

## Foston Parish Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024

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### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMPLETED PROJECTS

**Uncontested election:** The Parish Council elections were decided early because we have had an uncontested election. This is due to only having five names put forward for seven council seats, so councillors were automatically elected.

**District Council Elections** Cllrs Paul Wood and Jane Wood have been our Independent local district Councillors and they stood again in May and they were both re-elected. Cllr Wood has been particularly supportive over the years.

**Foston's Royal Garden Party:** This was held on Sunday 7th May 2023, in the Village Hall to mark the coronation of King Charles III. It was good to see so many residents attending a truly beautiful day, the sun shone down on us in the afternoon for Pimms and picnics in the garden. The Parish Council provided the Pimms, soft drinks and nibbles plus Commemoration Medals for all the Children in attendance.

In the evening the Coronation Concert was screened in the Village Hall and the bar was open for the evening celebrations.

**Neighbourhood Watch:** For quite some time Foston's Neighbourhood Watch has been managed by the Parish Council. All notifications are sent out by email.

**The Playing field:** The Parish Council continues to invest in the Playing Field and the Parish Council is focused on providing improved facilities. This is in conjunction with the Scouts, the Village Hall Committee and Long Bennington Football club. Here we have an ongoing project that has been particularly difficult to get off the ground.

**30 mph Wheelie Bin Stickers:** The Parish Council's safety initiative continues to

secure more 30 mph speed limit reminder stickers for resident's wheelie bins.

**The Parish Council Website:** This contains a lot of information that we hope will be useful to residents. All community groups can be represented on the website. We also have a business section on the website for Foston based businesses which we would like to expand. We therefore offer free listing to Foston based businesses [here](#).

**Planning,** We had 10 planning applications to look at from minor alterations to two major ongoing applications i.e. the Solar Farm and the Traveller site. The planning application for the Solar Farm has been ongoing since August 2020 application number S20/1433. It was approved conditionally in March 2021 and preliminary work has been carried out. The Newark Hill Travellers site, SKDC's Reference S22/1022 is still on going, having been refused twice. All planning details can be viewed on South Kesteven District Council's website [here](#).

**The Emergency Plan for the Parish:** this is complete although it will, constantly need to be updated. Foston Neighbours are also actively involved in the plan as they continue to offer practical help to the community.

**Finance Precept and Income:** This year's precept was £12,500.00 and grants received added up to £946.84.

**Key Council Expenditure:** The Playing Field mowing, hedging and maintenance are ongoing. The staff costs were just over £3000.00. The Village maintenance, and insurance are major expenses.

This year the Parish Council continues to provide Wi-Fi at the Village Hall for users to access. We provided grants totalling £2050 to community groups. This is more than usual because due to the pandemic the Village Hall required and extra £1000 grant. The grants are to assist the various community organisations with running costs as Section 137 Grants:

**Section 137 Grants:** Grants were awarded to the Scouts, Conservation Group and the Village Hall. St Peter's Church receives a

grant to help with the grass cutting costs to keep the Churchyard looking neat and tidy.

**Meetings:** Foston Parish Council has had seven Parish Council Meetings during the financial year, plus one extraordinary meetings to deal with end of year finance. We continue to have a joint informal meeting with the Scouting Groups and the Village Hall Committee.

**New Purple Top Wheelie Bins:** Just a reminder that the purple lidded bins are for clean, dry, good quality paper and cardboard only. Your bin will be rejected; if you include the wrong items and items left beside the bin will not be collected either.

**Defibrillator:** We have two defibrillators one on the Village Hall by the steps and another in the old Telephone box on Main Street.

**Newark Community First Aid:** Are a charity who gives us hands on experience on basic first aid and how to use a defibrillator. The training is excellent and essential to all Foston residents. This is because if somebody has suffered a cardiac arrest, an Ambulance is unlikely to get to Foston from Grantham in time to save their life. It is vitally important that everybody is familiar with the use of this potentially lifesaving piece of equipment.

**Roads and Footpaths:** As always it takes years of campaigning to get anything done and since it takes years rather than months. to secure the footpath between Marshall Way and the bottom of Newark Hill, Foston Parish Council had to contribute to the cost and we took out a Government Works loan.

**Potholes,** continue to be a problem particularly on Long Street caused by the heavy lorries and tractors going up and down the road. These can be easily reported on-line at Fix My Street [here](#).

**Foston Neighbours** was set up by the Parish Council in 2020 and over the last few years they have been very active. It is now led by a key committee of 6 members along with a group of volunteers. If you are in need of a little help try Foston Neighbours on - 07422 881 448 they are here to help.

There are over 200 Good Neighbours Schemes in Lincolnshire and more information can be found [here](#). The Foston Neighbours committee members take it in turns on a rotational basis to answer the telephone. Foston Neighbours runs a monthly breakfast and lunch club. More info on Good Neighbours schemes in Lincolnshire can be found by searching Good Neighbour schemes, Lincolnshire.

**Dog fouling:** this continues to be a problem in some places for example the Viking Way.

**Emails,** the Parish Council continues to collect e mail addresses so that Newsletters and important information along with reminders can be circulated quickly.

**LOOKING AHEAD,** Foston Parish Council is still looking to build a multi-functional community building to accommodate the Scouts, Village Hall users and the Parish Council for sporting facilities. The next major proposed project is the installation of close circuit TV for the village

It has now been eight years since the publication of Foston's Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016 to 2026. We now need to start thinking about up-dating it to keep it relevant to today's issues and requirements.

**CONCLUSION,** I wish to thank all residents who give their time freely for the benefit of the Village. Their hard work and commitment is greatly appreciated, and the village reaps the benefits. Thanks to all the members of the Parish Council and especially to our parish clerk James Stanley and internal Auditor Mr Patrick Traynor for their continued support and help.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Parish Councillors, our County Councillor, Cllr Alexander Maughan District Councillor Cllr Paul Wood and the many organisations and individual parishioners who have supported our community throughout the years.

Cllr. Mrs Christina M Lees,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL