



Thursday, 26 September 2024 at 2.00 pm
Council Chamber - South Kesteven House, St. Peter's
Hill, Grantham. NG31 6PZ

Members: Councillor Paul Fellows, Chairman of the Council
Councillor Ian Selby, Vice-Chairman of the Council

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Councillor Matthew Bailey | Councillor Tim Harrison | Councillor Nick Robins |
| Councillor Emma Baker | Councillor Graham Jeal | Councillor Penny Robins |
| Councillor Rhys Baker | Councillor Gloria Johnson | Councillor Susan Sandall |
| Councillor Ashley Baxter | Councillor Anna Kelly | Councillor Max Sawyer |
| Councillor David Bellamy | Councillor Jane Kingman | Councillor Rob Shorrocks |
| Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing | Councillor Gareth Knight | Councillor Vanessa Smith |
| Councillor Pam Bosworth | Councillor Philip Knowles | Councillor Peter Stephens |
| Councillor Pam Byrd | Councillor Zoe Lane | Councillor Lee Steptoe |
| Councillor Richard Cleaver | Councillor Robert Leadenham | Councillor Ian Stokes |
| Councillor Helen Crawford | Councillor Bridget Ley | Councillor Paul Stokes |
| Councillor Steven Cunnington | Councillor Nikki Manterfield | Councillor Elvis Stooke |
| Councillor James Denniston | Councillor Paul Martin | Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew |
| Councillor Phil Dilks | Councillor Penny Milnes | Councillor Sarah Trotter |
| Councillor Richard Dixon-Warren | Councillor Virginia Moran | Councillor Murray Turner |
| Councillor Barry Dobson | Councillor Charmaine Morgan | Councillor Mark Whittington |
| Councillor Patsy Ellis | Councillor Chris Noon | Councillor Jane Wood |
| Councillor Phil Gadd | Councillor Habibur Rahman | Councillor Paul Wood |
| Councillor Ben Green | Councillor Rhea Rayside | Councillor Sue Woolley |

Agenda

This meeting can be watched as a live stream, or at a later date, [via the SKDC Public-I Channel](#)

For those Councillors who wish to attend, prayers will be held at 1:55pm before the commencement of the meeting. Please be seated by 1:50pm.

1. Public Open Forum

The public open forum will commence at **2.00 p.m.** and the following formal business of the Council will commence at **2.30 p.m.** or whenever the public open forum ends, if earlier.

2. Apologies for absence

3. Disclosure of Interests

Members are asked to disclose any interests in matters for consideration at the meeting.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2024

(Pages 7 - 28)

5. Communications (including Chairman's Announcements)

(Page 29)

6. Proposed Amendments to the Council's Constitution

(Pages 31 - 35)

This report provides Full Council with an opportunity to consider a recommendation from the Governance and Audit Committee to make amendments to the Council's Constitution.

7. Members' Open Questions

A 45-minute period in which members may ask questions of the Leader, Cabinet Members, the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and opposition group leaders excluding the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, Licensing and Alcohol, Entertainment and Late-Night Refreshment Licensing Committees and Governance and Audit Committee.

8. Notices of Motion

a) Councillor Ben Green

Motion to Phase Out Synthetic Pesticides on Council-Owned Land

South Kesteven District Council resolves to phase out the use of all synthetic pesticides, including glyphosates, on Council-owned land by Council operatives or third parties engaged by the Council, subject to majority support in a public consultation conducted by the Council by 2025.

Reasons:

- *Environmental and Ecological Health: Recent research highlights a significant decline in insect populations across Europe, including the UK, which is one of the most nature-depleted countries globally. A study using a 'splatometer'*

method revealed a 50% reduction in insect splatters on vehicle registration plates between 2004 and 2019. This trend mirrors a broader decline in insect abundance, which has fallen by up to 80% at some European sites over the past two decades. We have witnessed a silent summer, with pitiful populations of butterflies and wasps, among many other species. This is troubling as decreased insect abundance threatens ecosystem health by disrupting pollination, food chains and soil fertility. Reducing synthetic pesticide use on land we control will contribute to halting this decline and support nature.

- *Public Health and Safety: Phasing out synthetic pesticides will significantly reduce potential health risks for residents, including children and pets, who may come into contact with or ingest pesticide residues. This proactive measure aligns with our commitment to safeguarding public health and ensuring a safer environment for the community.*
- *Respect for Agricultural Practices and Public Land Stewardship: This policy focusses solely on the management of Council-owned land under the Council's responsibility and will not impact or interfere with the agricultural methods or practices employed by local farmers and private landowners. It aims to enhance the stewardship of public land while respecting existing agricultural operations. We recognise and value the essential role that pesticides play in food production and acknowledge the significant contributions of our farmers to the economy and national resilience. Lincolnshire's status as the nation's breadbasket is a point of immense pride and this policy is intended to support effective public land management without affecting agricultural productivity.*

Implementation Plan, Subject to Majority Support:

- *Immediate Action: The Council will immediately cease the use of synthetic pesticides on all Council-owned land.*
- *Promotion of Alternatives: The Council will seek and promote alternative, non-chemical methods for weed and pest control.*
- *Land Management Review: A review of current land management practices will be conducted to ensure compliance with this new policy.*
- *Review and Evaluation: The Council will review the impact of this policy annually and make adjustments as necessary, without contravening its fundamental principle, to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with environmental goals.*

That the consultation consists of the following question and format:

Consultation Question:

Do you support phasing out synthetic pesticides on Council-owned land by 2025, so that Council employees and third-party contractors cease their use?

Please indicate your response:

Yes

No

Deadline for Feedback:

The consultation will conclude by 2025, and the results will be used to inform the final decision on this proposal.

b) Councillor Graham Jeal

This Council regrets the decision by the Labour Government to end universal winter fuel payments which could push tens of thousands of people in our district into fuel poverty.

We call on the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor urging a review of the decision to restrict eligibility to those in receipt of pension credits and other benefits. This is to ensure vulnerable pensioners, particularly those that do not claim pension credits, are protected from financial hardship.

Council notes that many pensioners eligible for credits do not apply for them and will lose winter fuel payments as a result. Therefore, we resolve to undertake an awareness campaign to encourage residents in South Kesteven to check their eligibility. This includes the use of social media, promotion in the local press and other media partners.

c) Councillor Zoe Lane

Motion on Suicide Awareness in the District

This Council recognises:

- *That every suicide is preventable, and that prevention is everyone's responsibility.*
- *That the rate of suicides in South Kesteven is one of the lowest in the county of Lincolnshire at an average of 14 deaths per year¹; but also, that this number should and could be 0.*
- *That it is a partner in the Lincolnshire Suicide Prevention Strategy and should be doing everything possible to support Lincolnshire County Council in building on its excellent work to save lives.*

¹ <https://lhih.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Lincolnshire-Suicide-Audit-2023.pdf> p. 12

This Council resolves forthwith to:

- *Encourage and support all councillors, along with SKDC officers and frontline contractors in undertaking suicide awareness training from the Zero Suicide Alliance.*
 - *This training is free, short, and available online.²*
 - *It is designed to enable people to recognise signs that someone may be suicidal, and to know how and where to signpost them. It is not supposed to make anyone an expert in suicide prevention.*
- *Ensure all councillors and officers are familiar with the Samaritans' guidelines on media reporting of suicides.³*
 - *Evidence shows that excessive and detailed reporting of suicides can lead to copycat cases.*
 - *Councillors are in a position as local leaders to encourage discretion and sensitivity, especially on social media.*
- *Engage fully with the annual World Suicide Prevention Day, which falls on 10th September every year.*
 - *SKDC's engagement on Facebook in 2023 was a single post about lighting a candle in memory of those who have died by suicide. The message was drowned out by day-to-day information shared on the same day.*
 - *The Samaritans use the day to reduce the stigma of talking about suicide and encourage others to do the same. Memorials are nice but we can do both.*
- *Monitor the state of the District annually in the Rural & Communities Committee via data from LCC.*
 - *This data from the annual suicide audit is readily available and renewed every year. It will give both councillors and officers a clear view of whether the county-wide strategy is having an effect in SKDC.*
- *Host a councillor workshop for further discussions.*
 - *We all have different experiences of approaching the subject in personal and professional capacities, as well as of local support services. Sharing these will help to build a picture of what we would like to feed back into the conversation and develop our own understanding.*
 - *Having the confidence to talk about suicide can help to break the stigma of having difficult conversations.*

9. Close of meeting

² <https://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/suicide-awareness-training>

³ <https://www.samaritans.org/wales/about-samaritans/media-guidelines/>