in which a person lives and how many people live with them. Payment will normally be to the tenant, who will then pay the landlord

To find out more come along to an NKDC 'Learning from Experience' presentation on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at either 12 o'clock or 1.15pm Lunch will be provided at 12.45pm

RSVP by **Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**, stating your preferred session to: [Sharon Bark@n-kesteven.gov.uk](mailto:Sharon.Bark@n-kesteven.gov.uk) tel 01529 308262

## Changes to Dog Waste Bins

Lincolnshire County Council has informed us of some significant changes to where the bins can be sited.

LCC's Highway Management Group has decided that Dog Waste Bins cannot be installed on street lights and illuminated signs.

The waste bins can still be installed on non-illuminated highway signs, but written permission must be obtained from Highways first.

## Open Spaces Grants

Local organisations can muck in and transform their open spaces as the **Big Lottery Fund** has announced £5 million worth of green grants available across the UK for the BBC led Breathing Places campaign.

The hugely successful Breathing Places grant scheme is all about local people creating local spaces for themselves and for wildlife

It may be local woodland, roadsides, parks, local nature reserves or wildlife areas, ponds, green corridors and wildflower meadows.

To find out more, you can look at the following website:

[www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces](http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces) and for more information about other available grants: [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk).

**NK Tree Officers** have asked us to supply you with the following link, to the revised Trees section on the NKDC web site. The link will provide direct access to many tree related topics, including: -

- Tree Preservation Orders & application forms.
- Conservation Areas & application forms.
- Trees in relation to construction.
- Pruning/management advice.
- Hedgerows.
- Council trees & tenants.
- Private trees & FAQ's.

The link is:

[Environment and Planning - North Kesteven District Council](#)

If you receive a hard copy of Cluster News, you can access the above by going onto the NKDC website Home page and typing Trees under site search.

## Crocus Walk and Easter Egg Hunt

Once again North Kesteven's Countryside team is organising a sponsored Crocus Walk in aid of **Breakthrough Breast Cancer** charity. The walk will take place on Sunday 9 March.

The walk will begin at 10.30am at the **Hub** in Sleaford, following the **Stepping Out** walk along the old river Slea navigation. The event is intended for pleasure, and participants need only walk as far as they wish. On return to the **Hub**, walkers will be rewarded with a free cup of tea or coffee in the café, courtesy of Leisure Connection.

Leisure Connection Countryside Promotion Officer, Theresa Hobbs, said "This is a great opportunity to enjoy some fresh air and exercise whilst raising money for a very worthwhile cause. Breast cancer is something which touches so many lives and every penny raised helps in fighting this disease. All are welcome on the walk, whether they wish to gather sponsors or just make a donation on the day. "

An Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Friday 18 April 2008 at 11am at High Wood, Church Lane, North Rauceby.

High Wood is owned by the Woodland Trust and forms part of the High Wood and North Rauceby **Stepping Out** walk. Treasure hunters will be able to search through the wood for clues which will lead them to the hidden Easter eggs.

The event is organised by Countryside NK, who have asked for advance booking to ensure they have enough eggs!

For more information about either event, please contact:

Sleaford Tourist Information on 01529 414294 or Countryside Promotion Officer Theresa Hobbs on 01522 694353, or email:

[theresa.hobbs@leisureconnection.co.uk](mailto:theresa.hobbs@leisureconnection.co.uk)

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