

Coronavirus COVID-19 Parish Update 9

FEBRUARY 2021

Welcome

With Spring just around the corner, I firmly believe there is optimism in the air for 2021. One reason for that is the successful local roll-out of the vaccination programme, which promises to turn the tide against the virus that has had such an impact across the district and the rest of the country.

Among the positives, vaccination centres in Grantham and Stamford are in full swing; we have testing stations in the north and south of the district; all care home residents have been offered vaccinations; and the programme is now open to older and vulnerable residents.

We must not, however, lose sight of the fact that there are still huge challenges to overcome, and SKDC will be there to offer emotional support through our Community Hub and financial support through the distribution of Government grants.

Email SKCommunityHub@southkesteven.gov.uk or info@investsk.co.uk

Cllr Kelham Cooke, Leader of South Kesteven District Council



Support for Business

We are set to receive £5.56 million from the Government's Future High Streets Fund which will usher in a new era for Grantham town centre.

The money represents 69% of our original bid and has been awarded in principle.

Final details of the bid, which has been approved by Cabinet,

will be submitted at the request of Government. The fund was set up to renew and reshape town centres and high streets in a way that drives growth, improves experience and ensures future sustainability, and that is exactly what we want to see.

It will allow us to transform the approach and gateway to the

station, improve the public realm in the Market Square and overall town centre experience, plus convert the upper floors of some retail premises to residential.

Collectively, these will deliver a massive boost to Grantham as a key business centre, visitor destination and commuter hub.

Support for Residents

The Lincolnshire County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections are still scheduled to go ahead on May 6 and we are encouraging everyone eligible to vote to do so. Please rest assured all our polling stations will be Covid-secure.

If, however, you will be unable to attend a polling station in

person you can still exercise your democratic right by registering for a postal vote.

Anyone registered to vote with SKDC can apply for a postal vote.

Simply download, print and fill in the application by going to www.southkesteven.gov.uk/voting-by-post-or-proxy and following the link to the Electoral Commission

website. Send the completed form to Electoral Services Team, SKDC, St Peter's Hill, Grantham, NG31 6PZ.

If you're not sure if you already have a postal vote, email the team at electionstaff@southkesteven.gov.uk Postal votes will be sent out as soon as possible after the close of candidate nominations.

Support for Communities

SKDC's Community Fund is inviting organisations and groups to apply for grants of up to £5,000, or up to £2,000 for smaller projects. The grants support projects tackling loneliness, social or rural isolation, mental health and wellbeing.

They are also available for outdoor facilities, improvements to community buildings, enterprise projects and new community

organisations. The next funding round deadlines are 26 February and 16 April. For details email communityfund@southkesteven.gov.uk

Community groups can also get support from the Lincolnshire Community Foundation, which is offering grants of up to £2,500 from the National Emergencies Trust Appeal to organisations working

to relieve hardship caused by the pandemic. The funding, targeted at smaller, grassroots groups, could help volunteers to continue to offer support throughout the second wave. For details call 01529 305 825.



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