

# HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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What we've achieved in the last  
year....2023-24

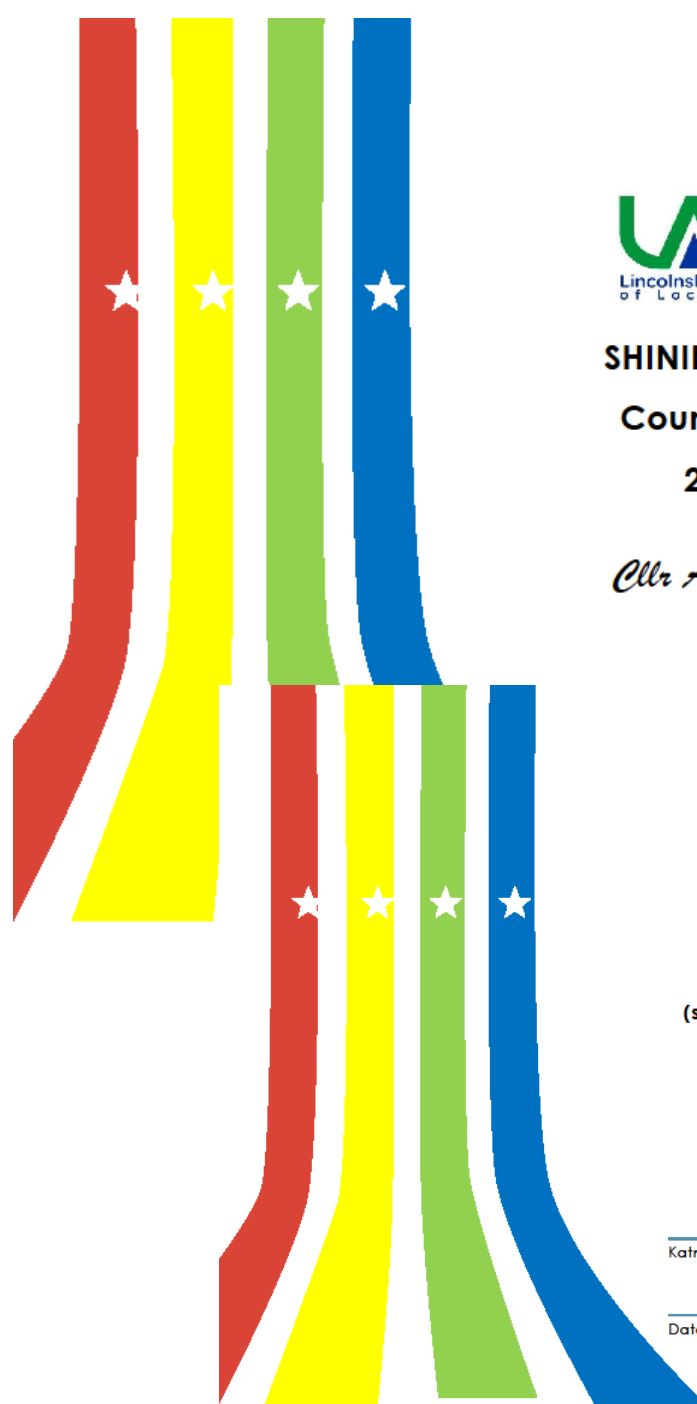


# OUR COUNCIL

Local elections in May 2023. Heighington was uncontested (fewer nominations than seats). Now have our full complement of 11 councillors.

Congratulations to Cllr Alison Buckley-Jones and Nikki Briscoe our RFO for their nominations in the 2023 Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils (LALC) Shining Stars Awards.

Great report from our external auditors for 2022-23 and also from our intermediate internal audit for 2023-24.



## SHINING STARS AWARDS

**Councillor of The Year**

**2023 Nominee**

*Cllr Alison Buckley-Jones*



SHINING STARS AWARDS  
Special Recognition Award  
(sponsored by the late Tony Mee)  
2023

**Nominee**

*Nikki Briscoe*

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Katrina Evans, Chief Executive, LALC

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Date

# COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

At our Community Litter pick in October, 20 volunteers collected 10 bags of rubbish from around the village.

The next litter pick is planned for **28th April**. Meet at the Jubilee Hall at 10:00. Refreshments afterwards.

We're also lucky to have our regular volunteer community litter picker. In 2023 alone he collected 33 bags of rubbish from around the village and generously donated 42 hours of his time to do this.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

We ran a number of free community events for children, which are all well supported, including a Hoola hoop Megastructure workshop; free tennis coaching sessions; Halloween workshop making spooky lanterns and decorations; circus workshop.

We took part in the village scarecrow festival, in conjunction with Washingborough and Branston parish councils.

Remembrance Sunday was again commemorated with the knitted poppies.

Council was happy to support A Good Yarn and their amazing, knitted Christmas Tree.



# FESTIVE TEA & CAKE

Our annual Festive Tea generated a fantastic response from residents.

Branston & District u3a ukulele band got everyone singing.

Representatives from Branston Academy student council attended and joined in.

Our thanks go once again to AF Blakemore & Son Ltd/Spar for their generous donations and for the support of all the volunteers.



# MORE EVENTS TO COME

27<sup>th</sup> March - Easter Tea & Cake

9<sup>th</sup> April - Hoola hoop Megastructure workshop

7<sup>th</sup> May - Adults card making/crafting event

12<sup>th</sup> June - Pre-school bubble workshop, veg critters & balloons

23<sup>rd</sup> October - Halloween workshop

11<sup>th</sup> December - Festive Tea



# ENVIRONMENTAL

LCC Zero Carbon Parishes grant helped fund:

- Energy-efficient LED lighting at Jubilee Hall
- Cycle racks at Station Road, Potterhanworth Road
- Water butts for Station Road & Jubilee Hall
- Daffodil & narcissus bulbs for Station Road
- Thermal blinds for Station Road pavilion

Totalling £3839.69



# ENVIRONMENTAL (CONT)

Free trees (from the Woodland Trust) planted at Station Road – thank you to all the volunteers

Free hedgerow trees due to be planted at Potterhanworth Road

We had lots of people interested in the idea of a Repair Hub, but unfortunately not enough stepped forward to form a committee to organise and run this so the idea is currently paused.





# FLOODING

Despite the heartbreak and disruption caused by the floods in October and January, it has been impressive to see the community spirit amongst residents helping others out.

The parish council continues to work with LCC (the lead flood authority) and other agencies to see how the flooding situation can be improved.

We were able to provide some filled sandbags for residents and we're in the process of setting up a sand bin at Jubilee Hall so that residents can fill their own sandbags.

Work is ongoing with our Emergency Plan.



# STATION ROAD REDEVELOPMENT

Trees & bulbs planted – bulbs just coming up now

Due to be installed in the next few weeks:

- New bench (with back)
- New accessible picnic table

Thanks to Cllrs Buckley-Jones and Sowerby for driving this forward.

Any other ideas?



# SPEEDING AND TRAFFIC

A new solar powered speed sign due to be installed on Washingborough Road.

We need more volunteers interested in starting up a Community Speedwatch group to get this off the ground.

It was a shame to see the attitude and behaviour of some motorists during the High Street closure in August. Unfortunately, some reckless motorists ignored the road closure, putting pedestrians and other motorists at risk.



# OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Jubilee Hall wooden floor was stripped back and re-waxed - many years of polish and grime was removed.

Working with volunteers to get the knitted poppies up for Remembrance Day.

Tennis courts were professionally cleaned and re-marked out. A local tennis coach is now planning to run coaching sessions for children, running from April through to July.

Free play tennis for residents will continue.



# OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS (CONT)

The extended period of wet and warm weather caused lots of tree and hedge growth around the village, resulting in complaints about obstructed footpaths. We ask residents to please cut foliage to keep footpaths clear.

The parish office has been extended, hopefully providing a more welcome visit for parishioners. Also, our storeroom has been revamped, with new shelving and storage.

The clothing bank situated in the rear Jubilee Hall car park generated £168 in the last year, allocated to community projects.

As part of our ongoing play area maintenance, we replaced the universal joint on the cantilever swing at Almond Avenue, at a cost of £1,821.



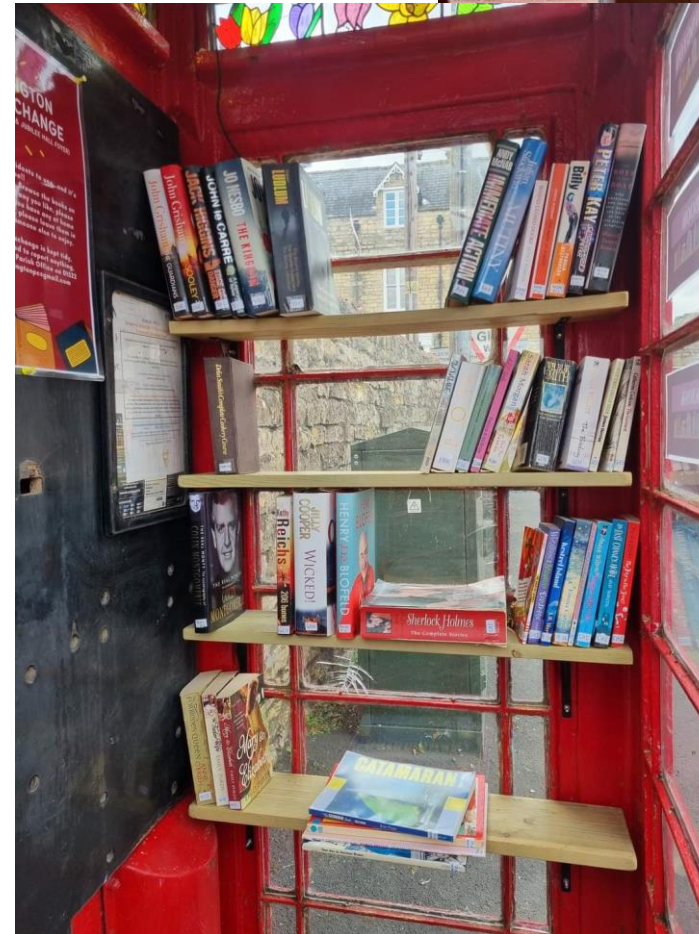
# BOOK SWAP

Goes from strength to strength, attracting a number of regular visitors.

We also extended this to the phone box on the high Street (creating a book kiosk).

Unfortunately, we had some vandalism to both the books and the kiosk and removed the books over the winter but hope to put some back in the better weather.

Cllr Jacki Rushby is our council 'librarian', looking after the books.



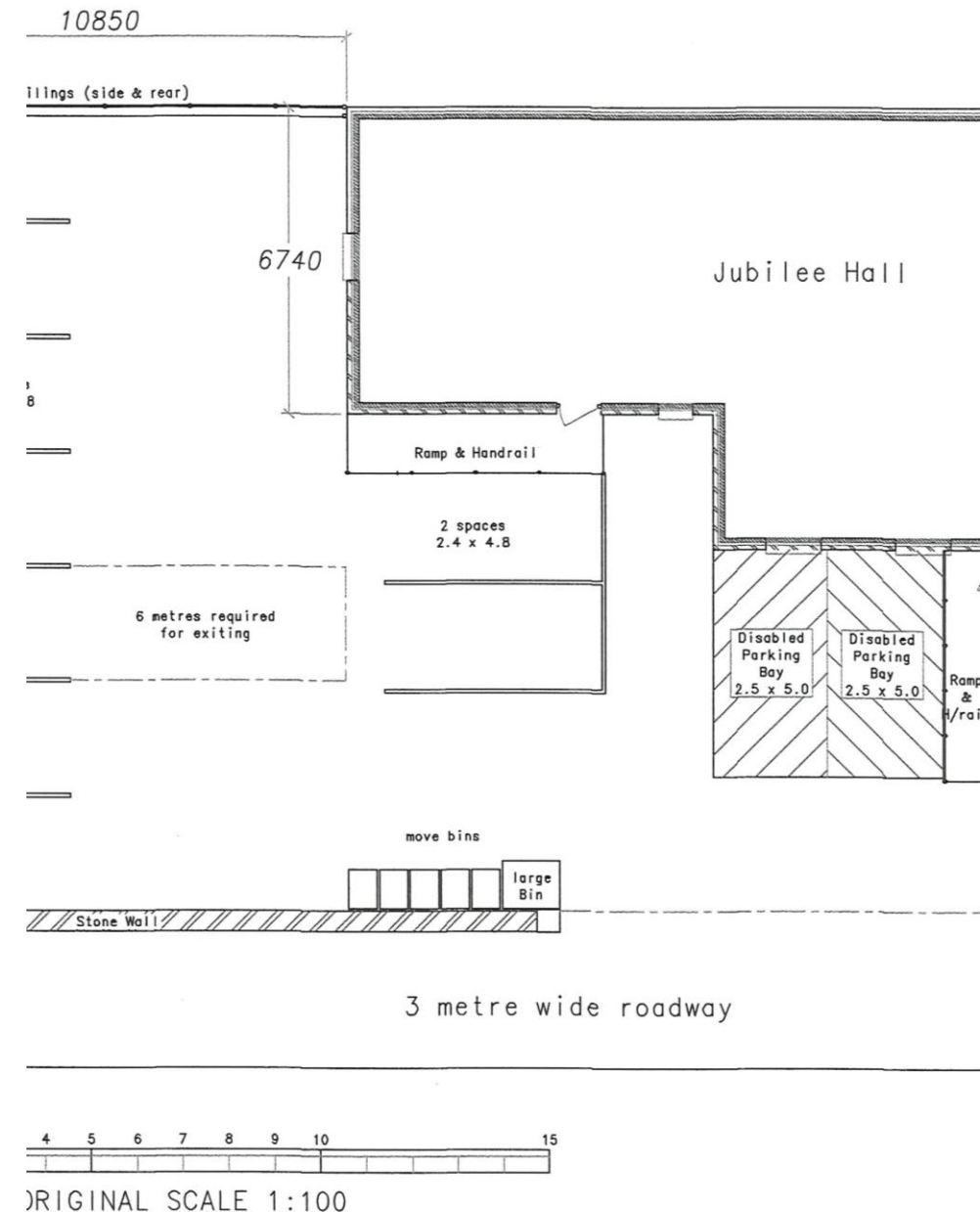
# PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Continuing to try and cut our village carbon footprint.

Possible use of Station Road pavilion for smaller groups who don't need all the space of the hall.

Currently liaising with a local fabricator to find a way of displaying the old flagpole top at the Jubilee Hall.

Plan to get the Jubilee Hall car park marked out to maximise space – it can get a bit chaotic when the parking is uncontrolled.



# FEEDBACK

Please put forward any suggestions or ideas.

The Parish Office is open Monday – Thursday, 9:00 – 13:00.

If you have any burning issues, please contact us and we'll try to help.

Reminder that parishioners are welcome to attend our council meetings (15-minute public participation session at the start of each meeting).

