

April 23, 2018: Report for Nettleham Parish Council.

Angela M White: District Councillor for Nettleham and Riseholme.

On Friday March 23, 2018, I attended the meeting of the Leisure, Culture, Events and Tourism working group.

One of the officers explained the tourism and visitor economy strategy. This will have three development strands: Gainsborough; the Fringe villages and the area close to the Wolds.

Work is continuing to promote Mayflower 400 in 2020.

The new Leisure contract for the district is due to start on June 1, 2018. There will be a Health and Wellbeing Hub in Gainsborough and a new Sports development in Market Rasen. There is also the ambition to create outreach services throughout the district. We have suggested that they do an inventory to ascertain what is already there.

We have invited the Conservation Officer to the next meeting, so that we can discuss her role in projects related to heritage themes.

For information:

The West Lindsey Churches Festival Weekend in the east of the district: May 12 and May 13, 2018.

The West Lindsey Churches Festival Weekend in the west of the district: May 19 and May 20, 2018.

Bastion in the Air Exhibition @The Collection in Lincoln: May 26 to September 9, 2018.

Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival: May 19 to June 3, 2018.

On Wednesday March 28, 2018 I attended the meeting of the Nettleham Heritage Association to celebrate the work in Bishop's Meadow. The talk on Sir John Franklin indicated how many Lincolnshire people were involved in exploration in the nineteenth century.

The Challenge and Improvement Committee on Tuesday April 3, 2018, received the Lincolnshire six-monthly update from Chief Inspector Stewart Brinn. Members of the committee were impressed by his articulate presentation and responses to questions. The deficiencies of other services are adding to the work of the police. It was useful to hear that the closure of the Walk-in centre on Monks Road has implications for their workload. I had not thought about this, but I can see that the Walk-in centre would have been used by several people with drug addiction and mental illness problems. The pressure on the ambulance service also has an impact on the police, who may be put in the position of transporting a patient to hospital.

The force has been successful in its strategy to locate and prevent hare coursing in the county.

Working with West Lindsey officers, the incidents of social disorder in Gainsborough have been reduced.

I was invited to a breakfast meeting at the Riseholme Campus by the University of Lincoln. There were two presentations on agroforestry. This involves planting trees and growing crops between them. Mr Stephen Briggs has done this on his farm in Cambridgeshire. He has planted apple trees on three metre strips with crops in between. The system has been used in France and China. Mrs Isobel Wright is experimenting with this method in a field on the Riseholme Estate. Other trees such as walnut can be used for longer term investment and another farmer has planted lines of trees in a field with sheep in it.

The morning finished with a presentation by Ms Emma Bird of the Woodland Trust. She spends time advising farmers, for whom she can obtain funding for tree planting. Protecting growing trees from animals such as sheep can be a problem. A member of audience who had planted walnut trees asked for advice on preventing squirrels from eating his crop. He said most of the advice he had found was in French. This did not surprise me as we have driven along miles of walnut trees on our way to the Alps.

I attended the meeting of the Full Council on April 9, 2018. This provided an opportunity for Gainsborough Bowls Club to speak to the council. The Bowls Hall, as a permanent fixture, will be changed, so that it can be used for other activities. Alternatives have been offered to the club, so that they can continue playing, either there with roll up mats or somewhere else. They are the only group to be disadvantaged by the new contract.

At the Lincolnshire Show planning meeting on April 16, 2018, the officer updated us on the contacts made and the arrangements for the marquee. We reviewed a draft leaflet on our theme: West Lindsey Then and Now – 1918 – 2018. This will include agriculture, engineering, social and local government changes. We will use photographs obtained from local heritage centres.

Finally, I attended the April 17, 2018 meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee. Following a statement from a member of the public, there was a long discussion on how planning operates, the communication with parish councils and the protocol of the call-in of applications to the Planning Committee. I hope that more information will be put on the West Lindsey website to inform residents.