

Chairman's Annual Report

Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council 2022/2023

The Council held 29 Council and Committee meetings from May 2022 to April this year.

The Council entered the East Midlands in Bloom competition in July 2022 with help from a volunteer group and the hard work of Council employees, a Silver award for the Small Town category was achieved, along with the Judges award for the Welton Heritage Trail. Our floral displays last year had a red, white, and blue theme to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. To celebrate the Jubilee, the Council invited residents of the village to an Afternoon Tea on the village green. Music was provided by the City of Lincoln Band, dancing from Poacher Morris, lots of stalls, and a fly past by a Hurricane. It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Her Majesty only a few months later.

I had the honour of laying a wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the village on Remembrance Day in November; it was lovely to be able to have a gathering and the usual ceremony.

Another event that brought the community together, was the annual Christmas tree lighting, in 2022 with the addition of a Christmas Market; with the children from St Mary's Primary School processing and singing Carols led by our vicar, the Rev'd Adam Watson accompanied by the City of Lincoln Band. Mulled wine and mince pies were served by Councillors and staff. A teacup ride, balloon twisting and Santa's grotto was also provided for the children.

A Farmer's Market started in October after many residents said they would like to see this on the village survey, that was carried out last year. Our Clerk and Deputy Clerk visited other markets in the area to invite local traders and this now takes place on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the village hall. It has gone from strength to strength with 24 stalls currently and a further 14 on a waiting list wanting to join.

The Community Speed Watch volunteers have continued to record some alarming speeds as cars travel through our village. We still need more members to join the team, training is provided by the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership; so if you can spare an hour or two a month, please get in touch with the Clerk.

The Library & Community Hub goes from strength to strength with visitor numbers increasing since the lockdowns and Hub Events well attended to hear talks on subjects by experts and enthusiastic members of various organisations. Our library is only able to operate with the dedication and time given by volunteers and again, if you can spare an hour or two a week, fortnightly or monthly or to arrange a taster session please get in touch with the Clerk or speak to one of the volunteers at the library. Training is provided by Greenwich Leisure Ltd who carry this out on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council.

We are working with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Bishop Burton College on enhancing the Lagoon area off Beckhall, encouraging more wildlife into the area by improving habitats and planting native species wildflowers and plants.

The first Sites of Interest information boards were installed around the village using QR codes and paper copies of the sites are available at the Parish Office.

The old Bowls Green is now an amazing Multi-Use Games Area with outdoor gym equipment and the Council held the official opening on Wednesday 12th April. The contractors, Kompan attended and gave away freebies to the children and representatives from West Lindsey who contributed to its funding were present. Representatives from FCC who were the main funders along with the Parish Council were unable to attend. Many children came down with their parents to the opening and enjoyed a free ice cream.

A new swing unit with cradle seat has been installed at the Ryland Road play area and it is the Council's intention to install a climbing wall at the site and replace some of the equipment at Manor Park.

The work of the council on the whole is carried out by the Committees and I would like to thank them for their hard work over the year and in particular their Chairmen, Cllrs Marlene Chapman, Al Lowen, Roy Lobley and Mike Powell.

The Council is served by the Parish Clerk, Julie Murray, Deputy Clerk, Louise Gibbs and our newly appointed Administration Assistant, Hazel Bell. Our Internal Auditor and Data Protection Officer Sandra Waller, and our Facilities Team Rob Lewis, Sue Denton, Steve Broughton, Harry Cairns and Maurice Swinburn have all done a wonderful job over the past year.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of our Parish Councillors, our County Councillor Sue Rawlins, District Councillor Di Rodgers and the outgoing District Councillors Stephen England and Caralyne Grimble, the many organisations and individual parishioners and volunteers who have supported our community throughout the year.

I wish you all well for the year ahead.

Cllr Alan Greenway
Chairman, Welton-by-Lincoln Parish Council