

Councillor Report for September 18, 2017: Angela M White

Although August is a quiet month for meetings the Health Commission met to make plans for the proposed work in the next few months. We are planning another round table event with representatives from various health care teams. We are hoping that someone from a local G.P. practice will be available, as well as our previous participants. We are also meeting with the local neighbourhood team which is developing in Gainsborough.

I have been appointed Chair of the Rural Public Realm Task and Finish group set up by the Challenge and Improvement Committee. The aim of this group is to investigate the efficiency and effectiveness of the services (both those provided by West Lindsey and others) which impact upon the public realm in the district and make recommendations on any improvements which have been identified as being necessary.

Part of the rationale for this is included in the key themes of the Corporate Plan of West Lindsey District Council:

Open for Business – a high quality and well maintained public realm will assist in attracting inward investment.

People First – improved street scene and green space.

Excellent Value for Money services - street scene and the public realm are some of the most visible services the council provides.

We will be looking at how the services are delivered, budget, performance indicators and barrier/difficulties. We will ask for feedback from users. We will also look at best practice examples of how public realm works are delivered in other parts of the country and assess alternative delivery models of delivering public realm services (outsourcing, greater community input etc.)

Therefore, our work plan will include fly tipping in rural areas – including the inter-relationship with our waste collection service; rural crime and response times, rural environments -including derelict buildings and land, partners responsible for rural public realm – highways (potholes, pavements, grass cutting, overhanging trees masking signs, Environment Agency (flooding), police.

We are hoping to liaise with parish councils who can best inform us of the problems in their areas.

They may also, if funding was made available, be able to perform some of the services at a lower cost. e.g. in some villages farmers are employed to cut the grass verges.

I was asked to substitute for another councillor at the meeting of the Community Safety Partnership. I attach the report on rural policing aims.

West Lindsey has now started a consultation period on the plans to build a crematorium on the outskirts of Gainsborough.

Litter

I asked this to be an agenda item. Volunteers in Nettleham led by Alison Faulkner are making a real difference in the village. The waste services collect from designated bins and occasionally from lay-bys. I think we have all seen the litter on the roadside verges around the village. We picked up a brown paper bag from Kentucky Fried Chicken which had just been left on the roadside. It was full of half-eaten food. This is an issue which we will also be looking at in the Public Realm Task and Finish group. Cans are often thrown out of car windows and roll along the roadside. Has anyone any ideas of how we can improve the situation? I will ask Alison what she thinks before the meeting.

I would also like to get feedback from my report on the Public Rural Realm with suggestions on how we can encourage parish council participation.