NKDC Report July – September Reece, Carola, and Ian

New housing

Six new residences within a development named in honour of a local individual are either let or on the verge of being let. A total investment of £1.1 million has been allocated to bring forth the three-bedroom residences situated on David's Court, off Lincoln Road in Holdingham. These residences have been developed by Lafford Homes, a company owned by North Kesteven District Council, with the objective of satisfying the local housing demand by setting high standards and delivering top-quality market and affordable rental homes.

Great emphasis has been placed on the quality of these residences. For instance, all six of them are equipped with solar panels to reduce carbon emissions and make them more cost-effective to operate for their occupants. Furthermore, they boast larch cladding and double battened roofs on their exteriors, and this meticulous attention to detail extends to their interiors. The kitchens are designed to be spacious and bright, complete with built-in appliances. The primary bathrooms feature full-height tiling around the bathtub and shower.

There is a strong emphasis on natural light indoors and ample storage space to ensure that these residences are comfortable to live in and cater to the needs of the residents. Additional thoughtful touches include pre-installed curtain rails for the tenants and household waste bins already provided and ready for use. As of the current moment, all these residences have either been leased or have lease agreements pending. Two prospective tenants expressed interest in these properties at the outset of the construction phase and have been eagerly awaiting their completion, with plans to move in now in progress.

For more information visit HERE.

Wheelchair Accessibility Event at Lincolnshire Airsoft Club

In June, the Council's Chairman paid a visit to the Lincolnshire Airsoft Club, where they hosted their inaugural event tailored for individuals who use wheelchairs. Located in Washingborough, the club has made significant adjustments to its facilities to accommodate individuals with various additional needs, hidden disabilities, limited mobility, and those dependent on wheelchairs for mobility. During the visit, the Chairman had the opportunity to meet with Ian Lawrence, the club's owner, and engage with participants of the unique wheelchair-oriented event, gaining valuable first-hand feedback about their experiences at the facility.

Proposals have been presented for the transformation of Sleaford's Market Place into an enhanced public space, with the removal of car parking, aiming to fulfil longstanding desires for the optimal utilization of this central area. North Kesteven District Council has submitted a planning application to bring this vision to life, with the goal of creating a welcoming venue for public gatherings, an improved market, and a place for people to meet and unwind.

If approved, the project will be funded by a government grant of over £1 million dedicated to economic revitalization. The construction work is scheduled to take place from the latter half of 2024 through to spring 2025.

This plan has been developed in direct response to the community's calls for an upgraded public space at the heart of the town. These calls were echoed in two masterplan scoping exercises conducted in recent years, which garnered thousands of comments as valuable feedback.

Key aspects of the plan include:

- Eliminating parking within the market square while preserving limited provisions for church-related activities.
- Maintaining the market, relocating it temporarily during the construction phase to a safer car-free area. The market is operated by the town council.
- Prioritizing the space for pedestrian use.
- Incorporating landscaped areas surrounded by ample seating.
- Creating a versatile space suitable for public events, akin to last year's successful River Light displays.
- Introducing new paving, enhancing the lighting around the war memorial, and improving the overall setting.
- Injecting more vibrancy into the area.

The objective of encouraging people to spend more time in the town is to enhance their enjoyment and increase support for local businesses. A comprehensive planning application will soon be open for public comments and responses, inviting input from residents, traders, and anyone with a vested interest in the planning process.

See more detail of the plans HERE.

Additionally there is a video clip of Cllr Richard Wright explaining how it's looking to fulfil a long-held aspiration for the town expressed by the public through master planning over the years which can be found HERE.

Launch of New NHS Gambling Support Service in the East Midlands

An NHS service, offered at no cost, has been introduced to provide specialized treatment and assistance to individuals in the East Midlands grappling with gambling-related issues.

Named the East Midlands Gambling Harms Service and situated in Derby, this service is geared towards offering specialized therapies, treatment, and recovery support to those affected by gambling addiction and gambling-related challenges in the regions of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, and Rutland.

The team delivering this service consists of clinical psychologists, therapists, mental health practitioners, psychiatrists, and individuals with first-hand experience in overcoming gambling addiction.

Most of the support will be delivered through virtual treatment programs and group workshops. Additional assistance and guidance will also be extended to family members and caregivers. Collaborations with other agencies will be established to address associated issues like mental health, debt management, and housing.

Referrals are currently being accepted, and individuals concerned about their gambling habits can either self-refer or request a healthcare professional to make a referral on their behalf. This service is administered by the Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

For more information visit HERE.

The Motive-8 Challenge: A Spark for Autumn Activity

As the memory of summer fades and the appeal of staying active diminishes, Motive-8 September arrives to inject vigour into the autumn season. The rationale behind Motive-8 lies in the average person's daily routine: eight hours dedicated to work and, if fortunate, eight hours allocated for sleep, leaving only an eight-hour window for other essential tasks. Often, self-care takes a back seat. This challenge presents a week filled with enjoyable activities, culminating on the eighth day to encourage participants to sustain their newfound healthy habits, fostering an environment of staying active, motivated, refreshed, and engaged.

Registration for the challenge opens on September 1st and remains accessible until midnight on National Fitness Day (September 20th). The Motive-8 Challenge unfolds from Thursday, September 21st, through Friday, September 29th.

Register your interest **HERE**.