The final round of public consultation is now open on a new Local Plan drawn up to help shape the future of South Kesteven.

The latest version of the Local Plan has been approved by South Kesteven District Council’s Cabinet and full council.

It takes into account public comments made during extensive consultation last summer, and which resulted in more than 800 written responses.

This final round of consultation, which is more formal, runs from 11 June until 23 July, ahead of the plan being submitted to the Secretary of State.

Comments can be made online at www.southkesteven.gov.uk and the plan is available to view in council offices across the district and at libraries. Respondents are encouraged to use the online response form.

SKDC will then send the Local Plan, along with any final valid public comments received, to the Secretary of State, who will appoint a Planning Inspector to hold an Examination in Public, most likely in the Grantham area.

The Local Plan sets out the framework for housing and economic growth until 2036 and will be subject to review every five years. There is also a proposal for a Supplementary Planning Document on Good Design and it contains important policies for conserving the natural and historic environment.

The plan provides for a minimum of 625 new homes per year. The Government had proposed a minimum housing requirement of 785 homes per year but, after representations from the council, has delayed the introduction of this approach.

SKDC Cabinet Member for Economy and Development, Cllr Mike King, said: “Work on the Local Plan began in 2015 and there has been wide consultation.

“The majority of new housing development is earmarked for Grantham, including the Garden Village, but we are also proposing significant housing areas on the north side of Stamford and the east side of Market Deeping.

“We have managed to keep our target provision of 625 new homes a year across the district for now, despite Government pressure to increase it still further. The plan does allow for 13% growth above this minimum requirement to offer choice and contingency to the market and in order to tackle pressures of making housing affordable.

“In our 15 larger villages there are several unimplemented planning permissions or new housing sites included. One other significant change from the present Local Plan is that there is a policy relaxation on new homes in small villages – two or three homes may be allowed on either infill or brownfield sites or as an extension to the village so long as there is community support.

“We have housing land allocated now and planning permissions in place, but the challenge is getting housebuilders to build. We are constantly lobbying Government to give us the powers to do this.

“It is important that we enable the right infrastructure to come to our new housing areas and that we attract new jobs to the key employment sites around the district, some of which the council itself might invest in.”
Judging under way for new district Best Kept Village competition

Villages across South Kesteven have been entered into a new district Best Kept Village Competition, supported by South Kesteven District Council.

Judging is now under way for the new competition, which runs in parallel to the main Lincolnshire Best Kept Village and Town competition. There will be special awards for outstanding community features including ‘Best Kept Village Green or Public Space’ and ‘Best Community Involvement’.

A new partnership between SKDC and competition organiser, the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), is a direct legacy of the district’s successful Big Clean programme of 2017.

First round visits will be completed by the end of June and judging will be finished by mid-September. A district awards presentation event will be held later in the year for the two highest scoring communities in each entry class.

SKDC is funding entry costs and CPRE judging costs for all 84 villages in the district.

SKDC says it sees the initiative as a call to action, encouraging villages to present themselves in their best light and to go above and beyond normal high standards.

Cllr Dr Peter Moseley, SKDC Cabinet Member for Environment, said: “Our Big Clean has made a dramatic improvement to the way the district looks since last summer, creating even more pride within communities. “We have a beautiful district with beautiful villages and we want as many of those as possible to take part. That way we get a good picture of the district and we can see if there is any additional support we can offer to help keep villages clean and tidy.”

District winners will automatically be entered into the Lincolnshire Best Kept Village competition.

South Kesteven sets standard for cleanliness

The hugely successful Big Clean initiative has inspired a commitment to keep the district looking better than ever.

The South Kesteven Higher Street Standard, developed using information gathered and lessons learnt from last year’s Big Clean, has been formally adopted by the district council’s Cabinet.

It is designed to support the council’s ambition of maintaining a higher level of cleanliness, making the district more attractive to investors, residents and visitors.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Dr Peter Moseley, said: “While there is a national standard for street cleanliness, I think we can do better.

“If we want to attract the best businesses and people to be happy here and look after their environment we must step up.”

Tough approach to tackle Enviro Crime

South Kesteven District Council is adopting a robust approach to littering, fly-tipping, graffiti and other anti-social behaviour.

The Cabinet has backed the introduction of an Enviro Crime Enforcement Policy as part of continuing efforts to maintain high standards of street cleanliness, following the success of last year’s Big Clean project.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Dr Peter Moseley, said: “We should not accept that it is OK to throw litter around and mess up the environment without consequence.”

The Government has increased the possible penalty for enviro crimes from £80 to £150. SKDC has set the fine for Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) at £100 initially.

Cllr Dr Moseley said “We will be looking at how our environment team works and how collection rates are going and then review it once we have got things up and running.”

According to Cllr Dr Moseley, people were taking more care of the environment. “There has been a surge in communities doing their own litter-picks,” he said. “The Big Clean was just the start – let’s keep it going.”

Under the new policy, FPNs can be issued without warning to an individual or business when authorised officers have witnessed an offence.

The Council Leader, Cllr Matthew Lee, said: “Anyone thinking about dropping litter needs to know that if we catch them, they will be helping to pay for the cost of picking it up out of their own pockets. It could be a very expensive crisp packet!”
Almost eight tonnes of food waste was collected in the first week of South Kesteven’s food waste recycling trial.

The year-long project, which began at the start of June, is being delivered by the district council and funded by Lincolnshire County Council on behalf of the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership.

Together they are taking positive steps to actively look at how we protect the environment and meet the challenges of disposing of our waste.

Food waste is being collected from almost 4,700 households, taking in rural and urban areas across South Kesteven. Residents involved put out their food caddy every week for collection with their black or silver bin waste.

SKDC’s Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Dr Peter Moseley, said: “Experience elsewhere shows food waste recycling also has the benefit of reducing the amount of food waste contaminating recycling, as well as giving other direct and indirect benefits to councils and households. “These include reducing the tonnage going to the busy Energy from Waste facility for disposal, and saving families money by showing how much food they waste, it offers a greener way to dispose of waste, and creates electricity and fertiliser in the process.

“I really appreciate the efforts of our residents in helping this trial to be a success. We’ve learned a huge amount from day one and I hope this continues as the weeks progress.”

Ahead of the trial, households involved were issued with a small (seven-litre) kitchen caddy and larger (23L) outdoor caddy so their food waste can be taken away for recycling into electricity and soil conditioner.

SKDC also engaged with the local community through drop-ins, letters, local media, TV and on its website - southkesteven.gov.uk/foodwaste.

Cllr Eddy Poll, Lincolnshire County Council’s Executive Member for Commercial and Environmental Management, said: “We are listening to households before deciding what might be the best waste solutions for Lincolnshire.”

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership is keen to explore ways in which waste can be diverted away from the county’s Energy from Waste facility, beginning with food waste, which is thought to make up to 40% of the weight of black bin waste. Before this trial, food waste collection was not offered in Lincolnshire. This is the first time a food collection service has been trialled in the county.

Residents have their say on council services and priorities

More than 1,400 people have responded to our residents’ survey which asked what they thought of the services SKDC provides and its plans for the future.

Comments from the consultation, which ran for three weeks in May, giving residents the opportunity to comment on council services and priorities, will now be analysed and reported to SKDC’s Cabinet.

Cllr Helen Goral, Cabinet Member for Communications and Engagement, said: “I am absolutely delighted with the response, which shows just how important our services are to local people.

“It gave residents the chance to tell us what they think of our current services and also what is important to them going forward which we will use to shape future decisions and make a positive difference.

“The results will also provide us with a benchmark against which we can measure ourselves in the future.”

Environmental award for Rectory Paddock in Market Deeping

Once neglected area of land bought by Market Deeping Town Council 20 years ago has won the ‘Community Award’ category in the Lincolnshire Environmental Awards.

Over the last three years a dedicated team of volunteers has restored the meadow at Rectory Paddock in Church Street by planting native shrubs and wildflowers, laying boundary hedges, and they even persuaded the Town Council to buy a flail to cut and collect the grass twice a year.

A blanket weed on the pond has been conquered and it is now crystal clear spring water covered with several varieties of lilies. In 2016, a swift tower with twenty one boxes and space for bats was also installed with solar powered bird calls being emitted.

The area is open to the public and has a diverse amount of plants and insects as well as being a lovely place to sit on a summer’s day. Why not pay it a visit.
I f you're looking for great summer entertainment, why not try an outdoor production of Shakespeare's greatest love story?

Romeo and Juliet will be performed in the magnificent setting of Grantham’s award-winning Wyndham Park as part of a five-day line-up from 4-8 July, in which Director, Neil Sands is also presenting the musical talents of Classical Divas and an afternoon of nostalgia with Those Were The Days.

MJH Productions is back with Romeo and Juliet for more Shakespeare in the Park after last year’s hugely successful production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream.

SKDC Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Dr Peter Moseley, said: “Last year was wonderful, but this time it will be even better as the audience seating area will be festooned in lights, lending a fairy-tale quality to the whole event.

“We will also be having a stage this year, making it easier for the audience to see the drama unfold.”

Romeo and Juliet will be performed on Wednesday 4 July from 7pm-9.45pm; Friday 6 July from 7pm-9.45pm; Saturday 7 July from 2.30pm-5.15pm and 7pm-9.45pm; and Sunday 8 July from 5pm-7.45pm.

Tickets for all three events, priced £12 each, are on sale now and can be booked at www.guildhallartscentre.co.uk or by calling The Guildhall Centre box office on 01476 406158.
Top names, major science shows and a dash of comedy promise an incredible voyage of scientific discovery for audiences at our Gravity Fields Festival.

The website is live and tickets are on sale for the five-day event in and around Grantham from 26-30 September.

Hundreds of tickets for one of the highlights of this year’s festival have already been snapped up.

Scientist and broadcaster Professor Brian Cox will give a special one-off talk at the Meres Leisure Centre on Saturday 22 September – and just a few of the 1,200 tickets remain.

Gravity Fields is South Kesteven District Council’s biggest event, with spectacular outdoor arts, top-drawer speakers making science fun, well-known names from television adding celebrity sparkle, and an education programme highlighting events for schools.

The festival celebrates Sir Isaac Newton’s close links with the area, and the outdoor arts will be taken to another level thanks to a £89,500 grant from Arts Council England.

Science, arts and heritage events are being held in and around Grantham, including Newton’s birthplace at Woolsthorpe Manor.

“Gravity Fields is truly exciting,” said the Leader of SKDC, Councillor Matthew Lee. “We have a world class festival here on the doorstep with something for everyone and for all ages.

“Arts Council funding over the years has allowed us to build a reputation for innovation in the arts.

“The sheer spectacle of a show-stopping event on the Saturday night is the icing on the cake of an amazing festival and we are truly proud of staging such a great event.

“We are expecting a huge amount of interest and would advise anyone planning to attend one of the ticketed events to book their place early to avoid disappointment.”

The 2018 festival has a theme of Voyages of Discovery, based on the 250th anniversary of HMS Endeavour sailing to Australia.

On board with Captain Cook was Lincolnshire botanist Sir Joseph Banks, like Newton a President of the Royal Society.

For full details and to book tickets visit www.gravityfields.co.uk or call the Box Office on 01476 406158.
Lunch Club at Grantham’s Alive Church is cooking its meals in a new kitchen partly paid for by South Kesteven District Council’s Community Fund.

A grant of £3,600 from SKDC was used to clear old kitchen flooring and outdated cooking facilities and units, and pay for new floors, electrics and windows, paving the way for a complete kitchen re-fit.

Cllr Nick Neilson, SKDC Cabinet Member for Communities, said: “I am delighted to see such a positive outcome from our council Community Fund grant. A kitchen is always the hub of a place, and it’s clearly making a huge difference for the Alive Church engagement with its community.”

The fund-raising campaign was boosted by church members’ contributions and a grant from the Bishop of Lincoln’s Social Justice Fund, resulting in a total of £20,000 raised.

Alive Church Pastor Jonas Eyles said: “We simply could not host lunches like this before as the kitchen just wasn’t fit for purpose. “There is a national epidemic of loneliness and isolation, and we want to use the lunch club and other activities to tackle that.”

The lunch club is run by volunteers every Tuesday from 10.30am to 2.30pm and is part of an expanding agenda of events at the Alive Church.

New park is pitch perfect

One of the most ambitious projects supported by South Kesteven District Council’s Community Fund is nearing completion.

The £225,000 Claypole Community Park has provision for sports pitches, plus an exercise trail that even includes a zip-wire.

A £10,000 grant from South Kesteven District Council’s Community Fund, along with contributions from Sport England and the Playing Fields Legacy Fund, has paid for the installation of a new football pitch and fencing to enclose the area to increase security and allow better site management.

Another £10,000 from the Community Fund went towards equipment in the leisure park area, with other support from Awards For All and Persimmon Homes.

The Cabinet Member for Communities, Health, Well-being and Skills, Cllr Jacky Smith, said: “We are delighted to have been able to help such a major project. The park is a terrific facility and a great example of what our communities can achieve.”

Community Centre raises the roof

The Community Fund helped pay for essential roof repairs at the All Saints and St John’s Centre in Stamford, with a £10,000 contribution towards the £40,000 total cost.

There was further support from the Skells Trust charity and Stamford Round Table, while the centre’s own Sponsor A Slate initiative raised more than £9,000.

The roof repairs are the first step in securing the future of the centre, which is used by more than 300 people a week.

Volunteer Business Manager Rebecca Goff said: “We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this important cause and look forward to continuing our work in making the centre a high-quality community hub for the future.”

Cllr Nick Neilson, SKDC Cabinet Member for Communities, said: “I was delighted our contribution helped with the roof repairs at All Saints and St John’s Centre. This is just the sort of project the Community Fund was set up to support.”

Apply for up to £10,000 for community projects

Applications are invited for South Kesteven District Council’s Community Grant Fund.

Community groups or those with an idea for a community project or event can submit applications for up to £10,000, which will be considered later in the year.

The fund covers one-off costs of between £200 and £5,000 for community events and between £500 and £10,000 for community projects in the district.

A new, simpler, application form has been created to make the process of applying for grants up to £2,000 even easier.

Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service (LCVS) offers guidance and support with the application process.
New measures to protect historic Stamford

South Kesteven District Council is proposing more planning safeguards to protect historic Stamford – one of England’s finest Georgian towns that was designated the country’s first ever Conservation Area in 1967.

The council’s Cabinet approved the launch of a formal process, including public consultation, to bring in an Article 4 Direction that will remove permitted development rights for unlisted buildings within the town’s Conservation Area.

The change means a planning application would have to be submitted for work that normally would not require one, for example changes to doors, windows and guttering.

The move aims to help safeguard the special character of the Conservation Area, prevent unsympathetic development, and protect property values.

The Cabinet Member for Economy and Development, Cllr Mike King, said there had been issues with an increasing number of alterations, including the replacement of timber windows with uPVC and the removal of traditional roofing slates and chimneys.

“It is time to be thinking about further protection of buildings and the environment in Stamford,” he said.

The Deputy Leader, Cllr Kelham Cooke, said once Article 4 was in place in Stamford, the Council could start looking at other areas, including villages, that needed protection.

The Leader, Cllr Matthew Lee, said some householders who had installed uPVC windows were changing back to more traditional materials because they recognised the value of returning the heritage to their properties.

“I am conscious that it is overdue that we should be looking at the Conservation Area, and looking at whether it should be expanded,” he said.

An Article 4 Direction does not automatically prevent development and each application would be decided on its merits in line with planning policy.

The move is supported by Stamford Civic Society and Stamford Town Council.

Tourism trailer to promote district

A new promotional trailer has hit the road to help boost tourism across the district.

Branded as ‘Discover South Kesteven’, the trailer will be at numerous events this summer including Castle Bytham Midsummer Fair (23 June), Deepings Raft Race (5 August), Deepings Duck Race (2 September) and Corby Glen Sheep Fair (7 October).

It is part of a fast-growing programme to promote visitor sites, attractions and events across South Kesteven.

The council is a partner in the new Discover England funded East of England Touring Route, which is promoting the 300-mile A1 corridor from London to Berwick, offering experience-led things to do and see.

SKDC’s new Head of Visitor Economy, Andrew Norman, is also working with Visit Lincoln on a Yorkshire/Lincolnshire cycling initiative.

His team is developing an enhanced website, planning district videos, building an events diary, planning a bigger Visitor Guide for 2019 and developing themed trails.

Bourne Market is in the news

BBC Radio Lincolnshire broadcast live from Bourne Market in May as part of a series celebrating the county’s market towns.

Traders and shoppers, along with Cllr Nick Robins, South Kesteven District Council’s Cabinet Member for Retail and Visitor Economy, were among those who featured in presenter Melvyn Prior’s Melvyn in the Morning show.

Grantham Market re-launch

Grantham’s traditional Saturday Market is being re-launched on 7 July, with a Teenage Market, music and entertainment.
Project to overhaul a community’s run-down, multi-use games area is being backed by its district councillor.

The games area at Lawrance Park, Thurlby, was built in 1987 and there were fears it could become unusable unless it was refurbished.

Cllr Barry Dobson, who represents the village on South Kesteven District Council, is backing the project with £750 from the ward Member Grant Fund. His donation is going to the Lawrance Park Recreation Ground and Community Association.

“This area is a fantastic facility, but it is dilapidated and needs upgrading,” said the Dole Wood ward councillor.

“People of all ages can come here and be active and I am delighted to be supporting the refurbishment.”

The area is to be resurfaced and the fencing replaced at a total cost of £33,000.

The multi-use games area is used by around 600 people of all ages, including pupils at Thurlby Community Primary School.

Museum grant looks to the future

Refurbishment of a museum’s education room can now be completed thanks to a £500 donation.

Cllr Ray Wootten, who represents Grantham St Wulfram’s on South Kesteven District Council, presented the money from the Ward Member Grant Fund.

Grantham Museum is rejuvenating its educational resource room and buying educational material for younger visitors in a £1,000 project. The room is used for talks, presentations and during school visits.

Cllr Wootten said: “I have always supported the museum and was keen to help with this particular project.

“I really want the children of Grantham to know about the history of the town so they can move on to a better future.”

It is hoped the work could start during the school summer holidays.

Cllr Dobson has also donated £250 to Braceborough and Wilsthorpe Village Hall. The money will be used towards this year’s £700 maintenance costs of two defibrillators.

It will also help cover a subscription to the Community Heartbeat Trust’s Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS) scheme that allows the ambulance service to call local volunteers who respond with a defibrillator when cases of suspected heart attacks are reported.

Cllr Dobson said: “The money will help buy new batteries for the defibrillators so people can be reassured that the kit is ready for use should it be needed.”

Cllr Barry Dobson with James Williams, Treasurer of Braceborough and Wilsthorpe Village Hall Management Committee.

L-R: John Spooner, Treasurer of Lawrance Park Community Association, Cllr Barry Dobson, Vice-Chairman Chris Seggie.

Councillor Ray Wootten presents a £500 grant to David Burling, of Grantham Museum.

The museum’s Director, David Burling, said: “The room is in need of a bit of TLC and we are refurbishing it so it can continue to serve the community.

“This money enables the project to be completed. We are grateful to Cllr Wootten who was happy to help.”
Communities benefit from new District Councillor funding stream

Community groups and organisations in South Kesteven are being given a financial helping hand thanks to a new councillor grant scheme.

SKDC’s Ward Member Grant Scheme, which launched in April, is giving district councillors a new funding stream to support grassroots projects throughout the area.

Each of the authority’s 56 councillors have been allocated £1,000 to award to projects and initiatives which benefit the community.

Cllr Nick Neilson, SKDC’s Cabinet member for Communities, said the scheme aims to encourage community-led initiatives, supported by local councillors, who will play an active part in helping their communities deliver their ambitions.

He said: “Small grants can be invaluable to local groups and organisations, but it can be hard to know where to go and sometimes the process is difficult or long-winded. This scheme aims to make it easy for councillors to help directly, providing much needed funding in our community.”

The grant can be awarded to a wide variety of organisations including registered charities, community groups, voluntary groups, social enterprises, youth groups and faith or belief groups. Ward councillors can also pool their budgets to jointly fund a specific project.

Each councillor will identify local groups and organisations, all of which must be within the district, who are delivering projects that are of benefit to the people, the environment and the community of South Kesteven.

New bench to mark work of the RAF

A bench to commemorate the work of a former Grantham RAF regiment has been unveiled on St Peter’s Hill, Grantham.

It marks the service of the RAF Regiment since it formed in 1942.

Former RAF Regiment serviceman Cllr Dean Ward, who represents SKDC’s Grantham Arnoldfield ward, supplemented his £1,000 Ward Member Grant with £250 of his own money to make the project happen.

He said: “I wanted something that would last. It is powder-coated and will last 100 years.”

It was dedicated by an RAF padre, in the presence of standard bearers from around the county, and the Station Commander from RAF Honington, Group Captain Dave Tait.

The RAF Regiment was established by Royal Warrant and its first home was at Belton Woods. It moved to RAF Catterick, North Yorkshire, and now has its home in RAF Honington in Suffolk.

The regiment plays an army-style infantry role guarding key installations and air bases.

Grants add flower power

Two Stamford councillors have helped add a splash of colour to the town with donations from SKDC’s Ward Member Grant Scheme.

Cllr Mike Exton and Cllr Breda Griffin each gave £250 to the Stamford in Bloom team. The money has been used to buy flowers to fill 20 containers in the High Street.

Cllr Exton said: “Cllr Griffin and myself see Stamford in Bloom as a perfect opportunity to support a great local initiative. By making a donation together we have been able to provide significant help.

“Stamford is a lovely town and Stamford in Bloom is adding that little bit extra. It is creating a lot of interest among businesses, shopkeepers and residents.”

The co-ordinator of Stamford in Bloom, Ann Ellis, said: “This donation has been absolutely vital. It allowed us to buy the flowers we needed for our High Street containers.”

Stamford is entered in the heritage towns category of East Midlands in Bloom.
Sailing skills will once more be put to the test in this year’s Deepings Raft Race, which takes place on Sunday 5 August.

Entries are now being taken for the annual community event and charity fundraiser on the River Welland in Market Deeping, which is a great day out for rafters and spectators alike.

Around 40 rafts decorated to match the 2018 theme of Heroes and Villains will be manned by crews in fancy dress. The first race is at noon and trophies will be presented at 4pm.

Last year’s event raised more than £8,000 which was shared between the Evergreen Care Trust and the Deepings Youth Group. Smaller donations were also made to other local organisations. Many raft teams raise funds for their own good causes.

Age Concern Deepings’ second Minibus Appeal will be this year’s main beneficiary, with secondary donations going to The Deepings’ Scouts and The Deepings’ Swimming Club.

Contributions will also be made to: The Carers Sitter Service; Friends of Jubilee Park; and Faith’s Journey.

There will be a funfair and stalls stretching set up from Bridge Street, Deeping St James, through to Market Deeping town centre.

To book a stall, enter a raft, volunteer as a marshal or for more information go to www.deepingsraftrace.co.uk
Deepings award winners go the extra mile

Extraordinary efforts by individuals and organisations were recognised at the Deeping St James Parish Council annual Making a Difference awards.

Certificates and trophies were presented to all nominees and winners by the Chairman of Deeping St James Parish Council, Cllr Andrew Bowell, and Janette Wickens, Regional Development Officer at the Woodland Trust.

The awards were the highlight of the annual parish meeting of Deeping St James attended by more than 130 people, including the now former Chairman of South Kesteven District Council, Councillor Bob Sampson.

Invited speakers were from the Deepings First Neighbourhood Plan Group, the Woodland Trust, and also included SKDC’s Head of Visitor Economy, Andrew Norman.

Musical entertainment was provided by Deeping St James Community Primary School’s band.

Those attending the evening were also all invited to vote for their favourite tree in Deeping St James from a selection of 17 nominations. The winner was a willow tree located in a private garden on Station Road.

Community group
The Deepings Forget Me Not Club

For more than 30 years, on one Sunday a month, 11 months of the year, The Forget Me Not Club has been making a difference to the lives of Deepings pensioners.

Around 50 members gather at The Deepings Community Centre and other venues. Those who are unable to walk and have no transport of their own are collected from and returned to their homes by the committee using their personal cars. The members enjoy bingo, tea and quizzes and coach trips are also organised.

Citizen
Bob Parmenter and Betty Fenech

Bob and Betty work tirelessly as administrators for Age Concern Deepings, taking bookings for minibus trips, arranging days out and publishing monthly newsletters. Bob maintains the vehicles, trains drivers and he even drives himself. Bob and Betty do something every day on behalf of Age Concern Deepings – and all on a voluntary basis.

Young person
Harriet Spriggs

Harriet completed a 170-mile coast-to-coast bike ride last year, raising £900 for the Root4Ryley charity. The charity was set up to help pay for her friend Ryley’s treatment and adaptation of his home after he became unwell in 2016.

Harriet is also a young leader at Spitfire Scout troop in Deeping St James and helps Scouts who attend from the local community.

Special award
Sossy

Sossy is a six-year-old wire-haired Hungarian Vizsla dog belonging to Clive Hankers, whose inquisitive nature helped save a person who was out of sight after falling ill in a secluded spot.

On one of her morning walks she appeared upset after returning to her owner, who then followed her and discovered a person who had fallen ill in a secluded spot.

Without Sossy’s intervention their speedy recovery was not assured – she may even have been a life-saver.

Individual in the course of doing their job
David Blessett

David has recently retired after 24 years as site manager at The Deepings School, during which time he has provided dedicated service to generations of students and staff.

He supported Duke of Edinburgh Awards expeditions and has helped look after evening, weekend and holiday events for dozens of community groups on the school site, always going the extra mile to help others.
A beautiful backdrop of flowers and greenery welcomes visitors to the Easton Estate, one of the jewels in South Kesteven’s rural crown.

A trip to its carefully nurtured gardens south of Grantham reveal walled plots of bulbs, shrubs and flowers for cutting, as well as orchards and flowing meadows which reveal an unusual rose garden among the long grass.

The estate has been owned and managed by the Cholmeley family since 1561, and continues to develop.

Owner Ursula Cholmeley said: “Last year we welcomed 20,000 visitors. We’re looking forward to Sweet Pea Week in July and our Autumn Country Market, where we welcome around 50 stallholders. There are demonstrations and the gardens look particularly lovely at that time of year.”

Dates for your diary

Sweet Pea Week: 1 - 8 July, open daily, 11am - 4pm
Dog Days: Sundays, throughout August, 4pm - 6pm
Teddy Bear’s Picnic: Thursday 9 August and Wednesday 15 August, 12noon - 3pm
Autumn Country Market: Sunday 2 September 11am - 4pm
Season ends Sunday 28 October 2018

www.visiteaston.co.uk

Summer is here – make sure you join our garden waste scheme

Looking for a convenient and cost-effective way to recycle your garden waste? Then look no further than the council’s garden waste collection service.

As garden maintenance increases over the summer months, the service saves you time, money and hassle disposing of your garden waste, with no need for trips to the tip or the chance of messing up your car with bags of garden waste.

And now it’s easier than ever to join by paying online through direct debit, and you’ll save money into the bargain.

New members pay just the one-off annual fee which includes green bin collection every fortnight (monthly in winter) and there is no limit on the number of garden waste bins you can buy. You can even take it with you if you move within the district and notify us of your change of address.

Book online at www.southkesteven.gov.uk/greenbin

Easton Walled Gardens
- a jewel in the crown

All pictures courtesy of Fred Cholmeley

Ursula Cholmeley

www.southkesteven.gov.uk
Music in quiet places celebrates 25 years!

Music in Quiet Places (MIQP), a series of superb concerts organised across the district by SKDC, celebrates its silver anniversary this year.

To mark the 25-year milestone, a summer programme of events is planned in Castle Bytham, Hough-on-the-Hill, Harlaxton, Deeping St James, Sempringham, Morton and Grantham.

Graham Burley, Team Leader for the council’s arts centres, said: “I have attended almost all of the Music in Quiet Places concerts across the district and the feedback is always excellent.

“Over the last quarter of a century, we have visited many outstanding churches in South Kesteven and heard new talent as well as internationally-acclaimed musicians.”

This year’s programme features a performance by Gjylaci Duo at the venue of the very first MIQP concert, Hough-on-the-Hill, as well as a first concert in the historic setting of St Andrew’s, Sempringham Abbey.

The series finale, which is also part of the Gravity Fields science and arts festival, is I Fagiolini on Thursday 27 September in St Wulfram’s Church, Grantham.

Graham added: “As always, we are grateful to the incumbents, churchwarden and congregations of the host churches. Without their support these concerts could not take place.

“We are very proud of the success of Music in Quiet Places over the last 25 years and look forward to the next 25 years of fabulous concerts.”

If you need information about facilities or access, please contact the Box Office at Stamford Arts Centre on 01780 763203 or Guildhall Arts Centre on 01476 406158.

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