

District Councillor Report to Nettleham Parish Council: March 19, 2018.

I attended the following meetings.

February 20, 2018: **Public Realm Committee**

To better understand the issues faced across the District, a comprehensive survey has been developed for completion by Parish and Town Councils

The committee reviewed the survey prepared by officers, following discussion with members.

It is intended to send it out after Easter.

The terms of reference of the task group are as follows: -

To investigate the efficiency and effectiveness of the service (both those provided by West Lindsey and others) which impact upon the public realm in the District and make recommendations to the Prosperous Communities Committee on any improvements which have been identified as being necessary.

The scope of the work is covering the following themes:

- Street scene (Highway, street lights, street cleansing)
- Right of way (Footpaths, cycle paths)
- Rural environment (Green spaces, waterways)
- Environmental crime (Fly tipping, littering, dog fouling)
- Rural crime (Agricultural crime, ASB/burglary)

This meeting was followed by **Scrutiny training** organised by KPMG. The main points I took from this training are that scrutiny should be involved early in a process. You should do the work in a non-partisan way. It should not be about what party you are in. You are there on behalf of the public. The Public Realm Committee was thought to be a good example of public scrutiny.

The third meeting of the day was the **Challenge and Improvement Committee**. Representatives of the ACIS housing association answered questions previously sent to them. These questions mainly concerned the areas of concern of West Lindsey District Council relating to the social housing in their district, their relationship with ACIS and future housing development. In response to one question, it was stated that tenants have representation on a tenancy led scrutiny panel.

February 27, 2018: **Commercial Training:** Funding from government is reducing on an annual basis and the present system will cease completely in 2020. The council is investing in property to produce an income. They have criteria for the level of income return required before they invest. They have also negotiated a new Sport and Leisure partnership which should ensure wider access and reduce council costs in the future.

During the extreme weather conditions of Wednesday February 28/March 1/2/ 2018 the West Lindsey District Council offices remained open. However, many staff were unable to get in and the waste collection was suspended. Councillors received daily emails from the Head of Paid Services sending information from the Lincolnshire Police. Once a critical incident had been declared it made it easier to cancel meetings and stay at home.

The **Full Council of West Lindsey District Council** met on March 5, 2018. I voted in favour of the budget. It was based on detailed figures with future forecasts and accompanied by a narrative explaining the return expected from investments and the level of service to be provided. I supported

charging for the green bin. Included in the council tax, residents without a garden, who do not need a green bin, were subsidising those who did. It is optional and £35 for fortnightly collection over eight months is good value. West Lindsey is the last district in Lincolnshire to start charging for the green bin.

March 8, 2018: **Health Commission**. West Lindsey is part of the consortium who will now administer the Wellbeing service. This aims to support vulnerable adults living independently. Andy Storer, Chief Executive of AGE UK Lindsey, a locally based independent charity and a brand partner of Age UK, covering West and East Lindsey and North Lincolnshire, spoke to the commission group. They offer a wide range of services supporting health and social care. Contact details: 01507 524242: www.ageuk.org.uk/lindsey.

Later, Ian Knowles, Director of Resources, showed us the questions he had to answer and return to government for the **Fair Funding Review**: Needs and Resources consultation. Districts differ in elements such as sparsity, age profile and drainage costs. The new system, plus 75% of Business Rates retention, is due to be in place for 2020.

March 9, 2018: I went to the Benjamin Adlard school in the south-west ward of Gainsborough to act as a mentor for an hour to a Year 5 pupil. This initiative is involving members and officers of West Lindsey. The school is rated as good by Ofsted, following the leadership of the present headteacher. We were asked to first help support the home study work on the Tudors. I was really interested to see that Lincolnshire Heritage is using the village of Thimbleby, near Horncastle, as an example of a medieval village. My pupil knew what happened to all the wives of Henry V111.

March 13, 2018: The **Governance and Audit Committee** scrutinised the audit on service performance and the risk register. The accounts will be presented at the end of July 2018, so they will be reviewed at the next meeting.

March 14, 2018: **Leader's panel**. The Head of Customer service explained how they planned to improve the systems of communications and therefore, services. Members were asked to review the aims and language of the Corporate plan. My suggestion was 'Invest and serve'. Invest in people, services and property.

March 15,2018: Updated on progress for the West Lindsey District Council marquee at the **Lincolnshire Show**. Our theme is the District 2018 now and then 1918, including rural life, industry, education and local government, and future developments. I had found a film of a Marshall threshing machine operated by a steam engine at a local show in 2008. It also features on an episode of Dad's Army.

Finally, on March 16, 2018 I submitted my **Community Award** nomination of Keep Nettleham Tidy for the District community group. They are to be congratulated on their efforts to improve our environment.

Angela M White (Mrs)

West Lindsey District Councillor for Nettleham and Riseholme.