

Cluster News

PARISH PARTNERSHIPS September 2008

Welcome to the September issue!

We hope you all had an enjoyable summer and are fully re-charged as we go into Autumn.

Since the last issue, we can report some real progress on areas such as the **Speed Indication Devices**, (see facing).

We look forward to seeing you all at the October cluster meetings.

SIDS roll-out across the District.



We are pleased to report that **Speed Indication Devices** have now been bought by **Bassingham, Ruskington, and the South of Sleaford cluster**, Pictured above.

The scheme has recently featured on the BBC programme, Look North. North Kesteven District Councillor and Executive Board Member with responsibility for Parish Partnerships, Councillor Stewart Ogden, said: "It is very rewarding to see another Parish Partnership Initiative success. With NKDC working alongside the parish councils, improved relationships and progress have been made on many joint projects. The speed devices have been bought after listening to the concerns of residents. It is hoped they will not only reduce the number of speeding drivers in the South of Sleaford and Ruskington Parish clusters, but also improve community safety and relations."

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

New regulations come into force this Autumn and the National Association of Local Councils has produced some guidelines to help parish and town councils.

The guidelines cover the new Power of the Promotion of Economic, Social or Environmental Wellbeing, where under section 77 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the power of wellbeing can be extended to parish councils

NALCs legal briefing states that the 'statutory powers of parish councils are very precise and sometimes subject to restrictions.... The wellbeing power will substantially increase the types of activities, which would be impossible under other powers.'

NALC believes that as the most local form of government and the one closest to citizens, local parish and town councils can "become the bedrock of empowered communities and a reinvigorated local democracy. Strengthened and rejuvenated parish and town councils, working in partnership with voluntary and community groups and principal authorities, can and should provide the government with a more appropriate solution to match its ambitions for empowering communities."

Further information can be found at:-

www.nalc.gov.uk

Smart Meters Available for Free Hire

In conjunction with the 'Switch' exhibition, (see below), SustainNK is now offering Smart Meters to all residents on a free hire scheme.

The Smart Meter is a nifty little gadget that monitors the amount of electricity we use in our homes. **Meters are available from the Whisby Natural World Centre, Whisby and the reception at NKDC.**

More information is available at: sustainability@n-kesteven.gov.uk

Repro Service

Did you know that NKDC offers a full reprographic service to Parish Councils? Parishes can use this facility and although there is a charge, costs are highly competitive. You can contact the reprographic team on:

reprographics@n-kesteven.gov.uk

The Big Tidy Up

Keep Britain Tidy launched The Big Tidy Up this month. The Big Tidy Up is England's biggest ever tidy up campaign. As many of you will know already, a community tidy-up offers a great chance to get together, have some fun and make a real difference to where you live. It's hoped Neighbourhood Watch groups will take a lead and sign up for the Big Tidy Up 2008.


Although the campaign began in early September, it's not too late to launch a tidy-up campaign in your parish.

You can register online NOW to take part in the Big Tidy Up – and it couldn't be easier.

You'll receive a Big Tidy Up kit with posters, stickers, tabard bibs, badges guidance notes and more.

Join the Big Tidy Up today and become part of the network of people working to get our local areas tidy.

You can find out more and receive your tidy up kit, at: www.thebigtidyup.org/ and start cleaning up your community,

Keep Britain Tidy 

Switch at Whisby

The latest exhibition from SustainNK has opened at the Natural World Centre in Whisby.

'Switch', seeks to provide solutions for residents wanting to have a low energy home. Switch addresses the direct use of energy, the way we heat our houses or run our appliances and also the 'inherent' energy within the products and materials that we use in our home.

The exhibition opened on Friday 5th September and runs to Sunday 19th October and is housed within the ground floor exhibition space near to the shop.

The fundamental message is that we can all save money from stabilising utility costs and being smarter with the way we use resources.

At the same time, we can have less impact on our environment by reducing our use of fossil fuels.

The key messages centre around understanding your energy use, maintaining your property and belongings well, embracing the need to change and understanding the benefits that smarter design can bring to our homes. For directions to the Natural World Centre, you can visit the following website: www.naturalworld.com

Healthy Lifestyles progress in the Four Parishes

In the last issue we told you about the Healthy Lifestyles survey taking place in Washingborough, Heighington, Canwick, Branston and Mere.

All 5,000 households were surveyed, with 1,200 returns.

A number of focus groups were held to establish the views of with local residents, both young and older.

All local sports and activity groups were surveyed separately.

The findings have been turned into a report, and action plans are now being developed.

Actions are being delivered with partner agencies and evening meetings have provided local residents with a chance

to influence decisions and contribute to the actions.

The action plans will be discussed at the Four Parishes October cluster meeting and members will decide which actions they would like to prioritise and pursue.

You can contact us on: 01529 308257/308262 or email:

parish_partnership_officers@n-kesteven.gov.uk

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