

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 20 MAY 2011**

**Statement from: Cllr P A Robinson, Deputy Leader and Executive Councillor for Community Safety, Cohesion & Diversity.**

**LINCOLNSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

**Japan.** Seven members of our Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team formed part of the UK team which deployed to help in the aftermath of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami. Station Manager Neil Fritsch was appointed as an operations commander. The conditions faced by the team were extremely hostile thanks to after-shocks, freezing temperatures and the threat of radiation from the damaged nuclear power stations. Whilst no survivors were found by the UK contingent, the bodies of some people killed in the disaster were recovered. The team returned safely to UK without sustaining any injuries.

**Emergency Service Awards.** At the inaugural Emergency Service Awards ceremony at the Emirates Stadium in April, Lincolnshire FRS won the award for Workforce Development, and were commended in the Fire Service of the Year and Fire Service Technology categories.

**Solar Panel Field at Bardney.** The solar panel array at the Bardney Fire Station is now operational. It contains 300 photovoltaic solar panels with a power of 69kW and a surface area of 488 metres square. It will generate roughly 60,000 kilowatt hours per year – enough to power 20 houses - and will offset approximately 32 tonnes of CO2 annually. The array, which was constructed by Freewatt, a Lincolnshire firm, is expected to provide an income stream for 25 years.

**PRINCE'S TRUST**

Ms Laura Nuttall was last year a member of our Prince's Trust scheme in Sleaford and won the Trust's regional Young Achievers Award. This year she was nominated for the National Award and attended the ceremony in Leicester Square Odeon in the presence of HRH the Prince of Wales. Whilst Ms Nuttall did not win the national award she is a fine example of the value of the Prince's Trust, and reflects great credit on the volunteers who work so enthusiastically and effectively with the young people on the scheme.

## **EMERGENCY PLANNING – EXERCISE WATERMARK**

Exercise Watermark, last month's major national exercise to review preparedness for major coastal flooding on the East Coast proved successful and useful for Lincolnshire. Our county's profile in national emergency planning terms was significantly enhanced, and we were awarded £250k for additional water rescue equipment. Important lessons were learned from the exercise. Our Emergency Planning Team will take forward with partner's further development in areas such as evacuation plans, work in schools, shelter arrangements and the recovery phase.

## **2012 OLYMPICS**

Planning is gathering pace for Lincolnshire's involvement in the 2012 Olympics. Details of the route to be taken by the Olympic Torch will be announced by the end of June. The Lincolnshire Sports Partnership is working to exploit the potential of the Games for our county. The choice of Tennyson's closing line in his poem "Ulysses" - *'To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield'* as the motto for the Olympic Village may be a good start!