

# CLLR ALEXANDER MAUGHAN – STUBTON PARISH COUNCIL - LCC BULLETIN JULY 2020

## LCC response to coronavirus

The coronavirus pandemic has caused service disruption across the council; however the council has continued to deliver its critical services with the support of staff, partners and volunteers across the county.

The Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF) has been supporting hundreds of support groups across Lincolnshire who has been providing support to vulnerable members of our community.

Service changes have been regularly updated on our website, <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-support-services>, and this remains the best place to obtain the most recent information.

Below are some of the key items that may interest you:

- LCC Director for Public Health has conducted weekly Q&A call-ins on BBC Radio Lincolnshire
- Heritage services, such as Lincoln Castle, reopened a few weeks ago for picnics and outdoor recreational visits.
- LCC Tips reopened some weeks ago and our now taking all types of waste, but please note there remains difficulties with some contractors so some waste types are restricted to certain days and trailers are not permitted. Please use the online booking tool to book your slot. The public have overwhelmingly followed the rules and social distancing measures in place.
- LCC Leader Cllr Martin Hill is chairing the newly formed local outbreak board for Lincolnshire, which is responsible for managing local outbreaks of COVID-19. The board are considering this week the impact of the Leicester local-lockdown on Lincolnshire.
- LCC staff have been told to work from home where possible until the end of this year.
- There are a number of specific challenges around children's services which the directorate are working very hard to manage. This includes difficulties with children exiting care which ceased whilst courts were closed, and the biggest task of all, organising school transport for the September term. The council awaits further government guidance.
- The council is expected to significantly overspend on its coronavirus grant allocation, however our larger budgets and healthy reserves means we remain more financially resilient than district councils, such as Lincoln City, who rely heavily on discretionary income such as car parking.
- The Council has held a number of virtual meetings so far, including our Council AGM last week and various scrutiny committees. These will continue virtually for the foreseeable.

## Councillor COVID-19 Community Fund

Money was made available by the Council for County Councillors to award grants in their wards, up to the value of £3,000, to support groups providing community benefit during and after the pandemic.

I awarded £500 to the Scrubs for Grantham Hospital group who have been doing a tremendous job providing much needed PPE for our local health care workers.

I also awarded £100 to Stubton Parish Council who have been providing food and essential supplies to 6 households in the village and £50 to Stubton Social Club to contribute to a social event for the village after the pandemic.

I have now spent my full £3,000 allocation, supporting a number of good causes across my division. For more information on the grants awarded please visit: <http://hough.yourcldr.com/covid-19-community-fund/>

### **[Summer surface dressing underway in Hough Division](#)**

The summer surface dressing program is underway, with a number of local villages benefitting. Claypole, Westborough, Dry Doddington, Stubton and Long Bennington have all received the surface dressing treatment in recent weeks.

Surface dressing treatment is a cost-effective way of restoring the road and sealing it in one process. The treatment seals the surface, improves the road texture and can prolong the life span of a road up to 5-10 years.

For more information on the surface dressing program and a video update from me and Cllr Richard Davies, please visit: <http://hough.yourcldr.com/2020/06/14/summer-surface-dressing-underway-in-hough/>

### **[Campaign continues against A1 Toll Bar Road coffee shop proposal](#)**

Planning application S19/0735 proposal for a drive thru coffee shop at A1 Toll Bar Road Marston has been opposed unanimously by local Parish Councils, and includes a proposal to close the central reservation turning (onto Toll Bar Road/C001), but no slip road improvements.

I have been working with local District Councillor Ian Stokes in opposing the proposals. Whilst SKDC have supported the development in their report, we secured comments from Lincolnshire County Council and Cllr Richard Davies concerning road safety, which helped our case on highway safety grounds. We have also identified a number of loopholes in the submissions by Highways England and the applicant.

Local MP Dr Caroline Johnson has also written to SKDC raising concern over the proposals.

The devastating accident rate of this junction coupled with the lack of consultation on the proposals for closing the right-turn remain a concern to us.

For now, the application has been deferred awaiting further information from Highways England.

You can read our comments and a summary of the issues to date helpfully published by the Grantham Journal: <https://www.granthamjournal.co.uk/news/concerns-raised-over-plan-for-drive-thru-coffee-shop-on-a1-9113123/>

District Councillor Penny Milnes, member of SKDC planning committee, has also been forensic in her scrutiny of the proposals.

### **[New highways maintenance contractor](#)**

Balfour Beatty commenced their work as our highway maintenance contractor on 1<sup>st</sup> April, picking up a backlog of repairs from the previous contractor and tackling challenges posed by the pandemic.

Despite these challenges they have continued to provide essential maintenance throughout the pandemic. Councillors are also receiving a monthly newsletter which outlines the work they have been

doing in the county. This was not a feature of the Kier contract so indicates a willingness to engage with council members,

### **Highways Community Gangs**

Our budget proposals for 2020/21 including one-off spend of £4m, transferred from our reserves, to create a series of highways community gangs which would be tasked with undertaking non-safety maintenance across the county.

Funding constraints have meant non-safety maintenance was neglected for some time, so these gangs are welcome news.

The Highways community gangs were in Hough Division in May 2020 and worked on a find and fix approach. However, local members were given an opportunity to request specific works they considered priorities, so those put forward to me by the Parish Council were requested.

For parishes that were not visited in May, the gangs will be back in Hough Division in March 2020. Please keep a note of the issues you would like the gangs to look at when they next visit and pass them to me in the new year in plenty of time.

### **Greater Lincolnshire Devolution**

The leaders of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council have recently written to the government requesting that we begin talks on a devolution deal for the Greater Lincolnshire region.

The price of devolution and extra money for the region is local government reform. We currently have three tiers of local government in Lincolnshire, being parish/town councils, district councils and the county council. The government's preference is for us to replace this with two tiers – so parish/town councils and unitary councils.

The government has invited proposals from all Lincolnshire councils (district and county) which we have until September to submit. The government will then review all bids received and decide which will go to public consultation, most likely later this year. The government's ambition is for Lincolnshire to be unitary by 2022. The detail (ie how many unitary councils there will be) is yet to be decided and we are being invited to put forward proposals for this.