

# Winterton Town Council Newsletter

March 2013

Telephone: 01724 488085

Email: [wintertoncouncil@talktalkbusiness.net](mailto:wintertoncouncil@talktalkbusiness.net)

[www.wintertoncouncil.co.uk](http://www.wintertoncouncil.co.uk)

## De Lacy House

### Anger and confusion over North Lincs Plans



A number of residents have raised concerns about proposals to pull down De Lacy House. The Town Council has made it clear to North Lincolnshire Council (NLC) that there must be full consultation on this issue. In November Cllr Rob Waltham, Cabinet Member responsible for People, informed us that currently he and NLC were consulting on the provision to be developed in place of De Lacy House.

In both October and November the Town Council specifically asked our Ward Councillors and Cllr Waltham to consult with Winterton groups affected most by this development, and in particular the active Disabled Club and Senior Citizens Forum. Unfortunately we have discovered that this has not happened, and further that the plans have been submitted so quickly we have all had to apply for more time to submit comments.

Of greatest concern is the fact that, whilst De Lacy House has not been used to capacity for a number of years, the plans to pull it down and replace it with a 'Care Complex' of 16 bungalows are somewhat unclear.

We were assured by Cllr Waltham at our November Meeting that the plans were for a 'Care Complex' with support for the needs of older and disabled people, it was assumed there would be warden and care support. The current plans are for only two bungalows will be for use by those who have care needs as delivered by De Lacy House.

**This is a significant difference in our expectation, and the fact that our two core groups of Disabled Club and Senior Citizens Forum have not been consulted is disappointing to say the least.**

**Mayor Cllr Francesca Marritt commented** 'I feel we have been misled by the use of the phrase 'Care Complex'. We are keen to see more affordable housing and welcome more bungalows as part of an improved housing stock provision. Unfortunately this plan will see a massive reduction in the provision for those who have care needs in our community and all must be properly consulted before any change so we can ensure vulnerable people in our town are well cared for.'

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## All Change!



Pam Dudson retired from the Town Council having been the Clerk for over 20 years. She is pictured on the left with new Clerk, Angela Grounds.

Angela has been the Clerk at South Ferriby and Saxby All Saints Councils and brings a wealth of experience to our work.



## Town Council Community Bus Opportunity Lost?

The Town Council was offered the chance to purchase a minibus to improve local transport in Winterton. A grant bid to cover the purchase price was submitted to North Lincs Council. Their Cabinet Member Cllr Rob Waltham met in early February with our Clerk and he agreed to consider the matter further.

Cllr Waltham subsequently informed the Council that he had decided not to allocate any funding to Winterton to buy the bus. He then informed us that he had decided to buy the bus for North Lincs Council and that it would not be available for us to buy at all.

**Had we not tried to work in partnership for the benefit of our Town, Cllr Waltham would have known nothing of this!**

**Mayor, Cllr Francesca Marritt, commented** 'It is extremely disappointing to have spent so much time on researching this and to believe we are working in partnership, only to find ourselves gazumped.

**It is bewildering and certainly not an act that is in the best interests of the town of Winterton.**

Our Ward Councillors have told me they knew nothing of this and have offered to work with us to try to rectify the situation. We will keep you informed of developments'.

## Useful Contacts:

**North Lincs Council 24hr helpline - 01724 297979**  
**Winterton Town Council - 01724 488085**  
**Police (non emergency) - 101**  
**Winterton Medical Practice - 01724 732202**  
**NHS Direct - 0845 46 47**

## Town Council Meetings

The next meetings of the Town Council will be held on:

**19th March 2013**  
**16th April 2013**  
**21st May 2013 (AGM)**

All at 7:30pm in the Old School Hall. These meetings are open to the public. Local residents can speak but need to arrange this in advance with the Mayor or Town Clerk. Committee meetings are also held and are advertised on the Council's Notice Boards.

## Tip Smells

The Town Council continue to liaise with the operators of the local waste tips, the Environment Agency, North Lincolnshire Council and the ward councillors to ensure that the operators bring to an end the run of problems we experienced in 2012.

The Environment Agency report that a total of 63 complaints had been received between October and January. 15 were traced to the Roxby site, 44 were traced to the Winterton site, 4 could have been either.

The EA report only 2 or 3 complaints since Christmas, hopefully due to the effectiveness of the works which have been carried out and not due to residents feeling that their complaints are not being acted upon. Some of the works have taken a long time and it is important to recognise that your complaints to the Environment Agency do bring results.

At Roxby the operator is now tipping the more odorous waste in a cell which is in a lower and more sheltered part of the site, as well as installing more gas wells to extract landfill gasses before they have a chance to escape. At the Winterton site there has been an improvement to the way that waste is compacted and covered after tipping, as well as the installation of additional gas wells and other infrastructure.

The weather has caused problems, particularly rain which caused a slippage of cover material at the Roxby site over Christmas and both sites have had issues with gas pipes freezing, all increase the chances of landfill gas smells reaching the town.

It is important that the tip operators and the Environment Agency know when there is a tip smell in the town, and as quickly as possible. It is in the tip operators interest to solve these problems, but they need to know about the problems when they occur.

**We appeal to all residents, if you notice a tip smell call 0800 807 060 to report it.**

Report it as soon as you can, but even if it is a late report, report it!



## The future of Winterton Can you help?

Would you like to help shape how Winterton will develop over the next 15-20 years?

The Localism Act 2011 introduced new powers giving communities some power to set the priorities for development in their local area through neighbourhood plans. This gives you the chance to influence the future development of Winterton, in areas such as where new homes should be built and what they should look like.

The plan can be detailed or general, depending on what the community wants.

Neighbourhood plans do have some limitations. For example, they must not conflict with national government policy and they must be compatible with the Council's Local Plan. They must also be put to a referendum of local people before they can be adopted. They can also be very time consuming and expensive to develop.

However, without a clear vision about what Winterton is or could be, planning decisions are likely to be made in a piecemeal way, with no overall plan for guidance.

Winterton Town Council are assessing the viability of developing a neighbourhood plan and we need to know how much support there may be for this in the community. Would you be willing to join a group of fellow residents to contribute to the development of such a plan? Do you have views on how the town should develop in the future for the benefit of the community as a whole?

You don't need to have any expertise in planning or development to be involved, nor necessarily any strong opinions, just a feeling that you care about the town in which you live.

If you are interested please call the Town Clerk on 01724 488085 or email [wintertoncouncil@talktalkbusiness.net](mailto:wintertoncouncil@talktalkbusiness.net)

## Dog Fouling

Most Winterton dog owners are very responsible about cleaning up dog waste but it is a fineable offence for the minority who leave it behind.

We are currently receiving a large number of complaints regarding this offence, despite the large number of dog waste bins around the town.

We have taken advice on this matter from the Dog Warden, and it is imperative that incidents of dog fouling not being cleared up are reported in order to make our streets and green spaces cleaner and safer for our residents.

If you are aware of someone who is regularly allowing their dog to foul and not clearing up the mess, or if you see specific incidents, then please either report them directly to the Dog Warden on 01724 297000 or fill in the online report form on the North Lincs Council website, [www.northlincs.gov.uk](http://www.northlincs.gov.uk).

If you feel uncomfortable reporting directly, then please telephone Angela Grounds, Town Clerk, on 01724 488085, and she will report on your behalf.

When reporting an incident it is important that either a name, address or a description of the dog and its owner can be given along with times and dates of offences where possible.

## Tesco Update

North Lincs Council has approved plans by Tesco to develop the Cross Keys site. Tesco amended their signage proposal, and gave other concessions including keeping the frontage of the building with its current wood frames, and minimising temporary signage. The safety of the road and the location of the proposed development have also given rise to significant concerns from residents and Councillors alike.

Tescos have agreed to ensure that consultation is undertaken on the best times for deliveries to minimise disruption. At a recent meeting with Tesco representatives, members of the Town Council re-iterated their concerns about road safety and confirmed that we will continue to fight for safer roads for residents. We also highlighted concerns expressed by many that any new jobs created must not be at the expense of existing jobs, and specifically that our small local businesses are very precious to our community.

Tescos have also agreed to work with the Town Council when they start to recruit and posters displaying the positions will be displayed on Town noticeboards and on the website.



## Winterton Town Councillors

Francesca Marritt 01724 733594  
Bob Bridge 01724 733038  
Joy Buckley 07757 217 320  
Matt Buckley 07757 217 320  
Jan Cawsey 01724 734870  
Linda Cawsey 01724 734870  
Fran Fletcher 01724 732242  
Mick Foster 01724 735223  
Marilynne Harrison 01724 733358  
Nicky Hutson 07702 854 937  
Don Johnson 01724 732698  
Mike Joyce 01724 734456  
Lesley Langton 01724 733216  
Gordon Leitch 01724 733516  
Paul Mumby 01724 735464  
John Robinson 01724 735349  
Alan Smith 01724 733012  
Russell Walshaw  
The Clerk is available on 01724  
488085

## Thanks to all who helped!

It's been a very cold winter and we want to thank everyone who helped to keep Winterton as safe as possible during this period. Whether clearing snow, delivering salt, spreading it on the roads and footpaths or just keeping an eye on vulnerable neighbours, if you helped then thank you very much.

If you'd like to help in the future call Matt Buckley on 07757 217320 or the Clerk on 01724 488085.

## Newport Drive Pavilion - coming soon!



Winterton Town Council, Newport Drive Playing Field Association and the Dale Park Youth Group have raised over half a million pounds to create a modern changing facility and clubroom. The Town Council had saved up money towards a community facility on this site, in particular for football clubs who use Newport Drive, allowing them to survive and expand.

As a result, we received letters of support from over 20 local organisations, and even more from individuals. There has been full community involvement and support.

The first organisation we approached, the Rugby Benevolent Fund, wrote back within days offering us a very generous grant, followed by Winterton & District Lions, Waste Recycling Environmental, the LEADER Organisation and North Lincolnshire Council

Early in November the Football Foundation, overwhelmed by the community support, agreed to make up the balance of the cost of the building, subject to certain safeguards. By the start of the next football season Winterton should be able to boast a brand new facility fit and available for use by all sections of the community. But also a facility that will secure and enhance the future growth of both junior and senior soccer in Winterton and the surrounding area.

## Council Tax - Democracy Denied?

Every year the Town Council has to decide what services to provide, how much to spend on them and how much has to be raised by the Council Tax that we all pay.

Last year we reduced our spending by 7%. But this year we were told by North Lincolnshire Council that a grant the Government had given them to pass to us to keep the Council Tax down would be withheld unless we set the same Council Tax level as last year. In other words had we decided to increase the Council Tax (which we were not considering) the increase would have been much higher than it needed to be and if we had reduced our spending this would not be passed onto you! Not a great deal for council taxpayers either way!

In fairness to all of North Lincolnshire's Councillors this decision seems to have been taken by simply their ruling group, there is no record of it ever being discussed by the Full Council.

Democracy? We don't think so and we have written to the Council and to the Secretary of State to express our anger at this imposition on local people, especially the adding of strings to grant money from the Government for Winterton which it should be said was not the intention of the Government when they allocated us this money.