

Lincolnshire Police & Parish Council briefing event 25/9/25

A interesting meeting.

Main points include:

Both Police and PCSO numbers are significantly lower than 2008, when the presenter Philip Baker, Police Commander, said he last felt the police numbers were about right. Looking to recruit 50+ Police Officers and around 40 PCSOs'. There is recruitment taking place now and over the next year.

My question regarding local crime was the first question to be picked up. (See local crime report I have prepared).

CCTV:

Concern over the effective use of CCTV across WLDC. Rick Craig, Deputy Leader at the Gainsborough Town Council, SW Ward expressed concerned regarding CCTV in Gainsborough. Asked if it is actually securing arrests and convictions, in and around Gainsborough. Asked how effective it is.

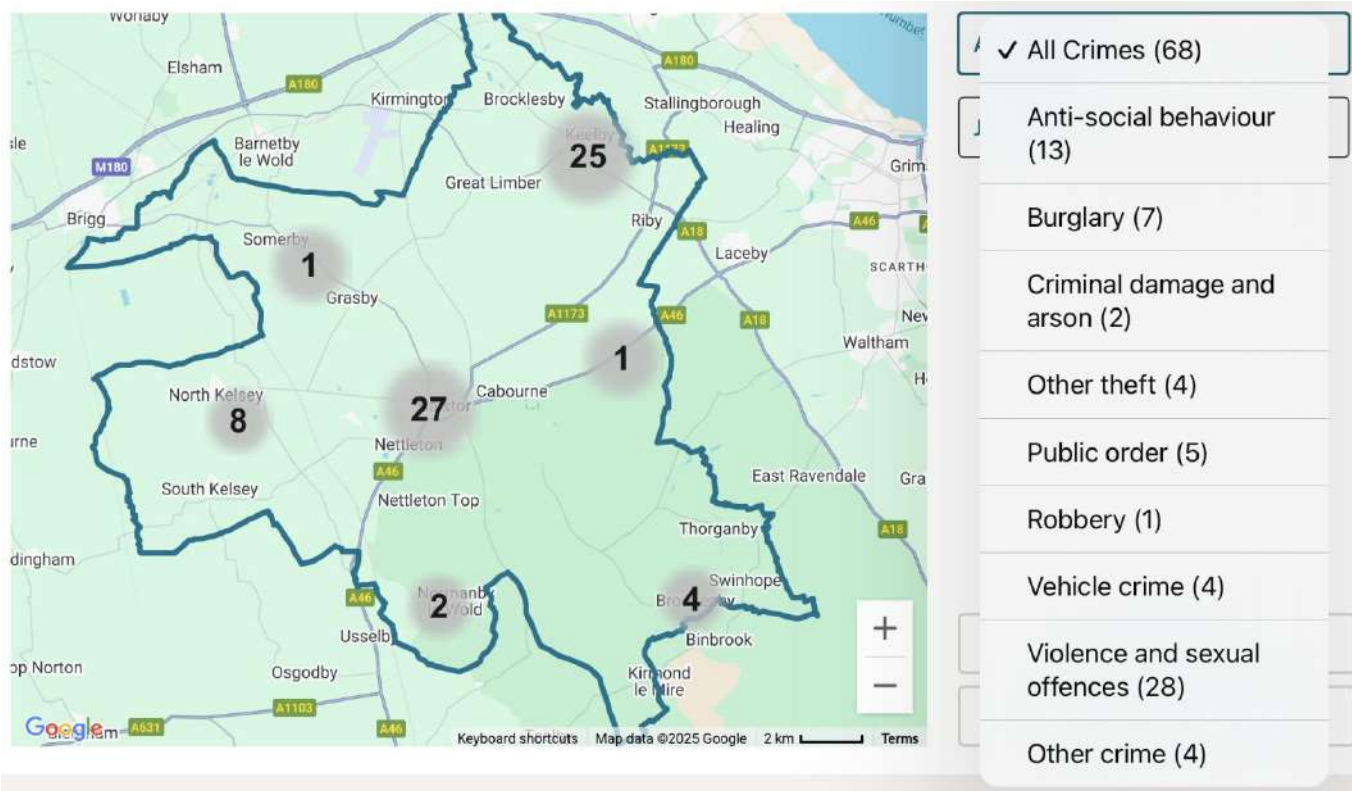
The Police have submitted 2 extra officers into Gainsborough to form part of a "High Harm Team". There has been a 34% increase in serious violence, especially South Ward in Gainsborough and Market Rasen - people running around with guns, machetes etc. .. Operation Cyklon in progress to clear out top 10 high harm offenders. Basically insufficient police time to look at vandalism / theft of lawn mowers while they are dealing with this much street violence.

Gainsborough and Market Rasen – uprise in serious violence being driven by drugs. Market Rasen recently had a serious offender arrested.

Lack of resources, have to be drive by harm. Too much nasty stuff going on in Gainsborough and Market Rasen, consequently reduces time available elsewhere.

Jayne Bowman Cllr.

Crime in and around Caistor July 2025



Anti-social behaviour:



Robbery:



Burglary:



Vehicle crime:



Criminal damage and arson:



Violence and sexual offences:



Other theft



Other Crime:



Public order:



Report of District Councillor Owen Bierley to Caistor Town Council,

9th October 2025

(Prepared Wednesday, 1st October)

Community

The District Council has received new allocations from the Rural England Prosperity Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and these, together with supplements from our reserves, have enabled us to reopen our highly successful Flagship Community Grant Scheme for a further year, on a broadly similar basis to before. Please visit the Grants and Funding pages on our website for full details of the various funds we have available, together with the relevant Application Forms and Guidance Notes. In view of the proven high demand organisations are again asked to begin the process by completing an 'Expression of Interest' form as soon as possible via: <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/communities-safety/grants-funding> Doing so will not only assist the applicant, but also engage the advice and guidance of Communities Team officers. Separately, the UKSPF award has enabled the extension of the Council's fully funded business support scheme that offers free one-to-one sessions with Clare Bailey 'The Retail Champion'.

West Lindsey's Local Council Tax Support Scheme Consultation closes on Monday, 6th October and is here: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Interview/7cf3875b-cddf-41c3-b8e7-f229a6a7db6e> This scheme helps people under state pension age and on a low income to pay their Council Tax.

It is pleasing to report that West Lindsey District Council is the lead local authority in the Central and South Lincolnshire Consortium for the Warm Homes Local Grant, based on an award of funding from the Midlands Net Zero Hub. This government backed scheme seeks to support residents by addressing fuel poverty issues and reducing emissions in a measurable and sustainable way that also leads to improved mental and physical health by reducing cold-related illnesses and associated stress. Offers will be tailored to specific circumstances but, in general, interventions could include insulation, solar panels and air source heat pumps, with availability extending to those low income households that are either in owner occupation or privately rented and having an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating between D and G. Importantly, these upgrades will be open to all fuel types i.e. coal, electricity, gas, liquid petroleum gas and oil. For further information and guidance please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-warm-homes-local-grant>

Our popular and highly successful Councillor Local Initiative Fund, specifically designed to assist in bringing forward and delivering small-scale community projects remains open, with each member having an allocation of £4,000.00 for the four-year term of the Council. Please would anyone considering applying to this fund contact either Angela or me in the first instance?

The Council publishes a highly valuable, monthly, Business E-Brief and the link to subscribe is: <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/business-services-support/business-support-advice/business-e-brief>

Related to this, residents are invited to sign up to receive a digital copy of West Lindsey News using: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKWESTLINDSEY/subscriber/new?preferences=true>

Almost one hundred and fifty businesses participate in West Lindsey's Think Local campaign, including fourteen in Caistor. This opportunity is offered completely without charge. To view the list of participants visit: <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/my-community/think-local>

Organisers are invited to publicise their forthcoming events and functions through the Council's website at: <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/events> This service, too, is offered free of charge.

I'm absolutely delighted that Good Causes registered with the West Lindsey Lottery (including no fewer than seven in and around the town) continue to benefit from significant and sustainable additional income from this opportunity. Draws take place at 8.00 every Saturday evening with

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many prizes to be won up to a jackpot of £25,000.00, with monthly promotional ‘add-ons’ too. For example, existing (and potential new supporters) have the chance to win an iPhone 17 Pro in the Super Draw on Saturday, 25th October, or to take £1,000.00 in cash instead! Alongside this the Referral Prize Draw enables existing supporters to recommend the lottery to their family and friends and gives each party an entry into an exclusive monthly £200.00 draw to win an Amazon Gift Card upon any sign up. For further information, to purchase tickets, or to register as a new Good Cause, please visit our dedicated website at: <https://www.westlindseylottery.co.uk>

NB. Every pound raised for a Good Cause also generates twenty pence for the Community Fund!

The District Council’s approach to the government’s Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) proposals, as set out in the English Devolution White Paper that was announced on Monday, 16th December last year, continues to be one of ‘supportive engagement’, in which we seek to work with all partner authorities in order to fully understand the challenges and opportunities afforded to West Lindsey residents and businesses. Six radically different configurations for the future local government landscape in Lincolnshire are presently being worked up in preparation for submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government by the deadline of Friday, 28th November. A period of statutory consultation will follow during the spring and summer of next year, prior to a ministerial decision on the future unitary council coverage across Greater Lincolnshire. On current timelines it is expected elections to the new shadow authorities will take place in May 2027, with them then becoming operational on vesting day, 1st April 2028. Such change, if delivered, represents the largest reform of the local government sector since 1974 but seems diametrically opposed to the principle of the devolution of power also being espoused.

Environment

The Environment Act 2021 mandated the introduction of separate weekly food waste collections with effect from 1st April 2025 for commercial premises and from 1st April 2026 for households. Our food waste collection service for businesses is already available and those that do not currently subscribe to West Lindsey’s commercial waste offer are warmly invited to do so, the team will be delighted to offer advice, guidance and support! Households will receive a five-litre indoor caddy (approximately 20x20x25 centimetres) together with a supply of liners and a twenty-three litre outdoor caddy (approximately 30x40x38 centimetres) and a detailed welcome pack in February or March next year in time for the start of the new service. Alternatives, for example bread bags, can also be used in place of caddy liners if preferred. Please be assured that caddies are ‘lockable’, obviating any concerns around birds or rodents and additionally, as they are emptied on the usual collection date, they can be placed on top of a wheeled bin. Food waste is taken to the anaerobic digestion facility at Hemswell Cliff where it is processed to generate electricity, produce gas, and to yield other resources such as a nutrient rich biofertiliser. NB. Please be aware that the last green bin collection of the 2025 season will be on Monday, 17th November and that households will shortly each receive a useful bin collection calendar for 2026!

May I also take this opportunity to confirm that the Big Bin Hire service, designed to help those households having a clear out or moving home, remains available? This offer, which has been taken up by local residents, provides a choice of sizes (either 660 or 1100 litres) for a week, at a cost of £50.00 or £60.00 respectively. For reference, the capacity of a black bin is 180 litres.

The Council’s Enforcement Team is working with their Street Cleansing colleagues to identify those responsible for fly-tipping items and materials with a view to issuing fixed penalty notices as a deterrent wherever possible. Of the 451 incidents reported in a recent quarter Enforcement Team officers investigated 34, resulting in no fewer than ten Fixed Penalty Notices being issued! Please don’t hesitate to report any new fly-tips (or any suspicious activity) you see to the Council.

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Estates committee update. October 2025

Since the last Council meeting there was an Estates committee meeting on 16th September.

Play equipment. Regular inspections continue as per monthly schedule, Jon waterman has carried out repairs at the South street park , replacing an upright support on the multi-play and a timber beam on the trail at the top of the hill.

Town Hall September 25th Brigg and Humberside roofing did their annual inspection / survey of the Town Halls roofing and gutters. The parking space for council has now been marked out.

Sportsground A contractor has been located to repair the skate ramp and a quote for the works agreed, materials and labour to undertake the repair.

The old Fire station A structural engineer has been appointed to carry out a survey of the old fire station we are awaiting a date for this work to be undertaken.

Church Cemetery The formal process of memorial inspection at the church yard will begin on 15th October with notices being placed at the churchyard, council web site, facebook and notice board. Advertising in the press where possible. On site inspections are due to begin on 17th November, 30 days after advertising.

The digital scanning of the burial records has been completed. The books are being returned w/c 4th October and will then be moved to Lincolnshire archives.

CS&SC – The sewage pump has been serviced. The report noted a replacement pump is needed, this will be fitted w/c 4th October.

COSHH – COSHH control and data information sheets have been completed for all hazardous substances used in estates and office.