

NOVEMBER PARISH UPDATE

Hope this months Parish Update finds you all well.

A few things to update you on...

Cost of Living

SKDC have convened a working group to help residents deal with the rising Cost of Living, led by Councillor Annie Mason, Cabinet Member for Communities.

Two Cost of Living leaflets have now been put together by our Communications Team which will inform the public, as well as partners and stakeholders of the help available to them.

One is being printed and issued with Council Tax reminders / summonses, rent letters, and tenancy sign up packs and with letters issued to SK tenants.

The other is for use by staff and elected Members that we can all signpost our residents to the appropriate resources. This has also been uploaded to the SK website –

www.southkesteven.gov.uk/costofliving.

SKDC is part of a county-wide “Warm Spaces” working Group which is looking at the best way a venue can register as a warm space and receive the support they need to set up safely.

Foodbank Update

You will be aware that foodbanks are running in each of our four towns to help support those struggling to provide food for themselves and their families.

Clear information on how they operate is not always easily available, which is why our Cost of Living Working Group has produced a guide (attached below) to increase awareness among our staff and elected members so that we can all point people in the right direction for assistance.

Full details on the foodbanks in South Kesteven - plus other information for those needing help with food - can be found on our Cost of Living pages online at

<http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/costofliving>

By Election Update

By elections for the Grantham St Wulframs’ and Bourne East Ward were held on 10th November; Cllr Mary Whittington was successfully elected to represent Grantham St Wulframs’ whilst Cllr Julia Reid will be the new Councillor for Bourne East.

A third by-election was called last week for the Toller Ward, following the sudden resignation of Cllr Jan Hansen. The date of this by-election will be Thursday 15th December.

Gold Award Recognition

I am proud to share the news that the Council has been presented with the prestigious Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award, pictured below.

This means we are now one of only 12 Gold Award holders in Lincolnshire and among 643 in the entire country for the scheme, which encourages employers to support all aspects of defence and inspire others to do the same.

The Gold Award is public acknowledgement of an employer's efforts to pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to its armed forces community.

It recognises SKDC's achievements in celebrating and investing in local military heritage; our support for military events such as Remembrance and flag-raising ceremonies; and close engagement with the Army Training Regiment at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks in Grantham.

The selection procedure was rigorous and conducted at the highest level within the Ministry of Defence and Cabinet Office, and thanks must go to our Armed Forces Officer Debbie Nicholls for her tireless work in supporting and advocating these important values, and our Armed Forces Champion Cllr Richard Dixon-Warren.

Along with myself and the Chief Executive, we both attended the Ministry of Defence awards night at the National Memorial Arboretum remembrance site in Staffordshire, where we joined other 2022 Gold Award recipients.

Office Move

Work is well underway on the internal changes being made to our new offices over the Savoy cinema, ahead of our much-anticipated move, which is on schedule for January.

Christmas / New Year Bin Changes

The Christmas period and annual Bank Holidays mean that there are changes to the normal waste collection schedule.

As Christmas Day this year falls on a Sunday, which means our scheduled collection for Monday 26th December will be carried out on Saturday 24th. All collections for the rest of the week will be carried out one day later than usual, up to and including Saturday 31st December.

For the first week of 2023, because there is a Bank Holiday on Monday 2nd January, all bin collections will take place one day later than usual, up to and including Saturday 7th January.

And finally

Winter booster reminder

COVID-19 and flu spread more quickly in winter and can cause serious illness, so here is a reminder that if you're aged 50 or over, in an at risk group or pregnant, you are eligible for a free flu and COVID-19 Booster vaccine.

The flu vaccine is also being offered on the NHS free of charge to those who are pregnant or who have certain health conditions or receive certain benefits. Details here: <http://bit.ly/BSWfluvax>

Having your COVID-19 booster offers the best protection against getting seriously ill and from spreading them to others. Details on the boosters can be found here: <http://bit.ly/NHSBookVaccine>