

Cllr. Ian Carrington – Lincolnshire County Council & North Kesteven District Council



Latest News November 2023:

Floods

I've spent a lot of time in wellingtons and waterproofs recently, doing what I can for those affected by the flooding. Nearly 2 months' rain in 24 hours will always be a challenge, and in Heighington that was compounded by ground water flooding problems. A home being flooded is utterly soul destroying – and the effects go on for many months. Other parts of my patch have also been affected, but thankfully not so badly as Heighington.



I've paid public tribute to the incredible work done by staff from LCC, NKDC, Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue and the police, not to mention the unsung heroes of the internal drainage boards whose pumps are running 24/7 to clear biblical volumes of water. And let's also remember the many individuals and community organisations who stepped in to help out. LCC alone dealt with over 600 incidents in just the first four days, and across the county more than 200 households and businesses have been flooded out.

Lincolnshire County Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority and already has an investigation under way, and I will do everything I can to make sure lessons are learned. I'm particularly keen to see greater involvement of community organisations like parish councils, and to pre-position things like sandbags. And to help premises which we know will be vulnerable to protect and prepare.



As I write (more than a week after Storm Babet hit) there are still households pumping out and farmers' fields under water. We can't master mother nature, but we must redouble our efforts to mitigate her impacts and deal with environmental change.

After flooding

If there is one thing worse than being flooded it is the clean-up afterwards.

There is guidance from the Government on how to safely disinfect and clean up at home after flood water. This is important as flood water can contain bacteria, chemicals and sewage: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/floods-how-to-clean-up-your-home-safely/floods-cleaning-your-home-safely>

Gardens and lawns should be left to allow the UV rays in sunlight to destroy bacteria. The time it takes for bacterial contamination to return to normal levels will depend on

the season and soil type but the maximum time to return to usual levels is one month. Avoid working in the garden because disturbing the soil can prolong the process. Children and pets shouldn't be allowed onto the affected areas. Paths and driveways should be washed down and disinfected. Garden or allotment-grown food contaminated by wastewater should not be consumed.

The Lincolnshire Resilience Forum is a useful resource to point residents to and contains some good information on:

- What to do after before, during and after a flood.
- How to stay prepared at home, including what to consider in a 'flood kit' should you need to leave your property quickly in future.
- A personal flood plan which is downloadable from the LRF website.

These are generally some good tips for after a flood:

<https://www.lincolnshireresilienceforum.org/risks/river-surface-flooding>

Residents can also sign up for flood warning alerts here: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

Climate change – climate action

Whilst recent weather has of course just been weather, the pattern of more frequent and severe weather events is exactly what scientists say climate change will bring. So I was very proud to help propose a motion at North Kesteven District Council re-committing the Council to our Climate Change Action Plan.

This is delivering real change across the District – and every step is timed, costed, budgeted and passes the key tests of being practical and achievable. We've already won awards for our work (such as for our net zero eco homes), and I'm absolutely committed to delivering real action that won't break the bank and will deliver serious change for the better.

Find out more at [Climate emergency strategy and action plan | North Kesteven District Council \(n-kesteven.gov.uk\)](https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/Climate-emergency-strategy-and-action-plan)

National recognition for the County culture team

LCC's culture team's hard work has raised the national profile of our heritage sites.

The [Museum of Lincolnshire Life](#) has gained the [Sandford Award](#) in recognition of its outstanding learning programme for schools, colleges and universities.

This latest recognition builds on LCC's previous Sandford Award successes at Lincoln Museum and Lincoln Castle. For more information visit [investigatelearning.com](https://www.investigatelearning.com).

And [Lincoln Castle](#) has received [VisitEngland's Gold Award](#) for being one of the best visitor attractions in the country. The accolades are designed to celebrate visitor

attraction excellence and showcase those that go the extra mile to provide a high-quality day out.

Lincoln Castle is one of only four venues in the whole of the East Midlands to receive the gold award this year.

Highways

Road repairs have continued in my area, with various potholes being repaired and faulty lights replaced. A major scheme on Harmston Hill completed on time and on budget despite atrocious wet weather. Ironically this has provided much improved drainage capacity on the hill to prevent water flowing onto neighbouring land, and as part of the project a completely new pedestrian footway has been installed.



As ever, if you see anything which needs attention please report it via <https://www.fixmystreet.com> or the LCC website at <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/faults-maintenance>

Highways funding

The County Council doesn't get its fair share of Government money for roads, especially for rural road repairs. But highways were the Number 1 concern from residents when I stood for election, and that hasn't changed. So I strongly support our decision to allocate £7 million of underspend from last year's budget to roads. At a recent council meeting some opposition members sought to spread the cash across between seven different functions, using as their example some children's services which in fact are already fully funded. I respect their opinion but disagree. So I voted to put the cash into highways, and the £7 million now makes over £20 million extra to improve roads, footways and cycleways and do quality repairs. Five thousand miles of road in Lincolnshire makes for a big challenge, but it's one I'm determined to do my bit to help meet.

Rural business grant

The Rural Business Grant supports rural businesses to invest in sustainable growth. It's part of the Government's Levelling Up program and is administered by North Kesteven District Council.

Applications are currently open – the minimum grant is £5,000 and match funding is required. If you think you – or someone you know – might benefit, you can find more details here: [Rural England Prosperity Fund business grant | North Kesteven District Council \(n-kesteven.gov.uk\)](https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/rural-england-prosperity-fund-business-grant)

Business advice

And for business advice and assistance (for small or large businesses, rural or urban) see [Business NK – North Kesteven | The place to invest | The place to grow](https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/business-nk) and sign up to the free business NK newsletter.

Lincolnshire County Council also has a business advice service – see details at [Business advice service – Lincolnshire County Council](#) and there's further help at the Business Lincolnshire website <https://www.businesslincolnshire.com>

Consultation on schools admission policy

Lincolnshire County Council is carrying out a consultation on a change to its school admissions policy for 2025-26 for local authority-maintained schools. The consultation runs from 20 October to 1 December. For further information and to take part, visit www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-admissions-2.

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